

**Causes and Consequences of Human Trafficking:
A Case Study of the Youth of Addis Ababa
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Abstract

The issue of Human Trafficking has become one of the alarming issues in Ethiopia as it is highly prevalent. This practice has increased recently and the youth are deceived and sometimes coerced into migrating to the Middle East countries without adequate protection from abuse and exploitation. The general objective of this study is to evaluate the causes and consequences of Human Trafficking based on the case of the Youth in Addis Ababa. Two types of Research Design are employed: Explanatory Research Exploratory Research. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are applied; and primary and secondary sources of information are employed. The major tools utilized are case study, interview, and self-administered questionnaire. The target populations chosen for this study are those human trafficking victims that have been saved or returned to Ethiopia. The target population is 1200 and due to financial difficulties, one-third of the sample size (which is 97 respondents) was involved in the study.

The study has identified different economic, social and cultural factors as main causes of trafficking. Such factors as poverty, the desire to improve one's life, lack of opportunity and low payment for domestic work were mentioned by the informants as main causes of trafficking in Ethiopia. Added to this, migration policy of countries, promises of steady employment, pressure from the society, success stories told by migrants, low level of education, failure in education, forced marriage and abusive family conditions were also among the socio-cultural factors identified in the study as contributing factors to trafficking. The study has also sought to explore the trafficking process and the multifaceted problems being faced by the trafficking victims in the process. In this study it is discovered that trafficked persons experience multifaceted problems in the trafficking process, starting from their place of origin till they reach the destination country.

Key Words: Human Trafficking, Causes, Consequences, Youth of Addis Ababa

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Ethiopia has seen great improvement in several sectors of development (socially, economically, and politically). The economic sector is the major area of development. Such growth includes infrastructural adjustments to attain the Millennium Development Goals and national strategic plans of the government. But, despite these great achievements, the majority of Ethiopians continue to live in poverty and its outcomes. As a way of coping with all of these issues, the people have resorted to often dangerous and appalling options, such as involvement in crimes for profit, prostitution and other implausible activities. One of the major choices people resort to is become clients of illegal brokers to escape to other countries through human trafficking. Why not search for alternatives right here in Ethiopia? What pushes them to choose crossing borders through this process? This research will be dealing with these issues.

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (UN, 2000). It is an emerging problem

rapidly growing in the 21st C (Interpol, 2009). It is a situation in which trade of humans takes places, most commonly sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others (Wikipedia). Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain (Homeland Security, 2015). It is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fears of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement (Homeland Security, 2015).

As outlined in the definition, trafficking in persons is more than simply moving someone from one location to another against their will, and more than forcing someone to work in poor conditions (IMO, 2006). The complex phenomenon of human trafficking is often confused with other forms of people movement, such as irregular migration and smuggling of migrants. As a result, people who have been trafficked are treated as criminals rather than victims (ILO, 2011). On the other hand, when people agree voluntarily with smugglers to cross the borders of a country, the event is known as smuggling, and both the smugglers and smuggled people are considered to have breached the immigration laws of both countries. This may occur where people may not have legal means to cross the border; or they are not aware of the available legal channels to do that, or in some cases, where there are no legal channels for migration at all (ILO, 2011).

Majority of statistical data on human trafficking are raw and unrefined estimates (Salt, 2000). Global marketing, based on the recognition of major countries that implicate human trafficking, might be useful for planning and evaluation. Mapping these “Hot Spots” can offer valuable data on human trafficking (Kangaspunta, 2003). If the trafficking of women and men were examined separately, it would be possible to estimate the victims of trafficking in the country of destination after their recruitment and transportation (Kangaspunta, 2003). As a result, it is established that 85% of female victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 2% for forced labor, while 13% include both types of exploitation, whereas, 16% of male victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 24% for forced labor, with 60% of the cases including both types of exploitations (Kangaspunta, 2003).

A vast majority of Ethiopian youth work in the informal and agricultural sector, characterized by ease of entry, reliance on local resources, small scale, labor intensive, and the need of simple skill obtained outside the formal educational system (Emebet, 2000). As household incomes have fallen, the contribution of the youth became essential and, as a result, more and more young people are turning to informal employment sectors given their lack of skills and training. With minimal or no education, access to the formal sector of the economy is limited (Emebet, 2000). As a result, illegal agents are preferred by people in search of better life abroad and often end up in human trafficking. The revised Criminal Code of Ethiopia incorporates provisions that criminalize trafficking in persons (articles 596, 598, and 635), indicating the need for supplementary analysis on the causes and consequences of human trafficking (ILO, 2011).

Middle East countries are usually places of destination for the progression of Human Trafficking. Major destination areas are Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain, Israel, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco (Martin Baldwin-Edward, 2005).

This issue has become beyond the government’s or even beyond the citizens’ control. Even though they witness what happens to their brothers and sisters on media, they still prefer to go through the torturous and anguishing journey. Somehow going through the territories of

countries they don't even know gives them more relief than finding employment in their own country. Is it lack of employment and other issues or is it pure stubbornness? This research will be dealing with these questions and various other issues as well as suggest solutions on how to tackle them.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The issue of human trafficking has become one of the alarming issues of the century. Trafficking of Ethiopians is highly prevalent in Ethiopia. This practice has increased recently and the youth are deceived and sometimes coerced into migrating to the Middle East countries without adequate protection from abuse and exploitation (ILO, 2011).

Exploring the causes of human trafficking patterns in the Horn of Africa is complex due to the fact that there are so many agents present at the same time. The number of refugees from Ethiopia increased from 55,000 in 1972, to over a million in 1992. Even though Ethiopia has encountered trafficking in the past, movement of Ethiopian citizens significantly intensified in the late 1960s and 1970s (ILO, 2004). But, the issue of trafficking has not been adequately addressed within the country. The consequences faced at the place of destination have been a hot issue of discussion from time to time, but little has been done to improve the situation. Few private initiatives have been taken to address the issue of exploitation. Efforts that have been made are scattered related to specific cases, and do not address the root causes of the problem (Emebet, 2000).

There has been less funding for long-term research to investigate in more detail the causes of trafficking and the best ways to prevent and combat it, or to make a detailed assessment of the impacts of different interventions and policy responses. There are very few comparative studies of trafficking based on extensive fieldwork in either country of origin or of destination. Most studies are also based on research conducted at one point in time, with little longitudinal research investigating the circumstances of individuals before, during, and after trafficking, including research to assess the extent to which survivors and the extent to which they are able to integrate or reintegrate into their communities and recover both physically and mentally from their afflictions (ILO, 2005). There is also divergence between different government departments within states; between governments, NGOs and Civil Society, and between governments and other stakeholders in origin, transit and destination countries (Koser, 2005).

Both men and women migrate to Middle East countries. Women mostly use the formal migration channel involving visa and passports; and they use the services of agencies and brokers as facilitators of their migration. The common trend for men migrants is rather the desert route, using the services of smugglers. Women constitute the majority of these victimized by traffickers. Even though women and men from the rural areas are increasingly becoming victims of trafficking, human trafficking is more of an urban phenomenon (ILO, 2011).

1.3. Research Questions

1. What are the major causes of human trafficking?
2. What are the various consequences of human trafficking on the youth of Addis Ababa?
3. Who are the stakeholders of human trafficking?
4. What methods should be implemented to tackle the issue?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

The report will be directed towards achieving the following objectives about the causes and consequences of human trafficking on the youth of Addis Ababa.

1.4.1. General Objective

The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the Causes and Consequences of Human Trafficking: Case Study of the Youth of Addis Ababa.

1.4.2. Specific Objectives

The study will be conducted to achieve the following specific objectives of this research:

- Identify the major cause of human trafficking in Ethiopia;
- Portray the various consequences of human trafficking on the youth of Addis Ababa;
- Identify the stakeholders of human trafficking; and
- Propose suggestion on how to tackle the issue.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This research focuses on trafficking in human beings across the borders of Ethiopia. Although human trafficking may be committed for different purposes, this study focuses only on trafficking for labor purposes, with particular emphasis on domestic labor to countries of the Middle East. It will describe what causes the youth of Addis Ababa to be victims of human trafficking, as well as describe its consequences. The research will be based on the victims of human trafficking as well as different officials at different organizations and law enforcements that have been part of the mission of tackling this issue.

1.6. Significance of the Study

This research has the following significances:

- It will be essential to bring awareness on the existence and knowledge about the nature of the problem;
- It will provide explanations on how to prevent all of the well known causes of human trafficking;
- It will recommend approaches on tackling the issue; and
- It will provide suggestions on how make a better source of living rather than resorting to illegal migration.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

Due largely to the clandestine and illicit nature of human trafficking there were some problems faced the study during the fieldwork. The first problem was related to accessing informants. It was difficult to get individual informants directly involved in human trafficking; this was mainly because of unfortunate timing. This is to mean that during field work the informants just weren't at the field due to their own reasons. And also, even if they were found at the study sites, they weren't willing to cooperate because of fear of exposing oneself to police. Therefore, good timing is an important tool to create good rapport with informants and get their intimacy.

The problem, which is studied in this research, is relatively “unseen” and “denied” by most of the parties involved in it. The key informants, such as the victims of trafficking, who are expected to provide first hand information for this research, belong to the group known as “hidden populations”. Because its members (victims of trafficking) are neither easily identifiable nor easily found, this was another additional challenge for the researcher to access information from such “hidden populations”.

Furthermore, relative lack of cooperation was seen from the study sites (organizations) chosen for this research. With the intention of protecting the identity of these victims’ secrets they attempted to avoid giving bulky information about the matter unless a lot of bureaucratic processes are held. Although their intentions are pure and understandable it had played a part in delaying the chance of my getting accessing these victims.

2. Research Design and Methodology

2.1. Research Design

Research Design is the overall strategy that is employed to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical manner, thereby ensuring that the research questions will be addressed.

Two types of Research Designs are employed:

a. Explanatory Research: focus on the ‘why’ question. This means it involves developing causal explanations which argues that phenomenon Y is affected by factor X. In the case of this research, it will attempt to develop casual explanations for human trafficking in Ethiopia.

b. Exploratory Research: seeks to generate a posteriori hypothesis (observational premise) by examining a data-set and looking for potential relations between variables. This could increase the odds of finding a significant result by lowering the threshold of what is deemed to be significant. In the case of this study, possible relations will be identified in order to generalize the issued argument.

The nature of this study is extracting data from victims of human trafficking as well as law enforcement agencies and institutions involved in this matter using explanatory and exploratory research designs.

2.2. Research Methodology

Research Methodology is the systematic theoretical analysis of the methods applied to the study. It is the procedure through which explanations and predictions of the phenomena (which is human trafficking) will be organized. For this study, both qualitative and quantitative research methods will be employed for the collection and analysis of the data.

- **Quantitative Research Method** will be used to collect and analyze the accurate measurement of phenomena and often the application of statistical analysis. It will involve the use of Questionnaire for the collection of data, which will be distributed to victims of human trafficking and law enforcements and institutions concerned with human trafficking.
- **Qualitative Research Method** is less concerned with numbers and quantitative measurement and more concerned with the depth of data. It will involve the collection of data through Case Study and Interviews, which will be concerned with the victims of human trafficking, law enforcement agencies, and institutions involved in tackling the issue of trafficking.

2.3. Source of Data

Both Primary and Secondary Sources of data will be used for this research:

I. Primary Sources

The Primary data of the research will be collected using the following methods:

- a. **Case Study** will focus on gaining an in-depth understanding of this particular entity. It will be used to narrow down a very broad field of research into one easily manageable topic.
- b. **Questionnaire** will consist of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents.
- c. **Structured Interview** will take place face-to-face with the respondents in order to provide a chance for detailed understanding of the research participant's perspectives. It will be prepared in advance and in an organized manner.

II. Secondary Sources

Secondary data will be collected from published books, newspapers, journals, as well as research papers on the causes and consequences of human trafficking on the youth of Addis Ababa. These materials were all collected on Google Scholar. This site contains legitimate and valid written materials by different scholars.

2.4. Techniques of Data Collection

Three methods of Qualitative and Quantitative techniques of data collection include:

- a. **Case Study** is basically an in depth study of a particular situation rather than a sweeping statistical survey. Thus, this technique will be used to collect data from respondents found at Addis Ababa City Government Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs, Nolawi Service, and AGAR Shelter.
- b. **Interview** is the interpersonal contact with the respondent whose perspectives affect the success of this paper.
- c. **Questionnaire** consists of a succession of question that is sharply limited by the fact that is sharply limited by the fact that respondents must be able to read the questions and respond to them.

2.5. Instruments of Data Collection

The data gathering instruments for this study are both Interview and Questionnaire. These instruments are chosen to ensure validity and reliability.

- a. **Unstructured Questionnaire** is implemented. This type of questionnaire calls for a free response in the respondent's own words. It constitutes questions which give the respondents an opportunity to express his/her opinions from a set of options.
- b. **Structured Interviews.** This type of interview which is formal because a set of questions known as interview questionnaires are posed to each interviewee and the responses are recorded on a standardized schedule.

2.6. Sampling Procedure

The target populations chosen for this study are those human trafficking victims that have been saved and returned to Ethiopia. These are people that have been rescued by our government during the second round of the process of liberating trafficking victims.

I. Sample Size

According to Krejcie and Morgan, 1970 for a target population of 1200 the sample size is 291. Unfortunately, as a graduating student with no income, reaching all 291 respondents is a bit unmanageable. Thus due to financial difficulties, one-third of the sample size (which is 97 respondents) were included in the study.

II. Sampling Unit

The sampling unit of the study is the victims and officials that include:

- a. Addis Ababa City Government Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs,
- b. Nolawi Service,
- c. AGAR Shelter.

The Research applied Spatial Sampling procedure. This procedure will be used to address the people that are temporarily congregated at the study site. The data has to be collected before the crowd is dispersed. Due to the nature of the population, there are neither sampling frames nor sufficient time available to permit the use of other methods.

2.7. Study Site

The research site is Addis Ababa with a focus on victims of human trafficking and institutions dealing with this critical social problem. These institutions have been chosen, because of their involvement with the issue.

2.8. Methods used During Data Presentation and Analysis

The study has followed a data analysis method in which responses to the research questions were recorded and interpreted. Appropriate methods and determination of suitable data is employed. Two approaches are applied. The first approach is Deductive Approach which implement predetermined framework to analyze data. As planned, the research results reflect all of the research questions mentioned above.

3. Data Presentation, Analysis, and Findings

3.1. Major Causes of Human Trafficking in Ethiopia

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. A combination of different economic, social and other factors operate behind human trafficking and are responsible for the trafficking of thousands of individuals from less developed countries to the developed ones.

This chapter presents accounts of informants who participated in this study especially in relation to various factors contributing for human trafficking. Identifying the causes is a prerequisite to understand the challenges faced by victims of human trafficking. As it has been presented under chapter two, human trafficking researchers attached different push and pull factors to trafficking in human beings. These factors will be discussed in this chapter with giving due emphasis to the experiences of the informants. Following this informants' reason for choosing illegal ways of migration will be also discussed in this chapter. Therefore in this chapter an attempt is made to answer some of the research questions, which are related to causes of trafficking.

3.2. Factors That Lead to Human Trafficking

Several reasons are forwarded by researchers for the existence and rise of human trafficking in Ethiopia. The causes or push factors mentioned by the informants include: a) unemployment and under employment, b) the existing poverty, c) economic uncertainties and decline, d) worsening living standards, e) low payment for domestic work, f) lack of educational opportunities, g) lack of good governance, h) lose of border controls; and j) lack of social and welfare services.

Trafficking is also caused by a variety of causes operating as pull factors in the receiving countries. According to the literature push factors constitute different issues which force individuals to seek another way of survival in other countries. Some of these include better payments, access to job, and employment opportunities for unskilled laborers in destination countries.

As the empirical data collected in the field clearly shows the decline in social services and economic sectors which is caused by the economic transition, unemployment, increasing rate of poverty and failure in education have created a strong force which push vulnerable individuals to opt for migration and end up in trafficking.

The findings of this study shows that majority of the informants are forced to leave their country as a result of poverty and economic vulnerability. Frequently, research in the area of human trafficking makes the trafficker the centerpiece and principal subject of the work, and therefore marginalizes the victim's experience. Brokers or human traffickers are always blamed for the existence of trafficking in persons. Nevertheless, the problem of trafficking begins not with the traffickers themselves, but with the conditions that caused the victims to migrate under circumstances rendering them vulnerable to exploitation.

Majority of the informants contacted in this study mentioned poverty, unemployment and other economic factors as a main cause for their migration, but it is also undeniable that social, cultural and political factors played an important role for the trafficking of many individuals especially women and girls.

3.3. Economic Causes of Human Trafficking

The absence of viable sources of income is among the main economic factors that push people to become victims of human trafficking. Nowadays families in Ethiopia, even Addis Ababa, have no assets to support their children's education and incomes are inadequate to have a better living. As a result, these households become increasingly vulnerable economically and women, children, young boys and girls are therefore responsible to contribute their own share towards the family's subsistence. This kind of economic situation by itself paves the way for trafficking; traffickers also use this opportunity to recruit their victims by deceiving those economically desperate persons with attractive economic opportunities in other countries.

Varieties of conditions have been identified by key informants as causes for human trafficking in the Questionnaires distributed among the various organizations in Addis Ababa. Among other things poverty, unemployment, and other related economic conditions such as the desire to improve one's own and ones family's economic life, as well as to escape poverty and lack of economic opportunities are among the major economic factors mentioned by the informants as a main economic causes of human trafficking.

The following conditions have been identified in the study as main economic causes of human trafficking in Addis Ababa:

a. Poverty and Desire to Improve Economic Conditions

As elsewhere in the developing world, a large number of men and women in Addis Ababa are trapped in poverty. Therefore due to their calamitous economic circumstances, young people in Addis Ababa are the most vulnerable targets for the troubles of human trafficking.

According to the victims, they are among the poorest members of the society. They borrow money from relatives and other peoples in their surroundings to cover the expenses incurred for their migration. Moreover, some migrants are engaged in a contract agreement called *Debt Bondage* with the brokers to pay the trafficking cost after they reached the destination place. Debt bondage is an agreement between traffickers and migrants who have no sufficient cash to facilitate the trafficking process. In this agreement the traffickers agree to facilitate the trafficking of an individual migrant/s for noting, if the migrant/s in question agrees to pay back all the expenses on his/her arrival to the destination country.

The victims who participated in this study maintained that poverty accompanied with other poor economic conditions is an influential factor behind their trafficking. Having recognized how unrestrained poverty in the country is, migration is the only chance for many people to escape it and change their lives. I understand that poor people do not necessarily choose migration as the only means of economic sustainability if they are provided other ways to escape poverty than migration. For this reason, lack of economic opportunity and access to public services or generally the obstacles hindering one from escaping poverty should be also blamed for the existence of human trafficking.

b. Unemployment and Lack of Economic Opportunities

The desire to improve one's economic conditions and to escape poverty is one of the primary motivations of migrants who seek employment abroad. If there were employment and alternative economic opportunities in Addis Ababa these migrants wouldn't be end up in trafficking.

Poor living standards and unsettled economic conditions are the main reasons for the migration and trafficking of majority of the youth in Addis Ababa. Most of the victims stated that due to various constraints they were unemployed before their migration. Limited access to education, lack of capital to start their own small business, lack of skills and training, and low payment for domestic work were among the main factors for the unemployment of the migrants.

Other studies show that, a large number of the youth migrate to the Middle East to be employed as housemaids, drivers, and construction workers. This is mainly due to the fact that job opportunities within the country are limited. There is no doubt that migrants would not try the dangerous journey across the boundaries of their country if jobs were available to them at home. All the migrants in the study mentioned that when they faced lack of job opportunities and financial problem, then they decided to migrate and considered unemployment as a core factor for them to end up in trafficking.

3.4. Socio Cultural Factors that Leads to Trafficking

Poverty itself is not the only factor causing people to be trafficked. Rather, cultural values, social norms and practices which are embedded in the cultural constructions of the society, and the culture that embraces and even promotes sexual and labor exploitation are to blame for the ongoing extreme criminality of human trafficking around the world.

Cultural values, societal norms and practices play an important role and are among the major push factors contributing for trafficking in humanbeings. For example, in many societies there are different social and cultural conditions that suppress and devalue women's work. This devaluation and suppression of women and girls in a society makes them more vulnerable to trafficking than men or children.

According to the informants, the following are some of the socio cultural conditions that push vulnerable people to end up in trafficking. These are the main social and cultural conditions identified by the study as socio cultural causes of human trafficking: pressure from family and friends; success stories of previous migrants; failure in education; and low level of education

Pressure from Family and Friends: In societies where migrating to other countries become a culture, pushing and motivating children to go to those countries is becoming a common practice for many family members in Ethiopia. According to the informants of this study this kind of pressure from families is making many individuals vulnerable to trafficking.

Low level of education and illiteracy: As a result of illiteracy and low level of education majority of the youth in Addis Ababa have less or limited access to employment in formal labor markets. This lack of employment in formal labor markets aggravates the already impoverished life and forces them to look for opportunities in other places. Some migrant informants mentioned their being uneducated led them to seek employment opportunities in informal and low paying sectors. Thus in search of better job opportunities, they are forced to resort to human trafficking.

False Promises of Steady Employment in Arab Countries: Brokers use different methods to encourage the poor youth to migrate to another place and improve their life. They often promise the victims that they will get them employed in hotels and other service offering industries. Such false promises of steady employment as housemaids, nannies, car drivers, and hotel service positions or attendants, motivate individuals to migrate to those places. This has become a very common method of taking victims from their homeland to a place that they know nothing about. Thus, poor individuals who seek work abroad are often misled by false promises of steady employment in developed countries, which is often given by the brokers.

Table 1: Estimation of causes of migration among ten informants

	Factors that lead to trafficking	Number of informants (10 migrants)
Economic Factors	Poverty and desire to improve one's life	10
	Unemployment/lack of economic opportunity	9
	Low payment for domestic work	7
Socio-cultural factors	False promises of employment	8
	Failure in education and illiteracy	8
	Pressure from the society	6

Profile of Victims of Trafficking

Information for this section is gathered from the victims/returnees and service providing officials contacted for the study at the following organizations: Nolawi Service, AGAR, Addis Ababa City Government Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs as well as Federal Police HQ.

3.5. Age at the time of Migration

Owing to their inexperience, vulnerability, sense of adventure, and responsibility, it is not surprising that young persons and children commonly fall prey to traffickers and those benefiting from the migration process. A large percentage (53.6%) of migrants were between the ages of 19-25, followed by the age group 25-30 (30.3%), and fewer but significant number migrating after the age of 31 (13.5%). It is reported that men migrants and generally older (between 20 and 35) than women migrants.

Table 2: Age of Victims of Trafficking

	AGAR Shelter		Nolawi Service		Cumulative	
	No	%	No	%	Sum	%
< 18	3	6.67	5	11.11	8	8.89
19-25	21	46.67	19	42.22	40	44.44
26-30	19	42.2	18	40	37	41.11
31 or order	2	4.44	3	6.67	5	5.56
total	45	100	45	100	90	100

3.6. Sex

Both male and female Ethiopians migrate to the Middle East countries, but the proportion is different depending on: a) potential migrants or victims; and b) Migration channels.

According to PEA, women mostly use the formal migration channel involving visa and passports. Men rarely use services of oversea employment services. Still the majority of the clients of brokers/traffickers are women.

According to ILO, more than half of the secondary returnees are women. Men mostly use the services of smugglers and the majority of migrants use the desert route, i.e. through Afar, Dire Dawa, and Metema. However, it is also noted that the number of women migrants using the services of smugglers is on the increase.

Table 3: Sex of Victims

Sex	AGAR Shelter		Nolawi Service		Cumulative	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Men	17	37.78	19	42.22	36	40
Women	28	62.22	26	57.78	54	60
Total	45	100	45	100	90	100

3.7. Educational Background

Level of education is not a critical criterion for women migrants to be engaged in domestic work and men migrants to be engaged in manual labor of any kind. According to ILO, both educated and uneducated women may be potential migrants and victims of traffickers. This is because most women migrants are mainly trafficked for domestic work purposes, including child and elderly care.

Young people who have given up their education for different reasons including marriage or giving birth, death of parents, repeated failure to pass school exams, and other causes also opt for migration to change their life. Brokers/Traffickers mostly target young girls who have graduated from high school and are unemployed. This is because they understand that these girls have no hope of alternative education and training or employment opportunities and hence consider themselves as burdens to their families and are forced to consider migration.

Table 4: Educational Background of Returnees/Victims

Educational Level	Returnees				Cumulative	
	AGAR Shelter		Nolawi Service		Sum	%
	No	%	No	%		
0-4	0	0	2	4.44	2	2.22
5-8	14	31.11	12	26.67	26	28.89
9-10	18	40	21	46.67	39	43.33
11-12	13	28.89	6	13.33	19	21.11
Above 12	0	0	4	8.89	4	4.44
Total	45	100	45	100	90	100

3.8 Family Background

Generally, women from poor families are more vulnerable to be trafficked. Very poor families have financed migration of their children by borrowing from credit facilities (legal or illegal) and by drawing from their savings. The money is collected by sacrificing basic economic interests and survival needs of the family. This could lead on already impoverished family to total destitution.

3.9. Place of Residence

It is not easy to profile victims by place of residence. Anyone who is affected by the causes behind migration may be a potential migrant given the availability of adequate or misleading information.

4. The Process of Trafficking

As defined by the Palermo Protocol, human trafficking is composed of three elements: Recruitments, Transportation, and Exploitation.

4.1 Recruitment

Recruitment of potential victims is the first step in the process of human trafficking. It may be initiated by different people, including local brokers, returnees and visitors from destination countries, relatives and friends of these, and licensed or unlicensed agencies.

Table 5: Recruiters for human trafficking (according to victims of trafficking)

Recruiters	Frequency		Sum	%
	AGAR Shelter	Nolawi Service		
PEAs	16	11	27	30
Illegal brokers/Unlicensed agents	18	21	39	43.33
Family/Friends	11	13	24	26.67
Total	45	45	90	100

4.2. Profile of Traffickers

According to MoFA, there are more than 1,000 illegal brokers in Addis Ababa alone. However, these figures are very doubtful as the practice is hidden and reported cases are only the tip of the iceberg.

There are six categories of traffickers distinguishable in terms of their identity, modes of operation, and their role in the trafficking process. It is important to note that most of the traffickers work as part of a network that starts from the place of origin of the victims and extends up to the country or countries of destination. The following are the six categories: local brokers; brokers for transportation, harboring, and smuggling; unlicensed employment agencies; licensed peas; returnees, visitors, and their responsibilities; and destination point traffickers.

a. Local Brokers

Local Brokers are individuals going around at the community level recruiting migrants from the communities they live in. These people are known by the community members as key links in the migration process, providing them with important information about opportunities abroad and the process of migration. They promote their services by using success stories of people they have already sent abroad. They also actively disseminate information about employment opportunities in the Middle East countries routes that result in successful migration, and returns and benefits of migration. They particularly target girls with economic, social, educational, and family problems. Once potential migrants or family members contact them, they fill them with wrong information about issues like working and living conditions in the destination countries, and the possibility of bonuses and gifts from employers. If anyone challenges them with facts about failed migration stories, abuse, and

exploitation suffered by migrants, they argue saying that is the result of bad facilitation by inexperienced and untrustworthy brokers and bad luck.

According to data drawn from the informants, local brokers are responsible for the first stage of recruitment of most victims of trafficking for the purpose of labor form Ethiopia to Middle East countries.

The significant majority of victims have reported being recruited by an individual broker. In contrast, the role of local brokers in the recruitment of second-time migrants as a whole has been found to be significantly lower. This indicates that first time migrants are more likely to be recruited by local brokers.

b. Brokers for Transportation, Harboring, and Smuggling

These are individuals or a chain of individuals responsible for the transportation, harboring, and smuggling of migrants across borders. This type of traffickers receive the victims from local brokers, usually in groups, and are likely to transfer them to another trafficker within the network before they reach the destination country. Such individuals are reported to be located on the desert and sea routes. Most of these are returnees or contraband merchants who know the desert routes very well and have contacts with brokers in transit countries, such as Djibouti and Yemen, and in destination countries, such as in the Sudan and Saudi Arabia. These individuals function by securing protection from local authorities and armies patrolling the desert routes.

The smuggling practice usually starts once local brokers have transferred to the smugglers an adequate number of migrants to form a manageable group to cross borders. The responsibility of this category of traffickers is to take the irregular migrants through arduous territories and smuggle them through non-patrolled section of the border. In some cases, irregular migrants are transferred to other brokers responsible for the remaining section(s) of the route. The covert and arduous nature of irregular migration puts migrants in a vulnerable and dependent position. It is reported that this category of traffickers/smugglers routinely abuses migrants under their care to ensure compliance and/or sexual advantages.

c. Unlicensed Employment Agencies

While there are overseas private employment agencies (PEAs) that have a license from the relevant authority to facilitate regular migration and employment of citizens in foreign countries, there are also others which provide similar services without the required license. It is reported that most of the irregular migration is facilitated by these unlicensed agencies. More than 70% of irregular migration to Middle East countries is operated by these types of agencies.

Local employment agencies providing employment services for local domestic workers facilitate overseas employment behind the scene. These agencies might have a license for the provision of local, but not overseas employment services. It is reported that these brokers know what they do is illegal and take precaution not to be caught by the authorities.

The victims do not usually make a distinction between unlicensed agencies and PEAs. In many instances, returnees who reported that their employment was handled by a PEA were not able to name the agency. In most cases, they mention that the agent had an office somewhere in town, but they are unable to confirm whether the agency had a license. Parents and community members' further stress that the process was 'legal' because a

passport and/or a visa was/were issued; travel was made by air; and/or the agent had an office.

d. Licensed Private Employment Agencies (PEAs)

A number of reports identify PEAs as actors in the trafficking of human beings. This fact is corroborated by interviews with a number of stakeholders, including the representatives of the Bureau of Social Affairs and AGAR.

According to PEAs, the different expenses related to migration are: issuance of passport; pre-registration medical examination; photographs; authentication of the employment contract in the country of destination; insurance; fingerprinting; post-selection medical examination; visa; return ticket; and the authentication of the employment contract in Ethiopia

All PEAs confirmed that except for the authentication of the employment contract in the country of destination, insurance, and the return ticket, migrant workers cover all other costs. According to PEAs, the first-time migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse, because they lack experience and at times have high expectations about life and work abroad. Equally vulnerable are returnees because, according to PEAs, returnees think they know more about their rights and enter into confrontational argument with their employers. Migrants who do not have skills and do not speak Arabic or English are similarly vulnerable to abuse.

e. Returnees, visitors, and their representatives

Returnees are involved at various stages of the trafficking process in different capacities. While some might just facilitated migration for a fee through their contacts in Addis Ababa or in the country of destination, others have established a trafficking network handling the whole process. While some migrants return to their communities and stay there for good, others make various trips to Ethiopia to spread the word about their services and recruit potential migrants. It is also very common for migrants involved in the practice to be represented by relatives and friends in their place of origin during their absence. These kinds of traffickers are very common to communities where a ‘culture of migration’ has emerged. Returnees are also reported to be active and successful recruiters as they are members of the same community and can tell success stories of their own convincingly. Even if they had encountered hardships, returnees seldom, if ever, communicate the information to potential victims.

f. Destination Point Traffickers

The last category of traffickers is destination-point traffickers. They consist of individuals who exploit the vulnerability of migrants in destination countries and who put them in situations of vulnerability, abuse, and exploitation using fraud, abuse of vulnerability, control, coercion, and threat. These traffickers are residents of the destination countries and have usually form links with local and unlicensed agents or enticed friends and family members to handle the local aspect while they handle the process at the destination end.

4.3. Transportation Process

In the trafficking process, transporting the migrants from their local residential area to the transit places is the next step that comes following the recruitment or procurement of migrants.

Methods of transporting trafficked persons depend upon geographical conditions and may include crossing border (legally or illegally). Modes of transportation in trafficking can encompass every means available: airplanes, boats, railways, cars or even walking (Transparency International 2011:3). Land transportation system is exclusively used to transport victims of trafficking among the youth of Addis Ababa.

4.4. Exploitation and Coercion

The third element in the trafficking process is exploitation. The main purpose of recruiting and transporting a potential migrant is to be able to benefit from the exploitation of his/her labor and/or body (sexual exploitation or removal of organs). Traffickers violate rights of their victims to ensure compliance, control, and take maximum advantage.

As a result, human trafficking inflicts massive negative impact, first and foremost on the affected people and their families, and also on the societies of which they are part. The consequences of trafficking on victims are manifold and devastating. The perilous journey to the destination, hazardous working and living conditions, and abuse and exploitation in the hands of traffickers and employers have significant and long lasting impact on the lives of victims. The constant control of their movement and the state of vulnerability and fear, in which traffickers and employers keep their victims, causes serious adverse consequences on the personal, social and economic situation of the victims, as well as their physical and mental health. The situations of victims at destination point include:

a. Exploitative working and living conditions

The most common complaint of victims of trafficking is exploitative working and living conditions facing them at the place of destination. The reported conditions include: long working hours, unbearable workload, restricted movement, inability to change employers, denial of wages, and irregular payment of wages. It was also reported that female employers add more tasks on domestic workers and restrict their movement within the house when they fear that hundreds are sexually attracted to the domestic workers. Some reported that their employer take them to relatives or friend's houses to clean and/or cook if ever they manage to complete their work a bit earlier. Migrant workers labor excessively for long hours per day and are not allowed leisure time. The working hours reported by returnees indicate that around half of them work for more than twelve hours per day seven out of ten work for more than eight hours.

Overwork and employer's refusal to let them contact their family are the most common complaints by the workers they sent abroad. Salary withholding and isolation are also common types of abuses suffered by migrant workers.

The living conditions of migrant domestic workers are also a cause for concern. They did not have access to sufficient food during their stay at the place of destination. There are also reports that some employers deny domestic workers food for several days at a time. As a result, some are forced to forage among the family's garbage.

Box 1

A Case Story Showing How Migrant Domestic Workers Suffer Deprivation of Food

“A domestic worker in the house on top floor used to throw me food through the balcony whenever her employer left the house; because my employer only gave me two pieces of pita bread per day.” An informant who was trafficked to UAE who has now returned and lives in Addis Ababa

b. Coercion

Victims of trafficking are subjected to acts of coercion at places of destination. Most prevalent among these are confiscation of documents, restrictions on freedom of movement, emotional abuse and withholding of wages.

Table 6: Incidence of Deception, Coercion, and Exploitation at Destination (Returnees)

Indicators	Responses (%)
Deceptive Recruitment	
Deception about living and working conditions, earnings, travel and recruitment condition	54.6
Strong indicators of coercion	
Confiscation of documents	71.4
Forced to work without salary	38.2
Isolation, limitations on freedom of movement	51.6
Physical abuse	31.3
Sexual abuse	12.5
Emotional abuse	50.0
Medium indicators of coercion	
Pressured/influenced to do things	36.4
Threat to impose even worse working conditions	36.4
Withholding of wages	53.1
Strong indicator of exploitation	
Excessive working hours (>8)	75.53
Medium indicators of exploitation	
Forced to work without salary	38.2
Very bad living condition: Denial of access to food	61.9
Very bad working condition: No leisure time	68.6
Very bad working condition: No freedom to change employer	79.4

According to victims of trafficking receiving services at AGAR, 58% of the abuses are perpetuated by female employers, while brokers/agents are responsible for 26% of the abuse. Agents, legal or illegal, who have promised better working and living conditions in the destination countries at recruitment stage are not only very poor at protecting migrant domestic workers' safety, but may also inflict abuse on workers.

There are also reports of Ethiopian women languishing in prisons in the Middle East countries accused by their employers of theft or absconding or being caught without papers while trying to escape from the employers (see Box 2 for the case of Tigist, for example).

Box 2

A Case Story Showing that Victims also Suffer Illegal Imprisonment

“Tigist is a young woman who migrated to Kuwait through an agency. She is now languishing in prison simply because she wanted to return to Ethiopia.”

A research participant at Nolawi

c. Abuse of Vulnerability

Traffickers and employers take advantage of the vulnerability of migrant workers with a view to benefit themselves and keeping the victims under control. Employees’ dependency on exploiters renders them vulnerable, and is thus an inherent element and factor of victimization. In most cases, the process of migration itself is designed to make the victims vulnerable to and dependent on traffickers. This is particularly true during transportation, where traffickers have power over the very survival of migrants. Even PEAs put the migrant workers they sent in a situation of vulnerability by confiscating their passport and contact addresses of persons who might provide support upon arrival in the country of destination.

At the personal level, victims of trafficking spend their youth in adverse circumstances, far from their family and community. As such, opportunities for personal development, intellectual advancement and spiritual growth are lost. Aggravated by exploitation, abuse and vulnerability, the victims are made susceptible to extreme personality disorders involving loss of sense of self-esteem, fairness and justice. This may also be a cause and effect of engagement of victims in illicit activities (see box 3 as an example).

Box 3

A Case Story Depicting the Consequences of Illicit Migration

“Leila has three sisters who migrated illegally to Libya with the help of an aunt here in Addis Ababa. All three of them complain about the workload, salary withholding and emotional and physical abuses, but the aunt was not able to assist them out of those problems.

A returnee at Nolawi

Box 4

A case Story on the Costs of Migration

“When my neighbor migrated to the Middle East, her mother had to sell her property and borrow money to pay the brokers. However, the migrant came back with a broken leg only after four months.” An informant from Nolawi

4.5. Impacts of Trafficking in Persons

4.5.1 Impacts on the Victim’s Family

The family may feel the negative impact directly or indirectly. Every aspect of the victim’s adverse situation has an impact on her family, including the very existence of the family unit. Family members support the migration of the victim in the expectation that they will soon be reimbursed or otherwise benefit. The cost ranges between ETB 2,300 (for migration through a PEA) and ETB 11,000 (for migration through the use of brokers, which entails a total cost of between ETB 8,000 and ETB 11,000). This is likely to involve selling of assets and borrowing from other community members.

In addition to the depletion of resources on the one hand and the escalation of living costs on the other hand, failure on the part of the victim to send back money to her family would be

catastrophic to the family. In the worst cases, a migrant returning with an injury or medical condition will put additional financial burden on the family.

4.5.2. Impacts on Society

The consequences of trafficking are not limited to the household; it also impacts progressively communities and the society at large. The national level consequences are in fact more long-lasting and become pronounced in time. The more discernable impacts at this level include: loss of productive workforce, social problems arising from broken families and children growing up without a parent or parents, as well as the growing instability of the migrants and their families in the contexts of dependency on earnings from countries where restrictive immigration policies do neither allow longer-term residency status nor any realistic possibility for family unification.

Multifaceted Challenges faced by the Victims at Various Stages of the Trafficking

As diversified as the causes of trafficking, victims of trafficking face multifaceted challenges in different stages of the trafficking process. In both academic and non academic writings, and in many media outlets including newspapers, magazines, and electronic medias we have read and heard about the different problems that Ethiopian trafficking victims face after reaching the destination countries. Although it is true that victims of trafficking experience multifaceted challenges in transit towns and during destination countries, the different problems that victims experience in destination places are well researched and documented compared to that of the challenges victims face in transit town and the transportation processes before reaching the destination.

The challenges they face is at different areas, different points, and of variety of forms (see the following examples):

1. Challenges during Pre-departure

This is where recruiting migrants by persuading them through various mechanisms is the initial step of the trafficking process. The pre-departure time was full of promises of good opportunities other positive things. In order to persuade and get their consent, the agents who recruit victims deliberately talk about the availability of life changing opportunities and jobs in the destination countries. At this time they know nothing about the challenges waiting ahead in the transit town and in their travel to the destination country.

Box 5

A Case Story Showing the Promise of Good Opportunities

“He told me life was paradise at Dubai. He said I could have the ability to change my life and the life of my family.”

A victim from Nolawi

2. Fee Overcharging by Traffickers

According to a study done by ILO, traffickers paid 3,000-5,000 birr on average. These traffickers took their share and send the rest to the transit town traffickers took their share and send the rest to the transit town traffickers and inform the migrants that the money they paid is only used to facilitate their exit out of the country, not to cover other costs like food and transportation cost. Thus based on the original agreement migrants are not expected to

make another payment to transit town traffickers. However, contrary to the original agreement reached at Addis Ababa some transit town traffickers force migrants to make additional payments.

Traffickers use different methods in order to make the migrants pay additional fees. Some traffickers directly ask them to pay additional payment by mentioning false pretexts of securing them a decent and well paid job. Sometimes some traffickers who are paid to facilitate the trafficking purposely disappear from the town and send another trafficker to negotiate a new deal. Then the new trafficker will tell the migrants that the man who was supposed to facilitate their trafficking has disappeared and let them know he will send them to the next transit area if they pay him a certain amount of money. Many victims of trafficking are lured into debt bondage and prostitution, to pay the additional payment asked by the traffickers.

3. Sexual Harassment and Other related Problems

Traffickers harass migrants both sexually and psychologically. Many migrants stated that they were badly treated by the traffickers and their agents while they were in the holding place. Among other things, migrants, most of the time girls and women, were insulted and psychologically demoralized by the traffickers, sometimes when the condition got worse the insult and the verbal harassment will be transformed into real sexual attacks including rape and beating. At the holding places, many migrants are kept together in a single room, the traffickers or their agents do not dare to rape or sexually harass women in front of other migrants.

Box 6

A Case Story Showing the Sexual Harassment Problems

“They came at night and took one of the girls. She was scared and screaming, but no one, including myself, did anything to help her. We just told ourselves that we couldn’t do anything and just hoped for the nightmare to be over.”

A returnee at AGAR

The traffickers took the women to another place and do whatever they wish. Migrants are strongly warned to stay in the holding place. Any person who refuses to stay in that place or anyone who complains about the situations of the place will be beaten by the traffickers or left alone without food and water for days.

4. Crossing the Border, Walking through the Desert

The misery of the victims does not end at the transit town, rather it continues till they reach the destination country and after that too. To enter to the destination country migrants have to walk through the desert for many days. They spend several days and nights of walking and within these days migrants face challenges, which are worst than the problems they experienced in the transit places. Among these problems are: rape and related problems; unger and thirst; and death, etc.

Intervention to Combat Human Trafficking for Labor Purposes and forced Labor

Considering the high prevalence and complexity of the problem, effective responses demand a coordinated, multi-level and multi-sectoral approach. An effective and comprehensive

response to human trafficking should include measures for **preventing, protecting, and supporting** victims of trafficking, while appropriate measures are taken to prosecute traffickers. It is also critical that governmental, intergovernmental, nongovernmental and private organizations cooperate in their efforts to prevent and protect victims of human trafficking and prosecute traffickers.

1. Prevention

There are a number of efforts that have been made to prevent external trafficking in persons by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Most of those prevention efforts focus on raising awareness among potential victims and families in order to warn them about the risks of trafficking. Other efforts aim at collecting information and researching the root causes and patterns of human trafficking. The efforts include setting appropriate legal, policy and institutional frameworks; bilateral labor agreements; public awareness campaigns; devising a labor market information system; utilization of model employment contract; improvement of employment and vocational training; and monitoring of PEAs.

2. Legal Framework

Ethiopia does not have a comprehensive legal framework that defines human trafficking; provides adequate protection to victims; and enables to effectively combat and prevent trafficking in persons. However, key provisions under the Ethiopian Constitution, Criminal Code and Employment Exchange Services Proclamation **N0. 632/2009**, as well as in international instruments ratified by Ethiopia, prohibits and criminalizes trafficking in persons for labor purposes.

The Constitution prohibits trafficking in persons for whatever purpose (article 18 (2)) Ethiopia has also ratified most of the relevant UN conventions, as well as a number of ILO conventions that can be instrumental in dealing with trafficking in persons and labor exploitation. Instruments that have direct relevance to human trafficking include: The UN convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1949; The UN convention against Transnational Organized Crime, December 2000; ILO convention No. 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labor, 1957; ILO convention No. 181 on Private Employment Agencies, 1997; ILO convention No. 111 on Discrimination, 1958; UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; ILO convention No. 182 on the Worst forms of Child Labor, 1999; UN convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989; and The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1999.

3. Protection

Protection measures aim at providing support services to victims of exploitation and abuse also to reduce the risk of secondary victimization by the same authorities that are entrusted to provide support. Considering the fact that most of the migrant domestic workers work and live with their employer, protection measures should also ensure that future exploitation and abuse do not occur.

To protect its citizens and save the Embassy/Consulate from being over-flooded by runaway or standard migrant workers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia provides temporary shelter to victims of trafficking and abused migrant workers. However, several victims have confirmed that the assistance provided by Ethiopian missions is minimal and staff members are not necessarily caring and understanding. The representative of Ministry of Foreign

Affairs admitted that the financial and human resources allocated to Ethiopian missions are rather limited compared to the workload and demand for services (ILO, 2011).

4. Prosecution

Human trafficking investigation and prosecution require careful and humane treatment of victims and witnesses, upon whose testimony the prosecution depends. As trafficking in persons is a transnational crime, prosecution requires a regional cooperation to ensure collaboration in collecting and sharing of information and evidences.

Both the police and prosecutors complain that the only option to prosecute trafficking in humans is by using article 598 because both article 597 and 635 deal with trafficking in women and children, and by proving that they will be forced to work once they arrive at destination country. Article 596 only deals with situations where the victim is forcibly enslaved. This article cannot be applied in cases where the trafficker used fraudulent information or deception to traffic the victim. They further complain that article 598 is not comprehensive enough to prosecute all those involved in the process of recruitment, transferring, harboring or receipt of victims. Another challenge is the fact that even where the traffickers are found guilty, the punishment set is minimal compared to the gravity of the crime of trafficking and the profit that traffickers make.

Opportunities for training on trafficking in persons are very limited. As a result, there is limited understanding of the concept of trafficking in persons, as well as capacity in investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. The Ministry of Justice and IOM have provided training for police, prosecutors, judges and immigration officials on the law, investigation techniques and services available to victims of human trafficking. In 2009, the Federal Supreme Court's Justice Professionals Training Centre incorporated a module on trafficking in human beings into its routine training programs. However, training needs are huge and the training provided is neither regular nor systematic, and is only provided depending on available resources and experts.

Findings

Working on this paper was truly a challenge but eventually the following findings were obtained.

- The major cause or reason for resorting to human trafficking is the issue of unemployment and absence of viable source of income.
- Most of the victims can be viewed as adults, in that they are above 18 years of age.
- Majority victims are female.
- Majority victims stopped their education at the tenth grade. Some may have passed to twelfth grade but have not progressed after that.
- Majority of the victims are either the eldest of their siblings or the only child of their family.
- The Victims prefer human trafficking, knowing all of its consequences, because they know at least one person who is successful after having passed through the misery.
- There isn't enough awareness created about the issue.
- Returnees have got back on their feet through various trainings provided by the government.

- The incidence has not decreased in the past year, no matter how hard the government has tried.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

Human trafficking is the practice of people being tricked, lured, coerced or otherwise removed from their home or country, and then forced to work with no or low payment or on terms which are highly exploitative. The practice is considered to be the trade or commerce in people, which has many features of slavery, and which is illegal in most countries.

This study was conducted for the purpose of exploring and understanding the causes of human trafficking and the multifaceted challenges faced by trafficked persons during the trafficking process, by stressing on the cases of trafficking victims in Addis Ababa.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection were applied to obtain data from the victims at the study site. The study has identified different economic, social and cultural factors as main causes of trafficking. Such factors as poverty, the desire to improve one's life, lack of opportunity and low payment for domestic work were mentioned by the informants as main causes of trafficking in Ethiopia. Added to this, migration policy of countries, promises of steady employment, pressure from the society, success stories told by migrants, low level of education, failure in education, forced marriage and abusive family conditions were also among the socio-cultural factors identified in the study as contributing factors to trafficking.

The study has also sought to explore the trafficking process and the multifaceted problems being faced by the trafficking victims in the process.

Different studies have been conducted in Ethiopia in the area of human trafficking. Most of the studies conducted so far were mainly focused on the problems that trafficking victims experience in the destination places while they were at work in a foreign land. These studies explored the expectations, life experiences of trafficked persons, and different problems they faced in the destination country. Yet destination countries are not the only places where trafficking victims experience problems. This study revealed that trafficked persons experience multifaceted problems in the trafficking process, starting from their place of origin till they reach the destination country.

4.2. Recommendation

Primarily depending on the major findings of the study, I recommend the following points for concerned governmental and nongovernmental bodies and organizations, and for researchers who want to research the issue of human trafficking.

There is a need to have a clear and coherent policy and a national action plan on labor migration and trafficking in persons to increase the legal risk associated with trafficking. The policy should take into consideration the gender aspect of labor migration and trafficking in persons. As human trafficking is mostly a transnational phenomenon involving various countries, a national, regional and international cooperation framework needs to be established.

Government and nongovernmental bodies should develop programs that offer livelihood options, including basic education, skills training and literacy, especially for women and other traditionally disadvantaged groups as they are more vulnerable to trafficking.

Developing information campaigns for the general public aimed at promoting awareness of the dangers associated with trafficking. Such campaigns should be informed by an understanding of the complexities surrounding trafficking and of the reasons why individuals may make potentially dangerous migration decisions. The awareness creation campaigns shall ensure that potential migrants, especially women, are properly informed about the risks of migration (exploitation, debt bondage, and health and security issues) as well as avenues available for legal, non-exploitative migration.

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