

**Assessment of the Psychosocial Support provided to Female Victims of  
Trafficking in Safe Homes: The case of Organization for Prevention,  
Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children**

**By**

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**School of Social Work**

**November, 2013**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children**

**A Thesis submitted to School of Social Work of Indira Gandhi  
National Open University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Masters of Social Work (MSW)**

**By**

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**November, 2013**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO FEMALE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN SAFE HOMES submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the MSW to Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other programmes of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Miss-----  
student of MSW from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi was working under my supervision and guidance for her Project Work for the Course MSWP-001. Her Project Work entitled ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO FEMALE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN SAFE HOMES which she is submitting, is her genuine and original work.

Place:

Signature: -----

Date:

Name: -----

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## **ACRONYMS**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>ABE</b>      | <b>Alternative Basic Education</b>   |
| <b>ANPPCAN</b>  | <b>Association for Nationwide Action for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect</b> |
| <b>CPU</b>      | <b>Child Protection Unit</b>   |
| <b>CRC</b>      | <b>Convention on the Right of the Child</b>  |
| <b>FDRE</b>     | <b>Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</b>   |
| <b>FGD</b>      | <b>Focus Group Discussion</b>  |
| <b>FSCE</b>     | <b>Forum on Street Children Ethiopia</b>   |
| <b>GIFT</b>     | <b>Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking</b>  |
| <b>HIV/AIDS</b> | <b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</b>                                |
| <b>IEC</b>      | <b>Information, Education , Communication</b>  |
| <b>ILO</b>      | <b>International Labor Organization</b>  |
| <b>NGO</b>      | <b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>  |
| <b>OAU</b>      | <b>Organization of African Union</b>   |
| <b>OPRIFS</b>   | <b>Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children</b>            |
| <b>SNNP</b>     | <b>Southern Nation, Nationalities and People</b>   |
| <b>STD</b>      | <b>Sexually Transmitted Disease</b>  |
| <b>TIP</b>      | <b>Trafficking In Person</b>   |
| <b>UN</b>       | <b>United Nations</b>  |
| <b>UNICEF</b>   | <b>United Nations Children’s Fund</b>  |

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This study was conducted at the safe home of OPRIFS which is found in Addis Ababa, Yeka sub city. The main concern of this study was to assess the psychosocial supports provided in the safe home for victims of the consequences of child trafficking. The main objectives of the study were: to identify problems child victims of trafficking experience; to review services available (psycho social support) for those children in temporary shelters and to assess the outcome of psycho social support in the safe homes in changing the life and situation of the children. The research utilized qualitative research method; and the data were collected by using focus group discussion and interview guide. The study used purposive sampling method by selecting the participants in the safe home who were victims of trafficking.

The female victims of child trafficking faced various problems at the destination place (Addis Ababa). They were abused by their employers (relatives or non-relatives) and by the people to whom they took asylum. The two major works the children engaged in were baby-sitting and domestic work. The children had to face physical such as beating and slapping; and psychological such as insulting abuses. They left their home by being deceived by brokers to have better jobs and education. The child trafficking victims, after they joined the safe home, received different psycho social supports which included basic needs, health care, guidance and counseling, basic education, handicraft training, recreation and reunification with families. The research participants responded that they were happy with most of the services except the health care. They also stated that the services were great help in improving their emotional problems and in readjusting to normal life. And most of the children have bright future plans.

The psychosocial services including the reunification program conducted by the agency must not only continue but should also be strengthened. Despite that, the services provided in the safe home should be checked every time by participating the children; and reorganize the programs based on their relevance and the interest of the beneficiaries.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Child trafficking is one of the worst human right violations. Children have been trafficked for reasons such as sexual and labor exploitation. In recent years the number of trafficked children appears to be increasing. And many of them are found to be female (Elias, 2004). The UN Population Fund estimated that two million female children between the ages of five and fifteen are being trafficked every year (FSCE, 2011). After being trafficked, among other things, the children are forced to involve in prostitution and hard labor which are most likely to impair their emotional, spiritual, mental and physical development.

Today, there are many countries, especially developing ones like Ethiopia where such children are working in towns and cities by being kept in-doors and out of sight and/or are manipulated/abused by employers (Elias, 2004). It is found to be crucial to provide victims of trafficking with safety in the process of rehabilitation by offering them alternative ways of living which could help them to make decisions for changing their way of life for better (TIP, 2007).

There are relevant international laws and conventions as well as national legislations dealing with the problem of trafficking in women and children. The most widely ratified human right treaty (ratified by 191 countries in 1989), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in its provisions under Articles 32, 34 and 35 states that governments have to protect children from being engaged in situations that threaten their health, education and development (Ann T-Gallagher, 2010). The CRC also provides the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse including prostitution and involvement in pornography as well as the

states obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children (UN, 1989).

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor (ratified by 136 countries in 1999) also prohibits the most extreme forms of child labor that involve children being enslaved, held in bondage, separated from their families, or exposed to serious hazards and illness (ILO, 1999). The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) (adopted by the 26 ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, A.A July 1990) provides the role of state parties in protecting the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 27). It puts states' role in taking appropriate measures to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or trafficking in children for any purpose or in any form, by any person including parents or legal guardians and also the use of children in all forms of begging (Article 29) (OAU, 1990, ACRWC, 1999).

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also recognizes the right of every child to life and protection from exploitative practices which may be hazardous or harmful to his/her education, health or well-being. Article 41(5) of the constitution designates the allocation of resources to provide rehabilitation and assistance to children who are left without parents or guardians (FDRE, 1995). Moreover the Ethiopian Penal Code (1957), the Private Employment Agency Proclamation (1988), the Family Law of Ethiopia (1996) and the 1993 Labor Proclamation (11) give ample protection to children in general, although they could be further harmonized with CRC (FSCE, 2011).

Child trafficking and its grave consequences being an alarming human right violation, the problem attracted the attention of international and national agencies. Intervention measures to

combat the problem include research, creation of data base and exchange of information, preventive actions including public education and advocacy at local levels, international campaigning, global networking and psycho-social rehabilitative measures such as repatriation, medical treatment, counseling, training, employment as well as integration into the community (Askale and Azeb, 2005).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Ethiopia is one of the developing countries where problems related to children are prevalent. Among those problems trafficking of children is the worst one (Elias, 2004). This serious crime is usually committed against female children and women in the form of bonded domestic labor and sexual exploitation. After getting entrapped as migrant laborers, women and children suffer all types of abusive and violent treatment. These include physical and emotional violence resulting from sexual exploitation, overwork and physical violence that end up severe injury and even homicide (FSCE, 2011).

Some Non-Governmental Organizations as well as the Government are working in alleviating the problem through various programs. One of the NGOs who are working on the issue is OPRIFS. Thus, the purpose of this study will be assessing problems female trafficked children face and the impacts of services in safe homes, particularly the psycho social support program, in rehabilitating them.

This study aims at addressing the following issues of investigation.

- What kind of problems trafficked children experience in the destination areas?
- What are the psychosocial supports provided to trafficked children?

### **1.3. Significance of the Study**

Human trafficking is one of the worst problems in developing countries. This research is believed to contribute knowledge on the problems of child trafficking and on the general situation of safe homes where victims of trafficking and its subsequent problems get various support. Moreover this study will also add knowledge to the social literature, and to the social work practice approach.

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

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

The intent of this study is to assess the life of trafficked children in the destination area and the various interventions employed to help them recover from their problems.

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

- To identify problems trafficked children experience.
- To review services available (psychosocial support) for those children in safe homes
- To assess the outcome of psycho social support in the safe homes in changing the life and situation of the children.
- To explore prospect for the sustainability of services.

#### **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

The study is limited by some factors. Financial limitation was one of the challenges that were faced by the researcher. Time was another limitation in conducting the research. Since the researcher was a part-timer, it was somehow challenging to conduct the research. The other limitation was seen from the response of the respondents. Some of the respondents were not confident enough in telling their right feelings/ opinions about the services of the organization.

#### **1.5. Organization of the Thesis**

The chapterization of this research is organized into six chapters. The first chapter is an introduction to the subject matter of the present study, including background, objectives of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study and brief account of the organization. The second chapter presents a review of related literature. In the chapter the problem of child trafficking, its causes, types, consequences and proposed solutions as well as other related issues are discussed. The third chapter presents the methodology of the study employed, research design, sampling, data collection procedures/techniques and data analysis. The fourth chapter explains the major findings and interpretation of data. Chapter five is discussion of major findings/results. The sixth and last chapter put conclusion of the findings of the study and the recommendations which would be listed based on the results of the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **CHILD TRAFFICKING**

#### **2.1) Introduction**

The trafficking of children has been internationally recognized as a major human rights violation, one that exists in every region of the world. Whereby the UN defines children trafficking as a form of human trafficking and includes the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation (UN, 1989). The exploitation of trafficked children is mostly committed in the form of sexual abuse and labor abuse. They also suffer from physical abuse, emotional abuse; physical and psychological neglect (Ellen, 2005).

Trafficking of children is practiced in various ways. In country trafficking, children are victims of coercion or deception by brokers or pimps who irresponsibly expose and engage the children into hazardous working condition. Children also migrate from the rural areas in search of educational opportunities and a better life; while some are taken to urban centers and promised to be taken care of by relatives or friends of their parents. Moreover, female children having run away from family violence, arranged marriage or intolerable marriages through abduction or early marriage, are also found in urban settings (FSCE, 2011).

Victims of trafficking suffer various human right violations. When these children reach their destination, many are faced with agonizing conditions that include emotional and physical abuse, neglect, hunger, confinement as well as sexual abuse and exploitation. A large number of female children who migrate to cities end up as housemaids and are obliged to toil for long hours. (Trafficking-In-Person, 2007).

In fact, victims of child trafficking not only face physical and emotional maltreatment by their employers but being denied of their salary. Many also experience sexual abuse by the male members of the households they serve. And when the abuse and exploitation become unbearable, they finally run away to the streets where again they face another problem (Elias, 2004).

A variety of potential solutions to combating child trafficking have accordingly been suggested and implemented, which can be categorized as four types of action: broad protection, prevention, law enforcement, and victim assistance (“Trafficking-of-Children”, n.d.).

## **2.2) Forms of Child Trafficking**

The ultimate goal of trafficking is exploitation which is taken place in a variety of forms such as child labor, commercial sex work, forced labor, begging, armed force and drug trade. The most common forms of child trafficking in Ethiopia are discussed below.

### **a) Child Labor**

The term child labor is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. In its most extreme forms, child labor involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age (UNICEF,1996).

## **Causes of Child Labor**

### *Primary causes*

International Labor Organization suggests poverty is the greatest single cause behind child labor. For impoverished households, income from a child's work is usually crucial for his own survival or for that of the household. Lack of significant alternatives, such as affordable schools and quality education is another major factor forcing children to risky labor. Children work because they have nothing better to do. Many communities, particularly rural areas where child labor is widespread, do not possess adequate school facilities. Even when schools are sometimes available, they are too far away, difficult to reach, unaffordable or the quality of education is so low that parents wonder if going to school is really worth it (ILO, 1999).

### *Cultural causes*

In European history when child labor was common, as well as in contemporary child labor of modern world, certain cultural beliefs have rationalized child labor and thereby encouraged it. Some point that work is good for the character-building and skill development of children. In many cultures, particular where informal economy and small household businesses thrive, the cultural tradition is that children follow in their parents' footsteps; child labor then is a means to learn and practice that line of work from a very early age. Similarly, in many cultures the education of girls is less valued or girls are simply not expected to seek formal schooling, and these girls pushed into child labor such as providing domestic services (“Trafficking-of Children”, n.d.).

### *Macroeconomic causes*

Macroeconomic causes encouraged widespread child labor across the world, over most of human history. It is proposed that the causes for child labor include both the demand and the supply side. While poverty and unavailability of decent schools explain the child labor supply side, the growth of low paying informal economy rather than higher paying formal economy is amongst the causes of the demand side. Scholars too suggest that inflexible labor market, size of informal economy, inability of industries to scale up and lack of modern manufacturing technologies are major macroeconomic factors affecting demand and acceptability of child labor (“International-Labor-Organization”, n.d.).

### **b) Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

According to the International Labor Organization, sexual exploitation of children includes all practices and activities such as the use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind (commonly known as child prostitution) in the streets or indoors, in such places as brothels, discotheques, massage parlors, bars, hotels, restaurants, etc; the trafficking of girls and boys and adolescents for the sex trade; child sex tourism; the production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children; and the use of children in sex shows (public or private).

The International Labor Organization has found that girls involved in other forms of child labor - such as domestic service or street vending - are at the highest risk of being pulled into commercial child sex trafficking (ILO, 1999).

Sexual abuse and exploitation of children is a serious violation of the basic rights of the most vulnerable segment of society. Sexual abuse and exploitation of female children emanates from a complex relationship of various social problems such as lack of social services, poverty, unemployment or lack of economic opportunities, and gender based bias. Consequently, the majority of sexually exploited female children are migrants from the rural areas and urban children from poor families (Ellen, 2005).

These migrant children usually become street dwellers who often live on their own without adult care and protection. Female street children who spend the nights on the street corners whenever they are unable to pay for night shelters become vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse and rape is common experience for most of these children (Askale&Azeb, 2005).

Physical force, threat, persuasion and temptation are the different means used to entice children to engage in sexual acts or to get involved in commercial sex. Sexually exploited children are highly vulnerable to rape and physical violence resulting in various kinds of physical and psychological trauma (Hart, 2009).

Exposure to physical injury, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS are among the major consequences undergone by children who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Moreover many of these children experience unwanted pregnancy or become child mothers as a result of rape or due to unsafe forced sex. The major negative psychological and social consequences that victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation suffer include low self-esteem, anxiety, withdrawal, regression, aggressiveness, self-destructiveness and social rejection (ECPAT, 2003).

Children who are sexually exploited also suffer from social stigma and neglect. In most cases, these children do not get support or sympathy from the general public and law enforcement bodies including the police, hospitals and the court when abuse and exploitation is inflicted upon them. In fact the rights of these children are not recognized and are often violated by various sectors of the society. The major reason for the violation is lack of knowledge with regard to child rights, the root causes and consequences of child sexual abuse and exploitation (Askale&Azeb, 2005).

Therefore, it is found to be crucial to provide these children with safety in the process of psycho-social rehabilitation by offering them alternative ways of living which could help them to make decisions for changing their way of life (TIP, 2007). Parallel to the rehabilitation program, raising community awareness is in the long run is the most effective intervention in improving the situation of sexually abused and exploited children (FSCE, 2011).

### **c) Forced Labor**

Forced labor is one form of child trafficking. In fact, the main end goal of child trafficking is often forced labor. Forced child labor refers specifically to children used for labor who are under the stipulated minimum age, usually 14 at the lowest. International Labor Organization defines forced labor as “the condition of a person who provides labor or services (other than sexual services) and who, because of the use of force or threats: (a) is not free to cease providing labor or services; or (b) is not free to leave the place or area where the person provides labor or services” (ILO, 1999).

Among the victims of trafficking in the forced labor, the female children mostly engage in domestic work. As domestic workers, they carry out a variety of tasks for other people. For example, they may cook or clean the house and look after children. Yet they are often the ones with the least consideration, excluded from labor and social protection. This is mainly due to the fact that women have traditionally carried out the tasks without pay (Hart, 2009).

#### **d) Child Begging**

Child begging is a type of begging in which minors are forced to beg through psychological and physical coercion. Begging is defined by the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review as “the activity of asking for money as charity on the street.” The United Nations protocol states that “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered 'trafficking in persons'.” With this definition the moving of a child to an urban center for the purposes of begging constitutes trafficking regardless of whether this process was enforced by a third party or family member. The European Union’s Brussels Declaration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking includes child begging as one form of trafficking, stating “trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent and worrying phenomenon involving coercive sexual exploitation, labor exploitation in conditions akin to slavery, exploitation in begging and juvenile delinquency as well as domestic servitude.” (“Trafficking-of-Children”, n.d.).

#### **2.3) Method of Trafficking**

Child trafficking, in general, takes place in three phases: recruitment, movement, and exploitation. During recruitment stage a child is approached by a recruiter, or in some cases,

directly approaches a recruiter herself/himself. Recruitment is done in several ways: adolescents may be under pressure to contribute to their families, children may be kidnapped or abducted into trafficking, or families may be trafficked together (TIP, 2007). Then, movement will follow - locally, regionally and/or internationally - through a variety of transportation means, including by car, train, boat, or foot. Eventually, the ultimate goal of child trafficking is exploitation, whereby traffickers use the services of children to garner illegal profit. Exploitation can take place in a variety of forms, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, and child begging, among other practices (Kimberly, 2008).

### ***Social network method***

Various international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking have linked child trafficking to poverty. Living in poverty has been found to raise children's vulnerability to trafficking. However, poverty is only one of many social "risk factors" that can lead to trafficking (TIP, 2007). As UNICEF and the World Bank note, "Often children experience several risk factors at the same time, and one of them may act as a trigger that sets the trafficking event in motion. This is sometimes called 'poverty plus,' a situation in which poverty does not by itself lead to a person being trafficked, but where a 'plus' factor such as illness combines with poverty to increase vulnerability." UNICEF, UN.GIFT and several scholars, including Una Murray and Mike Dottridge, also contend that a precise understanding of child trafficking must integrate an analysis of gender inequality. Specifically, in a lot of countries, female children are at a higher risk of being trafficked, mainly into sexual exploitation. Moreover, these international agencies and scholars contend that giving women and men an equal voice in anti-trafficking policy is critical to reducing the occurrence of child trafficking ("Trafficking-of-Children", n.d.).

Like other social evils, both cross-border and internal trafficking in persons emanate from a complex interplay of a multitude of socio-economic factors consisting of poverty, lack of economic opportunities, harmful traditional practicing including abduction and early marriage, low status of women and girls and lack of social services. There are many children who get separated from their parents/ guardians and become unaccompanied for various reasons such as drought and famine, internal strife or family disharmony (FSCE, 2011).

#### **2.4) Common Causes of Trafficking**

The root causes of trafficking are various and often differ from place to place. In search of a better life elsewhere, disadvantaged people are often drawn into the control of criminals who take advantage of their situation and exploit them. Economic hardship, conflict, crime and social violence, natural and other such pressures create a desperate situation for millions of people and make them vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and enslavement (Hart, 2009).

In many societies girls are less valued than boys and are expected to sacrifice their education and assume domestic responsibilities such as taking care of their parents and siblings. This gender-biased discrimination makes women and girls disproportionately vulnerable to trafficking (EPCAT, 2003).

Extreme poverty coupled with critical lack of awareness are key push factor for many victims of trafficking in Ethiopia who seek for better life or assist their families back home. Poverty include lack of sustainable and reliable income, lack of own land in rural areas, lack of schooling opportunities, lack of employment opportunity, family conflict/separation, orphaning, deception and urban glamour, and the like (Tsehay,2003).

Abduction by traffickers, peer influence or pressure and early /forced marriage, deception and consented willingness by family and/or victims themselves are other causes of trafficking. The ever constantly growing sex market and forced /cheap labor market in the Middle East and other developed countries maintain a seemingly endless demand for trafficking victims (TIP, 2007).

Table 1 Summary of Push and Pull Factors as Causes for Trafficking in Ethiopia.

| PUSH FACTOR  | PULL FACTOR   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty-lack of income for survival</li> <li>• Early /forced marriage</li> <li>• Family conflict/separation</li> <li>• Death of parents</li> <li>• Natural disaster such as drought</li> <li>• Family consented pressure</li> <li>• Inaccessibility to education</li> <li>• Landlessness (deprivation of own property)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City glamour</li> <li>• Lack of proper awareness about the impact of trafficking</li> <li>• Prevalence of illegal cheap labor</li> <li>• Abduction</li> <li>• Deception-false promise by friends, relatives and criminals</li> <li>• Victims willingness</li> <li>• Seeking for better life and education</li> </ul> |

**Source: TIP, 2007**

## **2.5) Consequences of Child Trafficking**

### *Consequences on children themselves and their families*

According to UN.GIFT, child trafficking has the most substantial impact on trafficked children and their families. First, trafficking can result in the death or permanent injury of the trafficked children. This can stem from a hazardous "movement" phase of trafficking or from specific aspects of the "exploitation" stage, such as hazardous working conditions. Moreover, trafficked children do often not get access to healthcare, effectively increasing their probabilities of serious injury and death. Trafficked children are also often subject to domestic violence; they may be beaten or starved in order to ensure submission. In addition, these children frequently face substance abuse; they may be given drugs as "payment" or to make ensure that they become addicted and thus dependent on their trafficker(s). Unlike many other forms of crime, the trauma experienced by trafficked children is often protracted and repeated, leading to severe psychological impacts. UN.GIFT reports that trafficked children often suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, among other conditions ("Trafficking-of-Children",n.d. ).

Victims of trafficking become socially isolated, stigmatized, get exposed to physical trauma and health hazards including the risk of contracting the life-threatening HIV/AIDS, STDS infections and suffer the consequences of unwanted pregnancies; and face physical, economic, emotional and sexual abuse. The various problems faced by the victims generally result in psychological problems and emotional instability ranging from depression, low self-esteem, anxiety, withdrawal/ regression, aggressiveness and self-destructiveness to continuous stress and trauma (FSCE, 2011).

Effects of trafficking on families are also severe. Some families believe that sending or allowing their children to relocate in order to find work will bring in additional income, while in reality many families will never see their trafficked children again (Farrell, 2011). In addition, GIFT has found that certain forms of trafficking, particularly sexual exploitation in girls bring "shame" to families. Thus, in certain cases, children who are able to escape trafficking may return to their families only to find that they are rejected and ostracized ("Trafficking-of-Children", n.d.).

### ***Consequences on communities***

Child trafficking also has a major effect on communities. If manifold children in a community are trafficked, it can result in the whole community being corrupted and thus devastated by trafficking. Social development efforts are slowed down, as trafficked children's education is cut short. As a result of this lack of education, children who escape trafficking may have less opportunity to secure employment later in life. In addition, trafficked girls face special difficulties, in that, their prospects for marriage might be diminished if the community becomes aware that they have been trafficked, particularly into sexual exploitation (Hart, 2009).

### ***Consequences on nations***

On a national level, economic development is severely delayed by the lack of education of trafficked children; this results in a major loss of potentially productive future workers. Children who are able to successfully return to their families often pose a significant financial burden, due to their lack of education, and the illnesses and injuries they may have experienced during trafficking process. There are major costs related with the rehabilitation of these trafficked children, so that they are able to successfully participate in their communities. Furthermore, the

persistence of child trafficking points out the presence of constant criminal activity and criminal networks, which, in most cases, are also associated with drugs and violence. As a result, UN.GIFT has cited child trafficking as a significant indicator of national and global security threats (“Trafficking-of-Children”, n.d.).

## **2.6) Proposed Solution**

Solutions to child trafficking, or "anti-trafficking actions", can be roughly classified into four categories: *Broad protection*: "to prevent children and former victims from being (re)trafficked", *Prevention*: "of the crime of child trafficking and the exploitation that is its end result", *Law enforcement*: "in particular within a labor context and relating to labor laws and regulations" and *Victim assistance*: "covering the kinds of responses necessary to help trafficked children and to reduce their vulnerability to being re-trafficked" (“Trafficking-of-Children”, n.d.).

Broad protection actions are meant for children who could potentially be trafficked, and include raising awareness about the problem, particularly in vulnerable communities. This type of outreach also includes policies geared towards improving the economic statuses of vulnerable families, so that sound alternatives are available to them, other than sending their children to work. Instances of this include increasing employment opportunities for adults and conditional cash transfer programs (TIP, 2007). Another major broad protection program that has been readily endorsed by UN.GIFT, the ILO, and UNICEF involves facilitating gender equality, specifically by enhancing both boys' and girls' access to affordable, quality education.

Preventative actions are more focused on addressing the actual practice of child trafficking, specifically by implementing legal frameworks that are aimed to both deter and

prosecute traffickers. This involves the adoption and implementation of the ILO's standards, as well as the development of safe and legal migration practices (“Trafficking-of-Children”, n.d.).

Law enforcement refers to the actual prosecution of traffickers; UNICEF maintains that successful prosecution of child traffickers is the undisputable way to send a message that child trafficking will not be tolerated. Traffickers can be "caught" at any one of the three steps of trafficking: recruitment, movement, and/or exploitation; anti-trafficking laws as well as child labor laws must then be appropriately enforced. The development of grassroots "surveillance" systems has also been suggested by UNICEF which would enable communities to immediately report signs of child trafficking to legal authorities (UNICEF, 1996).

Victim assistance begins first with victim identification; child trafficking laws must specifically and appropriately define what constitutes a "trafficking victim. Legal processes must then be in place for removing children from trafficking situations, and returning them either to their families or other appropriate settings. Victims should also be provided with individualized and supportive physical and psychological rehabilitation in order to normalize them. Finally, steps should be taken to avoid "double victimization" - in other words, to ensure that formerly trafficked children are treated as victims, and not as criminals (Farrell, 2011).

Trafficking in children requires urgent action at national and international levels. Intervention should include research, creation of data base and exchange of information; preventive actions including public education and advocacy at local levels, international campaigning, global networking and psycho-social rehabilitative measures such as timely victim identification, placing them in safe environment, medical treatment, counseling, training, employment and reintegration with family and community (Askale&Azeb, 2005).

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

#### **3.1) Introduction**

This chapter of the research focuses on the design of the study and the methodologies employed in order to get essential data. In this study different data collection tools and techniques were employed. Interviews, FGD, observation and document review were the main methods used in the data collection.

#### **3.2) Research Area**

The research had been conducted in the safe home of Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Integration of Female Street children (OPRIFS) found in Yeka Sub city. OPRIFS is a non-governmental and non-profit making indigenous humanitarian organization working for the welfare and protection of the rights of sexually and physically abused, and exploited female street children. Having its root in the Mobile Unit that was established by RadaBärnen in 1989, OPRIFS was set up in 1994 as a Drop-in-Center to be an extension to the Mobile Unit (OPRIFS, n.d).

Acquiring a good experience of working for /with street children and based on findings and recommendation of the 1998's study, it has been decided to that OPRIFS should be recognized as an independent NGO. As a result it was registered legally by the Ministry of Justice, on 14 January 2000 ([http://www. oprifs. Org. et](http://www.oprifs.Org.et)).

OPRIFS' head office is located in Addis Ababa, Yeka sub city. The safe home is found few kilometers away from the head office. The agency actively operates at four major sub cities- Addis Ketema, Arada, Kirkos and Yeka. It has also branch office in Bahir Dar town and works in

two kebeles. Additionally, OPRIFS reunifies separated female children who have been found on the streets with their families all across Ethiopia.

The agency's vision is to see a society in which child abuse is eliminated and their human rights are fully protected and respected. The overall objectives of OPRIFS is to promote public awareness of the rights of children and to improve the living conditions of children through integrated programs, particularly female street children, who are especially vulnerable to abuse(OPRIFS, n.d). Ever since its establishment in 2000, OPRIFS has been playing an important role in providing services to female street children dividing its targets into two categories- to those female children who 'work' on streets while living with their families, and to those who are displaced from their home recently known as 'living on street' by providing preventive, rehabilitative and integrative incorporated services (Askale&Azeb, 2005).

### **3.3) Research Design**

A descriptive study will be conducted to assess the services of the organization being provided to the beneficiaries. Qualitative method is employed to collect relevant data regarding children's opinions on the services of the agency. The research participants (study subject) were female trafficked children living in the safe home of the agency.

### **3.4) Universe of the Study**

The universe of study would consist of all female trafficked children who are being rehabilitated in safe homes. There are four local NGOs working on rehabilitating trafficked/street children in safe homes in Addis Ababa. They are Association for Nationwide Action for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANNAPCAN), Organization for

Child Development and Transformation (CHADET Ethiopia), Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia (FSCE) and OPRIFS (Askale and Azeb, 2005).

### **3.5) Sampling Procedure**

The study used probability sampling. Purposive sampling was used to select the children who came from outside Addis Ababa. It has been done with the agency's workers. The researcher took a sample size of seven girls who can express themselves and came from outside Addis Ababa. The size of the sample was based on the population size in the temporary shelter. In addition key informants were selected who know the organization and its services well. The shelter team leader, three rehabilitation workers and the shelter counselor were individually interviewed.

### **3.6) Data Collection Procedures**

In this study, qualitative data were used. The tools employed in the data collection are depth interview with children and key informants (using semi-structured interview), focus group discussion, secondary documents review, and semi structured observation. So, primary and secondary sources have been included in the study.

The interviews were made with children and staff members in order to collect information regarding the services provided to victims of trafficking in safe home. Before interviewing, self-introduction was done, and then the researcher briefed about the objectives of the interview. A few documents which are found in the agency were also reviewed in order to back up the data obtained through the interviews. The FGD was under taken by selected children who discussed on issues regarding their problems and the services they get in the safe home. As it was done in the interview, after self-introduction, the researcher explained the purpose of FGD and the

children were made to discuss on points forwarded by the researcher. The children's day to day activities, the facilities, the services and the children's states during the interview and FGD were carefully observed using semi-structured observation checklists.

### **3.7) Data Analysis**

The analysis of the data had been conducted on the basis of the objectives of the study with application of qualitative techniques. The results of the data collected through the interview have been tabulated and described. The audio-taped information of FGD and interview were transcribed. The transcription which was in Amharic translated into English as accurately as possible. The information gathered from different sources is presented in different forms including tables and description. The collected data were analyzed by different types of simple statistical analysis including percentage in order to make it understandable.

### **3.8) Definition of Important Terms**

#### ***Child***

Under Article 1 of the 1989 Convention, a child is defined as "... every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." Article 28 of this Convention requires States to, "make primary education compulsory and available free to all."(UN, 1989).The term child in this survey refers to a person whose age is eighteen and below

#### ***Child Trafficking***

Trafficking is the involuntary transportation of women and children for purposes of forced labor most often in the sex industry. Trafficking need not be cross-border but very often, is and

involves the forcible removal of the child from her place of origin and her family. A child is any person under the age of eighteen (ECPAT, 2003). The protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (November 2002) defines child trafficking as follows: "... the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation." (FSCE, 2011)

### ***Street Children***

Children of either sex falling within the age group of 5 to 17 years for whom the streets in the widest sense of the words have become their abode and source of their livelihood. They are inadequately protected, supervised or helped by responsible adults (UNICEF, 1996).

### ***Reunification***

Reunifying trafficked (street) children with their biological parents or extended member for a long term placement.

### ***Safe Home***

Safe homes are temporary shelters in which victims of trafficking, different abuse, and children from street are placed and provided with all necessary support until they are re-integrated with family or re-start settled life (Askale and Azeb, 2005).

## **3.9) Ethical Consideration**

Before starting the interview and the FGD, the researcher briefly explained about the purpose and extent of the study, voluntary nature of the research and procedure of confidentiality and anonymity to the participants. Then, the respondents were informed that they have the right

to participate or not in the interview and the discussion. They were told that they are free to quit at any time they want if they are not comfortable to continue; and then got their verbal consent.

The researcher keeps the privacy of the participants in the interviews and FGD (code names were used).The interviews and FGD were also taken place in a place preferred by the participants which was the counseling room. The researcher made sure for the participants that the study was for research and voluntary base; and respected the dignity and freedom of each individual.

### **3.10) Communication of Results**

The findings and the recommendations will be communicated to the agency where the study was conducted. The findings of the research (in hard and soft copy in CD) will be submitted to the study center (St. Mary's University College) and to IGNOU. And also a hard copy of this study will be submitted to OPRIFS where the study was taken place and to other interested groups.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **MAJOR FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

#### **4.1) Psychosocial Supports Provided to Victims of Trafficking in Safe Home**

The following information was obtained through in-depth interviews conducted with key informants (agency staff members), semi structured interview questions, observation and document review that were found in the organization.

The main intervention measure employed by the agency in order to help the victims of trafficking was psychosocial support which included providing safe home, basic needs (shelter, food and clothes), guidance and counseling, health care, basic education, handicraft training, recreation and reunification. In the subsequent stages the research discusses about each of the psychosocial supports at the agency settings.

##### **4.1.1) Safe Home**

Safe homes are temporary shelters in which victims of trafficking, different abuses, and children from street are placed and provided with all necessary support until they are re-integrated with family or re-start settled life(Askale&Azeb, 2005). The main objective of providing the female street children with temporary shelter (safe home) was to protect them against further physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, and rehabilitate them until they could be reunified with their families by providing integrated support. In addition to guidance and counseling service, basic needs (lodging, cloth and food), curative and preventive health, shower and laundry, child family reunification, literacy and numeracy, informal skill training, vocational training and recreation are provided in the safe home.

There was written admission policy for admitting children to the safe home. And according to the criteria female children aged 7 to 16 years old were eligible. It was stated that priority was given to trafficked children who were referred by partners including Child Protection Units (CPUs), the police, Women and Children Affairs Bureau and the community. Then the agency admitted run away children who faced different types of abuses and exploitations in the hands of their parents, employers or others; and found by the police on the street or reported by neighbors. The criteria stress that sexually exploited children were admitted only if the duration of sexual abuse and exploitation was short.

According to the staff, the maximum time the children were intended to stay in the shelter was six months, while in special cases children might stay for up to one year. The maximum accommodation capacity of the safe home was 65 children, though the capacity differs whenever there is changing of the shelter to another area. When a child was admitted to the shelter for the first time, important information about her was recorded by the rehabilitation workers. Then she was introduced to the other girls and made to visit the facilities in the safe home. She would also get orientation about rules she should follow while staying in the shelter.

#### **4.1.2) Basic services (food, shelter, and cloth)**

According to the respondents, the children are provided with three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) with proper nutritional value. According to the rehabilitation workers, children who were members of the food committee help the cook, and also prepare food in the absence of the cook. This gives the children the opportunity to develop cooking skills in addition to overseeing the food preparation process. The children also help in washing the dishes and cleaning the dining room after meal.

In the safe home there were dormitories and each dorm contains four to six bunk beds. Thus from eight to twelve girls live in a single dorm. Other facilities such as bathrooms, playground, classroom, small library, therapy room and dining room were available in the safe home. At the time of admission, the children received day time and night clothing such as dress, sportswear, blouse, under wears, towel, and pajamas and shoes. Additional clothing and shoes provision is undertaken during holidays and at the time of reunification. Moreover sanitary materials such as hair oil, soap, comp, nail cutter, Vaseline etc. were given at the time of admission.

#### **4.1.3) Guidance and Counseling**

Guidance and Counseling and child family reunification were the major services provided to the children in the safe home. Especially children who had been victimized by sexual abuse and exploitation suffer from a multitude of emotional and social problems. Thus these children need adequate professional guidance and services to cope with their traumatic experience. The objective of this program was then normalizing the children and creating emotional stability within the children.

Guidance and Counseling services at the safe home of OPRIFS includes individual counseling, group counseling, group guidance and family counseling. Upon the date of referral, a series of group and individual guidance and counseling sessions were provided to the children as needed. The provision of these services primarily was the responsibility of the counselor.

The method applied for counseling children, for the most part, was behavior modification through discussion, interviews and informative guidance which was actually educating the children on what is right and wrong since most of the children did not have adequate parental

guidance. Child-to-child guidance and peer influence was also applied in different group sessions.

Group counseling and guidance, according to the counselor, was provided by grouping the children by age, living arrangement and by type of behavioral or emotional problems. Background information was mainly collected from rehabilitation workers as well as program officers to whom the counselor reports. Follow up of behavioral change was done through observation, feedback from rehabilitation workers, guards, and other staff members as well as from written records and reports. Major issues discussed during group counseling were attitudinal and behavioral changes as part of natural human development, moral development, self-confidence, commitment for work, life skill development, peer group influence, HIV/AIDS prevention and protection from sexual abuse as well as recovery from the trauma of rape.

*Life skill training:* This training focused on interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, self-esteem, communication skills, leadership, adolescence, child abuse and problem solving skills. Issues discussed during individual counseling varied and depended on the problems of individual children. It was also constructed based on the children's specific cases. Some of the common ones were interpersonal conflict between children, unwillingness to participate in work, physical violence against other children and restlessness.

According to the counselor special attention is given to female children exposed to rape and other serious abuse by providing them immediate individual counseling sessions until their overt emotional reactions mostly crying and fear subside. Then the children could approach the counselor whenever they feel like talking to her or need her support.

In addition, art therapy, music therapy, expressive therapy, play therapy, dream discovery and token economy were used in the helping process to help them recover from their depression and develop self-esteem and social skills.

#### **4.1.4) Health Care**

Regarding the health care, the children receive general checkup at their arrival at the safe home. Since then the health status of the girls is checked once in a week by a part-timer nurse. But in case of emergency the nurse would be called up. And when the health problem of a child needed better treatment, the nurse referred the patient to other clinic or hospital. The nurse also gave trainings to the children on basic health education. And a regular supervision was carried out to check how the children were applying the health education in their lives.

The informants indicated that the hygiene and sanitation committee (formed by the children themselves) was responsible to check the daily health care in the shelter and the nurse provides proper guidance. Provision of sanitation services that involve the provision of shower and laundry facilities was part of the health service. This service aimed at upgrading the individual hygiene of the children by developing the habit of keeping themselves clean.

#### **4.1.5) Child-Family Reunification**

Reunification is one of the most important services provided to the children admitted to the shelter. Family tracing and reunification was a long process that started since the admission of a victim. The family tracing was done based on the information given by the children or the person who brought her by using telephone calling, sending messenger (letters), posting pictures around their place of origin or through media (radio), with the support of policemen.

When a child was fully rehabilitated and recovered, reunifying the child with her parents was done in two ways. The family of the child came to the shelter or the staff takes the child to her home town or family. When reunifying the child with her family was not possible due to various reasons, the agency placed the children with other caring and responsible individuals/relatives.

A grant for start-up capital aimed at empowering the family through income generating is provided. It is to help the family improve their destitute situation with the aim of protecting the child from further exploitation and school dropout. Social guidance was also provided to the family during reunification. After the reunification of a child, post-reunification follow up was conducted through telephone, letter or physical visit every time. It makes sure that the child is well protected and is staying with her family.

According to the informants the major constraints that the organization faced in the provision of the reunification services was the fact that the process is time consuming and the availability of proper follow up mechanisms. The project staff explained that locating the families took more time than anticipated, and younger children either did not know their parents/guardians and their place of origin. Some families live in remote areas where infrastructures like road and telephone are inadequate or do not exist at all.

#### **4.1.6) Alternative Basic Education/ABE**

At the safe home, the children who did not enrolled in school before or those who dropped out of the formal educational system are provided with literacy and numeracy classes. The staff reported that though the children were staying in the safe home for limited time, the catch up education is given to them with the objective of fulfilling the children's desire for

education and to enable them re-start their education after they are reunited. This catch up education is called Alternative Basic Education. It focuses on reading, writing and numeracy. The class is provided by the rehabilitation workers who have a minimum certificate in education. The ABE was given by grouping the children on the basis of their educational level/standards.

Interview with staff indicated that many of the children who did not get educational opportunities before joining the shelter were able to at least read and write and gain some basic arithmetic skills depending on the length of time they stay at the shelter. The children could also use the mini-library found in the shelter when they want to read. The library had reference books, text books and story books. These books serve as additional support for the classroom learning.

#### **4.1.7) Informal skill /Handcraft Training**

The agency provides vocational /handcrafts training to the children with the objective of equipping the children with some kind of skill that would support their family as source of income using cheap and local materials when they reunite. It is important to inculcating sense of self-reliance in children's mind.

Informal skill training, which was also part of the life skill training, was another service provided for children in the shelter and it included embroidery, traditional dolls, knitting, crochet and festal art. It was reported by rehabilitation workers (who give the training) that at the beginning, the training was not very appealing to most children especially to younger children, because it involved sitting in one place for long hours. However when children realized that they could produce something of value or beautiful it helped to boost their moral and self-confidence and some children got interest in generating income from selling their products.

The bags and other products produced by the children were sold at NGO bazar which was organized once in a month; and some of the children were able to buy clothes and shoes with the money they earned. Each child also took half of the money of her products when she was reunited with her family. This is a positive trend since it can develop their self-reliance for the future. However, the rehabilitation workers interviewed reported that shortage of material is a limitation that has to be addressed. According to the rehabilitation workers, this informal skill training was one of the most preferred activities among the older children.

#### **4.1.8) Recreational Service**

Recreation and play were one of the interventions used in the safe home in the rehabilitation process of the children. In addition to outdoor recreation, the children play diverse indoor games guided by the rehabilitation workers. Recreational services at the shelter included watching educational video films, tour, watching TV, drama shows and story –telling by the children as well as indoor games like dominoes, chess, skipping and puzzle. The organization provided different playing equipment. According to the staff indoor games and watching television were among the most preferred recreational activities by the children. The children also celebrated religious and international holidays with various entertaining activities. African Child Day was one of the holidays that the children celebrate in a special way. Such activities are believed to be useful for relaxation, passing time as well as being educational and informative.

Under the recreational program the children were taken to different places within or outside Addis Ababa. The places chosen were usually museums, parks, zoos, amusement parks, natural and historical places which are recreational and educational. There was also a “right to play” program in which a trained rehabilitation worker plays with the children by using user

manual. This program, according to the rehabilitation workers, was scientifically prepared and helps the children in their holistic development.

## **4.2) Trafficking Problems and Services as Reported by the Children**

This part presents the findings of the collected data through interview and FGD with the children by dividing it into three sections. The first section deals with demographics and socio-economic characteristics of children. The second section is intended to discuss children's responses on issues related to their trafficking. The third section presents the participants responses regarding services at the safe home.

The total number of individuals participated in the study was seven. Most of the respondents came to the shelter due to the problems they faced after being trafficked. They left their home country to help their families by having better job and education. Most of the children came to Addis Ababa with brokers and few of them came with relatives who live in the city.

### **4.2.1) Demographics and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Children**

#### **4.2.1.1) Participants in Age Group**

Table 2: Children in Age Group.

| <b>Age group</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 7-9              | 2                | 29                |
| 10-12            | 2                | 29                |
| 13-16            | 3                | 42                |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>7</b>         | <b>100</b>        |

The respondents were from different age groups. From the seven interviewees, four of them were between 7 and 12 years old, and three of them were within the interval of 13 to 16 years old.

#### 4.2.1.2) Participants Place of Birth/Origin

The participants in the interview have come from different regions of the country. Almost more than half of them came from rural areas and the rest of them were from towns other than Addis Ababa. Among the seven children interviewed, one came from Amhara region, 2 from Oromia, and 4 of them were from SNNP.

#### 4.2.1.3) Participants in Religious Group

The religious distribution of the participants shows that five of them were Christians, from which four were Orthodox Christians and one was a Protestant. The remaining two of the participants were Muslims.

#### 4.2.1.4) Respondents in Educational Status

Table 3: Children in Educational Status.

| <b>Educational status</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Can't read and write      | 1                | 14                |
| First cycle(1-4)          | 5                | 72                |
| Second cycle(5-8)         | 1                | 14                |
| Secondary(9-10)           | -                | -                 |
| <b>Total</b>              | 7                | 100               |

The above data shows the children's educational background before they came to the safe home. Thus, the majority of the participants (72%) were able to attend first cycle education

before they were trafficked. One child did not get any education until she came to the safe home where she started basic education. And one child attended second cycle education, but no participant was able to reach secondary school though their age is appropriate for the level.

#### 4.2.1.5) Children's Parents Occupation

Regarding the occupation of the participants' parents, they were mainly farmers, daily laborers and petty traders. Considering the occupation of the parents-farming, petty trading and daily laboring, it can be noted that these children came from families with low income.

#### 4.2.1.6) Children's Parents Marital Status.

From the interviewed children three of them came from disintegrated families (divorced, widowed or separated) and four of them were living with their parents who were together before they were trafficked. Children from disintegrated families are more likely to be victim of human trafficking.

#### 4.2.1.7) Children's Parents Living Status

Table 4: Participants' Parents Living Status.

| <b>Parents' living status</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Father only                   | 1                | 14                |
| Mother only                   | 1                | 14                |
| Both alive                    | 5                | 72                |
| Both not alive                | -                | -                 |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>7</b>         | <b>100</b>        |

To see the children's parental existing status, five of them responded that both of their parents were alive. One child has lost her mother and another child's father was dead and she was living with her mother and step-father. And there was no any participant who has lost both parents.

#### 4.2.2) Children's Responses on Issues Related to their Trafficking

##### 4.2.2.1) participants' Reasons for Leaving Home/being Trafficked

Table 5: Children's Reasons for Leaving Home/being Trafficked

| <b>Reasons for Leaving Home</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Schooling                       | 2                | 29                |
| For better job                  | 4                | 57                |
| To live with relatives          | 1                | 14                |
| <b>Total</b>                    | 7                | 100               |

The interviewees had various reasons for leaving their home town. The above table shows that the majority of the children left their home for better job which would enable them support their poor families back home. The next reason for leaving home was schooling. Two of the children left their home to live with their relatives whom promised them to send them to school but they did not sent to school as they were promised, rather they were working in the house. One child was taken by her aunt just to live with her but the child said that she was not treated properly in her aunt's house.

#### 4.2.2.2) Distribution of Children by Type of Work they mostly Engaged at the Destination Place

Among the total children interviewed three of them were working as house maid. Two of the participants served as baby sitters in their relatives' house. According to the children, commercial sex and street vending were the other works that they were engaged at the destination place.

#### 4.2.2.3) Children's Response for whom they were Working at the Destination Place

According to the data, more than half of the children were living with employers mostly hired as house maids and among them one child was selling goods on the street for her employers. Two of the participants said they were living with relatives working as baby sitters. And one interviewee said that she had been working in a brothel being engaged in commercial sex work.

#### 4.2.2.4) Response of Children whether they face Multiple Trafficking

Almost all of the participants, other than being trafficked, have faced various abuses and exploitations by the traffickers, employers and also by other individuals around them. They said that the employers treated them badly so that they mostly got in conflict with them. And they indicated that there were cases of being fired from their work even though they were working very hard and for long hours. One of the participants of the group discussion said,

*My employer, after calling the broker, told me to get out of her house saying "you are lazy and useless."*

#### 4.2.2.5) Responses of Children on the Types of Abuses Encountered after Being Trafficked.

According to the participants, they have faced more than two types of abuses and exploitations. They had entertained physical, emotional and sexual abuses. Among the emotional abuses they face being insulted was the common one. They said that the insults degrade their families and hurt their moral. Physically they had been slapped, pinched and beaten by stick, belt, and electric wire. They responded that they faced these physical abuses by the employers who picked fight without big mistake committed by the children.

Among the participants, two of them stated that they had also been sexually abused which included unwanted sexual touching and being induced to have sex by the male individuals in the house they had been hired. In addition to those abuses, the participants indicated that there were times that the employers deny them food as punishment, and they were neglected personal hygiene and were also denied their salary.

The children also responded that after all the abuses and exploitations; they had experienced psychological and other related problems. Physically they had bruises and scars. Psychologically they were depressed, feel lonely, and fight each other and developed hatred of oneself and others. One participant recounted,

*I had been insulted and beaten by the employer repeatedly despite my hard work, and through time I started to hate every one and one day I slapped the child I was babysitting.*

### **4.2.3) Children's Responses Regarding Services at the Safe Home**

#### 4.2.3.1) Responses of Children on Joining the Agency and the Time they Stay in the Shelter

The children were referred to the safe home by the police and the community who found the children being exploited. One of the participants responded that she was found by a police on the street after she ran away to escape the exploitation of her employer.

The discussion with the participants revealed that most of them have stayed in the safe home for more than three months. But there were also children who have lived in the safe home for more than a year. One respondent said,

*It has been almost ten months since I had joined the safe home. I asked the team leader why they are not sending me to my hometown, I was told that I was not able to reunite due to my families whereabouts not found yet.*

#### 4.2.3.2) Children's Satisfaction on the Services Rendered by the Agency.

Among the seven interviewed, six of them responded that they were satisfied with the services provided to them in the safe home. According to the children, the services they were receiving in the safe home included food, clothes, counseling, recreation, education, handicraft training and medical treatment. As to the level of their satisfaction, four of them put their satisfaction level as high and two of them as medium. And one child responded that she was not very happy about the services.

#### 4.3.3.3) Children's Response on Services they most Satisfied with

Among the participants who were asked to tell with which service they were most satisfied with, three of them chose basic needs. The basic needs in this data mean or include food

and clothing. With regard to the food service provided to the children, six out of seven of the children interviewed said that the food provided at the shelter was adequate. And with regard to clothing, four of them responded that they had got enough clothing. Whereas, two of the participants said that, they were mostly satisfied with the counseling service. According to them, the counseling service helped them to recover from their psychological problems. The remaining participants (14% each) stated that they were mostly happy with the basic education and recreation/play services. Some of the older participants said that they also liked the handicraft training. And no participant chose the health care (which was included in the options with the other services). This implies they were not satisfied with the services and may not be given properly.

#### 4.2.3.4) Children's Response on Whether there were Improvements in the Services

Most of the children (five of them) agreed with the improvement on some services when they lived in the safe home. The children indicated that the improved services were provision of shoes, clothes and indoor recreational activities. According to the children those supports were not provided adequately before. They also explained that there were same indoor game materials but now the indoor play activities were available in quantity as well as in kind. The remaining (two of them) did not agree with the improvement in the services.

#### 4.2.3.5) Children's Response on the Services which Need Most Improvement

The data collected shows that the health care was among the services which need most improvement. The participants responded that they were not happy about the health service. The children explained that when they were sick the staff members told them that they would be alright and did not call the nurse or give them medicine. One of the respondents explained,

*I am not happy about the health service. I got sick often and lose my appetite. And when I told to the rehabilitation workers about my health problem, sometimes they told me to sleep or they said I was lying. Even when the nurse comes, I do not get the necessary treatment.*

The other participants responded that they would like to see some improvements in the recreational service. They stated the reason that the children in the shelter wanted to go to tours very often but they did not go often, even as normally as it was planned once in three months. Education and counseling were also mentioned as services needing improvements. Basic needs, as indicated in the data collected, do not need any improvement so that the children are happy with it.

#### 4.2.3.6) Children's Preference Whether the Agency should Continue providing the Services

The six of the children wanted the agency to continue giving the services. They stated their reason that there were other similar children suffering who needed such help. One child responded 'no' but she could not put her reasons.

#### 4.2.3.7) Children's Response on their Current Living Condition in the Safe Home

Most of the participants of the FGD said that they were pleased at their current living condition in the shelter. They stated that they felt safe being at the safe home. They were able to find friends with similar problems in the safe home with whom they were able to talk and play. They also indicated that though they fought each other sometimes. According to them every week they gather and make up with the girls with whom they had problems.

The major challenge in the shelter, according to them was the boredom they feel while staying inside the shelter whole three months and more. They said that due to this, they also fought with the staff who did not accept their request to go outside for sometimes.

Moreover, the participants were also asked how they would like the agency to continue providing the services. The majority of them responded that they would like the agency to give the service the same way as it was now. On the other hand, few of the participants indicated that the agency should provide the service in a modified way. Their explanation for the above response was that they would like if they were allowed to go outside and work to get money instead of staying in the safe home all day. One of the participants described,

*I prefer to work outside the agency during day time and to come to the shelter to sleep.*

#### 4.2.3.7) Children's Response Whether the Programs Contributed in Improving their Life

Three of the participants responded that the services in the safe home did not contribute in improving their life. They said that they wanted to be reunited with their families as soon as possible.

On the other hand, four of them responded that the services they were receiving in the safe home helped them to recover from their physical and psychological problem. They stated that after the psychosocial services they had got in the shelter, they were able to talk with the other girls and they were not shy and desperate as before. They said that they were able to improve some of their behaviors like talking freely with people in the shelter, increase in appetite, recovery from wounds and bruises and also develop positive attitude towards the future.

The majority of the participants expressed their future aspirations and plans. Some of the plans indicated by them were: working independently, resuming education, going back home to help parents in the field. Schooling while working by the handicraft they trained was also indicated by the participants. Only one child could not able to express her future plan.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION**

Ethiopia is one of the developing countries where problem related to children is prevalent, and child trafficking is one of them. Children have been trafficked for sexual and labor exploitation. Due to the exploitations, they experience psychological trauma. Thus it is crucial to provide victims of trafficking with safety in the process of rehabilitation by offering them alternative ways of living which could help them to make decisions in changing their way of life for better (TIP, 2007).

#### **5.1) Psychosocial Supports Provided to Victims of Trafficking in Safe Home**

This study has found that the main intervention measure employed by the agency, in order to help the victims of trafficking was psychosocial support. The psychosocial support includes providing safe home, basic needs (shelter, food and clothes), guidance and counseling, health care, basic education, handicraft training, recreation and reunification.

##### **5.1.1) Safe Home**

In safe home victims of trafficking, different abuses and children from street are placed temporarily by providing them necessary supports until they are reintegrated with families. (Askale and Azeb, 2005).The main objective of providing the female street children with temporary shelter (safe home) is to protect them against further physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, and to rehabilitate them until they can be reunified with their families by providing integrated support. According to UNICEF protecting trafficked children requires timely

identification, placing them in safe environment, providing them with social services, health care, psychosocial support and reintegration with family and community (UNICEF (1996).

While staying in the safe home, the children were provided with basic needs that includes shelter, cloth and food. The children get three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) with proper nutritional value. . At the time of admission, the children receive day time and night clothing such as dress, sportswear, blouse, under wears, towel, and pajamas and shoes. Additional clothing and shoes provision is undertaken during holidays and at the time of reunification. Bathrooms, playground, classroom, small library, therapy room and dining room are available in the safe home.

### **5.1.2)Guidance and Counseling**

The children who had been victimized by sexual abuse and exploitation suffer from a multitude of emotional and social problems. Thus these children need adequate professional guidance and services to cope with their traumatic experience. The major negative psychological and social consequences that victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation suffer include low self-esteem, anxiety, withdrawal, regression, aggressiveness, self-destructiveness and social rejection (ECPAT, 2003). The objective of guidance and counseling is normalizing the children and creating emotional stability within the children. Life skill trainings are also provided to the children which mainly focuses on inter personal relationships, conflict resolution, self-esteem, communication skills, leadership, adolescence, child abuse and problem solving skills.

### **5.1.3) Medical Treatment**

The children in the safe home receive medical treatment by part-timer nurse every week and in case the health problem of a child needs better treatment, the nurse refers the patient to other clinics or hospitals. The nurse also gives trainings to the children on basic health education.

### **5.1.4) Basic Education**

At the safe home, the children who did not enrolled in school before or those who dropped out of the formal educational system are provided with literacy and numeracy classes. This catch up education is given to them with the objective of fulfilling the children's desire for education and to enable them re-start their education after they are reunited. The Alternative Basic Education focuses on reading, writing and numeracy.

### **5.1.5) Handicraft Training and Recreation**

Informal skill training is another service provided for children in the shelter and it includes embroidery, traditional dolls, knitting, crochet and festal art. It also aims at inculcating sense of self-reliance in children's mind.

Recreation and play are one of the interventions used in the safe home in the rehabilitation process of the children. In addition to outdoor recreation, the children play diverse indoor games guided by the rehabilitation workers.

### **5.1.6) Reunification**

Reunification is one of the most important services provided to the children admitted to the shelter. The child-family reunification is undertaken when a child is fully rehabilitated and

recovered. When reunifying the child with her family is not possible due to various reasons, the agency places the children with other caring and responsible individuals/relatives. Recourse to alternate care should only be made when necessary and in forms appropriate to promote the child's well-being, aiming at finding a stable and safe long term response including where possible reuniting the child with their family. Moreover evidence shows that the quality of alternate care is critical to child wellbeing. Children in long term residential care are at risk of impaired cognitive, social and emotional development (UNICEF (1996).

## **5.2) Trafficking Problems the Children Experienced**

Most of the respondents came to the shelter due to the problems they faced after being trafficked. They left their home town to help their families by having better job and education. Most of the children came to Addis Ababa with brokers and few of them came with relatives who live in the city. Children migrate from the rural areas in search of educational opportunities and a better life; while some are taken to urban centers and promised to be taken care of by relatives or friends of their parents (FSCE, 2011).According to Hart the root causes of trafficking are various and often differ from place to place. In search of a better life elsewhere, disadvantaged people are often drawn into the control of criminals who take advantage of their situation and exploit them (Hart, 2009).

The interview made with the children show that they came from families with low income. Schooling and search for job were the main reasons for the children to leave their home town. The interviewees had various reasons for leaving their home town. The majority of the children had left their home for better job. Extreme poverty coupled with critical lack of awareness are key push factor for many victims of trafficking in Ethiopia who seek for better life or assist their

families back home. Poverty include lack of sustainable and reliable income, lack of own land in rural areas, lack of schooling opportunities, lack of employment opportunity, family conflict/separation, orphaning, deception and urban glamour, and the like (Tsehay,2003).

The children in this study reported thatthey had been working as house maids, and had served as baby sitters in their relatives' house. Among the victims of trafficking in the forced labor,the female children mostly engage in domestic work. As domestic workers, they carry out a variety of tasks for other people. For example, they may cook or clean the house and look after children (Hart, 2009). According to World Bank data in some nations such as Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Ethiopia more than half of all children aged 5-14years work to make ends meet (“Child Labor”, n.d.).

The children also reported that commercial sex and street vending were the other works that they were engaged at the destination place. The International Labor Organization has found that girls involved in other forms of child labor - such as domestic service or street vending - are at the highest risk of being pulled into commercial child sex trafficking (ILO, 1999).

Almost all of the participants, other than being trafficked, have faced various abuses and exploitations by the traffickers, employers and also by other individuals around them. They reported that the employers treated them badly so that they mostly got in conflict with them. And they indicated that there were cases of being fired from their work even though they were working very hard and for long hours. A large number of female children who migrate to cities end up as housemaids and are obliged to toil for long hours (Trafficking-In-Person, 2007).

According to the research participants, they have faced more than two types of abuses and exploitations. They had entertained physical, emotional and sexual abuses. Among the

emotional abuses, they were being insulted which degraded their families and hurt their moral. Physically, they had been slapped, pinched and beaten by stick, belt, and electric wire. They responded that they faced these physical abuses by the employers who picked fight without big mistake committed by the children. Trafficked children are also often subject to domestic violence; they may be beaten or starved in order to ensure submission (“Trafficking-of-Children”,n.d. ).

Among the participants, there were also children who had been sexually abused which included unwanted sexual touching and being induced to have sex by the male individuals in the house they had been working. Many trafficked children experience sexual abuse by the male members of the households they serve. And when the abuse and exploitation become unbearable, they finally run away to the streets where again they face another problem (Elias, 2004). Sexually exploited children are highly vulnerable to rape and physical violence resulting in various kinds of physical and psychological trauma (Hart, 2009).

The study also found that these children after all the abuses and exploitations; had experienced psychological and other related problems. Physically they had bruises and scars. Psychologically they were depressed, feel lonely, and fight each other and developed hatred of oneself and others. Unlike many other forms of crime, the trauma experienced by trafficked children is often protracted and repeated, leading to severe psychological impacts. UN.GIFT reports that trafficked children often suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, among other conditions (“Trafficking-of-Children”,n.d).

### **5.3) Services at the Safe Home as Perceived by the Children**

One of the focusing points of the research was to find out the beneficiaries outlook towards the psychosocial supports provided in the safehome. The psychosocial services provided to the children in the safe home are reunification, recreation, basic education, handicraft training, health care, counseling and basic needs.

The children were referred to the safe home by the police and the community who found the children being exploited. The discussion with the participants revealed that most of them have stayed in the safe home for more than three months.

Among the participants in the research the majority of them were happy with the services provided to them in the safe home. They reported that the basic needs (food and clothes) and counseling were the services that they were most satisfied with.

The children in this study indicated that the health care was among the services with which they were less satisfied and which needed most improvement. The other children responded that they would like to see some improvements in the recreational service too in that they wanted to go to tours very often.

During the FGD most of the participants mentioned that they were pleased at their current living condition in the shelter. They stated that they felt safe being at the safe home. They were able to find friends with similar problems in the safe home with whom they were able to talk and play.

Similarly, the participants explained that the services they were receiving in the safe home helped them to recover from their physical and psychological problem. They stated that after the psychosocial services they had got in the shelter, they were able to talk with the other girls and they were not shy and desperate as before. They said that they were able to improve some of their behaviors like talking freely with people in the shelter, increase in appetite, recovery from wounds and bruises and also able to develop positive attitude towards the future.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter contains two parts: conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion part contains paragraphs winding up all the above findings of the research. The recommendation part contains suggestions for agencies who work on supporting victims of trafficking in order to render their services effectively and sustainably.

#### **6.1) Conclusion**

The study reviewed the problems female victims of trafficking experiences at destination places; and supports available to them in safe home. These children are of different age group and religious background. They were trafficked from different parts of the country. Most of the children drop out of school while they were at the first cycle level (1-4 grades). As the majority of the children came from the rural part of the country, their parents mainly engaged in farming. The rest of the children came from families who work as daily laborers in small towns. This background of the children can be the main cause behind their exposure to the problem of trafficking.

These female trafficked children had been facing different abuses and exploitations by the people around them at the destination place. They were forced to leave their home town in search of better job in order to support their poor families. At the destination place, most of them had been working being employed as domestic workers. However they could not lead their life as they wanted or told so. They had to experience different abuses and exploitations. Beating and insulting were common ones that the children faced. These abuse and exploitations had brought them physical and psychological problems. Some of them have bruises and scars on their body. Psychologically, the children had experiences of depression behaviors such as loneliness, fear,

shyness, disobedience etc. Since the children do not have close family beside them to protect them, and their minor status contribute to experience multiple trafficking.

After joining the safe home, the children were provided with different services which would help them readjust from their behavioral disorders. The agency's psychosocial supports include basic needs, medical treatment, guidance and counseling, basic education, handicraft training, recreation and reunification. Most of the children were happy about the services. The basic needs (food and clothing) and counseling are the services that the children most satisfied with. The children also stated that they were not happy about the health care and the recreation services, and indicated that those services need improvements. Most of them also want the agency to continue providing its services to other victims in the same way as it is now.

Most of the participants responded that the psychosocial services provided in the safe home helped them to readjust or recover. Moreover, most of them expressed their future plans positively that they wanted to work independently and resume schooling. Thus, it can be concluded that the agency's support, more or less, is helping the victims of trafficking to readjust in its safe home.

## **6.2) Recommendations**

- The development, protection and well-being of children are the responsibility of individuals, families, societies, government and non-governmental organizations. The government is expected to provide legal protection and social policy regarding the child and family. The government also needs to ensure effective law enforcement through increasing the awareness of the police force on the current situation of the problem in order to facilitate prosecution and penalization of individuals involved in child

trafficking. The government is also responsible to design institutions to meet physical, mental and social needs of children.

- Parents also need to be sensitized about the negative effect of living and growing in alien environment on their children; and about the aspiration of their children to become productive member of the society.
- As poverty is the main cause that forces parents to give their children to brokers, the issue of poverty must be addressed by the government and other concerned individuals in order to minimize the problem of children.
- Children cannot form realistic relationship with environment, community or society by remaining in safe homes. Thus an effort must be made to continue consolidating the unaccompanied children's mental, emotional, social and moral development and good health in a coherent and adaptive manners while they stay in shelters. This will prepare them to assure personal, social and work responsibilities once they leave the organization.
- At present a number of trafficked children focused NGOs both local and international are playing the role of addressing the problems of children. However there is a need to coordinate the various activities of the agencies through sharing of information and resource development of ongoing, interagency collaboration between decision makers and practitioners to focus on the needs of trafficked children in order to make services more relevant to the needs of beneficiaries.
- Besides providing supports to child victims of trafficking, the agency is responsible in creating awareness on basic rights of children and trafficking among the different stakeholders and the general public through a combination of information dissemination tools including workshops, media and IEC materials.

- The services provided in the safe home should be checked every time by participating the children; and reorganize the programs based on the interest of the beneficiaries. It should also conduct researches on current situation of the problem in order to restructure and render services in line with the research results.
- The finding of this study shows that the children are not satisfied with the health care, so by looking into where the lacking is, the agency should improve the health care as it is one of the most important services for the children.
- The children should participate in meetings concerning them which help to understand the feelings and the views of the beneficiaries towards the services. The children should also be given trainings on child trafficking and its consequences that would enable the children to protect themselves and teach their communities in the future.
- As the researcher observed, there were not adequate therapy materials in the safe home and even the available ones were not used as often as they should be. The therapy techniques being used were also very few and the same. Thus, it is a must to use different therapy techniques as the children's problems are different and difficult to easily understand; and to help the victims recover from their psychosocial problems timely.
- And the intervention techniques employed by the agency should be based on the background of the children, their interest and effectiveness in bringing the required result.
- Generally, the psychosocial services including the reunification program conducted by the agency must not only continue but should also be strengthened. As OPRIFS is the only local NGO currently providing safe home and psycho social support targeting only girls, its program could be viewed as a model and learning experience to other organizations as well.

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## Annex A

### Semi-structure Interview for the Children

#### I. Personal Information

1) Code name: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Age: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Place of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Religion a) Christian

b) Muslim

c) Traditional

d) Any other (specify)

5) Educational level a) can't read and write

b) 1<sup>st</sup> cycle (1-4 grades)

c.) 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle (5-8 grades)

d)secondary (9-10 grades)

e) Any other (specify)

6) Parents' occupation a) farmers

b)daily laborers

c) petty traders

d) any others (specify)

7) Parents marital status a) together

b) separated

8) Parental life status a. father only

b. mother only

c. both alive

## **II. Issues Related to Trafficking**

1) What was the reason for leaving home?

a) schooling

b) better job

c) to live with relatives

d) Any other (specify)

2) What kind of work you did at the destination place?

a) baby sitter

b) house maid

c) commercial sex worker

d) street vender

e) any other ( specify )

3) Whom were you working for?

a) self

b)parents

c) employer (relative)

d) employer (non-relative)

e)any other (specify)

4) Have you faced any problems after being trafficked? (Multiple trafficking)

a) Yes

b) No

5) If yes, what kind of abuses/exploitations you experienced?

a)emotional abuse (explain)

e) denial of education

b)physical abuse (explain)

f) denial of health care

c) sexual abuse (explain)

g) denial of wages

d)denial of food

h) any other (specify)

6) What kind of harms you face after experiencing the abuses?

a)depression

d) physical handicap (explain)

b)anxiety

e) any other (specify)

c) loneliness

### **III. Issues Regarding Services in the Safe Home**

1. How did you join the organization (safe home)?

2. How long have you been in the safe home?

3. Are you satisfied with the services you are receiving in the safe home?

a) Yes

b) No

4. How do you rank your satisfaction with the services?

a) high

b) medium

c) low

d) no satisfaction

5. Do you see any improvement in the services since you joined the safe home?

a) Yes

b) No

6. If no, which services need most improvement? Why?

a) basic needs

e) recreation/ play

b) education f) any other ( specify)

c) counseling

d) health care

7. With which service/s you are most satisfied? Why?

a) basic needs          e) recreation/ play

b) educationf) any other ( specify)

c) counseling

d) health care

8. Do you think the agency should continue providing the services?

a) Yes

b) No

9. If yes, why and if no, why not?

10. Do you think the programs (supports) contribute in improving your life (recover or readjust)?

11. If yes, how or if no, why not?

12. What is your future plan? Explain.

## **Annex B**

### **Checklist for Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with Children in the Safe Home**

- 1) Why are you here in the safe home?
- 2) How did you come to Addis Ababa?
- 3) Did you face problems on the journey?
- 4) What were your major engagement and work situations?
- 5) How have you been treated by employers?
- 6) Have you been abused (face multiple trafficking) and what kind of abuses?
- 7) How did you join the safe home?
- 8) What are the services you are receiving in the shelter?
- 9) Are you happy about the services?
- 10) How do you describe your current living condition in the shelter?
- 11) What are the major challenges in the shelter?
- 12) How do you evaluate the contribution of the psychosocial support being offered?
- 13) How do you think will the services help you recover from your present situation?
- 14) What is your future plan or aspiration?

## **Project Proposal**

**Assessment of the Psychosocial Support provided to Female Victims of  
Trafficking in Safe Homes: The case of Organization for Prevention,  
Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS)**

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## **1) Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

Child trafficking is one of the worst human right violations. Children have been trafficked for reasons such as sexual and labor exploitation. In recent years the number of trafficked children appears to be increasing and many of them are found to be female (Elias, 2004). The UN Population Fund estimated that two million female children between the ages of five and fifteen are being trafficked every year (FSCE, 2011). After being trafficked, among other things, the children are forced to involve in prostitution and hard labor which are most likely to impair their emotional, spiritual, mental and physical development.

Today, there are many countries, especially developing ones like Ethiopia where such children are working in towns and cities by being kept in-doors and out of sight and/or are manipulated/abused by employers (Elias, 2004) It is found to be crucial to provide victims of trafficking with safety in the process of rehabilitation by offering them alternative ways of living which could help them make decisions in changing their way of life for better (TIP, 2007).

There are relevant international laws and conventions as well as national legislations dealing with the problem of trafficking in women and children. The most widely ratified human right treaty (ratified by 191 countries in 1989) , the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in its provisions under Articles 32,34 and 35 states that governments have to protect children from being engaged in situations that threaten their health, education and development (Ann T-Gallagher,2010). The CRC also provides the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse including prostitution and involvement in pornography as well as the

states obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children (UN, 1989).

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor (ratified by 136 countries in 1999) also prohibits the most extreme forms of child labor that involve children being enslaved, held in bondage, separated from their families, or exposed to serious hazards and illness (ILO, 1999). The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) (adopted by the 26 ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, A.A July 1990) provides the role of state parties in protecting the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 27). It puts states' role in taking appropriate measures to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or trafficking in children for any purpose or in any form, by any person including parents or legal guardians and also the use of children in all forms of begging (Article 29) (OAU, 1990; ACRWC, 1999).

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also recognizes the right of every child to life and protection from exploitative practices which may be hazardous or harmful to his/her education, health or well-being. Article 41(5) of the constitution designates the allocation of resources to provide rehabilitation and assistance to children who are left without parents or guardians (FDRE, 1995). Moreover the Ethiopian Penal Code (1957), the Private Employment Agency Proclamation (1988), the Family Law of Ethiopia (1996) and the 1993 Labor Proclamation (11) give ample protection to children in general, although they could be further harmonized with CRC (FSCE, 2011).

Child trafficking and its grave consequences being an alarming human right violation, the problem attracted the attention of international and national agencies. Intervention measures to

combat the problem include research, creation of data base and exchange of information, preventive actions including public education and advocacy at local levels, international campaigning, global networking and psycho-social rehabilitative measures such as repatriation, medical treatment, counseling, training, employment as well as integration into the community (Askale&Azeb, 2005).

## **1.2 Brief Profile of the Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS)**

Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) is a non-governmental and non-profit making indigenous humanitarian organization working for the welfare and protection of the rights of sexually and physically abused, and exploited female street children. Having its root in the Mobile Unit that was established by RadaBärnen in 1989, OPRIFS was set up in 1994 as a Drop-in-Center to be an extension to the Mobile Unit(OPRIFS, n.d.).

Acquiring a good experience of working for with street children and based on findings and recommendation of the 1998's study, it has been decided to that OPRIFS should be recognized as an independent NGO. As a result it was registered legally by the Ministry of Justice, on 14 January 2000 (<http://www.oprifs.Org.et>). Ever since its establishment in 2000, OPRIFS has been playing an important role in providing services to female street children dividing its targets into two categories- to those female children who 'work' on streets while living with their families, and to those who are displaced from their home recently known as 'living on street' by providing preventive, rehabilitative and integrative incorporated services (Askale&Azeb, 2005).

### **1.3 Definition of Important Terms**

#### ***Child***

Under Article 1 of the 1989 Convention, a child is defined as "... every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."

Article 28 of this Convention requires States to, "make primary education compulsory and available free to all"(UN, 1989).The term child in this survey refers to a person whose age is eighteen and below.

#### ***Child Trafficking***

Trafficking is the involuntary transportation of women and children for purposes of forced labor most often in the sex industry. Trafficking need not be cross-border but very often, is and involves the forcible removal of the child from her place of origin and her family. A child is any person under the age of eighteen (ECPAT, 2003).

The protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (November 2002) defines child trafficking as follows: "... the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation".

#### ***Street Children***

Children of either sex falling within the age group of 5 to 17 years for whom the streets in the widest sense of the words have become their abode and source of their livelihood. They are inadequately protected, supervised or helped by responsible adults (UNICEF, 1996).

### ***Reunification***

Reunifying trafficked (street) children with their biological parents or extended member for a long term placement.

### ***Safe Home***

Safe homes are temporary shelters in which victims of trafficking, different abuse, and children from street are placed and provided with all necessary support until they are re-integrated with family or re-start settled life(Askale&Azeb, 2005).

## **2. Statement of the Problem**

Ethiopia is one of the developing countries where problems related to children are prevalent. Among those problems trafficking of children is the worst one (Elias, 2004). This serious crime is usually committed against female children and women in the form of bonded domestic labor and sexual exploitation. After getting entrapped as migrant laborers, women and children suffer all types of abusive and violent treatment. These include physical and emotional violence resulting from sexual exploitation, overwork and physical violence that end up severe injury and even homicide (FSCE, 2011).

Some Non-Governmental Organizations as well as the Government are working in alleviating the problem through various programs. One of the NGOs who are working on the issue is OPRIFS. Thus, the purpose of this study will be assessing problems female trafficked children face and the impacts of services in safe homes, particularly the psycho social support program, in rehabilitating them.

This study aims at addressing the following issues of investigation.

- What kind of problems trafficked children experience at destination areas?
- What are the psychosocial supports provided to trafficked children?

### **3. Significance of the Study**

Human trafficking is one of the worst problems in developing countries. This research is believed to contribute knowledge on the problems of child trafficking and on the general situation of safe homes where victims of trafficking and its subsequent problems get various support. Moreover this study will also add knowledge to the social literature, and to the social work practice approach.

### **4. Objective of the Study**

#### **4.1. General Objective**

The intent of this study is to assess the life of trafficked children in the destination area and the various interventions employed to help them recover from their problems.

#### **4.2 Specific Objectives**

- To identify problems trafficked children experience.
- To review services available (psychosocial support) for those children in the safe homes
- To assess the outcome of psycho social support in the safe homes in changing the life and situation of the children.
- To explore prospect for the sustainability of services.

## **5. Universe of the Study**

The universe of study would consist of all female trafficked children who are being rehabilitated in safe homes. There are four local NGOs working on rehabilitating trafficked/street children in safe homes in Addis Ababa. They are Association for Nationwide Action for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANNAPCAN), Organization for Child Development and Transformation (CHADET Ethiopia), Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia (FSCE) and OPRIFS (Askale and Azeb, 2005).

## **6. Sampling**

The size of the sample would be based on the population size in the temporary shelter. The researcher proposes to take a sample size of seven girls who can express themselves and came from outside Addis Ababa. They would be chosen by the social worker. The shelter team leader, three rehabilitation workers and the shelter counselor would be individually interviewed regarding the supports in the safe home. The sampling method would be purposive. In fact, the sampling would be done until data saturation is achieved.

## **7. Tools for Data Collection**

In this study, qualitative data would be used. Primary and secondary sources would be included in the study. The tools to be employed in the data collection are interview guide, focus group discussion, secondary documents review and semi structured observation.

## **8. Data Analysis**

The analysis of the data would be conducted on the basis of the objectives of the study with application of qualitative techniques. The data gathered would be codified, tailed and tabulated, and then the findings are proposed to be described and interpreted.

## **9. Chapter Plan**

The first chapter shall be an introduction to the subject matter of the present study, including background, objectives of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study and brief account of the organization.

The second chapter will be a review of related literature. In the chapter the problem of child trafficking, its causes, types, consequences and proposed solutions as well as other related issues would be discussed.

The third chapter will present the methodology of the study employed, research design, sampling, data collection procedures/techniques and data analysis. The fourth chapter shall explain the findings and the interpretation of data.

Chapter five shall be discussion of major findings/results. The sixth chapter will be conclusion of the findings of the study and the recommendations shall be listed based on the results of the study.

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**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF MSW PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL  
FROM ACADEMIC COUNSELLOR AT STUDY CENTRE**

Enrolment No: -----

Date of Submission: -----

Name of the Study Centre: -----

Name of the Guide: -----

Title of the Project: -----

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Signature of the Student: -----

Approved/not approved

Signature: -----

Name & Address of the Student: -----

Name & Address of Guide: -----

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Date: -----

