

**THE PROBLEMS OF FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS OF
GULELE SUBCITY IN DISTRICT 01 OF
ADDIS ABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION**

Prepared By: Tirsit H/Geberiel Retta

ID 1220195

**Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the MSW to
Indra Gandhi National Open University /IGNOU/ School of Social Work**

Thesis Proposal: Dr. Dessalegn Negeri

September, 2015

Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem.....	2
1.3. Objectives of the Study	3
1.3.1. General objective	3
1.3.2. Specific objectives	4
1.4. Significance of the Study	4
1.5. Delimitation of the Study.....	4
1.6. Scope of the Study	5
1.7. Operational Definitions.....	5
1.9. Organization of the Study	5
1.10. Research Design and Methodology	5
1.11 Description of the Study Area	6
1.12 Universe of the Study.....	6
1.13. Sampling and Sampling Technique	7
1.14. Instruments of Data Collection	8
1.14.5 . Analysis and Interpretation of Data	9
1.14.6. Ethical Considerations	9
REFERENCES	10

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

According to International Labor Organization (ILO), female-headed household is a household either where no adult males are present, owing to divorce, separation, migration, non-marriage or widowhood, or where men, although present, do not contribute to the household income (ILO Thesaurus, 2005). In these respects, it is common to see female headships in both developed and developing countries. However, the burden of poverty falls heavier on women in developing countries than women in developed ones.

Hence, women in African countries, including Ethiopia, undergo a life-long struggle to shoulder responsibilities in familial and household contexts. It is evident that the burden of poverty falls disproportionately on women and more so on households headed by women. Female heads of households, particularly those with no male partners, are faced with the big challenge of carrying out all the responsibilities of running their households alone. Children of such households, as is generally hypothesized and empirically observed, suffer from various psycho-social problems that affect their normal growth and development (Forum Street Children, 1998).

Women, in particular those heading families, face many economic and social challenges in discharging their familial and household responsibilities. Regardless of these challenges, the household carrying on to provide the natural framework for the emotional, financial and material support which are essential to the growth, development and normal functioning of its members. In addition, it defines social and moral safeguard in materials and spiritual system and tradition as well as, providing a role model for preparing the way for adulthood (Forum Street Children - Ethiopia, 1988).

Family/household has a historical-idealistic suggestion that is visualized a link between continuity and change. It is a major source of nurturance, emotion bonding and socialization. It provides security and care to its members (Murli Desai, 1980)

Therefore, the family is like an ecological system that affects others and the whole system. Accordingly, female-headed families are families in which headed by single female where

the father does not interact as the family members on a regular basis or does not play a significantly role in the family affairs and survival (Hamid, 1995)

In Addis Ababa, there are many female-headed families who are facing different problems in their struggle for survival .The problems include inability to pay children's school fees, afford three decent meals a day, give children pocket money, provide transport to school and buy clothing.

This study attempts to assess the problems that female-headed families are facing in Gulele sub city with particular reference to one districts of Addis Ababa City Administration.

The study may be used as an initiation to policy makers, women focused organizations, associations and non-governmental organizations to look at the focused problem and investigate in different angel, and support women headed families.

The data for the study will be generated from two sources: **Primary and secondary sources**. Incorporates data gathered by using **Questionnaires (open-ended and closed type) ,Observation, Interview and focus group discussion** from 70 women heads of households in Gulele sub city of one districts . **Secondary Data Sources**: Comprises data gathered from literatures including books, Scientific Journals and documents, legal documents, proceedings etc.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Various changes have seen in the structure of the family worldwide over time. One change is the characteristics or the pattern by which the family is headed. Thus, similar changes have also been revealing in Ethiopia (Forum Street Children, 1998). These changes will have significant problems particularly on female-headed households. For instance, the Ethiopian people widely believed that children raised by female are believed to be naughtier than children who have both parents-father and mother. Besides, children born in female-headed households are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty than those in male-headed households (Moepeng, 2008). Furthermore, the reason female earn less income, they need the labor of their children to satisfy their family needs. At the same time, because they are busy of working for familial survival, they do not give more time to control their children. This forces the children to run away to the streets and other place to full fill their basic

needs. Due to this fact, children are vulnerable to different bad habits like juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, rape, prostitution and beggar (Metrasbia, 1998).

The problems of female-headed family in recent years, female headship and female-headed households have emerged as a subject of increased social concern, in both developed and developing countries. The study of the status of female household heads and their households is a fairly new emphasis among women's issues.

Female headship can be considered from the context of women's latent vulnerability due to gender disadvantages. The concern on female headed households has been from the premise that female headed households embrace a subpopulation which may be potentially vulnerable to social hardship. It is hypothesized that because of the unequal position and status of female heads and since women usually have limited social and educational resources available to them, female heads compared to males may produce negative effects on the welfare of the family (Ono-Osaki, 1991; UN, 1995).

Therefore, this study tries to investigate and seek answers for the following basic questions:

1. What are the main problems that female-headed households are vulnerable in their struggle for survival?
2. What mechanisms do women-headed households use to change or win the negative attitudes of the society towards them?
3. What are the influential factors that female-headed households are facing from the society in rearing their children?
4. What do women associations and NGOs focusing on women do to solve problems facing women-headed families?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General objective

The general objective of the study is to identify the problem of female-headed families and to raise additional information for those organizations and association who are working on women.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. to assess the main problems that influence the female-headed families and suggest possible solutions to the problems.
2. to investigate the problems of female-headed families to provide information to policy makers.
3. to review the perception of children who are reared in female-headed families.
4. to address the existing problems to the NGOs focused on women in order to act accordingly.
5. to forward recommendations that enhance the role of policy makers, women associations and NGOs focusing on women and organizations to help women-headed families.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Accordingly, by identifying the problems on female-headed households, this study will have the following significance:

- Contributing as source of research and knowledge regarding female-headed households for researchers, students and the public.
- Revealing the public perception towards female-headed households to grab the attention of the government as well as the public to act on the social problems.
- Serving policy makers as well as NGOs working on women as a guide or notice to act on the problem accordingly.

1.5. Delimitation of the Study

Currently in Ethiopia, there many families headed by single parent. Many of these female-headed families take a significant number. This is also true in Addis Ababa. There are 10 sub cities in Addis Ababa City administration. Among them, the study will delimit itself only to three districts of Gulele sub city, which comprises ten districts. To make the study manageable, the study will focus only on three districts, i.e. 01, 02, 03 that are randomly selected. This is because the three districts can represent the other seven districts located in the Sub City.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The problem of women headed families is not limited in particular society. It was associated with many societies, but this study was limited to investigate the socio-economic problem of Women headed families in Gullele sub city particularly 01 District . The reason behind the researchers to select the area is its closeness to the researcher's residence.

1.7. Operational Definitions

Family –group of people whom are biological related and to whom we feel sense or kinship (Mcil,P.et al ,2003).

House hold- an individual or group of people who share home and some many example families perhaps with servant students shared home or people in community group such as (Mcil,P.et al ,2003).

Female headed family:-These are mostly mentioned for single parent family which headed by women (Mcil,P.et al ,2003).

Female Head of Household: is any female whose age is greater than ten and is head

1.9. Organization of the Study

The study embraces five chapters. The first chapter deals with introductory part that incorporates background of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, delimitation of the study and definition of key terms and organization of the study. The second chapter is review relevant literature for the study. Chapter three discusses the research design and methodology including the participants/subjects of the study, tools for data collection and analysis of data employed in the study are discussed. Chapter four contains the data analysis, findings and discussions. The last chapter of the thesis provides conclusions and suggestions for further studies.

1.10. Research Design and Methodology

Generally, in collection of primary data, this study employed a mixed approach with the central premises of quantitative as major and qualitative approach in combination provide a

better understanding of the research problems. Qualitative research used as a supplementary for quantitative one.

The study will be conducted through both quantitative and qualitative methods using cross-sectional study design, in which data will be collected at one point in time from the samples of the study.

The reason to use quantitative method to ensure high level of reliability of data gathered. The qualitative method helps to obtain more in-depth information about the social problems of female-headed families.

1.11 Description of the Study Area

The role of Addis Ababa as a seat of government has helped the city to undergo various alterations. The Ethiopian federal structure has helped the city to undergo various alterations when Ethiopia has embarked upon a federal structure with proclamation No.1/1992. Addis Ababa is recognized as a region 14 Administration has changed into the Addis Ababa city administration with proclamation No.52/1992. In 2003 the administrative structure of Addis Ababa revised and the city is divided into 10 sub-cities which are further subdivided into 99 districts (kebele).

Gulele sub-city is one of the ten sub-cities which is found at the north part of Addis Ababa. The sub-city has ten districts, namely, district 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 08, 09, 11, 17 and 23.

In Addis Ababa, also in Gullele sub-city communicable language is Amharic. Most of the populations follow different religions, the most dominant ones being Orthodox, Muslim and also others.

1.12 Universe of the Study

The main aim of this study is to assess the social problems that female-headed families are facing in their struggle for survival in district 01 of Gulele Sub-city, in Addis Ababa City Administration and to provide supplementary information for policy makers and the researchers, social workers, gender-based associations. As the result, the study would be beneficial to magnify more issues on the problem in district 01 under the study and give additional information to women-focused organizations and NGOs.

Moreover, the study is important to screening out the impact of female headed families, which are resulted from social problems. Besides, it helps the police makers to give attention to the problem and take prompt action to solve the problem in collaboration with, governmental gender based association and non-governmental gender based association.

So in this context women are more than half part of the population, so tackling women problem means a true system of paving a way for development and growth.

1.13. Sampling and Sampling Technique

According to the 2007 Ethiopian population Census, the number of Addis Abeba population are **13,952.887.21**. Amnog this **3,324,602** are household's residents are living in the Addis Abeba . According to this the number of women headed family in addis Abeba are **123,223**

Due to this regard in Gullel Sub Sity District 01 number of women headed family are **14,231(31%)** among **45,906.5** households living there. (Gulele sub city health extension office, 2015).

In the study, the researcher will employ **Random sampling techniques** so as to select the samples of the study from homogenous population.

The sample size for the female headed households was calculated from a homogenous finite population of **14,231** female headed households residing in one districts of Gullel Sub city(01) based on **Yamane's Simplified Formula(1967:886)** of determining sample size in 95% confidence level and level of precision $P = 0.5$ as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

- *n = the sample size,*
- *N = the size of the population,*
- *e = the error of 0.5 percentage point.*

Hence, by using Yamane's formula (1967) for determining sample size from a homogenous finite population with an error of 0.5% and with a confidence level of 95 % and for +/- **10(0.1)** sample size precision, the sample size is calculated and determined as:

$$n = \frac{14,231}{1 + 14,231(0.1)^2} = \frac{14,231}{1 + 142} = \frac{14,231}{143} = 99.5 \approx 100 \text{ Female house Households}$$

Therefore, the sample selected for the study is 100 female headed households. However, as the population is **homogeneous** and the data obtained from each sample will be similar, it is found to be appropriate to limit the sample size. Therefore, 70 selected female households from one district of Gulele sub-city is enough to obtain appropriate data for the research.

1.14. Instruments of Data Collection

This research will use different Instruments so as to make the data more objective. There are primary and secondary data source to carry out the study in efficient and effective manner. Primary data will be gathered through questioners and focus group discussion.

1.14.1 Questionnaire:- the questionnaire will be used to obtain information from a large of respondents. Both closed type and open ended questionnaires will be used for the research.

Closed form of questioner is used when categorized data are required. The questions could be 'yes', 'no', 'no opinion' or asked by tick ✓ or ✗, underline the answer.

Open-ended: questioner will be prepared to give free chance for the respondents to express their feeling and spontaneous expression.

1.14.2 Focus Group Discussion: Groups are a data collection method. It helps that will get clear information from the source and the fact will be seen clearly and is collected through a semi-structured group interview process. Focus groups are generally used to collect data on a specific topic.

1.14.3 Observation In this research paper I will observe the participants to understand and will assure what I communicate in interview. I will take 7 participants. Before I communicated with them I will select different seven sites and we will determine the time and observation period. I express myself for them and will tell them the purpose of my coming.

1.14.4 Interview: I interviewed 7 women out of 70 women randomly selected for this studying purpose. I will take seven women for interview purpose in the ratio of ten to one.

Secondary data: will be collected from books, journals, research paper work and internet etc.

1.14.5 . Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The data collecting from the respondent will be organized and statistically computed for analysis.

Hence, the data will be tabulated and frequency distribution and percentages will be used. Finally the result will be interrupted which finding lead to conclusion and recognition.

1.14.6. Ethical Considerations

In this study, the following ethical issues will be considered during the whole conduct of research process. Firstly, proper consent and confidence must be obtained from the subjects of the study i.e., female heads of households who are living in the sub city area.

Secondly, the researcher also will inform all the participants about the purpose and the objective of the study and refrain from deceptive practices, giving false responses, or pretentious answers, which would violate the finding of the research.

Thirdly, the assigned advisor will approve questionnaires and other instruments and finally confidentiality of the respondents will be respected by avoiding names and other personal identifications. The researcher notified the respondents that no matter what kind of response they give, it would be kept confidential, anonymous and respected. This is because the selected group is more victimized in their life so they could refuse to cooperate, or give necessary information based on the questioner. Finally, all literature sources used in the literature review are duly acknowledged-no plagiarism.

REFERENCES

- Arendel (1986). mothers and divorce. legal, economic and social dilemmas. Berkley
University of California press.
- Ashalew(1999). Social attitude towards female headed house, Addis Ababa
University
- Ellwood, D. T. (1988). Poor support. New York: Basic Books.
- Folbre, Nancy. 1991. "Women on their own: global patterns of female headship." in Rita S.
Gallin and Anne Ferguson eds. The Women and International Development Annual,
Vol.2. Boulder CO: Westview Press.
- Fellow (1993). women, poverty and productivity.
- Gibbon (1992). the impact family disintegration on children Life University of
Scot an, Sophia institute press
- Harz (1976). from "rotten wives" to good mothers: household model and the limit of
Economics ids bulletin, 28:3, and 14-25.
- International Labour Organization (2005). The ILO Thesaurus, Geneva.
- Lemlem (1999). female headed families and juvenile delinquency in Addis Ababa
University, Addis Ababa Woreda
- Metasabia(1999). studied the economic problem of women headed house hold
Addis Ababa University
- Mcil,P. and et al (2003). sociology as a complete comparison
- Moepeng, P. and Tisdell ,C.(2008). The Socio-Economic Situation of Female Heads and Poor Heads
of Households in Rural Botswana. A Village Case Study. University of Queensland, Brisban.
- Oseki (1991). Social problem faced by single mother and children.
- Rodggers and Harriel (1986). urban poverty and labor market, access to job and
Income in Asia and Latin America
- Witzman, L.J. (1985). the divorce resolution, the unexpected social and economic
Consequence for women children in America, new York. the free press .
- Yamane,Taro.(1967). Elementary Sampling Theory. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Printice Hall
Inc.(1967:p405)

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

Enrolment No :

Date of Submission :

Name of the Study Center :

Name of the Guide:

Title of the Project :

Signature of the Student:

Approved / Not Approved:

Signature:

Name and address of the student---

Name and address of Guide:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Date: