

**The Role of Self-Help Group in Empowering Commercial
Sex Workers' Livelihood in Addis Ababa: Implication to
Social Work Practice**

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ACRONYMS

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

CSW – Commercial Sex Worker

DIC – Drop-in-Centre

HIV - Human Immune Deficiency Virus

IASSW - International Association of the Schools of Social Work

IGAs - Income-Generating Activities

NASW - National Association of Social Workers

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

PSI – Population Services International

SHG - Self Help Group

STIs - Sexually Transmitted Infections

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this paper is to assess the role of Self-help Group towards livelihood empowerment of commercial sex workers in Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, SHG is not a new phenomenon. A decade has passed as different humanitarian agencies in coordination with the government of Ethiopia have made huge effort to support the poor through SHG. Despite the effort in resource and time, surveys and research findings which depict the impact brought in the process have been hardly available at the national level. The study used qualitative research method. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key informant interview tools were used for the purpose of data collection and analysis. The study was conducted in Addis Ababa 'Cherkos area which is under 'kirkos' sub-city. A sample of 2 SHGs from 6 SHGs found in the study areas, Kebele 03 and 04, were selected using purposive sampling method. 50 CSWs have been taken to participate in the FGD whereas five SHG leaders, five 'kebele' officials and 2 project coordinating staffs were selected as key informants of the study.

The significant finding in this study was related to how the self-help group could facilitate empowerment in the livelihood of CSWs as an individual or in a group context. Improvements regarding saving habits, members' access to loan, wider opportunity to involve in individual and group businesses, and improved household consumption were mentioned as major benefits of involvement in SHGs. As the study is aimed to magnify the role of self-help group, limitations should be acceptable regarding identification of possible challenges and causes of failures in SHG implementation. The paper therefore, is assumed to serve as an input to make SHG oriented community programs to become more effective and to motivate institutions and experts involve in more organized and intensive assessment.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Research Problem

The perception towards sex workers, acceptance and meaningfulness of sex work are diverse in different countries of the world. Although worldwide efforts have been made to decriminalize sex work, in the eyes of many societies, sex workers are still considered as punishable, demoralized and sinful human beings whose human rights are either broken or violated. Concerning legality of sex work, Ethiopia is one of the 77 countries to give legal status for prostitution which is “a sexual activity with different men in exchange for compensation such as money or other valuable goods” (*ChartsBin statistics, 2010*). The article further declares that Ethiopia allows sex work for persons over age 18. However, pimping or commissioning a person for sex work to another person is prohibited by law (*ChartsBin, 2010*). Nevertheless, for one or many reasons, significant number of young and old aged female have been engaged in sex business as their main livelihood scheme in Ethiopia.

Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) are most often females who are engaged in sex activity at three main venues: home, establishments like bars and brothels and streets (*FHI, 2002*). Commercial sex workers in most cases face socio-economic challenges such as poor living conditions/housing, social stigma and are victims of gender based violence and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The subsequent expansion of commercial sex is therefore mostly influenced by economic conditions in Ethiopia.

As a response to one of the poverty reduction strategies and social development programs, the Ethiopian Government in collaboration with various international and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), have been engaged with numerous economic empowerment and income

generating activities to women including CSWs. This is where the concept of Self Help Group (SHG) emerged. Through promoting self-help group, NGOs operating in Ethiopia have contributed to improving the overall status of women in terms of income, empowerment, welfare, leadership, etc. However, no verifiable data is to be found how many CSW have benefited so far from income generating schemes and also impacts are less likely measured. This is mainly due to their hidden identity as CSW. Nevertheless, there are various CSWs benefited from self-help group approach and whose socio-economic status is changed quite visibly. Thus, the self-help group approach witnessed to be momentous developmental framework in order to reach the most disadvantaged and powerless segments of the society such as women in general and commercial sex workers in particular. Completing the study may have implications, for the social work practice, as a potential facilitator for social and economic empowerment by enlightening importance of SHG approach towards empowering the lives of commercial sex workers.

1.2. Purpose of the Study

The study intended to assess the role of self-help groups in changing the livelihood of commercial sex workers. Aiming at amplifying the role of SHG as one of vital social work practices in helping the poor, powerless and disadvantaged segments of the society, CSWs in SHG were taken as study target. Hence, the study studied how some of the CSWs used the SHG approach to improve their self-functionality in the community.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

General Objectives

The study aimed at exploring the role of self-help group in empowering the lives of commercial sex workers.

Specific objectives

- Assess changes/improvements brought due to SHG involvement
- Assess impression of CSWs regarding SHG implementation
- Assess the role of SHG in improving CSWs social acceptance

1.4. Research Questions

- How does participating in Self Help Group improve livelihood of commercial sex workers?
- How does involvement in SHG ensure increase in self-functionality and group support?
- Does the SHG create social awareness among its members?
- What is the psychosocial impact of SHG in terms of social acceptance revealed through involvement in taking social responsibility or decision-making on important matters?

1.5. Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts

Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs)- females engaged in a sexual relationship where money is paid for sex . The study focuses on the type of CSWs who are 1) Home based- using one's own home for sexual activity. 2) Establishment based – meeting clients in bars, brothels/hotels. (Tenaw, 2007).

Self Help Group (SHG) – is predominantly an Indian phenomenon. The SHG discussed as in this study is small informal group, having 20 to 30 members paper, formed with the system of lending and saving consisting commercial sex workers at neighborhood level, who save money and make small loans to each other within their group. Members invest the money in small income-generating activities as a group or individually.

Empowerment - ‘is the processes by which women take control and ownership of their lives through expansion of their choices’ (United Nations, 2001). It is an enhancement of capacity at individual or community level by overcoming internal and external treats and increasing access to resources such as knowledge, skill, service, etc.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

There are many reasons why females of different age enter into sex work, as their main livelihood or for short-term revenue. Regardless of their reasons for engaging in sex work and the nature of their work, commercial sex workers should be treated with respect and dignity.

This chapter reviews literature on self-help group and its importance in empowering poor people especially women. It is found important to note that most literature has been focusing on empowerment as the outcome or end result elicited in different ways such as economic, social, and political, etc. Secondly, there have been limited studies that explore the relationship between a self-help group and the process of empowerment. There is also shortage of literature how self-help groups become self-empowered. In this chapter the nature of self-help group in relation to livelihood enhancement will be examined.

2.2 Commercial Sex Work in Ethiopia

Although there are no existing data found to pinpoint as to when and where commercial sex first appeared, commercial sex workers have been known in Ethiopia since olden times. Some historic and oral sources associate the beginnings of commercial sex with the movement of kings, nobles and warlords, the establishment of cities and the development of trading (Andargachew, 1988).

In contemporary times, sex work has become more common and open. Observing large number of women selling sexual services is one of the first endeavors of a night time visitor to any places around the capital and other major towns (Cheryl, Henock, Beza, Kate & Nicholas, 2011). In 2002, census was conducted by Family Health International to estimate sex worker population in

Addis Ababa. Results showed, about 8,134 Commercial sex workers were identified in different establishments such as night clubs, bars, hotels, home-brewed alcohol houses, etc. Hotels and Bars take greater share which is 3,365 (41.4%) and 1,942 (23.9%) respectively (FHI, 2002).

Similarly, “nearly all red-light houses (99%) and the majority of hotels (56.4%) were bases for sex workers. In contrast, only small numbers of sex workers were based in ‘tella’ and ‘tej bets’. Number of sex workers based in pastry shops and tea house was negligible”. (FHI, 2012, p.29)

If age segregation is considered, 42% of establishment-based sex workers were 20-24 years old whereas 28.6% were between 25 and 29 years of age. A very small percentage (<1%) of establishment-based sex workers (almost all based in red-light houses) were between 12 and 14 years of age (FHI, 2002).

In 2010 the government agency for HIV/AIDS, HAPCO revealed:

“The size of the sex worker population in Ethiopia is not known. However evidence suggests that sex Work in Ethiopia is undergoing demographic and behavioral changes. The number of Sex workers is growing; much younger girls are joining the trade and the average number of client they are seeing is increasing.” (HAPCO, 2010, p. 15).

2.3 Concept of SHG

Self-help group approach gained recognition especially after 1976 when Prof. Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh began experimenting with micro-credit and women SHGs (Tolosa, 2007). At that time, the concept brought revolution in Bangladesh in poverty eradication by empowering poor women. Self Help Groups are known to be small and informal associations established in favor of poor people with the objective of capacitating them gain socio-economic benefit out of mutual help, collective work, solidarity and joint responsibility (Tolosa, 2007).

Self-help group is created to be supportive, educational, change oriented and mutual-aid group in order to address a problem or condition shared by all members (Kurtz, 1997). It is through the active participation of all group members that makes it effective in dealing with and bringing solution into social or life issues.

2.4. Characteristics of SHG

One of the characteristic features of SHG could be explained in the form of financial support by mobilizing savings and credit facilities as a pursuit of group business. The effect of small group savings is sought to enhance the livelihood of the poor. Through group-based approach individuals can accumulate relatively better capital to run micro-businesses. Members of SHG find it easier to get access to formal credit facilities. These groups by way of joint liability enable the poor to overcome the problem of collateral security and thus free them from the controls of moneylenders (Shylendra, 1998). In SHGs, the joint liability not only improves group members' accessibility to credit, but also creates leadership role among the members so as to monitor loan recoveries (Stiglitz, 1993).

Some of the basic characteristics of SHGs including small-sized membership and homogeneity of the composition facilitate unanimous as well as efficient participation of members towards group functions (Fernandez, 1994). It is further explained that SHGs aimed for mutual objective and dealt with proper management have been able to reach the poor, especially women effectively.

Moreover, the study conducted by Puhazhendhi and Satyasai (2001) illustrated certain features/criteria should be followed for the successful formation and functioning of groups. Some of the criteria include voluntary nature of the group as a ground work for group formation. Individuals should be willing to abide by the rules and regulations of the group. In addition,

small size and the homogeneity of membership have to be seriously considered to bring harmony and solidarity among members. SHGs are also described as being transparent and often participatory in the decision-making process. Regular meetings of the members also foster meaningful relationships for the members of the SHGS. The groups are also used as a platform for discussion for other social issues apart from savings and credit.

2.5. SHG as a tool for Empowerment

Empowerment can begin to be understood by examining the concepts of power and powerlessness (Moscovitch and Drover, 1981). Power is defined by the Cornell Empowerment Group as the "*capacity of some persons and organizations to produce intended, foreseen and unforeseen effects on others*" (Cornell Empowerment Group, 1989, p.2). There are different types of power sources. Personality, property/wealth and influential organizations have been identified by Galbraith (1983) as prominent sources of power in the last part of this century. It is demonstrated in many countries that poor women make potential investments and earn huge returns. However, what happens to be serious hindrance is limited or insignificant financial assistance they have received (Mhlongo, 2010). Strategies to create a grassroots organizational base to enable women by coming together and start analyzing their issues and problems themselves to fulfill their needs has been gaining mass attention in recent times (MYRADA, 2002).

Several research findings reveal that one of the main advantages of SHG is providing considerable social support and business ownership opportunities to the members (Tolosa, 2007). Puhazhendhi and Satyasai (2001) in their study indicate that SHGs, having institutional arrangements can positively contribute to enhancing livelihood of the poor.

2.6. Progress of SHG

The subject of women's empowerment in accordance with micro-finance received growing research attention in recent years. Several governmental and humanitarian organizations have promoted concept of SHG by taking up experiences and successful experiments of extended credit to poor women. Since early 1980s, a large number of studies have examined various dimensions of micro finance programs aimed at women's economic empowerment. Several international organizations such as Action-Aid UK, CGAP (Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest) and Overseas Development Authority have conducted case studies and organized workshops in various countries (Mhlongo, 2010).

Governments, international financial institutions, and private foundations have realized the need to coordinate their activities and secure funds for the social welfare programs including income-generating activities for disadvantaged community groups (Peattie, 1987). For most of the organizations the shift from charitable work and services to income-generating activities can easily be equated with the social work profession in helping community groups solve their own problems.

A large number of studies have been undertaken by various NGOs and donors of micro-finance programs highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the SHG model in various countries. Here below is presented summary of some of the studies conducted on SHGs in India – which is systematically selected as they have relevance to the present study.

Choudhary (1996), in her study pointed out that money earned by poor women is more likely to be spent on the basic needs of life than that by men and that this realization would bring women as the focus of development efforts. She also examined the advantages of organizing women

groups thereby creating a new sense of dignity and confidence to tackle their own problems with a sense of solidarity and to work together for the cause of economic independence.

Shylendra (1998) in his research evaluated performance of eight women SHGs in one of India's villages called Vidaj. Here the SHGs were not successful. The reasons identified for the failure were the wrong approach followed during formation, misconceptions about SHG goals among team members and lack of clarity about the concept. The main lessons drawn from the project were the need for creating SHGs based on a clear assessment and mutual understanding of the purpose of the group and enhancing the relevance of SHGs to their members by enabling them to meet effectively their requirements be it savings or credit or income-generating activities.

The study conducted by Karkar (1995) revealed that as the program was effectively implemented, monthly earnings of members increased substantially. A large number of SHGs were able to come free from impositions by moneylenders. It had also resulted in improving their standards of hygiene and nutrition. From psychosocial point of view, major findings were that the urge for literacy especially for the girl child and the adoption of family planning measures had increased. Networking, homogeneity, and self-esteem of women had increased. The SHG scheme had also provided women the opportunity to sit together, discuss, and share their long-pending problems, and seek joint solutions through sympathetic cooperation and advice. The group thus acts both as a pillar of strength and an information hub.

2.6. SHG in Ethiopia

Although the government of Ethiopia has undertaken a series of economic and social reform programs aimed at ensuring better living situations for individuals, the national "Sustainable

Development and Poverty Reduction Program (2002), remains the major challenge of the nation even in the upcoming millennium (Getaneh, 2006). Ethiopians traditional way of pulling resources in a form of 'Iqub', 'Idir' and 'Mahber' so as to help each other can be used as enforcement towards the poverty reduction program. These informal community based associations, are among the major mutual help methods that Ethiopian poor people, especially women, use to cope up with poverty (Tolosa, 2007). Since those informal community associations bear some fundamental similarity with SHG, the introduction and application of SHG approach cannot be considered as new in Ethiopia.

In 2009, Consortium of self-help group promoters (CoSAP) was established in Ethiopia in line with FDRE Charities and Societies proclamation number 621/2009 bearing registration number 1590. The network, in the beginning, registered 17 local NGOs for membership in compliment with one of the criteria which is direct involvement of the NGOs in SHG and women empowerment projects. Subsequently, numerous international organizations are turning their head towards SHG establishment with especial focus on women, People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and child headed families. Although successes could not be assessed discretely, the increase in number of interested commercial sex workers to engage in SHG could be considered as better mechanism to bring livelihood empowerment through SHG achievable.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

Under this chapter the overall research method taken for the study is discussed. This includes a brief discussion of the qualitative research design used, the characteristics of the sample chosen and the procedures for data collection and analysis of qualitative interviews. The ethical considerations realized in the research process are also presented here.

The study adopted the qualitative approach as the basis for the entire thesis. This is mainly because qualitative research methods rely on the depth and quality of participants' responses and not necessarily essentially on the number of people who respond in a particular way.

3.2. Research Design

As the objective of this study is to explore and understand the role of SHG in empowering the livelihood of commercial sex workers, it can be characterized as exploratory research. The study is intended to be more of exploratory as it investigates the socio-economic changes brought into the life of subjects under the study. Therefore, qualitative research design that is exploratory in nature was used as the foundation that guided the sampling method, the process of data gathering and data analysis. This incorporated the use of case study. Exploratory research design in the form of case study was seen relevant to the study that aimed to gain an understanding of the role of self-help group.

The fact that there is limited data from previous studies on the role of self-help group in empowering CSWs livelihood, exploratory research design was appropriate due to the fact that it is often used to gain a broad understanding of a situation, phenomenon, community or person.

Exploring the self-help group approach through case study method was useful in organizing data and intensifying the outcome of the research.

3.3. Research Setting

The scope of the study will address CSWs who have been given the opportunity to participate in SHG under economic strengthening intervention programs in Kirkos sub-city, Addis Ababa. The CSWs who have been organized in groups towards self-help initiatives of the government and other humanitarian organizations are considered as prime targets for the study. The study takes some of the case of ‘Cherkos’ area/kebele self-help group members improved livelihood. The research was conducted in the Cherkos 03 and 04 kebeles where vast number of home based and bar based commercial sex workers reside. Also these kebeles are targeted for economic strengthening projects by some NGOs in the form of self-help group approach. The scope of the study covered two self-help groups from ‘kebele’ 03 and 04 where the members were in sex work and became successful in generating income from other business. The study is limited to Addis Ababa and to ‘cherkos’ area under ‘kirkos’ sub-city due to relatively better history of the SHGs and also in relation to time and resource availability for the study.

The participants were invited to join the research through project focal persons of various organizations.

3.4. Data Collection Tools and Procedures

Following the qualitative research design, data were gathered using both Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and key informant Interview tools. Findings from the qualitative research showed the impact of the matter in subject and helped to minimize wrong conclusions based on small sample size.

The open-ended focus group discussion guide helped to gather information/data regarding individual's as well as group's perspectives on the role of SHG pertaining to their respective lives. Besides, specific changes in the economic status, source of income, culture of savings, and other positive outcomes of SHG were addressed. The FGD participants were assumed to be commercial sex workers who are SHG members. Similarly, focal persons from local NGOs and government offices who are responsible for SHG rollout and facilitation were interviewed as key informants of the study. The key informant interview was believed to be an alternative to have better understanding of overall structure, features, function and overall performance of the SHGs. In the interview guide, questions concerning an empowering aspect of SHG, achievements and challenges, opportunities and treats, strengths and weaknesses of SHGs were raised. The qualitative approach therefore helped to understand the attitude and practice level of respondents in relation to the study subject.

3.5. Sampling Technique

The study was conducted in Addis Ababa, 'Kirkos' sub-city in the area called 'cherkos'. The study sample was selected purposively from members of SHG. Due to the explorative nature of the study, the researcher proposes using purposive sampling method in order to determine the appropriate sample size and sample group.

3.6. Sample Size and Selection

In the study the researcher used sample size of 50 respondents from two self-help groups. The two self-help groups were selected from six of SHGs found at 'cherkos' 'kebele 03 and 04 supported by Mulu HIV prevention project. For the selection of the two SHGs, purposive sampling method was utilized in order to segregate members with higher level of maturity in the

SHG. Thus, the sampling frame of SHG members who have been involved from project startup which is two years, were selected through a purposive sampling technique. From the two SHGs a total of 50 respondents will be taken as study sample. In order to obtain additional insightful data, key informant interviews were conducted with five (5) SHG leaders, five (5) kebele officials, and two project coordinating staffs. All of the respondents were involved in sex work once in their life. The date and time of administration of the instruments were decided in consultation with respondents of the study.

3.7. Data Processing and Analysis

Preparing qualitative data for analysis requires transcribing and typing the transcriptions into computer files. Hence, tape-recorded information and hand written notes were taken and transcribed. The data was analyzed in the form of narration. Cases would be presented by using case study format.

3.8. Ethical Considerations

The study strictly complied with the expectations of the participants. Confidentiality of information provided by participants and the anonymity of respondents would be respected and informed prior to data collection. After explaining purpose of the study, all respondents were asked to give consent at the stage of recruitment. A consent form in Amharic was prepared and signed by each participant before discussions begin. The study also involved discussion of sensitive topics due to the very living condition of the study population. However, such topics were raised when participants were comfortable to discuss. Similarly, consent was provided from key informants prior to the interview.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the responses from all tools used to collect data. The responses from biographical data are presented and briefly discussed. The themes that emerged from individual interviews and group meetings are presented, analyzed and discussed qualitatively.

The findings of the study were broadly categorized into the following major domains: biographical information of participants, the role of SHG in bringing social impact and empowerment, economic impact, process of SHG, implementation of SHG at project level, recognition of SHG at 'kebele' level and level and overall discussion of findings were presented as follows.

4.2. Biographical information of Study Participants

In the study, age, marital status, level of education, family size, income, origin of birth and psychosocial support were found to be important elements that affect the life of commercial sex workers. Detailed information with regard to each element is presented as follows.

4.2.1. Age Composition

In review of the general SHG implementation guide, the researcher was able to understand that age and sex were among the major characteristics that have to be given due attention during SHG formation. As the participants this study were commercial sex workers, the sex of participants was already given and identified. According to the SHG manual of the project, members should be 18 or above to be eligible to access loan or other financial privileges from external source.

Having understood these characteristics, the age of the respondents were summarized in the table below.

Table 1. Age Composition of Participants

Age Group	Sex = Female	
	No	%
18-24	9	18
25-33	38	76
34-43	2	4
Above 44	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

From the table, majority of the participants (38) equivalent to 76% belonged to the age between 25-33 years this is considered as an economic active (working) age of the population. According to the SHG business planning manual, this age group is considered to be more productive if provided technical and financial support. This was followed by those who were 18-24 years of age (18%) while one respondent equivalent to 2% was above 44 years and 2 (4%) of the respondents were aged between 34 and 43. The age composition shows that members of the SHGs were of varying age and in fact most of the members generally belonged to the age above 18.

4.2.2. Level of Education

One of the most important components that contribute to full-functioning of SHG is development and proper management of bylaw by the members themselves. The members' ability to read,

write and perform basic mathematical calculation is essential to ensure such a success. Moreover, although it is not the only factor, a lack of education is believed to be one of the major factors to get into sex work. Thus, the respondents' level of education was studied and presented below.

Table 2. Participants' Level of Education

Level of Education	Sex-Female	
	No	%
Non- formal education	5	10
First Cycle Primary Education (1-4)	1	2
Second Cycle Primary Education (5-8)	31	62
Secondary Education (9-10)	13	26
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

As it is clearly shown in the table, the rate of first cycle education was reported by one respondent (2%) as she could not continue her education and soon dropped out. The proportion of the respondents who didn't pass through formal education but acquired non formal education was 5 (equivalent to 10%). More than half of the respondents (62%) were enrolled in the second cycle primary education followed by 13(26%) of respondents who completed secondary education. This group of respondents could not be eligible for higher level education as they got below the minimum results. Findings from the focus group discussion showed that lower performance and lack of interest towards education resulted majorly from lower acceptance of girls' education by families in rural areas. Some of the participants also said they could have been successful academically if given proper education which was hindered as their families

struggled to win bread for the family; they were supposed to help them and did not have spare time to study.

4.2.3. Marital Status

From review of literature, various research findings on SHGs showed that most of the women who take part in SHGs are disempowered and disadvantaged women having problems in their marriage. Many of the scholars describe the women having problems in their marriage and who struggle to support their family. In order to verify whether such a situation exists among participants of this study, it was needed to assess their marital status as one contributing factor to involve in SHG.

Table 3. Distribution of Participantsts by Marital Status

Marital Status	Sex-Female	
	No	%
Not Married, have lovers	26	52
Divorced / Separated	10	20
Married/Living with a man	6	12
Widowed	8	16
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey

The illustration in the table above could be interpreted as 26 (52%) of the respondents were found to be not married but have trusted partners or lovers. Those who were once married but at the time of the study were found divorced or separated were 10 (20%) and 8(16%) of the participants were widowed. Those widowed groups during the discussion mentioned that they

have shouldered the responsibility as prime bread winner for their families. In addition, these widowed participants reported that selling home-made brews was their prime business while later they got into sex work with their clients in order to increase their income.

In addition to the above biographical data, the following information was obtained during the discussion.

- 90% of the respondents were originally from rural areas of which 55% came from the Northern part of the country whereas the least proportion which is 2.5% came from South. When asked why the majority of respondents were from the North, they responded that young aged girls leave their homes and run away not to get married at early age. The remaining 10% were from Addis Ababa and its vicinity.
- 65% of the respondents have children and 70% of respondents reported that they support their families who live in rural towns.
- There were only three participants (7.5%) reported to have alternative financial support from their lovers. These respondents were not married but have trusted partners to support them. 85% of respondents acknowledged their friends as source of love, care and support.

4.3. Social Impact and Empowerment

Members often join SHGs for socialization, to get moral support during changing circumstances in life and for security purposes in unforeseen events. This is in support to what has been reported by Aikaruwa, et.al 2014 where they argue that in addition to economic functions, SHGs play vital role towards other functions of social security, insurance, socialization and collective decision making. The role of SHG in accord with its individual and social benefits was discussed as follows.

4.3.1. Improved Communication

Most of the discussion participants stated that significant changes occurred in the communication level of members during post SHG period. It is found that there has been improvement in members who can now freely talk in the meetings. Their interaction was reported to be interpersonal based on mutual benefits. There were participants who felt that a self-help group encounter has taught them to be open about their feelings.

... I learnt from this group how to discuss my social problems...

...in my group I am the newest. So far, I have realized that keeping quiet about sad issues can hurt you a lot...

...I used to consider and talk about myself as a reserved person, but now I am surprised to see myself talking freely with my group mates...

4.3.2. Recognition for Mutual Support

Group formation was purely voluntary though some were persuaded by their friends to join the group, as members joined freely and were also free to quit membership provided they abided to the conditions of leaving. Sensitization and encouragement to join these groups were normally informal and were done by the members themselves, friends, neighbors, spouses and in some cases government leaders at village and kebele level. The majority of participants share the same opinion about self-help groups as a place to meet new friends.

...to be honest I have now got best friends whom I would have never met if it was not for the self-help group. Anyone can observe how inseparable we are.

Some of the participants have indicated that they were motivated to join SHG as they wanted to get mutual support and friendship:

...when you have gone through a stage of serious misery in life you tend to wonder whether you have another opportunity to make a right decision. It is encouraging to listen to other people's stories regarding their experiences of sex work....you grow personal and communicate well....

...This group has strong people who make you forget about your past difficult moments...we become strong force by uniting like this and I hope it will last long...

Stewart (2001) argued that self-help support groups facilitate a setting to people from similar experiences to come together to offer practical and emotional support in a mutually favorable manner. Self-help groups had been used as social treatment centers when members experience difficulties in life and when they face challenges to cope with or combat. People when distressed have a tendency to share their problems to those who have been through something similar. The participants in the study revealed that they have also been getting assistance from group members in such difficult circumstances:

...I grew fond of my group. The discussions that we have there is a life time lesson for me...we share encouragement. It will motivate me more as others speak, it's like their voices are talking within myself....

...I am the happiest person now. I don't feel lonely anymore...after a long time I was able to meet group of women like this...they have become my new home and I wish this kind of friendship can last forever...

...we are very intimate and considerate to each other. When someone from us is absent in one of the meetings or do not show up during business hours, we make a call or pay a visit to her house... I think it makes us unite and share our moments in life...

Due to the very nature of their work, most of the participants felt that they do not belong to the outside community. Thus, they think that the place where they could get love, care and support is the SHG where they develop strong connection to one another.

4.3.3. Increased Self Confidence

The group formation brought out the hidden talent and leadership qualities among the members. All participants showed positive responses to the questions about self-confidence. It could be identified that there has been an increase in SHG members with respect to confidence building factors. When asked how their confidence was improved, most of the participants mentioned SHG by its nature demand active participation of every member equally. This helped those who are less confident to become equally involved in the decision making and other activities. Other participants indicated the capacity building trainings provided by the project staffs helped them to be more confident in their personal decisions and as a member as well.

...I never forget the day that I started doing sex work. It was the worst day and decision of my life actually the decision was made not by me but so called uncle of mine...after 10 years of mystery...thanks to the project that brought the self-help concept, I am now fully confident that I can change my own destiny...soon I quit that thing-sex work, and live like a normal person...

...as for me, with the two years that I have been part of, the group has made me realize that I am a stronger person who deserves all the good things. It made me believe that I can deal with more life challenges...

From the above discussion it can be observed the participants after joining the SHG have gained confidence to involve in decision making of things that concern their lives and their families'. Most of the participants opined that their involvement in decision making in family had been improved. Even before starting a new business, their opinion was sought for which gave them a feeling of importance and acceptance.

4.3.4. Purposeful life

Most research participants considered the SHG as a social network aimed at achieving a common goal. Before joining the group, many of the participants described themselves living without purpose. They said they hoped for nothing and no better future. Most of them responded that they used to feel dying whenever they got sick thinking they might have contracted HIV. After SHG, they said they have gained hope which is the key for everything. Some of their past experiences were quoted as follows:

...soon after the divorce I found myself very lonely and hopeless, there was no one to talk to because of my work which is sex, even some of my friends, doing same work, were suspicious about me of stealing their clients...I didn't know how to have a dream in life before joining the group...

...you know what, after my divorce (actually I was not legally married in the first place) I tried to stick with one guy although I have plenty other sex clients. This

one also did not last long. Although we say trusted partner, we can never trust our boyfriends neither do they, as long as we do sex as source of income...

...it is irritating when men are so weak to meet their financial responsibilities when it comes to raising children...my ex-husband never cared for his children. I was supposed to feed them by having unsafe sex with men which could have expose me to HIV. I remember that I used to pass days crying not knowing what else to do...

... few years back one guy beaten me to death when I said to him that we should use condom. It took me a week long hospital treatment and dozens of medicines...how could I think of something good in such difficult situation?

...I will never forget the time I hid my baby under the bed when having sex with a guy. I had to do it otherwise I didn't have money to buy some milk for him...with no choice I couldn't do or think anything...

For all of the participants the SHG opened a new door to better future. They could now share their fears, worries, happiness and dreams together. They showed their strong determination that there would be no turning back and in few years' time sex work would be just part of their history.

4.3.5. Increased awareness for health checkups

As members learn and acquire knowledge and skills through trainings, it was reported by the participants that they could show the understanding and desire for better health care. As members become more economically secured which is through savings and credit facilities, the

findings indicated that they started taking preventive measures against HIV and STIs. CSWs are considered as most at risk population groups to HIV. Before SHG, the study participants explained that they were not in a position to negotiate for condom use as they were afraid not to lose their clients. After joining the group, their bargaining power has increased as their income has increased and could decline any offer against condom use. In this regard, some of the participants shared their experience as follows.

...Previously, my sex clients especially those who are highly paying ones used to refuse using condoms. In fear of losing my clients and the money that I get from them, I never have insisted them to use condoms. But now after taking this opportunity in the SHG and trainings that I received through them, my confidence is exceeded to the level that I do not allow/negotiate with any man to sleep with me without using condoms.....

...my workmates and I myself never thought of using condoms until this project came into our village. Although we were living under stress of contracting HIV, we didn't know how to convince my clients to use condoms because we knew that none of them would want 'festal'-used to describe condom...

...I have been in 'this'-sex work-life for more than five years. I never got tested for HIV nor would like to hear the issue itself. I used to consider myself as HIV positive because I was exposed for unprotected sex for such long time....

Through Mulu HIV prevention project, I have received the basic knowledge about HIV, STIs and condoms. This project helped us get out of our hidden corners and start discussing our own problems together. We then sought the

solutions and promised to stay together and change our lives forever. In my group, all members have decided not to have sex without using condoms. With the help of the project, we also have done HIV test and we regularly seek for health service in the drop-in center opened to us nearby

Past experiences put their own significant meaning in the process of empowerment. Experiences within their family of origin, from previous marriage, from work situations, and from educational contexts, all influenced how the sex workers managed the challenges of life. With some motivation these knowingly or unknowingly stored life-learned capacities would get triggered. Through the project, the participants have learned about basic business skills to build their capacity.

4.3.6. Improved Community Perceptions

Many of the participants have realized that there were a lot of challenges of being a commercial sex worker. They mentioned that they used to live in fear of stigma and discrimination since they do sex work. Some of the participants remembered that they never went into broader day light in fear of public humiliation by someone they knew. It was repeatedly reported that almost all participants except those who were secretly doing the business, never joined community organizations such as Idir and Equb as the community overtly oppose their participation. Most of them felt victimized and discriminated by the community. They responded for being confused and violent even when they felt someone is trying to harm them verbally. Lack of social support and ongoing social stigmatization had left them vulnerable so that they were forced to create their own social circle.

After the SHG, not only the commercial sex workers, the community was also provided awareness raising trainings through Idir, Equb and other kebele level associations to support commercial sex workers to become empowered and quit sex business.

...I used to feel like my fellow sex workers and I were living in our small world.

By that, we developed our own language, norm, belief and value...

...those who knew that we are sex workers did not like to open their heart and home for us. We were always treated us sinners and excluded from the community...

...of course we also do not like the way we live but when you see someone belittling you only because you earn money through sex work, you will start hating back. Some community members did not even ask if we really enjoy this life or not...

...still I am afraid that the community may not accept whatever business we do as our ultimate goal is to get strong with this group and grow to largest business firm in the country...

4.3.7. Increased Leadership role

Some of the participants said that their involvement in decision making of the group also helped their role in their lives and their families'. They have even started consulting others on matters like benefits of saving and how to save, how to access loan, house hold expenses, buying TV or other items, children's education etc. Now regarding the group business, their opinion is sought for which gave them a feeling of importance and confidence. As said,

...When I got divorced two years ago, I told myself that talking about my abusive marriage will open wounds, but today I learned that talking can make you strong...when I was selected as a facilitator of the group I was clueless...

...at first I didn't agree to self-help thing. My friends nagged me to join in and when I joined I was the laziest to attend meetings and to save money...

...I know now that chairing the meeting requires active listening and an objective view of the whole situation...

4.4. Economic Impact of SHG

The SHGs by definition are formed by people with indigenous and similar economic activities that range from subsistence and petty businesses of any kind. Members of SHGs are assumed to have similar knowledge and understanding of their businesses. With such economic activities, the members of these groups might be considered as low and moderate income earners. This point stands as a confirmation in the works of many authors like Satish (2000) and Sinha et.al, (2006). Economic empowerment thus could be translated through increased saving and improved saving pattern, seeking for quality and healthy living and increased purchasing power of members. The findings that reflect the role of SHG in terms of improving livelihood was discussed in the following sub topics.

4.4.1. Improved savings

All the participants revealed that there is a change in their saving habit. They said it was not a new experience for them as they used to save even before joining the group. What makes the

difference as described by the members was that before SHG, no one monitored how and when to save. They used to save individually but not regularly. Even their savings for most of them was not deposited in the bank rather they used to keep their savings at home where they could easily use whenever the need arose. After the group, the participants indicated that they learned how to make a saving. It was indicated that there has been increase in SHG members, who are now saving their money under the account they opened in 'Addis' Credit and Saving Union. Every member has now saving book and required to keep saving regularly which is every month. Members who do not have saving account by their names are not eligible for any form of loan. Many of the participants said they could now get loan as they have been saving regularly once their proposed business proposal is approved by the union.

The changes that occurred in the saving pattern of the members during pre and post SHG period were quoted as follows:

...joining self-help group has helped me realize that I am capable of choosing my own destiny, freedom and prosperity. My eyes are opened now I know how important savings is...even if I quit the group I can't quit saving...

...from my own experience and of my friends' we never thought of having a saving outside home. The saving that we had at home was spent for short term excitement and without a plan...

...I regret how I used to waste my money before. I used to get more than what I get now and I was very unwise using it for anything and anywhere. I wish I could have understood about savings years before...

...I can't believe that I have a saving and account by my name. For me this is a beginning for a future which is going to be brighter and favorable for me...

The discussion here was concluded that SHG is having a good impact on members, in their ability to save their hard earned money.

4.4.2. Increased Purchasing Ability

Purchasing ability of the members had undoubtedly increased after joining SHG this is due to the loan they could get either from group savings or from the loan provided by 'Addis' Credit and Saving Union. Due to improved savings and access to micro-finance, the members witnessed changes in their purchasing power never got before. The participants revealed that they could buy goods such as clothes, food items, furniture which are better in quality. Some participants commented as mentioned below:

...As I was earning low, had no extra money and felt bad when my child asked me some minor things like candy or biscuit but now the things are completely different after joining SHG...

...Since I joined the group, I started saving well both at home and in my account by which I am now less worried how to care for my child...I wish this group would have started some years before...

...today I feel like a strong caring mother who never cease to care and ensure that my children get all best things in life- healthy food, better clothing, good education, blessed marriage, etc...

...last year I joined the self-help group with my friends and now I am less stressed and healthier...I eat good, wear good. I am thinking to open my new business...

After joining SHG, the participants were able to spend money to meet family requirements like paying house rent timely, children's fee, medical expenses, etc. They were even able to manage regular savings by deciding on priorities of expenses. Thus, at times of need, they could contribute to important events like marriage, grief, education and holidays from the savings which improved their status and ability to meet expectations for social contributions. Some participants made the following statements:

... I tried to relocate to a smaller house and start new life as I was losing great share of my earning to housing. But I could not find a house for lower price...I was worried what to do. When I joined the group, started saving and then could manage my income in order of priority. I don't see a miracle, the income is the same, it's just that I am determined to keep my saving and use the money with a good plan...

...i used to send 500 birr to my mother ever month. After the self-help group, it reached 800 birr per month. She doesn't know how I get this money. I lied to her that I am working in a kindergarten. As long as I get the money to feed my mother, I don't care if I am lying to her...

...we the kebele 04 self-help group members are not yet running our business. We are making a regular monthly saving in each member's account. Our living condition is improved. Our next goal is to open our micro business...

4.5. Implementation within SHGs

When a certain program is going under assessment, it is crucial study the overall institutional function and structure of the service-providing agency and its components. In addition, it is also quite essential to gather primary data from government administrative bodies working at grassroots level. In response to this fact, data were collected from the project coordinating office, SHG leaders, and representatives from kebeles 03 and 04 regarding the support the SHGs are receiving for positive outcomes. The discussion with the SHG leaders, Kebele officials and project coordinators were presented as follows.

A group consisting four key informants of female SHG leaders were interviewed jointly. From the discussion held with this group, it was understood that involvement in SHG has multifaceted benefits to the members from improved economic status and livelihood to increased psychosocial support, increased confidence and level of power over unprotected sexual practice. It also brought in change of attitude towards working collectively.

Moreover, the leaders reported that SHG is a typical tool to empower the disadvantaged and marginalized segments of the society such as commercial sex workers in the form of improving their confidence and attitude for better future through group business, improved saving, increased purchasing power, facilitating access to micro-finance and loan, providing mutual support and social cohesion, and contributing for healthy living. Responding to the question rose during the interview, the SHG leaders witnessed that the project implementing agency, i.e., PSI, throughout its course of project implementation, has been working diligently with all target groups (sex workers) who were qualified for the SHG membership without any form of discrimination.

4.6. SHGs Project Implementation

In addition to data collected from SHG members and the leaders, pertinent information was also gathered from the project coordination office. There are several staff members who administer the overall project. As the name of the project indicates, Mulu HIV combination prevention project has three broad spectrums- HIV prevention, HIV care and treatment and economic strengthening scheme to commercial sex workers. Two staffs that are directly responsible to the SHG intervention were interviewed.

Summary of responses consisted of the discussion regarding how the Mulu HIV combination prevention project. The project according to the responses from the project staffs was funded by USAID in 2012 with a goal to address groups that are exposed to HIV such as commercial sex workers, transport workers and labor workers through awareness creation and communication activities, health service delivery and economic strengthening efforts in order to reduce their risk to HIV.

The general objective of the project, as stated by the representative of the project was to improve the livelihood of at least 20,000 commercial sex workers by 2017 throughout the country and major regional states where commercial sex workers reside in huge number.

An interview conducted with the representative of the project also depicted that SHG is a female dominated association and the objective behind it is to empower commercial sex workers in particular. The organization's philosophy is by empowering women socially, economically and politically it is possible to empower the entire family in particular and the country in general. More than 90% of total project beneficiaries are women. The representative of the project also explained that the social marketing program was one of the major services that PSI is providing

to the SHG members with free condoms, STI treatment services, promotional items, etc. Through this service, many of them were able to seek the service regularly from drop-in centers/clinics established only to provide service to project targets, commercial sex workers. This was intended because commercial sex workers do not use public health facilities in fear of discrimination

Moreover, data from the project office coordinating staff showed that in order to solve the current lack of business shops in the area, PSI together with its stakeholders have been trying to assess market places to SHGs container shops.

In response to the major challenges that the project has faced so far, the project coordinating staff stated that the challenge of forming a new self-help group requires significant energy and a tedious group process, for the first six months especially with commercial sex workers as the very nature of their work makes them less committed. The project coordinator further elaborated that controlling, directing, and managing the group dynamics involved in the SHG were found to be another serious challenge that the project has faced in the commencement of the group formation.

During the project inception, some people were reluctant to approach the project. One of the reasons for such reluctance was fear of failure and as a group. Other reason for reluctance of participation is the dependency syndrome instilled within society, due to alms provided by many foregoing NGOs. Some of the commercial sex workers expected the project to give them the money individually not in a group or not after some establishment proves. However, after long persistence of the project implementing agency in explaining the benefits of the SHG perspective, they have understood the intention and started trusting the project.

4.7. Recognition of SHGs at ‘Kebele’ Level

Having understood that the ‘Kebele’ leaders are aware of the development interventions in their locality, an interview was conducted with a group of ‘kebele’ officials from ‘kebele’ 03 and 04. Responses are summarized as follows:

In ‘Cherkos’ are where the study took place, there is a growing trend of social challenges such as unemployment, poor housing conditions, a lack of access to basic facilities, lack of access to working capital, and population growth due to commercial sex workers single motherhood. Data gathered from the ‘Kebele’ officials revealed that sex work has been expanding in the area due to unemployment and peer pressure. One of the officials from ‘Kebele’ 04 said,

...sex work has been the major social problem my ‘kebele’ faced for so long. With the expansion of local drink houses, the number of young sex workers increased alarmingly...

In order to alleviate this problem, the ‘Kebele’ officials said they are working very closely with government assisted micro business firms and nongovernment organizations to bring socio-economic interventions in the area.

The officials also said that as women are the most vulnerable sections of the community, and as the majority of the ‘Kebele’ dwellers are women, empowering them especially the commercial sex workers is believed to be vital. The official from ‘Kebele’ 03 said,

...I don’t see it as an easy task. These commercial sex workers have been doing the business for longer time. I remember how desperate they were once to find a support and quit sex work. They lost their hopes and motivation after some time.

Still we can help them restore that motivation and desire for change. We have to work together for their better tomorrow...

Thus, all the officials agreed the women focused development interventions that various NGOs are undergoing in their respective 'Kebele's have significant impact in changing the miserable life condition of many poor sex workers and consequently contributing to the national poverty eradication endeavor.

4.8. Discussion

SHGs can potentially contribute to changes in economic conditions, social status, decision making and standard of living. These SHGs play a very important role in social change. In other words it also applies to change the material aspects of life as well as in the ideas, values and attitudes of the people. In general, research shows that the outcome of joining SHGs has helped members feel more confident with improvement in their standard of living (Singh, et.al, 2011).

SHGs play a vital role in facilitating exchange of ideas within members, providing a forum in which members could share experiences and obtain new knowledge and insight in life. SHGs also benefit to uplift self-confidence of members (Aikaruwa, et.al, 2014). The findings in this study also implied that the groups were more frequently referred to as social groups where discussion, self-disclosure and encouragement among group members were promoted. The groups offered an avenue where members could express their view openly. In the discussion with the study participants, it was identified that all participants have acquired more confidence after joining the groups than before.

Thus, it was proven that SHGs serve as a platform for members to know, socialize and get familiar to each other. Through the groups, the CSWs could now create a network and linkage with governmental officials and NGOs.

SHGs have also brought about recognition in a family and within the society at large. Through improved individual and household income, confidence and social networks, members have witnessed that after joining the SHG they had improved their status in family, become helpful in family finance and sometimes helped others too (Aikaruwa, et.al, 2014). Out of the members of the groups studied, all agreed that their status and recognition in the family and the community at large had improved after joining the groups. The findings of this study also proved that the SHGs benefit in creating a social network allowing members share their experiences and learn from each other, also facilitates for self-development which becomes enhanced as the commercial sex workers explore their strengths and capabilities.

The study tried to assess the perceptions of CSWs regarding their empowerment in various domains as they become involved in SHG. It has been marked as positive improvements in all the domains after the CSWs joined the group than they used to have before. In procedure, SHGs utilize savings as a requirement in order to avail credit to the poor and less empowered. Tremendous changes have been brought into the lives of the CSWs through savings and access to micro-finance.

Sahu and Singh (2012) in their study stated that micro-finance programs have made the women empowered to stand against economic insecurity which is described in the study as meeting family expenses, improved ability to make small and large purchases and increased freedom to make household decision. Similarly, the findings in this study showed that because of their

involvement in SHG, the CSWs were able to improve their livelihood through savings and micro-finance program. This could be explained as, after joining the group, members had access to credit facilities and increased income. Consequently they have been able to contribute to the household expenses and to businesses other than sex work. A study by Singh, et.al (2011) has also indicated that even though members join SHGs for various reasons, most of the time they have one common goal, which is seeking a better standard of living. Hence, the study concluded that the SHGs have served as an alternative instrument of financial intermediation for the poor.

Though there was a significant difference in the perception towards the effect of SHGs across the time of association, it was clear that greater the time of association with SHGs, greater were the benefits derived. All of the participants agreed that there was an increase in the monthly savings after joining SHGs and the longer the time of association, the greater was the monthly savings and better the life style. All the participants recognized that they were economically benefited after joining SHGs.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings and Conclusion

As the purpose of the study is to assess the role of self-help group in empowering the livelihood of CSWs, the study result has shown that participation in the SHG has multiple effects on the lives of members. In summary, the study was conducted among commercial sex workers who live in Addis Ababa in the area called 'Cherkos'. Most of the participants of the study were between age 25 and 33. The majority of the CSWs participated in the study do their sex business both at home and in bars.

Through focus group discussion, 50 SHG members were studied. Additional information was gathered through key informant interview with five SHG leaders, five 'kebele' officials and two staff from the project operating in 'Cherkos' area.

The biography of participants showed that 76% of the participants fall in the productive age group which is 25-33 years. The age composition in general illustrated that members of the SHGs were of varying age and all of the members generally belonged to the age above 18 as it is the benchmark for membership. Regarding the level of education which is crucial to engage in the SHG and micro-business, 62% of participants completed the second cycle primary education followed by 26% of respondents who completed secondary education. The result from the study of the participants' marital status indicated that the majority of participants which is 52 were not married but had trusted partners or lovers. Those who were once married but at the time of the study divorced or separated were equivalent to 20% and 16% of the participants were widowed. In addition, when asked their origin of birth, 90% of the participants were originated from rural areas of which 55% came from the Northern part of the country. 65% of the participants reported

of having children and 70% of respondents reported that they support their families who live in rural towns. There were 7.5% of participants reported to have alternative financial support from their lovers. These respondents were not married but have trusted partners to support them.

After being involved in SHG, the respondents' have explained they have been benefited in various ways mentioning the psychosocial support on top of all. Improvements have shown in their habit of saving so that they could get individual loan within the group to one SHG and to other they have been processing to receive group loan from micro-finance institution. Changes have also been considered with increased confidence during condom negotiation with high paying sex clients which resulted from increased risk perception and self-awareness acquired from several trainings provided by the project.

The group savings has boosted the income of members in relative terms so that they have got increased demand for healthy food and improved hygiene. In addition, they were able to pay their children's tuition and extra fee for uniforms and educational materials. Of all the responses, what made all participants share a particular answer was when they were asked if they have a need to quit sex work? They all responded with a loud yes and majority of the participants were certain that the SHGs that they are participating in could grow to be a big business firm.

5.2 Implication to Social Work Practice

According to the code of ethics by the International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW, 2004) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW, 1999), social work profession strives to address and enhance self-functionality of individuals. In Addis Ababa, 'cherkos' area where the study took place, it is common to observe home based and bar based commercial sex workers waiting for men during the evening hours. As the commercial sex

workers live in the slum area in houses of poor conditions with problems of sanitation and hygiene exasperate. Thus, in order to address these social problems, integrated interventions of various experts is quite needed.

Self-help groups, as a recent and effective development approach, are self-initiated local development efforts based on the principle of working collectively. Social workers should have a grown attention to these groups of people.

As previously stated, self-help group is a newly empowerment perspective being implemented in most parts of Ethiopia which specifically involves women. When a certain project is people focused, developmental and participatory it is considered as the practice of social work.

At different times, in different part of Ethiopia, various organizations have worked in many ways in serving poor people however due to duplication of efforts and lack of harmony among the organizations, improvement was seen insignificant. Thus, learning from past mistakes, resources should be pulled together and support women to have better and sustainable means of income. By creating a network of social work professionals along with government sectors- the Kebele Administration, District Administration, City Administration Offices, District Women's Affair Desk, Micro Credit Service providing organizations, etc experiences and efforts could be shared for the sustainability and long term outcomes of SHGs.

5.3. Limitation of the Study

Research findings and evidence to investigate CSWs and their participation in SHGs was not an easy task since the subject matter has not been a common research area in Ethiopia. From intervention point of view, the major role players in planning, implementing and facilitation of SHGs are NGOs. Hence a coordinated and structured profile of SHGs specific to this study

population is hardly accessible. The study was therefore designed to systematically address through NGO contact. Maximum effort has been invested to bring out first hand or primary data on the subject.

The scope of the study was limited to Addis Ababa; more specifically, to the SHGs operational area. The study focuses only on the role of SHGs in empowering the livelihood of CSWs supplemented with case study. The study was limited to only be representative for those CSWs enrolled in self-help group in one of the sub-cities of Addis Ababa called Kirkos sub-city. Therefore findings cannot be used to interpret the rest of the study population. In addition, the study tried to point out only the role of SHGs in bringing empowerment in the livelihood of commercial sex workers which means other possibly benefiting aspects are restrictions to the study.

5.4. Recommendations

As the study result showed none of the commercial sex workers who participated in the study enjoy their line of work. Although the cause/reason why they became sex workers was not part of the study, some of the participants were willing to share their stories during the discussion sessions. For one or another cause, these women have end up to make their life out of the work that they hate most. With growing and serious focus on SHG, the government or any other humanitarian organizations can support CSWs, with all necessary capacities, so that they can engage in more decent type of work. Based on the study results and living testimonies regarding the importance of SHG, empowerment can be successful by engaging the target group to solve their own problems with technical and financial resource backing them behind. Below are some of the recommendations pulled out as the result of the study:

- Promoting the concept of SHG in clear and understandable way so that the CSWs can be willing to participate without further persuasion.
- The government and NGOs should come through the already established network called CoSAP which is the consortium of self-help group promoters in order to reduce resource duplication and to bring measurable results from coordinated intervention effort. Furthermore, taking experiences from successful SHGs such as sisters' self-help association, a structured and organized SHG framework/guideline should be designed.
- Group savings should be stressed to at the beginning of group formation as SHG is not conditioned to receive all financial support from others rather it is designed in a way to make group savings to the amount that micro-finance becomes accessible.

Like any other development approach, SHG has its own developmental stages extending from group formation, preparation, assessment, planning, and implementation through evaluation of project impact. Hence SHG shouldn't be considered as economically profitable right away. Since it is participatory in nature, SHG members are supposed to make their contributions by having group saving to certain amount to get access to micro-finance.

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Annex I. Interview Guide (for SHG members Focus Group Discussion)

Indhra Gandhi National Open University

School of Social Work

Questions posed to the selected SHG members

A. Respondent Identification

1. Discussion Code _____ Date of FGD: _____
2. Age of Participant: _____
3. Residence of the respondent: Town: _____ Kebele: _____
4. Name/Area of the SHG he/she belongs to: _____
5. Duration in the SHG (when did he/she join the SHG)? _____
6. Level of participation (responsibility in the SHG): _____
7. Marital status: _____
8. Level of Education: _____

B. Family situation

9. How many people often live in your household? No. of children (up to 18): _____ No. of adults (19 and above)

C. Information regarding the respondent Economic status and livelihood

10. What is/are the source/s of your income? _____

11. How do you explain the change in your income?
12. Is there any change in your workload? How do you compare your workload before you involve in the SHG and after? (Amount of work for the same wage)
13. Since you join SHG, had there been any increase in your savings capacity?
14. Since you join SHG, had there been any increase in the borrowing capacity? And how?
15. Since you join SHG, had there been any increase in your and your family's consumption pattern? (food, clothing, medication, children's education, household furniture, frequency of meals per day)? How do you explain this?
16. How the situations changed? (if there is any change) _____

B. Respondents Empowerment

17. Do you participate in decision-making at –
 - a. Household level (e.g., children's education, health, and family income expenditure, various forms of abuses (Probe for detail explanation)
 - b. Community level – In SHG affairs, cluster meetings, village meetings, community works,
18. Is there any difference between your levels of participation before & after you get involved in the SHG project? _____
19. How the situation changed? _____
20. What community development activities did the project initiated? (e.g., HIV prevention, health awareness and services, trainings, etc)?

21. Are you benefited from any of them? How? _____

22. Does the SHG you involve in:-

a. Introduces new income generating activities to its members? If yes, what are they?

b. enforces existing businesses

c. Provides individual and group entrepreneurship skill

d. have you ever participated in any one of basic business skill enhancement trainings?

e. If yes to any one of the above, what benefit did you get out of it? And did this help you increase in production and income?

f. How do you explain the changes you experienced because of your involvement in SHG? If there is any.

23. How do you explain your acceptance in the community

Thank You

Annex II. Key informant Interview Guide (for Self Help Groups Leaders)

Indhra Gandhi National Open University

School of Social Work

Part I: Background Questions

A. Respondent Identification

1. Date of Interview: _____
2. Sex of the Respondent: _____
3. Age of the respondent: _____
4. Residence of the respondent: Town: _____ Kebele: _____
6. Name of the SHG he/she belongs to: _____
7. Duration in the SHG (when did he/she join the SHG)? _____
8. Level of participation (responsibility in the SHG): _____
9. Marital status: _____
10. Level of Education: _____

B. ABOUT SHG

11. How many members are in your group? _____
12. Is the group size increasing, decreasing, or stable? _____

13. When did you join the group? In _____
14. Who selected you to be the group leader and why? _____
15. What major activities does your SHG performed so far? _____
16. How much money does your group saved so far?
17. Is the group saving increasing or decreasing?
18. What are the main livelihoods of your SHG members?
19. What IGAs do the members involved in so far?
20. What working relationship do you have with the concerning government, non-government offices working in the area?
21. What challenges did you face and how did you solve it/them?

Thank You

Annex III. Interview Guide (for the project coordinating Staff)

Indhra Gandhi National Open University

Graduate School of Social Work

1. Background Information

1.1. Name of the organization

1.2. Type of organization:

1.3. Location: Sub City Kebele Telephone

2. Project Description

2.1. Vision and mission of the project _____

2.2. Project activities and services being provided _____

2.3. Project outreach service coverage area _____

2.4. Project beneficiaries _____

2.5. Total number of the project beneficiaries: CSWs: _____

3. Operational definitions

3.1. Self-help group:

3.4. Number of SHGs under the project _____

4. How do you explain the impact, cost efficiency, & sustainability of the project? _____

5. Total annual budget for your programs _____

6. 7. Is there any proposal for future project extension? _____

8. If you have additional comments. _____

Thank You

Annex IV. Interview Guide (for Kebele officials)

Indhira Gandhi National Open University

Graduate School of Social Work

1. How many commercial sex workers are identified in your kebele? What is the trend looks like? (Increase/decrease)?
2. How do the commercial sex workers in your kebele operate? At home, in bars, on streets?
3. What is the role of the kebele in mitigating the root cause for sex work?
4. Does your kebele have any kind of assistance program to CSWs who live in the kebele?
If yes, what kind of support do you give and what are the bases to be eligible for support?
5. What do you think should be the role of NGOs in fighting HIV?
6. What are the major problems of the Kebele, which hinders its activities?
7. What do you propose to overcome the problems of HIV and sex work in the Kebele?
8. What is the significance of MULU HIV combination prevention project in alleviating expansion of sex work in your kebele?
9. Additional comment

Thank You

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

Enrolment No. : **ID1051123**

Date of Submission:March 17, 2014.....

Name of the Study Centre:

Name of the guide: ...Dr. Habtamu Mekonnen.....

Title of the project: **The Role of Self Help Group in Empowering Commercial Sex Workers' Livelihood in Addis Ababa: Implication to Social Work Practice**

Signature of the student:

Approved/not approved

Signature:

Name & address of student: Tsion Elias Kallore

Name and Address of Guide: Dr. Habtamu Mekonnen

P.O.Box 23203 code 1000 Addis Ababa Ethiopia

...Adama Science and Technology University.....

Date: ...March 17, 2014.....

**The Role of Self Help Group in Empowering Commercial Sex
Workers' Livelihood in Addis Ababa: Implication to Social Work
Practice**

MSW Dissertation Research Project Proposal

(MSWP-001)

Prepared by: Tsion Elias

Enrollment NO- ID1051123

Project Supervisor

Habtamu Mekonnen (Dr.)

Indira Gandhi National Open University

School of Social Work

March 2014

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.6. Research Problem

The perception towards sex work and sex workers, acceptance and meaningfulness of sex work are diverse in different countries of the world. Although worldwide efforts have been made to decriminalize sex work, but in the eyes of many societies, sex workers are considered as punishable, demoralized and sinful human beings whose human rights are often broken or violated. Concerning legality of sex work, Ethiopia is one of the 77 countries who gives legal status for prostitution which is “a sexual activity with different men in exchange for compensation such as money or other valuable goods” (*ChartsBin statistics, 2010*). The article further explains Ethiopia allows sex work for persons over age 18. However, pimping or commissioning a person for sex work to another person is prohibited by law. (*ChartsBin, 2010*). For one or another reason, significant number of young and old aged female have been engaged in sex business as their main livelihood scheme in Ethiopia.

Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) are most often females who are engaged in sex activity at three main venues: home, establishments like bars and brothels and streets (*FHI, 2002*). Commercial sex workers in most cases face socio-economic challenges such as poor living conditions/housing, social stigma and are victims of gender based violence and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The subsequent expansion of commercial sex is therefore mostly influenced by economic conditions in Ethiopia.

As a response to one of the poverty reduction strategies and social development programs, the Ethiopian Government in collaboration with various international and local Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), have been engaged with numerous economic empowerment and income

generating activities to women including CSWs. This is where the concept of Self Help Group (SHG) emerged. Through promoting self-help group, NGOs operating in Ethiopia have contributed to improving the overall status of women in terms of income, empowerment, welfare, etc. However, no verifiable data is to be found how many CSW have benefited so far from income generating schemes and also impacts are less likely measured. This is mainly due to their hidden identity as CSW which is in fear of stigma. And yet there are CSWs benefited from self help group approach and whose socio-economic change is quite visible. Thus, the self help group approach witnessed to be momentous developmental framework in order to reach the most disadvantaged and powerless segments of the society such as women in general and commercial sex workers in particular. Completing the study may have implications, for the social work practice, as a potential facilitator for social and economic empowerment, enlightens the importance of SHG approach towards empowering the lives of commercial sex workers.

1.7. Purpose of Study

The study intends to explore the role of self help group in changing the livelihood of women engaged in commercial sex work by:

- Helping change their source of revenue from sex work to other business.
- Informing the gap and need for further and in depth research demand, extensive program design and implementation towards the ongoing economic empowerment interventions targeting CSWs.
- Emphasizing impact of savings in SHGs to bring the intended individual change in the livelihoods of CSWs.

All in all, the study aims at amplifying the role of SHG as one of vital social work practices in helping the poor, powerless and disadvantaged segments of the society, CSWs in this case, acquire the necessary skill and access resources to solve their own problems. Hence, the study explores how some of the CSWs used the SHG approach to improve their self functionality in the community.

1.8. Objectives of the Study

General Objectives

The study aims at exploring the role of self help group association in empowering the lives of commercial sex workers.

Specific objectives

- Assess changes/improvements brought due to involvement in SHG
- Assess impression of CSWs regarding effectiveness of SHG in tackling their livelihood problem
- Assess the role of SHG in improving CSWs social acceptance

1.9. Research Questions

- How does participating in Self Help Group improve livelihood of commercial sex workers?
- How does involvement in SHG ensure increase in self-functionality and group support?
- Does the SHG create social awareness among its members?
- What is the psychosocial impact of SHG in terms of social responsibility, dignity or decision-making on important matters?

1.10. Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts

Commercial Sex Workers (CSW)- females engaged in a sexual relationship where money is paid for sex . The study focuses on the type of CSWs who are 1) Home based- using one's own home for sexual activity. 2) Establishment based – meeting clients in bars, brothels/hotels. (Tenaw, 2007).

Self Help Group (SHG) – The SHG discussed as in this study is small informal group, having 10 to 20 members paper, formed with the system of lending and saving consisting commercial sex workers at neighborhood level, who save money and make small loans to each other within their group. Members invest the money in small income-generating activities as a group or individually.

Brothel - An establishment with a number of rooms as a station for sex workers. Sex clients visit the brothel to make contact with the sex workers. The sex client may use a room at the brothel or may go another place. The brothel owner takes a good share of the money paid to each sex worker in the house (FHI, 2002).

Empowerment - 'is the processes by which women take control and ownership of their lives through expansion of their choices' (United Nations, 2001). It is an enhancement of capacity at individual or community level by overcoming internal and external treats and increasing access to resources such as knowledge, skill, service, etc.

1.11. Limitation of the Study

Finding previous data and evidence to investigate CSWs and their participation in SHGs is not an easy task since the subject matter has not been a common research area in Ethiopia. From

intervention point of view, the major role players in planning, implementing and facilitation of SHGs are NGOs. Hence a coordinated and structured profile of SHGs specific to this study population is hardly accessible. The study is therefore designed to systematically address through NGO contact. Maximum effort will be invested to bring out first hand or primary data on the subject.

The scope of the study is limited to Addis Ababa; more specifically, to the SHGs and associations operational area. The study focuses only on the role of SHGs in empowering the livelihood of CSWs with case study of two SHGs. This limits the study to only be representative for those SHGs members under Sisters' Self Help Association in Addis Ababa. Therefore the study findings cannot be used to interpret the rest of the study population. In addition, the study tries to point out only the role of SHGs in bringing empowerment in the livelihood of commercial sex workers which means other possibly benefiting aspects are restrictions to the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many reasons why females of different age enter into sex work, including as their main livelihood or for short-term revenue. Regardless of their reasons for engaging in sex work and the nature of their work, commercial sex workers should be treated with respect and dignity.

2.1. Commercial Sex Work in Ethiopia

Although there are no existing data found to pinpoint as to when and where commercial sex first appeared, commercial sex workers have been known in Ethiopia since olden times. Some historic and oral sources associate the beginnings of commercial sex with the movement of kings, nobles and warlords, the establishment of cities and the development of trading (Andargachew, 1988).

In contemporary times sex work has become open. Observing large number of women selling sexual services is one of the first endeavors of a night time visitor to any of Ethiopia's capital and major towns (Cheryl, Henock, Beza, Kate & Nicholas, 2011). In 2002, census was conducted by Family Health International to estimate sex worker population in Addis Ababa. Results showed, about 8,134 Commercial sex workers could be identified in different establishments such as night clubs, bars, hotels, home-brewed alcohol houses, etc. Hotels and Bars take greater share which is 3,365 (41.4%) and 1,942 (23.9%) respectively (FHI, 2002).

Similarly, "nearly all red-light houses (99%) and the majority of hotels (56.4%) were bases for sex workers; in contrast, only small numbers of sex workers were based in 'tella' and 'tej bets'. Number of sex workers based in pastry shops and tea house was negligible". (FHI, 2012, p.29)

If age segregation is considered, 42% of establishment-based sex workers were 20-24 years old whereas 28.6% was between 25 and 29 years old. A very small percentage (<1%) of establishment-based sex workers (almost all based in red-light houses) were between 12 and 14 years old (FHI, 2002).

In 2010 the government agency for HIV/AIDS, HAPCO said:

“The size of the sex worker population in Ethiopia is not known. However evidence suggests that sex Work in Ethiopia is undergoing demographic and behavioral changes. The number of Sex workers is growing; much younger girls are joining the trade and the average number of client they are seeing is increasing.” (HAPCO, 2010, p. 15).

2.2.SHG as a tool for Empowerment

In order to understand empowerment can begin to be understood by examining the concepts of power and powerlessness (Moscovitch and Drover, 1981). Power is defined by the Cornell Empowerment Group as the "*capacity of some persons and organizations to produce intended, foreseen and unforeseen effects on others*" (Cornell Empowerment Group, 1989, p.2). There are many sources of power. Personality, property/wealth, and influential organizations have been identified by Galbraith (1983) as critical sources of power in the last part of this century.

Through reviewing various literatures, the major concern behind this study will be to ascertain empowering benefits acquired by engaging in SHG in the case of SHG beneficiaries.

Several research findings reveal that one of the main advantages of SHG is providing considerable social support and business ownership opportunities to the members. Puhazhendhi and Satyasai (2001) in their study indicate that SHGs, having institutional arrangements can positively contribute to enhancing livelihood of the poor. They also state that older groups have

relatively more positive social impacts than younger groups as it is determined by the level of maturity.

Although the government of Ethiopia has undertaken a series of economic and social reform programs aimed at ensuring better living situations for individuals, the national “Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (2002), remains the major challenge of the nation even in the upcoming millennium (Getaneh, 2006). Ethiopians traditional way of pulling resources in a form of ‘Iqub’, ‘Idir’ and ‘Mahber’ so as to help each other can be used as enforcement towards the poverty reduction program. These informal community based associations, are among the major mutual help methods that Ethiopian poor people, especially women, use to cope up with poverty (Tolosa, 2007). Since those informal community associations bear some fundamental similarity with SHG, the introduction and application of SHG approach cannot be considered as new in Ethiopia.

In 2009, Consortium of self help group approach promoters (CoSAP) is established in Ethiopia in line with FDRE Charities and Societies proclamation number 621/2009 bearing registration number 1590. The network, in the beginning, registered 17 local NGOs for membership in compliment with one of the criteria which is direct involvement of the NGOs in SHG and women empowerment projects. Numerous international organizations are turning their head towards SHG establishment with especial focus on women, People Living with HIV (PLHIV), child headed families in Ethiopia. Although successes could not be assessed discretely, the increase in number of interested commercial sex workers to engage in SHG could be considered as livelihood empowerment through SHG achievable.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGIES

3.1. Research Design

As the objective of this study is to explore and understand the role of SHG in empowering the livelihood of commercial sex workers, it can be characterized as exploratory case study and descriptive in nature. By descriptive it means the general socio-economic characteristics such as age, level of income, level of education, family size, marital status, livelihood pattern and other research data collected from the study participants will be briefly described. The study is intended to be more of exploratory as it investigates the socio-economic changes brought into the life of subjects under the study.

The researcher suggests utilizing qualitative research design to investigate the role of SHG in empowering commercial sex workers pertaining to their livelihood.

3.2. Research Setting

The scope of the study will address CSWs who have been given the opportunity to participate in SHG under economic strengthening intervention programs in Addis Ababa. The CSWs who have been organized in groups towards self help initiatives of the government and other humanitarian organizations are considered as prime targets for the study. The study will address cases of ‘Cherkos’ area self-help group member’s endeavors. The study will be conducted in the ‘Cherkos’, Kebele 3 and 04 where large number of home based and bar based CSWs reside. In addition, the given kebeles are targeted for the study as they are designated for income enhancing projects by some NGOs implementing self-help approach. The scope of the study will be limited

to Addis Ababa covering two self-help groups from 'Kebele' 03 and 04 under 'Kirkos' sub-city where the members are in sex work and start generating income from other business. Relatively successful history of the SHGs in the area and limitation in the availability of time and resource determines the study to settle in the aforementioned study sites.

3.3. Data Collection Tools and procedures

Since qualitative research design will be used, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and key informant Interview tools will be used to collect data. Findings from the qualitative research will help in showing the impact of the matter in subject and minimizing the risk of sending wrong conclusions based on small sample size.

The open ended focus group discussion guide will be developed to gather information/data regarding individual's as well as group's perspectives on the role of SHG pertaining to livelihood impact. Besides, specific changes in the economic status, source of income, culture of savings, and other positive outcomes of SHG will be specific points of discussion. The FGD participants are assumed to be commercial sex workers who are members in SHG. Similarly, key informants will be selected and interviewed from SHG leaders, NGO running SHG related projects and kebele officials who are prime contacts for SHG rollout and facilitation. The key informant interview is believed to be a complementary data collection tool to have better understanding of the organizational setup, features, function and overall performance of the SHGs. In the interview guide, questions concerning an empowering aspect of SHG, achievements and challenges, opportunities and treats, strengths and weaknesses of SHGs will be raised. The qualitative approach therefore helps to understand the attitude and practice level of respondents in relation to the study subject.

3.4. Sampling Technique

The study will take place in Addis Ababa where the study sample will be selected purposively from members of SHG. Due to the explorative nature of the study, the researcher proposes using purposive sampling method in order to determine the appropriate sample size and sample group.

3.5. Sample Size

In the study the researcher proposes to take sample size of 50 participants from two self help groups. The two self help groups are selected from six of SHGs found in 'Kebele' 03 and 04. For the selection of the two SHGs, purposive sampling method will be utilized in which members with higher level of maturity in the SHG will be carefully identified. Moreover, 5 SHG leaders, 5 kebele officials and two project coordinators from NHO will participate in the key informant interview.

3.6. Data Processing and Analysis

Preparing qualitative data for analysis requires transcribing all tapes and typing the transcriptions into computer files. Hence, all tape-recorded information and hand written notes to be taken during the FGD session and interviews with SHG leaders, Kebele officials and the project coordinating office will be narrated and reviewed for analysis. The cumulative combination of all these methods is helpful to understand and analyze the empowering role of SHG in the case of commercial sex workers. The overall data will be presented using case study format.

3.7. Ethical Considerations

The study complies with the expectations of the participants. Confidentiality of information provided by participants and the anonymity of respondents will be respected and informed prior to data collection. After explaining purpose of the study, all respondents will be asked to give consent at the stage of recruitment. A consent form in Amharic will be prepared and signed by each participant before discussions begin. The study may involve discussion of sensitive topics due to the very living condition of the study population. However, such topics will be raised if and only if the participants are comfortable to discuss. Similarly, formal consent will be requested from key informants before the interview.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Accordingly the table below describes the time plan estimated by activity/process for the overall completion of the study. The scheduled dates consider occasions such as correspondence and approval requests from project advisor, weekends and contingencies within processes.

Process	Days	Deadline
Literature Review	10	April 25
Design final data collection tool/schedule	5	April 14
Identification of Respondents	3	April 18
Organize respondents in focus group	2	April 23
Conducting four focus group discussions	6	May 9
Conducting key informant interview	5	May 16
Transcription	10	May 23
Analysis of data and summary write up	10	June 6
Draft project submission	5	June 13
Final project submission	10	June 27

Appendix B

The following table summarizes overall budget required throughout study period.

Item/Process	Unit	Quantity	Unit cost ETB	Total ETB
Participant allowance	Birr	55	50.00	2,750.00
Organizer fee	Birr	2	100.00	200.00
Transcription fee	Birr	3	200.00	600.00
Tape/cassette	Birr	6	12.00	72.00
Stationery items	Birr			150.00
Contingency (10%)				
Total				4149.2

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **THE ROLE OF SELF HELP GROUP IN EMPOWERING COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS' LIVELIHOOD IN ADDIS ABABA: IMPLICATION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE** submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the MSW to Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other 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 others.

Place: Addis Ababa

Date: November 19, 2014

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Code 1000, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Mrs Tsion Elias Kallore**_student of MSW from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi was working under my supervision and guidance for his/her project Work for the course MSWP-001. Her Project Work entitled **The Role of Self Help Group in Empowering Commercial Sex Workers' Livelihood in Addis Ababa: Implication to Social Work Practice** which she is submitting is her genuine and original work.

Place: Addis Ababa

Signature:

Date: November 19, 2014

Name: Dr. Habtamu Mekonnen

Address of Supervisor: Adama Science and

Technology University

Phone No: 0911332537

CURRICULUM VITA
PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: HABTAMU MEKONNEN BALDERAS, PhD
PERSONAL ADDRESS: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.o Box. 5009
CONTACT NUMBER: Telephone +251 0911 33 25 37
E-MAIL ADDRESS: zabish07@yahoo.com
NATIONALITY: Ethiopia
DATE OF BIRTH: December, 19, 1984

Educational Background

2013/4 PhD, in Social Work and Social Development, Addis Ababa University

Dissertation Title: Beyond Family Crisis: Stress Appraisal, Coping and Adaptation in Families of Women with Leprosy, an Analysis of the Double ABCX Family Stress Adaptation Model

2006 M.A. Addis Ababa University, Psychology (Special Needs)

Thesis Title: Psychosocial Development of HIV Orphaned Children In different Care Systems: Child Headed, Grandparents and Institutional Care Systems in Focus

2000 Bachelor of Art (English /History) Addis Ababa University

CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

2009-2010- Integrated Community Development and Child Welfare Training Program From University of Illinois (Jane Addams College) In Collaboration with Addis Ababa University

2007- 2008-Higher Diploma License in Professional Teacher Education, Adama Science and Technology University

2003-2004- English Language Improvement Certificate- Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau

2002-Aug. Certificate from History Club at Medihanialem Preparatory School

1999-2000- Inventorying and Cataloguing form the Ethnographic museum of institutes of Ethiopian Studies

Professional Experience

- 2006- present: Lecturer at Adama Science and Technology University
- 2011-2014- Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert at Yes Business consulting P.L C.
- 2007- 2013: NGO-Community worker/Trainer- Rapid Adama Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), Adama (Par timer)
- 2005-2006: Teacher at Lucy Academy, Private
- 2005-2003: Instructor, Addis Ababa Commerce and Technology College, Private
- 2003-2000: A High School Teacher, Addis Ababa

Related Professional Activities/Service

- 2000-8-2009: Department head, Adama Science and Technology University
- 2007-2008: Guidance and Counselor, Adama Science and Technology University
- 2007-2008: Disciplinary Committee, Adama Science and Technology University
- 2006-2008: Curriculum and Examination Committee at Adama Science and Technology University
- 2003-2006: Department Head Addis Ababa Commerce and Technology College
- 2002-2003: Department Head at Medihanialem Preparatory School

Consultative Meeting

- 2013: Invited panelist organized by Oromiya Radio and Television in collaboration with Rapid CBR Adama
- 2008: National Curriculum revision committee on Special needs Education, Ministry of Education

Community Involvement and Service (as a Trainer)

- 2006: “*Psychosocial support to orphaned children*” organized and sponsored by SOS Children’s Village
- 2007: “*Child welfare and children’s education*” Training organized and sponsored by Emmanuel Development Association, a Non- Governmental organization, Addis Ababa
- 2009: “*Assessment, Classroom Management and Diversity*” Special needs education training organized and sponsored by Chaffee Donsa Education Office to different stake holders: Teachers/Directors , Health extension workers and Kebele Leaders

2010/11- Inclusive Education to College level Teachers organized and sponsored by **USAID**

- 2013: “*Quality and inclusive education*” to Adama city education officers
(Sponsored by Rapid CBR Adama)

- 2013: *Project Cycle Management* – to NGO workers sponsored by **COPINE**
2014: *Assessment and Quality Education*” to Goro preparatory school (Sponsored by Rapid CBR Adama)

Data collection supervisor

- UNICEF
- BDS-Consultative Organization

Personal skills and competences

- Mother tongue Amharic –excellent
- Other languages English -Excellent
- Social skills and competences - Very Good
- Mediating skills –Excellent
- Presentation skills – Excellent

Preparing Teaching Material –Module Editorial Service

- *Introduction to Special Needs Education*- a teaching Module at Adama University
- *Social work Practice in Ethiopia*- St. Mary University in collaboration with Indra Gandhi Open University, India
- Adama University- *Psychology of Learning* (Module editor)
- Adama University- *Developmental Psychology* (Module editor)

Research Supervision at Adama University

- Research Advisor to large numbers of Undergraduate students
- Advisor to Masters Students
- Internal Examiner to Masters Students

Research Advisor

- Adama Science and Technology Universtiy
- St. Mary University
- Addis Ababa Commerce and Technology college

Professional Organization Membership

- Ethiopian Psychologist association

- Ethiopian Special Needs Association (Registered)
- Ethiopian Sociologist and Social work Association

Coursers offered

Qualitative Research methods, Research methods /Educational Research , Community Development and Models of Social Change , Action research , Sociology of Education , Introduction to special needs education, Educational psychology , General psychology , Psychology of persons with disability, Medical psychology, Abnormal psychology/Psychopathology , and General teaching methods and Teaching practice

Publications

Published Books

Habtamu, M. (2010). Children cannot live by bread alone: Psychosocial experience of double orphaned children before and after the death of their parents from HIV/AIDS. (ISBN978-3-639-32793-9),

Habtamu, M.(2011).Home- school based intervention for children with learning disability : Review of concepts, facts, and theoretical frameworks. (ISBN 978-3-639-36209-1).

Published article/s

- Students with Disabilities’ Lived Experience of Transition into the University: A Journey of Promise (sponsored by Addis Ababa University).

Unpublished Manuscripts

- When women with disabilities start to work, the society functions well: Experience from Yemisrach vocational rehabilitation center
- Exploring Opportunities and challenges of special needs education at Adama town
- Academic and Social challenges of students with Physical disabilities: The case of Higher institution students
- Building Partnership Synergy between Community Organizations and Adama Science and Technology University: A Path to Asset Based Community Development- (sponsored by Adama University)
- Social Loathing and Psychological Experience of Double Orphans before and After the Death of Their Parent from HIV – (a paper presented at St. Mary university)

References

- Dr. Alemayehu T/ Mariam
 - Addis Ababa University
 - Tel: 0911 43 68 98
 - E-mail: alemayehutm@yahoo.com

- Dr. Biadgelign Ademe, Associate Professor, PhD
 - Adama Science and Technology University
 - Tel: 0911 61 37 0910 23 67 98
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- Dr. Assaye Legese
 - Adama science and Technology University
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