# Indragandhi National Open University School of Graduate Program

## A Qualitative Exploration of the Life Situation of Street Children in Ambo Town: Challenges and Prospects

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**ABSTRACT**

This study was conducted in Ambo town. One of the concerns in the study was to provide a relatively completed and reliable picture of the situation of street children in Ambo town, focusing on the factors pushing them to the street and challenges face them. The main objectives of the study were to understand and realize the situation of street children at Ambo town and improve the environment that is supportive for the care and protection of street children. The study utilized qualitative technique to gather relevant information. Different categories of respondents, which were the unites from which information was collected, had participated in the study. Data was collected using a structured interview for different categories of respondents. In the study it was found that the majority (53.3%) were males while the remaining(46.7%)were females. Most of the key respondents agree that the magnitude of streetsim in Ambo town increasing throughout difficult to pin point the exact number the office also identified the major gaps in the implementation of street children program. Based on the findings obtained a family based solutions are proposed.

## ACRONYMS

WHO---------------------------------------------------- World health organization

UN------------------------------------------------------ United Nation

FSCE---------------------------------------------------- -Forum on Street children Ethiopia

GOs----------------------------------------------------- Governmental Organizations

NGO----------------------------------------------------- Non-Governmental Organization

AIDS----------------------------------------------------Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

HIV------------------------------------------------------ Human Immune Deficiency Syndrome

FDRE---------------------------------------------------- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

CRC----------------------------------------------------- Convention on the rights of children

# CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr.Tesfaye Shiferaw Bongase MSW students of Indra Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, was working under my supervision and guidance for his project work for the course MSWP-001. His project work entitled Qualitative Exploring the Life Stuation of Street Children in Ambo Town: Challenges and Prospects, which he is submitting n, his genuine and original work.

Place _____

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# DECLARATION

I have declared that the dissertation entitled: "Qualitative Exploration of The Life Situation of Street Children in Ambo Town: Challenges and Prospects" submitted by me for partial fulfillment of MSW to Indra Gandhi National open university (IGNOU) New Delhi my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other program of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or other.

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# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## 1. Background

Street children have been a focus of attention for aid agencies and governments for more than two decades in Ethiopia. Even though UNICEF has given special emphasis and almost all countries in the world, including Ethiopia are signatory to the rights of children, still millions of children live and work in and on the streets suffering every day the consequences of poverty, family and community neglect (Tower, 2002).

These children, who are in difficult circumstances, struggle for survivals, lacking almost all basic necessities in life, like food, shelter and clothing (de Olivieira, 2001). Ethiopia has ratified the united nation`s convention on the rights of the child the proclamation number:10/1992 and has a legal and moral obligation to protect the rights of children, which includes providing basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter, which most street children are deprived of (Tacon, 1991).

Street children undergo different forms of hazards in their families, as well as the community that impact their growth and development. The number of children living in especially difficult circumstances has been increasing due to neglect, violence, family disintegration, and household poverty and external problems like conflict, war, famine, drought, migration, peer pressure, school dropout and so on. The types of 'street and their living circumstances greatly vary from country to county, even a place to place within the same country (Bushira, 1997). The category of "street children" includes destitute and street children' orphaned, displaced and unaccompanied children as a result of natural disasters,

children, in the situations of armed conflict, disabled children and children endangered by abuse and neglect by individuals, families and caretakers.

As a result of variations in their life circumstances within the same country, street children in Ethiopia do not have similar life style or encounter similar challenges and problems. Pertaining to this fact children in Oromia Region in Ethiopia are expected to phase different challenges and may not be similar to other street children in the best of rest of the country in terms of their living situations and life prospects. However, there is little information about the magnitude of the problems of street children in the region in general and in Ambo town in particular. Ambo town, being the study site, is one of the fastest growing urban areas in Oromia Region from such prospective; this study was under taken to raise a number of crucial issues in terms of understanding the situation of street children in Ambo town. It also identified various factors why children join street life, what they encounter on the streets, and how they cope with the problems they phase on the streets. Moreover, the research will serve as one contribution in the efforts to understand and tackle the crisis. It will also be use full for other professional as there is limited research regarding this topic.

## 2. Statement of the problem

The exact number of the street children in the world is not known. Estimates have been as high as 100 million (WHO, 200). However, the UN has been attributed as estimating the population of street children worldwide at 100 million, with the number rising daily. As a percentage of world population, this is unprecedented in the history of society. These children are unable to go to school and are considered to live in especially difficult circumstances. Increasingly, these

children are exposed to victimization to various cruel acts like violence, sexual exploitation, physical abuse, neglect, substance abuse, and human rights violations.

Street children constitute a marginalized group in all societies. They do not have what society considers appropriate relationships with the major institutions of childhood, such as family, education and health. The continuous exposures to harsh environments, and the nature of their lifestyle, make the vulnerable to conditions that threaten their mental, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing. Moreover, children and adolescents constitute a large percentage of the poor, and street children are the most unprotected sub group among the poor (UNCIEF, 1993).

Children in general are regarded as being in need of protection. The family, the community and the state are expected to provide protection. However (UNICEF, 2006) in its report about the state of children, said that, the situation of world children is deteriorating due to the fact that millions of children lack protection and make their way through life impoverished, uneducated, and malnourished, discriminated against neglected and vulnerable. For these children, life is a daily struggle to survive, and lacking the protection of family and community, they are often at risk of exploitation and abuse.

Street involvement exposes the children to delinquency, undesirable behavior and harm full habits that in turn negatively affect their relationship with the community. However, (Tacon, 1991) Explain that street children`s involvement in criminal activity services not only for the sake of economic survival but also as the expression of a sense of group identity in street subculture..

Similarly, in Ethiopia hundreds and thousands of children are exposed to various forms of natural and man-made calamities. The problem of poverty, rapid

urbanization, drought and famine, armed conflict, and destabilization of families have left thousands of children in Ethiopia destitute, orphans, displaced and unaccompanied, children of the street and disabled (Veale, 1992).

When we look at the numbers, street children comprise a major group of children in especially difficult circumstances in Ethiopia. Thousands of children have been pushed out to the street due to family problems and external factors. On the street children are exposed to various forms of abuse physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse all of which have adverse effects on the growth and development of children. The children in particular are victims of various environmental hazarded due to lack of proper care and protection (UNICEF, 1999).

Although there is no countrywide study on the number of street children in the country, an estimated number of 150,000-200,000 Ethiopia children are working full-time or living on the street (Williamson, 2000). Moreover, Forum on street children Ethiopia (FSCE) reported the number of street children in the capital city, Addis Ababa as: "Data on the extent of the problem of street children is non-existent. Different estimation is given in different reports" (FSCE, 2006). However, according to UNICEF international consultant estimation the number of street children is more than 40000 (1991), and 100,000 out of school children are at the verge of joining street life. It could therefore be assumed that the number is much higher than the estimated figure given above due to the worsening poverty and high influx of migrants and displaced people to the city

In terms of needs, street children are not different from other children. They deserve dignity, equal rights, basic needs, and health and educational services. What makes them different is their way of life. Most of the time, they live, and work on the streets. Even though, there are various categorizations of street

children, they all share common characteristics that is attached to the streets. For 'of street children', the streets are their home and their livelihood, whereas for `on street children` the streets are their means of subsistence (UNICEF, 1999). However, it is clear that there is no single factor that is responsible for their being on the streets. There are many factors beyond their ability that force them to live or work there. Therefore, this study is conducted in order to explain the situation of street children in Ambo town and to contribute to find in the area.

Violence, sexual exploitation, physical abuse, neglect, substance abuse, and human right violations are the major causes to push children to street. Effective protection of streetism requires a three-fold strategy. It is critically important to search family and community strategies to alleviate the problem radically any prevention model to be developed must reflect. Local conditions and resources which require community organized institutions. Therefore community intervention strategies need to be designed, to incorporate community research in organized manner. Thus farther investigation is essential to identify the barriers of community organization response with care and support to street children, assed the type of care and support rendered by the community organizations, constrain and challenges that exists within community settings in face of the epidemic with regard to care and support context in the capital (Veale, 1992).

The typical issue which is not covered in the literature is 'on-of street' children. The children who sleeps both at home and on the street and if the situation at home deteriorate they will join the 'of street' children (Tacon, 1999).

### 3. Research Questions

To analyze the living situation of street children in Ambo town, this research focuses on the following research questions.

- Why do children go out to lead a street life?
- What are Ambo town's street children challenges in life?
- How do Ambo town's street children cope with street life?
- What do they feel about their life on the street and their future?

### 4. Objectives of the study

1. To investigate the major causes to contributing to force children to street life in Ambo town.
2. To explore challenges in life of town street children.
3. To identify whether there is gender differences to cope with street life.
4. To further study in prospects about their future.

### 5. Limitation of the study

1. The research focused only on the category of the 'of street children` and' the `on street' children. It does not include other categories of street children like 'on-of street' children.
2. Generalizability may be limited by the small number of observations especially, with the street children in Ambo town.
3. Even though the observers were made unobtrusive and sit through multiple sessions. Performance bias maybe present. The researcher may deviate from his /her actual practice in observed sessions because of the presence of the observer.)

4. The data collected in this study was collected from selected street children it doesn't involve the partners and key stake holders perspective.

5. The study employed only qualitative methods so that some of the finders that have to be complimented by quantitative not incorporated.

## 6. Significance of the study

In doing so the study will contributed to wards identifying the major capacity problem of street children with its solutions and draw the attention of policy makers for successful and sustainable challenges experienced by street children prevention. Besides these the study also gives some pictures about the status life of street children from social work perspectives and invite policymakers, practitioners and other researchers for more thorough investigation and subsequent activities.

Therefore this study tries to analyze the existing capacity gaps of street children in survival, prevention and reducing challenges experienced by street children requires sustained and consistent efforts form all stakeholders. Also street children have been credited for their role and importance in national street children, policy formulation their ability to work with the

Community and their capacity to mobilize the community has-been seriously challenged by capacity constraints and the huge demand created by challenges of street life.

### 7. Operational Definition

*Child/children*- Everyone under the age of 18 entitled to the rights proclaimed in the *UNCRC (1989).* The convention on the Rights of the child is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. In 1989, world leaders decided that children needed a special convention just for them because people under 18 years old often need special care and protection that adults do not (CRC, 1989).

*Street children*- refer to children of both sexes who work and/or sleep on the streets (Veale, 1993).

*`Off` street children*- are homeless children who live and sleep on the streets in urban areas (Tower, 2004).They are totally on their own, living with other street children or homeless adult street people.

*`On` street children*- earn their living or beg for money on the street and return home at night. They maintain contact with their families (FSCE, 2003).

*`On-of `street children*-are those children who sleeps both at home and on the streets and if the situation at home deteriorates they will join the 'of street' children (Tacon, 1999).

### 8. Theoretical Frame work

There are three theories that attempt to account for risk factors associated with child streetism: primary socialization theory, systems theory, and attachment theory.

## 8.1. Primary socialization theory

With beck (1999) used primary socialization theory to propose that essentially all social behaviors have major components that are learned. During adolescence, the primary socialization sources are family, school and, peers (Donnermeyer, Trimble, & Beauvais, 1998). Typically, families and schools serve as sources for pro social learning; peers can be source for either positive or deviant socialization, when there are problems bonding with family, the probability of environment with peers who transmit poor socialization strategies increases.

The combination of poor family interactions and negative peer associations may increase youth engagement in deviant behaviors such as running away. Primary socialization theory provides a framework for integrating risk and protective factors related to social bonding with parents, peers, and society in general (Hawkins, Catalano, & Milliner, 1992). This "risk –focused approach" posits that bonding with family, peers, and institutions', including schools and churches that promote pro social norms, acts as a protection against prevailing risks that may otherwise contribute to problem behaviors.

When attachment with the family does not develop or are weak, the adolescent ultimately identifies with peers. These relationships often reinforce disruptive and deviant behaviors. The progressive accumulation of risk factors also plays a role. The combination of school failure, delinquent behaviors, and precocious involvement in adult behaviors, such as sex, drug use, and smoking, markedly increase the likelihood for dysfunction (Beck, 1999). Multiple risk behaviors (e.g., substance use, dysfunctional family, and deviant peer interaction) are related to greater problem behaviors, like running away.

## 8.2. Systems theory

The theory shifts attention from a linear cause and effect relationship to the person –in –situation as an interrelated whole. Less interested in whether the environment causes the person to behave in a particular manner, or whether the person affects the environment in a certain way; systems theory views the person as an integral part of his or her total life situation (Beulah, Burt, & Barry, 2005). The person in situation is a whole in which the person and the situation are both cause and effect in complex set of relationships. Whatever the cause of the problem of street children may be, the children are already in a difficult situation that needs attention. These dynamic interaction, transactions and organizational patterns are critical to the functioning of both the individual and the situation. However, they are observable only when we study the whole system since individuals within a social system are integrally connected (Beulah, Burt, & Barry, 2005).

As a conceptual framework, systems theory serves the purpose of social work profession well by shifting attention from the person alone to problems in the systemic interaction within the person in situation. Rather than assigning causal responsibility or blame to an individual, systems theorists view problems as the result of systemic processes. The implication of this view is that, if we change the process, we might solve the problem. Hence, to address the problem of street children, it is critical to start from the individual, family and step by step go to the neighborhood and the community level. If we fix the problems that course children to live and work on the streets at individual and family level and work intensively on neighborhood and school levels with the cooperation of Governmental organizations and the community, it is possible to reduce the magnitude of the problem.

## 8.3 Attachment theory

It focuses on the process of developing healthy attachments during the courses of child development, which help to develop a healthy relationship with parents, siblings and the social environment. However, when attachment is disrupted by abuse, neglect or by repeated changes in caregivers, the results can include, among other things, a child's lack of trust of adults in authority, an inability to give and receive affection, and a failure to develop empathy, a conscience or compassion for others. Failure of attachment is more likely in institutional settings than in families: children who grew up in institutions are consistently over represented in both the penal system and the homeless population (Tower, 2002).

Children who spend most of their time on the streets become a group with specific sub culture, which represents one part of the society. Those children who grow up in the street later have dysfunctional families and children very like themselves, eventually making the process permanent and irreversible. Regarding it, forums on street children Ethiopia stated that, "children who are exposed to abuse turn out to become abusers themselves when they become adults" (FSCE, 2003). They become premature adults and develop behavior patterns that can be summarized in rejection of authority, aggressiveness, and an absence of limits, independence, and a lack of affection. They are also characterized by problems with drug addiction, alcoholism, delinquency, prostitution, and moral and physical abuse (UNICEF, 1999).

To conclude, primary socialization theory is important is important because it focuses on the impact of social environment on the behavior of children. According to this theory, children who are exposed to positive environments will

develop positive behaviors. However, poor family interaction along with negative peer association will increase the possibility of child's poor socialization, since all behaviors are learned. In addition, systems theory is of great importance because it avoids blaming the person in a situation and considers the cause of the problem as a systemic interaction. Street children are not to blame for the life situation they are in. the problem is a cumulative effect of failure in the systemic interaction in the society. Attachment theory is also useful because it focuses on early childhood attachment with parents or caregivers that helps the establishment of stable relationships at later ages. When bonds are loose, it is likely that children develop risk behaviors that expose them to situations like running away.

# CHAPTER TWO: LITRATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this study is to assess the situation of street children in Ambo. The study illuminates what they encounter in their day-to-day struggle for survival, how they cope with such situations, what they think about their future, and their challenges and prospects in life in general. This is descriptive research in which the life situation of the street children in Ambo is described based on the lived experience of street children. Moreover, the study employs in-depth interviews to obtain the data from the children. The interviews assess the causes of the problem, their day-to-day activities and encounters, and their visions for their future life. Furthermore, the research employs qualitative methods to analyze the data. The participants of the study are thirty street children from the 'on' street and the' of street' category of street children in Ambo town.

The term "street children" has socially been used to refer to children who reside on the street without guidance or protection, and in most instances, it is used to refer to particular type of "socialization", mostly based on misbehavior of individuals. The problem of street children is strongly affected by community attitudes and perceptions. The general public is also likely to have a low opinion of street children due to the latter's' perceived laziness and involvement in crime," (Taylor, Veale, & Bushira, 1992). So far, communities have tended to see the street children phenomenon as an annoying problem in isolation from its causes. This opinion often extends to proposed solutions to the problem, rather than developing strategies targeting poverty which is the root cause of the problems of street.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an estimated population of 74,778 in 2006; 43.7% of the total population is reported to be below the age of 14 years. The poverty situation in Ethiopia is characterized by extremely

low-income levels and poor social indicators like high rates of infant, under age five, and maternal mortality; and poor nutritional status. Moreover, poverty puts many of Ethiopian children at high risk (World Bank, 2000). The country's annual income per capital is one of the lowest in the world. Major health indicators are declining, and parts of the lowest in the world.

The country has experienced recurrent draught and famine, intensive civil war and socio-economic crisis during the last three decades. Recently, these problems are exacerbated by the rapid expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to which children are becoming one of the most vulnerable groups. "About nine percent of the country's adult populations in the 15-49 year age range are thought to be HIV positive, and AIDS is increasing the vulnerability of large numbers of children in the country. The country has an estimated 3.2 million people who are infected with HIV, about 10 percent of the world's total," (Williamson, 2000 4). In these circumstances, many children either loses their parents of become infected with the virus themselves. In both cases, they may go to the streets for work or for living. Because of the stigma and discrimination they face, it is more difficult for these children if they are living with the HIV virus.

There are various indicators to demonstrate that the problem of street children is not new to Ethiopia. Ethiopian legislation has been dealing with the issue since 1994, when children less than 18 years of age were given legal protection, and were not viewed as responsible for their actions. The application of the juvenile laws seems to have coincided with the establishment of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the emergence of various NGOs, which tried to help decrease the magnitude of the problem. Most of the NGOs, took the form of "orphanages" as typical preventive and rehabilitative solutions to children exposed to delinquency, whether lost children, foundling, orphans, destitute or runaways.

Most of the effort targeting street children were based on legal definitions, which took the form of dealing with "beggar", "juvenile delinquents," juvenile exposed to delinquency", and finally "children exposed to delinquency" according to the Child Law of 1994.

There are differences in the way street children are categorized. For instance, some researchers group street children in to three: the on street, of street and 'on-of street'- the latter group are those children who sleeps both at home and on the streets and if the situation at home deteriorates, they will join the street life fully. However, for the sake of clarity, the researcher sticks to the UNICEF categorization of street children: 'of street children' are those who have no home or parental contract and their home is the street, and the 'on street, children' are those who work on the streets and sleep at home. These groups have parental contact and emotional attachment to their parents which the 'of street children' lack. The 'of street' children lack the support normally found in parenting situation (UNICEF, 2000).

## 2.1. Factors contributing to push Children to the Street

In different countries and even in different regions with the same country, the push factors may differ enormously and at a local level will influence the profile of the street child population in any city or country. The proportion of girls to boys on the streets varies according to local conditions. However, it is clear that there is no single factor that is responsible for children for living on the streets, and it is obvious that most children are not responsible for their being on the streets. There are many factors beyond their control that force them to live or work on the streets.

Some of the factors are poverty, abuse and family breakdown. The major pushing factor is poverty, exacerbated by drought, AIDS, war, and family violence and breakdown. Many children live and work on city streets though out the world. Still many choose street life as an alternative to poverty or violence at home. It is a harsh choice-with constant threats of hunger, exploitation, violence, abuse and even death (FSCE, 2003).

## 2.2 Violence within the Family

Domestic violence and abuse is also considered as one of the reasons that lead children to live or work on the streets, these include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and exploitation. Problems of violence may stem from family histories and experiences. It can also be a consequence of poverty. However, it is not imitated to poor families, because the children of better off families sometimes choose to escape and leave home. The reconstitution of families with stepparents may also lead to the departure of children (West, 2003).

Street children reported significantly higher levels of abuse at home in the form of violence, shouting between family members and beating than family based street children. According to a study done in Kenya, street children typically report that "their homes of origin were punitive, hostile and lacking in adult emotional support" (Kaplan, Baars, & De vries, 2004).

Muchini (1994) says some street children may have been abandoned and rejected by their families while others may have left their families due to prevailing circumstances, which  means that in a "sense, they abandoned the family". This is because of non-promising situations found at home such as violence among family members, or against the child, abuse or the poverty situation with in the family that

may extend up to the inability to eat even once a day. Generally the situation at home deteriorates and the child goes out to the street.

On the other hand, it is obvious that street children are those children who are not cared ore looked after by any familial or institutional organization and therefore, "they are perhaps the most vulnerable groups in any society" (Lalor, 1998). The existence of such unfavorable situations exposes children to street life and its adverse consequences. That is because of the failure of the family, the community, and the society at large to do their share at various levels and to try to change the situation. However, the presence of children on the streets is not good for the society, too. That is what influences the society to act for intervention, because it also loses its peace and stability by the existence of the problem.

Parents need to provide safe and stable relationship on which their children can base their expectation and model their future relationship. Within this domain of security, parents have a chance to teach their children what society and their own culture will accept from them as adults. To enable the chilled to learn these lessons, parents are expected to provide comfort, the comfort of being properly housed, clothed ad fed. The assurance of these comforts requires financial security, which should be provided by the parents. Emotional wellbeing also necessitates being healthy and educated. A healthy future adult will benefit society as a whole (Tower, 2004). In Ethiopia, Homeless children reported significantly higher levels of abuse at home in the form of violence shouting between family members and beatings than family based street children (Veal, 1996).

## 2.3. Poverty

Urban poverty in Ethiopia is a multi-faceted phenomenon that has economic, cultural, social and political dimensions. Basically, it reflects the inability of an individual, household or the community to satisfy minimum material needs, for food, clothing and shelter. Apart from economic and material deprivation, poverty is worsened by several causes. Its principal manifestations include lack of income and employment opportunities, lack of opportunity and social security, people's vulnerability to adverse shocks, for instance, loss of the principal bread winner in the family (World Bank, 2001). These all are some of the contributing factors to the problem of street children in our country in general and in Ambo town in particular.

According to Benitez (2007) "putting the blame on poverty is a simplistic approach to a complex problem. If poverty and poverty alone were the cause of children ending up on the streets to sustain themselves, then why is it that millions of children do not abandon their impoverished homes for the streets?" In reality, poverty can be one and only one factor that pressure children to flee to the streets, but focusing on poverty alone may not be a solution to the problem. Therefore, trying to look at various issues will be advisable to solve the problem.

The growth of cities and towns are considered as one of the processes of development. Cities are centers of civilization, generating economic development and social, cultural, spiritual and scientific advancement as cited in Ambo Business resource center development (BRCD, 2004). However, the reality of the cities is quite the opposite for most people in the developing world. Many families, including children, flee to the cities for better opportunities. Many of these people lack skills needed for employment. Then, they become unemployed and move to

the streets for survival either by begging or by street vending such as lottery, tissues, chewing gums, etc. Here, it is obvious that children are the most vulnerable group in that not only their present life situation is affected but also their future is at risk. This is because they grow up lacking educational opportunity, which could be one means to come out of the problems they face.

The same holds true in the case of Ambo town. There are many factors that force children to live or work on the streets of Ambo. As Ambo town became a center of immigrants for various reasons. People are migrating to Ambo town. Its strategic location plays a significant role in attracting in –migrants of different backgrounds (Ambo BRCD project, 2004). With absence of basic services and necessary preconditions that are favorable to accommodate these migrants, such as employment opportunities, housing, education and health services, families become unable to satisfy the needs of their children. These in turn force the children to the streets.

According to the Ethiopian Central Statistics Authority data in 1994 Census projection, Ambo town had the population of about 100,000 in 2000. Out of the total population, 42, 991 were children below the age of 15. Among the total child population that means children up to 18 years of age, about 20,000 were engaged in formal education. Similarly, the 1994 CSA Census showed that there were about 35,555 households in Ambo.

One of the interesting and useful findings to emerge from the observations of project parents and researchers in the developing world is that most children who live on the streets do not run away only because of poverty, but also violence and family stresses exacerbated by poverty.  Research from a number of sources is uncovering same of the mechanisms by which macro- level forces such as poverty,

war, social turbulence and family breakdown impinge directly on parents and children, creating conditions that precipitate children to the street (Schrader & Veale, 1999:8).

## 2.4. Rural-Urban Migration

Migration lies in the lack of access to opportunities and resources (Chestang, 1972). According to him, migrant street children, and pavement dwellers, destitute and other groups form a significant part of the economically weaker and disadvantaged sections of society. Many of them migrate from various regions of the country, and find themselves confronted with a variety of attitudes, beliefs, values and behaviors, some of which seem very much opposed to their own culture and traditions. The strain of attempting to improve living standards and to convert to a new lifestyle increases stress levels, eventually contributing to increased use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol, a greater incidence of crime, molestation, rape, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, etc. besides, failure to satisfy basic needs increases the chance of street involvement either to live or work. Children who have encountered discrimination and prejudice have reported experiencing frustration, confusion and bewilderment, leading to feelings of anger, distrust, and lack of connectedness with the larger society, and feelings of helplessness and hopelessness (Chestange, 1972).

Any person forced into emotional, social, intellectual, or economic seclusion, or driven to survive on the very fringes of society, like street children, is affected adversely in one way or another. Experiencing such unfavorable life situation especially at a young age, foils the development of a sense of competency, control, identity, and connectedness to societal institutions (Spencer, 1987). The immediate and long-term repercussions range from mental illness, poor

levels of physical health, and anti-social behavior, to low self-esteem and a confused self-identify. This may cause children to withdraw entirely into their own world, feeling deprived and exploited (Spencer, 1991). It is clear that there is a general concern for the rights and welfare of children in especially difficult circumstances. The rising numbers of street children in urban areas, mostly within the developing world, is also another growing international problem. This may be the result of rural-urban migration in search of job and better life situation that turns mostly unfulfilled in reality and lead children to the streets for survival where they become more victimized and face more deprivation.

All these factors have, either singly or in combination, hamper the younger generation's potential for the realization of their needs and aspirations, ultimately leading them becoming disadvantaged. The visible difference in lifestyle between the classes, the double standards that prevail in society and other disparities further affect the socialization of these groups and their ability to adapt, adjust, and grow positively (Mehata, 1997).

People migrate to Ambo town from almost all over the country. Its strategic location plays a significant role in attracting in-migrants of different backgrounds. For instance, the results of the two Ethiopian Census surveys of 1984 and 1994 reveal that the migrant populations Ambo were about 54.4 percent. The current survey of Ambo project office reveals that about 77.0% were in-migrants of which 44% were from rural areas. The major reasons for migration, among others, included searching for job (41.3%) family transfer (15.3%) marriage arrangement (19.6%) war (4.5%) famine /drought (6.5%) searching for education (3.5%) (Ambo BRCD project office, 2004).

## 2.5. Problems Street Children Face on the Streets

Street children have accumulated experience of violence in many areas of their daily lives, sometimes from a very young age (Schrader, & Veale, 1999). Combined and compounded effects of abuse and deprivation undermine their chances of developing healthy young people and adults. Each street child has a unique story of violence. Similarly, on the streets, they face harassment, psychological and health problems, including malnutrition, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted infections. Children survive by rag picking, begging, and stealing and worse still, involvement in the sex industry (Schrader & Veal, 1999). Even if some of the street children join street life to escape violence and abuse at home, they face these problems on the streets too.

## 2.6. Attitude of the society towards street children

Street children are usually depicted as excluded by society. Such descriptions are ignoring street children's abilities to plan, control their actions and perceiving them as they do not able to think and not do anything . Evidence from countries around the world demonstrates that street children regularly plan and put into practice survival strategies, navigating risks and taking opportunities presented within `on' street and  of` street environments (Benitez, 2007).

Muchini (1994) street children lack the primary socialization and modeling framework of the family that is thought to foster a healthy development of the child and because of this they are said to be developmentally at risk. However, there is an idea that reflects that society fails to acknowledge how to shape their own destiny. However, it can be argued that, they do so when parents are unable to assume their roles properly. It is known that under normal circumstances, parents

have greater responsibility to shape the future of their children without influencing their right to decide for themselves until children reach the time to do so. Unless and otherwise, it is unfair to let children in the early ages without adult guidance or supervision to struggle for survival including food, clothing and shelter that is what street children normally deprived of. Rather, if there is no one to assume responsibility to provide them with basic necessities, health and education opportunities for themselves but also for their siblings if there are any in their situation.

The literature provides a basic understanding of the various factors that can push children into the streets to work. The most commonly raised factors are individual and familial risk factors, or micro factors, such as school dropout, parental unemployment and family poverty. Community- or mezzo – factors include unstable living conditions, lack of community resources and basic services, low civic participation and social organization. Structural influences, or macro factors, comprise societal shocks (example ware, economic crises, HIV/AIDS), urbanization, external debt and the social exclusion of marginal groups (Basu, 1999).

# CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The chapter is organized by using data collation tools like interview and direct observation of the street children in Ambo town .The subjects of the study were children and the study utilized a descriptive research design. Qualitative method was used for data collection and organization. Purposive sampling was used and participants were selected.

## 3.1. Study Design/ Method and Study Area

This study is a facility based descriptive research design applying qualitative/ Observation method. This Study approach used to obtain information by describing the situation of street children in Ambo town. It is descriptive in that it attempts to assess the causes that force children to live or work on the street. It explains the problems encountered by the children on the streets. It also tries to present the perspective of street children about their street life. Moreover, it explores the coping mechanisms of the street hardships.

The scope of the study is limited to Ambo town because of two reasons: Ambo is the fastest growing town and it is Observable that there is an increase in the number of street children. Besides, the study area is accessible and known by the researcher.

## 3.2. Sampling Plan

As far as researcher's knowledge is concerned, there is no clear data or census on the number of street children found in Ambo town that could help the researcher to determine their exact number. Therefore, it is difficult to come up with the total population of street children who live or work on the streets that can be used for random selection of the participants. The primary study sample consists

of 30 children that are the 'of street 'and the on street' children category of UNICEF. From each sits 10 children were purposively selected.

Thus, the sampling method that has been applied in this study is purposive sampling this sampling method was practical for choosing participants for the interview that would best serve the purpose of the study. In addition the snow balling method was used. In this method, respondent children with whom contact has already been made use their social net works to refer the researcher to other children who could potentially participate in the study.

This paper deals with those children who live or work on the streets alongside walks (main roads) of the selected area. The 'of street children 'are those children who live and work on the streets where as the 'on street children' are those children who work on the streets and pass the nights in their home (Radda, 1997). Both boys and girls were included in the study. These children are within the age group of 10 and 16 years old. The age limits has been taken for the sake of convenience.

### 3.3. Data Collection plan

The data collection methods are in depth interviews and observation by the researcher. The in depth interview provides an opportunity to have a better insight in to the details of their personal experiences. Observation also helped to look into their activities and real life situation without interference of other situations. A pre tested interview guide was used to conduct in depth interviews with street children. Therefore, 16 male and 14 female street children are interviewed. Emphasis was given on inclusion of both categories of street children, the `of street children' and the 'on street children' with the attention on their age and sex.

Observation was conducted to see their activities on the streets, their communication and in general their way of life.

The age of the children considered in the study is 10-16 years. This is with the intention of making communication and understanding easier during the interviews. Furthermore, (Thornberg 1983) states: "Developmentally, individuals because socially curious, consequently more active around age 10. Children begin to reach outside their family for social experiences, companionship, and approval. At this time, their contact with parents begins to lessen and the nature of the interaction gradually changing. Parents may also think that they have less impact on their early adolescence life". This time is a crucial moment in the lives of families and children because lack of appropriate communication and attachment within the family will break up normal relationship. The situation may lead the children to look for outside their homes hoping a better atmosphere and understanding. However, the relationship may impact them negatively exposing them to misbehaviors that cause disagreement within the family and create suitable condition for running away or joining street life.

The participants were selected using purposive sampling in order to include children of varied age, both boys and girls, and both 'of street children' and 'on street categories of street children. Thirty street children were interviewed, including 16 'of street' and 14 'on street children'. The data for this study were obtained from primary sources. The researcher used in-depth interviews and observation to assemble primary for qualitative data analysis.

The study utilized a descriptive research design. It aimed to offer a descriptive picture of the situation of street children, their challenges and prospects in Ambo town in order to pave the way for future actions by policy makers and

other service provides. Moreover, the research focused the data collection on the backgrounds of street children such as familial, socioeconomic, movement (migration), and educational issues. In addition, it assessed reasons for living and working on the streets. Furthermore, the study explored the details of day-to-day lives of the children in items of work, play, eating, and sleeping routine. It further explored the inter personal relationships of the children, their experience of abuse both at home and on the streets, their involvement in crime and substance abuse, and finally, their health condition. The data collection was under taken on major streets of the town. These places are: Gomista sefer, 01 kebele(Ambo university),kocher sefer.

The subjects of the study were children. When the interviews were conducted, the researcher made sure that the questions were appropriate to the abilities of the respondents. Different approaches were developed    when conducting the interview to receive adequate information from the respondents. These includes considering the time of interview. Interviewing respondents had its 'own schedule. The duration of the interview time was not too long or too short it was developed appropriately and presented questions that assured the topic is one that the children are familiar with and cane talk about and have an opinion about. Moreover, to avoid discontent for the children, all efforts were made to make the interview very informal.

The items in the interview guideline were pre-tested and were re-written on the basis of the results of the pretest findings. The pre-test was conducted with a sample of 3street children. Based on the feedback, questions that were unclear or ambiguous were modified. The questions were formulated first in English and later translated into Afan Oromo to enable the children to understand and respond to all

questions. The English and Afan Oromo versions of the interview guides are attached in the appendix.

An interview guide was developed for the in-depth interviews (see Appendix i). The interview guide was designed to attempt to understand the views and attitudes of streets children about their life situations. These include what force them to live or to work on the streets, what difficulties they faced on the streets, how they overcome the challenges of living on the streets and what they think about their future. The interview clearly gave a chance to include what could not be anticipated and framed in to a formal questionnaire. The questions for interview consisted of question pertaining to their background, daily functioning, and how they perceived their future. Children were asked about their personal, educational and family details they were also questioned about factors that contribute to their current involvement in street. In addition information about working environment, working hours, and average gain and expenditure, and what problems they encounter were examined. Questions that invest get any risks potential like substances abuse sexual abuse and exploitation of any kind were asked. Moreover, their future aspirations were also asked.

### 3.4. Data Analysis

In order to supplement findings of qualitative data analysis, qualitative data were gathered using focused group discussion, which focuses on gathering information, related to the researcher questions. Accordingly three separate focused group discussions were made. In order to organize the focused group discussions, the researcher divided the 30 street children selected for the study in to three parts based on their respective places in which they are living. Ambo town have three main places the street children selected for this study distributed and the

researcher arranged the discussion as per their places and those close to one another in the following major thematic areas:-

Living with family. How they get along with their father and mother?

The time when began living on the street. How old are you when you began living on your own on the street. Where were they living before they left home?

Coping mechanisms. Do you know the reason why your family does not /you don't/ have a home now? What do you think can be done to get you back in to your own place?

Aspirations. In the future, how do you see your life? Do you think you will have your own place to live when you are all adult?

The study revealed various important and valuable findings, the short summary of which are presented below. Concerning the family relationship of the street children and how it contributes to street life. Street children from all places have similar response, some of them said that their fathers have no relationship with them, they simply know their father by information they get from their mother. Others said they have no normal attachment with their mothers. Same respondents from Kocher sefer have said they were in grade four when they left home. All the 30 street children in both categories and three groups who participated in the interview confirmed within the large group of street children there is many small sub groups comprised of mainly two and sometimes three children that are used in times of problems.

Respondents in Gomista sefer replied that they need support that could enable them to get their meals properly. Their main issue is about their meals because they said that they are forced to beg or scavenge leftovers because of

hunger they face. Other respondents in 01 kebele/ Ambo university/ replied that their needs and hopes for the future are shelter, a startup capital for jobs and education.

In this Study qualitative data was Collected and analyzed. This data was analyzed using descriptive approach through the use of interview and observation. The data was collected in Afan oromo and translated in to English for data analyses. The responses where ground in several thematic categories suitable to work on the discourse analyses of the responses.

Discussion and interpretation of the findings were made using method of qualitative analyses by relating the data to the research objective. In addition to the discussion and interpretation of the findings, similarities and differences of the responses in the case of street children in Ambo with the existing literature was analyzed.

## 3.5. Description of Trustworthiness of Data

The observation of the researcher was used as a check against what the children reported about themselves during interviews. An observation guide for the physical appearance, health, clothing and general conditions of the child were developed. Behaviors of children, their relationship with one another and others, the sitting problems and other related issues were also directly observed from the naturalistic setting of the selected areas. All the necessary information and field notes were recorded.

## 3.6. Human Subject Issues/Ethical Consideration

Before commencing data collection ethical clearance was approved by labor and social Affair office in Ambo town. Then the selected committees were communicated with legal and formal letter from the concerned bodies to proceed with the study after explaining the objectives of the study in detail informed verbal consent was sought from all study participants, Kebele Administration, Religious Leaders and community leaders and all the participants were told that their participation was voluntary and that they were free to quiet the interview if they wished to do so. The data collection was done by giving due respect to the norms, values, beliefs and cultures of the participants and ensuring the confidentiality of the data that collected.

Confidentiality was maintained by restricting access to the tape recordings solely to the interviewer. Ones data analysis was completed, the tape recordings are destroyed. Also the names of the participants were kept anonymous to ensure confidentiality. The entire names used in the data analysis are pseudonyms.

## CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS

### 4. Major Findings and Analysis

This study intended to explore the life situation of street children in Ambo town: challenges and prospects. The study used qualitative assessment using structured interview descriptive across thirty (30) sample street children. Major findings of the study obtained densely populated children discussed. The result obtained from the finding indicates, the factors lead children to live or work on the streets are violence, abuse and neglect within the family; death of one of or both parents, poverty that lead to inability to fulfill basic necessities and rural-urban migration in search of better opportunity for life.

However, the respondents said that, they face many challenges on the streets in Ambo town. Violence and abuse perpetrated by older street people because of their intention to exploit the smaller street children, violence by other people in the neighborhood and passersby, because they think that the street children are threats to the neighborhood because street children involve in theft and criminal activities. Moreover, street girls are victims of sexual abuse such as rape that result in unwanted pregnancy that lead them to unsafe abortion which in turn exposes them to various infections.

### 4.1. Demographic Representation of the participants

The data to this research is obtained from 30 street children. Among these street children, 16 of them are from 'of street' and the rest 14 of them are from 'on street' categories. The 'of street' children are cooperative because they do not permanently work and they have free time to give interview, that helped much in the process of data collection. Seven of the 'of street' children are living in bus station (Gomista sefer), Four in the 01 kebele (Ambo university), and five in

Kocher sefer). Of this group of street children, eight are male and the rest are Female.

The 'on street' children live on street vending and do not want to waste their time on interview. They promise but do not keep their appointment. For instance, out of the 14 'on street' children interviewed, nine of them were not available at the time of our appointment and we needed to fix our schedule again on some other time that is more convenient for them which use to do the interview. Among the 'on street' categories, eight male and six female children are participated. Like the 'of street' children, the 'on street' children are selected from similar places. Accordingly, six from bus station(Gomista sefer), Three from 01 kebele(Ambo university) and five from kocher sefer are participated in this study.

## 4.2. Educational Background

The study showed that street life has negative impact on the education of those children who involve in street life. One of the "of street' girls interviewed expressed her situation by saying:

I was in grade four before I came to the street. I was a clever student. When I was in grade two and three I was awarded school uniform and exercise books because of my achievement in class. Out of the 14 'on street' children, seven of them dropped out of school. Out of the 15 'of street' children who started school, all of them quit school since they started street life. Only one child had not started school either before or after joining street life.

## 4.3. Activities of street children

Street children involve in various activities while they live or work on the streets to sustain themselves since most of the causes of their street involvement

are due to lack of basic necessities. Both categories of street children stated that they participate in theft occasionally. They confirmed that they steal when they are desperate. One of the street boys interviewed said: "I steal when I feel hungry and have nothing to eat. It is a last solution to my problem. It is, of course, a means of survival."

Theft is very common among 'of street' boys. This seems because of lack of engagement in work that exposes them to extreme hunger. And it is obvious that since they are idle they move from place to place wherever they get opportunities, they involve in theft. The 'on street' boys engage in different jobs that can help them to feed themselves at least better than those of 'of street' children. However, street girls confirmed that they do not steal. Bultu, one of the 'of street' girls said: "Even if I am hungry, I do not steal. Instead of stealing, I prefer begging and I beg when I am unable to get anything to eat."

## 4.4 Reasons for joining street life

The finding of this research indicated that generally, the problem of street children cannot be related to a single cause or factor. It is multi-dimensional in which a combination of factors often lead a child ending up being 'of the street' and 'on the street'. However, the main factors that lead the child to street life are summarized under violence at home, death of one or both parents, poverty and the like.

Interview analysis of the primary data collected revealed that the reasons behind the initiation to street life are violence and abuse at home, death of one of or both parents, lack of support in case of orphan hood, poverty (inability to satisfy basic needs) and pressure created upon families due to poverty, family breakdown

and family pressure to engage in work and other social and psychological reasons related to the social environment.

### 4.4.1 Violence at Home

There are many reasons that the street children raised about their initiation to street life.

One of the 'of street' children interviewed. Abera said:

I came from Gedo. I am 13 years old. I was in grade four when I left home. My father dislikes me very much. It seems to me that I am not his son because of how he treats me compared to my brothers and sisters. For instance, when I ask him for an exercise book, he searches for old exercise books that others used so far and by tearing the pages that are written on, he gives me the blank pages. For other family members, he does whatever he can to satisfy their needs, even to the level of buying what they need on credit. In our home, the curfew is functional only on me others can break the norm as they wish. Moreover, the physical abuse, the insult and the cursing all damaged me so much and forced me to join street life.

Therefore, it can be understood from the above story that violence at home is one of the reasons for the initiation to the street life. Abuse and neglect besides violence within the family interestingly seem the main source of dissatisfaction they feel at home that make them leave their home according to the children on the street of Ambo. Most of the children interviewed bitterly talk about abuse and neglect they encountered at home. According to nine of the participants abuse at home is the main reason for leaving their home and living on the streets. They said that there was no stable atmosphere at home. Their parents either quarrel every time, or are separated because of the disagreement or divorced. Their mothers are abusive because of the disagreement with the husbands according to the response

of some of the participants. Moreover, most of the children are born from an illegitimate relationship.

### 4.4.2 Relationship with parents

Accordingly, all of the 'of street' children interviewed said that their fathers have no relationship with them, they simply know their father either from the information they get from their mothers o they have faint memory when they were little kids, otherwise most of them have no contact with their Fathers.

These children confirmed that they have no normal attachment with either their parents or other caregivers. They have attachment disorder with their previous relationship at home. That can be evidenced from the fact that most of the participants talk with confidence about the betterment of street life than their previous life at home. They say that they have a loving relationship with their previous life at home. They say that they have a loving relationship with their fellow street children that can help them survive the hardship they face on the street.

The 'on street' children said that they have a good relationship with their friends on the street. These positive relationships they have with their friends make them long for their friends on the street when they sleep at night in their home. Because of such feelings, they said that they sometimes sleep on the streets with their friends, instead of going home. Besides, disagreements with family members, physical abuse at home, separation from parents through death /divorce.

The in depth interviews along with the literature in the area of street children magnify those realities expressed in the theory as the factors that exacerbate the problem. However, cultural issues like lack of parent-child communication are a serious problem in recent years because of the cultural issues in our country that

does not encourage the face-to-face communication between parents and children according to the participants. Gaps are depended because of the advancement of technology that facilitates the dominance of western culture on the adolescents.

### 4.4.3 Death of one of or both parents

From both groups of street children six of them joined street life because of the death of one of or both parents. Abebu, one of the respondents said that:

*I am orphan. My parents died when I was eight years old. I have one elder brother. He took all the properties of our family for himself. I came to the street because I have no one to support me after the death of my parents.*

The situation of street children is worsened by the case of HIV/AIDS, which can be seen from various perspectives. HIV/AIDS can be a cause for the death of one of or both of parents that in turn leads children to the street because of lack of basic necessities or lack of guardian. On the other hand, children themselves can become infected with the virus. Their parents are dead or can be alive but cannot help their children because of economic and health situation. This leads the children out of their homes and become children of the street. This shows that the social problems of street children are increasing in both scope and magnitude in the country. These problems affect not only those children who are directly involved but their families and society at large.

### 4.4.4 Poverty

One of the reasons for the street children to join street life is poverty. However, two or three reasons may combine to do so. In most cases, poverty works together with the other causes. Tufa describes his story:

*I was born in Nekemte. I was grade three before joining street life. I was forced to do so because of my mother who beats me whenever she encounters anything that makes her angry. We live in a congested neighborhood where my mother and other women in the neighborhood quarrel over scarce utilities and resources. When she feels angry, she throws whatever she found on her hand or at her reach at me. Anybody can see the scar on my forehead that was created when she hit me with a broken chair. I was bleeding when I left home. Family, a new idea came to my mind that brought me here to the street of Ambo. I stayed here for two years. I had good friends here. I think it is much better than my life back at home.*

## 4.5 Challenges Street Children Face on the Street

Among other things, physical abuse, labor exploitation, psychological and sexual abuse are the common challenges faced by the street children. However, the severity of the aforementioned challenges varies from children to children due to factors associated with personal backgrounds.

Toltu one of the respondents explains the violence she faced on the street as:

*I was born in one small town. I am 13 years old. I am an orphan. I left home because of the sufferings I encountered by relatives whom I joined because of the death of my mother. However, it is no longer than few days right after I came to the street that I was raped. It happened in Addis Ababa where I first started street life. After the rape incident I came to Ambo where I am living now for almost two years. I did not report to the police because I thought that there is nothing I would get from doing that.*

Regarding challenges they face on the streets, all the respondents agreed that they encounter violence at various levels. Older street boys perpetrate the violence.

They force the children to give service like shopping at time when they are chewing "chat". When the street kids refuse to obey because of inconvenience or repetition of the command, the older ones beat them, throw them to the ground, slap them on the face, etc. the street girls are also victims of the same abuse. However, the abuses on street girls also include smaller street boys who spit on their face. Even though, the victimization is on both street boys and girls, the brutality is more on girls than boys. Most of the children who participated in the interview said that they feel the pains caused by the beatings and other attacks long after the incident because of the severity of the attacks.

Four of the 'of street' girls interviewed confirmed that they are victims of rape. They also said that they always fear that they might be raped. As they stressed, the fear of rape became a severe psychological stress to them because of their lack of protection as their life style exposes them to such kind of danger at any time of the day, even if the incident Is more serious at nights because of their sleeping place. Moreover, they said that they do not report the rape to the police or they do not tell to anybody because of fear and embarrassment about the incident. They also believe that they do not get help from the police.

According to the responses from both categories of street children, the abusers on the streets include older street boys, street men and young passersby. The older street boys want to exploit the smaller ones by forcing them to bring some items from shops and other places when they are on "khat chewing" ceremony. When they refuse to obey because of the repetition of the command, they will be beaten, thrown on the ground and slap them on the face. According to the street boys, older street women are also part of the violent and powerful groups on the streets. They ask the street boys for services, which the street boys hate to accept because of their impolite order and the act of violence at times of refusal of

the orders. Living on the street, with no supervision, protection or guidance often makes street children vulnerable to a wide range of problems or hazards. The participants asked through the interviews as direct and immediate problems they face and which affect their existence while working and living on the street are: violence, community disapproval, police arrests, rape and fear of being raped especially street girls, lack of attachments, health problems, substance abuse and its consequences and inability to cope.

According to the respondents, violence on the street normally takes place through three ways: violence within the small children groups or peers, by older street children who tend to exploit the younger ones, from the surrounding community itself as a reaction to their presence in particular area or areas where their presence is not appreciated, and violence while working on the streets such as when selling items like tissues, chewing gums, lotteries, or carrying bags and other items in areas where other people or children exercise control.

The respondents confirmed that they also perpetrate violence against those who they say insult and abuse them. They usually perpetrate violence against those who call them Abaramo. The violence normally ends up in cuts and bruises since it often contains fights with razor blades and broken glasses. Seven of the 'of street' children interviewed said that they usually carry razor blades to defend themselves in case others attack them.

The participants of the study said that, they face challenges from passersby especially at night. During the night, the drunken men abuse them by disturbing them in their sleeping areas and sometimes the participants said that they ask them for money. Sometimes, they give whatever they have in their pockets. If they do not have any money, they might be beaten. However, regarding sexual abuse, most

of the participants are unwilling to talk about sexual relationships and sexual activities.

They are exposed to physical and emotional abuse. The physical abuse includes beating, slapping on the face, and throwing them to the ground. The emotional abuse includes insult by calling them"Abaramo" the name the street children hate most. They said that they feel ashamed when they are called by the name "Abaramo" The street children participated in the interview said that they do not kike to be called "Abaramo" the names by which people call them. The meaning of "Abaramo" according to street children is one street child is one that is born and raised in neglect hated by God. All of them bitterly hate this name. When other people express the meaning, it means the naturally punished person. Moreover, some people say that recently it is referring to homosexuals. Toltu said: "we are also human beings as others, even if problems forced us to live on the streets and face this bitter life situation".

The other issue that concerns street children in Ambo town is the flood problem. Recently one street boy who is 14 years old was taken and died by the flood according to the street children. They are weary of the situation after the experience of to lay's flood. This is because during the night they fear that they might not be awake when flood occurs. This reduces the chance of their survival. Moreover, they also bitterly, talk about cold, the rain the wind and the sun they underwent when they live on the streets. All these situations they think are of great challenge for their life situation.

Regarding problems they face on the streets, all agree that they are victims of violence perpetrated by older street boys and young people. The older street people want to exploit these street kid by forcing them to bring them some items

from shops and other place when they are on "khat chewing" ceremony. The little ones refuse to do so because of the repetition of the command. When they refuse, the older ones beat them, throw them on the ground and slap them on their face. The other younger street boys station the faces of street girls. The victimization is on both the girls and the boys. However, the brutality is more on the girls than on the boys. The reason is that they are also victims of rape on the streets. One of the 'of street' girls told the researcher that she is feeling the pain on her back till the time of the interview.

## 4.6. Coping Mechanisms

### 4.6.1. Substance Abuse

Street children interviewed for this study confirmed that they consume substances or drugs such as the leftover of chat 'geraba', tobacco, alcohol, and sometimes glue. Both street girls and boys use the substances. The 'of street' girls said that types of the substances they use are leftover of chat and tobacco. The boys confirmed that they use whatever they get. For instance, while the interview was undertaking, most of the 'of street' boys and girls were struggling to stay awake. They were unable to control themselves to stay away of the substances and it was clear that they were under pressure from the addiction. From the 16 'of street' children interviewed, it was found out that only one child was free of any kind of substance use.

The participants interviewed from female 'of street' children indicated that all of them consume substances, which include cigarettes and chat. They explained that substance abuse is mainly connected with street life and peer pressure, and a means to endure pain; they also said that being under the effect of substance abuse; they expose themselves to attacks and sexual exploitation.

Many health and risk factors are associated with substance/drug abuse among street children. These risk factors can be grouped in to two types: behavioral and physical risk factors. Behavioral risk factors, as explained by the participants themselves, included violence, stealing, begging, quarreling, telling lies, or being sexually abused to get the substances or drugs to consume. The physical risk factors included chest ailments, skin diseases, nutritional diseases, and various forms of substance initiating violence to obtain the substances they consume. They said that they collect 'geraba' that others get rid of, as a leftover after they consumed what should be used. It lacks proper sanitation and can cause illnesses.

The main problem with the types of substances consumed by street children in Ambo is that most of the common types are available for sale in the market. Street children easily have access to buying tobacco and chat and also glue, which is not considered as one of the drugs or substances even though the users claim it, as having high rate of addiction that is too difficult to overcome.

This indicates that the substance abuse or drug habits among street children are highly affected by commonality of certain types of drugs of drugs. It also means that whatever is available can be consumed due to its effect, rather than on the basis of group characteristics or rituals. Data analysis also revealed that khat and tobacco is habitually carried out, almost on daily basis, whereas other substances are consumed occasionally on the basis of children's income and availability of those substances.

Substance abuse is mostly viewed as common type of activity among these street children. Interview indicated that they learn each other's drug habits, even those who do not consume it. However, the surrounding communities where street

children reside or tend to congregate do not accept their drug habits, especially because they often connect these with violence and robberies when they fall under the effect of the substances or drugs they consume. Khat chewing among street children often entails congregations, which are the most enjoyable activity.

They said that they often tend to hide their substance abuse or drug habits from parents and /or the community at large. Observation showed that they normally gather in gardens, isolated places, or under bridges to consume substances or drugs. In general, the various reasons for substance or drug abuse among street children, as repealed through the interviews were: relief from the pressures of the street, to sleep easily, to be able to endure pain, and hunger, to pass time and as a result of peer pressure.

### 4.6.2. Attacking in Group & Theft

Street children interviewed in Ambo like any other street children in the world as the literatures suggest have groups that could help them to overcome attacks posed by others, or in between themselves. They do so especially during the nights because of fear of the police. Regarding the attitude of the police, one of the participants said:

The policemen think street children as thieves and criminals who involve in various criminal activities and for this reason they arrest us even if the other people did the theft or the crime when they found us in the nearby area or on the way where they are patrolling.

According to the participants police arrest is very common in their street life. However, they also said that the presence of police on the streets protect them from violence posed to them by their fellow street residents or other people. Therefore,

all the participants agree that police presence on the streets is more useful than posing threats to their life style.

The street children in Ambo confirmed that they steal when they had nothing to eat. They said: "we commit theft when we are hungry and unable to find anything to eat". Moreover, some of them said that when they are hungry and have nothing to eat, they go to smaller teashops and mobile tea sellers and order tea and bread. When they finish eating, they will run away not paying the bill. During the interview they said that they undertake attacks during the nights because of fear of the police.

### 4.6.3 Cooperation

All the 30 street children in both groups who participated in the interview confirmed that within the large group of street children there is many small sub groupings comprised of mainly two and sometimes three children that are used in times of problems. These could be in times of sickness or hunger or attacks by others. They said that they use these mechanisms in order to share food, clothing and mobilize support in case of sickness or emergency. The 'on street' children also use this trend even if they return back home during the nights. They use cooperation at times they lose their money, or they encounter sudden accident while they are at work.

Interestingly, the communications between street girls and street women are smoother and friendly according to the informants. This seems because of the mutual benefits they get from each other. That is, the street girls sleep near the women's place because of safety reasons. In return, the street women get services like shopping and other activities from the street girls voluntarily.

The participants in the interview said that the relationship between them is good. They said that it is based on mutual benefit and support that is reflected by the fact that when one of their friends is unable to find something to eat, they share with each other. Those who are lucky enough to find money or food that day, become sponsors for those who failed to get their food and vice versa.

The co-operation is also seen in the case of illness. When one of them is sick, the others help in giving care and comfort, exactly as they expressed by taking the roles of real mothers and fathers. Moreover, they raise money for the payment in case they take the patient to the clinic or health care center.

The street children interviewed said that they carry out the above-mentioned activities on a daily basis. The 'on street' children stressed that they usually work for longer hours a day whether in doing one activity or a number of activities consecutively, with an average of 12 working hours per day. They usually earn from 5 to 10 Birr per day doing activities like carrying goods, selling lotteries, chewing gums and tissues, etc.

All of the children interviewed also stressed that they immediately spend the money they earn on food, entertainment, or buying substances like tobacco and sometimes chat. They rarely save money since they have no safe place to keep their money or because it is too dangerous to walk or sleep on the street with money in their pockets that could easily be stolen, especially at night when they sleep. However the 'on street' children take the money they get to their parents when they return back to their homes at night. The 'of street' children said that they usually do not work as much as the 'on street' children they work occasionally. They usually pass their time begging, scavenging leftovers and abusing substances.

### 4.8. Survival Mechanism

The other point to explain is that these children, especially, the 'of street' ones have no permanent job. Moreover, they do not believe that they should permanently work for their survival, rather most of the time they live on begging. If they want to work they do whatever kind of job they get. However, the 'on street' children join street life mainly to work. They have permanent jobs. They also support their family as well. One of the 'on street' boys said that "my father was aware veteran and died two years ago. I live with my mother who is now sick. My mother used to work as a day laborer before she become sick. We live in plastic house, with the other two of my sisters who depend on me for survival I work whatever job I get to get the money I bring back home to my family".

The market is the place where the street children in Ambo gather, especially as it is easier to get jobs or otherwise steal there. But one can also find street children in the main meeting points, such as bus or train station, 'Fetira bet' where customers eat their breakfaster called 'Fetira' in the town. They collect leftovers there that could help them to have their breakfast. Moreover, people who see them for the first time may be shocked by what they saw and give them some money and because of this they may well manage to earn some money. When they earn money, they buy food or they bring the money back home for their parents. Unfortunately, most of the time, this money will be spent on sweets, sweet potatoes, 'chat', drugs, or watching videos and football matches which is very popular in the town.

Regarding sanitation, it was found out that the attitude and activities of street girls is better than that of street boys. As compared to the street girls, the street boys are a bit careless about their personalities. They wear dirty and torn clothes.

Their situation is not good even at a glance. Surprisingly, the street girls look clean and hopeful. They said that they try to keep themselves clean and attractive as much as they can. They said that they wash their clothes, body and hair by every opportunity they get. They buy second hand clothes from the market when they get enough money to do so.

The 'of street girls' said that there are also good people from the neighborhood who provide us with water and soap to wash our clothes and to take a shower once a week or at times when they found us becoming dirty. Also added: We try to keep ourselves clean and tidy. We do not want to look like 'street children' to other people. We also help each other in making our hair.

### 4.9. Needs and Hopes of street children

All the thirty participants say that they need support that could enable them to get their meals properly. Their main issue is about their meals because they say that they are forced to beg or scavenge leftovers because of hunger they face. They also said that their other needs and hopes for the future are shelter, a startup capital for jobs such as what they call 'Jeblo' or street vending, and education. Mostly they need a job to be able to sustain themselves.

However, the 'of street children' interviewed expressed that they do not want to return back to their homes. They said that they like the freedom and love they get from the street and their friends on the streets. Regarding helping organizations, some of the street children said that these organizations use the poor to get their own benefit. they do not believe that they are committed to help the poor.

The participants interviewed all stressed that they have not heard of any programs provided by NGOs or GOs to deal with their problems or that work to

help them. However, they are in great need of help regarding food, education and health services. They indicated that if there is help and other optional activities, they are happy to engage willingly in self development activities like stopping using drugs and continuing their schooling.

### 4.9.1 Basic Needs

In the interview both categories of children were asked about the status of meeting their basic needs. All the 30 street children interviewed mentioned that they have difficulties to say that they have met their basic needs that brought them to the streets. They said that they have no appropriate meals, sufficient nutrition, or proper clothing for the day and the night. One of the 'of street' children, kebede, said:

Most of the time I eat once a day if situations are good I eat twice. There are days in which I stay on empty stomach. Sometimes when my friends are lucky, I will share with them. When all these options are not working, I go for begging.

Moreover, from the observation it was seen that the children had no appropriate clothing. They were wearing dirty and torn clothes. Five of the 'of street' children walk on bare foot. Six of them wore plastic sandals. Five of them were wearing old and torn shoes. Regarding the 'on street' children out of the 14, eight of them wore plastic sandals where as six of them were wearing old shoes. From the above situation it can be concluded that these children that they lacked what they intend to get. It is clear that these children join street life for the important of their living situation. However, all of them stressed that they are leading miserable life.

## 4.10. Movement of street Children

According to primary data obtained from street children through in depth interviews, the rate of the mobility of the male street children is higher than that of the female street children and the nature of the mobility is very different. The mobility of boys is longer and frequent in nature. They move from Ambo to Addis Ababa, from Ambo to Wollega, Jimma, and Asosa and to the towns in between these cities. They also have friends from almost all over the places and they sometimes visit each other. Regarding their migration, one of the 'street children said:

> My name is Abera. I am 14 years old. I came from another place to get better life. However, I went from one town to another to find what I wanted but failed to achieve my intentions. Within almost five months, I went to five places. Recently I came to Ambo because I found my friend here who advised me to work with him. Now I am working as a shoeshine boy. I live with my friend in a house we rented together.

Country to the boys, the girls do not move much and if they move sometimes they move only short distances like from Ambo to Addis Ababa and Ginchi to Addis Ababa. When they thing that they get good accompany or friends, they simply stay there with the friends. Unlike their male counterparts, their stay at one place is longer and permanent. It seems that this situation is resulted from cultural outlook that gives females the roles of staying at home and engaging in house chores rather than involving in breadwinning activities that take them long distances out of their homes as well as out of their neighborhood.

According to the data obtained from the interview of street children Ambo town, there are various reasons that lead children to live or work on the streets.

These are: violence, abuse and neglect at home; death of one of or both parents, poverty or inability to fulfill basic needs, rural-urban migration in search of better life, and so on. Even if they join street life for betterment of their life situation, there are many challenges they face on the streets. These challenges include violence from older street people; passersby and other people living in the neighborhood, and the police. Physical and emotional abuses and sexual assaults are common phenomena in the lives of street children in Ambo town. Especially, the street girls are victims of rape, unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion. These all issues make them a vulnerable group that seeks special attention.

# CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

The Study was intended to identify reasons for joining street life, Violence at Home, Problems Street Children Face on the Streets, Substance Abuse, Attacking in Group & Theft and Cooperation in Ambo town.

## 5.1. Reasons for joining street life

There are many factors beyond their control that force them to live or work on the streets. Some of the factors are poverty, abuse and family breakdown. The major pushing factor is poverty, exacerbated by drought, AIDS, war, and family violence and breakdown. Many children live and work on city streets though out the world. Still many choose street life as an alternative to poverty or violence at home. It is a harsh choice-with constant threats of hunger, exploitation, violence, abuse and even death (FSCE, 2003).

The finding of this research indicated that generally, the problem of street children cannot be related to a single cause or factor. It is multi-dimensional in which a combination of factors often lead a child ending up being 'of the street' and 'on the street'. However, the main factors that lead the child to street life are summarized under violence at home, death of one or both parents, poverty and the like.

Interview analysis of the primary data collected revealed that the reasons behind the initiation to street life are violence and abuse at home, death of one of or both parents, lack of support in case of orphan hood, poverty (inability to satisfy basic needs) and pressure created upon families due to poverty, family breakdown and family pressure to engage in work and other social and psychological reasons related to the social environment.

### 5.2 Violence at Home

Domestic violence and abuse is also considered as one of the reasons that lead children to live or work on the streets, these include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and exploitation. Problems of violence may stem from family histories and experiences. It can also be a consequence of poverty. However, it is not imitated to poor families, because the children of better off families sometimes choose to escape and leave home. The reconstitution of families with stepparents may also lead to the departure of children (West, 2003).

Violence at home is one of the reasons for the initiation to the street life. Abuse and neglect besides violence within the family interestingly seem the main source of dissatisfaction they feel at home that make them leave their home according to the children on the street of Ambo. Most of the children interviewed bitterly talk about abuse and neglect they encountered at home. According to nine of the participants abuse at home is the main reason for leaving their home and living on the streets. They said that there was no stable atmosphere at home. Their parents either quarrel every time, or are separated because of the disagreement or divorced. Their mothers are abusive because of the disagreement with the husbands according to the response of some of the participants. Moreover, most of the children are born from an illegitimate relationship.

### 5.3. Problems Street Children Face on the Streets

Street children have accumulated experience of violence in many areas of their daily lives, sometimes from a very young age (Schrader. & Veale, 1999). All the street children interviewed stressed that violence represents a major threat to their everyday life, and is a decisive factor in developing their abilities to cope with

street life. Street children are globally recognized as children particularly at risk of violence (Sarah, 2007). Six of the participants expressed that they join street life in the hope that they might escape abuse and violence at home. The paradox is that they are not better on the streets. They face abuse and violence all the time in the days and nights that makes their life more miserable.

According to the respondents, violence on the street normally takes place through three ways: violence within the small children groups or peers, by older street children who tend to exploit the younger ones, from the surrounding community itself as a reaction to their presence in particular area or areas where their presence is not appreciated, and violence while working on the streets such as when selling items like tissues, chewing gums, lotteries, or carrying bags and other items in areas where other people or children exercise control.

The respondents confirmed that they also perpetrate violence against those who they say insult and abuse them. They usually perpetrate violence against those who call them Abaramo. The violence normally ends up in cuts and bruises since it often contains fights with razor blades and broken glasses. Seven of the 'of street' children interviewed said that they usually carry razor blades to defend themselves in case others attack them.

## 5.4. Substance Abuse

Different authors investigated the incidence of drug use among street children in different countries (Lucchini, 1993) estimated 80% of street children in Brazil consume drugs. On the other hand (Aptekar, 1999) stated that drug use was not as prevalent among the street child population as commonly believed "Drug use for the most part simply was not central to the street children's lives. Their lifestyle cannot afford the exclusive focusing of their energies on drug procurement and consumption." However, substance abuse among street children interviewed

was very high. 15of the 16 'of street' children interviewed stated that they abuse khat. Six out of the eight male 'of streets' children interviewed smoke cigarette, all of the eight 'of street boys' drink alcohol and in addition to this, all the eight 'of street girls` chew khat. Four of them smoke cigarettes and two of them drink alcohol. Regarding the 'on street' children, the interview showed that they abuse alcohol rather than the other because of they pass the nights at home which might help them stay away of khat and cigarettes contrary to the 'of street' children. In general it can be concluded that there is high incidence of drug use among street children who participated in the study.

They have different justifications for using such items such as enduring pain, abuse and hunger, passing time, sleeping easily, and due peer pressure. Drinking alcohol, smoking, and chewing khat is common among the street children while they are living on the street. Mesfine indicated his story as:

### 5.5. Attacking in Group & Theft

Unlike some streets children literature (de Oliveira, 2000). That says the theft by street children is not only for economic reason but also as a method of showing group identity, the street children in Ambo confirmed that they steal when they had nothing to eat. They said that, "we commit theft when we are hungry and unable to find anything to eat". Moreover, some of them said that when they are hungry and have nothing to eat, they go to smaller teashops and mobile tea sellers and order tea and bread. When they finish eating, they will run away not paying the bill.

Street children in Ambo like any other street children in the world as the literatures (Lusk,& Cannoy, 1990) suggest have groups that could help them to

overcome attacks posed by others, or in between themselves. During the interview they said that they undertake attacks during the nights because of fear of the police.

### 5.6. Cooperation

The literature about street children (Lalor, 1999) confirm that their interpersonal relationship is good. That means it is based on mutual understanding and friendliness. Accordingly, the participants in the interview said that the relationship between them is good. They said that it is based on mutual benefit and support that is reflected by the fact that when one of their friends is unable to find something to eat, they share with each other. Those who are lucky enough to find money or food that day, become sponsors for those who failed to get their food and vice versa.

The co-operation is also seen in the case of illness. When one of them is sick, the others help in giving care and comfort, exactly as they expressed 'by taking the roles of real mothers and fathers'. Moreover, they raise money for the payment in case they take the patient to the clinic or health care center.

The children usually teach one another how to earn a living, where to go for a living and what to do in case they face problems, which is a clear expression of their "subculture" as (de Oliveira, 2000) put it that emerges as a result of their existence together on the street over an extended period of time and daily exposure to similar threats and circumstances.

The street children interviewed said that they carry out the above-mentioned activities on a daily basis. The 'on street' children stressed that they usually work for longer hours a day whether in doing one activity or a number of activities consecutively, with an average of 12 working hours per day. They usually earn

from 5 to 10 Birr per day doing activities like carrying goods, selling lotteries, chewing gums and tissues, etc.

## 5.7. Conclusion

In this study, an attempt was made to assess the life situation of the street children in Ambo town and factors that expose children to street life. Accordingly, it was found out that violence and abuses within the family, death of either or both parents, poverty (inability to fulfill basic needs) and rural urban migration were the major factors for these children to join street life.

The situation of street children is very severe in Ambo town. The situation in which whole families are becoming street dwellers is currently observed in the town. The number of such families is inversing along with that of street children. Even though, there is no town wide study to know the exact number of such children, the magnitude of the problem is increasing.

The life of street children is miserable whether they live 'on street' or 'of street'. Abuse and exploitation are the direct forms of victimization they suffer. Sexual attack, causing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, are major worries, especially for street girls. The abusers are older street boys, who use their seniority in age, body strength and street exposure as an opportunity to exploit the smaller street kids.

The life of these children is generally in jeopardy; however, all the children who had experienced violence and abuses within families said that the street life has also positive quality since it helped them to get freedom of movement and decision making opportunities on matters that concern their live. Even if they

escaped from the violence and abuses at home, the paradox is that they are also encountering similar or even more violence in some cases.

The 'on street' children also described that street life gave the opportunity to improve their living condition by their own, through earning an income that could help them feed themselves and of great contribution for their family. However, whatever they consider as a benefit is happening with the expense of the right to education, play and recreation, which will have a negative impact on their future life. Moreover, street life also exposed them to risky behaviors such as substance abuse, alcohol abuse, and criminal behavior like theft, and unhygienic way of life.

### 5.8. Policy Implication

Regarding legal and policy issues, there is a suitable opportunity to work on social problems specifically on that of children. Ethiopia has ratified Convention on the Rights of the Child; the African Charter on the Rights of the African Child and the Constitution of the country also gives full recognition to the rights of the children.

Issues of vulnerable or children in difficult circumstances have been dealt with in the Developmental and Social Welfare Policy of the FDRE. In addition, the convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) and Charter on the Rights of the African Child are also in action in the country to implement the rights of children. However, many children like those on street are still leading miserable life due to the absence of social security system in the country. This implies that there is a gap between the policy and its implication.

Due to this, children affected by streetism in Ethiopia in general and in Ambo town in particular, whatever their exact number, live in condition of severe deprivation of basic necessities and services lacking the rights to normal physical

and physiological development. Most of the children on the street suffer some form of abuse or exploitation. Because of this situation, they have developed negative attitude towards the community and society at large. Physical violence is part of their daily life. Therefore the following policy recommendation is made:

- There is a needs to carry out an in depth study on the magnitude of the problem of street children in Ambo town that will help to develop a plan of action.

- There is an immediate need by both GOs and NGOs to directly cooperate in projects that deal with the problem of street children in Ambo town.

- There should be cooperation between various NGOs in projects targeting street children, especially in the area of training.

- MoLSA, along WITH THE ministries of Education and Health, need to have direct cooperation with NGOs working with street children in various ways, these three ministries can help in organizing services like free literacy education, vocational trainings, vaccinations and free medical services in public hospitals and for planned joint actions with all related ministries in the form of a national program.

- Encouraging traditional coping mechanisms known as 'Guddifacha' used to ease the plight of orphan and vulnerable children.

- Community based intervention mechanisms will benefit street children, the community and the government as well.

## 5.9. Recommendations

It is clear that the problem of street children cannot be solved by the efforts of one party only. It needs the cooperation of various parties such as the government, NGOs, CBOs and Religious organizations. Child abuse and neglect is

a community concern. Each community has a legal and moral obligation to promote the safety, permanency, and wellbeing of children. Therefore, the following recommendations are made to improve the life situation of street children in Ambo town. To do so

- It is great help if street children in the locality have their own association that might help making their voices to be heard.

- In addressing the problems and needs of street children in Ambo, it is helpful to give them Social Security numbers by which they can be reached out for various reasons such as raising awareness on different issues like HIV/AIDS, family planning, basic education, work culture and so on.

- To improve their health status, it is advisable to give them free health services. Giving them their own identity card that can help them to get the services without problems.

- Efforts should be made to make them participate in trainings that can help them to develop life skills that in turn give them job opportunities.

- For those who decided to work, micro credit schemes might help in facilitating self-development opportunities, in enhancing their participation and their progress as they have the problem of startup capital.

- Efforts should be made by different government and non-government structures to facilitate the condition by which these will have access to basic needs and education.

- There is need for research to be conducted to fill the information gap on the magnitude of the problem and its effects at different levels to design intervention mechanisms that address the issue.

- Efforts should be made to provide the necessary support for orphans and children of the poor families at their place of origin in order to decrease their influx to town and latter become victims of street life.

- There is a need to work on ways of improving parenting skills to make communication between parents and children smoother. This will help to minimize the number of children that leave their homes and flee to the streets due to lack of appropriate parenting.

- There is a need for more studies that examine the nature, magnitude, impact and consequences of street life in various contexts. Moreover, researches that show alternative designs and intervention programs, which in turn help to improve the furniture of street children, are important.

- There is a need to strengthen social networks in which street children can get better life opportunities by having living arrangements with relatives or other community members. This helps them to get relief from street life. This can be done by the cooperation of the community, the government and the NGOs.

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**Appendix i**

**Semi structure Interview questions for 'of street' children and 'on street' children**

**i. Demographic Variables**

Age……….          Sex…......

Educational level…………………

Family Size: - Number of brothers…….          Sisters…….

**ii. Living with Family**

1. Could you tell me a little about each member of your family?
    1.1 tell  me about your mother
    1.2 tell me about your father
    1.3 What does your mother do during the day?
    1.4 What does your father do during the day?
    1.5 How do get along with your mother?
    1.6 How do get along with your father?
    1.7 How do get along with Siblings?
    1.8 Tell me about your sisters and brothers?
    1.9 Do they have any problems?

**iii. Place of living**

1. Where do you live right now?
2. How long have you been living there?
3. How do you like living there?
4. What is the best thing about living there?
5. What is the worst thing about living there?
6. What would you change to make the place you live in better?
7. Tel me about other places you have lived

**iv. The time when began living on the street**

1. How old are you when you began living on your own on the street?
2. Where were you living before you left home?
3. What makes a place seem like home?
4. When do you think you will get your own place to live?
5. How do you support yourself?

6. Do you do anything else for money?

7. Are you responsible for taking care of anyone else?

8. Is anyone responsible for you?

9. How do you usually spend your time during the day?

10. Whom do you go to when you need help?

11. Are you going to school?

12. Have you missed a lot of school?

13. Do you plane to go back to school?

## v. Health condition

1. Could you tell me about your health?

2. Tell me about the health problem you are having

3. Have you seen a doctor for the problem? (if yes, what did the doctor say about your problem?

## vi. Coping

1. How do you tell about living on the street?

2. Do you know the reason why your family does not (you don't) have a home now?

3. Has street life changed how you get along with your parents (Friends………………………………………………………….

4. What do you think can be done to get you back in to your own place?

## vii. Aspirations

1. In the future, how do you see your life?

2. What do you plan on doing when you become an adult?

3. Do you think you will have your own place to live when you are an adult?

**Thank you!**

**Caasaa gaaffii Ijoollota Karaa irra jiraataniif**

i. **Garaagarummaa dhuunfaa**

Ummurii…….          Saala………..

Sadarkaa barnootaa………………

Hanga maatii: - baayina obboleessaa………… baayina obboleettii…………

ii. **Jireenya maatii waliinii**

1. Waa'ee miseensa maatiike hundaa natti himuu dandeessaa?

   1.1    waa'ee haadhake natti himi

   1.2    waa'ee abbaake natti himi

   1.3    Haatike maal hojjettee jiraatti?

   1.4    Abbaanke maal hojjetee jiraata?

   1.5    Akkaataa akkamiitti haadhake wajjin jiraatta?

   1.6    Akkaataa akkamiitti abbaake wajjin jiraatta?

   1.7    Akkaataa akkamiitti Firake waliin jiraatta?

   1.8    Waa'ee obboleessa keefi obboleettiike natti himi? Rakkoo qabumoo hinqaban yooqabaatan rakkoon isaanii maali?

iii. **Bakka jireenyaa**

   1. Bakki qabatamaatti amma jiraattu Eessadha?

   2. Iddoo kana ammamiif jiraatte?

   3. Bakka sana jiraachuuf ammam jaallatta?

   4. Bakkasana jiraachuuf waanti gaariisiif ta'e maali?

   5. Bakka Sana jiraachuuke keessatti waanti sitti hin tolle maali?

   6. Iddoo amma jiraattu irra caalaatti gaarii akka siif ta'u maal jijjiiruu barbaadda?

   7. Bakka kana dura jiraachaa turteettu natti himi?

iv. **Yeroo itti jireenyi karaa irraa Eegalame**

   1. Yeroo itti jireenya karaa irraa qofaake jiraachuu jalqabdetti ummuriinke meeqa ture?

   2. Osoo mana gad hin dhiisiin Eessa Eessa jiraatteetta?

   3. Bakka jireenyake mana waliin kan wal fakkeessu maali?

4. Gara fuula duraatti bakka jireenyaa mataake argadha jettee yaaddaa?

5. Akkamitti ofiiketiin of gargaartee jiraatta?

6. Qarshii kan argamsiisu hojii hojjettu niqabdaa? Yoo jiraate maalfaadha?

7. Nama gargaartu niqabdaa?

8. Nama sigargaaru ni qabda?

9. Yeroo baayee guyyaa guyyaatii maal hojjechuutiin yerooke dabarsita?

10. Yeroo gargaarsa barbaaddu Eenyu bira deemta?

11. Barumsa hordofaa jirtaa?

12. GUyyaa baayee mana barumsaa addaan kutteettaa?

13. Gara mana barumsaatti deebi'uuf sagantaa qabdaa?

## v. Fayyummaa
1. Waa'ee fayyaake natti himi
2. Rakkoo fayyaa qabdu natti himi
3. Sababa rakkoo fayyaa irraa kan ka'e Doktera bira deemtee beektaa? Yoo Eeyee ta'e waa'ee rakkookeetiif Dokterri maal jedhe?

## vi. Dandamachuu
1. Waa' ee jireenya karaa irraa maaltu sitti dhaga'ama?
2. Sababa itti maatiinke yookiin ati itti mana dhabdan ni beektaa?
3. Jireenyi karaa irraa ni jijjiiramaa maatiike ykn hiriyootake ammamitti argita?
4. Gara bakkake duraatti deebi'uuf maal gochuu barbaada?

## vii. Kaayyoo gara fuulduraa
1. Jireenyake gara fuula duraa akkamitti ilaalta?
2. Yeroo ummurii dargaggummaa irra geessu maal hojjechuuf karoorfatta?

3. Yoommuu ummuriinke sadarkaa dargaggummaara ga'u bakka jireenyaa mataakeetii argadha jettee yaaddaa?

**Galatoomaa!**

**Appendix ii**

**Observation checklist**

1. Area description
2. Who are found there?
      2.1 Approximate Age
      2.2 Ethnicity
      2.3 Language spoken
      2.4 Sex
      2.5 Occupation

3. What are they doing?

4. Appearance

      4.1 Clothing

      4.2 physical Appearance or health situations that can be observed.

      4.3 Housing conditions

5. Verbal Behavior and interaction

      5.1 Who speaks to whom and how long?

      5.2  Who initiated interaction?

      5.3 How is the interaction among/between different groups?

6.  Who uses drugs/ substances?

7.  What kinds of drugs /substances?

8.  For how long do they use?

**Appendix iii**

**Verbal Consent Form for Participants of the study**

**Introduction**

My name is Tesfaye Shiferaw I am from graduate school of social work at Indragandhi National Open university currently I am collecting data regarding the life situation of street children in Ambo town to understand the life situation of street children in terms of the factors that force them to join street life, problems they encounter while they live or work on the streets,

What are the mechanisms they use to overcome effects of street life and what they think about their future? The study takes place in three sites in Ambo town, namely, Gomista sefer, 01 kebele (Ambo University)  and Kocher sefer. As part of my assessment, I will talk to two categories of street children; 'on street' and 'of street' children in the area. I would use the information for fulfilling my master's of social work thesis requirement.

**Confidentiality and Consent**

I may ask some personal information that some people find difficult to answer. I am not going to talk to anyone about what you tell me. Your answers are completely confidential. Your name and household members will not be written on this form and will ever be used in connection with any of the information you tell me. You do not have to answer any question that you don't want to answer, and you may end this interview at any time you want. However, your honest answer to these questions will help me to better understand the current life situation of street children in Ambo town. I would greatly appreciate your help in responding to this study. The interview will take about an hour and therefore I ask your patience for the time I will take to finish my questions. Would you be willing to participate?

Signature of interviewer ……………………………

(Respondents gave their informed consent verbally)