



**Addis Ababa University**  
**School of Journalism and Communication**

**The Relationship between Press Freedom and Human Development:  
Evidence of East African Countries**

**By**

**Abraham Ejigu Shiferaw**

**December, 2017**  
**Addis Ababa**

**The Relationship between Press Freedom and Human Development: Evidence  
of East African Countries**

**BY**

**Abraham Ejigu**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School of Journalism and Communication  
Presented In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication**

**Addis Ababa University  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
December, 2017**

Addis Ababa University  
School of Graduate Studies

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Abraham Ejigu, entitled "*The Relationship Between Press Freedom and Human Development: Evidence of East African Countries* " and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication complies with the regulations of the University and notes the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Signed by the Examining Committee:

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

Chair of Department or Graduate Coordinator

### **Declaration**

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this research project work entitled “The relationship between Press Freedom and Human Development; Evidence of East African Countries” is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or institution and that all sources of materials used for the study have been duly acknowledged.

Abraham Ejigu Shiferaw

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## **Acknowledgments**

First and foremost, thanks to the Almighty God and St. Mary for helping me in every aspects of my life. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to my thesis advisor, Dr. Amanuel Gebru, whose unreserved guidance, invaluable assistance and constructive comments encouraged me to successfully carry out my thesis. I greatly benefited from his quick response, expertise and exceptional practical advice during the course of my research work.

## **Abstract**

This study attempted to establish a nexus between the three dimensions of press freedom (Economic, political and legal environment) and human development taking five year data from Six eastern African countries. Both Correlation and multiple regression panel linear regression analysis methods were employed. Preliminary tests of statistical assumptions were conducted to determine the use of data appropriate methods. The results indicate that consistently with the extant literature both political and economic dimensions of press freedom are important predictors of human development. However the legal environment failed to qualify as explanatory variable. Similarly qualitative analysis was also conducted through in depth interview with key informants of Ethiopian media practitioners who were picked up purposively and similar results were obtained which reinforce the output of the econometric analysis except deviation on the variable of legal environment. Recommendations for further research are presented based on the limitations noted.

*Keywords:* press freedom, economic environment, political environment, legal environment human development.

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.....	i
Abstract.....	ii
Table of Contents.....	iii
List of Tables.....	vi
List of Figures.....	vii
Acronyms and abbreviations.....	viii
Chapter One: Introduction .....	1
1.1    Back ground of the study .....	1
1.2    Statement of the problem .....	3
1.3    The Research Questions .....	4
1.4    Hypotheses .....	4
1.5    Objective of the study .....	5
1.5.1    General objective of the study .....	5
1.5.2    Specific objectives of the study .....	5
1.6    Scope/Delimitations of the Study.....	5
1.7    Limitation of the Study .....	6
1.8    Significance of the Study .....	6
1.9    Organization of the Paper.....	6
Chapter Two: Review of the Related Literature .....	7
2.1    Definition of Press Freedom .....	7
2.2    Theories of Press Freedom.....	9
2.3    Measuring the press Freedom .....	13
2.4    Over view of Press freedom in East African Countries .....	17
2.4.1    Press Freedom in Somalia.....	17
2.4.2    Press Freedom in Ethiopia .....	18
2.4.3    Press Freedom in Eritrea .....	21
2.4.4    Press Freedom in Djibouti .....	22
2.4.5    Press Freedom in Kenya .....	23

2.4.6	Press Freedom In Sudan.....	24
2.4.7	Press Freedom In Uganda.....	26
2.5	Human Development.....	28
2.6	Press Freedom and Development.....	29
2.7	Conceptual Framework of the Study.....	30
Chapter Three: Research Methodology .....		33
3.1	Research Design.....	33
3.2	Source of Data and Collection Methods .....	33
3.3	Sample Design.....	35
3.3.1	For Quantitative Data.....	35
3.3.2	For Qualitative Data.....	35
3.4	Description of Variables and Measurements .....	36
3.4.1	Independent variables .....	36
3.4.2	Dependent Variables.....	37
3.5	Specifications of Empirical Research Model.....	38
3.6	Operational Definitions .....	39
3.7	Methods of Data Analysis .....	39
Chapter Four: Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation .....		40
4.1	Data Presentation of Quantitative Results.....	40
4.1.1	Descriptive Statistics of the Study Variables.....	41
4.1.2	Correlation Analysis of the Study Variables.....	43
4.1.3	Regression Results and Discussion.....	45
4.1.4	Diagnostic Tests of the Data set.....	46
4.1.5	Press Freedom Variables: Results and Discussion.....	49
4.2	Discussion of Qualitative Results.....	51
4.2.1	Economic Environment.....	51
4.2.2	Legal Environment.....	55
4.2.3	Political Environment.....	58
Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations.....		63
5.1	Conclusion.....	63

5.2 Recommendations ..... 65  
5.3 Future Research..... 66

References

Appendix I: Research Questionnaire

Appendix II: Diagnostic tests results for OLS Assumptions

Appendix III: List of informants (interviewed from August - September, 2017)

## List of Tables

Table No.	Title of tables	Page
Table 4.1	Press Freedom Index.....	40
Table 4.2	Human Development Index.....	41
Table 4.3	Descriptive statistics of the study variables.....	42
Table 4.4	Correlation analysis of Human Development Index and Press Freedom indices .....	44
Table 4.5	Summary of Regression Result .....	48

## List of Figure

<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Title of Figure</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure 2.1	Conceptual framework of the study .....	32

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's rights
AM	Amplitude Modulation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CCK	Communication Commission of Kenya
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EE	Economic Environment
EBC	Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation
FBC	Fana Broadcasting Corporate
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
LE	Legal Environment
OLS	Ordinary Least Square
PE	Political Environment
NMG	Nation Media Group
NRM	National Resistance Movement
NTV	National Television
RWB	Reporters without Border
UBC	Uganda Broadcasting Corporation
UCC	Ugandan Communication Commission
UNDP	United Nation Development Program

# **Chapter One**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Back ground of the study**

The guarantee of freedom of expression and information is recognized as a basic human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN in 1948, the European Convention on Human Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Free or liberalized media is a fertile ground for consolidation and strengthening of democracy and human development where journalists in independent newspapers, radio and television stations facilitate greater transparency and accountability in governance, by serving in their watch-dog roles, as well as providing a civic forum for multiple voices in public debate, and highlighting social problems to inform the policy agenda (Pippa, 2006).

Through this process, it can be emphasized that, a free press is not just valuable for democracy a matter widely acknowledged, but the final claim is that this process is also vital for human development. This perspective is exemplified by Sen's argument that political freedoms are linked to improved economic development outcomes and good governance in low income countries by encouraging responsiveness to public concerns (Sen, 2008). The free press, Sen suggests, enhances the voice of poor people and generates more informed choices about economic needs.

James D. Wolfensen reflected these sentiments when he was the president of the World Bank: According to James (1999) a free press is not a luxury. A free press is at the absolute core of

equitable development, because if you cannot enfranchise poor people, if they do not have a right to expression, if there is no searchlight on corruption and inequitable practices, you cannot build the public consensus needed to bring about change.

More liberal media landscapes are therefore widely regarded as strengthening democratization and good governance directly, as well as human development indirectly.

Despite the plethora of empirical evidence about the nexus between free press and development the amount of quantitative and qualitative data and literature scientifically analyzing this relationship is limited (Marina et al, 2008). This may be due to the fact that it is difficult to set down concepts like free press, development, security or good governance in scientific terms. And even more challenging it is any attempt to compare them and to objectively determine their respective influence. These arguments are also supported partially by Hai et al, who said the relationship between press freedom and development is popular in qualitative research, but have yet to be evaluated in quantitative work (Hai et al, 2010).

Marina et al (2008) also agreed with this idea stating that the influence of a free press on development has never been properly assessed.

The present study, therefore, seeks only to examine empirically the relationship of press freedom and human development of east African countries by utilizing press freedom and human development indices of Freedom House and United Nation Development Program (UNDP) respectively with annual data available from 2006-2015.

More importantly the study is relevant as it explores the issues in relation to the countries of East Africa countries that have a lot of similarities but also differences in terms of politics, economics and development paths.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

A free press always has a positive influence, on poverty and its different aspects (monetary poverty and access to primary commodities, health and education), on governance or on violence and conflict issues (Marina et al, 2008). A free press will be more capable of unearthing corruption in the government. A free press will also be capable of criticizing misconceived development projects. In these ways, a free press, more than a controlled press can be more effective in assisting the developmental effort because the embezzlement of money that would have ended up in the private pockets of corrupt government officials can be nipped in the bud or prevented (Chris, 1995). A free press can be useful in the decision-making process of the citizens on how their resources should be utilized for development (Pratt, 1993). One would also expect a free press to assist in the development of the political economy of the region by exposing mismanagement of development resources, and by pointing out unviable and misconceived development projects (Chris, 1995). Thus, by promoting freedom of the press, States can provide themselves with a powerful development tool because a free press constitutes an instrument of human development like education and investment.

What has partly accounted for the disappointing level of development in most parts Africa is the prevalence mismanagement and embezzlement of resources that should have been used to improve the level of modernization as well as the overall social and material well-being of the generality of the people. The ability of free press to expose intended and perceived corruptive behavior of this mal practice is vital in state development because it could nip corruptive behavior in the bud (Chris, 1995). Therefore, the relationship of a free press and human development has to be well examined. The relationships or correlations between freedom of the

press and the different dimensions of societies' development in the broad sense shall be recognized through econometric regressions.

Hence, keeping this in view and the potential contribution of freedom of expression to the wellbeing and human development of the nation, this study is aimed at examining the relationship and impact of press freedom on human development by using east African countries press freedom index and human development indices.

### **1.3 The Research Questions**

The study sought to answer the following questions:

- a) What is the relationship between press freedom indices and human development of East African countries?
- b) What is the relationship between specific components of press freedom i.e. Legal, political and economic environments and human development of East African countries?

### **1.4 Hypotheses**

In this study the following hypotheses will be tested.

Ha1: There is significant relationship between Legal environment (one of the Press Freedom indices) and human development of East African countries

Ha2: There is significant relationship between Political environment (one of the Press Freedom indices) and human development of East African countries

Ha3: There is significant relationship between Economic environment (one of the Press Freedom indices) and human development of East African countries

## **1.5 Objective of the study**

### **1.5.1 General objective of the study**

The general objective of this study is to examine the relationship of Press Freedom and Human development of East African countries by taking evidence from Freedom house indices and UNDP human development index of five years data from the year 2011 up to 2015.

### **1.5.2 Specific objectives of the study**

Given the overall objective of examining the relationship of Press Freedom and human development using East African countries data, this study will have several specific objectives.

Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Investigate the relationship between legal environment ( one of the component of Press freedom index) and human development
2. Examine the association between political environment ( one of the component of Press freedom index) and human development
3. Ascertain the link of economic environment ( one of the component of Press freedom index) and human development

## **1.6 Scope/Delimitations of the Study**

This study is delimited to examining the relationship of Press Freedom and human Development by taking evidence from freedom house and UNDP Human Development index for the period of five years. The dependent variable is delimited to human Development index. The explanatory variables are delimited to Legal, political and economic environments. The study area of this research is delimited to East African countries.

### **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

The researcher faced some limitations during the study. The qualitative data is collected only from Ethiopian Media practitioners. Reluctance of local media editors and journalists to cooperate for the study was the other challenge. But, as much as possible the researcher coped up with these limitations and converted them into best experience that can use for future studies.

### **1.8 Significance of the Study**

The result of this study will contribute to countries by pointing out how press freedom affects Human development. The empirical results would also be the general indicators of press freedom as useful means and instrument for government authorities and policy makers to develop their human capitals. Besides, it can serve as a stepping stone for future researchers who want to conduct study on related topic.

### **1.9 Organization of the Paper**

This research paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter introduces what the study is about, the problem to be examined, the objectives, hypotheses, significance, delimitation and limitations of the study. Chapter two provides a highlight of pertinent theoretical and empirical reviews of the literature. The third chapter provides description about the methodology and the variables used in this study. The fourth chapter deals with data presentation and analysis and the final chapter is all about conclusions and recommendations.

## Chapter Two

### Review of the Related Literature

#### 2.1 Definition of Press Freedom

Scholars have attributed many definitions to the freedom of the press. For the most part, these definitions involve removing the ‘restraints’ and the ‘role’ of the freedom of the press. Nevertheless, many of the popular definitions of the freedom of the press differ in specifying the source of restraints. Githii (1971; cited in Asante, 1997) suggests that any serious discussion concerning the definition of the freedom of the press must include economic, social, cultural, managerial, and political factors. For other scholars (Lieberman, 1953; Hachten, 2005), the freedom of press means the absence of government and political restraint. Lieberman (1953) considers the freedom of the press to be an absolute. Lieberman (1953) writes:

Freedom of the press is the right to serve, without government interference and with police protection, the more fundamental right of freedom of information which is to say, the public’s ‘right to know’ as a fundamental part of the political freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Besides removing governmental restraints, the role of the freedom of the press is something more. The freedom of the press is “the right of the press to report, to comment on, and to criticize its own government without retaliation or threat of retaliation from the authority,” (Hachten, 2005). He asserts that this type of free and independent press only exists in the Western countries that have the following characteristics: laws protecting civil liberties and property, high income per capita, highly educated citizenry, possess opposing political parties, financial support of news media, and established independent journalism (Hachten, 2005).

However, Gunaratne(2005) criticized Hachten's definition of the freedom of press noting it only examines the Euro-American (nation-state level) experience and ignores the center-dominated world-system level (government & media operates the system of communication outlets).

Dennis and Merrill (1996) focus on the role of promotion and education in relation to the freedom of the press. They define the freedom of the press as "the right to communicate ideas, opinions, and information through the printed word without government restraint"; they state that the main purpose of the freedom of the press "is to promote and educate an informed electorate that can make decisions about public affairs" (Dennis and Merrill, 1996, p. 5). Both authors do agree that there is no existence of an absolute press freedom, but they disagree whether the press in the U.S. is free or not. Dennis claims there is no free press in the U.S., and free press is a dream that hardly can be achieved because of the interaction between the interrelated system of rights, principles, practices, and institutions; on the other hand, Merrill disagrees with Dennis believing the press in the U.S. is relatively free in regard to other countries because it has fewer government restraints (Dennis and Merrill, 1996).

On the other hand, Weaver (1977) builds upon Dennis and Merrill's argument stating that an adequate account of the freedom of the press must include all 'other restraints'. He explains that the arguments of free press revolve around two main questions: 1) what is it? and, 2) how much it can be? He defines the freedom of press as: 1) the relative absence of governmental restraints on the media; 2) the relative absence of governmental and all other restraints on the media; and, 3) not only the absence of restraints on mass media, but also the presence of those conditions necessary to ensure the dissemination of a diversity of ideas and opinions to a relatively large audience, like an enforced right of access to newspapers and radio stations (Weaver, 1977). Other scholars define the freedom of the press from the perspective of functionality in society.

For instance, Nam and Oh (1973) define the freedom of the press as independent adversary with no fear of arbitrary sanction and free to criticize the policies and personnel of the power elite. Writing from a modern and classical point of view, Kelley and Donway (1990) believe that free press means performing the function of watchdog preventing the state from abusing the rights of its citizens. Put differently, Kelley and Donway seem to suggest that an adequate definition of the freedom of the press should involve the presses' ability to keep government in check.

## **2.2 Theories of Press Freedom**

It is ironic that a discussion of the theories surrounding the freedom of the press begins with a reference to the Cold War era when, according to Siebert et. al. (1984), four theories of the press (the authoritarian, the libertarian, the Soviet, and the social responsibility) came to fruition during the political strife between the East and West. The *Authoritarian theory*, in the words of Siebert et al., is complete government control over the mass media with no independency within the media organizations. The libertarians assumed that in a democratic society, there would be a multiplicity of voices available to, if not actually reaching the public. Let every man who has something to say on public issues express himself regardless of whether what he has to say is true or false and let the public ultimately decide (Siebert et al., 1956). Individuals are free to publish without the constraints and regulations of the government.

According to Oso (1988) the libertarian theory stresses the financial autonomy of the press. Further, it accepts free enterprise and private ownership of the means of production as guarantees for the attainment of freedom of the press and individual freedom. The government is not expected to compete with or eliminate privately owned media.

McQuail (1987) summarizes the basic characteristics of the press and its freedom under libertarianism as follows:

- Publication should be free from any prior censorship by any third party;
- The act of publication and distribution should be open to a person or group without permit or license
- Attack on any government official or political party (as distinct from attacks on private individuals or treason and breaches of security) should not be punishable, even after the event;
- There should be no compulsion to publish anything;
- Publication of ‘error’ is protected equally with that of truth in matters of opinion and belief;
- No restriction should be placed on the collection, by legal means, of information for publication;
- There should be no restriction on export or import or sending or receiving ‘messages’ across national frontiers;
- Journalists should be able to claim a considerable degree of professional autonomy within their organizations. From the listed qualities, press freedom at its genesis was based on the notion that individuals should be free to publish in the news or mass media whatever they like without interference from government or from other persons or groups. This freedom was seen as an extension of other freedoms, particularly that of free speech and for all civil, political and religious rights.

Gunaratne (2005) expands the theory of social responsibility and concludes that, “the West-centric norms of social responsibility may not necessarily reflect the norms of social responsibility in many nation-states outside so-called ‘Europe’”. Simply put, the freedom of the press cannot be universalized because the East and the West do not have the same understanding of freedom, which translates into the process of journalism (Gunaratne, 2005). During the 1960s and 1970s in Europe, Siebert et al. proposed theories on the freedom of the press that initiated a new, comprehensive theory, which demanded state intervention to support a diverse press and became known as the *democratic socialist theory* of the press (Picard, 1985). This theory signaled a fundamental shift in the thinking of the freedom of the press at the time. The prevailing thought of the democratic socialist theory is that the public became less suspicious of state intervention and changed the negative view of state from one that viewed it as an evil against liberty and enemy of people to one that viewed the press as more libertarian and socially responsible (Picard, 1985). The democratic socialist theory combines the characteristics of negative liberty (absence of government interference, censorship and political prohibitions) and the characteristics of positive liberty (the individual rights of printing and circulating opinions) into one theory. In essence, this theory views the freedom of the press as an individual ‘right’—an extension of the free expression, not a privilege given to those who control the means of disseminating information (Picard, 1985). The *positive freedom of press* theory is to promote free and diverse ideas and opinions with the involvement of both negative and positive liberty characteristics. The *negative press* is to prevent state barriers against a free and diverse flow of ideas. Therefore, both work for the same purpose which is “to provide each individual the ability to express his or her view to other members of the society” (Picard, 1985). Similar to Siebert et al. theories Hachten (1999) offers five additional concepts of the freedom of the press, but

emphasizes two more: 1) *Revolutionary* (press supporting the overthrow of government or free the state from foreign domination), and 2) *Developmental or Third World* (utilizes the press to promote social and civic changes). Under the revolutionary theory which is mainly seen in the third world, there is no relationship between traditional press and state press. They are separated because people believe that the government doesn't serve their interests and must be overthrown. The development theory puts more responsibility on the media in developing countries to deliver 'constructive media' that is economical, political, and socially beneficial without being "critical, adversarial, or even skeptical," because, according to Hachten, "the media should bow down to the needs of the country so as to encourage development across all sectors" (Negrine, 1994). Ansah (1988) asserts that the developmental theory is a refinement of the authoritarian theory of the press, but gives the collective development needs priority over individual rights and freedoms. Ansah (1988) explains, "the right is conceded to the state to restrict media operations and to exercise direct control to ensure that media resources are used to promote national identity and integrations".

The *democratic-participant* media theory presented by Denis McQuail suggests that media content should not be controlled by the state nor by any elite group. Instead the society should encourage an active participation of public discourse through equal access to the media.

According to this theory, citizens have the right to access, to respond, and to use the communication mediums to socially interact with each other (Caton-Rosser and McGinley, 2006). Based on his normative set of principles, McQuail (2005) provides his own four models on the freedom of the press: 1) the *liberal-pluralist or market model*, which "identifies freedom of press with the freedom to own and operate the means of publications without permission or interference from the state"; 2) the *social responsibility or public interest model* that gives a

wider freedom obligation to the society with high media standards through envisaged self-regulation with no exclusion of government intervention; 3) the *professional model*—gives the autonomous professional journalism the power to watch the misuse of media; and, 4) the *alternative media model*, which emphasizes “the rights of subcultures with their particularistic values and promotes inter subjective understanding and a real sense of community”.

### **2.3 Measuring The Press Freedom**

Currently four institutions are measuring the freedom of the press throughout the world: Freedom House, Reporters Without Borders, International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), but the two former institutions are the most widely recognized (Abdulsamad, 2008).

Since 1980, Freedom House has been collecting data on the freedom of the press around the world. The survey instrument that Freedom House uses (Freedom House Survey) considers analytical reports of regional experts and scholars, as well as numerical ratings for 197 countries and territories on a scale of 0 to 100 (0 is the highest degree of freedom of the press, 100 is the lowest degree). Based on 23 methodology questions, the survey groups the countries into three categories: ‘Free’ scoring 0 to 30; ‘Partly Free’ scoring 31-to 60; and, ‘Not Free’ scoring 61 to 100. Freedom House Survey uses three broad analytical areas: 1) the legal environment (laws and regulations), which is worth 30 points; 2) the political environment (political control or pressure over the content) worth 40 points; and, 3) the economic environment (structure of ownership and the effect of corruption on content) that is worth 30 points.

The research and ratings process involves more than 60 analysts—including members of the core research team headquartered in New York, along with outside consultants—who prepare the draft ratings and country reports (Freedom House, 2014).

The conclusions are reached after gathering information from professional contacts in a variety of countries, staff and consultant travel, international visitors, the findings of human rights and press freedom organizations, specialists in geographic and geopolitical areas, the reports of governments and multilateral bodies, and a variety of domestic and international news media. The ratings are reviewed individually and on a comparative basis in a set of six regional meetings involving analysts, advisers, and Freedom House staff.

The ratings are compared with the previous year's findings, and any major proposed numerical shifts or category changes are subjected to more intensive scrutiny. These reviews are followed by cross-regional assessments in which efforts are made to ensure comparability and consistency in the findings (Freedom House, 2014).

The diverse nature of the methodology questions encompass the varied ways in which pressure can be placed upon the flow of information and the ability of print, broadcast, and internet-based media and journalists to operate freely and without fear of repercussions. In short, the institution seeks to provide a picture of the entire “enabling environment” in which the media in each country operate. It seeks to assess the degree of news and information diversity available to the public in any given country, from either local or transnational sources (Freedom house, 2014).

The **legal environment** category encompasses an examination of both the laws and regulations that could influence media content and the government's inclination to use these laws and legal institutions to restrict the media's ability to operate.

It assesses the positive impact of legal and constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression; the potentially negative aspects of security legislation, the penal code, and other criminal statutes; penalties for libel and defamation; the existence of ability to use freedom of information legislation; the independence of the judiciary and of official media regulatory bodies; registration requirements for both media outlets and journalists; and the ability of journalists' groups to operate freely.

Under the **political environment** category, it evaluates the degree of political control over the content of news media. Issues examined include the editorial independence of both state-owned and privately owned outlets; access to information and sources; official censorship and self-censorship; the vibrancy of the media and the diversity of news available within each country; the ability of both foreign and local reporters to cover the news freely and without harassment; and the intimidation of journalists or bloggers by the state or other actors, including arbitrary detention and imprisonment, violent assaults, and other threats.

The **economic environment** includes the structure of media ownership; transparency and concentration of ownership; the costs of establishing media as well as any impediments to news production and distribution; the selective withholding of advertising or subsidies by the state or other actors; the impact of corruption and bribery on content; and the extent to which the economic situation in a country impacts the development and sustainability of the media.

The other institution, Reporters without Borders (*Reporters Sans Frontiers*) (RSF) released its first Freedom of Press Index (FPI) in 2002. By 2005, it collected index data from 167 countries by asking its partner organizations (14 freedom of expression groups from around the world) and its network of 130 correspondents, as well as journalists, researchers, legal experts and human

rights activists to answer 50 questions designed to assess a country's level of the freedom of the press (Reporters Without Borders, 2005).

According to Becker et al (2007) the criteria includes measures of actions directly affecting journalists, such as murders, imprisonment, physical attacks and threats, and activities affecting news media, such as censorship, confiscation of newspaper issues, searches and harassment. RSF also examines the extent to which those who commit acts against the journalists and the media organizations are prosecuted, the amount of self-censorship, and the ability of the media to investigate and criticize. It also assesses financial pressure imposed on journalists and the news media, the legal framework for the media, including penalties for press offences, the existence of a state monopoly for certain kinds of media, how the media are regulated, and the level of independence of the public media. It also examines violations of the free flow of information on the Internet. RSF sends a questionnaire to freedom of expression groups, to its network of correspondents around the world, and to journalists, researchers, jurists and human rights activists.

The perspective of the RSF is quite different from the Freedom House Survey because it relies on government and non government attacks on journalists and media. The Reporters without Borders Index only evaluates countries according to the achievements of their media system on criteria that is free or less free compared to others, and then ranks them accordingly (Holtz-Bacha, 2011).

The New York CPJ regional director and sources in the country monitor cases of attacks on the press. CPJ checks each case from the field identified as a violation of press freedom by more than one source for factual accuracy, confirmation that the victims were journalists or news

organizations, and verification that intimidation was the probable motive. Journalists are defined as people who cover news or write commentary on a regular basis. CPJ classifies abuses of journalists and the media using 10 definitions

According to Becker, Vlad and Nusser (2007) they found that the measures of freedom house were reliable across time and that they were internally consistent, largely measure the same concept, and reflected major changes in the media environment associated with the collapse of communism in eastern and central Europe in the last decade of the last century

## **2.4 Overview of Press freedom in East African Countries**

### **2.4.1 Press Freedom In Somalia**

During the Siad Barre regime from 1969 to 1991, independent media was largely nonexistent and state control over the media was stringent. Following Barre's fall, the media was unregulated and private media ownership expanded. In the 1990s, warlords vying for power in Mogadishu established many newspapers and radio stations for propaganda purposes (Human Rights Watch, 2015).

According the Human Rights watch 2015 report, during the 2000s, newspapers declined, the radio was the most widespread medium for news and a few local and satellite TV stations were established. In this period, the media is reported to have been used as a tool by parties to the conflict and, at least to some extent, was perceived to be a driver of conflict, while journalists were targeted with violence. Throughout the conflict, the media has been a key propaganda platform for all parties – for those in power and for insurgents – to communicate their voices and messages to the public. At the same time, journalists have often been the only actors on the ground seeking to fill a void of information so key to surviving decades of war.

Somalia's 2012 provisional federal constitution provides for freedoms of speech and of the press. However, pervasive violence restricts reporting in practice. There is no law that guarantees access to public information, and defamation is a criminal offense, though many cases are resolved outside the formal court system, either according to *xeer* (customary law) or in Sharia (Islamic law) courts (press Freedom House ,2014).

In 2013, the Ministry of Information introduced a media licensing system that activists denounced as a blow to freedom of expression, information, and the press. The system requires all print and broadcast outlets to apply for licenses through the ministry, and those without them can be forced to close. However, the application process is opaque, and the government has yet to demonstrate its ability to implement the system across south-central Somalia. The country's existing media laws do not grant the ministry the authority to operate such a system (Press Freedom House, 2014).

Though Somalia's provisional constitution, protects freedom of expression and the media, as well as the right to impart information and the right of access to information , the country's new media law, which was passed in January 2016 and the penal code, which is currently being revised, are inconsistent with these obligations (Human Rights Wactch,2015).

#### **2.4.2 Press Freedom In Ethiopia**

Article 29 of the 1995 Ethiopian Constitution provides citizens of Ethiopia the right to hold opinions, thoughts, and free expressions. Specifically, Article 29 protects freedom of expression without interference, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information. It also affords freedom of the press and mass media by ensuring the opportunity for access to

information of interest to the public and prohibiting censorship. Finally, Article 29 transcribes the media's right to institutional independence and legal protection to enable the accommodation of different ideas necessary to a democratic society.

The Press Proclamation 34/1992 is the first legislation in the history of Ethiopia's legal system dealing with specifically the private press. As reflected in the preamble, the press proclamation is meant to enable the press play its role by providing favorable conditions under which the press could operate freely and responsibly. "...free press, not only provides a forum for citizens to freely express their opinions, but also plays a preeminent role in the protection of individual and peoples' rights and the development of democratic culture as well as in affording citizens the opportunity to form a balanced views on various topical issues and to forward their opinions on the directions and operations of government".

According to article 4 of the proclamation, the press stands for the pursuit of fundamental freedom, peace, democracy, justice and for the acceleration of social and economic development. In addition, the press proclamation under article 3(1) expressly states that "freedom of expression is recognized and respected in Ethiopia to which end it prohibits censorship of the press and any restriction of a similar nature" and recognizes the right to "access to information" (Article 3 (2)). It allows any Ethiopian national to carry on any press activity and lays down various rights and duties necessary to engage in press activity (Article 5 (1)).

Freedom of the press, as defined under Article 2 (1) of the Press Proclamation, is the right of citizens to launch any establishment of mass media such as newspapers, magazines, periodicals, journals, pamphlets, news agencies, radio, television, motion pictures, pictures, films, cartoons, books, music, electronics publications, plays, and includes all media of mass communication, to

publish and distribute without censorship and any restriction of a similar nature, including freedom from prior restraint and liability after publication.

Article 10 of the Press law provides for the responsibility of the press. Any press shall have the duty to ensure that the product it issues or circulates is free from: any criminal offence against the safety of the State or of the administration; any defamation or false accusation against any individual, nation/nationality, people or organization; any criminal instigation of one nationality against another or incitement of conflict between peoples as well as any agitation of war. Following a November 2005 crackdown on opposition political parties, as well as on the civil society groups and media outlets that were perceived to support them, press freedom in Ethiopia remained extremely limited during 2006. The constitution guarantees freedom of the press, but this right is often restricted in practice. Authorities frequently invoke the 1992 Law on the Press regarding publication of false and offensive information, incitement of ethnic hatred, or libel in order to justify the arrest and detainment of journalists. Court cases can drag on for years, and journalists often have multiple charges pending against them; at the end of 2006, three reporters who had been sentenced under the press law remained in jail. A 2003 draft press law, which has been widely criticized by the private press and by press freedom groups, remained under consideration in 2006, although certain provisions of the law were included in the new penal code that took effect in May 2005. Issues of concern include restrictions on who may practice journalism; government-controlled licensing and registration systems; restrictions on print and broadcast cross-ownership; harsh sanctions for violations of the law, including up to five years' imprisonment; excessively broad exceptions to the right of access to information held by public authorities; and the establishment of a government-controlled press council with powers to engage in prior censorship.

### **2.4.3 Press Freedom In Eritrea**

According to human rights commission report released on June 8, 2016 some of the human rights violations by Eritrean government, which include the arbitrary detention of journalists, may constitute crimes against humanity.

Although the commission was not allowed to visit Eritrea, it has produced a picture of the regime's systematic human rights violations by means of interviews with more than 500 Eritreans in exile and 160 written contributions.

Those systematically targeted by the regime include journalists who have been the victims of arbitrary arrest and detention as well as enforced disappearance.

The only media reports published in Eritrea since 2001 are those that have been approved by the government, whose censors systematically vet every article before publication.

The law does not allow independent media to operate, and the government controls all broadcasting outlets. However, in 2013, a dissident group began circulating an underground newspaper, *Echoes of Forto*, in Asmara, written by a team based inside and outside the country. Circulation continued in 2014. The government controls the internet infrastructure and is thought to monitor online communications. Foreign media are available to those few who can afford a satellite dish (Press Freedom House, 2014).

According to the press freedom house 2014 report, freedom of expression in private discussions is limited. People are guarded in voicing their opinions for fear of being overheard by government informants

#### **2.4.4 Press Freedom In Djibouti**

According to BBC news broadcasted on April 7,2016 by referring media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RWB)the concept of independent media is "completely alien" to Djibouti. The few opposition media outlets are based outside the country. A pro-opposition radio, La Voix de Djibouti, operates online.

RWB's World Press Freedom Index for 2015 put Djibouti in 170th place out of 180 countries listed. The NGO noted that government pressure on the media and efforts to control the flow of information intensified in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election.

Djibouti's laws and constitution provide for freedoms of speech and of the press, but in practice the government imposes serious curbs on independent media. The penal code and the 1992 Freedom of Communication Law allow criminal penalties, including jail time and heavy fines, for media offenses such as libel and distributing false information.

Djibouti does not have a law guaranteeing access to public information. The Freedom of Communication Law imposes citizenship, residency, and age requirements on those holding senior positions at media outlets. The National Communication Commission, tasked with issuing private radio and television broadcasting licenses, accepted its first application in 2012, though it has yet to respond and has never authorized a private broadcast outlet (Press Freedom House, 2014).

#### **2.4.5 Press Freedom in Kenya**

The country's 2010 constitution was widely praised for expanding freedoms of expression and the press, specifically by prohibiting the state from interfering with the editorial independence of individual journalists and both state-owned and private media outlets. Kenya is also a party to several international legal instruments governing free expression, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. While the constitution does contain potential curbs on press freedom with regard to privacy, incitement, hate speech, and antigovernment propaganda in times of war, these provisions are not as severe as those in the previous charter (Press freedom House, 2014).

There is freedom of expression that is stated in the constitution of Kenya Article 33; it states that every person has the right to seek, receive or impart information or ideas, freedom of artistic creativity and academic freedom and freedom of scientific research (Kenyan Constitution, 2010).

Censorship is merely to help journalist perform their work well, they should be able to report news or write stories which have correct facts and figures. Media censorship is mainly for checking; vulgarity, violence and racism media censorship sees to it that the media is not used as a tool to attack, discriminate and humiliate people. The government that come into power in 2002 with the leader of president Mwai Kibaki has failed to fulfill its promise for the reform of media legislation. The former information minister Mutahi Kagwe, in August 2007 introduced the Media Bill to parliament which would establish a media regulatory board and media advisory board, which will replace the independent media council in Kenya. This bill allows the information minister to appoint chairman and the members of the new government funded body. The new body will register all journalists and the government license media, so that they can

exert authority over them. The media bill provokes hostility among the media practitioners and owners especially in the case of the editors to reveal their sources, if their reports become the subject of court cases. Media owners, civil society groups and the law society opposed the bill because it was putting many pressure and it was totally against the freedom of expression.

Late August 2007, the bill was passed but later rejected by the president on the round that the bill limited the confidentiality of sources and therefore it was a threat to press freedom. The Communications Commission of Kenya [CCK] is the independent regulatory body that gives license register journalists and regulates television, radio, telecommunication and postal services. CCK is overseen by the Ministry of information, so that its independence is limited. There are non- state media regulatory bodies, like the media council of Kenya which was set up in 2004 and it's a key campaigner for a self regulatory system. Kenya Union of Journalist, editor's guild and Kenya correspondents association have set up media industry steering committee (Human Rights Watch, 2014).

#### **2.4.6 Press Freedom In Sudan**

According to Freedom House 2014 report freedom of the press and expression are nominally protected under Article 39 of the 2005 Interim National Constitution—adopted as part of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Khartoum government and the then insurgent Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM). Following the independence of South Sudan in 2011, a permanent Sudanese constitution has not yet been implemented. While the CPA initially created some space for journalists to report more freely and reduced the common practice of prepublication censorship, the legal environment for Sudanese media remains extremely difficult. The 2009 Press and Publications Act allows for restrictions on the press in

the interests of national security and public order, contains loosely defined provisions related to bans on the encouragement of ethnic and religious disturbances and the incitement of violence, and holds editors in chief criminally liable for all content published in their newspapers. Several other laws have been used against the press, including elements of the 1991 penal code, the 2010 National Security Forces Act, and emergency measures that have been enacted in the states of Darfur and Kordofan. A new media law proposed in 2013 would expand the restrictions of the 2009 Press and Publications Act, extending editorial liability to journalists and printing houses in addition to chief editors. The proposed law was pending further consultation as of the end of 2014.

Defamation is a criminal offense under the penal code, and there is no freedom of information law, making access to public information difficult.

The press law requires journalists to register with the National Council for Press and Publications (NCP), an entity supervised by the president that also has authority to shut down newspapers for three days without a court order. The NCP, a large proportion of whose members are appointed by the president, regulates the journalism profession and entry into the field. Journalists are required to pass a test prior to receiving accreditation and a license. The Ministry of Information manages broadcast licensing in a highly politicized manner, allowing pro-government stations to acquire licenses more easily than independent outlets (Freedom House, 2014).

#### **2.4.7 Press Freedom In Uganda**

The Ugandan media originates from colonial days when Uganda was still a British protectorate; the British colonial master introduced the media industry in Uganda in 1954, aimed at supporting the imperial agenda of the government (Bob Denis, 2012). The Uganda Broadcasting Cooperation (UBC), State owned rebroadcasted BBC and other local programs meant to counter anti British pro independent voices by the local Pan Africanists. Even in colonial days media freedom was restricted because the black Pan Africanists used the media to attack the colonial masters. The colonial masters' reaction to this was the arrest and jailing of critical African writers and closing down their publications (Lugalambi, 2010). When Uganda eventually got her independence on 9th October 1962, the post independent Ugandan government took over the control of the UBC and continued with the same aggression towards the media. It is reported that, critical politicians and journalists were arrested and jailed during Obote's government with publications called '*Ssekanyolya*' being banned after the 1966 Uganda crisis.

As Lugalambi puts it, at this time Uganda had two media channels and these remained under the control of Ministry of Information with its employees being public servants. The funds for its operation and administration came from the state coffers. For very long period, the UBC remained a government mouth piece, with very little independence in its broadcasting programmes. The concept of public broadcasting therefore lost meaning; there were no laws to protect the media practitioners in the way they were doing their job. This meant much coercion and interference from the state in the matters concerning the national broadcasters. As Lugalambi 2010 reports, the '*Uganda Television and radio*' became a symbol of state power with a biased approach to reporting.

In terms of freedom of expression, this seems to be very good for the sector. However, from 2002, the same ruling government of National Resistance Movement began to censor the media industry, through creating conditions that make media operation difficult. This was done by allowing very little freedom of expression and diversity of views and introduction of stiff and stringent domestic laws against the media. To date, these laws have been met with resistance by most Media outlets, International bodies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Journalist Associations .The argument is that the government is violating national, regional and International laws on freedom of expression. Most journalists are of the view that the Ugandan government looks at media as a big threat to their existence rather than a partner in development and democratization process hence the enactment of domestic laws that undermine media freedom and independence.

The media professionals were not protected by the law and there was a lot of interference, intimidation, and harassment and in some cases coercion by state apparatus. With the change of the media laws, several independent media outlets both print and the broad cast sprang up mostly operated by private individuals, politicians, churches, and business proprietors. The number of local FM radio media stations increased from 14 in December 1996 to 158 by March 2007 and to date Uganda has over 200 FM Stations, whereas the private television stations increased from four to 45 including Cable channels in the same period (IREX, 2008).

With the liberalization policy in place, media groups sprang up, major forms being websites, radio stations, newspapers and television channels, which are state, church or privately owned. The state owned media are known as the Vision Group which is the market leader in the newspaper, radio and television sector. Meanwhile, the Nation Media Group (NMG) is respected for its independent coverage and owns the Daily Monitor, National Television (NTV).

## 2.5 Human Development

Human development is a concept whose primary objective is to promote human freedoms, for example by increasing the choices offered to individuals, enabling them to live a full life and benefit from factors of progress and what they generate( UNESCO, 2008). Human development is both a process of expanding people's choices and the outcome of the choices that it offers them. Human development is development of the people, development for the people and development by the people. This means being free, being what one wants to be and doing what one wants to do. Theories of human development are to a large extent built upon Sen's (1999) argument that development should focus on people's capabilities, rather than solely on their resources or welfare. With this broader perspective on development, Sen (2008) also argues that human and socioeconomic development differs from economic growth. Regarding the determinants of human development, Sen (2008) especially emphasizes the importance of government choices and policies, contrasting the developments of the two largest developing countries in the world. In China, Sen (2008) argues, economic growth rates have been high but the lack of democracy still limits people's civil and political rights and, consequently, also hampers human development. Despite lower economic growth rates, however, the democratic rights in India have contributed to a relatively high level of human development, at least in certain important aspects (Sen 2008). Following this capability approach, the HDI was also developed as an alternative to GDP per capita and as a broader indicator of human development and the quality of life (UNDP 1990; Haq 1995). The UNDP, for instance, defines human development as "a process of enlarging people's choices" (UNDP, 1990). At the same time, human development "denotes both the *process* of widening people's choices and the *level* of

their achieved well-being” (UNDP 1990, p. 10).The HDI, then, is constructed by combining measures of a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living.

HDI ranges between 0 to 1. HDI closer to 0(zero) indicates low human development and HDI closer to 1(one) indicates higher human development

## **2.6 Press Freedom and Development**

The dominant paradigm in development communication considers press freedom an essential element of communication for social change (Burrowes, 1996; Gunaratne, 2002). This notion is largely influenced by the modernization theories (Lerner, 1958; Rogers, 1983; Rostow, 1960; Schramm, 1964) that emphasize the power of mass media in development. Lerner (1958) wrote that mass media growth was one of the three phases of democratic political development. The media accelerate the process of modernization by exposing isolated traditional communities to new people, ideas, and attitudes. The role of communication in development was accorded a central position when Schramm (1964) called media the “great multiplier” of efforts to promote social change. As it was thought to have a powerful and direct influence on individuals, communication would function as a bridge to a wider world. Both Lerner and Schramm showed a high correlation between the indices of modernity and availability of mass media. In their arguments, the more developed the nation, the higher the availability of mass media outlets and vice versa. Important support for the dominant paradigm came from Rogers, who advanced the diffusion model. His theory defines social change as the result of the diffusion of innovations through channels over time throughout a social system (Rogers, 1983). Communication, in that sense, is the “change agent” that transfers new ideas from willing experts to an assumedly ignorant target social system.

According to Hai et al, though these assumptions about economic development, social change, and the influence of mass media in the processes are the pillars of development communication, they have not been examined adequately. Development studies tend to pay more attention to political and economic structures, while ignoring communication. Meanwhile, according to Stevenson (2003), though it is easy to demonstrate the correlation between communication and development, the question of whether communication is a stimulus to development or a product of it is left unanswered. Several scholars have argued that mass media are both an index and an agent of development. Therefore, it is rather simplistic in the absence of evidence to assume that the relationship between communication and development is unidirectional (e.g., press freedom leads to development). Hail et al in their study applied the context of the press freedom an important facet of communication for social change considered either a determinant or an outcome of development.

The examination of the level of press freedom in each country is divided into three broad categories: the legal environment, political influences, and economic pressures.

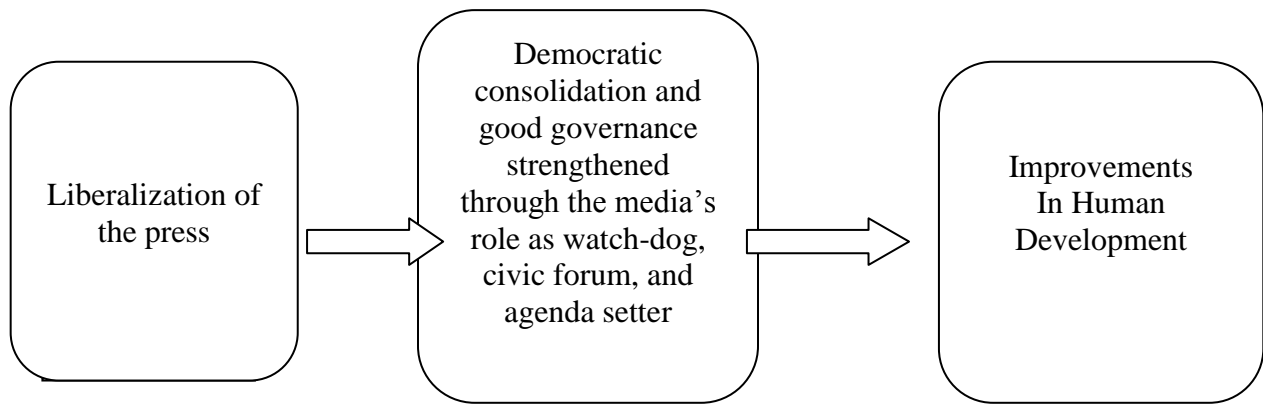
## **2.7 Conceptual Framework of the study**

According to Pippa N. (2006) , a long tradition of liberal theorists from Milton through Locke and Madison to John Stuart Mill have argued that the existence of unfettered and independent press within each nation is essential in the process of democratization by contributing towards the right of freedom of expression, thought and conscience, strengthening the responsiveness and accountability of governments to all citizens, and providing a pluralist platform and channel of political expression for a multiplicity of groups and interests. Pippa N. further said that the guarantee of freedom of expression and information is recognized as a basic human right in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN in 1948, the European Convention on Human Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The positive relationship between the growth of the free press and the process of democratization is thought to be reciprocal. The core claim is that, in the first stage, the initial transition from autocracy opens up the state control of the media to private ownership, diffuses access, and reduces official censorship and government control of information. The public thereby receives greater exposure to a wider variety of cultural products and ideas through access to multiple radio and TV channels, as well as the diffusion of new technologies such as the Internet and mobile telephones. Once media liberalization has commenced, in the second stage democratic consolidation and human development are strengthened where journalists in independent newspapers, radio and television stations facilitate greater transparency and accountability in governance, by serving in their watch-dog roles, as well as providing a civic forum for multiple voices in public debate, and highlighting social problems to inform the policy agenda (Pippa N., 2006). Through this process, many observers emphasize that a free press is not just valuable for democracy, a matter widely acknowledged, but it is also vital for human development. This point of view is illustrated by Amartya Sen which says political freedoms are linked to improved economic development outcomes and good governance in low income countries by encouraging responsiveness to public concerns. According Sen (2008) free press enhances the voice of poor people and generates more informed choices about economic needs.

**Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study**

**Source:** Adapted from Pippa Norris, The role of the free press in promoting democratization and good governance and human development



## **Chapter Three**

### **Research Methodology**

#### **3. Introduction**

This chapter discusses the research design and methodological approaches employed to collect and analyze data. It also presents the procedures on how the research was conducted. Besides, it explains and justifies the methods, techniques and fieldwork experiences with details of the data gathering process.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The primary aim of this study is to examine the relationship of Press Freedom on Human Development of East African Countries. To achieve this objective, explanatory type of research design with a mixed approach, more of quantitative, was employed. The explanatory type of research design helps to identify and evaluate the causal relationships between variables under consideration. So that, in this study the explanatory research design is employed to examine the relationship of the stated variables. Mixed methods research provides better (stronger) inferences. Therefore, by using a mixed approach it is possible to capitalize the strength of quantitative and qualitative approach and remove any biases that exist in any single research method (Creswell, 2003)

#### **3.2 Source of Data and Collection Methods**

The necessary data for this study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The secondary source of data is the press freedom indices from Freedom House and UNDP human development index over a period of five years (2011-2015). These data are obtained from official

websites of these two international organizations. The primary data was collected through Qualitative methods of data collection. It is deemed to be the best options to get opinions and attitudes of respondents for the study. By employing qualitative research methods, the researcher sought to undertake detailed investigative assessment of the relationship of press freedom indices with human development. The data was collected through in depth interview conducted with eleven Ethiopian media practitioners to support the quantitative data. These Media practitioners include editor-in-chiefs, deputy editor- in- chiefs, senior editors and reporters of both government and private print and broadcasting media institutions.

### **In-depth Interviews**

A number of social researchers affirm that one of the major ways qualitative researchers can understand a phenomenon, perceptions, feelings and knowledge of people is through in depth interviewing (Steiner & Svend, 2009; Bryman, 2004; Creswell, 2003). Steiner and Svend (2009) identify different forms of interviews; the most notable being structured, semi-structured and unstructured interviews. Structured interviews are standardized in a way that the interviewer reads all the questions from an interview guide and rarely deviates from it. In this case, all interviewees are asked the same questions in the same order. Semi-structured questions on the other hand are more flexible as the researcher can adjust questions depending on how the interviewee answers earlier questions in order to clarify the responses and to follow promising new lines of inquiry or to probe for more details ( Doyle, 2004). Creswell (2003) adds that in-depth interviews are appropriate for soliciting a rich, detailed and a holistic picture of people's experiences. The researcher used open-ended semi-structured for gathering primary data. The interview allowed the investigator some degree of flexibility at the time of interviewing for the pursuit of unexpected line of inquiry which was arising at the study progresses.

### **3.3 Sample Design**

#### **3.3.1 For Quantitative Data**

The population of the study is East African countries. Countries located in East Africa are included purposively. Thus, the following six countries were taken from the population.

However, Somalia was removed from the population due to data insufficiency.

- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Djibouti
- Sudan
- Kenya
- Uganda

#### **3.3.2 For Qualitative Data**

The subject of this research is the relationship of press freedom and human development in East African countries. However due to finance, time and other constraints the qualitative data is collected from Ethiopia only. Thus the population for the study comprises all media practitioners. These include editor-in-chiefs, deputy editor- in- chiefs, senior editors and reporters of both government and private print and broadcasting media institutions. As it is difficult to address each and every journalist using in-depth interview a representative sample was used by the researcher. In general, the most challenging thing in conducting study based on in-depth interview is how to identify key informants from such large population. The researcher employed purposive sampling method to select representative key informants from all actors having in mind their role in the practice and performance of journalism. Accordingly, eleven respondents were selected from editor-in-chiefs, deputy editor- in- chiefs, senior editors and reporters of both government and private print and broadcasting media institutions from the

Reporter, Addis Fortune, Capital, Addis Zemen, The Ethiopian Herald, Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation and Fana Broad Casting Corporation. These media outlets are selected purposively based on their wide coverage, large number of circulation. The interviews, all done face-to-face, were conducted in between August to September 2017. In most cases, the interviews were carried out in the offices of the informants; only few informants interviewed outside their office. All interviews were done in Amharic. However, it was very tiresome to meet most of the interviewees. There were times when the researcher waited for more than three weeks to have an interview with some of the key informants.

### **3.4 Description of Variables and Measurements**

In this study, the independent variables are components of Press freedom index and the dependent variable is Human Development index of selected countries.

#### **3.4.1 Independent variables**

Currently there are two main indexes of press freedom. The first was developed by Freedom House. As the only source of regular information on the subject since 1980, this index is the most widely used. The second was developed by Reporters without Borders (RWB) in 2002. The Freedom House index refers to three criteria for evaluating press freedom in 197 countries across the world: legal environment (examination of laws and regulations that could influence media content but also the government's inclination to use those laws to restrict the media's ability to operate), political influence (degree of political control over information) and economic pressures (economic barriers to entry to the media sector, impact of corruption). The index score allotted to a country ranges from 0 to 100 depending on the extent of the constraints on press

freedom. A score of between 0 and 30 indicates that the press is free; a score of between 31 and 60 indicates that it is only partly free and a score above 61 means that it is not free.

The RWB index uses a different assessment approach from that adopted by Freedom House. It focuses primarily on attacks and threats against journalists (imprisonment, torture and murder) or the media (censorship and confiscation) and covers 167 countries. The legal situation and the behavior of the authorities are also taken into account. However, it is difficult to tell whether the index takes economic criteria into consideration in the assessment of States' conduct. The RWB ranking is thus relative. For the purpose of this study Press freedom house index is applied.

Press Freedom is generally measured by the Press Freedom index, which takes account of three main components:

- Legal Environment
- Political Environment
- Economic Environment

### **3.4.2 Dependent Variables**

The dependent variable is the human development which is measured by human development index composition of education, life expectancy at birth and gross national income per capita of countries.

### 3.5 Specifications of Empirical Research Model

To estimate the impact of human development on Press freedom in East African countries, the following general empirical research model is developed.

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_K X_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

- ✚  $Y_{it}$  represents the dependent variable (Human Development Index) of countries  $i$  for time period  $t$ .
- ✚  $\beta_0$  is the intercept
- ✚  $\beta_K$  represents the coefficients of the  $X_{it}$  variables
- ✚  $X_{it}$  represents the explanatory variables (Press Freedom Indices like Legal Environment, Political Environment and Economic Environment) of country  $i$  for time period  $t$
- ✚  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is the error term

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_K X_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

- ✚  $Y_{it}$  represents the dependent variables (HDI) of country  $i$  for time period  $t$ .
- ✚  $\beta_0$  is the intercept
- ✚  $\beta_K$  represents the coefficients of the  $X_{it}$  variables
- ✚  $X_{it}$  represents the explanatory variables (LE,PE,EE) of country  $i$  for time period  $t$
- ✚  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is the error term

The above general empirical research model is changed into the study variables to find out the relationship of Human development and Press Freedom as follows:

$$HDI_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (LE_{it}) + \beta_2 (PE_{it}) + \beta_3 (EE_{it}) + \epsilon$$

### 3.6 Operational Definitions

**Press Freedom:**-The right to circulate opinions in print without censorship by the government.

**Human Development:** Human development is about giving people more freedom and opportunities to live lives they value. In effect this means developing people's abilities and giving them a chance to use them

### 3.7 Methods of Data Analysis

To analyze the collected data both descriptive, correlation and multiple panel linear regression data analysis method were employed. The descriptive statistics is used to quantitatively describe the important features of the variables using mean, maximum, minimum and standard deviations. The correlation analysis is used to identify the relationship between the independent and dependent variables using Pearson correlation analysis. Multiple panel linear regression analysis is used to test the hypothesis and to explain the relationship between human development indices and press freedom index. Qualitative analysis was used for qualitative data collected through indepth interview.

SPPS 20 version software was used for analysis.

## Chapter Four

### Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter presents the descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and multiple panel linear regression analysis of the study variables and discussion of results generated from data collected through semi structured interview. It has two broad sections. The first section is about data presentation and discussion of Quantitative results. The second section shows discussion of qualitative results.

#### 4.1 Data Presentation of Quantitative Results

Press Freedom and HDI information obtained from Freedom House and UNDP is presented in the following tables.

**Table 4.1 Press Freedom Index**

Country	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	Lege nv	Pole nv	Eco nenv	Lege nv	Pole nv	Econe nv	Lege nv	Pole nv	Econe nv	Lege nv	Pole nv	Econe nv	Lege nv	Pole nv	Econe nv
Ethiopia	27	33	18	28	35	18	28	35	19	27	35	19	28	36	19
Djibouti	24	26	23	24	27	23	24	27	23	24	28	23	24	28	23
Eritrea	30	40	24	30	40	24	30	40	24	30	40	24	30	40	24
Kenya	19	18	17	16	19	17	16	20	17	17	23	17	17	23	17
Somalia	27	35	22	27	35	22	27	35	22	26	34	22	25	34	20
Sudan	26	30	22	26	31	21	26	32	22	26	33	22	26	33	22
Uganda	19	21	14	19	24	14	19	22	14	19	24	15	19	23	14

Source: Freedom House From 2011-2015

**Table 4.2 Human Development Index**

Human Development Index						Average
Country	Year					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Ethiopia	0.423	0.429	0.436	0.442	0.442	0.4344
Kenya	0.535	0.539	0.544	0.548	0.548	0.5428
Eritrea	0.386	0.39	0.39	0.391	0.391	0.3896
Djibouti	0.462	0.465	0.468	0.47	0.47	0.467
Somalia						
Sudan	0.468	0.472	0.473	0.479	0.479	0.4742
Uganda	0.473	0.476	0.478	0.483	0.483	0.4786

Source: UNDP Human Development Index

#### **4.1.1 Descriptive Statistics of the Study Variables**

This section discussed the summary statistics of each variables of the study. The variables include the dependent and independent variables. The dependent variable is used in order to measure the East African countries Human Development Index (HDI) whereas the explanatory variables are measures of countries economic, legal and political environment (components of press freedom index) during the year. Accordingly, the descriptive statistics for all variables are presented below in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Descriptive Statistics of the study variables

variables	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Std.Dev.	observation
HDI	.464	.548	.386	.0474	30
Econenv	19.4333	24.00	14.00	3.60730	30
Legenv	23.9333	30.00	16.00	4.70461	30
Polienv	29.5333	40.00	18.00	6.96659	30

Source: SPSS Summary statistics result based on secondary data

As presented in table 4.3, the average value of Human development index for the sample east African countries is 46.4 percent (mean=0.464) with a maximum of value of .54 which is Kenyan Human Development Index and minimum value of .38 of Eritrean human development index respectively. As indicated in the above table, the standard deviation is .0474 which is below from one this indicates that the values of East African countries human development indexes is close to each other and vary from the average value with insignificant amount as indicated above table. In other words, the education, life expectancy and gross national income per capita of these countries have no much differences and it is explained in the values between .54 and .38.

It is confirmed in the table above that the average value of economic environment for the sample east African countries is 19 (mean = 19.4333) with a maximum of 24 (Eritrean) and a minimum of 14 value (Uganda). The standard deviation indicates that for the sample east African countries economic environment varies by 3.6 from the average value of 19.43. Since the standard

deviation above one it indicates that there is wide dispersion in the economic environment value of the sample east African countries.

This is to mean that the structure of media ownership; transparency and concentration of ownership; the costs of establishing media as well as any impediments to news production and distribution, the corruption and bribery on content; and the extent to which the economic situation have significant difference among these countries.

The average value of legal environment for sample African countries is 23.9 with maximum of 30 which is of Eritrean and 16 the value of Kenya. The standard deviation of legal environment is 4.7. It suggests that sample east African countries have dispersed values which deviate from the mean value. This can be explained as the presence of laws and regulations that could influence media content has a wide-ranging value in between 30 and 16. This also shows their government inclination to use these laws and legal institutions to restrict the media's ability to operate freely.

It could also be seen that the mean value of Political environment of the sample east African countries is 29.53 with the Eritrean maximum value of 40 and the Kenyan minimum value of 18. The standard deviation of political environment shows 6.9 which imply existing of significant variation among sample countries in the value of political environment. This shows that the tendency of political control over the content of news media in these countries is very high.

#### **4.1.2 Correlation Analysis of the Study Variables**

This section of the study presents the results and discussions of the Pearson correlation analysis. To identify the relationship among the variables of press freedom and human development Pearson correlation coefficients were used. The correlation coefficients show the extent and direction of the linear relationship between press freedom variables and human development

measures of the sample east African countries. The correlation analysis shows the association between human development index and press freedom variables. The probability is shown in parenthesis with the correlation coefficient for the correlation matrix below. The significance level also shown that is \*\*\*, \*\* and \* for 1%, 5% and 10% level respectively. The correlation coefficients are checked for the presence of high collinearity among regressors. Since the correlation analysis shows only the degree of association, it is followed by multiple regression analysis.

Below in table 4.4, the correlation matrix shows the relationship of the human development index with economic environment, legal environment and political environments.

Table 4.4: Correlation analysis of Human Development Index and press Freedom Indices				
	HDI	Econenv	Legenv	Polienv
HDI	1			
Econenv	.068	1		
	0.723			
Legenv	-.484**	.6813**	1	
	.007	.000		
Polienv	-0.624**	.530**	.959**	1
	.000	.003	.000	

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Source: SPSS correlation result based on the data obtained from secondary data

Table 4.4 point out that legal and political environments are negatively and significantly correlated at 1 percent significance level with Human development index.

On the other hand, economic environment shows positive correlation with human development index.

As per the correlation result reported in table 4.4, the Pearson correlation coefficients of economic, legal and political environments are 6.8 percent, -48.4 percent and -62.4 percent respectively. From this it can be understood that economic environment has no strong association with human development index whereas, legal and political environments have strong negative association with human development index.

Generally, the correlation analysis shows only the direction and degree of association between variables and it does not permit the researcher to make causal inferences regarding the relationship between the identified variables. As a result the main analysis is left for regression analysis that overcomes the shortcomings of correlation analysis.

#### **4.1.3 Regression Results and Discussion**

This section of the study presents the results and discussions of the regression output. In order to examine the impact of press freedom variables on sample east African countries human development index, linear regression model was estimated. The regression analysis enables the researcher to empirically test the proposed hypothesis and to achieve the research objective. The method of least squares has some very attractive statistical properties that have made it one of the most powerful and popular methods of regression analysis (Gujarati, 2004). Thus, by conducting the appropriate diagnosis tests OLS estimation method was used in the model.

#### 4.1.4 Diagnostic Tests of the Data Set

Before running the model, the data sets were tested for the classical linear regression model assumptions (See Annex II). The following critical assumptions must be met before utilizing OLS estimation in order to test validly the hypothesis and estimate the coefficient. The classical linear regression model assumptions and their diagnostic tests are discussed below.

- **The average value of the errors is zero.** If a constant term is included in the regression equation, this assumption will never be violated. So that in the model of this study a constant term is included. As a result this assumption was not violated.
- **Normality assumption.** This assumption requires the disturbances to be normally distributed. Normality test was conducted for the model after estimating the regression (see Annex II). Based on the result shown in the Annex II, the p-values is insignificant for the model and the researcher failed to reject the null hypothesis, which says the residual value is normally distributed. Therefore, there is no normality problem on the data used for this study.
- **The assumption of homoskedasticity.** This assumption requires that the variance of the errors to be constant. To check this assumption Brusch pagan was conducted for the model (See Annex II). In this model there was no problem of heteroskedasticity or the error variance is constant since the p-value is not significant. This means the null hypothesis was not rejected which says that the error variance is constant.
- **No autocorrelation between the disturbances.** It is assumed that the errors are not correlated with one another. If the errors are correlated with one another, it would be stated that they are ‘serially correlated’. A test of this assumption is therefore conducted. The first test was Durbin-Watson which is shown in the regression output of the model

separately. The value of Durbin-Watson test is 1.909 which is nearly close to 2, which shows that the autocorrelation does not exist i.e. the same value does not auto correlate with its previous value.

As it is summarized in the table below, the R<sup>2</sup> for the model is 66 percent. Which means that 66 percent of the variation in human development index was explained by the independent variables used in this study, only 38 percent of variation in human development index is due to other factor that are not included in this study.

The selected variables explained the variations of human development index in an orderly manner. The R<sup>2</sup> result indicates the overall goodness-of-fit of the model used in this study.

After modification the explanatory power of the model, adjusted R<sup>2</sup> value is 62 percent. This indicates that 62 percent of the variation in the east African countries human development index was explained by the explanatory variables in the model. The adjusted R<sup>2</sup> measures how well the model fits the data by taking into account the loss of degrees of freedom associated with adding extra variables. Therefore, the model best fits the data.

Table 4.5 Summary of Regression Result

Variables				
	Coefficient	Stand. Error	t- statistic	Probability
Constant	.485	.033	14.517	.000
Econenv	.006	.002	2.852	.008
Legenv	.009	.005	1.882	.071
Polienv	-.011	.003	-3.977	.000
Observations	<b>30</b>			
R2	<b>.66</b>			
Adjusted-R2	<b>.62</b>			
F-Statistics	<b>16.56</b>			
Prob.(F-stat)	<b>.000</b>			
Durbin- Watson stat	<b>1.909</b>			
Effect specification	<b>Period fixed</b>			

Source: SPSS regression results based on the data obtained from secondary Data

Note: \*\*\*, \*\*, \* significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% level of significance respectively.

In addition, the F-statistic shows the overall significance of variables in other words the significance of the model slope parameters jointly. The F-statistics of the model is 16.56 and the null hypothesis of the model was rejected at 1 percent significance level. Therefore, variables of the model are jointly significant. The model adequately describes the data. Here one can infer from the results of R squared and F-statistics that the implemented model of this research is well fitted that press freedom variables have a significant effect on human development index.

#### **4.1.5 Press Freedom variables: Results and Discussion**

##### **Economic Environment**

As shown above, table 4.5, this study found out that the economic environment (Econenv) has a positive impact (positive coefficient) on human development index. It implies that the value of economic environment is positively related with countries human development index. It has statically significant influence on human development index having p value of .008 which is less than p value<.05. As it is referred in the literature review part, economic environment refers to economic pressures on the media, which include the structure of media ownership, the costs of establishing media outlets as well as of production and distribution, the selective withholding of state advertising or subsidies, official bias in licensing, and the impact of corruption and bribery on content. Therefore, based on the result obtained from the regression analysis, the economic pressures have strong relationship or have significant impacts on the Human development index of these particular countries. Thus, the hypothesis is supported

The finding supports the argument of Anne (2006) that an increase in value of economic environment which is free of economic pressure leads to higher human development index which says free press is a crucial key for reduction of poverty for development both in its economic and social aspects. The result is also consistent with prior studies which argue that countries' economic environment has direct proportional effect to human development index (Ahrend 2000).

Same result is also confirmed in previous study of pippa Norris (2006). According to their study press freedom of the countries especially of their overall economic condition has significant impact for their human developments.

### **Legal Environment**

The result shows that the legal environment (Legenv) has positive and statistically insignificant impact on the human development index of east African countries having p value of .071 which is above p value of .05. It has a positive coefficient with human development index. The result shows that the degree of the laws and regulations that could influence media content is not as such significant. In addition, the government's inclination to use these laws to restrict the ability of media to operate has no significant impact in east African countries human development index. Therefore, the hypothesis is not supported.

### **Political Environment**

Political environment (Polienv) has significant impact on east African countries human development index. It has statistically significant impact having p value of .000 which is less than p value of .05. Political environment explains the variations of the human development index of east African countries with a coefficient of -.011. The result indicates that the increase in the value of political environment has a negative influence on human development index of east African countries and vice versa. This suggests that the degree of political control over the content of news media which includes access to information and sources, editorial independence, official censorship and self-censorship, the ability of the media to operate freely and without harassment, and the intimidation of journalists by the state of other actors has significant impact on East African countries human development index.

Hypothesis predicts that there is an impact or relationship between political environment and human development index. Thus, the hypothesis is supported. There is a significant negative impact on human development index of east African countries.

## **4.2 Discussion of Qualitative Results**

In this part of the chapter, only qualitative data gathered through in depth interview is presented. Key informants explained their view on the relationship of press freedom and human development in the following way:

In general all respondent have a believe that press freedom of a country would definitely have an impact on human development index (education, life expectancy and gross national income per capita) of a country.

### **4.2.1 Economic Environment**

According to the interview question asked to qualitatively check whether respondents or key informants believe that the economic environment of countries (one measuring parameter for press freedom index) indicated as the structure of media ownership; transparency and concentration of ownership; the costs of establishing media as well as any barriers to news production and distribution; the selective withholding of advertising or subsidies by the state or other actors; the impact of corruption and bribery on content; and the extent to which the overall economic situation in a country impacts the development and sustainability of the media have impact on the human development of the country i,e the education, the life expectancy and per capita income their people. (Q. No.2 see appendix I). The Respondents answered as follows:

In an hour interview made with Ato Masresha Fikre, Program editor and senior journalist in Fana FM 98.1, he disclosed his view that: media is controlled by state in most east African countries. But Kenya and Uganda are relatively good in this regard .In the same token electronic media was also owned or controlled by state in Ethiopia. But in recent time there is a good move. Private FMs are now flourishing especially in the metropolitan cities. Private television stations are also

begun to be broad casted. But still there is a high cost associated with the establishment and operation of media outlets. Modern Broad casting equipments are very expensive and subjected to high amount of import tax levied by the government. There is no incentive made to encourage the investment in the media sector. For instance, Fana Broad Casting Corporation spent more than 750 million Birr to establish its television station. The process took more than seven years to obtain the television license. So the cost and the lengthy process do not encourage new entrants to join the industry. For a country having a size of more than 90 million people, the existing number of print and electronic media outlets is quite few in number. So from this perspective, the media till have limitations in educating and developing peoples' awareness in bringing the development of human capital. As result of this economic variables have an impact on human developments. The same is true in other east African countries considering the economic, political, social and cultural similarities of the region.

Senior programme editor from EBC (Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation) who requested me not to be mentioned by his name said that the media is owned and controlled by the government and it influences the diversity of views. There is a state monopoly on the means of production and distribution, such as newsprint supplies, internet service providers, or telecommunications companies in most of East African countries. Kenya and Uganda are relatively better since he had the opportunity to visit them in different occasions. From this he concluded that the economic environment has an impact on human development.

With forty minutes interview held with Getachew Araya, who is deputy editor-in-chief of the Amharic daily state owned news paper, Addis Zemen and his colleagues, they disclosed that the printing cost as well as the exorbitant import tax levied on printing machines may trigger many media practitioners to be out from the market. This shows that the economic environment of

press freedom has an impact on promoting the human development of the nation. Getachew further said that Addis Zemen is fully state funded paper and as a government media there is a clear direction from the government to promote the developmental state policies. But there is editorial independence still within the framework of the government editorial direction.

What makes it very difficult is rather getting information from government officials.

Two senior reporters from Addis Zemen who claimed their anonymity shared Getachew's idea and added that in Ethiopian context media freedom is narrowed by journalists himself through self censorship more than the government intervention. This is due to loss of confidence of the journalist not to lose his/her job because of the prevalence of high economic dependence. This is also more or less similar in other east African countries as well they said.

In an hour time interview made with The Ethiopian Herald journalists, Molla Mitiku, editor-in-chief of the Ethiopian Herald on his part said that generally press freedom has undeniable impact on human development. According to Molla, 1991 was a turning point for Ethiopian media industry. Before 1991 media in Ethiopia was fully controlled by the government. Currently, it is more or less liberalized and both print and electronic media outlets were mushrooming. Still a lot has to be done to intensify it. There is a relative editorial independence. Molla further explained that, as a state media there might be limitations observed in providing diverse nonpartisan viewpoints as well as in promoting public interests. This may show the economic environment of press freedom and this has of course ultimate effect on human development.

As far as the east African countries concerned, Molla said "I think Kenya and Uganda has many daily and weekly news papers having better circulation than the rest of east African countries". This indicates that there is large number of readers in these countries. So if media has a wide coverage, it will have greater role in creating awareness of the society.

Ato Wakuma ,deputy editor- in- chief of the Ethiopian herald has also underlined Molla's ideas.

In an hour and half time interview made at the Reporter's news paper Office located at Bole Medhanealem , Solomon Goshu, senior editor of the Amharic Version of the Reporter , a weekly private owned news paper, point out that poor infrastructure (roads, electricity, etc.) limit dissemination of print, broadcast, internet, or mobile-based news sources throughout the country in addition pay levels for journalists especially in state and other media professionals are not sufficient to discourage bribery. These are all economic factors of the press freedom that would potentially affect the human development of a nation. More over the printing cost of newspaper is very expensive which highly discourages the private entrepreneurs not to invest in the industry. For instance one copy of the reporter newspaper is printed for Birr 37 in average where as its selling price is only Birr 10. So when we look at the margin it is running with loss. However we are trying to recover the cost through revenue collected from commercial advertisement fees.

Kaleyesus Bekele , editor of the English version of the reporter newspaper also share his colleague's opinion and added that some years back reporters from private media were not invited to attend government press conferences, access to information from government authorities is still closed to private medias. There is restriction in private papers news production which regulates the proportion of the content of the paper to be only 40% for news coverage and 60% to commercial ads. The costs of purchasing paper, newsprint, or broadcasting equipments are subjected to high additional duties in the Ethiopian context. These are all economic environments which directly affects the press freedom of the country not to play its role in human development of the nation. This is also similar in other African countries.

Ato Girum Abate and Samson Berhane both are editor-in-chiefs of the weekly private capital and Addis Fortune respectively have also shared similar opinion on the impact of economic variables of press freedom on human development by Medias' over dependence on the state, political parties, big business, or other influential political actors for funding.

In general all respondents said that press freedom has an impact on human development. And they manifested that economic environment has also impact on the nations human development. They have also justified their answer commonly that having good economic environment free of any intervention and pressure and media monopoly by the government and its influence on diversity of views has significant effect on growth of human development index.

Developed nations like USA and other western countries have good economic environment and press freedom and this has in turn positive effect for the well being of the society measured by human development index. The outcome of the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data indicates that economic variable has an impact on and human development index of sample east African countries. Therefore, both the regression and qualitative result support the hypothesis.

#### **4.2.2 Legal Environment**

Majority of respondents replied as the legal environment has significant impact to human development of the country since provisions of the laws in most African countries are designed to protect freedom of the press and of expression, and practically the judiciary is not independent and courts do not judge cases concerning the media impartially (Q. No.3 see appendix I). It is very difficult for individuals or business entities establish and operate private media outlets legally without undue interference. Moreover, media regulatory bodies, such as a broadcasting authority or national press or communications council are not able to operate freely and

independently. In General the prevailing legal environment does not freely support journalists' rights and interests. As a result of this they could not contribute what is expected from them to the human development like what we are observing now in developed nations.

The Respondents specifically answered as follows:

Program editor and senior journalist from EBC who claimed for anonymity reveal that the constitutions contain language that provides for freedom of speech and of the press. But state machineries (the judiciary) obstruct the implementation of laws designed to uphold these freedoms. Journalists especially from private press are regularly prosecuted or jailed as a result of what they write or broadcast. This shows that the legal environment of press freedom has highly influenced journalists not to exercise their profession freely. And finally will also have an impact on human development like education, health and wellbeing of the nation.

Masresha Fikre from Fana Radio on his part explained that there are journalists who always wrote the fact and there are also political activists who conveys political messages with the cover of journalism and incite the people against the government. The second type of journalists obviously could face imprisonment because of what they wrote. Rather, in some instances high-ranking state or government representatives contribute to a hostile environment for the press, for example by engaging in repeated animosity toward or negative verbal rhetoric against the media he said. There are laws guaranteeing access to government records and information. But practically access to information is very difficult for journalists. So From this the legal environment could have an impact on the media not exercise its role freely human development aspect. When we look at the environment of other East African countries it is all the same except Kenya and Uganda

Araya Getachew from Addis Zemen said that in Ethiopia there is press freedom in the legal framework but it is not realized practically. He further said that, as far as my knowledge, no one is exposed to prison by his article, he/she wrote on the paper if it is done based on facts and evidences. We have recent experience of being charged by government institution for the news we wrote on our newspaper. And the case was terminated by the plaintiff but the news story was written substantiated with adequate evidences. But we hear that certain private journalists, commentators, or bloggers are said to be imprisoned or subjected for other legal sanction as a result of accessing or posting material on the internet.

Molla Mitiku of the Ethiopian Herald disclosed that laws guaranteeing access to government records and information are available in the nation. But there is no enabling legislation and/or an administrative framework in place to make such laws usable in practice. Wakuma also confirms this opinion.

Solomon Goshu from the Reporter highlighted that there is no an independent regulatory body responsible for awarding licenses and distributing frequencies it is the state that control the allocations process. More over there is no adequate freedom to practice journalism, and professional groups are not seen to freely support journalists' rights and interests. Due to this fact the legal environment has an impact on human developments.

According to Kaleyesus Bekele, editor of the English Reporter, the judiciary is not independent practically and courts do not judge cases concerning the media impartially. Therefore legal environment of press freedom is explained by these factors. And these situations have an impact on human developments.

Girum Abate from capital news paper highlighted that basically the constitution and other basic laws contain provisions designed to protect freedom of the press and of expression but the question comes on their enforcement. Security laws like anti terrorism laws restrict reporting and journalists or bloggers would be subjected to serious punishment under these laws. All these legal environments are not conducive for free press especially for private medias like ours and daunt them to carry out effectively their eminent role on human development.

Samson Berhane from Addis Fortune discussed that the judiciary is not independent and courts do not judge cases concerning the media impartially. And he concluded that the legal environment has an impact on human development.

Regarding the environment of other East African countries all respondents have responded that the situation has no significant variation among these countries except Kenya and Uganda in a very little manner.

Therefore based on the analysis of the qualitative data unlike the output of the quantitative data legal variable has an impact on and human development. Therefore the qualitative result supports the hypothesis.

#### **4.2.3 Political Environment**

Key informants were asked to reflect their view as to whether they feel that political environment has any significant effect on human development index (Q. No.4 see appendix I). Majority of the respondents said "yes". They justify the following reasons for their answers. The media outlets' news and information content is determined by the government or a particular partisan interest, practically access to official or unofficial sources are controlled by governments. The presence of

censorship, limitations of media outlets to reflect a diversity of views, inability of local and foreign journalists to cover the news freely in terms of harassment and physical access. Moreover, journalists, bloggers, or media outlets are subject to extralegal intimidation or physical violence by state authorities or any other actor as a result of their reporting. Therefore in these countries, the media does not play its role in the human development aspect, unless the political environment is conducive to it. Some of them however replied that political condition or environment may not necessarily signify the presence of good human development index. They mentioned the case of China and some Asian countries as example for their answer. They said that, these countries have higher human development index with a lower rank of press freedom. This could be similar with the idea of Piappa (2006) mentioned in the research entitled as “The role of free press in promoting democratization, good governance and human development” he stated Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Malaysia as having good economic condition or their human development index is higher but their rank in press freedom is a beat lower. He specially mentioned the case in Singapore. In Singapore the People’s Action Party, founded and originally led by Lee Kuan Yew, and he has maintained its unbroken rule in government since 1959, despite a regular series of multiparty contests challenging their hegemonic status. One reason contributing to the ruling party’s predominance is their strong control of the press and news media, for example the leading newspaper of Singapore, the *StraitsTimes*, is often perceived as a propaganda newspaper because it rarely criticizes government policy, and it covers little about the opposition. The owners of the paper, Singapore Press Holdings, have close links to the ruling party and the corporation has a virtual monopoly of the newspaper industry.

Government censorship of journalism is common, using the threat or imposition of heavy fines or distribution bans imposed by the Media Development Authority, with these techniques also

used against articles seen to be critical of the government published in the international press, including *The Economist* and *International Times Herald Tribune*. Internet access is regulated in Singapore, and private ownership of satellite dishes is not allowed. Due to this record, the Reporters without Borders assessment of Press Freedom Worldwide in 2005 ranked Singapore 140th out of 167 nations (Pippa, 2006).

The key informants specifically answered as follows in regarding to the political environment:

According to Getachew, Molla and Wakuma media outlets' news and information content are not absolutely determined by the government or a particular partisan interest. Of course there is editorial direction or pressure from the authorities. But this government intervention as far as for the concern of development, we could take it granted positively they said. There are nations like china and Singapore, they are well developed, but the media is not free. What if it would be free, it can be said it would contribute more. Anyway the political environment has its own influential factor on press freedom and in turn will affect human development of the nation.

Solomon Goshu on his side said that activities of government—courts, legislature, officials, record are not open to the press. There is a 'culture of secrecy' among public officials that limits their willingness to provide information to media. Authorities of coarse hold regular press conferences but in most cases private media are excluded from information.

Kaleyesus Bekele disclosed that certain contentious issues, such as official corruption, the role of the armed forces or the political opposition, human rights, religion, have officially off-limits to the media. Journalists or bloggers could not pursue investigative news stories on issues such as corruption by the government or other powerful societal actors. We have seen Journalists or bloggers when they are subject to harassment, threats, abduction, expulsion, arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, or torture, as a result of their professional activities. Besides journalists are fled

the country or gone into hiding or exile to avoid such repercussions. As a result of this the political environments has its own influence on press freedom and this will eventually has an impact on human development of the country. They said that, this is also similar in other east African countries.

Masresha from Radio Fana elucidated that based on his observation journalists in FBC and EBC are subjected to editorial direction or pressure from the authorities or from owners. The media coverage is excessively partisan consistently taking either a pro-government line. In this case, the media could not play its major role in human development aspects.

A journalist from EBC also shared Masrewsha's idea and added that there is government editorial control and there is no editorial independence in state-run media like EBC. Some journalists were subjected to job loss because of what they write. Therefore, the media will have limitations with this kind of environment to freely write and contribute its role on human developments.

Girum Abate from Capital revealed his opinion that the activities of government—courts, legislature, officials, record are not open to the media. There is a 'culture of secrecy' among public officials that limits their willingness to provide information to media.

Samson Berahane on his part said that media outlets have no sufficient level of access to information for all journalists regardless of their media outlet's editorial line be it government or private. And the state practically influences access to unofficial sources (parties, unions, religious groups, etc.), particularly those that provide opposition viewpoints. Moreover, the public have no access to a diverse selection of print, broadcast, and internet-based sources of information that represent a range of political and social viewpoints.

These and other political environments would impair the press from providing information to the public to improve its level of awareness.

Taking into account most of the respondents reply and the regression result, political environment is considered as an essential element for increment of human development which has significant impact to improve human development index of the sampled east African countries. Thus, the hypothesis is supported.

## Chapter Five

### Conclusion and Recommendations

This chapter provides conclusion of the study followed by recommendations. Finally, suggested directions for further research are offered.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This study investigated the relationship of press freedom on countries' human development index using six east African countries with a data set covering five years period from the year 2011 to 2015. Based on the results of the descriptive statistics, correlation and regression analysis the researcher made the following conclusions.

Based on the descriptive statistics the average Human development index of east African countries is .464. Therefore the sample east African countries have human development index below 0.5.

The sample east African countries have average values of 19.43, 23.93, and 29.53 of economic, legal and political environments respectively (components of press freedom index). Their values range from minimum value of 14, 16, and 18 to maximum value of 24, 30, and 40 respectively.

The correlation analysis indicates that legal and political environment have one percent significant negative relationship with human development index where as economic environment has positively correlated with human development index of sample east African countries.

The regression result shows that economic environment has a significant effect on human development index. The qualitative analysis also confirmed the regression output.

Accordingly, the researcher concludes that economic environment positively influence sample east African countries human development index.

Though no statistically significant relation was found between legal environment and human development index, the qualitative analysis revealed that legal environment has an impact for improvement of human development index.

Political environment is negatively and significantly influences the human development index of sample east African countries. The higher the value of the political environment would result in less human development index and vice versa. This indicate that the degree of political control over the content of news media has significant impact with inversely proportional to the human development index. The result indicates the situation related to the editorial independence of both state-owned and privately owned outlets; access to information and sources; official censorship and self-censorship; the vibrancy of the media and the diversity of news available within each country; the ability of both foreign and local reporters to cover the news freely and without harassment; and the intimidation of journalists or bloggers by the state or other actors, including arbitrary detention and imprisonment, violent assaults, and other threats is higher. As a result such political environment of east African countries significantly affects their respective human development indices.

In general, the findings suggest that countries having press freedom could have better human development indices. Two of press freedom variables support the hypothesis by having significant impact on human development index of east African countries however the level of their significance varies from variable to variable. The study has achieved its objective by identifying the attributes that help to test the research hypothesis. This study, therefore, finds that libertarians' theory offers a generally good explanation of the associations between press freedom and human development which basically follow dictates if their consciences, seek truth,

engage in public debate and create a better life for themselves Strength of the free press theory lies.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

This study examined the impact of press freedom on human development index by taking evidence from selected east African countries. On the basis of the findings and conclusions reached, the following recommendations were forwarded.

- The study revealed that the higher the value of economic environment, the greater the impact on human development index. Countries having good economic environment are more likely to have better human development index. Thus, countries are expected to give much attention for the value of economic environment to be improved. Better economic environment is a conducive environment for enhancement of human development index.
- Regarding to legal environment mixed result was obtained. According to the regression result, legal environment has no significant impact on human development index of east African countries. Contrary to the regression result the qualitative analysis revealed that legal environment has an impact on human development. Anyway, these countries are recommended to give appropriate attention for improvement of legal environment to have significant impact on human development index.
- On the basis of the regression output and qualitative analysis, the Political environment negatively and significantly influences the human development index of sample east African countries. Thus, countries should do their best to develop the current political environment since it has an effect on the human development of their citizens.

### **5.3 Future Research**

By taking this study as a standing point, it could be possible to come up with a better insight and several extensions to this study. Considering the available time and resource, the outcome of this study can be more robust, if future researchers conduct a study on this area. First, by further increasing the study population and the sample size to cover many African countries and regions of the world and second, by taking evidence through increasing the number of observations and the use of large sample size and many years data.

Future research should address the limitations of this study. Several extensions to this study are possible. The focus of the study was on certain set of press freedom variables for their impact on human development index.

## References

- Abdulsamad A. (2008). *The Effect of Online Journalism on the Freedom of the Press: The Case of Kuwait*. University of sterling.
- Ahrend R. (2000). *Press Freedom, Human capital and Corruption. Delta Working paper 2002-11* .Delta,Paris
- Ansah, P. (1988). *In Search of a Role for the African Media in the Democratic Process. Africa Media Review*, 2, 1-16.144
- Anne Sophe N. (2006). *Press Freedom and Poverty*. UNESCO-CPHS Research Project
- Asante, C. (1997). *Press Freedom and Development*, London, Greenwood Press
- Becker, L., Vlad, T., & Nusser, N. (2007). *An evaluation of press freedom indicators. International Communication Gazette*, 69, 5-28.390
- Bryman, A. (2004). *Social Research Methods (2nd ed.)*. New York: Oxford University Press
- Burrowes, C. (1996). *Modernization and the decline of press freedom: Liberia 1984 to 1970. Journalism and Mass Communication Monographs*, 160.
- Carton-Rosser, M. & McGinley, J. A. (2006). *Alternative Media and the Learning Culture of Civil Society: Outreach and Teach Strategies. Interactions: UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies*, 2, 1-19.128,
- Chris, W. (1995). *Press Freedom and Political Development in Africa*: Michigan State University Press.

- Creswell JW (2003). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed method approaches*. Sage. Thousand Oaks. CA
- Denis,B. (2012).*Human Rights and Media in Uganda; A critical Analysis of Mass Media Freedom*. University of Goteborg. Sweden
- Dennis, E. & Merrill, J. (1996). *Media Debates: Issues in Mass Communication*, New York, Longman Publishers
- Doyle, K. (2004). *Handbook for IQP advisors and students: Introduction to Interviewing techniques, prepared for the interdisciplinary and global studies division, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA*.
- Ethiopian Constitution (1995) .*The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.1st year No 1 Addis Ababa—21st August 1995*. Addis Ababa: Birhanina Selam Printing Press.
- Freedom of the Press Proclamation No. 34/1992 Proclamation No.1 of 1987, *Negarit Gazetta*, vol.47, No.1, Addis Ababa, 12
- Freedom House (2014). *Freedom of the press*. Retrieved on May 25, 2017,from <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?year=2014>
- Githii, G. (1971) *Press Freedom in Kenya*. In stokke, o., agyemang, e. & afrikainstitutet
- Government of Kenya ( 2010) *Constitution of Kenya*. Nairobi: Government of Kenya
- Gujarati, D. (2004). *Basic econometrics (4th ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill
- Gunaratne, S.(2002). *Freedom of the Press. Gazette*, 64, 343-369.117,

- Gunaratne, S. (2005) *The Dao of the Press: A Humanocentric Theory*, New Jersey, Hampton Press,
- Hachten, W. (1999) *The World News Prism: Changing Media of International Communication*, Ames, Iowa, Iowa State University, <http://list.msu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind9612a&L=aejmc&P=4928>
- Hachten, W.(2005). *The Troubles of Journalism*, New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc
- Hai,T.,Mahmood, R., Du Y. & Khrapavitski, A. (2010),*Linking Measures of Global Press Freedom to Development and Culture: Implications from a Comparative Analysis*, International Journal of Communication, 5, 170–191
- Haq, M. (1995). *Reflections on human development*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Human Rights Watch (2014).*Human Rights Watch Report*. Retrieved May 21, 2017,from <http://www.Humanrightswatch.org>
- Human Rights Watch (2015). *Human Rights Watch Report*. Retrieved June 7, 2017, from <http://www.Humanrightswatch.org>
- Holtz-Bacha, C. (2011). Freedom of the press: Is a worldwide comparison possible and what is it good for? In M. E. Price, S. Abbott, & L. Morgan (Eds.), *Measures of press freedom and media contributions to development* (pp. 129–145). New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- IREX, (2008). *Media Sustainability Index (MSI)–Uganda 2008*, (online) available at: [http://www.irex.org/system/files/2-Africa\\_08\\_uganda.pdf](http://www.irex.org/system/files/2-Africa_08_uganda.pdf) (Accessed on 24.05.2017).
- James D. (1999). 'Voices of the Poor.' *Washington Post*, 10 November 1999, A39

- Kelley, D. & Donway, R. (1990). Liberalism and free speech. IN LICHTENBERG, J. (Ed.) *Democracy and the mass media*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press,
- Lieberman, J. (1953). *Restating the concept of freedom of press*. *journalism quarterly*, 30, 131-138.148
- Lerner, D. (1958). *The passing of traditional society: Modernizing the Middle East*. New York: Free Press.
- Lugalambi, G.(2010). *Amendments to press law will kill journalism*. *The New Vision Uganda leading Daily Newspaper*,(online) available at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/459/713867> (Accessed 06 .06.2017).
- Marina, G., Nakka, M.,Sophie, A., Pekkala, K., Souberou, B.& Stouch, S.(2008). *Press Freedom and Development:An analysis of correlations between freedom of the press and the different dimensions of development, poverty, governance and peace*. UNESCO, Paris France
- McQuail, D. (1987). *Mass Communication Theory: An Introduction*. London: Sage Publications
- McQuail, D.( 2005). *McQuail's Communication Theory*. 5th edition, London: Sage Publications
- Nam, S. & Oh, I. (1973). *Press Freedom: Function of Subsystem Autonomy, Antithesis of Development*. *Journalism Quarterly*, 50, 744-50.135,
- Negrine, R. (1994) *Politics and the Mass Media in Britain*, London, Routledge,

- Oso, L. (1988). *Press Freedom: Limits of a constitutional Provision (pp. 45-74) in Constitution Making and National Development*. Abeokuta: Ogun State MAMSER.
- Picard, R. (1985). *The Press and the Decline of Democracy*, London, Greenwood Press,
- Pippa N. (2006). *The role of free press in promoting democratization, Good Governance and Human Development: "Paper for the Midwest Political Science Association annual Meeting. World Press Freedom Day,"*20-22 April Chicago Palmer House
- Pratt, C. (1993). *Fallacies and Failures of Communication for Development: A Commentary on Africa South of the Sahara,*" *Gazette*, 52 (2): 93-107.
- Reporters Without Borders (2005). *Worldwide press freedom index*. Retrieved May 11, 2017, from [http://en.rsf.org/spip.php?page=classement&id\\_rubrique=549](http://en.rsf.org/spip.php?page=classement&id_rubrique=549)
- Reporters Without Borders (2015). *Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2015*. Retrieved May 12, 2017, from [http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id\\_rubrique=554](http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=554)
- Rogers, E. (1983). *Diffusion of Innovations*. New York: The Free Press.
- Rostow, W. (1960). *The stages of economic growth: A non-communist manifesto*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Schramm, W. (1964). *Mass media and national development*. Stanford: Stanford University Press
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books; T. Besley and R. Burgess. 2001. 'Political agency, government responsiveness and the role of the media.' *European Economic Review*. 45(4-6): 629-640.

- Sen, A. (2008). "Perspectives on the Economic Development of India and China", pp. 34-41 in Secondi, Giorgio (ed.), *The Development Economics Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Siebert, F., Peterson, T. & Schramm, W. (1956). *Four Theories of the Press*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Siebert, F., Peterson, T. & Schramm, W. (1984) *Four Theories of the Press* Chicago, University of Illinois Press,
- Steinar, K. & Svend, B. (2009). *Interviews: Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing*. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Publication.
- Stevenson, R. (2003). National development and communications. *Encyclopedia of International Media and Communications*, 3, 1–13.
- UNDP. (1990). *The human development report*. New York: United Nations Development Programme
- UNDP. (2011-2015). *Human Development Report: <http://undp.org.com> accessed on 22/05/2017* United Nations Development Programme
- UNESCO, (2008), *An analysis of correlations between freedom of the press and the different dimensions of development, poverty, governance and peace*, [http:// www.unesco.org/web world](http://www.unesco.org/web world)
- Weaver, D. (1977). The Press and Government Restriction: a Cross-national Study over Time. *Gazette*, 23, 152-170.147

## Appendix I: Research Questionnaire

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION  
MA PROGRAM  
Interview Questions**

Interview questions designed to gather data for research to conduct on the title of the *impact of Press Freedom on Human Development Index*. Its aim is only for educational value. So you are requested to respond genuinely.

**Thank you in advance for your cooperation!!!**

1. Do you believe that press freedom of a country affects human development index (education, life expectancy and gross national income per capita) of a country?

Yes /No

How? Please justify it-----  
-----  
-----  
-----.

2. Does economic environment (one of the component of press freedom index and which is explained according to Freedom House as the structure of media ownership; transparency and concentration of ownership; the costs of establishing media as well as any impediments to news production and distribution; the selective withholding of advertising or subsidies by the state or other actors; the impact of corruption and bribery on content; and the extent to which the economic situation in a country impacts the development and sustainability of the media) has significant impact on human development index of a country?
3. Does legal environment (one of the component of press freedom index and which is explained as according to Freedom House as the laws and regulations that could influence

media content and the government's inclination to use these laws and legal institutions to restrict the media's ability to operate, the penal code, and other criminal statutes; penalties for libel and defamation; the existence of ability to use freedom of information legislation; the independence of the judiciary and of official media regulatory bodies; registration requirements for both media outlets and journalists; and the ability of journalists' groups to operate freely) has significant impact on human development index of a country?

4. Does political environment (one of the component of press freedom index and which is explained according to Freedom House as the degree of political control over the content of news media. Issues examined include the editorial independence of both state-owned and privately owned outlets; access to information and sources; official censorship and self-censorship; the vibrancy of the media and the diversity of news available within each country; the ability of both foreign and local reporters to cover the news freely and without harassment; and the intimidation of journalists or bloggers by the state or other actors, including arbitrary detention and imprisonment, violent assaults, and other threats) has significant impact on human development index of a country?

5. Does press freedom have significant impact on knowledge of the population of a country in improving its expected year of schooling and mean year of schooling that is one of the dimension of human development index of a country?

Yes /No

Why? -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

6. Does press freedom have any significant effect on country's decent standard of living (Gross National Income per Capita (GNI per capita) one of the dimension of human development index of a country?

Yes /No

Give your reasons-----  
-----  
-----  
-----.

7. How do you evaluate the above questions in the context of East African countries specifically like Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Uganda and Eritrea?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Thank You Once Again!!!**  
**August, 2017**

## Appendix II: Diagnostic tests results for OLS Assumptions

**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.043	3	.014	16.566	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	.022	26	.001		
	Total	.065	29			

a. Dependent Variable: HDI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

b. Predictors: (Constant), POLIENV POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, ECONENV ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, LEGENV LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

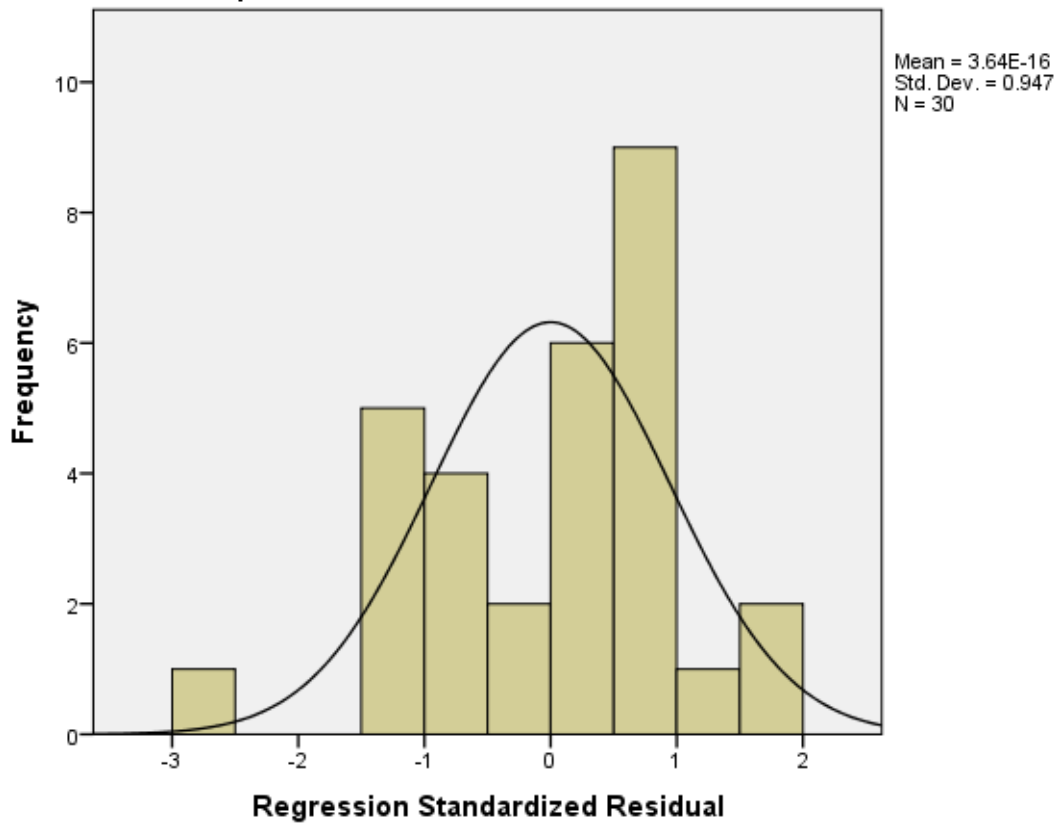
**Collinearity Diagnostics<sup>a</sup>**

Model	Dimension	Eigenvalue	Condition Index	Variance Proportions			
				(Constant)	ECONENV ECONOMIC ENVIRONM ENT	LEGENV LEGAL ENVIRONM ENT	POLIENV POLITICAL ENVIRONM ENT
1	1	3.952	1.000	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2	.031	11.244	.35	.06	.01	.04
	3	.015	16.062	.55	.79	.00	.01
	4	.001	51.675	.10	.15	.99	.95

a. Dependent Variable: HDI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

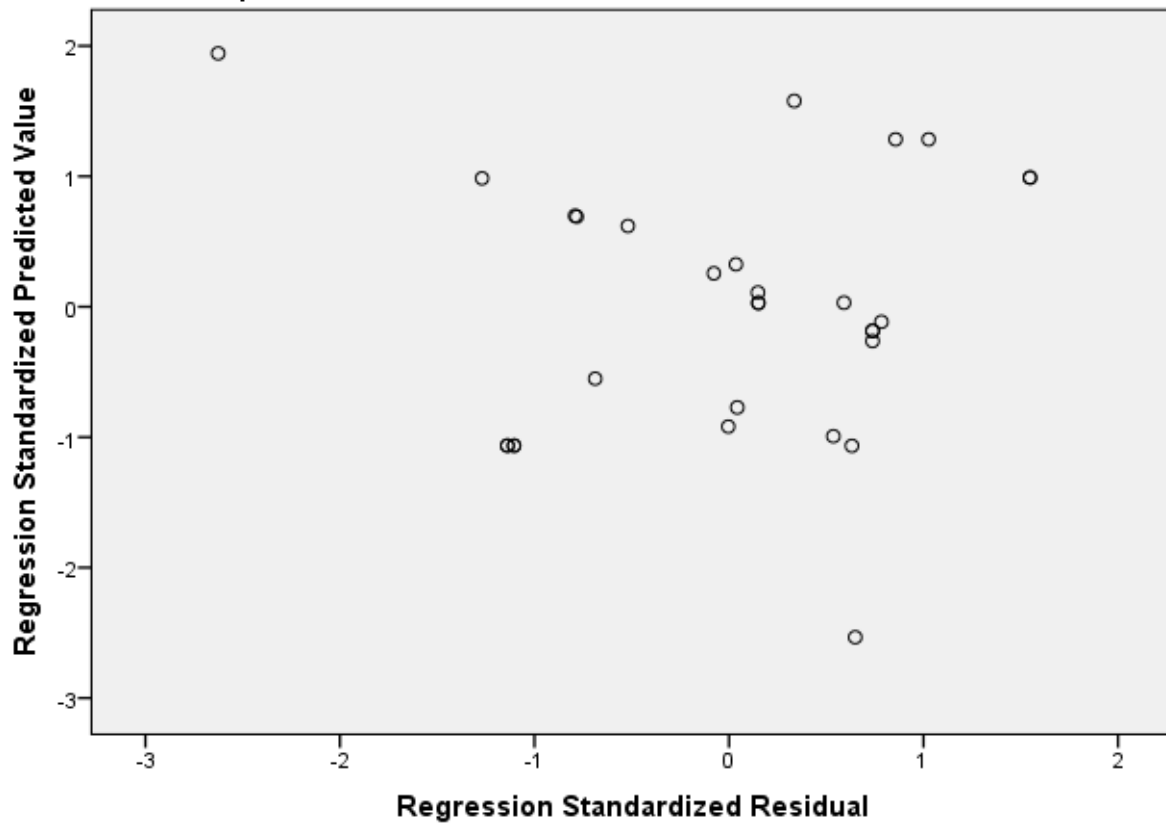
### Histogram

Dependent Variable: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



### Scatterplot

Dependent Variable: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



**Appendix III: List of informants (interviewed from August - September, 2017)**

No.	Name	Media	Position
1	Molla Mitiku	The Ethiopian Herald	Editor-In-Chief
2	Wakuma Kudama	The Ethiopian Herald	Deputy Editor-In-Chief
3	Araya Getachew	Addis Zemen	Deputy Editor-In-Chief
4	Informant 4	Addis Zemen	Editor
5	Informant 5	Addis Zemen	Editor
6	Kaleyesus Bekele	The Reporter	Editor ( English Version)
7	Solomon Goshu	The Reporter	Editor (Amharic Version)
8	Informant 9	Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation	Senior Program Editor
9	Masresha Fikre	Fana Broadcasting Corporation	Program Editor
10	Samson Berhane	Addis Fortune	Editor-In-Chief
11	Girum Abate	Capital	Editor-In-Chief