

**THE PROBLEMS OF FEMALE-HEADED
HOUSEHOLDS OF GULELE SUBCITY IN DISTRICT 01
OF ADDIS ABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION**

Prepared by: Tirsit H/Gebriel Retta

ID 1220195

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Advisor : Dr. Dessalegn Negeri

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Abstract

We have seen different structures of family, women headed family is one of this structure. This kind of family has exposed many problems like in upbringing of their children and setting their future life.

In recent year the social problem of female headed households is getting social concern, so this study focused on assessing the main social problem that female headed households in their struggle for survival, how they change the negative attitude of the society towards them, the influence factor on rearing of their children and how help women association and how helps NGOs to face their problem. The objective of this study is identified the main social problem of female headed family and to raise additional information in order to select sample of women headed family in Gullel Sub City District 01. Data were gathered through questionnaires, interviews, observation and focus group discussion primary source of data were extensively utilized and supported by some secondary source .Both qualitative and quantitative data methods of analysis were employed.

The findings of the study made it clear that, the dominance rate of poverty in FHHs is high, due to lack of income they have forced to live them under the hazardous situation and income insecurity. As a result majority of them exposed to poverty .Lack of education and large family size are found among the contributing factors to the higher incidence of poverty in the FHHs. Regarding relation with their neighbors indicated that the women headed family exposed to weak relationship with their neighbors and has negative an effect up on their participation in the social affairs. So the society believes that the importance of women attachment to men through marriage is taken as a source of status. Similarly the women themselves thinking that the women whose husband economically well and the women who have no husband are not economically satisfied, so the society give lower status to women headed families'.

Thus, it is expected from local government, women association and NGOs to facilitate market place, entrepreneur skill as well as a better access to credit to come out vicious cycle of poverty.

Acronyms

FHHs	Female-Headed Households
ICRW	International Center for Research on women
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
PHCE	Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IS	Interview Schedule
IG	Interview Guide

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

According to International Labor Organization (ILO), female headed household is a household either where no adult males are present, owing to divorce, separation, migration, non-marriage or widowhood, or where men, although present, do not contribute to the household income (ILO Thesaurus, 2005). In these respects, it is common to see female headships in both developed and developing countries. However, the burden of poverty falls heavier on women in developing countries than women in developed ones.

Hence, women in African countries, including Ethiopia, undergo a life-long struggle to shoulder responsibilities in familial and household contexts. It is evident that the burden of poverty falls disproportionately on women and more so on households headed by women. Female heads of households, particularly those with no male partners, are faced with the big challenge of carrying out all the responsibilities of running their households alone. Children of such households, as is generally hypothesized and empirically observed, suffer from various psycho-social problems that affect their normal growth and development (Forum on Street Children, 1998).

Women, in particular those heading families, face many economic and social challenges in discharging their familial and household responsibilities. Regardless of these challenges, the household is carrying on to provide the natural framework for the emotional, financial and material support which are essential to the growth, development and normal functioning of its members. In addition, it defines social and moral safeguard in materials and spiritual system and

tradition as well as providing a role model for preparing the way for adulthood (Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia, 1988).

Family/household has a historical-idealistic suggestion that is visualized a link between continuity and change. It is major source of nurturance, emotion bonding and socialization. It provides security and care to its members (Murli Desai, 1980).

Therefore, the family is like an ecological system that affects others and the whole system. Accordingly, female-headed families are families headed by single female where the father does not interact as the family member on a regular basis or does not play a significant role in the family affairs and survival (Hamid, 1995).

In most cases, female-headed families are facing social and psychological problems such as emotional stress, loneliness, isolation etc, as it is known in Ethiopia in most cultures. In Addis Ababa, there are many female-headed families who are facing different problems in their struggle for survival. The problems include inability to pay children's school fees, afford three decent meals a day, give children pocket money, provide transport to school and buy clothing.

This study attempts to assess the social problems that female-headed families are facing in Gullele Sub City with particular reference to District 01 of Addis Ababa City Administration.

The outcome of study may be used as an initiation to policy makers, women focused organizations, associations and non-governmental organizations to investigate the problem in different angel, and support women-headed families.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Various changes have been seen in the structure of the family worldwide over time. One change is the characteristics or the pattern by which the family is headed. Thus, similar changes have also been revealing in Ethiopia (Forum on Street Children Ethiopia, 1998). These changes have significant problems particularly on female-headed households. For instance, the Ethiopian

people widely believed that children raised by female are believed to be naughtier than children who have both parents-father and mother. Besides, children born in female-headed households are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty than those in male-headed households (Moepeng, 2008). Furthermore, since females earn less income, they need the labor of their children to satisfy their family needs. At the same time, because they are busy of working for familial survival, they do not give more time to control their children. This forces the children to run away to the streets and other place to full fill their basic needs. Due to this fact, children are vulnerable to different bad habits like juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, rape, prostitution and beggary (Methsbia, 1998).

In recent years, the social problems of female headship and female-headed households have emerged as a subject of increased social concern, in both developed and developing countries. The study of the status of female household heads and their households is a fairly new emphasis among women's issues.

Female headship can be considered from the context of women's latent vulnerability due to gender disadvantages. The concern on female-headed households has been from the premise that female-headed households embrace a subpopulation which may be potentially vulnerable to social hardship. It is hypothesized that because of the unequal position and status of female heads and since women usually have limited social and educational resources available to them, female heads compared to males may produce negative effects on the welfare of the family (Ono-Osaki, 1991; UN, 1995).

Therefore, this study investigates and seeks answers for the following basic questions:

1. What are the main social problems that female-headed households are vulnerable in their struggle for survival?

2. What mechanisms do women-headed households use to change or win the negative attitudes of the society towards them?
3. What are the influential factors that female-headed households are facing from the society in rearing their children?
4. What do women associations and NGOs do to solve problems that women-headed families faced ?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The general objective of the study is to identify the main social problem of female-headed families and to raise additional information for those organizations and associations who are working on women.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. to assess the main social problems that influence the female-headed families and suggest possible solutions to the problems.
2. to investigate the social problems of female-headed families to provide information to policy makers.
3. to review the perception of children who are reared in female-headed families.
4. to address the existing problems to the NGOs focused on women in order to act accordingly.
5. to forward recommendations that enhance the role of policy makers, women associations and NGOs focusing on women and organizations to help women-headed families.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Accordingly, by identifying the social problems on female headed households, this study reveal the public perception towards female-headed households to grab the attention of the government as well as the public to act on the social problems and serving policy makers as well as NGOs working on women as a guide or notice to act on the problem accordingly. In addition it serves for researchers as source of research and knowledge regarding female-headed households, students and the public

1.5. Delimitation of the study

Today's different verification publicizes the number of peoples in Ethiopia and in each region,, specifically ,for instance World Bank and UN. In Ethiopia Census 2007 indicated that number of peoples in Addis Ababa is **2,738,243** among this **651,974**, are number of house hold. But according to the growth rate formula in 2016 the number of people in Ethiopia is **738,248** (Ethiopia population in 2007)*0.0210(A.A growth rate)*9 years is equal to **13,952.887.21**.

Regarding to this the number of household in Addis Ababa are **3,324,602** and among this the number of women headed family are **123,223**. Among this in Gullel Sub Sity District 01 number women headed family are **14,231(31%)** among **45906.5** households.

So there are 10 Sub Cities in Addis Ababa City Administration. Among them, the study delimited itself only one district of Gullel sub city. Indeed this randomly selected study district area is cannot represent the other nine district found in Guellel Sub City. The reason of the selection of one District is to make the study manageable.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The problem of women headed families is not limited in particular society. It was associated with many societies, but this study was limited to investigate the socio-economic problem of Women headed families in Gullele sub city particularly 01 District . The reason behind the researchers to select the area is its closeness to the researcher's residence.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

Shortage of time and finance has made it difficult for the researchers to draw a large sample from the population of the study area. In keeping its principal objective the study was limited to the analysis of demographic characteristics issue concerning the children as well as social and economic problems of the sample respondents limited to one District.

1.8. Operational Definitions

Family – Family is in the context of human society, a family is a group of people affiliated by consanguinity, affinity, or co-residence and/or shared consumption. Members of the immediate family include spouses, parents, brothers, sisters, sons and/or daughters (Ngwenya,A,K and T.Eisenman ,(1994)

Household - an individual or group of people who share homes and some may have families perhaps with servants, students or people in community group (Mcil, P. et al, 2003).

Female-headed families - are mostly single parent families which are headed by women (Mcil, P. et al, 2003).

Female head of household - is any female whose age is greater than eighteen and is head of a household (Forum on Street Children Ethiopia, 1998).

Widow - A **widow** is a woman whose spouse has died, while a widower is a man in that situation. The state of having lost one's spouse to death is termed *widowhood*.(Martins,2008:1)

1.9. Organization of the Study

The study embraces five chapters. The first chapter deals with introductory part that incorporates background of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, delimitation of the study and definition of key terms and organization of the study. The second chapter is review of relevant literature for the study. Chapter three discusses the research design and methodology including the participants/subjects of the study, tools for data collection and analysis of data employed in the study are discussed. Chapter four contains the data analysis, findings and discussions. The last chapter of the thesis provides conclusions and suggestions for further studies.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter comprises a review of related literature on the social problems and consequences of female-headed households. The review incorporates briefing the concept of female-headed households, the forms of female-headed households, feminization of poverty and social problems women-headed families are facing.

2.1. Female Headed Households: an overview

The World Bank (2001:1) defines the term ‘household’ as a group of related or unrelated people living in a dwelling unit or its equivalence, eating from the same pot, and sharing common housekeeping arrangements. According to this definition, the term is about any group of people dwelling in the same house. Ngwenya (2008:2) asserts that a household involves people living together, sharing food and function according to family rules defined within culturally specified socio-economic boundaries.

A household usually has the head who is a household member with authority and income earning responsibility (Barros *et al*, 1997:2; Buvinic and Gupter, 1997:6). According to Ngwenya (2008:2) the head of the house is usually nominated but can also take the headship even without any form of nomination. The male is usually the one who heads the household. In the absence of the male figure, the female family member takes over the role of headship.

These days, the interest in research on household headship arises because of the perceived social differences between male-headed and female-headed households. Female-headed households

have become a concern because of the high incidence of poverty and food insecurity in those households. They have, therefore, become a focus of social policy discourse and other related issues both in developing and developed nations (Ngwenya, 2008:2).

According to Barros *et al.* (1997:2), a female-headed household is where a female adult member assumes responsibility for the care and management of that particular household. It can be explained as a situation where the main decision maker and the economic provider for a household is a woman, regardless of her marital status. These households are usually embedded in a network of relationships for survival where women usually heavily dominate these relationships. Sometimes men may be present in these households but they are often less stable.

There are several reasons for the existence of female-headed households. Lingam (1994:2) lists the following as leading factors to the female-headship phenomenon: absence of a male resident due to widowhood, separation, divorce or desertion, migration of the male member for a longer period and loss of economic function by male due to unemployment, illness or disability (Lingam, 1994:2).

A study by Chant (1991:3) on female-headed households reported that the household size and structure could enable women's survival through the creation of different options for childcare. According to Chant (2008:6), female-headed households have a greater risk of income-based poverty than their male counterparts do. They bear the primary responsibility for household maintenance and childcare under very few material resources. Female-headed households often draw on extended family or what has been referred to as reciprocal networks. There is no exception in Ethiopian case.

According to Chant (2007:17) the female-headed households are forced into single headed management of multiple of tasks. These tasks include the generation of the main income,

housekeeping, child caring as well as the provision of a good shelter. While female-headed households are perceived to be having a greater risk of poverty than their male counterparts, the female headship seems to be the most preferred option for most women since they do it as a matter of choice (Chant, 2008:6). Chant (2008:6) further noted that some women voluntarily decide to stay single due to some government policies being in their favor.

Demographic trends and patterns are evidence of changing social and economic conditions. In much of the world, including parts of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean (Chant, 1998), Europe, and the United States (Kamerman and Kahn, 1988), demographic and social shifts have resulted in an increasing number of female-headed single-parent families. In the United States, half the children spend at least part of their lives in such households (Garfinkel, 1987). Between 1970 and 1985, the number of children living with divorced mothers more than doubled and the number living with never-married mothers increased six fold (U.S. Children, 1989). Whereas in 1960, only 1 in 12 U.S. children lived in a single-parent household (Garfinkel, 1987), by 1988, 1 in 4 did (Ellwood, 1988)

2.2. The Forms of Female Headed Households

Chant (2003) states that there are two major categories of female-headed households: *the de jure and de facto households* (Martins, 2008:1). A de jure female-headed household exists when the head of the household is unmarried woman (single), divorced, widowed or with no husband in the household.

The de facto households comprise of wives of male migrants, or women who play the dominant role even with the presence of a male partner in their lives. Thus, the de facto female-headed household is when the head of the household is in practice a female due to the fact that the male

head is absent throughout the year or for a longer period. The wife becomes the main decision maker during the husband's absence and thus heads by default.

Buvinic and Gupta (1997) say that the concept of female headship seems problematic, transitional and not neutral. This is because headship is backed by traditional norms and internal conflicts. Buvinic and Gupta (1997) argue that the other factors that make one a household head include one's economic status.

Female-headed households (FHHs) consist of various categories including "female-maintained", "female-led", mother centered", "single-parent", or "male-absent" rather than only "female-headed households" (Buvinic and Gupta, 1997, p. 260). The concept of FHHs should take into consideration the features of female-maintained households that are residential units and female-headed households that are part of kinship units because often the latter belongs to a larger unit headed by a male (ibid).

Varley (1996) also says that studies on the concept of FHHs should be all-round, and not only look at single mothers with high levels of dependent children in their households. Female-maintained, female-led, mother-centered and male absent households should also be considered in studies on FHHs. This is to avoid the rigid approach towards the category of FHHs (Varley, 1996).

2.3. The causes of Female-Headed Households

Mullings (1995) says that wars, migration and increasing unemployment highly accelerated the phenomenon of FHHs and women raising children by themselves. Female headed Households (FHHs) were evidenced in both industrialized and developing countries such as Iraq and South Africa. The scholar further states that while female headship of households is a global phenomenon, different groups of people from different parts of the world and / or with different ethnic backgrounds has different experiences in relation to FHHs among them than others. For

instance, the high rates of unemployment among the African- American men lead them into taking up criminal-related work (Mullings 1995).

In addition Mullings (1995) says as a result, some African-American women end up as heads of households. Among the Euro-Americans, an increase in feminism and employment of Euro-American women has highly contributed to their economic independence and a change in their attitudes towards marriage. They choose to become independent of men and take charge of their own households after probably divorce or separation. Likewise, a study by Lokshin, Harris, and Popkin (2000) found that the growing incidence of single mothers in Russia was mostly as a result of the high rate of divorces in the country.

Chant (2007) found that domestic violence is one of the factors causing FHHs in countries such as Costa Rica. In order for women to protect themselves and their children from abusive men, they turn to single motherhood and run their households. Ruwanpura (2003) asserts that FHHs are a result of conflicts and death of husbands. Extramarital affairs by men also make wives leave husbands and end up as heads of households. And the girls born in FHHs are more predisposed to heading their own households as adults (Ruwanpura, 2003).

2.4. The Challenges of Female-Headed Households

Most frequently, female headed households are regarded as the ‘poorest of the poor’; it is often assumed that both women and children suffer greater poverty than in households, which conform to a more common (and idealized) male-headed arrangement. In addition, a conjectured ‘inter-generational transmission of disadvantage’ in female-headed households is imagined not only to compromise the material well-being of children, but to compound other privations- emotional, psychological, social and otherwise.

Female headed households (most of which are headed by lone mothers), are rising in number and proportion in most developing regions, currently constituting an estimated 13% of all households in the Middle East and North Africa, 16% in Asia, 22% in sub-Saharan Africa, and 24% in Latin America (Bongaarts, 2001:14). This said, a mounting body of evidence from different parts of the Global South suggests that household headship is not a good predictor of the start that children have in life, nor of their trajectories into adolescence and adulthood.

While risks to children's well-being may arise through discriminatory or hostile attitudes towards female-headed households in society, gender dynamics within male-headed units can be just as prejudicial in this regard. Thus although poverty can be exacerbated by household headship, this is not exclusive to children who 'live only with their mothers' (Delamonica et al, 2004).

According to Chant (2003), FHHs are assumed to be the poorest households. Women have been marginalized and their access to resources such as land is limited. Their low levels of employment and heavy work burden with low salaries also contribute to why they may be assumed as poor (ibid). Single mothers and women in FHHs in some cultures have actually been termed as the "new poverty paradigm." Chant (2003) further argues that unlike developed countries, some developing countries have not yet established schemes that can help support FHHs such as giving those benefits from the state. With such lack of support, FHHs are challenged (Ibid).

Differing from Chant (2003), Fuwa (2000) says that FHHs are not a homogeneous group. He adds that poverty levels faced by FHHs are contextual and vary among the different categories of de jure and de facto FHHs. Using examples of Panama, he further says that in spite of urban areas having more and better economic opportunities than the rural areas, there is evidence that FHHs in urban areas are more unemployed and deprived than those in the rural areas. The

analysis of FHHs contextually is very important in order to rule out any undue form of biases on the different categories of de facto and de jure households:

“In some parts of the world, such as in South Asia, widows have long been recognized as being particularly disadvantaged and poor; in Panama, however, there is no indication that widows are disadvantaged in terms of consumption in non-indigenous rural areas” Fuwa (2000, p. 1522).

Buvinic and Gupta (1997) say that FHHs seem poor and challenged in their livelihoods because they have low incomes with many dependents. This makes the FHHs vulnerable and targets for anti-poverty schemes. FHHs are faced with the burden of domestic work and discrimination in the employment sector due to their low levels of education, which may lead to the existence of poverty among their children and future generations (ibid).

In addition, Lokshin et al. (2000) posit that unemployment among single mothers in Russia is slightly higher than the rest of the population. This is because they usually have low levels of education such as only a high school certificate. Yet in Russia, earning income is related to the levels of education. This in the end poses as a challenge to the single mothers in Russia especially those with low or no education (ibid).

2.5. The Consequences of Female Headship

Female heads take on the dual role of economic providers and family nurturers without, in most instances, the direct assistance of males or the support of traditional kinship and family networks. Female heads must deal with fewer adult earners in the household (i.e., a greater dependency ratio), experience inferior earnings both as a result of gender discrimination in the labor market and as a consequence of the need to combine home care with economic activity, which leads many women to select jobs demanding a smaller time commitment.

These jobs tend to be found mostly in the informal sector and in the lower paying service sectors (Population Council/ICRW, 1988; Buvinic, 1991; Folbre, 1991). Besides these quite general implications, we know very little about the consequences of the ‘female-headed households’ for the women who head them. Although there is scarcely any **direct** evidence of long-term detriment to women who head families, we assume that women are indeed adversely affected since the evidence available suggests that these households are generally poorer than couple (or male-headed) households.

In contrast, there are far more studies focusing on the implication of female-headship for children and here our knowledge base is stronger. But the more abundant findings in this area tend to be inconsistent and do not unequivocally demonstrate negative repercussions for children in all regions. Several researchers observed that in the United States children who grow up in female-headed households suffer negative social and economic effects throughout their adult years.

They experience lower educational and occupational attainment, and, for female children, higher risks of teenage pregnancy (Garfinkel and McLanahan, 1986; McLanahan and Sandefur, 1994). Studies focusing on the effects of divorce in the U.S. have consistently shown that divorce results in average drops of 30-50% in household income from pre-divorce family income and further, that these reductions are permanent (Furstenberg and Nord, 1985; Dechter, 1991; Folbre, 1991). Children from single-parent families in Europe, on the other hand, do considerably better perhaps because there is stricter enforcement of male obligations and more generous public assistance (Folbre, 1991).

Important differences are also found between the poorer regions of Africa and Latin America. Although studies carried out in Africa found female-headed households to be, on average, poorer than male-headed households, they also reveal that children from these households fare better.

Girls' education is given more importance in female than in male-headed households. Likewise, children in female-headed households do significantly better on long term measures of nutritional status (Population Council/ICRW, 1989).

Some research suggests that this outcome is attributable to women who are able to distribute earnings and resources more equitably between family members and invest more in children's nutrition than male heads (Population Council/ICRW, 1989). On the other hand, findings from Latin America indicate that children in female-headed households fare considerably worse on almost all indicators chosen than children from male-headed households. Throughout the region, children of single mothers exhibit higher rates of school dropout, lower nutritional status, and higher rates of labor force participation, higher mortality, and higher prevalence of school absenteeism (Population Council/ICRW, 1989; Onyango, Tucker, and Eisenman, 1994). It has been suggested that these regional differences in child outcomes are due mainly to differentials in levels of urbanization between the two regions.

Female-heads in Africa are still predominantly rural, and thus may have better access to food and kinship networks. In Latin America, on the other hand, females face greater constraints as they are considerably more isolated in the more modern, urban contexts (Population Council/ICRW, 1988-1989).

In summary, three themes deserve attention. First, although we suspect that several mechanisms associated with modernization may have triggered the prevalence of female-headedness, the information analyzed so far offers only weak indications that such trends do indeed exist. Second, while it is thought that females heading their own households should in general be worse off, research findings have not corroborated the conjecture. Third, the evidence available indicates that the effects on children are not uniform across regions but tend to vary and appear

to be a function of the social and economic context within which the rise in female-headedness takes place. In what follows, we address only the first of these themes and attempt to show that the idea of increasing female headship is largely incorrect.

2.5.1. Change of Social Relation

The family as institution has undergone great social changes particularly in urban areas, which have resulted in the pleasantness of its importance in the society.

The female-headed family is one kind of family that is led socially by female. Such kind of families are facing different problems who exclusively headed their family, social problem is one of the problems. Single parenthood and heavy responsibilities can bring physical and emotional stress, loneliness and isolation. For instance, mothers who have recently become windowed have special burden to shoulder their family. They suppose responsibility for their household while still sorrowful for their lost mate. Their change to this role may take months, even years, as they cope with many social challenges and the responsibility of consoling their children. They may find it extremely difficult to assume these added responsibilities (Awake, October, 2002).

The unmarried mothers face a lot of struggles with emotional burdens such as feeling of shame and loneliness. Some may fear that the presence of a child will prevent their ever finding a suitable mate. As children in such households grow older they too may be plagued by unanswered questions about their background and by need to be recognized by the absent parent. Additionally, in most cultures, if not all, being attached to a man is a major source of social status for female.

Similarly, parents going through divorce are under enormous emotional stress. Some parents may feel great anger as a result of the divorce, feeling of low self worth and deep feeling of rejection; it also rob some parents of their ability to offer themselves emotionally to their children. Mothers who need to enter the job market for the first time may have difficulty coping

with the responsibilities of managing their households. They may have neither the time nor the energy for the special needs of the children, who themselves have to cope with dramatic change after the divorce of their parents (Awake, October, 2002).

As many researches on the family indicate the majority of families headed by females faced more social problems as compared with those of both parents living together. Females, especially those with domestic and child care responsibilities tend to have less opportunity for social involvement than men. Given that the majority of formal and semi formal activities is male dominated or couple oriented, single females are quite likely find it difficult to generate social relationships through such participation.

As observed before, the consequence is that while informal relation of friendship and kinship are particularly significant in integrating these females socially, their opportunities for creating and servicing such relationship are limited (Allan, 1994). This is particularly unfortunate for many separated women as they often experience difficulty in maintaining the social relationship they have developed and built up at the time they were married. Many of those females find that their social networks modified and changed slowly, gradually coming to be dominated by others in a similar position to themselves, in a manner that demonstrates the presence of a partner is far more relevant for social involvement than it appears to be on the surface.

Slowly as the separation become more long standing, as the initial concern within those married individuals and couples who used to be part of one's social network drift away. They tend to be seen less frequently; involvement with them diminishes. Various factors affect the friendships network of the recently separated females. As a result of loss of friendships/loyalties, the problem of pairing the single at social events with whom they have less association with; sexual advances with the husbands of apparently happily married friends and other similar minor tensions gradually increase distance between those who were previously friends, encourage their

replacement by non-married others. While this leaves relatively small “hole” to fit for the still married others, it can present major difficulty for the recently separated women with their lack of resource and minority position.

They face in generating new relationship at the time when their confidence is undermined feeling of personal inadequacy and failure following marital break down (Allan, 1994: 116)

There are various assumptions which provides to these problem of social isolation, but most of them are not very practical for many unattached females. Greater occupational involvement provides an avenue for some, although domestic commitments and lack of qualification combined with the inequality in market place to make it more of cul-de-sac. Even when mothers are employed, the opportunities this provides for social involvement are limited, because of their domestic responsibilities compared with those of their fellow workers. As study indicated, the time most employed females have to develop relationship with work mates outside work place is restricted by their need to be at home for their children to provide meals and to catch up with domestic chores (Chart, 1976).

Usually, female-headed families are considered to be the **poorest group of society** largely owing to their readily observable low social status. Their growing burdens as female are thus increasingly becoming an issue for research and discussion. As studies indicate economic decline most frequently affects an individual’s social relationship.

Divorced women complained that their social relationships were affected by reduced income of the household. Arendell (1986), for instance, suggested that changed financial circumstances led some of the divorced to limit their contact with former friends. Lack of money prevents divorced women from participating in formerly shared activities. Involving in get together or formerly shared activities without contribution from the part of divorced, widowed or separated females might be considered as something that shakes their self esteem. Inability to participate in such

type of gathering may let the divorced, the separated or the widowed women fill that the social world is a world of couples, not singles (Arendell, 1986).

As Kelly (1982) indicated the social life of divorced female is more restricted than that of married female. Females naturally rely on relationships especially with individuals who are close to them like a husband. When divorce, separation or widowhood occurs, they seem to lose such relationships. If this is the case, one might tend to assume that females will therefore have a more stressful situation after separation, divorce or death of the husband concerning their social life (Kelly, 1982).

Many studies also indicated that one source of discomfort in social relationship of such females is the feeling that the separated, widowed, divorced women towards their friends, opposite sex, ex-husband and children. Married females feel anxious and uncomfortable with the divorced female friends. Because of their friends divorce may challenge couples to take a look at their own marriage. As the result of such reason they often quietly terminate friendship. These women are more likely to let their relationship collapse, feel unwanted, vulnerable to depression and tentative about expressing their strong need for continued support and friendship (Miller, 1995). In his study Arendell also indicated that over 75 percent of females are losing former friends, usually during or immediately after divorce (Arendell, 1986).

2.5.2. The Upbringing and Socialization of Children

Children in single-parent households are raised not only with economic, but also social and psychological disadvantages. For instance, they are four times as likely as children from intact families to be abused or neglected; much likelier to have trouble academically; twice as prone to drop out of school; three times more likely to have behavioral problems; much more apt to experience emotional disorders; far likelier to have a weak sense of right and wrong;

significantly less able to delay gratification and to control their violent or sexual impulses; two-and-a-half times likelier to be sexually active as teens; approximately twice as likely to conceive children out-of-wedlock when they are teens or young adults; and three times likelier to be on welfare when they reach adulthood.

In addition, growing up without a father is a far better forecaster of a boy's future criminality than either race or poverty. Regardless of race, 70 percent of all young people in state reform institutions were raised in fatherless homes, as were 60 percent of rapists, 72 percent of adolescent murderers, and 70 percent of long-term prison inmates. As Heritage Foundation scholar Robert Rector has noted, "Illegitimacy is a major factor in America's crime problem".

Lack of married parents, rather than race or poverty, is the principal factor in the crime rate.

"Single parents would exert an enormous impact up on the lives of children. Different studies also showed that single women have no proper interaction with their children due to many other factors. Divorced females meet fewer maternity demand of their children, communicate less well with their children, tend to be less affectionate and show marked inconsistency in discipline and lack of control over their children in comparison to intact families" (Weitzman, 1985) .

For divorced female, the change of residence is one of the major problems that they faced in post divorce period. Loss of former family home and changing the communities cause psychological and social trauma for them and their children and added greatly to the post-divorced adjustment difficulties. Change of residence may limit their interaction and make them feel loneliness in the middle of the huge crowd. Social interaction they used to be involved in may not to be readily accessible to them and their children in the new community. In their attempt to familiarize themselves to the new environment, these female and their children might face a number of

social problems. Some community may be resistance to accept new members thereby letting them feel loneliness, socially unacceptable and ignored (Oseki, 1991).

As Donovan (1992) indicated most females who head their families have much lower self-esteem, lower sense of effectiveness and less optimism about parenting. Many single females complain lack of free time, continually growing child care costs, loneliness and pressures associated with the dual demand of home and jobs are their main adjustment difficulties. According to Donovan two-parent families' households, provide increased supervision and guardianship not only for their own children but also for their household property. From these perspectives, the pressures of the peer groups and gang activities are not simply dependent on the child's family but also on the network of collective family control (Donovan, 1992:4).

According to Wolman (1977) the absence of a father during a boy's childhood has been linked with delinquency in both literate and non-literate societies. Mother's absence seems more critical than father's in delinquency in girls. More explanations have been offered for father absent - delinquency association: masculine protest against feminine domination, absence of masculine model, inadequate supervision and loss of family cohesion. The latter two explanations have also been applied to the development of delinquency in daughters in a parent absent home (Wolman, 1977).

There are disagreements about broken homes as a cause of delinquency. Some claim that broken homes are strong factor which cause delinquency, while others argue that its effect on juveniles to become delinquents is negligible. Others also argue that broken homes contribute for juveniles to become delinquents, but they say that, its effect is only for some types of delinquent acts and some particular groups of society. The summary of the study by Gibbons on 500 delinquents and 500 non-offenders indicated that 60.4 percent of the delinquents and 34.2 percent of non-

delinquents had lived in homes broken by separation, divorce, death or prolonged absence of fathers (Gibbons 1992:188).

Other researches argue that broken homes are only related to specific types of delinquent acts or behavior that is, related to status offenses like truancy and running away etc. They also believe that broken homes may affect more strongly juveniles of certain race or socio-economic status. Lemlem (1999) stated that, broken homes may have a greater effect on the delinquency of whites than blacks and adolescent from high income families than from low income families. Similarly she states that the effect of broken homes on delinquency varies directly with the neighborhoods socio-economic status, which is in low income and in deteriorated areas of the city, the effect of broken homes are outweighed by negative influence of ubiquitous poverty (Lemlem, 1999:15). Therefore, in whatever ways broken homes can contribute to delinquency as a result of problems following divorce, separation and widowhood that led to commit delinquent acts.

Other researches also indicated that, even though there is connection between loose family ties and juvenile delinquency, it does not mean that the negative consequence of broken homes on children is universal and uniform. Because women-headed families differ in their economic and social problems and the way they deal with these problems. What is an overwhelming crisis to one family may be manageable to another and depending on the experience and the kind of personalities presented in the families.

Concerning the relationship between broken home and delinquency Adargachew Tesfaye said the following: The broken home theory is now largely discredited both in physiological and sociological literature. "A broken home who does not involve parental discard does not lead to adult antisocial behavior." It is now generalized that the absence of one parent or another, while causing some inevitable imbalance in the structure cannot result in delinquency unless it is also asymptomatic and a result of some deeper emotional disturbance and rupture in the pattern of

normal family relationship. If this were not so, then almost every offspring of widowed or divorced would become delinquent, as in fact it does not happen (Adargachew, 1998: 233). Although the problem of juvenile delinquency is not universal to broken homes in the absence of fathers due to death or desertion, divorce or long separation may made the child suffering from inappropriate upbringing.

As the study by Adargachew Tesfaye on the relationship between delinquents and the broken homes indicated that the majority of the youth (in a cooperative study of delinquents in training centers and remand homes, school students, street boys and children living in hostels) came from disrupted families.

Therefore one can say that the social problem following family separation, widowhood or divorce would be juvenile delinquency. The table below also revealed this fact.

Table: Rate of family disruption in different groups of youth in Addis Ababa

<i>Family condition</i>	<i>School</i>		<i>Remand home</i>		<i>Street boys</i>		<i>Hostel</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Non-disrupted both parents living together	28	50	11	27	146	29	10	13
Disrupted both parents living apart	18	32	12	30	105	21	12	16
Only one parent living	9	16	14	35	180	30	39	52
Neither parents living	1	2	3	8	96	19	14	19
No answer	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Total	56	100	40	100	500	100	75	100

Source: Andargachew Tesfaye the crime problem and its correction, 1998

This study found that two-thirds of the juvenile delinquents committed to training center and remand homes in Addis Ababa came from broken homes. Therefore, broken homes are seen to be one of the main causes of delinquency in Ethiopia, especially in urban areas. If the father is missing from the family it is difficult for one of the parents to play the role of both fathers and

mothers at the same time. In this case socialization of children may be incomplete and they would become out of the control of parent and would become delinquent.

The other social problem besides the above mentioned problems is teenager's pregnancy. When we look at this problem the most reliable predictor is not income or race but family structure. As Nina J, Easton reported in Los Angeles Times (cited in UN international year of family occasional paper series (1994:18).

Fathers Grey Boyle of Dolores mission church in Los Angeles once listed the names of the first 100 gang members that come to mind and they jotted a family history next to each one. All but five were no longer living with their biological fathers if they had ever.

Therefore, the presence of two parents in a given family has various uses because of many reasons. As Wolman points out children with futures at home tend to be better at school and less prone to depression and in relationships. On the other hand Wolman found most children of single parent families are more likely to have learning disabilities, especially boys on average score reading and mathematics test problem, compared to children from two parent families. Besides this single parent children are twice as likely to dropout from school compared to two parent children. In fact children from low income two parent families outperformed in their studies from high income single homes (Wolman, 1977).

2.5.3. Social Attitudes towards Female Headed Households

The reaction of the community towards single females who had family alone is very significant, because it is the community who determines the status of the individual in the community. Since status is socially contracted, the degree of esteem or disesteem which people in the society display towards individual person effect negatively or positively the life of individual. For instance, divorce still not receives the approval of most societies of the world for it still represents failure in a highly valuable relationship (Aschalew, 1999).

When we look at the attitude of the society towards female-headed families in particular, there is a great deal of contradiction in Ethiopia. A married female is called the “lady of house” and one proverb states that a house without a woman can never be warm, comfortable and happiest. On the other and many proverbs such as “mules and women will betray” are strongly derogative to female (Fellow 1993; 10). Females’ attachments to men through marriage are taken as a source of status in most Ethiopian communities.

In addition to this, the children of female-headed families who are in lower social status face many constraints for effectively solving the social problems. Therefore, as work typically influence our class position in the society and shapes key components of our identity. These social problems will have a negative impact on the position of most female-headed families in the society in which we live.

2.6. Poverty and Privation of Female Headed Households and their Children

From the 1970s onwards ‘the existence and vulnerability of female-headed households has alarmed researchers and advocates’ (Wennerholm, 2002:10). Links drawn between the mounting incidence of female household headship and a ‘feminization of poverty’, have not only led to the widespread portrayal of female-headed households as the ‘poorest of the poor’, but given rise to a situation where ‘...the feminization of poverty focuses on female-headed households as an expression of that same feminization of poverty’ (Davids and van Driel, 2001:162). As such, even though other patterns are connoted by the term, claims have sometimes been made that: ‘...the feminization of poverty is the process whereby poverty becomes more concentrated among individuals living in female-headed households’ (Asgary and Pagán, 2004:97).

Leading on from this, because lone mothers are often the biggest sub-group of female heads, and it is assumed that they are particularly vulnerable to poverty, their personal privations are

envisaged to impact upon children in both the short- and long-term. Because, allegedly, female heads cannot 'properly support their families or ensure their well-being' (Mehra et al, 2000:7), an 'inter-generational transmission of disadvantage' is assumed to produce an 'inter-generational poverty trap' whereby children's privations in respect of food, housing, education and so on lead to legacy of deficiency and underachievement which inhibits upward mobility in later life (Lewis, 1993:35; Momsen, 1991:26). As summarized by IFAD (2006) for rural Asia: 'Female poverty and workload is a factor in the transmission of poverty to the next generation'. The idea that 'poverty begins at home' when households are headed by women has become so entrenched that in some circles the 'culture of single motherhood' has been designated the 'new poverty paradigm' (Thomas, 1994, cited in Budowski et al, 2002:31).

Alongside concerns about the material welfare of children arising from the purported economic plight of female-headed households, are anxieties about their social, psychological and emotional wellbeing. Children growing up without fathers, whether because of death, divorce or separation, may experience feelings of trauma, sadness, rejection or insecurity. On top of this, given negative societal attitudes towards lone mother households as 'deviant' or 'inferior' to a two-parent 'norm', children may be pitied, taunted, socially-stigmatized and/or isolated (Chant, 2006b; Lewis, 1993; Safa, 1998; Shanthi, 1994). Children in lone mother households may also be deprived of much contact with either parent, not only because fathers are physically absent for much (if not all) of the time, but because mothers may have to work long hours in order to sustain their dependents singlehandedly.

This may lead to a lack of surveillance or discipline, giving rise to absenteeism or early drop-out from school, delinquency, and/or promiscuous sexual activity and parenthood (Safa, 1998). Leading on from this, another popular stereotype is that in order to cope with income and time

pressures on mothers, children in female-headed households may be forced to take on high burdens of labour within and outside the home. While young women may have to undertake housework and care of younger siblings (Monge and González, 2005: Chapter 4 on Costa Rica; Moser, 1992 on Ecuador), along with boys they may also have to contribute to household finances, despite the discipline that engaging in paid (and other) work may instill among young people (Chant and Jones, 2005; Jones, 2005), this may come at the cost of their education. It is also thought that fatherlessness has a particularly injurious effect on boys, depriving them of a ‘male role model’, which compromises their own ability to become ‘responsible husbands and fathers’ (Chant, 1997a:58-9).

2.7. Vulnerability of Female Headed Households

It is not difficult to see why negative stereotypes about households headed by women have become quasi-orthodoxies when there is not only ample qualitative but quantitative evidence that women are disadvantaged relative to men in all societies, albeit in different degrees and ways. As far as poverty is concerned, one of the main reasons why female-headed households, and especially lone mother units, are thought to be the ‘poorest of the poor’, is because they are deprived of one of the major routes through which access to income is achieved, namely a male ‘provider’.

As noted by Elson (1992:41):

‘The growth of female-headed households is no sign of emancipation from male power; in a society in which women as a gender are subordinate. The absence of a husband leaves most women worse-off. The core of gender subordination lies in the fact that most women are unable to mobilize adequate resources (both material and in terms of social identity), except through dependence on a man’.

In lacking an adult male ‘breadwinner’ lone mother units not only have to do without men’s earnings, but they may also be disadvantaged by higher dependency ratios than households

which comprise two working parents (Fuwa, 2000; IFAD, 1999; ILO, 1996; Safa and Antrobus, 1992:54). In addition, while legal stipulations pertaining to absent fathers are in place in many family codes, there is often scant enforcement of maintenance payments to wives. Those lone mothers may be forced into single-handed management of a multiplicity of tasks, including income-generation, housework and childcare, further compromises economic efficiency and wellbeing. On the one hand, female heads are conjectured to have less time and energy to perform the wide range of non-market work so essential to income conservation in poor neighborhoods, such as shopping around for the cheapest foodstuffs, or cutting costs by self-provisioning rather than purchasing market goods and services (see World Bank, 2003:8).

On the other hand, women's 'reproduction tax' (Palmer, 1992) impinges on economic productivity, with lone mothers often confined to part-time, flexible, and/or home-based occupations. This is compounded by women's disadvantage in respect of education and training, their lower average earnings, gender discrimination in the workplace, and the fact that social and labour policies rarely provide more than minimal support to parents (Dia, 2001; Elson, 1999; Finne, 2001; Kabeer, 2003). Female heads are much more commonly engaged in informal activity than their male counterparts, and usually in the lower tiers of the sector (Chant, 1991).

Since informal employment is not only poorer paid, but less regular, not to mention lacking in fringe benefits, social security coverage and pensions, the short- and long-term implications for female heads of household, and ipso facto, their children, are potentially serious.

Another important set of factors in the communication of women-headed households as 'poorest of the poor' is that state support for this group in most of the Global South has been fairly minimal to date. Moreover, where targeted initiatives to alleviate the poverty of female-headed households do exist, they have rarely made an appreciable difference to household incomes or

assets, partly because the disbursements are so small, and partly because isolated handouts mean little when overall structures of gender inequality remain intact (Bibars, 2001; Chant, 2006: Chapters 3 and 6). Indeed, in Costa Rica, where from the mid-1990s onwards female heads of household have been targeted in anti-poverty programmes, it seems paradoxical that this has not diminished the incidence of poverty and extreme poverty among female heads (Chant, 2006).

Just as it is often believed that women's general disadvantage maps directly onto (if not exacerbates) their situation as female household heads, so too is it automatically assumed that their offspring will be worse off. As noted previously, this not only extends to economic vulnerability. The belief that dual ('natural'/biological) parenthood offers the best prospects of social, moral and psychological well-being for children is deeply engrained in many cultures, and is unlikely to become unseated during an era in which concern and advocacy for children's rights are at an all time high (Chant, 2006, Jones, 2005).

2.8. Persistent Barriers to the Well-being in Female Headed Household

According to Hewitt and Leach (1993: v), lone parent households (especially those with young children), rarely 'compete on an equal playing field' with their two-parent counterparts. In having to cope with multiple responsibilities, for example, some women are inevitably forced into becoming 'time-poor', or in order to overcome gender bias in earnings and other productive assets, must 'self exploit' and take on a variety of income-generating activities as well as reproductive work (Delamonica et al, 2004:2; Fuwa, 2000:1517). This not only restricts time with children, but opportunities for personal rest and recreation, not to mention the active cultivation of links with kin, friends and neighbors and workmates which might enhance their access to 'positive social capital' such as mutual aid. This compounds the fact that the social networks of female heads are frequently diminished by lack of ties with ex-partners' relatives

(Willis, 1994), and because female heads may eschew seeking help from others because they feel unable to meet reciprocal demands (Chant, 1997:206). It has also been observed that female heads may be shunned by others in their communities, and/or 'self-censor' their own behavior by 'keeping themselves to themselves' in the face of anticipated or actual hostility or mistrust on the part of others (Chant, 1997; Lewis, 1993).

The marginalization of female-headed households, and particularly lone mothers, results from the belief that they signal family disorganization and a breakdown of family values, and contribute to rising rates of divorce, juvenile delinquency and crime (Chant, 1999, 2002; Safa, 1998: 203). In turn, negative social attitudes towards female-headed households, which can restrict women's ability to exercise preferences to ensure children's welfare, whether because they act as a brake on the formation of female-headed households in the first place, or circumscribe the options, open to them once in this situation. For example, just as lone mothers may face discrimination in the labor market, in contexts in which title and inheritance are male-biased they might also encounter barriers to land or property ownership.

This can set up a vicious circle of privation. When female heads are unable to buy land and housing, and have no option but to rent or share accommodation, this may restrict the range of informal domestic-based income-generating activities they are commonly forced to engage in due to lack of formal employment opportunities and/or help with childcare (Chant, 1996: Chapter 3; Kabeer, 2003:198). Indeed, even rental accommodation might be hard to obtain or hold onto in the face of aspersions about the sexual exposure of women without a male 'guardian' (Vera-Sanso, 2006 on southern India).

Deficits in 'decent' or well-paid work, coupled with lack of assets, moral prejudice on the part of the wider society, and social isolation can clearly add up to negative impacts on offspring, with

some children of lone mothers having limited contact with other adults or peers who might provide additional stimulation, recreational opportunities, emotional support or economic assistance. As far as teenage daughters are concerned, the economic and social marginalization of lone mothers can dampen their marital prospects as noted by Lewis, 1993 for Bangladesh, or attract the ‘wrong’ kind of attention from the opposite sex.

In Mexico, for example, daughters whose mothers are unmarried or separated are often more vulnerable to predatory sexual advances from men seeking to exploit a situation in which girls have no fathers to ‘defend’ them, or because it is imagined that they will be more promiscuous due to lack of surveillance or discipline (Chant, 1999). Even if mothers are often excessively protective of daughters as a result, the sexual reputation of these young women usually comes in for greater speculation than their counterparts in male-headed units. Disquiet about female-headed households among public organizations is also apparent even where countries have launched targeted initiatives to assist them as in the case of Costa Rica.

2.9. The Feminization of Poverty

“At the present time, we are experiencing a phenomenon known as the “feminization of poverty”, which has been accentuated, amongst other things, by the increase in separation and divorce. Added to the tradition of leaving responsibilities for children to the mother, this situation has given rise to an increasing incidence of lone parent families headed by women whose vulnerability, for all their members, is elevated” Chant (2003, p. 2).

As such, even though other patterns are connoted by the term, claims have sometimes been made that: ‘...the feminization of poverty is the process whereby poverty becomes more concentrated among individuals living in female-headed households’ (Asgary and Pagán, 2004:97).

Feminization of poverty is commonly characterized

- *Women experience a higher incidence of poverty than men.*
- *Women experience greater depth/severity of poverty than men do (i.e. more women are likely to suffer ‘extreme’ poverty than men are).*
- *Women are prone to suffer more persistent/longer-term poverty than men.*

- *Women's disproportionate burden of poverty is rising relative to men.*
- *Women face more barriers to lifting themselves out of poverty.*
- *The 'feminization of poverty' is linked with the 'feminization of household headship'.*
- *Women-headed households are the 'poorest of the poor'.*
- *Female household headship transmits poverty to children ('inter-generational transmission of disadvantage') Baden (1999); Cagatay (1998); Chant (1997b, 2003a,b); Wennerholm (2002)*

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3. Introduction

This chapter describes the research study design and process, the data collection methods and the data analysis techniques. Research designs are procedures for collecting, analyzing, and reporting research in quantitative and qualitative research (Creswell, 2012). The research uses triangulation that combines both qualitative and quantitative methods to achieve research objectives. According to Creswell, research methodology refers to the procedural framework within which the research is conducted. Hence, it refers not only to the research methods but also consider the logic behind the methods the researcher uses.

Generally, in collection of primary and secondary data, this study employed a mixed approach with the central premises of quantitative as major and qualitative approach in combination provide a better understanding of the research problems. Qualitative research used as a supplementary for quantitative one.

The study conducted through both quantitative and qualitative method using cross sectional study design, in which data were collected at one point in time from the samples of the study.

The reason to use quantitative method to ensure high level of reliability of data gathered. The qualitative method helps to obtained more in depth information about the social problems of female headed families.

The data are **primary and secondary sources**. **Primary data sources** incorporates data gathered by using questionnaires (open-ended and closed types), interview, observation and focus group discussion from 70 women heads of households in Gulele Sub city District 01.

Secondary data sources: Comprises data gathered from literatures including books, scientific journals and documents, legal documents, proceedings etc

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Addis Ababa as a seat of government has helped the city to undergo various alteration .We Ethiopian has helped the city to undergo various alteration when Ethiopian has embarked up on a federal structure with proclamation No1/1992 .Addis Ababa is recognized as a region 14 Administration has changed into the Addis Abeba city administration with proclamation No.52/1992.In 2003 the administrative structure of Addis Abeba revised and the city is divided into 10 Sub Cities which are further sub divided in to 99 District.

Gulele Sub City is one of the ten Sub Cities which is found at the north part of Addis Ababa. The Sub city has ten Districts, namely, District 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 08, 09, 11, 17 and 23.

In Addis Ababa, Gullele Sub City widely communicable language is Amharic. Most of the populations follow different religions, the most dominant ones being Orthodox, Muslim and also others.



3.2 Universe of the Study

Universe of the study comprised of 14,231 women headed household of district 01,Gullele sub city of Addis Ababa City Administration

3.3. Sampling and Sampling Technique

According to the 2007 Ethiopian population census, 88,890 residents are living in selected of 01 District in Gullele Sub City . Among these, 44,890 (50.5%) are women, which are higher than half of the society. Among the total number of women, 14,231 (31%) are women headed families (Gullele sub city health extension office, 2015).

In the study, the researcher employed random sampling techniques so as to select the samples of the study from homogenous population, because this study focused on women headed family (homogenous groups) .

The sample size for the female-headed households was calculated from a homogenous finite population of **14,231** female headed households residing in Gulele Sub City, District 01 based on **Yamane's simplified formula (1967:886)** of determining sample size in 95% confidence level and level of precision $P = 0.5$ as:

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

Where:

- *n = the sample size,*
- *N = the size of the population,*
- *e = the error of 0.5 percentage point.*

Hence, by using Yamane's formula (1967) for determining sample size from a homogenous finite population with an error of 0.5% and with a confidence level of 95% and for **+/-10(0.1)** sample size precision, the sample size is calculated and determined as:

$$n = \frac{14,231}{1 + 14,231(0.1)^2} = \frac{14,231}{1 + 142} = \frac{14,231}{143} = 99.5 \approx 100 \text{ Female house Households}$$

Therefore, the sample selected for the study is 100 female headed households. However, as the population is **homogeneous** and the data obtained from each sample will be similar, it is found to be appropriate to limit the sample size. Therefore, 70 selected female households from one district of Gullele Sub City is enough to obtain appropriate data for the research.

3.4. Tools for Data Collection

This research used different methods to collect the data to make the data more objective. There are primary and secondary data sources to carry out the study in efficient and effective manner. Primary data gathered through questionnaire, interview, focus group discussion, and observation.

3.4.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaire is the question to obtain information from a large number of respondents, whereas the interview collected to gather information from both closed and open ended questions in order to get appropriate information.

Closed form of questionnaire is used when categorized data are required. Open-ended form of questionnaire prepared to give free chance for the respondents to express their feeling and spontaneous expression.

3.4.2 Interview Guide

I interviewed Gullele Sub City District 01 Women and children affairs office officials, Women Can Do nongovernmental organization, Addis Ababa administration Gullele Sub City women affairs training center experts and the Former Wood Carrier Women Association President to get additional information and general idea.

3.4.3 Observation Guide

In this research paper I used observation participation to understand and assured what I communicated in interview.

I observed 5 participant's .Before I communicated with them I select different five sites and we determined the time after we understand each other. In the observation period, I express myself for them and told them the purpose of my coming.

I observed children relationship with their mother, I observed how communicated with their neighbor in the process of communication, I observed educational documents, children personality and the other related things .In each observation took 20 for each women headed family.

3.4.4 Focus Group Discussion Guide:

In this study, Focus group discussion running with women headed family which found Guell Sub City District 01 ,it helps to get clear information from the source and the fact has seen clearly and is collected through a semi-structured group interview process.

3.5. Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected from the respondent organized and statistical computation made to find actual existing problem of female headed family in Gulele sub city district 01.

Hence, the data tabulated and frequency distribution and percentages used. Finally the result interpreted whose finding lead to conclusion and suggestion.

3.6. Ethical Considerations

In this study, the following ethical issues considered during the whole conduct of research processes. In the beginning proper consent and confidence must be obtained from the subjects of the study i.e., women heads of households who are living in Gullel Sub City District 01.

In consequence, the researcher also informed for the entire selected group for collected date about the purpose and the objective of the study and refrain from deceptive practices, giving false responses or pretentious answers, which misled to wrong finding of the research.

After that the researcher approved questionnaires and other instruments and finally confidentiality of the respondents respected by avoiding names and other personal identifications. The researcher notified the respondents that no matter what kind of response they give, it kept confidential, anonymous and respected. This is because the selected group is more victimized in their life so they could refuse to cooperate or give necessary information based on the questionnaire.

Finally, all literature sources used in the literature review primary resource acknowledge

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondent

The study wants to identify the respondent's demographic characteristics to investigate if these variables have any impact upon the adjustment of women headed households or not. To this effect, ages, educational level of the respondents were examined as to know the general back ground of the respondents..

Table 1.Age of the Respondents

Age	No.	%
0-18	-	-
19-40	37	52.8
41-50	21	30
Above 51	12	16.2
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

The above table 1 shows that out of 70 respondents 37 (52.8%) were in the age range of 19-40 years. The second largest group belonged to the age range of 41-50 which constituted about 21 (30%) while about 12 (16.2%) were in the age group of 51 and above. This shows that the majority of the study was found in productive age and can perform if the chance is given to them to come out of poverty. Hence, if it is possible to change on there is governmental , non governmental and women focused association if support this age group, they can make themselves productive and self-supportive .

Table 2. Sex respondents

Sex	No.	%
Female	70	100
Male	-----	----
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

Table 2 above shows that 70(100%) respondents were women. Hence this table shows that the entire issue of the study is based on women..

Table 3.Educational Background of The respondents

Educational level	No.	%
Illiterate	45	64.2
Literate	25	35.7
If you are literate, indicate the level		
Primary	13	52
Secondary	8	32
College	4	16
Other	-	-
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

The data in Table 3 above, shows that the majority of the respondents, 45 (64.2%) were illiterate, 25 (35.7%) were literate. The majority of the literate respondents who have primary level of education were 13 (52%). Respondents who have secondary level of education are 8 (32%). There were only 4 (16%) who have had college education. The women included in this study were deprived of professional job because of lack of marketable education level. This would be further aggravating the problem of the subjects by decreasing earning capacities and making them incompetent in job markets.

According to the interview and focused group discussion most of the women who headed their home alone replied and discussed that their family background was a push factor for further education. Some of the women who came from rural area lack education access and they are illiterate, the condition was hard for them to be skilled in some professional job. Thought most of them pushed their life by working small income generation business.

More over the discussion reflected that some of the women also came from divorce and widowed family drop out of school were from low income family.

Table 4. Religion of the respondents

Religion	No.	%
Orthodox	27	38.5
Muslim	15	21.4
Catholic	7	10
Protestant	17	24.3
Others	4	5.7
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

As shown in Table 4 above, 27 (38.5%) of respondents were Orthodox, while 15 (21.4%) were Muslims. There were 7 (10%) Catholic religion followers. Of the total sample population 17 (24.3%) are from protestant religion and 4 (5.7%) are others. This study shows that in all religion women headed family faced social problem similarly and the table to shows the respondents were from all kinds of religious.

Table 5 Marital Status Of The respondents

Marital status	No	%
Never married	9	12.8
Divorced	22	31.4
Widowed	26	37.1
Separated	13	18.6
	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

The above table- 5 data shows that the majority of the total sample population were widowed 26 (37.1%), followed by divorced 22 (31.4%) with different reason from their husband, as table 5 shown 9 (12.8%) were never married and gave birth without marriage, and the remaining 13 (18.6%) of the respondents were separated from their husband. This shows that all the causes have contributed to increase the number of women-headed families in various ways.

Table 6.Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	No	%
Small business	12	17.1
Daily laborer	24	34.3
Servant for other household	18	25.7
Governmental organization	10	14.3
Non-governmental organization	6	8.6
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data ,2016

Regarding the occupation of the respondents this study revealed that the majority 24 (34.3%) of the respondents were daily laborers. There were 18 (25.7%) respondents who were serving others household 12 (17.1%) of the respondents run small businesses (selling charcoal, potato, onion and Tella), while only 10 (14.3%) were employed in governmental organizations and 6 (8.6%) respondents were employed in non-governmental organizations. This shows that most of the subjects are engaged in low income occupations because their education level is low and could compete with others.

Table 7.Respondents' Children

Number of children	No	%
1-3	30	42.9
4-6	20	28.6
7-9	13	18.6
Above 9	7	10
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

Table 7 above shows that 30 (42.9%) of the respondents out of total sample have 1-3 children, 20 (28.6 %) respondents have 4-6 children, and 13 (18.6%) of the respondents have 7-9 children and 7 (10%) of the respondents have more than 9 children. The data in this study show that the majority of the respondents have small number of children which could be associated with their

single status and lower income. According to the focused group discussion and interview almost 3/4th of the respondent's children were not productive group because they are not capable of support beyond themselves. Side to side 1/4th of the respondent's children are not supported their families to elevate them from poverty even though they generate income because haven't extra money gave to tier parents to up lift from poverty.

4.2 Social Problem of Women-Headed Families

4.2.1 Problem of Social Relationship

Table 8. Women Headed Family

Years	No.	%
1-5	23	35.7
6-10	20	28.5
11-15	17	24.3
Above 15	8	11.4
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

Table 8 above shows that 23 (35.7%) of the total sample respondents of women headed their family alone for a period of one up to five years. The respondents of 20 (28.5%) out of the total sample population headed their family alone from six up to ten years. 17 (24.3%) of the total sample population headed their family alone from eleven to fifteen years, while 8 (11.4%) of the total respondents have headed their family alone above 15 years.

It's possible to confirm that the majority of the women have headed their family for short period of time. This show that due to social problem, their low income earning capacity and other problems, the women have forced to marry and remarry.

Table 9:Kind of Relationship With Neighbors

Options	No	%
Positive (good) relationship	21	30
Negative(bad) relationship	31	44.3
No relationship	18	11.4
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

As shown table 9 above, from the total sample population 21 (30%) of the respondents have good relationship with their neighbors, while 31 (44.3%) of the respondents have negative relationships with their neighbors 18 (11.4%) of the respondents have no relationships with their neighbors. This shows that the majority of the respondents have negative or bad relationship with their neighbors. And this also indicates that women headed families have social relationship problems.

According to the observation, focus group discussion and the interview revealed that the majority of the respondents have negative (bad) relationship with their neighbor. Because the women who have husband assume that women who have no husband, may take or cheat their husband. Due to this, both women have always confront with each other. On the other side the society also assumes those women who have no husband may have sexual contact with multi partner's men. Traditionally, women who have sexual contact with many men have less respect, and no positive attitude towards women who head families alone. But some of the respondents have good relationship with their neighbors. In this case the neighbors of women headed families misunderstand the personal behavior of women headed families.

In other view, the society beliefs that the women headed families is not strong economically and psychologically as men headed family ,so the consideration of men headed families they are

dependent one in the mentioned aspects, because this they never gave equal attention as the other or have negative outlook on them

In general most of the interview respondent, focused group discussion and the observation of the researcher reflected that the society have negative (bad) outlook on the society to the women headed families.

Women who head families treat each other favorably and the women headed families who have a little bit good relationship have an inclination for conflict which show women headed families have negative relationship with their neighbors. Because of this 18(11%)of the respondent created relationship with similar group of neighbor rather the women are living with their husband .

Table 10;Participation of Equally with Men in Social Affairs

Option	Response	No	%
Do you equally participate?	Yes	20	28.7
	No	50	71.4
Total		70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

Table 10 shows that 50 (71.4%) of the respondents have not equally participated in the social affairs, while 20 (28.7%) of the respondents have equally participated in the social affairs. Accordingly, the majority of the interview respondents have said no equal participation in the social affairs, because of their negative relationship with their neighbors, which have an effect up on their participation in the social affairs.

4.2.1 Problem of Society's Attitude

Table 11. Table Society give Equal attention/Status for the Children

Option	Response	No	%
Do your children have equal status?	Yes	10	14.3
	No	60	85.7
Total		70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

Table 11 above, shows that 10 (14.3%) of the respondents believe that their children have given equal attention when they lead alone. The majority of the respondents 60 (85.7%) do not believe that their children were given equal attention when they lead alone.

When we look at the attitude of the society towards women headed families there are a great deal of contradiction, the importance of women's attachment to men through marriage is taken as a source of status in the study area. Their status is also related to their economic well being. As the interviews show that women who have husband are faring well economically and the women who have no husband are not economically satisfied. Due to this reason, the society respects the women who have husband than the women who have no husband. And there is difference on women's who have husband and after they loss their husband at the earlier time the society respect that women, but currently the society give lower status for women-headed families.

In addition the interviewees also revealed that children of women headed families are poorly accepted by the society. The society give inferior position to the children of women headed families by giving a nick name "yeset lij" and that affected the children psychologically. In this society "yeset lij" refers to children who have bad behavior and not know the rule of society or rude. Thus the attitude of the society towards children's of women headed families and the children who have father are different, where the latter have higher status in the society.

4.2.3 Impacts on Upbringing and Socialization of Children

12.Social Impact in upbringing of children that Affect their Socialization

Option	Response	Number
Have you seen social impact on the upbringing of children?	Yes	60
	No	10
Total		70
Option	Response	Number
Does it affect the children in their social relation	Yes	46
	No	24
		70

Source Own survey data ,2016

Table 12 above shows that 60 (85.7%) of the respondents have seen the society dominated in every situation in the upbringing of children. Related to this 46(65.7%) of the respondents reflects that they have seen the society affect the children in their social relation. And 10(14.3%) respondent do not have seen any impact on the upbringing of the children. In related to this 24(34.2%) of the respondent reflected the society doesn't affect the children in their social relation .Thus, the impact of the society in the upbringing of children have seen widely comparing to the respondents who were doesn't affect the children in their social relation..

According to interviewer and focused group discussion the society outlook towards the women headed household on the upbringing of children are the society domination have impact on children in their social relation i.e. the children develop complex behavior, arrogant in the self interaction not polite for the society and not easily understand what the society says that defined or tackling the inner problem that accumulated through time that compare with the children who are living with both parents.

4.2.4 Impact on Children Behavior

Table 13.Children's Behavior and Educational Performance

Children behavior	No	%
The same with when father was present	20	28.5
Not good after father absent	35	50
Grow good behavior	15	21.4
Total	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

On the table 13 above shows that out of the total sample population, 20 (28.5%) of the respondents examined reported that their children show the same behavior as when their father was present while 35 (50%) of the mothers responded that their children's behavior was not good after their fathers' absence. Only 15 (21%) of the respondents mothers' believe that their children show good behavior when they live with their mother. In this study, the majority of the respondents' children behaviors are not good when they live with their mother.

More over according to the group focused discussion and interviewee most of the women-headed families are loaded by work and no time to manage their children and the children do what they want. Due to this reason the children adopt unnecessary habits like gambling, drop out children from out of school, become teen parents, frequently used drugs and alcohol, high-risk sexual behavior, more likely to participate in violent crime ,theft and etc.

But some of the children's of women-headed families have not shown behavioral changes after their fathers' absence. Even if their mothers' have no time to manage their behavior, the children spent their time by going to religious institutions. In this case religious institutions are important for children socialization. Some of the children of women-headed families have no behavioral change after their fathers' absence. This study shows that the majority of the children of women-headed families show a behavioral change. This indicates that women-headed families have a behavior impact up on their children.

Generally most of the respondents, group discussion and interviewed said, most of the children not effectively follow their parents regulate as when their fathers' live with them. They think how to get money from different sources to alleviate their low income.

4.3 Economic Situation

Table 14. The earning Money Per Month and Influencing on the social Relation

Item	With husband		Without husband	
	No	%	No	%
Monthly income (in birr)				
Less than 300	-	-	-	-
301-500	23	35.7	43	61.4
501-1000	30	52.9	21	30
1000+	17	11.4	6	8.57
Total	70	100	70	100

Source Own survey data, 2016

The data in Table 14 above, shows that all the respondents who were living with their husbands and living without husbands are not getting less than 300 birr monthly income. 23 (35.7%) of women who live with their husbands and 43 (61.6%) of women who live without husbands were gaining income that ranged between 301-500 birr, respectively. 30 (52.9%) of the respondents had been earning a monthly income of 501-1000 in the presence of husbands in the household. But after the absence of husbands there were 21 (30%) households that earned 501-1000 birr per month.

The table also revealed that 17 (11.4%) households had been gaining a monthly income of above 1000 birr per month when their husbands were with them in the house. But after the departure or death of husband only 6 (8.57%) of female headed households get above 1000 birr.

This shows that husbands of the currently female-headed household were the main source of income and their husbands' absence from household mean reduction in the income gained in the household which might lead to the low level of living.

This also indicated that children are forced to drop out of schools. Because the mothers alone are incapable to fulfill the facilities which are important for appropriate learning.

In addition to the economic problems, most children have good educational achievement when they live with their father, because they supporting morally and economically by their father. Most of the respondents' children are respecting their father than their mother. Due to these when the father ordered to study, the children directly started to study. Even when the children got a less mark from the exam they prefer to tell to their mother rather than their father. This shows that the children who grew up in women-headed families have less educational performance.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGESSTIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Over all as we note on interview, focused group discussion, observation and from the collecting questioner of the research socio-economy problem were in the first place among all the problem of female headed house hold of the Sub City District 01.

The study revealed that 64.2% of women headed household are illiterate and never attend any type of formal or informal education. Even from 35.8% literate female headed House holds 52% attained primary education. Taking this in to account the majority of the literate women headed household included in this study were deprived of professional job due to lack of competent education level.

Regarding the occupation majority of the female headed respondents in Gullel Sub City District 01 are engaged on daily labor, serving others house and run small business, hence they lose self confidence and exposed to economic problem. In addition lack of sufficient financial capacity, make their children do not have access to most of the formal and informal learning. And also those engaged in school are forced to drop out because their mothers are incapable to fulfill the facilities which are important for appropriate learning.

Due to the negative outlook of the society many factors affected relation of women headed families with others, among these factors, lack of money is the major one. Hence due to this fact some of women headed family limit their contact with former friend and prevent to participate in formally shared activity. In addition the family who are living in pair avoid the women who has no husband but with sexual advance, by suspecting contact with their husband. So their relation gradually becomes loose. Moreover, the society beliefs that the women headed families are not

strong economically, morally and psychologically as men headed family ,so men headed families never gave equal attention as the others and have negative outlook on them.

The women headed families faced many problems when reared their children most of the women-headed families are loaded by work and has no time to manage their children and their children do what they want. Due to this reason the children adopt unnecessary habits like gambling, drop out of school, become teen parents, frequently abuse drugs and alcohol, conflict with their parent, high-risk sexual behavior, more likely to participate in violent crime, theft and etc. compared to the children who have father.

Generally the study shows that the majority of the children of women-headed families demonstrate a behavioral change. This indicates that women-headed families have a behavior impact up on their children. Accordingly, the study show that the society outlook towards the women headed household on the upbringing of children is society domination. It have impact on children in their social relation i.e. the children develop complex behavior, arrogant in the self interaction not polite for the society and not easily understand what the society says that defined or tackling the inner problem that accumulated through time that compare with the children who are living with both parents.

Generally, Female-headed households of District 01 faced social problems such as stigmatization, disrespect and maltreatment both on themselves and their children

5.2 Suggestions

The findings of this study show that many of the female-headed families in Gulele sub city district 01 are suffering from social and economic problems. Despite the increasing concern for solving the social problem and economic empowerment of women as the government policy, it still needs practical steps forward from all nongovernmental, women focused group and governmental women focused group like Addis Ababa City Administration Women's, and Children Affair Bureau and the line of Sub City and District office moreover Labor and Social Affairs Ministry. In light of this the following suggestion are forwarded:

- ✓ Majority of women-headed families are living in poverty and unable to meet their basic needs where the national, regional and local poverty reduction strategies should give special attention to women in general, and to female-headed families in particular.
- ✓ Local none governmental organization and District Administration should organize women (female-headed families) in micro and small-scale enterprises and provide them with market place, entrepreneur skill as well as better access to credit to up grad themselves with economy .
- ✓ Many of the female-headed families, compared with meal headed families were found to be relying on low paying and couldn't meet their basic needs, with their income sources such as daily labor, domestic work and other informal activity to make their living. Local non government organization should therefore facilitate the way that women headed families could get access to more secured income source.
- ✓ In the study finding the majority of the female heads are found to be illiterate, so the district administration is making plan to run adult education the reason of encourage and motivate illiterate female heads particularly the young one. In

addition the governmental and nongovernmental women assisting group or office with Collaboration to arrange the capacity building training for vulnerable group to capacitate themselves with morally and psychologically appropriate intervention together with assisting such program.

- ✓ The Sub City Administration education office collaborated with the schools leaders to facilitate discussion with students who have not supported by father in their home and search their problems to find the solution.
- ✓ Regarding the society outlook, women focused group creating awareness event for the community to support the children who have not father in their home and trying to give equal attention for them.
- ✓ District Administration, nongovernmental women focused group and Women's, and Children Affair Bureau to create discussion events and learn about gender equality in order to change the attitude of society regarding women who have not spouse in their home in addition to treat and as much as possible finding solution for their problem.

As a result, the women headed family on up lift themselves from poverty and overcome their problems by different governmental, women focused organization and women focused nongovernmental organization.

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ANNEXES

**ST. MARY'S UNIVEERSITY
INDRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Questionnaire

I am doing a thesis research to fulfill the requirement for MSW . This questionnaire is prepared to gather information among the selected female-headed families in Gulele Sub City District 01, on the social problem of female-headed families.

Instruction: You are kindly requested to provide information that is highly valued for this academic study, please answer each item to the best of your knowledge.

Answer the question listed by making describing is asked, no need to write your name. Your honesty and genuine answers are of high value.

- Do not write your name
- Indicate your response in the space by marking
- Write additional comment and suggestion on the given space

1. **Age** 0-18 19-40 41-50 Above 50
2. **Sex** male Female
3. Your educational background
A. literate B. illiterate
4. If your answer is "A" indicate your educational level
Primary secondary college others
5. **Religion**
Orthodox Muslim Protestant Catholic Others
6. **Your marital status**
Never married divorced widowed separate
Other
7. **What is your occupation?**
Small business daily laborer domestic worker
Governmental organization NGO
8. **How many children do you have?**
1-3 4-6 7-9 above 9
9. **How long did you head your family alone?**
1-5 years 6-10 years 11-15 years above 15
10. **What kind of relation do you have with your neighbor?**

Positive relation Negative relationship No relation ship

11. Do you participate equally with men in social affairs?

Yes No

12. If your answerer is "no" explain your answer

13. Does society give equal attention status to your children when you head alone?

Yes No

14 . If your answer is no explain this reason

15 Have you seen social impact in upbringing of children that affect social relation?

16. Generally what behavior did you observe from your children when you head alone?

17 What is the educational performance of your children when you head alone?

18 How much money do you earn per month and how much influence has the monthly income of female-headed household in the social relation?

Less than 300 301-500 501-1000 above 1000

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Interview Guide

This is government officials, women association leaders, NGOs functionaries /general Questions/

Interview Guide	Interview schedule
<p>I. General back ground ? A what is your age ? B. what is your educational back ground? C. , What is your occupation? D. How many times headed your family alone e. What are challenge you faced when you headed alone</p>	<p>First day:-Morning 3:00 -----5:00</p>
<p>II. Regarding with children upbringing of children . A. Do you think that the society give you of attention for your children as compared with other children who are headed by both parents? B. Is there any difference in the fulfillment of the basic need of your children when you head alone? C. Is there any difference of the children behavior when you head alone and when your husband was present or compared with the children who are living with both parent?</p>	<p>Consequence day :-Afternoon 9:00-10:25</p>
<p>III Regardin g with societal relation? A. What looks like the society attention on you activity or interaction B. How you define the society outlook on your interaction social movement or your friendly relation</p>	

THANK YOU!!!

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Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion guide for women headed family

Name of the Center Gulle sub city Health extension office Woreda 01

1. Tell me general back ground of your family status?
2. What do you understand about your children after you have departure from your husband?
and the society outlook on the
3. What is the society outlook when you headed your home alone?
4. What look like the society social relation with women headed family?
5. Have you seen impact within the society the society when on raring your children? If Your
answer yes, tell me what kind of it was ?

THANK YOU!!!

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Observation Check listName of the Woreda **Guelle**District **01**Number of Respondent **70**

No	Item	Yes	No	Status	Remark
1	<u>Regarding tier children</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children ethical condition • Children personality • Children educational material • Educational ducukent 				
2	<u>Regarding society outlook</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship with neighbor • Relationship with friends 				
3	<u>Regarding Economical problem</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of food • Their wear • Sleeping material • 				

THANK YOU!!!