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COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICS STUDIES

THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION'S IN MITIGATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF STREET CHILDREN IN BISHOFTU TOWN

A RESEARCH THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES.

BY: MAMUSH GIRMA BOSET

PRINCIPAL ADVISOR:MR.BIZUAYEHU DABA (Asst. Prof)

CO-ADVISOR: MR. ABIOT TAKLE(M.A)

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By: Mamush Girma

A Thesis submitted to the department of Civics and Ethical Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Civics and Ethical Studies

Principal Advisor: Mr. Bizuayehu Daba (Asst. Prof)

Co-Advisor: Mr. Abiot Takle (M.A)

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Approval Sheet

THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MITIGATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF STREET CHILDREN IN BISHOFTU TOWN

BY: MAMUSH GIRMA BOSET

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF THE EXAMINERS

Approval by Board of Examiners

Principal-Advisor	Date	Signature
Co-Advisor	Date	Signature
External-Examiner	Date	Signature
Internal-Examiner	Date	Signature
Chairperson	Date	Signature

Declaration

The thesis entitled "The Role Of Non-Governmental Organizations In Mitigating Socio-Economic Problems Of Street Children In Bishoftu Town " is my original work and has not been presented for a degree , to any other University and all sources of materials used for this thesis have been properly acknowledged.

I have produced it independently except from the guidance and suggestion of my research Advisors and Co-Advisor.

Declared by:

MamushGirma Signature _____ Date _____

Principal Advisor MR. BizuahehuDaba (Assat. Prof.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Co-Advisor MR. AbiotTakle(M.A)

Signature _____ Date _____

Certification

This is to certify that this thesis entitled – “The Role Of Non-Governmental Organizations In Mitigating Socio-Economic Problems Of Street Children in Bishoftu town Oromia Regional State” submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Civics and Ethical Studies of the College of Law and Governance, Jimma University, through the department of Civics and Ethical Studies, done by Mr. MamushGirma, ID. No, S30016/10 is carried out by him under our guidance.

Principal Advisor

Name _____

Signature_____

Date_____

Co-advisor

Name _____

Signature_____

Date_____

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

WB	World Bank
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Consortium for Children organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
MOE	Ministry Of Education
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non- Governmental Organizations
SNNP	Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples
KII	Key Informant Interviews
SC UK	Save the Children United Kingdom
UN	United Nation
UNESCO	United Nations Education scientific and Cultural Organizations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WHO	World Health Organization
FSCE	Forum for Street Children Ethiopia
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CRDA	Christian Relief and Development Association

Abstract

Many non-governmental organizations have been working to improve the socio-economic problems of street children. In line with this, the main objective of this study was to assess the role of non-governmental organization in mitigating the socio economic problem of street children in the study area. In order to achieve the objective of the study, the researcher used qualitative research approach and descriptive research design. The data was collected from key informants and other research participants through semi-structured interview, focus group discussion and observations. Research informants were selected through purposive sampling techniques. Moreover, supplementary data was obtained from pertinent published and unpublished documents. The findings of this study revealed that the main reason for the exposure of children to the street life in the study area were poverty, family disintegration, neglect and violence at home, lack of educational opportunities, to escape from work demand at home, to find a shelter, to escape from family punishment, peer pressure, migration, death of parents and sexual violence. The study also found that there are different challenges that face non-governmental organizations when they support street children like lack of transportation, budget, medical professional and lack of adequate equipment's for the services of food and others. The findings also confirmed that the support that provided by these non-governmental organizations are place of residence, meal services, clothes, hygiene materials and teaching materials. Those non-governmental organizations support those children in two ways:- by taking into their organization and support with their family. Thus, researcher conclude that their role is not enough when we compare with the problems. But the problem of street children was not the issue that should be left to non-governmental organizations. Thus, the researcher recommended that, efforts should be made by all Stake holders 'Governmental, Non-governmental and community based organizations and by the public at large. All the stakeholders need to work hand in hand in order to alleviate the multi-faceted problems of these unfortunate children.

Keywords:- Bishoftu, Challenges, NGOs, Socio-economic problem, Stakeholders, street children

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INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Street children are an international problem. Children who are tied to the street experience emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, according to the World Report on Violence Against Children. They are at risk of being trafficked, exploited for labor, and sexually (Piheiro, 2006).

Due of their floating nature, it was challenging to determine the accurate number of children living on the streets around the world rather than to an estimation. They do not have a fixed address; they frequently move jobs, making it difficult to pinpoint their actual location (Petel, 1990 in Pietkiewicz, 2012). However, according to UN reports, there are currently 150 million or more street children in the world who, for a variety of reasons, live the most of their lives on the streets. Approximately, according to UNICEF (2000) there were around 18 million street children in India, which was the highest in world.

The term "street children" was first used by Henry Myhew in 1851 in his essay on the "London Labor and London Poor," according to Ennew (1994), and it only became widely accepted when the United Nations declared 1979 as the "year of the child." The most often used definitions now are from UNICEF (Lusk 1989), and they are divided into two categories: "children on the streets" and "children of the streets." These two names are derived from Latin American experiences. When we refer to "children on the street," we mean those children who spend a lot of time laboring on the streets before returning home at the end of the day. "Children of street" are those who make the streets their primary place of residence and go there to work, play, and sleep. They are socialized outside of the home and school and are substantially fewer in number.

Many various sorts of abuse, such as economic and sexual exploitation, gender discrimination in health care and education, and involvement in armed war, impact children in Africa. Migration, early marriage, inequalities between urban and rural areas, households with children as the head of family, and poverty are additional factors that affect African children.

Furthermore, sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest prevalence of child labor in the world, with 80 million children or 4 out of every 10 children under the age of 14 working there. (ACERWC, 2009). In Africa, it

was challenging to obtain the most recent figures on the number of street children due to their way of living. However, some recent figures on street children in various African nations indicate that: Most street children in South Africa are between the ages of 13 and 14, and they claim that family poverty, overcrowding, abuse, family disintegration, and HIV/AIDS are the reasons they live on the streets. In Nigeria, more than 95% of street kids are stigmatized as witch children, abandoned by their parents, and forced to live on the streets. In Cairo, Egypt, there are a million or so youngsters who live on the streets.

According to a study conducted in Ethiopia, street children work on the streets for two to three hours every day, both before and after school. At roughly 10.7 years old, children in the majority of Ethiopian regions begin working on the streets. African street children are the source (2010-2020). Accessible at: <http://www.childSponsorship.com> (accessed 10 February 2022).

In 2004, according to MOLSA, there were around 150,000 children were living on the streets of Ethiopia, about 60,000 of them in the capital. However aid agencies estimated that the problem was far more serious, with nearly 600,000 street children in country wide and over 100,000 in Addis Ababa.

Of Ethiopia's nine regional states Oromia regional state is the largest region in land size and population where the number of children who are less than productive ages are high in number. According to Street Invest, UNICEF and Oromia Women Children and Youth's Affairs collaborative research in 2010/2011 4,796 street children were counted in Adamatown which is neighboring to Bishoftu town. Bishoftu town like other first grade town in the region and its geographical location has recently attracted many migrants, particularly from the densely populated Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNPR) in search of work and a better life. The number of children living on the streets has increased due to the town's continuing growth. Many of them are drawn to the community for the same reasons as the adults, including the possibility of earning a good living. On the other hand, it's usual to see kids chasing people and grabbing their clothes to ask strangers and locals for money on any given street in the town. Additionally, small children run behind moving automobiles in order to get donations from drivers.

According to Kibrom's research (2008), 11.6% of Oromia's population is made up of children, who make up 46% of the total population. 66% of the homeless children in the area were living in urban Oromia, and 34% were in rural Oromia

Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, were originally mentioned in 1945's newly drafted United Nations Charter's Article 71. While the definition of non-governmental organization isn't set in stone, we can simply say that it's a group that was created without interference from or control by the government. They are non-profit organizations, and the majority of them engage in social or humanitarian work.

Through the planning, financing, management, and provision of advice and counseling services for various programs designed to aid underprivileged children in general and street children in particular, these organizations play a significant role in promoting the welfare of disadvantaged children. It was well recognized that non-governmental organization work to fill the gaps left by local or national government in finding a justifiable answer to the economic, social, and environmental issues that communities face. This was due to the fact that government funding alone cannot adequately address or resolve the issues facing street children. (UNICEF, 1986) So, the researcher wanted to study the role of non-governmental organizations in mitigating the socio-economic problem of street children in Bishoftu town,

1.2. Statement of the problem

Children are crucial in establishing a connection between the present and the future. Any given state's future was dependent on its developing youth. Children were any society's best hope for the future since they would have been its leaders in the future. Since the issues of street children was a global one and not just the concern of one nation or region, everybody is responsible to solve the problem of those children. Therefore, investing on today's children was establishing the foundation for the planet and generations of the future.

However, these hopeful kids or children were exposed to a dismal existence (Judith Ennew and Jill Swart-Kruger, 2003). They occupy the streets, the grounds of churches or mosques, traffic lights, and other commercial areas (Zerihun, 2018). They are victims of trafficking, forced labor, and sexual exploitation (Pinheiro, 2006)

It was challenging to determine the precise number of youngsters living on the streets around the world due to their floating nature. They do not have a fixed residence; they frequently move their place of employment, making it impossible to identify their exact location (Petel, 1990 in Pietkiewicz, 2012).

Children living on the streets are a severe hindrance to Africa's total socio-economic development, not just as a blight on urban civilization (Kopoka, 2000). Because of the rise in famine, conflict, drought, and poverty in Africa, there are more street children today (ibid).

According to Mekonnen (2011), streetism was becoming one of the major challenges of all urban areas of Ethiopia. Even though there are huge discrepancies on the number of the street children, the scope and magnitude of the problem is evidently increasing in worried rate (FSCE, 2003). For instance, MOLSA anticipated that the problem would expand by 5% annually (Mekonnen, 2011). These estimates helped shed light on the issue and the rising number of kids living on the streets by providing an approximation of the situation. Children have been discovered to occasionally be vulnerable to a variety of issues due to the growing number of children living on the streets (Alamu, 2007).

Additionally, the countries social services and social protection system have a very poor track record of supporting vulnerable children (Haile, 2008). Children would be more vulnerable to socioeconomic problems in an environment lacking in social services and support systems, coupled with the predominance of absolute poverty, the development of HIV AIDS, recurring droughts, and rapid urbanization (ibid; SCUK, 2004).

They were unable to provide for their basic needs like food, clothing, and safe places to sleep, and they also lacked access to services like health care, education, and recreation. As a result, they were seriously affected by illnesses like depression and other mental health issues (Dessale, 1998). Violence was also another challenge perpetuated by older boys, members of the public and the police, sexual abuse were another main problems they faced, as they were living unprotected life and were highly vulnerable section of the society (Mahiderhiwot, 2014).

According to World meters elaborations of the latest United Nations data, the Ethiopian population of 2019 is estimated at 112,078,730 ranking 12th in the world in terms of population constituting 1.45% of the world population. From these, 39.92% of total population was very young whose age ranges from 0-14 in which male constitutes 50.64% and female 49.36%. According to the Consortium of Street Children (2009), the average age at which children first become involved in street life in Ethiopia was 10.7 years.

As population density increases, political regime and social status changes the number of vulnerable children changes too. The current political situation of Ethiopia has also its own role in raising the number of street children since millions of Ethiopians were displaced because of inter-ethnic conflicts in the past three to two years. In Bishoftu also, like the town in the region and its geographical location has recently attracted many migrants, from different parts of the country, especially from eastern part of Ethiopian Somalia due to inter-ethnic conflict between the Oromo and Somali ethnic groups as displaced and the densely populated Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNPR) in search of work for a better life. According to responses from the

town's Women, Children, and Youth Affairs office, as the town has continued to grow, there have been an increase in the number of kids living on the streets.

To the best of the researchers' knowledge, Kidist (2007) conducted a review of local research on the topic of street children in the area under the title "Survival Strategies of Street Children and High Risk Behaviors towards HIV/AIDS in Adama Town," and her findings demonstrate that the issue of streetism is more serious in Adama town. These children don't have any full-time adult supervision and are living in extremely difficult financial circumstances. The two main factors that drive street children away from their families are poverty and disagreement with family members.

According to Kibrom's 2008 study, "Life in the Streets of Adama: The Situation of Street Children in a Fast-Growing Ethiopian Town," the majority of street children believed that the general public despised them, regarded them as troublemakers, and wanted to have them removed from the streets forcibly.

Issa and Madely's (2017) study, "Socio-economic Conditions of Street Children: The Case of Shashemene Town, Oromia National Regional State, Ethiopia," revealed that Shashemene's poor socio-economic conditions left street children with a challenging living environment and a lack of essential facilities.

All studies, however, did not take into account the role of non-governmental organization in addressing the socio-economic problems of street children, that is why it was essential to conduct this study to fill the gap and examine the role of non-governmental organizations in doing so. Then, if we waited for the issue to blow up, we would have missed the chance to come up with long-lasting, workable solutions. When a problem was young, it was easier to solve than when it was mature. Therefore, the objective of this study was to evaluate the role of non-governmental organizations in addressing the socio-economic problems that street children have, as well as the reasons of children participating in or becoming involved in street life and the challenges that face non-governmental organizations in solving the socio-economic problems of street children in Bishoftu town.

1.3. Research Objective

1.3.1. General objective

The overall objective of this study was to assess the role of non-governmental organization in addressing the socio economic problem of street children in the study area.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objective of this study was :-

To identify the main reason for which children are exposed to street life.

To assess the role of non- governmental Organizations in addressing the socio economic problem of street children.

To examine the criteria used by non- governmental Organizations in selecting street children.

To examine the challenges that face non- governmental Organizations in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children.

1.4. Research Question

To achieve the above objectives, the study would answer the following research questions:

- I. What are the main reasons for which children are involved in street life?
- II. What is role of non- governmental Organizations in addressing the socio economic problem of street children?
- III. What are the criteria used by non- governmental Organizations to select street children ?
- IV. What are challenges that face non- governmental Organizations in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children?

1.5. Scope of the Study

Geographically, the study conducted in Oromia regional state east shoa zone Bishoftu town. And thematically , delimited to street children that supported by Korea International Volunteer Organization(KVO) and EgnawLegnawChildren and Elders Aid non- governmental Organizations in Bishoftu town with the objective of assessing the role of those non- governmental Organizations in addressing the socio-economic problem of street children, the reason for which children involved in the street ,examine the criteria used by non- governmental Organizations to select street children and challenges that face those non- governmental Organizations .

1.6. Limitation of the study

Nothing can be done without having any sort of constraints and short comings. While conducting any research it was common to come across difficulties and unavailability. So that like every researcher I may come across problems like budget scarcity. In addition to this they may not be voluntary to be interviewed and may give incorrect information aiming to hide their identity.To overcome these

problem as much as possible the researcher tell them the objective of study and asks those who are voluntary to participate in the study.

1.7. Significance of the Study

It provides the knowledge and necessary information concerning the street children in urban centers of Ethiopia, and a violation of United Nations Convention on Children's Right. It also see the role of Korea International Volunteer Organization(KVO) and EgnawLegnaw Children and Elders Aidnon-governmental Organizations in mitigating the socio-economic problem of street children and challenges that faces them in solving the socio-economic problems of street children in the study area. The study also helpful to intervention or to react to this social problem for those interested in and concerned with the issue. Finally, it would have leave the door open for more research to be conducted in this area and serve as a reference by providing relevant information for further broad and detailed investigation

1.8. Ethical considerations

Inthisresearchwork,allmeasuresweretakentomakesurethattheresearchwascarriedout inanethicalmanner.Researchontheissueofchildrenwasverysensitive,especiallychildrenof thestreet.Therefore,makingethicalconsiderationwas importantanditwasthefundamentalpart of methodologyof theresearch.

Hence,written andverbalconsentwasobtainedfromthe streetchildrenwho fulfilledthe inclusion criteria and let them know they are part of the research participants.Theinformedconsentwasincorporatedforthosewhoareonly voluntaryandwhowanttobepart of theresearch and theirwillingness to beinterviewed or takepart in focusgroupdiscussions.

For thisstudy,streetchildrenwhoseage rangesfrom10-18were the researchparticipants. Theyhavethefull right towithdraw from the interview at anytime.

1.9. Operational definition

TheUNICEF's categories of street childrenwereadopted for thepurposeof this study.

StreetChildren:boysandgirlswhoseagewere under18years,forwhichthe streethas become thehomeand onlsourceof their livelihood.

Childrenonthe street(Street working children):-thosechildrenwhospendmuchoftheir timeinthestreet environment,oftenworking.A few attendschool,mostturnhome atthe endof eachworking dayandstillhaveasenseofbelongingtothecommunity inwhichtheirfamilyhomeis situated.Alargemajority

of them maintain some continuing relationship with their families (Swart-Kruger and Donald, 1994; Mucinni, 1994)

Children of the street (Street-living children):- are those, for whom the streets have become home, the primary environment for working, playing and sleeping. They are much smaller in number, and are socialized outside the school and the family.

1.10. Organization of the study

This study was organized to give coherent flow of ideas. It was divided into five chapters.

The first chapter deals with introduction of the study which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, research question, objective of the study both general and specific, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. The second chapter deals with review related literature, the third chapter research methodology, the fourth data analysis and interpretation and the fifth chapter conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter was revise the different Literatures written in the areas of the study. The main purpose or reasons of reviewing the literature is to investigate what was already known in the field of study, achieves concepts and theories important to the study .So, the researcher would try to revise different literature related to research thesis.

2.1. Definition of street children

In the beginning, UNICEF described "street children" as "boys and girls under the age of 18 for whom "the street" has become their home and/or their means of subsistence, and who are insufficiently safeguarded or supervised" (Black, 1993; Glasser, 1994 in Save the children UK, 2012).

The majority of the international organizations that work on children's rights, including UNICEF and Save the Children, use this definition and urge that children under the age of 18 should not be employed in any capacity (SC,2011).Gurung, said that youngsters under the age of 18 who spend the majority of their time on the streets were referred to as "street children" worldwide (UNICEF, SC, 2007).The term "street children " was defined by the UN as : "Any girl or boy who, in the broadest sense of the word, has made the street his or her habitual home and/or means of subsistence and who was not adequately protected, supervised, or guided by responsible adults" (Aptekar, 1994).

Mark W. Lusk, who was quoted in Aptekar (1994), created four groups of street children.Children who work on the streets and go home at night make up the first category.They go to school and try not to misbehave.The freelance street laborers make up the second group.Their links to their families are very frail, they rarely go to school, and their level of delinquency was rising.Children from street families who reside and work on the streets make up the third category.The fourth category consists of street kids who have lost touch with their family.They were the actual street children, living permanently in the streets.

2.2. Factors contributing to street children

There are different factors that contributing children to the street. Among these:-

- Macro level factors –community based factors which includes, urbanization, forced resettlements, parent’s relocation without adequate planning, overcrowding, absence of education and job opportunity, high cost of life.
- Meso level factors –are family based factors and includes family breakdown, disintegration, having no access education, absence of job opportunity, and high cost of living, physical and psychological maltreatment of children by parents, absence of very close relationship with their parents due to long working hours, presence of alcoholic parents.
- Micro level factors – are factors related to personality and behaviors developed because of macro and meso level factors and include the following: inferiority, parent’s inability to afford school fee, uniforms and stationary. Street children’s lifestyle, place of living and working condition places them within the category of the most vulnerable children. Their rights to better life, education, shelter, food, health care, parental care, protection from physical and emotional abuses, forced child labour and use of addictive drugs are violated or denied (SC, 2013)

The unwillingness to understand the root causes of the increasing number of street children, was the main reason for the incapability to address the issue. Despite labeling street children as “vulnerable” or “children at risk and who are in need of protection”, the prevailing view was that they are really “delinquents” and come from very poor backgrounds. Government policies are often confined to a legal approach and tend to ignore the root causes of the problem (ESCWA, 2009).For the above reason they remained being one of the marginalized groups who still have no the capacity to fulfill their basic necessities. The street children rights are violated as they face problems like, physical and psychological abuses, exploitation, health hazards, stigma and discrimination. They do not have access to basic services that are freely rendered including health care and education which are essential for the overall child and youth development (Goal Ethiopia, 2013).

2.3. The Socio-economic problems of street children.

Mostoftheresearchconductedglobally regarding thestreetchildphenomenonindicatesthat povertywas thesinglemostimportantfactorinfluencingchildrentoleavetheirhomes(WHO,2000).Inastudy

of 108 street children in the Pakistani cities, 75% of interviewed children cited poverty as the primary reason for being on the streets; inadequate family incomes forced them to seek employment in the informal economy (Ali et al., 2004)

According to Scanlon (1998), millions of children worldwide reside on the streets. These kids are among the most underprivileged; many of them lack access to healthcare and education, and some of them have already experienced violence before they started living on the streets. Many people believe that street children are useless, and many nations have adopted violent and punishing methods to get rid of them.

Children on the street live in extremely harsh and deplorable conditions. The street children's human and democratic rights are violated, as stated by UNESCO in its 2008 description of them: "Being a street child means going hungry, sleeping in unsanitary places, facing up to violence and sometimes becoming an expiatory victim; it means growing up without companionship, love, and protection; it means not having access to education or medical services; losing all dignity and becoming an adult before even having been a child." These children's basic needs must be met, and the government and international communities have a duty under international law and morality to ensure that children's rights

UNICEF (2007) on its side expressed the current condition of urban children, particularly the street child, was a cumulative consequence of: rural landlessness and unemployment, rural out-migration, municipal inability, absence of good governance; mismanagement of municipal and national resources; environmental degradation; eroding spirituality, values, and support structures; increasing urban violence. In comparison to any other decade, the decade 1960-1980 saw the highest number of births in urban areas. Because they have few options for the future and are more likely to be born and raised in urban, low-income surroundings, these children become trapped in the cycle of poverty, endangering not just their own development but also that of their communities and the nation as a whole.

A UNICEF report states that children who work on the street often come from slums and squatter settlements where poverty and precarious family situations were common, where schools are overcrowded and poor, and where safe places to play simply do not exist (UNICEF, 1997).

A comparison on the natures of street children in three continents suggested, in Africa majority of street dwellers were categorized as living on the street due to the existence of push factors like motivation of family members, unfavorable educational environment, and lack of basic

needs (Habtu and Arindam, 2016). Few researches have been done in Addis Ababa and some other major cities also indicate that family poverty is the major cause for children to join the street (FSCE, 2003). The appearance of street children in Addis Ababa (and to a lesser extent in the other towns of Ethiopia), was integrally tied to the phenomenon of urban poverty. Kibrom (2010), in his study of the situation of children on the street in Addis Ababa, stated that cultural pressure is a cause that pushes children to the street: parents send their children to the city to work and earn money, first as shoeshine boys, then as petty traders (peddler) (locally known as 'suk Bederetie') with an ambition to become a small shopkeeper, and then to move up the ladder to the status of shop owner.

2.4. Emergence of NGOs in Ethiopian Socio-economic context

According to (Shimelis, 2015) non-governmental organizations have no long history of service to the people of Ethiopia. Their involvement in the economic and social life of the country began in the early 20th century. Their forceful involvement in the development efforts of the country however, starts with the drought induced famine of 1973/74. Initially their operations focused on relief that saved millions of lives. Since then they have become a permanent feature in the country's development process.

The occurrence of the 1984/85 drought gave a further boost to the growth of non-governmental Organizations (CRDA, 2004). The number of non-governmental Organizations continued to grow after the overthrow of the military regime (Dergue) in 1991. However, their activities were principally limited to relief and rehabilitation before they became more development oriented (CRDA, 2006). As the non-governmental Organizations were increasingly pulled into the development front, their role and areas of intervention changed. The growth of non-governmental Organizations has been robust over the last two to three decades. The number of non-governmental Organizations especially indigenous non-governmental Organizations has been rising. Their capacity to play a discernible role in the country's development agenda has been steadily growing (CRDA, 2004).

Institutional care of children in Ethiopia is introduced by missionaries and increased significantly as a response to needs of unaccompanied children at emergency feeding centers during the droughts and famines in 1984-85 (John Williamson, 2000).

As it was cited in (Habtu and Arindam, 2016) meta-analysis research in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, there are a number of non-governmental Organizations working for street children. Among them, 12 non-governmental Organizations were working exclusively in Ethiopia. According to data revealed from four articles in Ethiopia 359,960 children were supported by these 12 non-governmental Organizations. It has been found that Abebech Gobena Orphan and School, a local non-governmental Organization in Ethiopia, supported 250,832 street children through provision of education.

In Ethiopia, the number of civil society organizations (CSOs) working on child rights issues and child protection services has been increasing over time since the country has ratified the CRC. A government report came out in 2005 indicated that there were around 70 organizations working on child rights issues in the country, out of which 48 were indigenous.

A document from the African Child Policy Forum provided a list of 132 non-governmental organizations delivering support and services for children. The list of non-governmental Organizations working on child matters in the country was also provided on the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) website together with a description of their areas of engagement and capacities.

The non-governmental organizations taking part in child matters include UNICEF, other UN affiliated bodies, save the children organizations, as well as many other concerned humanitarian organizations and associations. There are also mass based associations that can mobilize large number of people such as religious organizations, youth and women's associations, community based organizations, self-help groups, and traditional associations.

Majorities of these organizations were focused and engaged on delivery of varied forms of care and support services to children, while some are more focused on policy level issues: advocacy, research, awareness raising, and sensitization. A few of them also combine both policy and operational interventions. Quite a large proportion of non-governmental Organizations are engaged in delivery or facilitation of varied forms of proactive and reactive supports and services to children identified to be at high risk as well as those who are victimized. Very many of them are direct implementers while a few ones, particularly those with larger financial sources and foreign non-governmental Organizations such as the „Save the Children“ organizations, do provide financial and technical support to the implementing non-governmental Organizations and government agencies.

2.5. The Role of Non-governmental Organizations in addressing the socio-Economic problem of street children.

According to (UN, 1980) Non-governmental organizations are any of those organizations which are not part of government and have not been established as a result of an agreement between governments. Non-governmental Organizations can be research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, chambers of commerce, youth organizations, religious institutions, senior citizens' associations, tourist bodies, private foundations, political parties, Zionist organizations, funding or development international and indigenous agencies and any other organization of a non-governmental nature (quoted by Padron, 1987:70).

They are formed by individuals or a group of people who have common interests and are private, not-for-profit and operate within a legal framework. These organizations work to benefit people other than their members/workers (Ibid).

Unlike governments, which usually focus on each society as a whole both in social and spatial dimensions, non-governmental Organizations have restricted and localized perspectives and interests of specific parts of civil society. They act at micro level, to meet efficiency and efficacy although their action might lack efficacy at macro level (Fantz, 1987:99). Tracing back to the historical importance of non-governmental Organizations, Epstein found that the origins of non-governmental Organizations were northern and southern part of USA. The northern non-governmental Organizations were established after the end of First World War and at the beginning of Second World War and extended their scope throughout the world. De Benitez illustrated the role of non-governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF (the committee comprises a worldwide network of 125 international non-governmental Organizations working on behalf of children in more than 110 countries of the world) in providing basic needs of street children throughout the world. Besides these international organizations, some other local organizations are also working for the interest of street children in different countries of the world. A social intervention group in Mexico, EDNICA, is working not only for providing them with basic needs but also for imparting different training and economic support to street children. In a similar intervention in Ethiopia, non-governmental Organizations in cooperation with the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs address the

socioeconomic problems of street children. Even though empirical results suggested that majority of children were excluded from the purview of non-governmental Organizations working in the area, but it has been expected that these organizations can promote the welfare of disadvantaged children by planning, financing, managing, and providing advice and counseling services. Non-governmental Organizations have a great role or responsibility for those children who have not speaks for themselves or to assess their own needs in ensuring the short and long term interests of them in addressing their relief and development programme. (Eade et al, 1995). These organizations play a very important role in promoting the welfare of disadvantaged children by planning, financing, managing and providing advice and counseling services for various projects set up to help poor children in general and street children in particular. It is well known that non-governmental Organizations in every sphere of the world seek to provide a reasonable solution for the economic, social, and environmental problems of the societies and by fulfilling the gap that could not be served by local government or state.

2.6. CHALLENGES THAT FACE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

Each developing nation has unique issues, varying in size and severity, and most governments want to regulate all non-governmental Organization's activities. Based on the governance structure, it is therefore not surprising that certain developing countries have a large number of quasi-governmental non-governmental Organizations. "The decision-making process" is one of the most significant difficulties facing non-governmental Organizations. Because employees expected to be treated equally with top managers in decision-making, conflicts frequently arose between them. The internal relationships between board members and staff members and the governance of the organizations are additional prevalent issues. (Mukasa, 2002)

Non-governmental Organizations were found to be weak at staff career development. The second issue is one of staffing, which includes hiring, assigning, and terminating employees as well as managing human resources and daily staff operations (Vilain, 2002). Non-profit organizations employ paid staff members who are not always volunteers. Paid staff members typically make less money than their counterparts in the commercial private sector, have fewer organizational and professional skills, and are among the non-governmental Organizations workers about whom the organization is most concerned (Mukasa, 2002)

A lack of institutional capacity, low levels of self-sustainability, isolation/lack of inter organizational communication and/or coordination, a lack of understanding of the broader social or economic context,

and difficulties managing non- governmental Organizations with operations in multiple countries are among the most frequently cited challenging issues for non- governmental Organizations. The following priority is planning. Another problem that non- governmental Organizations face is the lack of clearly defined objectives, goals, vision, purpose, and even values. Most of them are acting emotionally, and their goals and ambitions aren't really realistic. The other most problem that face non- governmental Organizations are lack of medical professional to protect the health of these children, lack of transportation to buy the necessity material for the children, lack of budget to take more children from the street. Non- governmental Organizations are expressing difficulty in finding sufficient ,appropriate and continuous funding for their work. They find accessing donors as challenging as dealing with their funding conditions and lack of adequate equipment's for the services of food and others.

The idea of social exclusion encompasses both having little monetary wealth and being unable to engage effectively in economic, social, political, and cultural life, as well as having no ties to the majority of society. It was linked to the excluded groups' inability to advocate for themselves (Duffy, 1995). The heart of exclusion, according to Kagan and Burton (2005), was the marginalization from a flourishing social life at the individual, interpersonal, and societal levels. People who are marginalized have very little control over their lives and resources; they risk stigmatization and the emergence of unfavorable public perceptions. They could grow to have low self-esteem and confidence.

Campbell and Williams (2007) contend that almost every segment of the metropolitan community rejects and marginalizes youngsters living on the streets. In many countries, children living on the street are viewed as a threat. This misguided perception and mindset results in poorly planned and ineffective intervention programs intended to combat the phenomena of children living on the streets (Boakye-Boaten, 2006).

Although little was known regarding the precise form and degree of involvement of children on the street life in Ethiopia, the WHO (2000) lists the growing number of children on the street as one of the most important urban socioeconomic problems confronting Ethiopia today. For a little more than 15 years, governments and relief organizations have paid particular attention to children living on the streets (Lalor, 1999). However, the number of children in Ethiopia's streets was growing at an alarming rate.

According to Kibrom's 2008 study, "Life in the Streets of Adama: The Situation of Street Children in a Fast-Growing Ethiopian Town," the majority of street children believed that the general public despised them, regarded them as troublemakers, and wanted to have them removed from the streets forcibly.

Issa and Madely's (2017) study, "Socio-economic Conditions of Street Children: The Case of Shashemene Town, Oromia National Regional State, Ethiopia," revealed that Shashemene's poor socio-economic conditions left street children with a challenging living environment and a lack of essential facilities.

Bayissa(2021) "street children Reasons for becoming ,challenging and coping mechanisms:The case of Nekemte town Oromia National Regional state , showed that poverty were the main factor that leads children to the street and also , abuse and mistreatment of family at home, urban attraction, displacement and others were the main factors. His study also indicated that street children face many challenges such as , securing basic necessities of life, abuse by adults including police and older street children. To overcome these challenges, street children use both positive and negative coping mechanisms.

All studies, however, did not take into account the role of non- governmental Organizations in addressing the socio-economic problems of street children, that is why it was essential to conduct this study to fill the gap and examine the role of non- governmental Organizations in doing so.

The idea was difficult to define because it was so wide. The classification of a certain underprivileged group of kids as "street children" has generated debate. This was because the needs, issues, goals, and degree of disadvantage shared by street children and other poor kids are comparable. Because of the detrimental effects the phrase "street child" has on children's wellbeing, there was some significant opposition to its use (FSCE, 2003). According to UNICEF (2007), defined street child as a child for whom the street has become his or her habitual source of livelihood; and also who was inadequately protected, supervised, as well as directed by responsible adults. "Street children" were described by the United Nations as "any girl or boy who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults and for whom the street in the broadest sense of the word (including vacant homes, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood" (Aptekar, 1994). A street child was a youngster who lives on the streets regularly and who was not receiving enough care, supervision, or guidance from responsible adults, according to UNICEF's definition from 2007.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

These chapter which deals with research methodology, contains research approach, research design which is the plan of the action, and sources of data. It also include, sampling techniques or procedures , methods and instruments of data collection.

3.2. Description of the study area

3.2.1. Area and Location

Bishoftu town is located in Oromia Regional State East Shewazone, and geographically it occupies the central part of the region .The name Bishoftu comes from the Afan Oromo Language called "Bishaan" which means "Water" that comes from the existing of volcanic crater lakes named as HoraArsade, Bobogaya, Bishoftu, Cheleka, Kilole, Kuriftu and Green lake. The zone is organized in to 12 districts and Adama is the capital city of the zone. But the town is correspondent with the other zone in the region In the region there are important urban centers both at Oromia and country level which includes Bishoftu town(OUPI, 2009)

Geographically the town was located between 8°45' 8°47' North latitudes and 38°05' 38°09' East longitudes. It was also located at a distance of 47km from Addis Ababa to south east direction across Addis Ababa-Djibouti road. The geographic coverage of the town was 3280 hectares in 1984 and grown to 4520 hectares in the year 2005. Because of many lakes, vast military camps, many research and educational institutions, industrial establishments and urban agriculture centers such as Genesis Farm, ELFORA, Poultry and ALEMA milk producers association in the town, the town is believed to be much larger than implied by its population size.

3.2.2. Population and demographic characteristics

According to sample surveys conducted by CSA, the town had population size of 21,220 and 27,747 in the year 1967 and 1970 respectively. Between the two periods, the city experienced a high rate of population growth, about 5.36 percent per annum. The population of the town had grown to 55,655 and 73,372 in the years 1984 and 1994 respectively. The 2007 national census reported that the town has population of 99,928 from this figure 47,860 were men and 52,068 were women. Concerning the religion 79.75% were Orthodox Christian, 13.82% were Protestant, and 4.98% were Muslim. (CSA, 2007)

3.2.3. Topography and climate of the study Area

The natural topography of the town with buffer zone has been characterized on the north and east flat land which is locked by the swamp and lakes. On the south by undulating land that is dominated by hills. The altitude of the town ranges from 1900–1995 meters above sea level. Thus it belongs to woinadega (moderate zone). According to the information obtained from Bishoftu Agricultural Research Institute, the average temperature and annual rainfall of the town are 26.90mm maximum and 11.280mm minimum and 694mm respectively. According to the 2016 data obtained from Bishoftu Agricultural Research Institute April was the hottest month of the year (31.10°C), while December was the coldest month (5.30°C) in the town. November was the driest month while August was the rainy month (209.9mm) of the year in the town. The highest wind speed was registered in March (2.24m/s) and the most common wind direction seen in the town was easterlies. (Bishoftu Agricultural Research Institute, 2016)

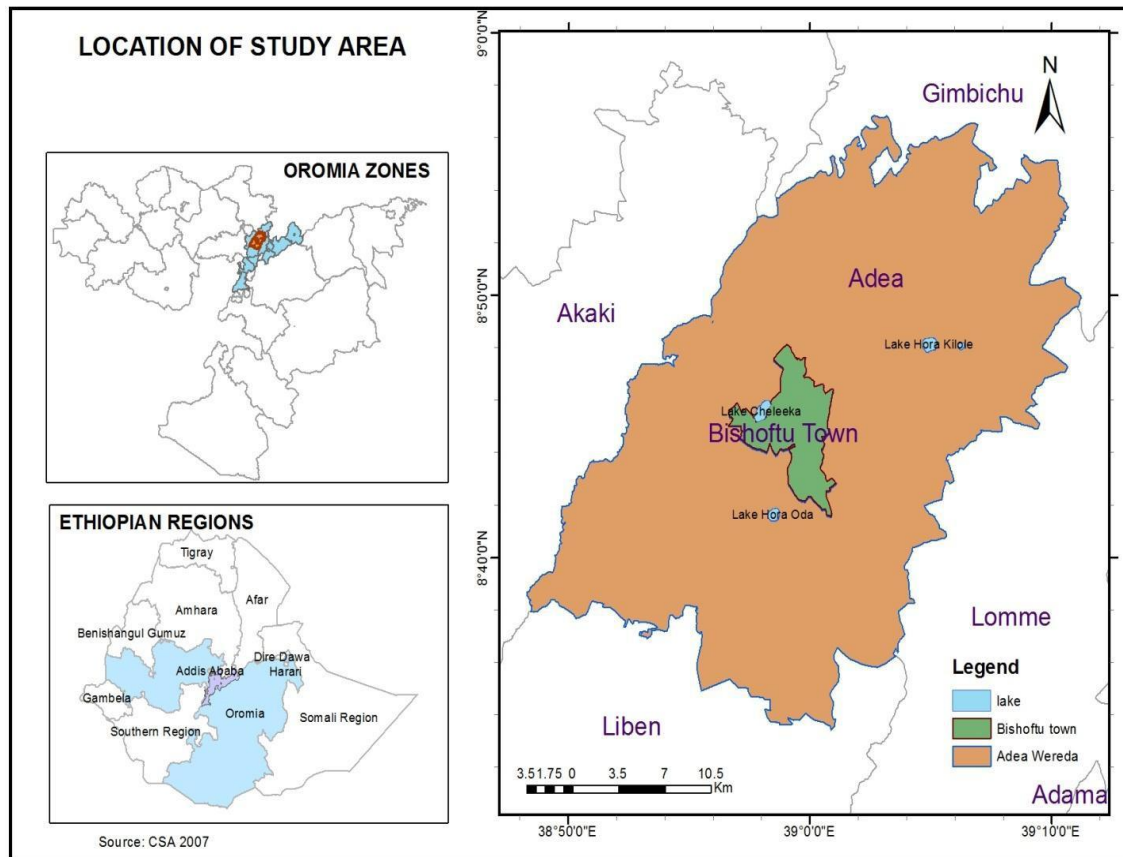


Figure 1: location map of Bishoftu city.(CSA 2007)

3.3 .Research Approach

The choice of research data collection methods should be determined by the hypotheses or research questions and the aspects of the research topic that are the prime focus and interest of the researcher. The choice of methods therefore depends on the type of data you need to collect to be able to test your hypotheses or answer your research questions (Matthews and Ross, 2010)

Based on its objective, this research focused on a qualitative research approach. The researcher selects a qualitative research approach because it enables the researcher to measure people's feelings, attitudes, emotion and perception about a given thing and it helped deeper understanding of human experiences, phenomena & context. It was also effective in identifying intangible factors such as social norms, socio-economic status, gender roles, ethnicity, religion and so on. Qualitative research refers to meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things (Berg, 2001). Qualitative methods can be used to uncover and understand what lies behind any phenomenon about which little was yet known. It was concerned with counting and measuring things (Berg, 2001).

According to Bryman (2008) researchers who follow qualitative approach construct knowledge and interpret it according to the specific context and situation

3.4. Research Design

Research design was the plan of action that links the philosophical assumptions to specific methods (Cresswell and Plano Clark, 2007). In order to achieve the objective of the study the researcher used descriptive research design. Hence, as Anol (2012) found descriptive research design is directed at making careful observation and detailed documentation of phenomenon of interest, attitude, ideas and opinion as it is. The researcher also employed qualitative approach to this study due to, this approach enables the researcher to come up with the data that cannot easily be produced by statistical procedures or other means of quantification. To collect data about human life, reality, experience, behavior, emotion and feeling, organizational function, social movement, cultural phenomenon and their interaction with nature. It describes phenomenon in words instead of numbers (Abo, 2020).

3.5. Sources of Data

To achieve the objectives of the study, both primary and secondary sources of data were used. The primary data was collected from street children in study area, Women Children and Youth Affairs Office experts and experts of office of Social Affairs in the town and from NGOs, Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO) and EgnawLegnawChildren and Elders Aid Center in the town. The secondary data was collected from different published and unpublished documents such as journals, books, magazines, articles, websites, research findings, policy documents, different work manuals and other relevant documents to the research.

3.6. Sample size and Sampling Techniques

In qualitative research, the places and target populations were mostly selected by researchers purposefully and that was best help them to understand the problems and research questions (Creswell, 2009). According to Berg (2001) under purposive sampling, researchers use their knowledge about a certain group to select target populations. So, in order to identify respondents, non-random sampling technique which include purposive sampling technique was selected. Therefore, purposive sampling technique was used to obtain data from street children that helped by Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO) and EgnawLegnawChildren and Elders Aid Center NGOs and experts from government who are working in Women Children and Youth Affairs, Office of Social Affairs in the town. The target populations of this study, from which the units of data collection and analysis were

drawn from street children whose age 10-18 were included in the research voluntary. The researcher select these age ,according to the consortium of street children (2009), the average age at which children first become involved in street life in Ethiopia was 10.7 years and also the researcher think that these children are express their problem accurately. Through with the use of purposive sampling technique, a total of 20 samples were taken from these groups. Out of 20respondents selected purposefully street children constituted 12(8 boys and 4 girls) of the total respondents. The researcher select these number because qualitative research depends on quality or kind not on number. And also, in qualitative research the researcher wants to gain detailed knowledge about a specific phenomenon rather than make statistical inferences. And the remaining 8respondents(6 male and 2 female)are key informant fromnon-governmental organizationKorea International Volunteer Organization(KVO) and EgnawLegnaw Children and Elders Aid Center and experts from government who are working inWomen Children and Youth Affairs, Office of Social Affairs in the town.Key informant interview was one of the methods of data collection about how people in a group or as an individual perceive their surroundings. This helped to understand the local community's personal ,communal, and argumentative ideas, beliefs, and values within their natural and social environment. This was done by asking similar questions for different governmental and non-governmental organizationfrom Korea International Volunteer Organization(KVO)and EgnawLegnawchildrenand Elders Aid Centerexperts through the already prepared interview guidelines.

3.7. Instruments of Data collection

The identification and determination of data based on research objectives, research questions and research participants, in-depth data gathering tools was important step in designing research methods. Accordingly, in-depth interview, focus group discussion, observation and document analysis was selected as the appropriate data gathering tools for this research purpose.

Kruger andNewman(2003) explained thatconceptformationwas anintegralpart of data analysis and begins during data collection. Thus, conceptualization was one way that a qualitative researcherorganizesandmakessenseofdataandanalyzesdataby organizingit into categories on thebasisof themes, concepts, orsimilar features.

The researcher tooka note tosave ideas,explanationandexpressionsof participantsbasedonpre-prepared guidelines.The transcribeddatawascodedthematically.The researcherpreparedthedata analysisbydescribingbrieflyeachoftheparticipantsview,andbyusingdirectquotesfrom the in-depthinterviewsandextendedcase studies.Thelocal(Amharic andAfanOromo) languages transcripts

were translated into English language and analyzed through triangulation of various data sources to increase the validity and reliability of the findings of the study. The primary data was collected via semi-structured interview, observation and focus group discussion. While the secondary data source was collected from published and unpublished written materials obtained from different sources. These include journals, books, thesis both from hard and soft copy. To collect this primary data the researcher used purposive sampling techniques.

Observation

Through observation we can obtain large amount of rich, interesting and valid data. It was a very relevant tool not only to collect real and observable information about the activities and behaviors (emotions and feelings) of the informants under investigation, but also it enables us to check the validity of the information produced in other data collection tools (Geoffrey et al, 2005). Moreover, observation was appropriate for collecting data on naturally occurring behaviors in their usual contexts. Observation as a method used as the dominant mode wherever direct perception and recording of individual or group behavior was practicable, which serves the researcher as the direct witnessing of ongoing social life as the preferable foundation of research whenever feasible (Bryman, 2008). In this research, observation was used to check challenges that faced NGOs while supporting those street children and what kind of support each NGOs providing to solving the socio-economic problems of street children in the study area. At the same time behaviors, activities, their relationship or interactions of the children with one another and with NGOs they support was observed.

In-depth Interview

In-depth interview was an effective qualitative method which enables us to know people's feelings, opinions and experiences. An interview was a relatively inexpensive and efficient way to collect a wide variety of information that does not require formal testing (Geoffrey et al, 2005). To meet the objectives of the study, in-depth interview of street children were crucial in order to understand the main reasons for which children are exposed to street life, the challenges that face NGOs, the support or assistance that NGOs providing to those children and the role played by both international and local NGOs in mitigating their socio-economic problems. Therefore, this tool of data collection was more appropriate to obtain detailed

information about the street life of children. From 20 respondents selected purposefully street children constitutes 12 (8 boys and 4 girls) of the total respondents. And the remaining 8 respondents (6 male and 2 female) are key informant. This was done by asking similar questions for different governmental and non-governmental institution experts (both local and transnational NGOs experts) through the already prepared interview guidelines. KII were conducted with people from both transnational and local experts of NGOs and government organizations such as women, children and youth affairs of the city and experts from social affairs through informed consent in the study area. For the key informant interview, 8 people were asked through informed consent. The KII participants were selected purposively considering their relationship with the research objectives. NGO, experts from both local and transnational comprises 4 respondents, two individuals from each and the remaining 4 respondents comprise from government organizations which have direct relationships with the issue from office of women, children and youth affairs and social affairs in the city. However, the interview guide is modified when the interview was in progress based on the response of the informant. As it is evident from the above figures, majority of the samples were taken from street children. This has been done due to more importantly; this research focuses on the , reason of exposure and role of NGO in mitigating the socio-economic problem of street children. For interview seven (7) street children participants were selected based on their willingness. For the purpose of these interviews, a checklist was prepared in order to guide the discussion. Based on the responses of the respondents on the issues mentioned under the research questions, the researchers systematically raised related issues to probe the interest of the respondents for detail information. Through the above mechanisms, the researcher attempted to get detailed information on the issue to achieve the intended objective of the study. The data collected from participants has been transcribed successfully to avert the risk of losing collected data. The interviews were also documented through intensive note taking. The interview guide was prepared in Amharic and Afan Oromo.

Focus group discussion

Focus group discussion implies a group discussion in order to identify perception, thoughts and impressions of a selected group of people regarding a specific topic of investigations (Kairuz, Crump and O'Brien, 2007).

Thus in this study, this method was employed to find out their main reason of exposure to the street, what they think about the role played by both local and transnational NGO in mitigating their socio-economic problems and changes that was registered because of assistance they have obtained from the above organization. Hence, the focus group discussion was administered only for street children who have willingness to take part in the focus group discussion and it consists of 6 street children.

Inclusion criteria

Regarding the selection criteria, it is based on the research objective thus; Street children whose age ranges from 10-18 were selected as the research participants. According to the Consortium of Street Children (2009), the average age at which children first become involved in street life in Ethiopia is 10.7 years.

3.8. Methods of Data Analysis

In this study, qualitative method of data analysis technique was used. The qualitative data that was collected from systematic observation, in depth-interview and focus group discussion was converted into texts and analyzed by method of content analysis. The researcher listed key ideas, statements and attitudes from the discussion during interviews for each topic of discussion. The data was organized inline with the research questions and objectives of the study. First, the data was gathered through qualitative data collection methods such as through systematic observation, in-depth individual interviews, key informant interviews and extended case studies. During data collection, the interviewer took notes to save ideas, explanations and expressions of research participants. Then, it was summarized and categorized thematically based on the specific objectives of the study. The researcher prepared the data analysis by describing briefly each of the participants' view, and by using direct quotes from the in-depth interviews and extended case studies. The local language transcripts were translated into English and analyzed through triangulation of various data sources to increase the validity and reliability of the findings of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1. INTRODUCTION

The researcher analyzed and discussed in this chapter, major findings of the research based on the data collected using observation, interview and focus group discussions. The main objective of this study was to examine factors exposing children to the street, the challenges that face NGOs, the support that NGOs are providing to street children and evaluating the role of both local and transnational NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children in the study area.

From 20 research participants 14 of them were interviewed for in-depth interview (6 street children 3 children from Egnaw Legnaw Elders and children aid center, 3 children from Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO) and 8 key informants 2 experts from office Women, children and youth affairs, 2 experts from office of social affairs, 2 experts from Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO) office and 2 experts from Egnaw Legnaw Elders and children aid center and 5 street children take part in focus group discussion. Egnaw Legnaw Elders and Children aid center was established in 1990 in Bishoftu town. When it was first established, it was based on religion called Kidanemihiret Elders and children aid center. Since 2006, it has been transformed into a religion-free organization called Egnaw Legnaw Elders and Children aid center and start support street children, children with the problem of autism and elders. Currently, the organization is helping 48 children with all expenses and 330 children with educational materials to their families. Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO) was an international NGOs that established in 1988 and has been supporting under developed countries. The NGOs start his work in Bishoftu town in 1998 E.C. At this time the NGO helped 60 street children with all expenses and 551 children with educational material when the school open and food support in a month with their families.

The data collected from participants were organized and analyzed as follows:

4.2. Main reasons that Contribute for street Life.

Children were exposed to street life for different reasons. It was very clear that there was no single cause for children to be exposed to the streets, rather it was a combination of economic, social, political and cultural factors which force them in to the streets (Vanessa, 2007).

Lalor, K. (1999) stated that, children come to street life due to Economic reasons/poverty, family reasons (divorce and death), orphaned, join friends/peer pressure, pressurized by parents.

4.2.1. Socio-Economic and Cultural Reasons

Office of Bishop Tutu Women, Children and Youth Affairs indicated that poverty was the first main factor for children to engage in street life. Children join street life when their fathers leave home in search of job opportunities to different parts of the country. Leaving more than four to five children on their mothers with no income to upbringing their children, many fathers with less income go to other towns for a long period of time in search of job opportunities and even establish other family where they go which become these second main reason for which children join street life.

The researcher's street children respondents both in focus group discussions and in depth interview reported that though they have engaged on street life because of different reasons, but poverty played major roles. Because we may choose other option than joining streets. The researcher also observed that mother's with less income engaged their children to be running behind foreign and town dwellers on every corner of the city. It was very common in Bishop Tutu town to see children running and tugging people's cloth to get financial help from different people walking on the main road.

Bishop Tutu town social affairs office indicated that children work on the streets to get money for themselves and to support their families. Some children may have been denied a chance to go to school or have dropped out of school and have nothing to do. They can earn money by begging, carrying or bearing, car washing, drug trafficking, juggling, performing music, running errands, scavenging, sex work, shoeshining or vending. Children also engage in street life to escape from work demands in the home. In many cultures, children are expected to participate in routine family tasks. At times the demand on

children may be more than they can take. This leads to the child feeling that he or she is a slave or a servant. Such children leave home in search of freedom from adult demands.

Korea International volunteer organization (KVO) office expert stated that becoming a street child starts slowly. While living with their family they may take some money from their parents and stay away from home to escape family punishment for certain days. Once the child left home to the street it would have to be shameful to turn back home for the family and children because of the culture of the society. They stay out on the streets until their family's doors were closed. When children lose the chance to turn back to their family they decide to continue living on the streets.

4.2.2. Migration

Migration was also another factor which can essentially force children into the street (Vanessa, 2007). The rapid increase of migrant to urban areas brought about severe stress and strain to many developing countries. Better schooling, health facilities, job opportunity, and life are major reasons for migration of children from rural to urban centers. Due to very low educational level and newness to the city environment, migrant children are unable to compete for job opportunities in urban areas. Thus, such migrant children often join street life in order to survive (Zerihun, 2018).

According to women, children and youth affairs office most children are migrating towards the town from SNNP region and engaged in selling lottery moving in the town. Since they earn less money, it was impossible for them to cover their daily expenses, and they were engaged in robbing people's property at night. Because of this the city government of Bishoftu town returned back and re-united 133 (one hundred thirty three) street children to the SNNP region in 2019 budget year by covering their transport expenses without the willingness of the children.

The researcher's street children respondents both in focus group discussions and in depth interview reported that, they come to urban areas to think that there is better job opportunities.

4.2.3. Family Related Factors

The data obtained from Bishoftu town Women Children and Youth office showed that , divorce and death of parents were the main factors for children to be exposed to street life next to poverty in the town.

One of my interview child participants stated his history as follows:-

"My parents have divorced when I was 8 years old. A year later after their divorce, my father married another wife. My stepmother does not provide me a meal on time and sufficiently and even she does not want to see me. I was always crying remembering my mum who was far away. Our neighboring child told me that his family is changing their residence to Bishoftu town since they have obtained assistance from foreign government and I asked my friend to convince his family to go with them, but they refused to do so. One day my father came from the field while I was crying and asked me what happened to me. I told him that my stepmother dislikes me and she does not provide me a meal properly. After listening to me, he told me as it was happened because of my own mistake. Since I was angry to my father's response I decided to go to Bishoftu where our neighbors live. But I did not find them and I joined children living on the streets who are from Wolaita. Due to this reason, I came to the town and roamed around bus station. I have passed two years on the street before I come to Engaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center."

Another respondent told me his history as follows:

I am 12 years old. I was born in Dire Dawa. My mother was passed away when I was very little. My father married another woman. My father punishes me every time. I came to Bishoftu to escape from my father's punishment. Since I have no relatives in the town I joined street life. I thought it was shame to turn back home. I have been passed for the last three years before I enjoyed Korea International Volunteer organization"

As indicated above, divorce and death are among the main reasons which exposed children to the streets. Many children join the streets to avoid violence and abuse in the family (Kopoka, 2000). Thus, family disintegration was a significant push factor that forced children to the street life. In most cases, street children come from broken families due to divorce, separation or imprisonment of the parents. Lack of economic and emotional support, coupled with a loss of communication between parents and

children, often force them to escape or leave home (Vanessa Asensio, 2007) cited in (Shimelis, 2015).

4.2.4. Punishment

According to (Sofia and Galata, 2019) children join street life to escape abusive parental punishment followed by poverty, hate of their step-mothers and fathers, father-mother conflict, and parental alcoholic behavior.

Both Focus group discussants and interview respondents also explained that punishment forces children to streets. If parents punish children continuously, they leave home and engage on street to escape from punishment. One of their friends left home because of his father's continuous punishment.

Key informant interview revealed that punishment plays great role in children engagement on the streets.

4.2.5. Peer pressure

Peer pressure is also another main reason for children to join street life. Children leave their home environment or families not only because of the problems in the family, but also due to the street 'speer' friendship. This could be directly related with the perceptions of freedom of the street life that children on the street have which might influence or push children who have developed a strong street connection with them.

Focus group discussion Participant said that, peer pressure also headed them to the street; they were motivated by their peer friends who had a prior street experience. As it was already indicated above, street is miscaused by a number of immediate, underlying and basic causes rather than a single reason. Thus, children living with various problems, the information they obtain from their peers easily persuaded them to leave their family home.

4.2.6. To escape from workload in the home.

One of the researcher's interview respondent revealed that work load in his family is one of his reason to leads to street life.

In many cultures, especially in rural part of Ethiopia, children are expected to participate in routine family tasks and even up to being the backbone of their family. Sometimes the demand on children may

be heavy. This situation leads the child to feeling that he or she is a slave or a servant. Such children leave home in search of freedom from parents.

4.2.7. To find a shelter.

As data obtained from Focus group discussion, children decide to leave home to find shelter for their families and for themselves in different cases.

In overcrowded households, children may decide to leave home to make room for younger siblings and elderly family members. Others are on the streets because they do not have an alternative. They may have become separated from their families during civil unrest or their parents/ caretakers may have died from illnesses such as AIDS or killed during armed conflict. Other children may have nowhere else to go when they are released from institutions such as a jail or a detention centre.

4.2.8. Other reasons

Children were not exposed to the street not only because of a single reason, rather because of different complex reasons.

Both key informant interview and focus group discussions results showed that inter-ethnic conflict, drought, HIV/AIDS, unfavorable educational environment, famine, natural disasters and lack of basic needs are also among other reasons for children's engagement to the streets. In addition to these characteristics of children, their mental capacity and capabilities in tackling life problems, maturity crisis exposes them to the streets.

According to (Issa, 2019), there are three factors causing the street children problem to emerge. At micro level, the causes can be identified from the related children and family and also the independent cause like escape from the family, asked to work after school or have been dropped out, adventuring, playfully or asked by friend. At mezzo level, the causes are derived from family such as neglected by parents' incapability of providing basic needs, rejected by parents, maltreatment or domestic violence, difficulty of communicating with family/neighbor, separated from parents, wrong attitude to the child, limitation of child caretaking pushing the children to have physical, psychological, and social problems.

Meanwhile at macro level, the causes identified include: among poor people, children are asset to help family improvement, they are taught to work leading to dropping out of school, while in other societies, the street children are prospect criminals (Demartoto, 2012).

4.3. THE ROLE OF NGOS IN MITIGATING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF STREET CHILDREN

In order to assess the role played by NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children in the town, an interview was carried out with local NGOs Egnaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center and transnational NGOs with Korea International volunteer organizations. In Bishoftu town there are many NGOs that work on different issues. But NGOs that support the children are the only above NGOs. So, this is the reason why the researcher selected them.

4.3.1. PROVIDING PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The data obtained from both NGOs experts interview, FGD and interview with children assured that, the support that is provided by the Egnaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center and Korea International Volunteer Organization NGOs was place of residence.

Egnaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center NGOs providing place of residence for 48 street children and Korea International Volunteer Organization providing place of residence for 60 street children as data obtained from the NGOs experts. The children views regarding the support were happy, because before they get this assistance they sleep on the street, around bus station and others.

4.3.2. PROVIDING FOOD, CLOTHES AND HYGIENE

The other things that are supported by those NGOs providing meal and clothes service for those children. As data obtained from interview, FGD with children they supported food, clothes and hygiene materials that keep themselves and their working areas clean in order to prevent illness and disease from these NGOs.

4.3.3. PROVIDING EDUCATIONS

According to interview with the local NGOs, Egnaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center their organization support 48 (forty-eight) street children education services with all expenses including their school fees up to higher education, and support 330 children with educational materials to their families. According to interview with Korea International Volunteer Organization NGOs their organization support for 60 (sixty) street children education services with all expenses up to primary level and support 551 children educational material and food items with their families.

According to the researchers interview with Local NGOs EgnawLegnaw children and Elders aid center experts their organization was established in 1990 in Bishoftu town. When it was first established ,it was based on religion called Kidanemihiret Elders and children aid center. Since 2006, it has been transformed into a religion-free organization called EgnawLegnaw Elders and Children aid center and start support street children, children with the problem of autism and elders which don't have support. Currently, the organization is helping 48 street children with all expenses including their school fee upto higher education, and support 330 children with educational materials to their families .

On the other hand, the researcher's interview with International NGO Korea International Volunteer Organization(KVO) their organization was an international NGOs that established in 1988 and has been supporting under developed countries. The NGOs start his work in Bishoftu town in 1998 E.C . At this time the NGO helped 60 street children with all expenses and 551 children with educational material when the school open and food support in a month with their families .

According to the researchers observation, the relationship between the children each other are a relation like brother and sister. The children are help each other ,especially the researcher observe that the children in Local NGOs EgnawLegnaw children and Elders aid center help the children with problem of autism and the relationship between these children and the organization that helps them has looked at the relation as a parent

According to FSCE, most of the services provided for the street children are mainly focused on delivering basic services like food and educational support. Other services like medical care and shelter was provided occasionally with less extent.

Furthermore, many of the NGOs do not attempt to take the children off the street; rather they opt to help them while they are on the street (Schmidt, 2003). This might be due to shortage of resource and absence or comprehensive national and municipal strategy towards the problem.

4.4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING STREET CHILDREN

As data gained from Both NGOs experts, criteria selecting street children from the street are as the follows:

Children who lost their family or orphan children, children with severely poor, children who have no any support from their relatives, children who could have learned but lost the opportunity are their selection criteria.

In the researcher's interview with the town Women, children and youth affairs office experts, their office in order to minimize the problem of street children and increasing number of them in the town they mostly used reuniting children with their families and returning back to from where they come rather than assisting them and mitigating their socio-economic problems by working with other stakeholders. Interview with the city Women, child and youth affairs indicate that in the year 2020, **133** (one hundred thirty-three) street children from SNNP who were selling a lottery with very less income and who live on the streets were re-united and turned back to the place where they come from by covering their transportation expenses by the town administration. In addition to this, in the year, 2021 before the outbreak of corona viruses (COVID-19) in the country, **249** (two hundred forty-nine) street children were also re-united and turned back to their place of origin by sponsoring their transport cost by Bishoftu city administration. The office also added that still their number was increasing.

4.5. CHALLENGES THAT FACE NGOS IN SUPPORTING STREET CHILDREN.

The data obtained from interview with NGOs experts, they face many problems when they helped those children. Among the problems:-

- The medical professional to protect the health of these children
- Luck of transportation to buy the necessity material for the children
- Luck of budget to take more children from the street. NGOs are expressing difficulty in finding sufficient ,appropriate and continuous funding for their work. They find accessing donors as challenging as dealing with their funding conditions.
- Luck of adequate equipments for the services of food and others.

The researcher observed that there is lack of materials that support for meal services , lack of residence place.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents and discusses summary of major findings, conclusion remarks and recommendations to address the main factors contributing to the engagement of children on the street, challenges that face NGOs, the support that NGOs providing to street children and evaluating the role of NGOs in mitigating their socio-economic problem and recommendation for future research directions

5.2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDING

The study tried to investigate the main reason of children exposure to street life, assessing the role of NGOs in mitigating their socio-economic problems of street children, criteria used by NGOs to select street children and challenges that face NGOs. Generally, four thematic areas were identified in line with the objectives of the study: first, to examine factors exposing children to the street, second, assessing the role of both local and transnational NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children, third, criteria used by NGOs to select street children and fourth, the challenges that face NGOs in the study area.

The study revealed that a set of multidimensional factors such as poverty, death of parents, family breakdown, punishment, migration, socio-cultural factors and peer pressure exposed children to street life. High expectation of better employment opportunities such as waitresses, daily laborers, shoeshining, and at the same time to pursue their education in evening classes was also another reason.

Most NGOs focused on solving the short-term needs of the children than providing long-term solutions for their problem. From this the researcher concludes that even though, both preventive and curative approach was implemented to address the problems of the street children, the scope was very narrow in both cases.

5.3. CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings, the researcher concludes that the street children in Bishoftu city were faced with difficult living situation and lack of basic facilities due to their poor socio-economic conditions. They were exposed into the streets by multiple factors, the main reason were poverty, death and separation of parents, lack of family's fixed income, peer pressures and lack of basic social amenities. Family poverty was the main reason for children to join the street life as it was mostly identified by most researchers on street children and responded by children themselves. The appearance of street children in Addis Ababa and other town in Ethiopia is integrally tied to the phenomenon of urban poverty. Therefore reduced income forced street children to work on the streets to earn money for themselves. Most of the research conducted globally regarding the street child phenomenon indicate that poverty was the single most important factor influencing children to leave their homes. They have been forced to bother about food, safety, and a roof over their heads.

Based on the finding, the two NGOs, support the children in two ways. One, by taking those children in to their organization and support all expenses including place of residence, meal services, clothes, hygiene materials and education services. In these way Egnaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center support 48 (forty-eight) street children and Korea International Volunteer Organization NGOs support 60 (sixty) street children. Two support those children with their family education materials. In these way Egnaw Lengaw children and Elders aid center support 330 (three hundred thirty) street children and Korea International Volunteer Organization NGOs support 551 (five hundred fifty one) street children. Their selection criteria were, Children who lost their family or orphan children, children with severely poor, children who have no any support from their relatives, children who could have learned but lost the opportunity.

There are different challenges that face NGOs when they support street children like lack of transportation, budget, medical professional and lack of adequate equipments for the services of food and others. Thus, the researcher concludes that even though they support some children their role is not enough when we compare with the problems. But the problem of street children was not the issue that should be left to NGOs. Efforts should be made by all Stakeholders 'Governmental, Non-governmental and community based organizations and by the public at large. All the stakeholders need to work hand in hand in order to alleviate the multi faceted problems of these future hope children.

5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above findings and conclusions, this study comes up with the following recommendations.

The federal and local government has the responsibility to make effective legislation and ensuring the implementation of the laws protecting child rights at large. Of course it is not only the responsibility of government, but also the local community, media and other local and international organizations had the responsibilities.

The city administrations should give great emphasis to address the problems of street children, through adequate funding, and by developing more partnership programs with local and transnational non-government organizations which are engaged in activities of assisting street children rather than simply forcefully returning them to their place of origin and uniting them with their family.

Bishoftu city social Affairs office, Women, Children and youth Affairs, municipality, local and transnational NGOs should create job opportunities for street children and enhance children's creativity by providing training, and reuniting voluntary children with their families, improving the economic status of the families of street children, and establishing care institutions for street children.

Bishoftu town, social Affairs office, Women, Children and youth Affairs and municipality encouraged more NGOs that support street children in the town.

International and local NGOs working with street children in Bishoftu should collaborate and form working committees to share vital information and resources. They should enhance their collaboration with federal and regional government agencies in formulating action plans for street children.

Programs undertaken by NGOs and governments on street children have to focus on urban areas. They have to be mobile, reactive, quick and multi-dimensional to address children's needs.

Preventive and curative measures are needed to solve street children problem by mobilizing the community, the NGOs and religious institutions.

Working hand-in-hand with all stakeholders, it is possible to mitigate the socio-economic problems of street children. So that all stakeholders should give emphasis to the issue of street children in order they grow up in the proper manner and contribute to the development of their country and to save these children from committing criminal, stealing, and personality disorder, we should acquire more knowledge about their living condition

Finally, the researcher wants to advise that there are also some issues that need to be further studied and researched. Children on the street are a social phenomenon that was caused by failure of the society to implement moral standards and principles. The study revealed the failure of family institution in handling, nurturing and guiding children on the right track is one of the basic causes for children's engagement on the street.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I

I. INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH STREET CHILDREN .

JIMMA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

Dear Children, the purpose of this study is to investigate the role of NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children in the case of Bishoftu town. To this end the interview/questions are meant to gather your views/opinions about issue under study. Your genuine responses are very important for the success of the study. Note that, the responses to the interview are confidential and no individual will be identifying in any report of the data. Participation is also voluntary.

Thank you in advance.

Name of meeting place _____ Date _____

Time _____ Number of participants Male _____ Female _____ Total _____

Thank you all of you for respecting our appointment and being punctual !

1. How long have you been on the street before you come to this organization?
2. What is the main reason for which you are exposed to street life?
3. What kind of support are you getting from this NGO ?
4. To what extent has this support solved your socio-economic problems ?
5. What do you think is the solution to be the problem of street children ?

—

Thank you !!!

APPENDICS II

I. INTERVEIWQUESTION FORSELECTEDSTREET CHILDREN

JIMMA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

Dear Children, the purpose of this study is to investigate the role of NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children in the case of Bishoftu town. To this end the interview/questions are meant to gather your views/opinions about issue under study. Your genuine responses are very important for the success of the study. Note that ,the responses to the interview are confidential and no individual will be identifying in any report of the data. Participation is also voluntary.

Thank you in advance.

1. How long have you been on the street?
2. What is the main reason for which you are exposed to street life?
3. What a kind of support are you getting from this NGO ?
4. To what extent has this support solved your socio-economic problems ?
5. What do you think is the solution to be the problem of street children ?
6. Is there any idea that you can add ?

Thank you!

APPENDICS II

INTERVIEW QUESTION TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE EXPERTS OF NGOS ENGAGED IN ASSISTING THE STREET CHILDREN

JIMMA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

Dear Sir/Madam, the purpose of this study is to investigate the role of NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children in the case of Bishoftu town. To this end the interview/questions are meant to gather your views/opinions about issue under study. Your genuine responses are very important for the success of the study.

Note that ,the responses to the interview are confidential and no individual will be identifying in any report of the data. Participation is also voluntary.

Thank you in advance.

Respondents Personal information.

Name of your organization _____ Position _____

1. when was your organization start these activities in this town?
2. As your organization what do you think can be the main factors for children to be involved in streetlife?
3. At this time how many street children are support by your organization ?
4. What are your criteria to select those street children?
5. What type of assistance or support was given to the street children?
6. What sort of problem faced you while working with the street children?
7. Do you think that both transnational and local NGOs have played their role in mitigating the socio-economic problems of these children?
8. What are the major problems facing NGOs today in playing their role to mitigate the socio-economic problems of street children?
9. What do you think is a lasting solution to the problem of the street children?
10. Do you have any idea that you want to add?

Thank You very much !!!

APPENDICS IV

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH KEY PERSONS (GOVERNMENT OFFICESEXPERTS)

JIMMA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

Dear Sir/Madam, the purpose of this study is to investigate the role of NGOs in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children in the case of Bishoftu town. To this end the interview/questions are meant to gather your views/opinions about issue under study. Your genuine responses are very important for the success of the study.

Note that ,the responses to the interview are confidential and no individual will be identifying in any report of the data. Participation is also voluntary.

Thank you in advance.

Name of your organization _____

- 1.What does your office know about street children in the town?
- 2.What do you think is the main reason for children to be exposed to street life?
- 3.What measures was taken to solve their socio-economic problems and decrease their vulnerability of street children?
4. What type of role was played by both local and transnational NGOs in the town in mitigating the socio-economic problems of street children?
- 5.Howdoyouevaluatethe roleplayedbythisorganizationindealingwiththeproblemofstreetism?
6. What do you think are the possible solution to solve the problem of streetism?
7. Do you have any idea that you want to add?

Thank you !

Observation check List For Street Children In Bishoftu town.

1. Their relationship and behaviors with each other's and with their organizations .
- 2.The role played of both transnational and Local NGOs in solving their socio-economic problems .
- 3.How the organization support them and the problem that faced the organization

APPENDICS V

Profile of the Street Children

Street children were asked about their background and demographic history, place of origin, family size and details of their present life.

Table 1. General information of focus group discussion participants

Focus group discussion	No. of participants
Younger children group mixed gender (14-18)	6 (4 male and 2 female)

Table 2. General information of the in-depth interview participants

No.	Age	sex	Educational level	Place of origin (Region where they came from)	NGOs They support them	Duration stayed On the Street	Family size
1	17	M	2 nd Grade	Amhara region	Engaw Lengaw children and Elders Aid center	7	6
2	16	F	9 th Grade	Oromia	Engaw Lengaw children and Elders Aid center	2	5
3	18	M	7 th Grade	Oromia	Engaw Lengaw children and Elders Aid center	10	7
4	18	M	2 nd Grade	Dire Dawa	Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO)	12	5
5	16	F	Un educated	Oromia	Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO)	8	9
6	17	M	7 th Grade	SNNP	Korea International Volunteer Organization (KVO)	5	7

