Indira Gandhi National Open University
School of Social Work

Children on the Move:
The Hardships of Migrant and Trafficked Children of Gamo Highlands in the Transit and Destination Town of Arba Minch

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Proposal for MSW Research

Children on the Move:
The Hardships of Migrant and Trafficked Children from the Highlands of Gamo of South West Ethiopia

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Master of Social Work
MSWP- 001

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Across the world millions of children are on the move, both within and between countries, with or without their parents. They are part of large-scale population movements currently taking place in many parts of the world. This trend is set to continue over the next few decades, driven by economic developments, violent conflict, state failure, natural disasters, and environmental and resource pressures, especially climate change. Yet, despite the numbers of children involved, the needs and interests of children on the move are largely absent from mainstream debates on both child protection and migration. As a result, most governments and international institutions have failed to develop effective policy responses to help these vulnerable children. (SCUK, 2008)

Mass migration and displacement are on the increase driven by poverty, conflict, failing states, natural disasters and climate change. Many of these are children. Some move with their families, others move independently. Other children are trafficked for their labour or to be sexually exploited. It is estimated that 42% of people crossing the Cambodia-Thailand border are children, while 20% of the estimated 1.5 Burmese migrants in Thailand are under 18 years old. In some countries, patterns of child movement are well established and culturally accepted. *In Tanzania 23% of households have male children and 17% female children who have migrated elsewhere. (Ibid, 2008)*

For many children and families movement promises jobs, schools and a better standard of living. The United Nations Human Development Report 2009 shows that most families, who migrate, both internally and internationally, reap significant gains by moving in income, access to education and health and improved prospects for their children.

But for children, especially those who move independently from their families, movement can be a dangerous and risky experience, which can leave them vulnerable to physical violence,

theft, exploitation, coercion, deception, and isolation at every stage of their journey. (GMC, 2010)

Addressing the needs and problems faced by these children is a serious challenge. In recent years, a global action on children's movement has mainly focused on trafficked children. While extremely important, the exclusive focus on the crime of child trafficking has concealed the reality of how many children are moving across the world and why. The exclusive focus on the crime of child trafficking and the limited and ineffective responses has disguised the truth at stake. (Ibid, 2010)

The trafficking of children and women within Ethiopia is a growing problem even though there are not comprehensive and precise data on the phenomenon. The International Office of Migration estimates that at least 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking in Ethiopia every year. Children and women between the ages of 8 and 24 years are the most vulnerable to such abuse and exploitation and the violence associated with them. Research also indicates that over a quarter of nearly 50,000 women and children involved in prostitution are victims of trafficking. (unicef, 2012)

The Gamo high land, a place in Gamo Gofa Zone, SNNPR, is one of the area in which large numbers of children are moving to the nearby towns and other places of destination due to a multiple of reasons. Unaccompanied move by children is the most serious problem of Gamo Gofa Zone. In most rural primary schools of the zone particularly in the highlands the dropout is increasing in alarming rate due to high number of child migration despite the efforts of access to primary education by the government.

Children from the highlands particularly from the districts of Daramalo, Bonke, Kamba, and Arba Minch Zurea are moving to the nearby towns such as Arba Minch, Gumaide (segen), wolyta sodo and other destinations in order to have access to employment and better livelihood opportunities. But the majority of the moves in which children practicing are unaccompanied.

In the course of this unaccompanied move and even in the destinations migrant children are exposed to trafficking and different forms of abuse and exploitation which adversely affect the life of children and the normal functioning of the society both in the source and destination.

Therefore, this paper aimed at identifying and examining the practical push factors, hotspot areas, routes and directions for the move as well as factors that threaten the life of children after leaving their home. Besides, the study will fill the gap of having data on migrant and trafficked children from the highlands of Gamo area.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Child migration occurs all over the world and each region has its own particular patterns and context. In Eastern and Southern Africa, children on the move are becoming a growing concern. On average, around 2,500 children from Zimbabwe are deported from South Africa every month, and children also make up a significant number of the approximately 7,000 Mozambicans deported from there. At the same time, children from the Horn of Africa countries Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia are moving to the Arabian Peninsula to take up poorly paid jobs, while many children from Madagascar and Comoros end up in the Middle East as domestic servants. (unicef, 2013)

Migration has generally been seen from an economic perspective, focusing on labour migration, demand and supply. However, children's migration is more complex, with a variety of reasons for migration that are often different from those of adults. And children's migration poses different problems. (Save the children, 2008)

When children decide to migrate unaccompanied, it is commonly marked by movement from rural communities to urban areas because cities are seen as cosmopolitan and flush with opportunity. Because of this idealized vision, unaccompanied child migrants tend to relocate to the city without first securing a job. The lack of preparation and dependable income exacerbate the risks already inherent to migration, and it is a common occurrence that these children end up being exploited for their labour. (IOM, 2013)

Children migrate for a myriad of reasons. These reasons might be seen from five main groups of reasons, as follows: economic push factors, education, gender and cultural reasons, personal push factors and emergencies. When children migrate without proper preparation, they are at risk of trafficking or 'disappearing' during the journey due to poor information sharing and feedback mechanisms between urban and rural authorities (ILO-IPEC, 2009).

Migrating children remain at risk even after reaching their points of destination. For children who migrate alone without a pre-arranged job, finding work or housing is extremely difficult. With few resources, many migrant children end up living in the streets. Even if migrant children do manage to find work at their points of destination, their lack of local connections, improper identity documentation and general state of vulnerability make it easy for employers to take advantage of them. Because of the lack of oversight by labour inspectors in the domestic and informal labour sectors, where many urban migrant child labourers are found, it is easy for employers to abuse their positions of authority. (IOM, 2013)

The phenomenon of child migration in Ethiopia is an issue related to trafficking in human beings. Ethiopian children and adults are trafficked internally for domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and other forms of forced labour including street vending, begging, traditional weaving, and agriculture. (PCI, 2010)

According to *U.S department of state; Country Reports- 2009- 2010,* Trafficking of children occurs in Ethiopia from Oromiya and SNNP to other regions for forced or bonded labor in domestic service. Children are also trafficked from rural to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, street vending, and manual labor. In addition, some children are trafficked to work in the weaving industry.

The issue of children moving from Gamo Gofa is not well recognized as the major threat for children in particular and the community in general. Even though research done in related issue is very few, their focus was only unidirectional in one district- chencha as a source and traditional weaving in Addis Ababa as an activity which demands the labor of trafficked children. In most cases the documents done in the area also give much emphasis for the role of

traffickers as the cause for child trafficking. But, in reality, the majority of children from the highlands are moving by their own will with different predetermined purposes. The destinations for migrant children from the Gamo highlands is not only to Addis as mentioned by studies in the past but other parts of the country especially the nearby towns still have the highest demand for labor of these children.

The major objective of undertaking this study is to have a clear picture on identifying hot spot areas, the directions and transits as well as destinations for the move. In addition, the study will investigate the hardships of life which children are challenging after leaving their home and community environment.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

General Objective

The overall objective of this study is to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo with particular focus on practical push factors, the route and destination of trafficking and the challenges they face while on the move.

Specific Objectives

- To assess and examine the factors that contribute children to leave their home;
- To identify and describe the sources, routs and transits as well as destinations for the move;

- To identify the challenges faced by children and describe the impacts of the phenomena on children

- Assess the overall services provided in protection of victim children

1.4 Universe of the Study

The Gamo highlands, the study area encompasses more than six districts which are considered as the very root for child migration and trafficking. In one of the transit and host town, Arba Minch, it is believed that more than 400 children who came from the highland districts of

Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke and Arba minch Zurea are living and working in the street and preparing themselves for further move. The population of the study would be all migrant children living in Arba Minch town.

1.5 Sample

The sample of this study would only incorporate children from districts of Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke and Arba Minch Zurea since the main objective of the study is to identify the causes, routes and directions as well as magnitude of the move among children of Gamo highlands. Therefore, the sample selection will be purposive.

The researcher will purposely select the sample study because of his prior experience of working in a project designed for the prevention of child trafficking in the area and on the other hand the areas are considered as inaccessible and underserved rural part so that to analyze the correlation of access to social services and decision for migration.

Out of the total migrant children in the town, a total of 60 children (15 children from each district) who are from Daramalo, Bonke, Kamba and Arba Minch Zurea districts will be part of the study.

In addition to that, 2 NGOs working on child protection in the area and concerned governmental actors like police, WCYA and social and labor affairs offices at zonal and district level would be respondents.

1.6 Tools for Data Collection

This study will relay on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary techniques of data collection which I will use include structured questionnaires, case studies, Focus Group Discussion and personal observation.

The questionnaires and case studies as a tool will help the researcher to obtain direct information from target children. Focus group Discussion will be employed in order to gather shared data among government and non government organization working on child protection

and welfare programs. In addition, Key informant in depth interview will be used in order to have information from brokers, Kesha house owners, truck drivers, hotel owners and other key individuals who believed to have the reliable information where and for what purpose children are moving.

This study will largely employ a method of qualitative research in which questionnaires will be prepared for the collection of data through in depth individual interviews or case studies, focus group discussion and community dialogue to better understand the pattern and trends as well as the challenges of children moving from the area.

The researcher would also refer secondary sources such as documents, reports, books, journals, magazines, published and unpublished materials and various international conventions/protocols/ constitutions, regional charters, local and national legal documents to analyze and understand the issue under study.

1.7. Data Analysis

This study will employ a qualitative method of research but a quantitative methods also used at a lower rate in order to realize the data collected using questionnaire. The data collected through questionnaire will be coded and verified for the data entry. Data entry would be done using computer software called SPSS in order to examine the pattern and extent of the phenomena.

Finally, these data will be presented in tabular forms composed of frequencies, percentages and other simple quantitative methods and the analysis would immediately follow the table and diagrams used for investigation of the variables.

1.8. Tables

While preparing the final research document, tables and charts will be included looking the needs and availability of data. The final data will be analyzed in presentation of responses using quantitative techniques.

1.9. Chapter Plan

The final research report will have five major chapters. The first chapter would be an introductory part in which the statement of the problem, objectives of the study and other background information of the study will be presented. The second chapter will present review of literatures in relation to the study and views it from international, national and local context. The third chapter will include description of the study area, research methods and designs meant for the study. Presentation of the findings and discussions on data will be presented in chapter four. The final chapter, the fifth chapter will present conclusion, recommendations and suggestions.

Children on the Move:

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in the Transit and Destination Town of Arba Minch

A Thesis Submitted to the School of Social Work for the Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree of MA in Social Work (MSWP- 001)

Prepared By

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May, 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **Children on the Move: The Hardships of Migrant and Trafficked Children of Gamo Highlands in the Transit and Destination Town of Arba Minch** submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the MSW to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi. It is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any programs of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. **Tatek Dejenie Dergu** student of MSW from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi was working under my supervision and Guidance for his project work for the course **MSWP-01**. His project work entitled **Children on the Move: The Hardships of Migrant and Trafficked Children of Gamo Highlands in the Transit and Destination Town of Arba Minch** which is submitting is his genuine and original work.

Place- <u>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</u>

Date- <u>May, 2014</u>

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I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all migrant children involved in the study, without whose consent and cooperation, to share their experiences, this research would not have been a reality.

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I would like to extend my appreciation to my friend Ato Tesfahun Mergia for his unreserved assistance in facilitating and organizing the data collection.

Last but not least, I owe a special thanks to my wife Selamawit and my families for their continuous moral support throughout my study.

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Acronyms

AIDS -Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

CIAI- Italian Center for Children Aid

EMIS- Education Management Information system

FGD- Focus Group Discussion

GGZFED- Gamo Gofa Zone Finance and Economy Department

GOs- Government Organizations

HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ILO- International Labor Organization

IPEC- International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour

IOM- International Organization for Migration

LSAU- Labour and Social Affairs Unit

MCDP – Mission for Community Development Project

MOLSA- Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

NER- Net Enrollment Rate

NGOs- Non Government Organizations

SNNPR- Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region

STIs- Sexually Transmitted Infections

TIP – Trafficking in Persons

UN- United Nations

UNICEF- United Nations International Children Fund

WCYA- Women, Children and Youth Affairs

WGCTO- Woreda Government Communication and Tourism Office

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Across the world millions of children are on the move, both within and between countries, with or without their parents. They are part of large-scale population movements currently taking place in many parts of the world. This trend is set to continue over the next few decades, driven by economic developments, violent conflict, state failure, natural disasters, and environmental and resource pressures, especially climate change. Yet, despite the numbers of children involved, the needs and interests of children on the move are largely absent from mainstream debates on both child protection and migration. As a result, most governments and international institutions have failed to develop effective policy responses to help these vulnerable children. (SCUK, 2008)

Mass migration and displacement are on the increase driven by poverty, conflict, failing states, natural disasters and climate change. Many of these are children. Some move with their families, others move independently. Other children are trafficked for their labour or to be sexually exploited. It is estimated that 42% of people crossing the Cambodia-Thailand border are children, while 20% of the estimated 1.5 Burmese migrants in Thailand are under 18 years old. In some countries, patterns of child movement are well established and culturally accepted. *In Tanzania 23% of households have male children and 17% female children who have migrated elsewhere. (Ibid, 2008)*

For many children and families movement promises jobs, schools and a better standard of living. The United Nations Human Development Report 2009 shows

that most families, who migrate, both internally and internationally, reap significant gains by moving in income, access to education and health and improved prospects for their children.

But for children, especially those who move independently from their families, movement can be a dangerous and risky experience, which can leave them vulnerable to physical violence, theft, exploitation, coercion, deception, and isolation at every stage of their journey. (GMC, 2010)

Addressing the needs and problems faced by these children is a serious challenge. In recent years, a global action on children's movement has mainly focused on trafficked children. While extremely important, the exclusive focus on the crime of child trafficking has concealed the reality of how many children are moving across the world and why. The exclusive focus on the crime of child trafficking and the limited and ineffective responses has disguised the truth at stake. (Ibid, 2010)

The trafficking of children and women within Ethiopia is a growing problem even though there are not comprehensive and precise data on the phenomenon. The International Office of Migration estimates that at least 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking in Ethiopia every year. Children and women between the ages of 8 and 24 years are the most vulnerable to such abuse and exploitation and the violence associated with them. Research also indicates that over a quarter of nearly 50,000 women and children involved in prostitution are victims of trafficking. (unicef, 2012)

The Gamo high land, a place in Gamo Gofa Zone, SNNPR, is one of the area in which large numbers of children are moving to the nearby towns and other places of destination due to a multiple of reasons. Unaccompanied move by children is the most serious problem of Gamo Gofa Zone. In most rural primary schools of the zone particularly in the highlands the dropout is increasing in

alarming rate due to high number of child migration despite the efforts of access to primary education by the government (CIAI, 2011).

Children from the highlands particularly from the districts of Daramalo, Bonke, Kamba, and Arba Minch Zurea are moving to the nearby towns such as Arba Minch, Gumaide (segen), walyta Soddo and other destinations in order to have access to employment and better livelihood opportunities. But the majority of the moves in which children practicing are unaccompanied.

In the course of this unaccompanied move and even in the destinations migrant children are exposed to trafficking and different forms of abuse and exploitation which adversely affect the life of children and the normal functioning of the society both in the source and destination.

Therefore, this paper aimed at identifying and over viewing the practical push factors, hotspot areas, routes and directions for the move with particular focus on factors that threaten the life of children after leaving their home.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Child migration occurs all over the world and each region has its own particular patterns and context. In Eastern and Southern Africa, children on the move are becoming a growing concern. On average, around 2,500 children from Zimbabwe are deported from South Africa every month, and children also make up a significant number of the approximately 7,000 Mozambicans deported from there. At the same time, children from the Horn of Africa countries Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia are moving to the Arabian Peninsula to take up poorly paid jobs, while many children from Madagascar and Comoros end up in the Middle East as domestic servants. (unicef, 2013)

Migration has generally been seen from an economic perspective, focusing on labour migration, demand and supply. However, children's migration is more complex, with a variety of reasons for migration that are often different from those of adults. And children's migration poses different problems. (Save the children, 2008)

When children decide to migrate unaccompanied, it is commonly marked by movement from rural communities to urban areas because cities are seen as cosmopolitan and flush with opportunity. Because of this idealized vision, unaccompanied child migrants tend to relocate to the city without first securing a job. The lack of preparation and dependable income exacerbate the risks already inherent to migration, and it is a common occurrence that these children end up being exploited for their labor (IOM, 2013).

Children migrate for a myriad of reasons. These reasons might be seen from five main groups of reasons, as follows: economic push factors, education, gender and cultural reasons, personal push factors and emergencies. When children migrate without proper preparation, they are at risk of trafficking or 'disappearing' during the journey due to poor information sharing and feedback mechanisms between urban and rural authorities (ILO-IPEC, 2009).

Migrating children remain at risk even after reaching their points of destination. For children who migrate alone without a pre-arranged job, finding work or housing is extremely difficult. With few resources, many migrant children end up living in the streets. Even if migrant children do manage to find work at their points of destination, their lack of local connections, improper identity documentation and general state of vulnerability make it easy for employers to take advantage of them. Because of the lack of oversight by labour inspectors in the domestic and informal labour sectors, where many urban migrant child labourers are found, it is easy for employers to abuse their positions of authority (IOM, 2013).

The phenomenon of child migration in Ethiopia is an issue related to trafficking in human beings. Ethiopian children and adults are trafficked internally for domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and other forms of forced labour including street vending, begging, traditional weaving, and agriculture (PCI, 2010).

According to *U.S department of state; Country Reports- 2009- 2010,* Trafficking of children occurs in Ethiopia from Oromiya and SNNP to other regions for forced or bonded labor in domestic service. Children are also trafficked from rural to urban areas for commercial sexual exploitation, begging, street vending, and manual labor. In addition, some children are trafficked to work in the weaving industry.

The issue of children moving from Gamo Gofa is not well recognized as the major threat for children in particular and the community in general. Even though research done on related issue is very few, their focus was only unidirectional in one district- Chencha as a source and traditional weaving in Addis Ababa as an activity which demands the labor of trafficked children. In most cases the documents done in the area also give much emphasis for the role of traffickers as the cause for child trafficking. But, in reality, the majority of children from the highlands are moving by their own will with different predetermined purposes. The destinations for migrant children from the Gamo highlands is not only to Addis as mentioned by studies in the past but other parts of the country especially the nearby towns still have the highest demand for labor of these children.

The major objective of undertaking this study was to investigate the hardships of life which children are challenging in the course of their move and reaching destinations. In addition, the study has been designed to provide a highlight on specific hot spot areas, directions and transits as well as destinations for the move.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

General Objective

The overall objective of this study were to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo with particular focus on practical push factors, the route and destinations of migration and trafficking and the challenges they face while on the move.

Specific Objectives

- To assess and examine the factors that contribute children to leave their home;
- To identify and describe the sources, routs and transits, timing and seasonality as well as destinations for the move;
- To assess the challenges and hardships faced by migrant children in the destinations;
- To assess future aspirations of migrant children;

1.4 UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The Gamo highlands, the study area encompasses more than six districts which are considered as the very root for child migration and trafficking. In one of the transit and host town, Arba Minch, it is believed that more than 600 children who came from the highland districts of Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke and Arba minch Zurea are living and working in the street and preparing themselves for further move. Hence, the researcher used the total number of migrant children living in Arba Minch town as population of the study.

1.5   SAMPLE

The sample of this study had only incorporated children from districts of Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke and Arba Minch Zurea since the main objective of the study were to identify the causes, routes and directions, hardships as well as magnitude of the move among children of Gamo highlands. Therefore, the researcher had preferred and used purposive sampling method.

Firstly, the researcher had purposely selected the sample study because of his prior experience of working in a project designed for the prevention of child trafficking in the area.

Secondly, the selected areas are considered as inaccessible and underserved rural part of the highland by the local authorities so that the researcher selected the sites deliberately to analyze the correlation between access to social services and decision for migration.

Out of the total migrant children in the town, a total of 65 children (15 children from each district and five more from Arbaminch zurea since the woreda possesses large geographic area) who came from Daramalo, Bonke, Kamba and Arba Minch Zurea districts were part of the study.

In addition to the children, two NGOs working on child protection in the area and concerned governmental actors like police, WCYA and social and labor affairs offices at zonal and district level has been selected to be participants of the research.

1.6   TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

This study had relayed on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary techniques of data collection which I were used includes structured questionnaires, case studies, focus group discussion and personal observation.

The questionnaires and case studies as a tool has been helped the researcher to obtain direct information from target children. Focus group discussions were employed in order to gather shared data among government and non government organization working on child protection and welfare programs.

In addition, in depth interview were used in order to have ample information from brokers, Kesha house owners, truck drivers, hotel owners and other key individuals who believed to have the reliable information where and for what purpose children are moving.

The study largely employed a method of qualitative research in which questionnaires had been prepared for the collection of data through in depth individual interviews or case studies, focus group discussion to better understand the pattern and trends as well as the challenges of children moving from the area.

The researcher had also referred secondary sources such as documents, reports, books, journals, newsletters, magazines, published and unpublished materials and various international conventions/protocols/ constitutions, regional charters, local and national legal documents to analyze and understand the issue under study.

1.7. DATA ANALYSIS

This study largely employed a qualitative method of research but a quantitative methods also used at a lower rate in order to realize the data collected using questionnaire. The data collected through questionnaire had been coded and verified for the data entry. Data entry done using computer software called Epi data in order to examine the pattern and extent of the phenomena.

Finally, these data has been presented in tabular forms composed of frequencies, percentages and other simple quantitative methods and the

analysis of data immediately followed the table and diagrams used for investigation of the variables.

1.8. TABLES

In the research document, tables and charts had been included looking the needs and availability of data. The final data of the study also analyzed in presentation of responses using quantitative techniques.

1.9. DEFINITION OF IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Child: According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), *"a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier"*. The term child in this study refers to a person whose age is eighteen and below.

Trafficking*:* The internationally recognized definition of trafficking is set forth in *the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* (the Palermo Protocol), which supplements *the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.*

'Trafficking in persons' shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

Child Trafficking: There are different explanations of child trafficking. The UN protocol for trafficking in its sub paragraph (c) of the same article goes further, in that it is not deemed necessary for fraudulent means to be used for a situation to be classified as child trafficking:

"The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered 'trafficking in persons' even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article".

Dottridge (2004) also defines child trafficking as the business of taking children below 18 years old away from their homes and families, transporting them elsewhere, often across frontiers and even to other continents, to be put to use by others, usually to make money.

Kesha Bet- is a place for night accommodation for people of low capacity to pay for pension. Unlike pension, in the kesha bet there is no single room for individual clients whether they are a child or adult, male or female. It is just a room without bed and people as much as it accommodates (25-40per room) can sleep in the floor or ground. No blanket or bed sheet is given to the clients.

The only merit of sleeping in Kesha bet for clients is that the price is cheaper (from 2-5 birr per single night). However, this also might be expensive for migrant children engaged in labor works in the town but protects them from abuses resulted in sleeping on the streets. Kesha bets also sometimes a place for harassment and abuse for children and females as well as easy contamination of diseases.

Kestenga- it is a term mostly used by street children of Arba Minch town in order to refer an act related to theft. This term only used for their internal communication. In their communication language if someone engaged in theft his/her job is called kestegna.

Masqal – it is the memorization of the founding of true cross. "Masqala" in Gamo community goes beyond religious function and has more cultural values. It is considered as the start of a new year (change of seasons), a time for wedding, cultural gathering etc. In order to participate in this colorful event and visit relatives, members of the community living in other parts of the country will come back to the highlands every September.

Suret- it is locally produced drug used to stimulate and energize oneself. Suret in the area is mostly used in times of hard work by adults. Children in the destination are sniffing suret to protect themselves from cold weathers of night time.

The Concept of Children on the Move

During the international conference in Spain in October 2010, the term 'Children on the Move were explained as follows:

"Those children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement might place them at risk (or at an increased risk) of economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence". An accompanying "Explanatory note" added:

"'Children on the Move' is not meant as a 'new' category of children. It is an umbrella definition which brings together the multitude of categories in which children who move have been, often unhelpfully, divided. This definition therefore includes:

- Children who have been trafficked;
- children who migrate (e.g. to pursue better life opportunities, look for work or education or to escape exploitative or abusive situations at home);
- children displaced by conflict and natural disasters;
- Children who live and work in the streets.

1.10. CHAPTER PLAN

The final research report of this study is organized into five major chapters. The first chapter is an introductory part in which the statement of the problem, objectives of the study and other background information of the study has been presented. The second chapter presents review of literatures in relation to the study and views it from international, national and local context. Chapter three includes description of the study area, research methods and designs meant for the study.

Chapter four includes presentation of findings and discussions and interpretation on data which is identified in the study. Finally chapter five of the study draws conclusions from major findings, recommends and suggests feasible and practical solutions to be taken.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE
2.1.1. International Research on Child Migration

The United Nations estimates that about 180,000 people are being added to the urban population every day, with the vast majority of movement to cities taking place in Africa and Asia. By 2030, it is expected that nearly five billion people will live in cities. In addition to the increasing movement from rural to urban areas, there has been a growth in more transitory forms of seasonal or temporary movement between rural and urban areas, between different towns and cities, and between different rural locations. Many of the new urbanites and other migrants are poor. And many of them are children, sometimes moving with their parents or relatives, but also moving alone in search of alternative livelihoods, educational opportunities, or seeking safety from conflict or natural disasters.

The majority of literature on migration has focused on adults and rarely have migrant children's own perspectives been heard. Consequently, inadequate assumptions have been made about child migrants' lives. (Hashim, 2006)

Child migration occurs all over the world and each region has its own particular patterns and context. (UNICEF/NYHQ; 2009) The reasons behind the decision of the child to migrate are various. For a while, a large number of child protection stakeholders assumed that all children who moved unaccompanied by their parents were taken away by force, kidnapped, lured and trafficked. Instead, current increasing evidence shows that while some children continue to be taken away by third parties who intend to exploit them, others decide themselves to leave the family and place of origin. In most of the cases the parents are behind such a decision. However there are also cases

when the child would decide without informing the parent(s) or against their will. (Mirela Shuteriqi, 2013)

2.1.1.1 Reasons to leave: the push factors that make children migrate

Children's reasons for migrating and their subsequent experiences can be shaped by a range of factors including the social, cultural and economic context, gender, age and household composition. (Whitehead and Hashim 2005: 30)

The study done by Save the Children UK indicate that for migrant children living along the border of South Africa, the main push factors in their own countries, which were mainly Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland, are poverty, hunger, the lack of educational opportunities and the death of parents and care givers. The key push factors were identified as poverty, hunger and the death of care givers. (SCUK-South Africa, 2007)

A. Poverty Driven Move

Most research has indicated that there are multiple reasons why children migrate for work. One of the key underlying factors is poverty but the motives are often not purely economic as there are many other social and cultural reasons why children seek migrant work. At the macro level there are a range of crises which may lead to children's migration, such as political conflict (Boyden and de Berry, 2004), economic crises, HIV/AIDS (Ansell and van Blerk 2004) and environmental disasters. (Lynch, 2005)

Many independent child migrants are economic migrants in search of work (Bastia 2005; Yaqub 2007a). For children and young people in rural subsistence communities migration may be necessary if they have no access to land, which is often the case unless their parents lend them land or they have inherited land. Their work opportunities may be very limited, particularly during the dry season if there is a lack of irrigation systems. Lack of available

land can become increasingly problematic as family plots are divided up for the next generation resulting in insufficient land for each child to inherit (Punch 2002; 2007; Swanson Forthcoming 2007).

Many children migrate so that they can contribute to their family's income. Save the Children's studies in a number of countries show that many children are pushed to seek earning opportunities by a strong sense of filial responsibility. (Save the children UK; 2008) Children interviewed in a village in Myanmar (Burma), for example, said they wanted to migrate to help and support their parents. (Ibid; 2008) In South Africa, interviews with children living on farms and in towns confirm that poverty is a crucial factor in children's decision to leave their families and look for work. (ibid; 2007)

Similarly Hashim (2006: 26) found that children in her study in Ghana saw themselves "as economic agents with a responsibility to contribute to their households and their individual livelihoods" and Camacho argues that "family and personal goals are interwoven" (2007: 64) for the children in her study in the Philippines.

Independent child migration may also be part of a family's survival strategy as the migration of a child decreases the dependency ratio in the household, even when the child does not earn enough to save (because there is a decrease in household consumption demand). In addition, some children are able to save and send remittances, sometimes contributing to the education of their siblings. (ILO, 2010)

If the initiative comes from parents, the child's departure is seen more or less to be a way for the family to improve its standard of living, hoping to receive some financial support from the child. (IOM, 2013)

B. Absence of Social Services and Property Inheritance Right

Education is a key trigger for children to move. Although education is seen as a means to avoid child labour, its costs – including uniforms, books, fees and daily transportation – are often so prohibitive that it forces children to work. As such, many children in Latin America migrate during the summer months to work in hazardous environments, such as mines, or take up temporary jobs in the informal sector (ILO-IPEC, 2001b).

In many developing countries children move from rural to urban areas with the specific objective to attend better or more advanced schools. In most rural areas in developing countries education is available only at primary level, and at a quality often lower than that in urban areas (Punch 2007). In order to afford to live there, these children often must work. The link between migration, education and child labour for instance, holds in Mongolia and Cambodia, where the majority of surveyed boy domestic workers had migrated from rural areas for the purpose and hopes of a better education (ILO, 2006a) and later became lured into child labour.

In Ethiopia, for instance, primary school gross enrolment rates in urban areas are double the rate of rural areas. Primary school girls, especially in rural areas, experience significant problems in accessing education. The out of school rate for girls is 16% compared to 10% for boys (Ethiopia DHS data 2011). Distance from school is a key factor for this, especially in accessing secondary school .A quarter of the school population lives more than 4km from a school (EMIS, 2010), and poorer, disadvantaged children in rural areas often further. (Jennings et al. 2011)

Why children may migrate in search of work, is because there may be a lack of education opportunities at home which may lead to them seeking work instead. (Samantha Punch; 2007)

Socio-cultural factors such as parental attitudes to girl's education, household responsibilities, fear of gender based violence, and low self-esteem; predominance of male teachers; and inadequate sanitation and other schools facilities all affect girls' access to, and completion of, education (Jennings 2011, Population Council/UNFPA, 2010*)*

However, on arrival they may face a number of barriers to getting an education. Working children may have difficulty in attending school. For example, employers might limit the freedom of movement of children who work for them, or might deny them time off to attend school. When schools are some distance away from children's place of work, the time and the cost to get to and from school become another enormous barrier. Additionally, language and cultural differences often deter them. (ibid; 13)

Gender is a key consideration in understanding the vulnerability of children on the move. The reasons why girls leave, their travel patterns and the activities they carry out at their destination, are highly influenced by gender norms. Women and girls may be prevented from entering paid employment, or their employment opportunities may be limited to informal, isolating and potentially hazardous activities, such as domestic work. Some girls leave their families to avoid a forced marriage, or leave to escape an arranged marriage. Others become, or are forced to become, sex workers once they reach their destination, although this was not part of their initial plan when they started their journey. In other cases, due to the dearth of employment opportunities open to girls, some migrate to become sex workers in tourist areas or where there is infrastructural development. (Save the children, 2008)

With regard to inheritance right, some land tenure specialists argue that modern-day circumstances—including the breakdown of the extended family, the growth of individual interests in the context of a market economy, the growing land shortages, and the spread of HIV/AIDS— necessitate that the

land inheritance rights of vulnerable population groups, including orphans who head households, should be protected within legislation and policies that specify standards and that guarantee transparent proceedings by unbiased authorities(e.g., Rose 2005).

Deprivation of their property rights by those closest to them is one of the major early challenges orphans face. Many a relative has falsified documents and perjured to get a court verdict that makes them the sole heirs of the deceased parents of the child cutting the child off from the succession. This often enables them to unlawfully control the property that rightfully belongs to the child. (Zewdineh, 2008)

C. The Culture of Migration

Migration is also linked to history and culture. Several studies have pointed to the fact that child migration is highest in areas of traditional adult out-migration. (ILO, 2010) For some communities out-migration is a relatively new phenomenon (Carpena-Mendez 2007; Swanson Forthcoming 2007) but for others there may already be a long history of migration (Ansell 2000; Hashim 2006).

This is particularly the case in communities that have a 'culture of migration', where young people may feel left out if they have never migrated (Bey 2003; Punch 2007a). If there is long history of migration from that area, then migration may be the norm and may be encouraged by return migrants and by parents who see it as an opportunity for their children. Camacho explains that: The family does not only transmit work-related values, it also transmits migration-related values to its members. ... The cultural context of the community likewise may socialize children towards work-related migration. (Camacho 1999: 68)

The cultural context shapes whether children migrate or not depending on whether there is a tradition of migration, and on the cultural meanings attached to 'childhood' and 'migrant work'. (Hashim 2005: 30) The social context, in terms of available social networks and parents' attitudes (supportive or not), and the economic context, in terms of available work and education opportunities and constraints, also both influence the likelihood of whether children migrate or not. (Samantha Punch 2007; 12)

D. Personal Push Factors

When children voluntarily migrate unaccompanied, it is in many cases the result of a traumatic family experience. It is well- recognized fact that large families create a lot of pressures on the physical, mental, social and economic development of individual members (cf. Andargatchew, 1974:201). When following the path that leads children to work in the commercial sex industry, one finds that the source is often physical or sexual maltreatment at home. The main concern of these children is to escape their bad family situations and leave their homes, often without support and frequently without prospects. A report from Ghana reported girls between the ages of 12 and 16 who ran away from arranged marriages and ended up working as bar assistants or sex workers (ILO-IPEC, 2004a). Likewise, in Ethiopia, 25 per cent of girls interviewed in the slum areas of Addis Ababa migrated due to the threat of forced marriage (Bartlett, 2010).

In Viet Nam, of the children surveyed who migrated to a city and ended up in sexual exploitation, 40 per cent experienced family trauma at a young age (ILO-IPEC, 2006b). Domestic violence is another push factor for children to leave home and migrate elsewhere in search of a new life. A study on children living in the streets of cities in Bangladesh, for instance, indicates that most of the interviewed children report domestic violence is the case to their move. (A. Contini and D. Hulme: 2006)

E. Pressure from Peers

Return migrants inspiring others to leave should not be underestimated as an influential factor in the decision-making process (Castle and Diarra 2003; Punch 2007a). For example, Hauge Riisøen et al. suggest that "The aspect of curiosity and peer pressure may tempt children from well off and stable households to leave home in search of adventure". (ibid: 52)

Peer pressure is reason why children migrate. A study in Burkina Faso reported that 'it is *labour* migration that is most particularly admired'. Travel as such does not seem to be enough to raise a boy's status; to earn respect a boy must have travelled to work, and must have obtained material rewards (such as a bicycle). (A. de Lange, 2006)

2.1.1.2 Risks of Children on the Move

Once children move against their will, and /or in absence of protection services and actors, they become highly vulnerable to worse forms of child labor, exploitation and other abuses, either during their trip, or once they reach the new destination. The age and development of the child as well as the conditions of the journey are all factors influencing the level of risk for the child. The route can be long and physically exhausting for the child. In many circumstances children on the move lack the previous protection ties with their family and community. On this way, the child can come across and start trusting older children or adults who end up abusing and exploiting him or her. (Samantha Punch: 2007; 12)

There are inherent risks, insecurities and dangers involved in moving and arriving somewhere new. Children are especially vulnerable because they move to a place where they don't know who to turn to for help, and where they might even be seen as not worth helping. (Daniela Reale: 2008)

The triggers for children's migration affect the conditions of their movement and the risks involved. Children may be forced by extreme circumstances, such as chronic poverty, conflict or violence, into the 'worst forms of movement' – i.e. movement that is clandestine or dangerous or which takes place in unsafe conditions and without the support of trustworthy networks, consequently exposing children to exploitation and abuse in transit and/or at destination. (ibid: 11)

Children rarely move entirely alone. They usually rely on others to facilitate their travel and, sometimes, their activities at their destination. Because of the focus on trafficking in the literature on children on the move, much of the information available on intermediaries focuses on criminals preying on ignorant or desperate individuals, extracting exorbitant fees, coercing children into debt bondage in payment for transportation and/or job placement fees, or deceiving children about the nature of the employment that awaits them. (ibid: 12)

A. The Risk of Trafficking

Once children are on the move, they are of course at increased risk in a number of ways. Their general welfare may be at risk – they may not have adequate food or water or may get sick. Children's vulnerability increases as they move further away from the safety nets of their own communities, especially if they do not speak the language of the place they are moved through or to. (ILO: 2009; 28) Child trafficking happens when a child is moved from one place to another – within a country or across a border — into a situation in which they are exploited, and this exploitation can take many different forms. (ibid: 18)

Victims of child trafficking experience inhumane living conditions, inadequate diet and hygiene, beatings and abuse, neglect, and denial of their basic human

rights to health care and protection, resulting in lasting health problems" (ECPAT, 2006a).

Traffickers use psychological manipulations and coercive methods to maintain control over their victims and to make their escape virtually impossible by destroying their physical and psychological defenses. Reported methods include physical, sexual, and psychological violence; isolation; deployment in areas unknown to them; dependence on alcohol or drugs; controlled access to food and water; and monitoring through the use of weapons, cameras, and dogs (IOM, 2007; Zimmerman et al., 2003).

B. Employment Opportunities and Work Exploitation at Destination

There are high proportions of migrants among child labourers in the agricultural, domestic work and urban informal economic sectors, as well as commercial sexual exploitation. (IOM, 2013) The living conditions in which children on the move find themselves – in transit and at destination – can expose them to a range of hazards and harms. Migrant children mainly work in the informal sector – in agriculture and fishing, factories, restaurants and domestic households. Others are involved in mobile and temporary activities in agriculture, the construction sector or mines. (Bastia, 2005)

Every day untold numbers of children around the world are exploited in the commercial sex trade. Many of them are far from their home communities when this occurs. Forced or voluntary relocation often occurs because opportunities for education or work are only to be found 'elsewhere'; and children who have been relocated or who choose to move are at high risk of sexual and other forms of exploitation. (Unicef, 2001)

Most child migrants work in agriculture, domestic work, and the urban informal economy, often in hazardous conditions and exposed to great risk of exploitation and abuse. A study of Argentina, Chile, and South Africa showed

that independent migrant children over the age of 15 were more likely to be working than dependant migrant children, and also more likely to be working than independent non-migrant children. (S. Yaqub, 2009)

Despite their longer work hours, migrant children do not earn more. When children migrate solely for economic reasons, the natural tendency is to accept any kind of work (even that which is underpaid and demeaning) and to work as long as possible. This cycle of low wages and long hours is self-perpetuating. (ILO, 2004b)

According to an ILO synthesis report, the inability to quit is a condition characteristic of the worst forms of child labour (ILO-IPEC, 2005a). In Ethiopia, more than 80 per cent of migrant child domestics surveyed reported that they do not have the right to voluntarily quit their jobs (ILOIPEC, 2005a).

C. Health Situation of Children on the Move

Adverse working and living conditions naturally lead to a lower level of health – both physical and mental – among migrant child labourers. Furthermore, unlike their local counterparts, many migrant children have no access to public health services due to their illegal status and cannot afford private medical services; treatment for illnesses consist almost exclusively of home remedies (ILO-IPEC, 2004b).

The effects of migration on child health are contested and complex. Migration itself poses significant hazards to children and their health. Child health is often directly associated with the type of work child migrants find, whether it be abusive work, sex work, hazardous work in the informal economy, or physically beyond the child's capacities. The working conditions, if illegal (i.e. prostitution) may also prevent child access to health care if there is a fear of raid, discovery, or deportation (Whitehead and Hashim: 2005)

In Guatemala, children in the 12–14 age groups comprise 30 per cent of internal migrants working on coffee, sugar cane, cardamom and cotton plantations (ILO-IPEC, 2006d). Where workers on plantations are inappropriately young, there are high numbers of work-related injuries and fatalities (Estes et al., 2010).

D. Psycho-Social Impact in the Destination

Migrating children remain at risk even after reaching their points of destination. For children who migrate alone without a pre-arranged job, finding work or housing is extremely difficult. With few resources, many migrant children end up living in the streets. In Nepal in the early 2000, the vast majority of street children in the capital city were migrants and; more than half of those migrant children left home before the age of nine (ILO-IPEC, 2002c).

Unlike local children, who have parents that are familiar with their employers, child migrants suffer from more maltreatment in the workplace. In a study of employer behavior in Viet Nam, there were no instances of scolding, insulting or illegal punishment for local child labourers; the same could not be said for migrant child labourers (ILO-IPEC, 2009).

Migrant child labourers are worse off in terms of working conditions compared to local children. This is because migrant child labourers are among the least visible and least politically enfranchised, such that employers have no incentive to provide proper working and living conditions. This lack of legal protection also generally translates to lower levels of health and education. (IOM, 2013)

Leaving their communities, migrant children lose contact with their family and friends, as well as lose customs and traditions. At the same time, coming into a new community, they may be required to become accustomed to new language, culture and lifestyle. Even if children may adapt to new contexts more quickly

than adults, this may generate conflict with parent or other members of same migrant group. (Stevens and Vollebergh, 2008)

Migration may also have a negative impact on education attainment of children. Children of migrant workers and children migrating alone face serious exclusion to education due to social and cultural isolation, strenuous and hazardous work, extreme poverty, poor health conditions and language barriers. Children may leave the household of origin with the objective of performing economic activities that may keep them out of school. (PIRLS 2006)

Children who migrate alone to towns, HIV and AIDS affected children, orphans; street workers, children affected by trafficking internally and across borders, and children exploited sexually are to be found mainly in urban areas and are more likely than other children to be engaged in employment than education. (Jennings et al.)

2.1.1.3. Patterns of Migration

There are many different types of migration which both adults and children engage in. Lynch (2005) identifies a range of movements between rural and urban areas: … including step-wise migration (village – town – city), circulatory migration (village – city – village), cyclical migration (associated with seasonal variation in labour demand), multi-locational households (where households have members in town and country) and chain migration (where migrants follow their predecessors, are assisted by them in establishing an urban base). (Lynch; 2005)

The information that was collected by International Organization for Migration (IOM) shows that children do not move in a random fashion. Their intended move is the subject of a period of planning, decision-making and preparation, even if some preparations are more summary than others. Before each

departure, there is a moment when a decision is made, either voluntarily by the child, or proposed and negotiated by the child's parents. (IOM; 2013)

In one of the study by (IOM; 2009) indicated that trafficking routes usually overlap with the normal routes for movement and migration from rural to urban areas.

2.1.2. OVERVIEW ON CHILDREN ON THE MOVE IN ETHIOPIA

2.1.2 1 Situation of Children on the Move and Child Trafficking

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. Deep poverty is a major cause for child migration, child trafficking, and child labor and child exploitation. Many children are looking for ways to survive, and move around in search for better places to do so. Vulnerable children are at great risk of being mistreated and abused. They are also an easy victim for child traffickers, and young girls often end up in prostitution. (Terre des Hommes Netherlands':2013)

Ethiopia is a major country of origin for trafficking in persons which crosses a boundary. To a lesser extent, it is also a country of transit. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has listed Ethiopia as one of the top 10 countries of origin for children trafficked from Africa.

In the study by Agrinet, in-country trafficking in five major towns of Ethiopia found that three-fifth of trafficking victims was made vulnerable by economic reasons such as poverty and lack of employment opportunities while social causes like violence within the family, unhappy marriage and death of parents were identified as the major push factors for the remaining one-fifth of the respondents. (Agrinet I, 2001: 19)

According to the data by the Ministry of Education, on comparison of enrollment and drop out due to poverty indicates that household poverty is a major factor affecting the enrolment of children in schools. NER for primary schooling is 25% for children of families that belong to lowest wealth quintile. This increases to 68% for children of households of highest wealth quintile. Similarly, NER rises from 4% among secondary school attendees in the lowest wealth quintile to 38% among the highest wealth quintile (MoE, 2013).

Poverty (economic incapacity of the family) is the most prominent pushing factor and root cause of vulnerability to child trafficking in Ethiopia. The problem is mainly a demand-driven phenomenon. There exists a "market" for child labour in the city and this is matched by an abundant supply of children from the rural area, most often from poor families, who are easy prey for those who seek to make a profit by exploiting their vulnerability. Wrong perceptions about city life and deceptions by traffickers are also contributing factors to the problems. (Eth. Herald, march 2013)

Like in many other underdeveloped countries, trafficking in children is one of the social evils that violate the rights of the children in Ethiopia. The major motive of trafficking in children in Ethiopia include the need to engage them in a domestic work, traditional weaving industry, commercial sex work, farm labour, begging, and etc. (Ibid, May 30,2013)

Trafficking within Ethiopia mostly takes place from rural to urban areas and the main purpose is to recruit women and children to work as housemaids, traditional weavers or prostitutes. For example, children have been trafficked from Gamo Gofa Zone, Southern Ethiopia People's State, to Addis Ababa for labor. Almost all the boys trafficked to Addis Ababa for the traditional weaving industry and for the purpose of farm work in some places in Oromia region, are younger children between the ages of 8 to 14. (IOM, 2006)

In most observed trafficking cases the recruiter is known by the victim, as it often is a relative or family friend. Sometimes the recruiter focus on the parents and the child is sent away hoping that he or she will be able to support the family financially. (ibid: 33)

Girls from Ethiopia's rural areas are exploited in domestic servitude and, less frequently, prostitution within the country, while boys are subjected to forced labor in traditional weaving, herding, guarding, and street vending. Brokers, tour operators, and hotel owners in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) facilitate child prostitution for tourists. (TIP report: 2012)

In one study, in southern Ethiopia, among the respondents of street children (63.3%) came from rural areas and the rest (36.8%) were from urban areas (most of them from Soddo, Arbaminch, and Awassa towns). (*Ethiop.J.Health Dev.* 2006)

According to the national action plan in country trafficking in children for domestic labor is a great issue of concern. Although trafficked girls and women have far higher visibility, boys between the ages of 7-10 years living in rural areas such as the southern Nations, Nationalities and people's Regional State (SNNPRS), were also found to be prone to in-country trafficking for child labor purposes. (MOLSA, 2009)

The Government of Ethiopia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Although the Federal High Court convicted an increased number of transnational labor traffickers, the government's continued failure to investigate and prosecute internal labor or sex trafficking crimes, to compile data on such efforts from local jurisdictions, and to utilize the criminal code's trafficking-specific provisions remained a concern. (TIP report; 2012)

2.1.2.2 Policy Implication of the Protection of Migrant Children

A range of studies on children on the move indicate that policies often do not adequately respond to the specific needs of these children or are applied in ways that are not reflective of the best interests of the child. (Dottridge, M., 2008)

The Government of Ethiopia has supported programs to reduce the worst forms of child labor, such as providing services to children living and working in the street and child trafficking victims; however, its efforts did not target areas where the majority of children work, such as agriculture and domestic service. Ethiopia does not have a comprehensive policy to combat the worst forms of child labor and has not effectively enforced its child labor laws. (TIP, 2012)

In 2009, MOLSA drafted the National Action Plan on Child Labor (2010-2015) and a Protocol and Guideline that would direct the implementation of new child labor identification, withdrawal, reintegration, and educational policies. However, these have not yet been adopted. *(U.S report February 2010 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)*

Issues related to inheritance in general, and protection of the rights of Ethiopian children is well regulated by a corpus of domestic laws. In deepening and advancing the protection of children rights in matters related to inheritance, the federal and regional governments have taken commendable measures by explicitly articulating the rights of children in Ethiopia to acquire and use rural lands. (Zewdineh, 2008)

In the SNNPRS, probably like all the other regions in the country, child inheritance is a huge problem. Unlike other evils that OVC encounter, deprivation of property rights does not possess a regional specificity; it is a serious problem of nation-wide magnitude and character. (ibid: 33)

More important, there is a need to have an independent overarching policy to bring the problem of child trafficking at the center of attention in the child development sector. It is, therefore, crucial that efforts need to be directed towards the realization of a National and/or Regional Policy on children. A comprehensive policy in this regard would go a long way in helping coordinate the random efforts being undertaken by the different stakeholders to tackle the problem of child trafficking. It is also vital to develop standardized guidelines to implement action plans and strategies at national and regional level. (Ethiopian Herald; June, 05:2013)

2.2. SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

The reasons, patterns and consequences of children's movement are diverse and complex. For many children, leaving their home communities promises the chance of a better life, an escape from poverty, abuse, violence or conflict and a better opportunity to access jobs, education and basic services. However, unless they are escaping violence and abuse, children on the move, especially if they are traveling unaccompanied, may lack the protective ties normally available in families and communities. Once children move, particularly in the absence of protection services and support, they can become highly vulnerable to violence, abuse and various forms of exploitation either during their journey, or once they reach the new destination. (IAG-CoM; 2013)

Lack of coherence between migration and child protection policies is compounded by the lack of coordination in protection systems that channel different categories of children on the move into different category-oriented protection responses and services which are subject to often conflicting political priorities. (ibid: 2)

There is much research to show that independent child migrants often end up working in the informal sector, a phenomenon that cuts across both the affluent and developing world. Whether in Europe, North America, Latin

America, Asia or Africa, this very often means working in illegal and/or unregulated markets, such as prostitution or domestic work, or attempting to hustle a living on the streets through ambulant vending, begging, petty crime, garbage scavenging and so on. (Martin and Parry-Williams, 2005)

Migration may also have a negative impact on education attainment of children. Children of migrant workers and children migrating alone face serious exclusion to education due to social and cultural isolation, strenuous and hazardous work, extreme poverty, poor health conditions and language barriers. Children may leave the household of origin with the objective of performing economic activities that may keep them out of school. (ibid: 32)

However, sometimes work can increase a child's access to food or other necessities and children migrating for work are often empowered due to their newfound income (Whitehead 2005; Punch 2007).

Iverson (2002) finds that there can be significant child agency in child labor supply decisions, that is, that children often choose to migrant and to supply the labor force with their capability for work. Many of the children choose to do so to escape negative circumstances at home (i.e. domestic abuse) and so for them, migration for work has positive effects.

Bastia (2005), specifically examining the cases of Bolivia (and more generally, Latin America), found through "life stories" or case studies that "victims of child trafficking" often eventually developed into "normal" adult labor migrants. In these cases, trafficked child migrants changed status into child labor migrants. She posits that entirely banning those who are seeking work or who are trafficked might actually place them into a worse situation "by decreasing their already limited opportunities to sustain themselves and their families or by forcing them to undertake the journeys abroad outside of the scope of legal

protection thereby placing them at greater risk of exploitation and abuse"
(Martin and Parry-Williams, 2005)

Available studies indicate that trafficking of women and children from Ethiopia is a prevalent and steadily increasing practice. Trafficking of women and children is widespread throughout the country and even seems to be tolerated by the society. (TIP: 2012)

It is often assumed that children on the move are either victim of trafficking or illegal migrants with few or no rights to remain in their destinations. Because of these assumptions are often returned home. But sending children back to their homes without considering the reasons why they left in the first place can force them back into a situation where they are once again facing violence, abuse, extreme poverty or conflict.(GMC:2010)

Return to their areas of origin should only take place if it's in the individual child's best interests and after a thorough assessment process – considerations currently ignored by many responses by governments or other agencies in their dealings with children on the move. In many cases, integration in the areas where children have moved to would be the best course of action. (ibid: 29)

Policies aimed at children on the move should firstly provide them with appropriate interim care and assistance and then ensure that they receive the guidance and support they need to find the best long-term solution to their individual situations, whether that be reuniting with their family or integrating into another community or country. Even when return is an appropriate course of action, the repatriation process itself can be dangerous and terrifying for those being sent home. (ibid: 29)

CHAPTER THREE
STUDY AREA, RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The Gamo highlands, is located in SNNPRS, Gamo Gofa zone. Arba Minch, the study area, is nearly 500 KM south of Addis Ababa is the capital of Gamo Gofa Zone. The Zone consists of 15 rural districts namely, Arbaminch zuria , kucha, kemba, Boreda, Chencha Daramlo, Dita, Zala, Melakoza, Bonke, Ubadebretsehay, Mirab- Abaya, Oyda, Geze Gofa and Demba Gofa and 2 reform towns. The total area of the zone is estimated to be 12,581.4 square kilometer and consists 15 woredas. The total population of the zone is estimated about 1,597,767 (2007) with a population density of 80 inhabitants per kilometer square. It lies at an altitude ranging between 746 to 3478 meters above sea level, with average temperature ranging between 10°C and 25°C and the average annual rainfall is above 900 mm. (GGZFED, 2011)

The topography of the zone is characterizes with undulating feature that favors for the existence of different climatic zones in the area ranging from dry low land to wet worch mid altitude. Rain fed agriculture is more dominant in the highland districts. (LIVES, 2013)

The majority of people engage in subsistence farming of maize, sorghum, teff, cotton, and bananas in the lowlands and wheat, barley, potatoes, ensete, beans, and peas in the highlands. If not engaged in subsistence farming or as a merchant in one of the local towns, then most likely the individual is an artisan, working as a potter, hide worker, ground stone maker, or ironworker. (John W. AR THUR: 5; 2013)

The agricultural system is mixed farming. All crop production is rainfed. Those who own oxen use them for plowing their fields, while those who do not generally cultivate by hand. (SNNPR livelihood profile, 2005)

Geographically, the Gamo highland encompasses more than 5 districts of the Zone (Bonke, Dita, Arba Minch Zurea, Dara Malo, Chencha, Kamba…etc). The inhabitant of the highland, the Gamo, is predominantly agricultural community with the engagement in traditional weaving practice as a major source of livelihood. In particular the Gamo community is very well known by its long established tradition of weaving.

Daramalo is one of the 15 woreda administrative in Gamo Gofa zone and is known of its remoteness and inaccessibility. The woreda subdivided into 24 rural kebeles. The capital of the district called Wacha located 202KM from the zonal capital. The mountainous topography of the woreda (which is the home of the 4 th biggest mountain in Ethiopia Mt. Guge 4200mt a.s.l) prohibited development activities in the area particularly road inaccessibility has resulted in few number of schools, health institutions and other social services. (Daramalo W/G/C/C/O, 2011)

Kamba district, like Daramalo, is known by its remoteness (104KM just to reach the woreda capital) from the zonal capital Arba Minch. The district is one of the poorly infra structured in the zone. Bonke, as one of the rural districts of Gamo Gofa Zone consists of 34 rural kebeles. The capital of the district is called Gerese, 54 KM far from Arba Minch. (GGZFED, 2012)

Arba Minch Zurea is a district encircled Arba minch town. The district has 29 rural kebeles out of which 19 are categorized as highland villages. The highland kebeles are highly populated with relatively small farm area coverage. (ibid, 2012)

Now, agricultural production in highlands is mainly to feed the prevailing population and as result the highlands are one of the most cash starved areas in the country. People of the area practice some activities such as trading at daily markets and keeping bee and chickens to generate income to cover household expenses. But seasonal and permanent migration for different places has become a trend in search of cash. Migration ,especially male out migration from these highlands for weaving industry in Addis Ababa and other towns in the country and seasonal migration to be engaged as daily laborers and other activities in lowland cash crop areas and Arba Minch town has become an old established trend (Belete, 2006).

The Gamo are patrilineal and have a virilocal post-marital residence pattern. Furthermore, they have a strict caste system. These three cultural characteristics have a major influence on gender roles within Gamo society. (John W. AR THUR: 5; 2013)

Their social-economic system divides their society into occupational groups: 1) citizens (*mala*), or elected and hereditary leaders, farmers, and weavers; and 2) noncitizens (*tsoma*), including artisans such as potters (*mana/chinasha*) and hide workers, smiths, and ground stone makers (*degal*a). (Weedman: 2004)

The Gamo society likes to have many children, especially boys. A Gamo father would be happier when he has many sons than daughters. Most members of the society want to see the first born child to be male. This is because descent is reckoned through the male line. The father is going to be named after his first son. A boy is considered *baira* (senior) whether he is first-born or not. Girls are given low social and family recognition, for the social system operates according to the patriarchal ideology in which males have superior position over female. (Kaleb, 2008)

As in most other parts of SNNPR, wealth at household level is determined by a combination of land and livestock holdings. As a result of the high population density in this livelihood zone, landholdings per household are quite small, rarely exceeding one hectare. (SNNPR livelihood profile, 2005)

Men from poorer households migrate out of the zone every year in search of casual employment. In a bad year, more migrants leave, and they leave earlier in the season. (ibid, 5)

Labor migration from Gamo Highlands to Addis Ababa has a century old history. It goes back to the last decade of the nineteenth century when the Gamo Highland areas were incorporated into the Ethiopia Imperial State. Incorporation of the highland followed the introduction of some Gamo migrants (Dorze) to Addis Ababa to produce local garments to the palace authorities. These early migrant wavers to the capital attracted more and more people thereby introducing the trend of migration to a large number of people in their locality. (kaleb, 2008)

Since then the Gamo people residing in rural areas always look for alternative sources of income. Thus, unfortunately, sending children for weaving and women for fuel wood collection and domestic service have become the features of Gamo Community. As a result children are subject to exploitative working conditions and abuse, scarifying their school age without education. The general tendency of rural urban move of children as a means of having access to household economic opportunities seems to cause adverse impact in the community. (Tsalke annual report, 2008)

But recently child and youth migration and trafficking become severe because of low economic status of highlands. Hence people of the highlands have low participation in formal education attributed to poor economic situation of the highlands which has led to out migration and school drop outs and low school accessibility that is also aggravated by the ruggedness of the terrain. (ibid, 12)

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

The research design of this study is descriptive. In consideration of the objectives and purpose of this study, both qualitative and quantitative methods of research were used. The research employed a qualitative method in large and quantitative at a lower scale.

A qualitative method was employed to collect relevant data regarding children's opinions and in order to understand the difficulties of life for migrant children as well as the views of development actors working in the area.

In depth interviews as part of qualitative research helped the researcher to find out detailed information about one individual participant.

3.3 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

In the study, the researcher was interested to incorporate children only from districts of Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke and Arba Minch Zurea. It is due to the researcher's prior knowledge of the areas and the recommendation from police department of the Zone. Therefore, the sample selection employed was purposive. The selection of sample children was done with the project workers of CIAI, an organization operating in the area.

The researcher took a sample size of 65 children who came from the highland districts. The size of sample was selected on the basis of the assumption on the numbers of children by the Labor and Social Affairs Unit of the zone. In addition Key informants like brokers were selected who have better information about the situation.

In addition to that, two NGOs working on child protection in the area (CIAI and MCDP) and concerned governmental actors like Police, WCYA and Social and Labor Affairs offices at zonal and district level had been included in the study.

3.4 TOOLS AND PROCEDURES OF DATA COLLECTION

This study relayed on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary techniques of data collection which have been used include structured questionnaires, case studies, focus group discussion and personal observation.

The questionnaires and case studies as a tool helped the researcher to obtain direct information from target children.

In addition, in depth interview conducted with brokers, Kesha bet owners, bus drivers, hotel owners and other key informants who believed to have the reliable information where and for what purpose children are moving.

This study largely employed a method of qualitative research in which questionnaires have been prepared for the collection of data through in depth individual interviews or case studies.

The interviews carried out in Amharic and to better understand the researcher also used local language- Gamotstso while interviewing children.

Three Focus Group Discussions were conducted with 2 NGOs, 4 district police offices and sector offices (WCYA, Education and LSAU). The information on FGD helped the researcher to have a common view on the causes, challenges and misinformation about migrant children in the town.

Personal observation as a tool for data collection also had been employed by the researcher to describe the real situation of migrant children in the study area.

Secondary data such as books, magazines, newsletters, published and unpublished documents from various institutions have been used to analyze and understand the issue.

3.5 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

In order to process and analyze the quantitative data collected, the interview schedules were checked and missed questions have been amended in the field. Data entry was validated by checking samples to prevent data entry errors. The data were coded and analyzed using software called EPiData 3.1 to examine the pattern and extent of the phenomena.

The results of the data collected through interviews have been tabulated and described. The information gathered from different sources is presented in different forms including tables, figures and description. During the data analysis, the researcher used simple description methods like frequencies and percentages.

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before the start of the data collection from all participants, the researcher briefly explained about the objectives of the study and have been received a consent from all participants. Emphasis is placed on the principles of privacy and confidentiality.

The researcher guaranteed participants that all contributions would remain anonymous (code names were used to keep the privacy). Participants at FGDs were told as they can quit at any point of the discussion if they are not feeling comfortable.

Participant's particularly migrant children were encouraged to use local language in order to describe the situation very well.

Generally, the researcher took care not to encroach upon the psychosocial privacy of the participants of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. GENERAL CHARACTERSTICS OF RESPONDENTS

This study is conducted in the Zonal town of Arba Minch. Only in the streets of the town, it is believed that more than 600 migrant children from the Gamo highlands are making a living. Out of the total migrant children working and living in Arba Minch town, 65 children (59 male and 6 female) have been purposively selected to be part of the study. The children in the study are originally from the highland districts of Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke and Arba Minch Zurea.

A. Age Category of Respondents

All children selected for the study are under the age of 18. As shown in the diagram below, the majority (61.5%) of children on the move who are working in the town are between the ages of 10-14. The study also reveals that children above the age of 15 are living in a significant number (32.3%). But one has to take into consideration that the age of the children is between the ages of 11-13 when they reached the town 2-4 years before. In some few cases, (6.2%) migrant children under the age of 9 are also exhibited working in the town.
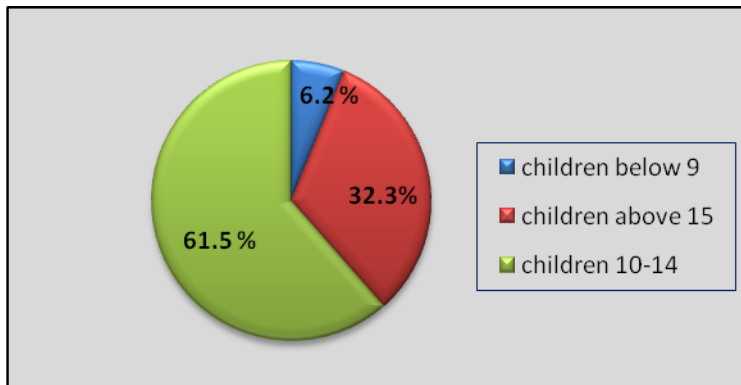
Table 1: Age category of children included in the study (source: own Survey)

B. Sex Composition of Respondents

As the table below depicts, in terms of gender distribution in the study, the majority of the children surveyed are male (90.8%) and the remaining (9.2%) are female migrant from the highlands. Due to the nature of the work in which most of female migrant children engaged in, the researcher used small percentage of female children in the study.

The demand for female migrants is extremely attributed by domestic chores and other similar tasks at service providing institutions of the town. The phenomena of domestic work, though difficult to easily access victims, has relatively long established trend within the community. In line with this view, the researcher was most interested in the inclusion of female migrants joined the commercial sex business in the streets of Arba Minch which currently emerged as new and growing phenomena in the town.

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	59	90.8
Female	6	9.2
Total	65	100.0

Table 2- Sex composition of respondent children

C. Access and Level of Education

In the study, as it is explored in the chart below, the majority of children (70.8% of the total respondent) are dropouts from first cycle of primary school (grade1-4). About 16.9% of children, covered in the study, are become drop out after attending grade 5 and above. The remaining 12.3% of children are reported illiterate or never joined school.
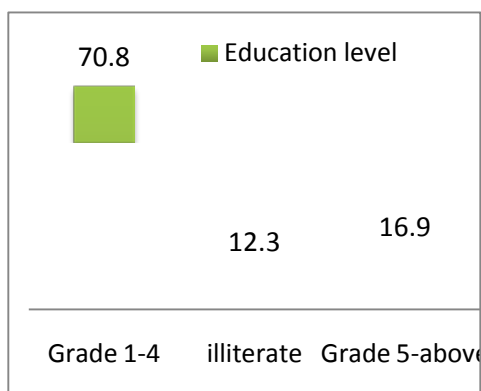
Table 3- Educational level of interviewed children (source: own survey)

In terms of accessibility, 61.5% of surveyed children responded that there are schools in the nearby village or neighborhood in which they are expected to walk a maximum of half an hour. In the cases of 21.5% children from similar district the schools are far from their home and they have to travel from 30 minutes to an hour in order to attend school. Children from some very remote and underserved areas (17% of respondents) informed that they are traveling more than an hour per day to reach school. This is the cause for them to drop school and come to the town. The majority of these children are drop out from first cycle of primary school.

D.   Relative Wealth and Economy of the Family

As indicated in the table below, the families of 57.3 % interviewed children have less than 3 farming and/ or domestic animals which are considered as the main tools for agricultural production.

Types of animals	Quantity in No and %						Remark
	<3		**3-5**		**>5**		
Farm	11	16.9	7	10.7	-	0	
Domestic	3	4.6	2	3	2	3	
Both farm & domestic	23	35.8	9	13.8	6	9.2	
Total	**37**	**57.3**	**18**	**27.5**	**8**	**12.3**	

Table 4- Relative family wealth of children before leaving home (source: own survey)

Around 12.3 % of children participated in the study came from the family who relatively has good household assets. For such children the reason for the move is different than those of pushed by poverty. They are mostly persuaded by the narration of their friends about the life in the town.

Concerning the family economy, almost all of the families of migrant children relay on agriculture as the main strategy for livelihood. The families of 95.4% respondent migrant children living in the town have farm land but for the majority the land they have is very small (less than 0.5 acre), deteriorated and fragmented.

E. Family Situation and Size

Regarding family situation, 76.1% of surveyed children before leaving home were living with both parents. Whereas, 13.8% of respondents were living with only one parent (9.2% are only with mother and 4.6% with father).

The remaining, 10.1% of migrant children covered in the study responded that they were living in a child headed families with their older brothers and sisters. Another 11.1% children are also from divorced parents and were living with the step parent, whereas 13.8% of children in the study are those who lost one or both of the parents were living together with the grandparents and other guardians.

From the total children who were living with both parents, 27.08% of children reported that their father has two spouses. As many of rural part of the country, having many children is considered as important asset for families in the highlands of Gamo Gofa. In this regard, 70.77% of children reported that the size of the family which they were living in the highlands have more than 5 children.

In addition to that, discussant of FGD from WCYA of Gamo Gofa Zone pointed out that polygamous marriage in particular and cultural view of having many children in general has resulted in large family size. However, the remaining 29.23% of respondents have mentioned that the number of children in their family is below 5.

According to respondent children, the parents of most migrant children are illiterate and do not have knowledge and awareness on the importance of education for children. However, 4.61% from the total respondents replied that their parents particularly fathers are working in different sectors (police, teaching, and agriculture) at Kebele and district level.

4.2. WHY CHILDREN LEAVE THEIR HOME?

The root causes of leaving ones home are various and often differ from one country to another and from one locality to another. According to the information, gathered from various groups involved in the study, the reasons to leave home environment varies from child to child. There are, however, many factors in common for children on the move from the highlands as stated below:

A. Poverty Driven Move

From the total children included in the study, 86.1% of the respondents put search for better life as the main reason to leave home. The push factor for them is lack of basic needs at home. The parents of these children failed to provide food and cloth for them.

The household asset and relative wealth of migrant children before leaving home indicates that their parents do not have enough tools to produce food for the family and ensure healthy household economy. One of the push factors for

leaving home as responded by children covered in the study is lack of enough food at home especially after school.

Therefore, the children move to the town just escaping hunger at household. In particular, 60% of respondents in this category even came to the town with the aim of supporting other family members left behind so that increase household capacity in food self sufficiency.

The children further mentioned that lack of educational materials which due to poverty at household level is the main challenge for them to go to school. In this regard, children of the highland districts who moved to Arba Minch town replied that lack of educational materials as their reason to leave home. All children who raised issues of educational material during the study have been came from poor families who don't have capacity to purchase materials for their children.

B. Influence from Peers

Poverty is mentioned as the main challenge of life for children of highland districts. However, the decision for the move, significantly trigger with the influence and pressure of peers who had previous experience of Arba Minch town and other destinations. Out of the total children interviewed for the study, 55.4% of children came to the town with peers who had prior experience of living in the transit and destination town of Arba Minch. The persuasion from peers has greater impact on children challenging life and attending school in the place of origin.

In spite of the hardships in the destinations, children who looked on some observable (cloth, electronics materials, etc) changes occurred on their village peers are most possibly motivated to move to Arba Minch and the nearby plantations. At source places there are even persuading songs designed to explain about the destinations. For instance, the famous song, which children in their local language sing in the highland, is the following:

ታኒ ባናይ ጉማይዴ:

ታኒ ኦይቀናይ ሞባይሌ:

ታኒ ጊጸናይ ቢዮንሴ።

The direct translation of the song is *I am going to Gumaide; to have a mobile phone; and to dress a fashionable cloth called beyonce.* The song has been designed just looking what children who moved to such destinations dressed in and use other attractive electronics equipments (mobile phone, watch, Tape recorder…) which are difficult to own and non affordable in the area of origin.

C. High Interest in City Life

Even though challenges in the destination town, the majority of surveyed children on the move are comfortable in the life at the town. The children who reached to the town even without any peer influence had been observed comparing the life in the city and rural villages. In one part, the children, 53.8% from the total included in the study, preferred living in the town for relatively better access to food. For them the town is best place easily getting money and fulfilling basic needs. The life in the village for such children are miserable and without any hope where as the town is relatively better with opportunities.

The remaining 46.2% of respondents are not interested in their situation in the town. What they heard and expected are very different from the reality in the town. For such children the town is a destination for suffering with work load, no access to education, abuse and stress resulted from lack family relation. According to such children no one is caring for them and all the responsibilities fall under the child which is even difficult to manage. Life for them is difficult in the town.

D. Access to Basic Social Services and Infrastructure

Education is another motive for children to migrate. As indicated in the previous section of the study, the majority of children are dropouts from first

cycle of primary school (grade1-4) and a significant number of children covered in the study are become drop out after attending grade 5. As described by *Punch* (*…In most rural areas in developing countries education is available only at primary level, and at a quality often lower than that in urban areas. Punch 2007),* children move from the areas, it is because in such remote and underserved rural villages getting 2nd cycle of primary school (grade5- 8) and secondary school is very difficult.

The move of children for educational purpose usually starts at this stage from the nearby district town or a village which provides full primary and secondary school system. Children of migrants in large are drop outs from primary schools. Search for better access to education facilities is one of the factors behind the decision to leave home. In the destinations, however, the chance of attending school is unthinkable and one of the challenges for children is the difficulty to restart education.

School absenteeism and drop out is the major challenge for the primary schools in the target districts included in the study. One of the discussant, from Education Department of Gamo Gofa Zone during FGD elaborated that children in the past are moving from the target districts to the town due to lack of junior secondary schools.

No.	Woredas	Enrollment 2012/13			No. of Drop out student			%age
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
1	Arba minch Zurea	19660	16862	36,522	1856	1451	3307	9.05
2	Bonke	22048	18867	40915	1454	1407	2861	7.6
3	Kamba	16610	13951	30,561	2218	1519	3737	10.7
4	Daramalo	10372	7617	17,989	2123	1456	3578	19.9

Table 5- dropout rates at target districts in 2012/13 academic year
(Source: GGZ Education Department annual report, unpublished, October 2013)

The above data obtained from the zonal education department also depicts similar fact even though tremendous work had recorded by the government in accessing primary education in all over the districts of the Zone. According to the Development, Plan and Monitoring Coordinator of Gamo Gofa Zone Education Department, the districts covered in the study have very serious challenges in relation to school dropout and child migration of both male and female children for work purpose.

In the study, it is also explored that for about 61.5% of respondent children, schools are located in a very closest neighborhood. In contrary to such facilities, huge number of children of the highlands have decided to migrate and living in the town without having access to education. The reason to be a drop out and migrant for these children were not lack of school infrastructure at villages rather other factors contributed for the decision. Lack of educational materials, hunger, cloth, peer influence, abuse and neglect, are the major pushes described by the children in this category.

E. Cultural Push Factors

In the study, it is also explored that significant number of children on the move has a family who migrated to the town or other places including Addis Ababa. Adults from the source areas of these migrant children also migrate to the surrounding low lands in a seasonal manner.

From the children included in the study, 18.6% have at least one or two members of their families already migrated to the nearby town, surrounding farm and Segen Area Zone. In addition, the majority of migrant children have a close relative or family member migrated to Addis Ababa, Dilla, Shashemene, Bale, Arsi Negele, and other corners of the country for weaving purposes. The children further mentioned that those migrants living in the described places are coming back at every masqal and presenting story about their life after the move. From this point it is easy to conclude that the history of migration by

families and community members by itself has put its influence on children to move to other destinations.

F. Abuse and Neglect at Home

Poverty and peer pressure are not the only push factor for the children of the highlands. The reason to leave home for some children is conflict with parents and/or guardians due to several reasons. In this regard, 13.8% of children involved in the study replayed that abuse and neglect by parents are the major cause for leaving home. The children further elaborated that their father/ step father are always drunk and quarrels with them and their mothers.

In addition, a child whose father has two spouses and many children lack time for love and affection by parents which is considered vital for the psychological development of a child. This is the reason behind their decision for the move of children.

G. Lack of Legal Protection for Orphan Children

In the study, it was explored that, 23.9% of migrant children are orphans (at least lost one of their parents) and some of them are from child headed family. *In the SNNPRS, probably like all the other regions in the country, child inheritance is a huge problem (Zewdineh, 2008).* As noted by Zewdineh, due to the absence of organized legal protection system and the influences of local culture on children, needs and priorities of children in relation to inheritance have been found difficult to be heard by adults of target rural areas.

Culturally, among the Gamo community, the lands of parents of orphan children is likely given to the guardians who are most close relative with a view that facilitate easy access to livelihood for children. Deprivation *of their property rights by those closest to them is one of the major early challenges orphans face. Many a relative has falsified documents and perjured to get a court verdict that makes them the sole heirs of the deceased parents of the child cutting the child*

off from the succession. (Zewdineh, 2008) Similar to this point, out of the total children in the study, 10.1% of orphan children replied that their farmlands and properties are illegally owned and utilized for own consumption by close extended families who assigned as guardian.

From the point above, one can easily draw a conclusion that, absence of desired legal support in ensuring inheritance rights of land and other property for orphan children is categorized among the challenges in the source places. Failure to use parental farm land due to the reasons mentioned above is one of the push factors for children to leave place of origin.

4.3. SOURCES, DIRECTIONS, TRANSITS AND DESTINATION
4.3.1. Hot Spot and Vulnerable Districts/Kebeles of Children on the Move

Even though limited, issues related to child trafficking, from Gamo Gofa area has been mentioned at different times by different researchers.

Children of Gamo highlands are highly vulnerable to unsafe move. As informed by the zonal police crime prevention core work processor, during the study, out of the 9 highland districts Arba Minch Zurea, Daramalo, Bonke, Kamba, Kucha and Boreda are known by high number of children on the move. The move might be voluntary and non-voluntary.

The major sending districts, according to zonal police department are Daramalo, Arba Minch Zurea, Kucha, Bonke, Boreda and Kamba but their vulnerability depends on previous intervention done in the district. For instance, in a very near past, Chencha was known with the problem of child migration and trafficking for weaving purpose but now the source shifted to other districts due to an integrated intervention by stakeholders.

According to Daramalo woreda police and results of studies by CIAI (NGO operating in the area) in the town, most vulnerable highland kebeles/villages in the district includes Choye, Ledhe, Zinbe, Zinge, Dara, Guge, Shela.

The much known source villages from Kamba district are Haringa, Hanko, Balta, Osa Merche, Sorba and Dingamo. Similarly, most vulnerable villages of Bonke district are Algude, Kole, kashaso, sanga, yela, chosha, Gezeso, Kuta and Garbansa.

The source kebeles most mentioned by the respondents of *Kesha Bet* owners and children involved in the study in Arba Minch Zurea are Mazo doysa, Tseyte, Wusamo, suyle, Laka, Gaste, Kodo and Zigiti Merche.

4.3.2. Directions, Transits and Destination of the Move

Once the children decide to move to other destinations, the first issue comes to their mind is how to reach the place they are dreaming. The children mostly forced to travel long distances (more than 75 KM) by foot to reach the town. The directions in which children uses for the move are dynamic and changing from time to time depending on counter trafficking actions and the destinations they planned to reach. However, there are most commonly used directions as mentioned by the children, police and transport workers.

A. Routes for children moving from the highlands

The routes for the move of children are very diverse and exhibiting spatial change from time to time in response to the increasing patrol and check by the police and other organizations. However, what all transport workers included in the study confirmed in one sound that children from different districts such as Bonke, Arba Minch Zurea, Daramalo and Dita are using the transportation rout of Zigiti- Arba Minch (21KM long) just to reach the town. Daramlo- Zada- Chencha is the second route in which children from Daramalo and Dita are moving to other destinations. For children who decided to leave home from districts of Kamba and parts of Bonke, Balta- Gerese- shelle is the route to reach Arba Minch and banana plantations at Elgo and Wozeqa.

According to the head of police station of Daramalo district most of the moves are accomplished by foot and the commonly used routes which children use includes Daramalo—Zadaa—Chencha, Daramalo—Kucha (via Halaha village)--Morka— and Daramalo (from villages of Choye, Zinge) --- Bonke---Arbaminch Zurea—Arba Minch.

Children from Kamba also have their own travelling routes. As mentioned by the district police, during Focus Group Discussion, the travelling routes are Balta—Gatse—Zigiti—Arbaminch; Balta—Busa—Gidole and Kamba—Zala— Sawla.

Unlike other districts, Arba Minch Zurea, is not only a source but also serves as a transit for children moving from districts of Bonke, Daramalo and Kamba. For children of Arba Minch zurea the topography favored easy to move into Arba Minch town is by crossing Ganta and Gando villages.

In general, most of the times children move from those hot spot districts use different routes to reach the town. However, the long served lines are Zigiti baqole (children from AMZ, Kamba, Bonke and Daramalo prefer this direction), Gatse, shele and Dega shara.

B. Transits and Destinations of the Move

In the past trafficking of children were directed to Addis Ababa just to engage them in traditional weaving sector. Arba Minch was only served as a place for transition and having transportation facilities to the capital and other destinations of Oromia region.

Currently, the decline in the demand for child labor in Addis due to several reasons and the counter trafficking act in transit zones has shifted the transits and destinations of children on the move from the highlands.

Arba Minch is said, by the drivers included in the study, both the major transit and destination town for children on the move from the highlands. However,

the children using the town as a transit mostly going to Segen Area Peoples Zone (Gumaide, Gidole) and in rare case to Addis Ababa.

Gumaide is an old name for the recently established zonal town of Segen, which is the contemporary and adjoining absorber of children of Gamo highlands. The children migrate to these places because of two reasons: firstly the place is very much known in cultivation of *teff* and other *cereals* in the area. Agriculture is one of the main informal sectors which attracts and absorb children with relative adjustment of needs. The children lured in the labor force by the false promise of sharing some portion of land by the "exploiters". Secondly, as noted on the previous writings of trafficking, transporting and transferring of children to Addis has faced a challenge of patrol and supervision in the transits and destination which finally lead to change in destination to Gumaide.

In the discussion with brokers and *Kesha Bet* owners, Arba Minch is mentioned as the major destination for migrant children. However, according to them, the town also used as transit for those moving to Gumaide and Arba Minch Zurea to be hired in the privately owned farms and banana plantations. The move mostly arranged by their village predecessors who have been worked in the sector. In addition to the town and the surrounding plantations, for children of Gamo highlands, Segen Area peoples Zone, Sidama and Gadeo Zones have been mentioned as important places of destination.

Destination for the move from the district is step wise in terms of pattern. The police of Kamba district mentioned that children from the district mostly move to the nearby villages including the center of their district, and then extend to Arba Minch, Wacha, Gofa, Gidole and banana plantations of Arba minch Zurea.

According to the data obtained from women affairs and police office of Arba Minch town during FGD, the presence of job opportunities for children in general and the highest demand of employment for females in the town for

domestic work is one of the attractive factors inspiring children to move to the town.

But after some stay in the town the children trying further travel to other distant destinations. The children move in a step in which first arrive at Arba Minch town and after some stay prepare for further move to the neighboring districts and zones.

4.3.3 Periods of Migration

Children from the highland district are moving in different times with different reasons. The periodic pattern for the move is almost similar in all districts with some slight variations. Most of the children are moving between the months of *June – September*. The reason which used as a banner, according the project supervisor of MCDP, an NGO working in the area, is to collect some money from the town which to be used for purchase of educational materials or to support the parents. The time is coincided with the calendar in which schools closed at national level.

In some places like Daramalo, children prefer to move in December following people came to the area for religious celebration (st.Gebreal). Children in Arba Minch Zurea and Bonke in some cases start the move around end of November which in the destination is a time for harvesting and the demand for child labor in the low land areas reaches a climax.

However, for the majority of the move, in hot spot highland districts, the pick period, is September or the time of *masqal* holiday.

4.4. THE HARDSHIPS OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

The hardship of children on the move starts immediately after they leave home and community environment. The children are expected to travel long distances by foot and during the move they might face physical injuries while

crossing rivers, gorges etc. Female children in particular are more vulnerable for abuses while traveling in the forests without protection.

After reaching Arba Minch town also labor works at hotels, bakery, and domestic work and construction sites are survival opportunities for the majority of children on the move.

Some others make living just carrying goods in the market, collecting fire wood and grass from distant places of Nechsar National Park to be sold in the markets of the town. Domestic work is major ascribed job for female migrants in the past and even today but in very recent phenomena female migrant children started to engage them in commercial sex.

4.4.1 Risk of Trafficking

Children who started the journey to the town with a plan of having better opportunity at destination might be vulnerable for trafficking. Some children (17.3%) in the research explained that before coming to the town and even after reaching the town they have been trafficked and moved to other places.

In the destinations children are forced to work in hazardous situation. The nearest place for trafficking and exploitation includes cotton and banana plantations of Lake Chamo area and Segen Zone, Dilla, Wolyta.

4.4.2. Health Related Challenges

One of the most challenges for children on the move is access to health services at destination. Children engaged in labor demanding jobs in the workshops, in kitchens for chopping of wood and other chores exposing them to fire, smoke etc. Since the children are working more than 12 hours in a day- they do not have enough sleeping time. It might lead them to become confused, dizzy and irritated in day to day life.

In terms of access to food, children responded that they only once per a day in case they are provided by their employers. According to the respondents from

hotels the food they are given to eat is often leftovers from the customers. More than two-third of children interviewed are observed poorly dressed, do not have extra close to change and wash their close and body weekly going to the nearby Kulfo River. The overall situation of employed children in all hotels, restaurants and metal workshops observed in this study was not conducive and safe. All children are sleeping in the places where they are working. Due to this fact, most of the working children are suffering from communicable disease such as typhoid and typhus.

The other most serious problem of children in Arba Minch is infection with malaria and yellow fever. The children of the highlands are not capable of adapting to the hot temperature in the low land destinations and prefer to sleep naked without protective measures from malaria. In relation to health matters, 46.15% of children, included in the study had been infected and suffered from health problems, of which 23.05% infected by malaria, 13.9% by typhoid and malnourishment and 9.2% physical injuries while working in hazardous environment.

Concerning access to medical services for migrant children, out of the total children who faced health problems, 43.33% have got the chance to go health centers with their own income where-as the remaining 56.66% of children had not got the service. The reason is lack of financial capacity and information on how to reach public medical services.

4.4.3. Employment and Work Exploitation at Destination

In the destination children are forced to be engaged in labor demanding jobs which adversely affect their well being. 52.3% of the total children included in the study are engaged in carrying of goods for hotels and individuals. Another 20% of children are working in constructions and metal workshops without any safety measures. The children in the construction sector engaged are a

daily laborers and sometimes working more than eight hours with no or very fraction of overtime payment.

A total of 21.5% of migrant children who are part of the study reported that they are working in the hotels and restaurants in washing equipments and assisting in the kitchen and bars. More than the impacts on health, most children working in different hotels and households at destination are exposed to abuses and exploitations.

In 60% of service providing hotels, restaurants and pensions covered in the study, more than 45% of the employees are children under the age of 16 years. Almost all of them are assigned to do labor demanding jobs. The majority of the children working in the hotels are from the highland districts of Gamo Gofa with small number of children from other areas such as Wolayta, Shashemene.

In all hotels, included in the study, migrant children are forced to work more than 12 hours per day. In some rare cases children are expected to work up to 17 hours starting from 06:00 AM early in the morning till the mid night.

The activities in which children employed at hotels engaged in are washing and cleaning, carrying goods, assisting in the kitchen and other jobs which even does not considered as a job by the owners. Whereas the average monthly salary paid for child workers is Eth. Birr 80.00, of which deductions are made for medication while they are ill and compensation for the glasses and other equipments broken or damaged by them while working.

In the process of exploitation of migrant children, brokers are playing a key role. The exploitation starts from recruitment and lobbying. In one of the sample broker office, for instance, the researcher has observed that children under 14 are waiting for employment.

What are these children expected to work was my first question to the broker. She replied easily saying "*it is simple job like washing and cleaning as well as*

carrying goods. It is not heavy as such; they are eating and sleeping there; therefore no problem for them". However, she has been mentioned that denial of salary, not providing food or giving spoiled food, forcing to work more than 8 hours are the common problems and challenges for children.

The children due to insignificant rate of payment and unfair deduction mechanisms have to work for long time until they meet their financial plan. However, this is the way in which the owners of the hotels and other service providing organizations keep the children working for them.

56.9% of surveyed children are engaged in a job which they earn less than Eth. Birr 15.00 per day whereas other 36.9% are replied as they getting more than birr 15.00 everyday. The remaining 6.2% interviewed migrant children who engaged in commercial sex work responded that they are getting between birr 150- 300 per day. But the income from children of commercial sex work is occasional.

However, most of the children (95.3%) are spending what they have got just for food, house rent, and accommodation payment for kesha bet as well as in rare case for buying cloths. Few children have been trying to save some amount and successful even in sending remittances for the families in some occasion which to be used for *masqal* celebration, paying land tax and so on. For such children the move was originally planned by the parents just to participate them in the contribution of household income.

4.4.4 Child Commercial Sex Worker

Since recent years, in the study area, children from the highlands are initiated to join the commercial sex activity and the number of migrant child sex workers and a customer prefer them enlarged from time to time. As many other children from the highlands, these children came to the town just to find a better living opportunity but forced to start commercial sex work due to the

influences from peers and role of traffickers who live in "selling" female children for the market.

As noted in trafficking in persons report (2012), *girls from Ethiopia's rural areas are exploited in domestic servitude and, less frequently, prostitution within the country*, in the study, very small but significant number of female respondents (6.2%) has replied as they are working in commercial sex industry. The researcher also observed that, in major parts of the town, around 80-100 female children. It might seem very small for anyone but for those who do have a previous knowledge about Arba Minch town, however it is a shock to see female children under the age of 14 staying in the street to have a client.

In fact, the researcher had difficulty in accessing such children in their place of work because they were not interested to reply for the questionnaires at the time of the study rather they were looking for business. However, the researcher feels that, since the discussion with few volunteer participants were in depth, the percentage can be representative for all female children working similar job in the town.

The age of migrant female children interviewed for the research ranges between 12- 15 years. Female migrants involved in commercial sex industry told the researcher that false information about the job opportunities in the town were the reason which put them in the business.

The challenges for child commercial sex workers start from the police in which they always threatening and taking them to jail for being in the street. They are moving from place to place inside ghettos to hide themselves from police which adversely made them prone to gangster. The police officers only have told on how to remove them from the streets and lack the basic techniques of dealing with and supporting children in contact with the law.

The clients of children mostly are not interested to use preventive measure during the intercourse. The situation with drunker is worse. They force child sex worker to have unsafe sex. In addition some clients are not interested to pay what they have agreed before.

In terms of knowledge of safe sexual behavior migrant children informed the researcher that they have slight information about HIV after joined the business. Some of female respondents even don't want to remember a time in which they engaged in interaction without use of condom. Migrant child commercial sex workers are susceptible to HIV/AIDS and other STIs. In this regard a 13 years child (her name is changed) case presented as follows:

> Asnakech is 13 years child from Ganta Meiche kebele of Arba Minch Zurea. Her mother died when she was 8 years old and her father married another wife in the same year. Her father and the step mother were not willing to send her school rather they were forcing to do heavy tasks at home. One year later after the death of her mother she came to the town with her aunt with the purpose of continue education. Later the situation in the town was not being as expected by Asnakech. Her aunt does not keep the promise to send Asnakech to school with her children. Her interest is just to support her in household chores. I don't get enough food and cloth. With this situation, I lived with my aunt only for two years, then in one day when I am starved much I decided to go out to the street. Then I joined the commercial sex business. Now, it has been 2 years suffering in the town. I had medication for being infected by STIs two to three times. Again as you see, I lost one of my teeth while beaten by one of my client. Life is just like this…enough. I am going to search business.

Another case study, narrated below, indicates that children joined the commercial sex industry are forced to a multiple of challenges from their clients, the police and others. In addition, the story provides an insight on how and why migrant children joined the business:

Kassech (changed name) is 15 years old. She was born and brought up in KOLE village of Bonke district. She lost both parents in incident occurred in ethnic conflict with neighbouring kebele 5 years ago. The farm land which her parents were used has transferred to her uncle for the purpose of supporting Kassech and her sister in their daily life. But through the course of time we realized that the farm land of our parents has been utilized by our uncle for his own purpose. We tried to own the farm but no one can give the chance. Due to this problem, I was 12 when I decide to go to Kolla shelle and work in the farm. While working in Kolla shelle (some 25 KM far from Arba Minch) I found one of my village friends who had lived at Arba Minch before. Then, after 3 months of work in the farm, I went with my friend to the town with the purpose of being hired as daily labour in construction work of Arba Minch University.

The situation, however, changed immediately after we reached the town. In the second night of living in Arba Minch my friend took me to the street from the house she rented and living even before coming to the farm area. Then she told me to sleep with one old man with some procedures of what I should do. I don't have options at the moment. I don't have anywhere to run out. That day onwards I am in the business. Every time I used to sleep during day time in the rented house around secha market and going for business every night to hunt a client in the street. The police are always threatening me and my friends not to appear in the street. I was even imprisoned by Secha Kifle Ketema Police and released after two days putting my signature to assure my commitment not to engage in commercial sex on the street. But I am still in the business. Really I don't have any information about other types of jobs in the town. I don't know what will happen tomorrow.

4.4.5. Homosexuality: A New Phenomenon

Few years back, no one was heard speaking about homosexual abuse in Arba Minch town. The dwellers of the town are to somewhat abide for informal social control mechanisms which they bring it from their rural basis.

However, through time issues in relation to homosexuality have started to be one of the concerns in the town. According to the results obtained from

discussions with Police of the town and WCYA offices homosexual abuse is increasing in Arba Minch. According to participants (8 people from GGZLSA, WCYA offices, Police, NGO-CIAI) of FGD, migrant children have been facing homosexual abuse by different persons both on the streets and in a place they are sleeping. In recent time, the discussant of FGD mentioned that five male children had faced severe homosexual abuse by the owner of *Kesha bet* while sleeping in Kesha bet. The children are in treatment at Arba Minch hospital and the case is under investigation by the Police.

In addition to the kesha bet, children sleeping on verandas and open airs around the bus station are most vulnerable and victims of homosexuality by their mates and others.

4.5 IMPACTS OF LEAVING HOME ON MIGRANT CHILDREN

Places of destinations are somewhat different areas for migrant children in terms of cultural and social environment. Children in destinations are vulnerable to psychological and social problems which would have an adverse short and long term impact in their life.

As police officer of the town rose during the FGD that migrant children are the one vulnerable to different addictions like chewing chat, smoking cigarette and sniffing **suret** as well as watching pornographic movies. In worst situation those living in verandas and streets are facing abuse by adults including homosexuality.

The children also informed the researcher as they engaged in criminal activities and addictions after reaching the town. The behaviors include smoking, chewing chat, gambling and petty theft. Most of the children interviewed around the bus station of Arba Minch town are involved in theft which in their communication code is called "***Kestenga.***

Out of the total children included in the study 72.3% have been involved in addictions of watching pornography, smoking and chewing chat. Due to this such children allocate their daily income for the addicts and sometimes involve in criminal activities to raise money.

One of the challenges in the destination town of Arba Minch, for migrant children, is to find a place for night accommodation. Concerning night stay, the responses of children included in the survey is presented as follows:

No	Items	Frequency	%age
1	Children sleeping in Kesha Bet	18	27.8
2	Children living in rented houses with group members	16	24.6
3	Children working and sleeping in workshops/workplaces	12	18.5
4	Children living with someone who provided shelter (video halls)	10	15.3
5	Children sleeping at verandas	9	13.8
	Total	**65**	**100**

Table 6- situation of accommodation for migrant children (source: own survey)

The children sleeping in the verandas have been facing a lot of challenges. Old children are beating and took what they get during day time. More than the physical abuse, children sleeping in verandas are very prone to health problems.

The children sleeping in the *kesha bet* also have challenges. The owners of *Kesha bet* mentioned that the problems while sleeping at night time is many and diverse which include health (infections with communicable disease), fighting each other (sometime involves the use of knife), theft among each other, rape (including same sex), etc.

In recent time, in order to avoid the problem of theft, those coming for accommodation started to save every night just by giving for the owner what they have got during day time.

4.6. FUTURE ASPIRATIONS OF MIGRANT CHILDREN

As many other children in the world, migrant children living in exploitative situation have their own wishes and dreams. The children have a lot of future aspirations and hopes such as being a teacher, merchant, government officer, driver, medical doctor, farmer, and police. From the total respondent, the interest of one- third (30.7%) of children involved in the study was associated with being a merchant and would like to have some kinds of arrangement for self employment. The idea of starting a business, however, has emanated and much more influenced by the situation in which they are working in the hotels, bars and kiosks. Other significant numbers of (27.7%) respondent children have an ambition of becoming a teacher.

Concerning the interests of restarting school, the majority of children covered in the study, has great enthusiasm for education. From the total children in the study, 89.2% are interested to start education if there are opportunities both in the highland and destination. However, due to frustration and hopelessness some children (10.8% from the total) feel that they lost their school age and difficulty to start education at lower grade. These children are above 14 years old and never joined school in their life and think that as they would not be successful in education. Rather they are planning for some petty trade.

In order to meet the aspirations of migrant children, family reunification and social integration is believed as one of the mechanisms by the stakeholders involved in the study. In terms of family reunification of migrant children, one of the issues raised in the study with migrant children is about their interest to go back home. In this regard 55.4% of surveyed children are interested to reunify with families. The interest of the children is associated with the continuation of education at their village.

In contrast, other 44.6% of respondents does not have any interest and plan to go back to the highlands. For such children, any plan to send back is putting them in a worse living situation which they managed to escape. The town is a good place for them apart from lack of educational access. The issue of reunification particularly for female children involved in commercial sex work is unthinkable because they feel that the work they engaged is already recognized by the community in which they came. Their plan is to arrange situations at the town to do small businesses which can support their livelihood and in the mean time support the restart of their education.

The situation in general indicates that, if there is an opportunity, migrant children of the area are ready to change their life from street and exploitative to the normal ways of life.

4.7. MULTI STAKHOLDER INITIATIVES OF COUNTER TRAFFICKING AND REUNIFICATION OF CHILDREN

Gamo Gofa Zone is one of the most known source areas for child migration and victims of trafficking and exploitation. Children of the highlands extremely move to different areas in search of better living conditions.

A significant number of GOs and NGOs are operating in the Zone with the implementation of activities/projects which putts children as direct and/or indirect beneficiaries. Whilst problems which foreseen on children are major challenges for government and NGOs working in the area, it is, in one hand, due to lack of integrated and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders.

In line with this, it has been pointed out during FGD with NGOs that due to the seriousness of the problem in the year 2011 a network has been formed among 13 NGOs and GOs dealing with children. According to members of the network participated in the FGD, after its establishment the network performed an important step in prevention and protection of children on the move.

With strong ambitions of helping migrant children living and working in the town, the network had planned a reunification of children with their parents as an immediate solution. According to one participant in the FGD, from NGO called Italian Center for Children Aid, only in one week street head count in September, 2011 more than 376 migrant children has been registered and around 106 children who tired of abuse in the town and was interested to go back reunified with family. As the coordinator of Social and Labor Affairs of the Zone, during the discussion, however, the move of children to the town and other destinations had not be diminished by the reunification effort of the network rather another huge number of (108) children from one locality were caught by the road block while on the move only in one route in the pick season of migration (September, 2012).

One of the challenges for reunification program of the Network is to have accurate data of the child. Some trafficked children attempt to hide information deliberately. Some of the street children also do not recognise their parent's name, their exact age and for how long they were on the street or in the town in the reason that they were very kid during the move.

In addition, in the study, around 19% of interviewed children were the one came to the town two- three times after reunified by a social worker. Most of reunified children were returned to the town on the same date and in some cases even before the person reunified the child come back. It is in one part due to lack of an assessment of interest of the child and counselling before forcing to go back.

The network also lacks coordination and budget directly allocated for the activities planned to accomplish. Furthermore, the regular monitoring meeting is not going well. Member organizations fail to take their own responsibilities of attending review meetings. The works of the network, in the last two years become only onetime campaign during pick period of the move.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

Children need the protection and support of their parents until they grow and become mature enough to help themselves.

The research indicated that the majority of children engaged in the street and domestic work, in Arba Minch town are from the highland districts of Gamo Gofa Zone. As revealed by the data, 14% of the target children leave their home due to harsh treatment and abuse, abandonment by guardian.

In most cases children move to the town by their own will though multiple of factors drive them behind. Other portions of these children are victims of trafficking by their closest relatives or persuaded to decide to come to the town by village friends. The existence of Kesha bet in the town also playing vital role of being the hidden port for the illegal business of dealing, brokering and transferring children to other places or labour demanding households at Arba Minch.

The research also revealed that the economic status of the parents or guardians of migrant children are not sufficient to satisfy their household needs. The major source of income for the Gamo community in the highland is agriculture in which most of them depend as their major subsistence. Hence, children seem to come from the lowest social and economic classes.

In addition to this, the educational statuses of the parents or guardians were very low. The study also identified 70.8% of children on the move are drop outs of primary schools.

Socio- cultural beliefs and practices of the community such as polygamous marriage and having many children has contributed for improper parent's socialization of children.

Children engaged in different working situation not entitled to receive their wage, are forced to work for more than eight hours in a day, and in some cases may not get enough food. More than the exploitation, migrant children are victims of abuse and repeatedly insulted by their employers. Female domestic servant children working at household level are more victims of domestic violence. Most importantly, vulnerability to different diseases including STIs and HIV/AIDS by female migrant children who joined the sex industry is inevitable unless appropriate action taken.

Almost 75.4% of the target migrant children indicated that, they sleep on kesha bet, plastic shelters, verandas and open air. Therefore, they are more at risk both in terms of being exposed to abuses and criminal activities.

While conducting the research, it was observed that migrant children working on the street, hotels and bars, workshops as well as commercial sex workers are in need of assistance from the government and the public.

The individual, the sending family, the community, the government and non government agencies as well need to work together to prevent the move and reduce the push factors at source level. In addition to this, the effort should be similar at destinations in order to improve the protection mechanisms of migrant children.

5.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study came out with only few points to be raised on behalf of migrant and trafficked children. Specific to this research, migrant children are very prone to social, economic and psychological problems after reaching the nearest destination and transit town of Arba Minch. The magnitude of the problems of

migrant children revealed in the study implies the need for immediate and long term intervention.

Therefore, the following could be possible practical suggestions for the prevention of child migration from the source and protection and rehabilitation of migrant and trafficked children living in Arba Minch town.

5.2.1. Practical (feasible, specific, and relevant) Suggestions

➢ It is understood that children decide to leave home and move to other areas due to various reasons. However, poverty at household level takes the leading factor in pushing children to other destinations. Alternative livelihood mechanisms such as establishment of cooperatives, small business schemes, agricultural inputs, rural job opportunities as well as support programs (World Bank, Global fund, Safety net...) should target vulnerable and poor households.

➢ Orphan children found that most vulnerable for trafficking and migration due to lack of appropriate protection at home environment. Therefore, at the source places a system of community based care and support and alternative care for orphan children is highly needed.

➢ The culture of migration is another factor for children of Gamo highlands to look for other areas. Moving to the lowlands, nearby areas and other distant destinations has been accepted as a norm by the community since long time. The local government and non-governmental actors of the area has to work on large scale community awareness stressing on the negative consequences of child migration and trafficking. Furthermore, an integrated and cascaded implementation of community based projects is required.

➢ The migration of children to other areas directly affected the education sector with high rate of dropout and absenteeism. The current problem in the highland districts is not lack of schools but lack of school age children. Schools as one of the primary institution dealing with children at grass root level have to give attention in making schools suitable for children. In addition, the Zonal government together with the regional state has to formulate an appropriate guideline for the area.

➢ Children in the course of their move and after they reached Arba Minch town does not have a place to stay in times in which they need protection. Consequently, once reached the town, children are kept together with prisoners in the police stations so that receive lesson of crimes. Therefore, temporary drop in center with counseling and other related services is the priority of the town and the zone in order to accommodate children in need of protection.

➢ Once children reached the destination town, their vulnerability to different health related hazards is increasing. A lot of migrant children in the town are suffering from malaria, typhoid and other communicable diseases. In this regard, it could be easy to say no available protection system arranged for migrants. In line with this the responsible offices of WCYA and labor and social affairs has to take the lead and coordinate other sectors in arrangement of free medical services.

➢ Huge number of migrant children have found very fragile to addictions and sexual violence in Arba Minch town. The children obsessed with addictions are most likely to involve in criminal acts and disturbing the normal functioning of the community in the town. Stakeholders such as municipality, WCYA, Police and labor and social affairs should take the lead

for rehabilitation of migrant children in general and street children in particular.

➤ Most of the efforts/works by the local government and NGOs concentrated on reunification and reintegration of children sometimes even without their will. In the contrary, reunified children have been observed coming to the town repeatedly. Before reunification and reintegration takes place the actors should examine the consent of children and the real causes which brings the child there. And availability of reliable family members and a strategy for supporting children at home also has to be given attention before reunification work. In addition, post reunification follow up by line sectors at bottom level would reduce the chance of returning back.

➤ The issue of child commercial sex workers and homosexuality is another concern which demands an immediate solution. Most of female migrant children joined the business due to lack of information and options where to go. A strategy should be formulated to rehabilitate and empower this special group including provision of vocational training and seed capital as well as linkage from micro credit scheme. Homosexuality should be addressed by the concerned offices. The offices should mobilize the largest public through awareness, design techniques of dealing with victims and legal as well as prosecution of perpetrators.

➤ Vast awareness and discussion forums on the prevention and protection aspect of children on the move has to be conducted with inclusion of workers of transport sector, brokers, kesha bet owners, hotel managers/owners, owners of small scale industrial workshops and others.

➢ A local guideline to prohibit employment of children under the age of 14 has to be ratified and kitchens of hotels and bars also be frequently checked by the concerned office.

➢ Besides all contributions done by government and non government agencies there should be a coordinated effort of all stakeholders who have a concern about children.

5.2.2. Suggestions for Further Research

The Gamo highland is one of the resourceful areas in Ethiopia. The area is suitable for different vegetables and cereals. Regardless of natural gift, existed in the highlands, the zone is known of children on the move and is one of the areas shaded with red lights in the region due to trafficking of children for labor exploitation.

Despite all problems, exhibited in the area, the study covered only children from four districts and the challenges faced by them in the destination town of Arba Minch. But the children coming to the town and migrate to other destinations are from all rural districts of Gamo Gofa Zone.

In some cases, the researcher have been informed that increased hardships of children victims of international trafficking and move from the highlands through the routes of Segen (Burji)➔ moyale ➔ Kenya. Therefore, there is a need for further large scale study to better identify the deep rooted causes and market-source linkages.

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APPENDICES

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Annex I: Interview schedule for In-Depth Interview with migrant children of the Gamo highlands

This questionnaire is intended to conduct for fulfillment of MA degree in Social Work research to be responded by migrant children of Gamo Highlands.

The objective of this questionnaire is to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo. The information gained from this questionnaire shall be used as a primary data in the research that I am conducting as a partial fulfillment of my study.

It would be very helpful if you could give some time and answer for the questions since your responses are very important for the successful completion and meeting of the objectives of the research.

General directions:-

- There is no need to tell your name
- In some cases you can response more than one answer

I. Basic information on the child

1. Age_____
2. Sex_____
3. Place of Birth Zone_____Woreda/district_____
   Kebele/Village_____
4. Is there school in your village? Yes____ No____
5. If yes for # 4 how far it from your home_____
6. Have you ever attended school before coming to Arba Minch? Yes____ No____
7. If yes for # 6,

a. Grade attended _____

b. Drop out at grade_____

c. Non formal school_____

d. Preschool or KG _____

II. Child's Family Situation

1. Father's situation
   a. Alive
   b. Alive but not healthy
   c. Dead
   d. Disappeared

2. Mothers
   a. Alive
   b. Alive but not healthy
   c. Dead
   d. Disappeared

3. If both parents alive, are they_____
   a. Living together
   b. Divorced
   c. Separated
   d. Widowed
   e. Other (specify)_____

4. Family size
   Brother _____ Sister_____ Relatives (specify)_____

5. Before you came to Arba Minch with whom you were living?
   a. Biological parents
   b. Guardians
   c. Grand parents
   d. Other (specify) _____

6. If you have brother and sisters, do all of them go to school?

   Yes_____No_____

7. If No for question # 6, why?

   _____

8. Number of your father spouse_____

9. Do your families receive support from the program like safety net, global fund? Yes____ No___

10. Does your family have their own farm land? Yes_____ No_____

11. Does your family have domestic animals? Yes_____ No_____

    If yes, mention names and numbers:

    1. _____   _____
    2. _____   _____
    3. _____   _____

III. Situation of the Child

1. How did you come to Arba Minch?

   a. By your own   c. Family case

   b. Peer pressure   d. with unknown person

2. If you came by your own what factors pushed you to leave home_____

3. How did you reach Arba Minch?

   a. By foot   C. If any other _____

   b. Transportation

4. If you came by foot who showed the direction of the town? _____

5. If you came by transport who covered the cost? _____

6. If you came by peer pressure what are the information you received from your peers? _____

7. For how long you have been here in Arba Minch?

   a. 0- 6 months   c. more than 2 years

   b. 6 months- 2 years

8. Did you stay in any other towns (other than original place) before coming Arba Minch?

   a. Yes   b. No

9. What are you doing during day time?

   a. Begging   c. carrying goods   e. serving in the hotel

   b. Shoeshine   d. daily labor   f. other (specify)_____

10. How much money per day/month you earn (average)? _____

11. What are you doing with the money? _____

12. Are you sending remittances for parents/relatives? _____ If yes how often? _____

13. Did you receive any one of the following support from your employer

   a. Education   c. cloth

       e. No support at all

   b. Health   d. any other_____

14. Where do you stay the night? _____

   a. Street   c. verandas

   b. Kesha houses   d. If other specify_____

15. If you are sleeping on the streets/veranda what problems you faced during night time?

   _____

16. Do you ever report for the police the problem you encountered? Yes ____No____

17. If yes for # 16, what was the support from the police?

   _____

18. If not for # 16, why?

   _____

19. How often you watch movies in video house?

   a. Daily (daily/ night)

   b. Not often

   c. Not at all

20.   If you watch movies, what is your favorite film type? _____

21. Have you ever tried one of the following?

    a. Chewing chat   d. Not at all

    b. Glue- sniffing   e. Other (specify)_____

    c.   Suret

22.   Do your peers/ groups smoke cigarette? Yes_____ No_____

23.   Have you been arrested by police? Yes____ No___

24.   If yes for # 23 what was the reason? _____

25.   Have you ever faced any health problem after coming Arba Minch?

    Yes____ No____

26. If yes for # 25 what is the cause _____ _____

27. Did you go to health center? _____ If not why? _____

IV. Child's Opinion

28. What would you like to be in the future?

  _____

29. Are you comfortable on the street/working in hotels? Yes____ No___

    If yes why? _____

    If not for # 29, why? _____

30. Do you want to reunify with your family? Yes_____ No____

    If No, why? _____

31. Do you want to start school if you have an opportunity? Yes___No_____

32. If not # 31, why? _____

Thank you!

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), School of Social Work

Annex II: Guideline for Focus Group Discussion with child protection service providing sectors (Police, WCYA, LSA, Education and NGOs)

This FGD is intended to gather information for preparation of MA degree in Social Work research to be responded by government and non government organizations working on protection of children.

The objective of this questionnaire is to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo. The information gained from this discussion shall be used as a primary data in the research that I am conducting as a partial fulfillment of my study.

I am going to ask you some questions related to child out migration and trafficking from the area in which you are living. Your name will not be mentioned in the study. You have also the freedom to withdraw from the FGD at any time you wish. So are you willing to participate on the discussion?

1. Name of the organization _____
2. Your responsibility in the organization_____
3. What are the major services your organization provides for children of the area? _____
4. In your view who are the most vulnerable districts of Gamo Gofa Zone in child trafficking and migration? _____ _____ _____
5. What are the causes for the move of children?
   _____
6. Which routes and means of transportation mostly used by the children to leave their village/ district?
   _____
7. How many children are recorded as children on the move in the town/ woreda/district in 2012 and 2013? _____
8. When are the periods for the move? _____

9. Are migrant children going to other places crossing the town or staying in the town? Yes ____ Not at all____

10.   If yes for #7 where are the destinations?

_____

11.   What are the children in Arba Minch doing? _____

_____

12. Did you identify any deviant behavior or act on migrant children? Yes____ No_____

13. If yes for #10, please list the acts_____ _____

_____

14. Are migrant children reporting any problems they faced? Yes___ No____

15. If yes for # 12 what problems reported by children after reaching the towns? _____

16. What support your organizations provide for migrant children?

_____

17. Does your organization have enough capacity to address the challenges of children? Yes ____No____

18. If not for # 15 please mention what factors your organization lacks.

_____

19. Did your institution provide a shelter service for children? Yes __No___

20. If Not for # 17 where are the children staying the nights after being identified _____

21. Did you engaged in reunification of children? Yes_____ No_____

22. If the answer for # 19 is yes what challenges and best practices you experienced?

_____

Thanks!!

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), School of Social Work

Annex III: Interview schedule with the key Informant of Kesha Bet Owners

This questionnaire is intended to conduct for fulfillment of MA degree in Social Work research to be replied by Kesha Bet Owners.

The objectives of this questionnaire is to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo with particular focus on practical push factors, the route and destination of trafficking and the challenges they face while on the move. The information gained from this questionnaire shall be used as a primary data in the research that I am conducting as a partial fulfillment of my study.

I am going to ask you some questions related to child out migration and trafficking from the area in which you are living. Your name will not be mentioned in the study.

1. Village/locality of the house_____
2. For how long the kasha house is served/ when is the kasha house opened? _____
3. In average how many children sleep in your house per night _____
4. How much a child is paying for single night_____
5. Mostly from which area your clients are coming_____
6. Who is informing the children to come your house? _____
7. In your view what purposes bring children to the town _____
   _____

8. Can you mention the challenges/problems the children are facing during night time? ___
   _____

9. Have you ever support your client in times of problem? _____

10. Did you provide a service of keeping the money of children? Yes____
    No___

11. If yes for # 10 how much a child saves per day (average)? _____

12. When the children are mostly withdraw the money? _____

13. Are you paying commission for brokers? _____. If yes how is it? _____

Thanks!!

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Annex IV: Checklist for the Focus Group Discussion with public bus drivers and assistants

This questionnaire is intended to conduct for fulfillment of MA degree in Social Work research to be answered by public bus drivers and assistants.

The objectives of this questionnaire is to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo with particular focus on practical push factors, the route and destination of trafficking and the challenges they face while on the move. The information gained from this questionnaire shall be used as a primary data in the research that I am conducting as a partial fulfillment of my study.

I am going to ask you some questions related to child out migration and trafficking from the area in which you are living. Your name will not be mentioned in the study. You have also the freedom to withdraw from the FGD at any time you wish. So are you willing to participate on the discussion?

1. For how long you were driving public bus_____
2. Mostly which route you are working(you can make more than one circle) _____
   a. Arba minch- Gumaide   e. Arba minch- Wolayta
   b. Arba minch- Mirab   f. Arba Minch-Gidole
   c. Arba Minch- Zigiti   g. all of the above lines
   d. Arba Minch- chencha
3. If you worked in one of the above routes which one mostly have child passenger?
4. In your point, which direction is mostly preferred by children? _____
5. Where are these children moving? _____ _____

6. Are the children paying from themselves or other people paying for them? _____

_____

7. Did you notice any frequent request for information? Yes____ No____
8. If yes for the above question what type of information they ask frequently? _____
9. Have you ever asked children why they are moving? _____

_____

10. Have you reported the case for the police or any administration? Yes_____ No_____
11. If your answer is no for the above question, why? _____

Thanks for your time!!

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), School of Social Work

Annex V: checklist for interview schedule with owners/managers of hotel, bar and other service providers

This questionnaire is intended to conduct for fulfillment of MA degree in Social Work research to be field by owners and managers of service providing firms.

The objectives of this questionnaire is to assess the challenges of life for children on the move from the highlands of Gamo with particular focus on practical push factors, the route and destination of trafficking and the challenges they face while on the move. The information gained from this questionnaire shall be used as a primary data in the research that I am conducting as a partial fulfillment of my study.

Thank you for your cooperation.

List of interview questions:

1. What are the services provided in your organization?_____
2. How many employees are working in your firm? _____
3. How many of them are under the age of 18? Male _____ Female___ Total_____
4. Are children under 14 working here? Yes_____ No____
5. If yes, what type of work they engaged in? _____

   _____

6. For how long the children are working per day? _____
7. Due to the nature of the work which time mostly preferred children to work?
   a. Early morning (from 6:00- mid day)
   b. all the night
   c. all the day
   d. from morning till mid night
8. Do the employees sleep in your organization? Yes___ No____
9. If yes for the above question, how it organized? _____

_____

10. Are you paying salary for their work? Yes_____ No_____

11. How much you are paying per month or per week for the child in average?

_____

12. What is the frequent health problems observed in child workers? _____

13. How do you deal with the problem of health of migrant workers?

_____

14. Are you providing any other support for the children? _____

15. Do you have information on child labor? Yes___ No____

Thank you for your time!!

Annex VI: Administrative Map of Gamo Gofa Zone

GAMO GOFA ZONE ADMINISTRATIVE MAP

KONTA

DAWRO

WOLAYITA

BASKETO

Melo koza

Demba Gofa

Geze Gofa

Sawula Town

Zala

Borda

Lake Abaya

Gidicho

Mirab Abaya

Kucha

Daramalo

Dita

Chencha Ila Abaya

OROMIA

Oyida

Uba Debretsehay

Arba Minichi Zuriya

Arba Minch Town

DEBUB OMO

Kemba

Nech Sar National Park

SEGEN A. P.

Bonkie

Lake Chamo

SEGEN AREA PEOPLES

SCALE   1:200000