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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AIDS Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

EPRDF Ethiopian people revolutionary democratic front

FDRE Federal democratic and republic of Ethiopia

GPPPs Group Personal Pension Plans

HIV Human immune Deficiency virus

MOARD Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MOFED Ministry of finance and economic development

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OFSP Federal Other Food Security Program

PAYG Pay as you go

PSNP Productive and Safety Net Program.

SERPS State earnings related pension scheme

SNNP South nation nationalities and peoples

UN United Nations

VAT Value added tax

MIPAA Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Social protection**: According to The African Union Social Policy Framework for Africa (2009), social protection comprises a set of actions including policies, legislation, social services, and social insurance designed to reduce either the risk of experiencing an economic or social shock, or to reduce the welfare loss after such a shock has occurred combined with actions aimed at alleviating extreme or chronic poverty.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Social Security**: A public program designed to protect individuals and their families for income loses due to unemployment, old age, sickness or death; and to improve their welfare through public services like medical care and economic assistance.[[2]](#footnote-2)

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**Pension**: A payment under given conditions to a person following his retirement from service due to age or disability or to the surviving dependents of a person entitled to such a pension in accordance with the pension plan or scheme of the country the person is residing.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Institutional care and support**: an establishment founded by a governmental, nongovernmental, or faith-based organization to give care to unaccompanied elders. And elderly care institution may also be referred to as a shelter home. A typical characteristic of an institution is that it is a group living arrangement with caregivers.

**Elderly**: The term “elderly “or ‘’older person” has different meanings in different countries. It is mainly explained by and is related to chronological age, functional age as well as retirement age.[[4]](#footnote-4)Individual physical appearance also used as a method to distinguish older person. Gray hair, failing eye sight, physical deterioration, in ability to reproduce and becoming a grandparent are some of the frequent attributes towards the term “elderly”[[5]](#footnote-5).As per the UN definition, older persons are represented by those with the age of 60 and above which coincides with Ethiopian official retirement age.

**Community-based elderly care and support program**: a program planned and implemented within the community to cater to the needs of elders who are in especially difficult circumstances.

**Vulnerable elder**: an old person who has been affected by the various socio economic factors, and elder living without close relative care.

**Socio economic problems**: refers the different social and economical difficulties that old people faced within the community.

**Coping mechanism**: is the various strategies adopted by elders to sustain their survival in a difficult environment.

**ABSTRACT**

Old people are important members of a given society. Nevertheless, the extent of attention given to this group varies considerably. In Ethiopia, demographic reports unanimously indicate that the conventional productive and reproductive age group ranges between 15-49 years. This implicitly shows that those aged over 50 are not considered important.

This study was designed to explore the socio economic problems of old people in Ethiopia, an important and yet poorly studied group and the following social protection responses in addition to the case scenario of institutional care and support program in community based organization ‘Yewedekuten Ansu’(Raise the Fallen) association as part of community response. The case study was carried out among the beneficiaries of the association.

The major objective of the study was to analyze the impact and/or relevance of social protection schemes particularly for old persons for national social welfare and sustenance development. The study specifically addresses such questions as the development of social protection responses in Ethiopia, socio economic problems of old people, status and roles of the elderly through various regimes and the demographic scenario. Further, the specific needs of the elderly, care and support services, the problem encountered while pursuing the activities, history of the association, organizational structure and documentation system were assessed in the case study.

Data relevant to the stated objective have been collected using a combination of techniques. These include participatory observation, in-depth interviews, recording daily routines and events and document review. These methods are designed to complement each other. Twenty eight informants were chosen purposefully for the consumption of the study.

The major findings of the study show that definitions of old age are based on biological, functional, psychological, and social attributes. However, functional attributes were found to be common markers of old age. As long as a person carries out his normal activities he is not considered to be old.

The study shows that social security is a protection against economic insecurity, but the Ethiopian defacto social security scheme appeared to entitle pension benefits only for 0.69% of the total population[[6]](#footnote-6).

The study further explores the roles and statuses of old people under three Government administrations (Haile Selassie, Derg, and EPRDF). In the Haile Selassie (Monarchic) regime elders had a high status and role and commanded good respect. It can be argued that this is mainly because children were directly allocated land by their parents when they established households of their own which in turn strengthens filial piety and respect toward their parents. Elders were responsible to handle such social problems as blood feuds and other conflicts in their community. During the Derg regime, however, land was nationalized and redistributed among members of the society. Most of the children who reached the marriageable age could be allocated land through leaders of peasant association. This trend had a negative impact with regard to respect and filial piety towards the aged. Furthermore, the emergence of various mass organizations eroded the role and status of the aged, most of the young became orators in public in the presence of elders, unlike previously. Under the present government (EPRDF) land was redistributed, this further denies elders their land entitlement and reduces their roles and status in the rural community.

The study also indicate that in addition to its weak involvement with the elderly, a large proportion of the current funding for social protection in Ethiopia comes from external sources and within that, from the most unstable source, humanitarian budgets. Thus, the involvement of community based institutional care and support programs is vital.

The case assessment of ‘Yewedekuten Ansu’ (Raise the Fallen) Association would contribute, in this regard, in the attempt to understand the elders’ problem and living situation in the institutional care.

1. **Adapted from People at Risk :Towards a comprehensive social protection scheme in ethiopia,2011(Quoting Roger,Douglas&Mekonnen)** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **&**3**Gove,1981.** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **MOLSA, 2006.** [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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6. **Development of Social Security,2003( QuotingAbebeMesfin,unpublished)** [↑](#footnote-ref-6)