

The Contribution of Domestic Adoption in Minimizing the Vulnerability of Children:-
The Case of Addis Ababa City.

By:

Addis Alem

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of
Social Work (MSW) at the School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University

June 2016

Addis Ababa University

Addis Ababa

Letter of Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or institution and all source of material used for this thesis have been acknowledged.

Student name: Addis Alem

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Adviser: Dr. Tenagne Alemu

Signature: _____

Date : _____

Addis Ababa University

School of Graduate Study

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Addis Alem, entitled: The Contribution of Domestic Adoption in Minimizing of Vulnerable Children submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Degree Master of Social Work compile with the regulation of the university.

Signed by the Examined Committee

Examiner Finshiluot Jibessa Signature Jibessa Date June 20, 2016

Examiner _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Adviser _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Acknowledgment

The completion of this research paper could not have been achieved without the support of many people. To begin with, I need to assert my heartfelt appreciation to my advisor Dr, Tenagne Alemu, for the critical remarks from the early inception of this research all through the progress till the completion of the thesis. Thank you very much!! The successful completion of this thesis would be difficult without the assistance and intellectual guidance of my advisor. My Second deepest gratitude and love goes to my caring and loving husband Ato Bekalu Yibeltal who has always been with me in supporting and encouraging me to accomplish my study. Third I would like to thank all individuals who have supported me during the data collection. The staff of Addis Ababa women, youth and children bureau especially Ato Yonas Tesfaye who is the head of children department and Kalkidan shimels who is the children expert of the bureau incredible cooperative in the process of data collection. This study would not be accomplished on time without the help of them. My endless thanks go to my family, especially my brother Ato Adugna Lake for their encouragement and support throughout the study period. I thank you for your patience and advice. Finally, my special gratitude goes to all adoptive parents who voluntary participated in the in-depth interview. They expressed their good will to give the information they have as relevant to this study. Without their input, none of this would have been possible. Thank you all.

Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BWYC	Bureau of women, youth and children
CCAF	Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families
CSA	Central Statistics Authority
DoH	Department of Health
FHI	Family Health International
ICA	Inter Country Adoption
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOWYC	Ministry of women, youth and children
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
PIE	Person in Environment
PIU	Performance and Innovation Unit
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Program for HIV /AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund

Contents	Pages
Letter of Declaration.....	ii
Acknowledgment.....	iv
Acronyms.....	v
Chapter one: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Context of Children in Ethiopia.....	3
1.3 Statement of the Problem.....	6
1.4 Research Questions.....	8
1.5 Objectives of the Study.....	8
1.5.1 <i>Specific Objectives</i>	8
1.6 Significance of the Study.....	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study.....	9
Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature.....	10
2.1. Introduction.....	10
2.2. Global Overview of Vulnerable Children.....	10
2.3. The Situation of Vulnerable Children in Ethiopia.....	11
2.4. Mechanism for Solving the Problem of Vulnerable Children.....	12
2.4.1. <i>Adoption- Permanent Alternative Care</i>	14
2.4.2. <i>Foster Care</i>	15
2.5. The Impact of Adoption for Vulnerable Children.....	18
Chapter Three: Method.....	20
3.1. Research Method.....	20
3.2. Sample Selection and Description.....	21
3.3. Method of Data Collection.....	22
3.4. The Study Population.....	22
3.5. Sampling Techniques and sample size.....	22
3.6. Instrumentation/tools.....	23
3.6.1. <i>In-depth Interview</i>	23
3.6.2. <i>Observation</i>	24

CONTRIBUTION OF DOMESTIC ADOPTION	
3.7. Data Collection Procedure	25
3.8. Data Analysis	26
3.9. Ethical Considerations	26
Chapter Four: Findings	28
4.1 Background Information of Adoptive Parents	28
4.2 Pushing factors of Adoption for Adoptive parent/s/	31
4.2.1 <i>Childlessness/the need to have a child</i> -----	31
4.2.2 <i>Need to support a child</i> -----	32
4.2.3 <i>To have sex diversification in their family</i> -----	34
4.2.4 <i>Increase adoptive parents family size</i> -----	35
4.3 Challenges and Opportunities of Domestic Adoption	36
4.3.1 <i>Challenges of domestic Adoption</i> -----	36
4.3.2 <i>Opportunities of Adoption for Adoptive Parents</i> -----	40
4.4 Contribution of Domestic Adoption in Minimizing the Vulnerability of Children ...	41
Chapter Five: Discussion	44
5.1 Discussion of Selected Findings	44
Chapter Six: Conclusion, Implications and suggestion	48
6.1 Conclusion	48
6.2 Suggestion	49
6.3 Social work Implications.....	50
6.4 Implication for Further Research	50
Refferences	51
Appendixes	54
Appendix one: Consent form	54
Appendix Two: In-Depth Interview Guide for Adoptive parents	55
Appendix Three: In-depth interview guide for key informant.....	57
Appendix four: Observation checklist for adopted children	59

Abstract

Children vulnerability in Ethiopia in general, Addis Ababa in particular increases from time to time due to various reasons such as death of their biological parent's by diseases, war, famine, unwanted pregnancy and poverty. When children face such problems, using different methods to support those vulnerable children like community-based support, foster care, inter country adoption, institutional care and domestic adoption can minimize the vulnerability of children. Therefore, the study was conducted to assess the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing children vulnerability in Addis Ababa. The overall objective of the study was to investigate the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the Vulnerability of children in Addis Ababa city. The study used both primary and secondary information. The primary information was collected from 10 domestic adoptive parents and 3 governmental and non-governmental organizations experts/key informants/ using in-depth interview and observation of the general situations of the adoptive children. The Finding indicated that the main pushing factor for adopting children were childlessness, need to support a child, the need to have a diversified sex and to increase the adoptive parent/s/ family size. The participants of the study revealed that local households have recognized the importance of domestic adoption over inter country adoption as it helps the adopted children to be raised within the environment and culture. Findings of this study showed that domestic adoption have significant contribution in minimizing vulnerability of children.

Key words: Contribution, Domestic adoption, Vulnerability, Adoptive parents, Adopted children.

Chapter one: Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

All observers of the field of adoption are aware of the recent political initiative to promote the greater use of adoption as a solution to the care of children who cannot live with their birth families (Performance and Innovation Unit, 2000). This drive has been welcomed in many quarters, and can be considered relatively uncontroversial in relation to children who have lingered uncertainly, and for far too long, in the care system. Every effort must clearly be made to expedite the secure Placement of these children. However, this strong preference for permanence via adoption has also excited debate on the grounds that not all children need the same solution. There may be ‘children who wait’, but they may not be waiting specifically for adoption. Many older children, for example, may not be best placed in adoptive parent and other forms of permanent care may be more suitable (Rushton, 2014).

There are various ways of measuring vulnerability across countries and there is no precise total number of vulnerable children, yet approximations related to specific types of vulnerability attest to the magnitude of the problem. According to USG (2009), 428 million children age 0-17 years live in extreme poverty, 150 million girls have experienced sexual abuse, 2 million children live in institutional care, and 218 million children engage in various forms of exploitative labor. The conditions faced by these children are exacerbated by deeply entrenched poverty, poor access to healthcare, increased vulnerability to diseases that include HIV, and other material and non-material deprivation (Richter, 2004). Few problems deserve attention more than stopping the abuse of vulnerable children, yet this area

remains in great need of more reliable data. For example, UNICEF estimates that anywhere between 500 million and 1.5 billion children endure violence each year. Such uncertainty is the result of the hidden nature of much abuse, but it also suggests many countries have little idea what may be happening across their populations. Advocates for children and the media have helped advance understanding, even as experts struggle to formulate evidence-based policies. Recent attention has focused on changing international adoption policies and disputes, and the ongoing plight of AIDS orphans, but more knowledge is still required at a fundamental level (Richter, 2004).

The number of children impacted by inter country adoption (ICA) has increased rapidly since 1980, with an estimated annual 45,000 children being adopted overseas by 2004. ICA involves the legal transferring of parental rights and obligations from one family and country to another, and is governed by international and national laws. Debates about the ethical global practices of ICA are evident in official and popular discourse, specifically in relation to whether ICA conforms to particular child-centered practices (Bernal, 2003). Exploration of the broader ethical issues surrounding ICA is foundational when considering potential impacts of development initiatives linked to ICA. Advocates of ICA draw attention to the physical and emotional morbidities for orphaned, abandoned or relinquished children who lack the as familial and cultural identity (Gair, 2010). It is debated whether it is ethical to remove a child from their place of birth or not. In addition, concerns are raised about the inherent risks of corruption, trafficking and co-modification of children (Shura, 2010).

1.2 Context of Children in Ethiopia

Strong cultural values exist in caring for vulnerable members of the community, but the sheer scale of orphaned children within a country of limited resources is significant. According to MOH and ICACTP (2006), 48 percent of the population is aged less than fifteen years (MOH & ICACTP 2006). In 2005, it was estimated that there were five million maternal-orphans, paternal-orphans or double-orphans (MoWA, FHI & UNICEF, 2010, Haile, 2008). Ten percent of children under eighteen years do not live with their parents (MoWA, FHI & UNICEF, 2010), with around 77,000 child-headed households which is the second highest number in Africa (Haile, 2008). Many children survive on the streets (Haile, 2008) or live in residential institutions (Salam, 2004). In 2001, there were roughly 150,000 to 200,000 street children in Ethiopia with an additional 1,000,000 at high risk of becoming so (Chernet 2001).

Numerous factors contribute to the significant number of unaccompanied children with primary reasons being HIV/AIDS, famine, extreme poverty and unwanted pregnancy as well as tuberculosis, malaria, maternal mortality and migration (MoWA, FHI & UNICEF 2010).

Although many more children are orphaned through other causes, HIV/AIDS is escalating the numbers significantly (Phiri & Webb, 2002 Salaam, 2004). With 4.8 percent of Ethiopia's adult population with HIV/AIDS (MOH & ICACTP 2006), it was anticipated HIV/AIDS would be the cause of 1.8 million orphans in 2010 (Haile, 2008) and 2.1 million by 2014 (Chernet, 2001).

Chambers discusses factors impacting on the capacity to provide for children. Sickness of any sort within the 'poverty ratchet' can cause, or escalate, other issues of vulnerable and may be the catalyst for family disintegration. The 'poverty ratchet' is described by Chambers as the interrelatedness of isolation, powerlessness, vulnerability, physical weakness and poverty. When sick caregivers lose the capacity to work, economic stress, homelessness, neglect and hunger may result. Children taking care of sick parents and undertaking adult domestic chores may be unable to attend school (Hunter & Williamson).

Ethiopia has traditional social systems providing for orphaned and vulnerable children, including informal adoption, although adoption as an officially recognized practice did not occur until 1960 (MoWA, FHI & UNICEF, 2010). Around eighteen percent of Ethiopian families care for at least one unaccompanied child, despite this increasing the poverty of that household (Phiri & Webb, 2002). However, there are claims that children in informal foster-care do not receive an equal standard of care, and experience exploitation, lack of schooling, hunger and sexual abuse (Salam, 2004). Many others are cared for by elderly and poor extended families that are unable to provide education, adequate food or clothing.

The number of unaccompanied children has become more than what can be absorbed by the community following the two large droughts in the 1980s which orphaned or separated 73,339 children from family (Chernet, 2001). This led to an increased use of institutionalized care with 21,000 children residing in 106 institutions (Chernet 2001; MoWA, FHI & UNICEF, 2010). In addition, decades of civil conflict is attributed with the displacement of 451,346 Children returning from Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti in the 1990s (Chernet, 2001).

As a recent Ethiopian study showed, authorities, staff and community held positive perceptions of institutionalized care, despite orphanages being crowded, lacking in financial resources and facilities, and the children suffering discrimination, abuse, exploitation and psychosocial problems. This perception is thought to be a contributing factor in the limited development of alternative care options (MoWA, FHI & UNICEF, 2010).

Girls separated from families face high risk of sexual exploitation. This may lead to unplanned and unsupported pregnancy and/or risks of contracting HIV, which may in turn lead to the young mother abandoning or relinquishing her child, or her child becoming orphaned. The majority of child domestic workers in Ethiopia are orphans (Salam 2004). Mabala claims 96 percent of 10 - 14 year old girls living in Addis Ababa have come from other areas for domestic work, many having been trafficked, and average working 62 hours a week for around \$US8 per month (2006). Exploitive working conditions for girls is linked to 15 - 16 times more girls aged 15 – 19 years becoming infected with HIV, than boys of that age (Mabala, 2006). Paternal or maternal orphans may be a significantly affected as double orphans, particularly where females lack equality in land rights and assets (Hunter & Williamson,2008). This may lead to widows having no home and no means to support children, -potentially leading to relinquishment or abandonment.

In 1986-1990 the government undertook a large-scale reunification program for children(Salaam, 2004) and closed all but three government orphanages. However there are an increasing number of NGO and faith-based orphanages (MoWA, FHI & UNICEF, 2010). Given the positive perception of orphanages, children *with* families may become

institutionalized when caregivers are unable to provide for their basic needs (Salaam, 2004). It is thought that 75 percent of institutionalized children in Ethiopia have known relatives (Salaam, 2004). As to Graff (2010), although the intention of ICA is providing families as an alternative to institutionalization, there have been reports of increasing numbers of institutionalized children with ICA programs. But domestic adoption is also another alternative way of child care which enables children to live with adoptive parents with same cultural environment and norms. Thus, this study explored the multidimensional contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Vulnerability of children increases from time to time due to various reasons such as death of biological parent's by HIV/AIDS and malaria, war, famine, complications related to early marriage and so on. When children face such problems, using different methods to support those vulnerable children like community based support, foster care, inter country adoption, institutional care and domestic adoption can minimize the vulnerability of children (Rosalyn, 2013).

In Ethiopia, there are a number of children who are not living with their root families. Some are living with adoptive parents, while others are living in orphanages and many of them of course are living in streets (Chernet, 2001).

People especially women immigrate to Addis Ababa City from different regions of Ethiopia to search a better life. They are usually exposed to unwanted pregnancy which forces them to leave their new born children into the street as a result of extreme poverty.

Furthermore, children immigrate to the city either by their own or by child traffickers and finally exposed to street life. During this time they will not have a family who guard them, they are under age. Therefore they are be exposed to different types of addictions, they can sometimes commit crime, they are attacked psychologically, emotionally, socially, physically, economically. Due to this the number of vulnerable children in Addis Ababa city to increase(Chernet,2001)

There are totally 28 orphanages established by the government and private humanitarians in Addis Ababa. A total of 2,000 vulnerable children are under the support of these orphanages.. In addition, both ICA and domestic adoption are also practiced so as to minimize their vulnerability. Though it is thought that domestic adoption is advantageous to the wellbeing of children, most of the people in the society prefer growing their child with low or no income. Instead of letting them stay their lifespan as vulnerable, children could have a probability of growing well if they were handled by adoptive parents. Adoption especially domestic adoption has a great contribution in lessening the number of vulnerability of these children. Most family are not willing to give their children to be adopted locally, they prefer inter country adoption. Because they assume their children will grow well when foreigners handle them. Despite the fact that domestic adoption has numerous roles in dwindling the number of vulnerable children in the society, Its contribution in diminishing the number of vulnerable children is not well assessed(Addis Ababa women youth and children bureau 2014 annual report).

Thus, this study tried to address the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children in Addis Ababa city.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the factors pushing adoptive parents to adopt children?
2. What are the challenges and opportunities of being domestic adoptive parent/s/?
3. What are the contributions of domestic adoption in minimizing vulnerability of children?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study was to investigate the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the Vulnerability of children in Addis Ababa city.

1.5.1. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were:

- To identify the main pushing factors for adoptive parents to adopt children
- To identify the challenges and opportunities of domestic adoption for adoptive parents.
- To assess the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Governmental and non-governmental organizations could use the information generated from this research to formulate appropriate policies and strategies that can minimize the challenges of domestic adoption and use the existing opportunities to motivate domestic

adoption to minimize children vulnerability. Identification of the main pushing factors for adoptive parents to adopt children and assessing the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children can both help policy makers to revise and design appropriate strategies and programs of domestic adoption, which enable children to be raised in a culture they accustomed to and hence reduce their vulnerability. The study could also provide the necessary information households in the city about the role of domestic adoption in minimizing children vulnerability and could motivate them to adopt children. Further more, the result of this research can serve as a stepping – stone and a source of information to other researches which will be conducted in the city on domestic adoption and related topics.

1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study was made in Addis Ababa City. Even though the problem is nationwide, the study was restricted only to Addis Ababa City and did not include other areas of Ethiopia where similar problems exist. Basically the scope of the study is the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children in Addis Ababa city. This is mainly due to limited availability of resources and time to undertake the study at a wider scale.

Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature

2.1. Introduction

In this study, the major focuses are on the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children. The introduction part discusses the global overview of vulnerable children, The situation of vulnerable children in Ethiopia, mechanism for solving the problem of vulnerable children and finally Impact of domestic adoption for vulnerable children were discussed.

2.2. Global Overview of Vulnerable Children

The varied ways in which vulnerability is measured across countries means that precise counts of the world's total number of vulnerable children do not exist. Yet approximations related to specific types of vulnerability attest to the magnitude of the problem: 428 million children age 0–17 years live in extreme poverty, 150 million girls have experienced sexual abuse, 2 million children live in institutional care, and 218 million children engage in various forms of exploitative labor(USG, 2009). The conditions faced by these children are exacerbated by deeply entrenched poverty, poor access to healthcare, increased vulnerability to diseases that include HIV, and other material and non-material deprivation (Richter,2004). Few problems deserve attention more than stopping the abuse of vulnerable children, yet this area remains in great need of more reliable data. For example, UNICEF estimates that anywhere between 500 million and 1.5 billion children endure violence each year. Such uncertainty is a result of the hidden nature of vulnerability in the society, but it also suggests many countries have little idea what may be happening across their populations. Advocates for children and the media have helped advance understanding, even as experts struggle to formulate evidence-based policies. Recent attention has focused on changing

international adoption policies and disputes, and the ongoing plight of AIDS orphans, but more knowledge is still required at a fundamental level(Richter, 2004)..

For children living outside the care of biological parents particularly in the developing world, neglect, discrimination and malnutrition affect orphans more commonly than their non-orphaned peers. Researches have shown that such children are more likely to go to bed hungry and to be exploited and less likely to be enrolled in school. Increasing urbanization in the developing world aggravate all these problems(Richter, 2004).

The HIV epidemic has revealed a broad range of vulnerabilities faced by children and their families. Such vulnerabilities are especially apparent in sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for the highest HIV prevalence in the world combined with structural risk factors, including high poverty rates, low life expectancy, high infant and child mortality, and low education levels, particularly among women and girls (World Bank, 2007).

2.3. The Situation of Vulnerable Children in Ethiopia

The population in Ethiopia is generally characterized by a very young structure, with children below age 18 years accounting to 52% of the national population. Children below age 15 represent 44% of the national population. The number of children living in difficult circumstances is noted to be significant due to social, economic, political as well as cultural factors (MOLSA, 2005). It is currently estimated that there are about 4.6 million orphans, out of which about 1 million have lost their parents due to AIDS (UNICEF, 2004). Many studies indicated that there are at least 100,000 street children in Ethiopia (about 25% are girls). UNICEF's projected estimate puts the figure to 185,000 in 2003 (UNICEF, 2001). Children with disabilities account for 51%, out of the estimated 4.9 million persons with some impairment in the country

(NPA, 2004). It is to be noted that there is also a large number of Ethiopian children who are in conflict with the law, children working in hazardous conditions, displaced and refugee children(Ethiopia alternative childcare guidelines, 2009).

Ethiopia has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and designed favorable policies and national plans to address the plights of children. However, the emphasis directed to mitigate the problems of children living under difficult circumstances still requires much more effort from all concerned actors. In this regard, various governmental and non-governmental organizations are making efforts to support children in general and children under difficult circumstances in particular through different modes of care and services(Ethiopia alternative childcare guidelines, 2009).

In 2007, MOLSA estimated the number of children living on and off the streets at around 150,000, with about 60,000 living in Addis Ababa. The root causes of the problem were identified as poverty, family disintegration, neglect and violence at home, lack of educational opportunity, death of parents and sexual abuses.

2.4. Mechanism for Solving the Problem of Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children were asked to identify the main difficulties encountered in their lives. On top of their list was getting food, followed by lack of money, inability to go to school, lack of safe shelter, and limited access to medical care when they were sick and physical and sexual abuse.

However, the majority of the children pointed out that their adult neighbors and other community members had responded positively and sympathetically to their situation. This is why extended families and communities are on the front line of the national response to the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children, and the government promotes community-based solutions rather than institutional care for children.

Kinship care is “the full time nurturing and protection of children who must be separated from their parents by relatives, members of their tribes, clans, godparents, stepparents or other adults who have a kinship bond with a child,” (Testa & Rolock, 1999). Despite the difficulties, the extended family safety net is still the most effective response to economic and social crisis throughout sub-Saharan Africa where an estimated 90% of orphaned children in households live with extended family members including aunts, uncles, grandparents, and other relatives (Miller, 2006). Madhavan (2004) also explains that extended family members have fostered children for a variety of reasons including the deaths of mothers in childbirth, for youth to gain access to education, and so that children can be used for domestic labor (Madhavan, 2004). The tradition of fostering by extended families continues today and is a vital coping mechanism in nations with high HIV prevalence and growing orphan populations (Miller, et al, 2006). Some authors also underline that kinship care should be defined from a family preservation perspective because it is then that it will recognize the positive influence of family bonds or ties on the child’s growth and development (Child Welfare League of America, 2000).

Foster (2004) reports that members of the extended families assist each other socially, economically, psychologically, and emotionally. They also provide shelter and emotional, educational, spiritual and moral support (Maundeni, 2009). Traditionally, kinship systems emphasized sibling bonds, provided a sense of belonging, and gave support and security to members by sharing the little they had. Tshitswana (2003) posits that the extended family was the traditional social security system. Members were responsible for the protection of the vulnerable, care for those who were sick and poor and transmission of social values and education to children in particular.

The advantage of extended family fostering is that it is culturally acceptable and assumed to be sustainable throughout a child's development, partially because communities will band together to support these households (Deininger, Garcia & Subbarao, 2003). In most cases, children can find stability, love, and emotional support in relatives' homes. Even though Tshitswana (2003) argues that the extended family is the best first line of response to the orphan crisis and should be supported and encouraged to continue, she does acknowledge that the extended family has been stretched beyond its capacity and in many instances is no longer coping.

Besides changing extended family structures, research has indicated that children who are taken in by the extended families are mistreated, abused and exploited (Foster, 2004). The Rapid assessment on the Situation of Orphans (1998) identified girls between the ages of 15-18, who had been sexually abused and some had fallen pregnant and dropped out of school. In most cases, such abuse is inflicted by care givers who are supposed to protect and care for these children. Circumstances such as these facing the girl child no doubt expose her to a greater risk of HIV infection. In addition, caregivers also burden orphaned children with domestic chores which may preclude their attendance at school (Jacques, 2003). This infringes on their right to education.

2.4.1. Adoption- Permanent Alternative Care

The process of social change due to industrialization, urbanization and assimilation of western values has given way to social, cultural and economic changes that challenge the capacity of many families and communities to provide the necessary care and support to children (Jacques, 2003). As a result,

traditional methods of maintaining social cohesion and caring for the needy are breaking down and the responsibility of looking after children is increasingly becoming the pressure of the individual parent (Central Statistics Office, 1987). Children are those most adversely affected by social change since they need care and a sense of security.

Adoption in many African countries is homogeneous. Bean (1984) argues that in Africa, adoption takes place mainly among relatives. As a result of this, Pakati (1994) maintains that in Africa, adoption will not escape the customs, traditions and beliefs even if societies are developing. Since many families in Africa are faced with poor economic circumstances people find it difficult to extend help to others outside their familial relationships (Pakati, 1994). However, this notion is changing. People are now adopting non-related children and may even engage in inter-country adoption. The Organization of African Unity (1990) stressed that States that recognize the system of adoption have to ensure that the best interest of the child is the paramount consideration. Article 24 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child pointed out that States that recognize the system of adoption “should establish competent authorities to determine matters of adoption and ensure that the adoption is carried out in conformity with applicable laws and procedures and on the basis of all relevant and reliable information....” (OAU, 1990)

2.4.2. Foster Care

The UN Guidelines refer to foster care as: Foster care: situations where children are placed by a competent authority for the purpose of alternative care in the domestic environment of a family other than the children’s own family that has been selected, qualified, approved and supervised for providing such care.” The Guidelines also go on to provide information as to the importance of clear procedures, oversight

and support of children and caregivers involved in foster care. The competent authority or agency should devise a system, and should train concerned staff accordingly, to assess and match the needs of the child with the abilities and resources of potential foster careers and to prepare all concerned for the placement. A pool of accredited foster careers should be identified in each locality that can provide children with care and protection while maintaining ties to family, community and cultural group. (Alternative Care of Children, United Nations, NY, February, 2010, April 21, 2010)

Foster (2004) argued that, family members who provide fostering are most likely to act in the best interest of the child. Moreover, the author reports that children who are fostered are easily integrated into the society than children in residential facilities. As opposed to children in residential facilities, fostered children are exposed to an environment that enables them to be developed both psychologically and intellectually (Foster, 2004).

Foster care, however, can expose children to discrimination, abuse and mistreatment (Foster, 2004). In addition, children can have issues with separation and attachment. Interfering with their emotions can be damaging to them. It is worth noting that No matter how badly neglected or endangered children maybe while living with their natural parents, removing them from their homes carries its own set of risks and may burden them with additional emotional baggage (University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development, 1998). Some literature also argues that children in foster care experience identity problems, conflicts of loyalty and anxiety about the future. However, benefits of foster care outweigh the challenges of foster care. Inter country adoption programs have a moral obligation to support *developing* countries from which children are adopted, where poverty is the prevalent cause of children being orphaned or otherwise

separated from families. If the 'best-interests of children' are the guiding principles, then ICA practices should work towards children remaining in well-supported birth-families, or quality family-based care within Ethiopia (Petersen, 2011).

Various countries have respective responsible bodies to deal with such daunting challenges of different forms. For example, in Ethiopia the Ministry of Women's Children and Youth Affairs (MWCYA) Child Right Promotion and Protection Directorate is responsible for all activities with regard to children in the nation. It has predominantly focused on advocating a number of aspects revolving around children including welfare, foster care, domestic adoption, international adoption and investigation of neglect and abuse.

According to CSA 2012, Ethiopia has a total population of 84.3 million. Out of which 55.5 % are children. Also the 2011 Demographic Health survey (DHS), in 2012 orphan children take 18 % of the total population. This is only orphans who lost either one or two of their parents. When we add vulnerable children in the streets, labor exploited and sexually abused ones as well as children in child headed households to the large orphan population the number becomes very high.

The other mechanism is local and inters country adoption. Local adoption "Gudifecha" is a very good indigenous value that provides the society with opportunity to take care of its own vulnerable children. Through this mechanism, children can grow up in their familiar surrounding and culture and value they know well. Usually it is done by taking or picking a child of own relative and raising in one's own home. However, the traditional adoption doesn't safeguard the right of the adopted child as the biological one especially in terms of inheritance. What the Ministry is trying to do is making the good traditional way formal reinforcing legal mechanisms that will safeguard and give the child full right. Because of the raised

awareness level, the number of legal local adoption agencies is increasing from time to time in the country.

2.5. The Impact of Adoption for Vulnerable Children

Adoptive parents come to the adoption decision for many different reasons. Some adopt because of infertility, and adoption is their alternative way to grow their family, others adopt in order to add to their family, to help a specific child, or for social justice reasons. Humans have a basic need to feel they are individually whole, yet part of a whole. For the adopted this can be difficult. Often adoptees feel they do not belong (Kirschner). It is very lonely and isolating to feel different from those you should feel the closest to, your family. Edin Lipinski, M.D., brings insight to these feelings.

In an existential sense, the past is an important to adopted people as their future. It is the present that is most troublesome. Not knowing where they fit into the spectrum of happenings is a great problem for them. Adoption is a life event that changes the identity of the parties as well as the identity of the involved families. Sometimes, adoptive parents are slow to adjust to their new identity, or they wonder what expectations accompany the new identity.

Adoptive parenthood, like other types of parenthood, can bring tremendous joy and a sizable amount of stress. This factsheet explores some of the emotional ups and downs that adoptive parents may experience as they approach the decision to adopt, during the adoptive process, and, most importantly, after the adoption. While every adoption is unique and every parent has different feelings and experiences, there are some general themes that emerge regarding adoptive parents' emotional responses. The purpose of the factsheet is to identify some of these themes, affirm the common feelings, and provide links to resources that may help adoptive parents manage emotional issues related to adoption.

Adoption is a lifelong commitment, and adoption-related issues may arise at any point in parents' or their child's lifetime. A willingness to learn about the issues and to be open to seeking support if necessary can help to ensure that parents and children experience happy and healthy family lives.

An adoption involves many parties, including the child, birth parents, adoptive parents, agency workers and attorneys. Birth parents and adoptive parents must navigate their state's laws and adoption procedures, while coping with uncertainty. Though the adoption process may sometimes become stressful or difficult, child adoption also includes positive effects. Adoption can create emotional, social and financial changes for families. Hence the effect of adoption is not such limited. It is also the mechanism to cope up problems related to vulnerability. Beyond this, the contribution of adoption exclusively the domestic adoption is not assessed well in various researches. Therefore, the major concern of the ongoing research is to find out the contribution of domestic adoption (Edin Lipinski).

Therefore, the main question left unanswered is: what are the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children? The present study will addressed this basic question.

Chapter Three: Method

This chapter presents the method employed to guide the study, research design, study participants, data collection tools and data analysis techniques. The overall data collection procedure of the study is discussed in detail in this part of the chapter. The chapter further tells the process of data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.1. Research Method

This research uses qualitative method from the qualitative research this study uses case study with the belief that it provides the most appropriate way to address to the proposed research questions. The researcher believes that qualitative research method is more appropriate than quantitative method for this particular study due to various reasons. The first reason for employing a qualitative method is due to the nature of the issue to be investigated. In order to explore the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children, It was planned to gather detailed information using unstructured interview guide and other multiple data sources. In order to collect detailed information and understand the research problem or topic better, qualitative data is better than the quantitative one. Qualitative method also helps to have a holistic view of the phenomenon under study (Creswell, 2007). So in order to understand the overall issue of contribution of domestic adoption, qualitative method is believed to gather detail information relevant in relation to addressing the research questions.

Kruger and Neuman (2006) distinguished that qualitative research focuses on the practice that is taking place as well as the product or outcome and are interested in understanding how things occur. In

relation to this qualitative method explores the feelings, experiences, understandings and knowledge of others through interviews, observations, discussions and rewards the researcher by offering an in-depth understanding of a particular topic, rather than presenting mere numerical representation of the fact.

However, depending on first hand information, the study aims to have the detailed understanding and description of the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children.

3.2. Sample Selection and Description

The subjects of the study were children who have been adopted domestically and their adoptive parents who had adopted vulnerable children. All the subjects of the study were residents of Addis Ababa City. The selections of the subjects were made purposefully. The source of data about subjects was Addis Ababa City Women, Children and Youths Bureau. Additional data about the contribution of domestic adoption were obtained from adoptive parents, experts employed in government and non-governmental organizations who were working in the area of children and adoption.

The participants were selected with non-probability sampling design. To gather relevant data, those who were considered as knowledgeable about the topic were selected. Non-probability Sampling Methods, that is judgmental sampling, was used because the adoptive parents and employees of the Government bureau and NGO experts were the only sources who could provide sufficient and accurate information for the study.

3.3. Method of Data Collection

To conduct an effective research, accurate and reliable data are very important. Therefore, the necessary information was collected through different methods of data collection. In the study both primary and secondary source of data were used. To enable the collection of primary data unstructured/informal/ interview were used to the adoptive parents and employees of the concerned government bodies and NGOs and also non participatory observation was made on the adopted children. Alongside with the interview and observation as a source of data, books, journals, articles and reports were exploited to strengthen both the methodological as well as argument basis of the present study.

Qualitative research relies on methods that permit researchers into the personal lives of the participants. To facilitate this process, flexible and various data collection instruments are required (Parahoo, 2006). Accordingly, data were collected through interview and observation as instruments to uncover the reality of the research problem posed.

3.4. The Study Population

This study was focused on children who were adopted by domestic adoptive parents via Addis Ababa Women, Youth and Children Bureau. A list of Adopted children and their adoptive parents who had been registered with their full address were taken from the bureau and assessed. According to the data obtained from the annual report of the bureau (2014), 402 domestic adoptive parents adopt 485 children.

3.5. Sampling Techniques and sample size

This study used non-probability Sampling Methods that is judgmental sampling technique. It is

characterized by the use of judgment and a deliberate effort to obtain by including presumably typical areas or groups in the sample.

This study was focused on children who were adopted by domestic adoptive parents via Addis Ababa Women, Youth and Children bureau. A list of Adopted children and their adoptive parent/s/ who had been registered with their full address were taken from the bureau and assessed. For this research a total of ten domestic adoptive parents, three key informants were interviewed and ten children were observed.

3.6. Instrumentation/tools

Instruments used to conduct the research were interview, observation and document review.

3.6.1. In-depth Interview

In-depth Interview is a common method of data collection in qualitative research. Each question is clear to the respondent, free of suggestion and use correct grammar (Whittemore & Grey, 2006). Accordingly, the researcher administered an in-depth interview through interview guide, and the interview guide comprised of open-ended and Semi-structured questions, which were driven from research questions. It allowed the researcher to have a framework in which necessary open-ended questions were posed to encourage the participants to talk freely about their experiences in their own words and semi-structured questions were used to obtain detail information from participants about the research problems posed. The in-depth interview was conducted through interview guide and administered for 10 adoptive parents. For proper management and analysis of the data and to establish coherent flow of ideas, the interview conducted with the adoptive parent/s/ were tape recorded and I also took field notes on my daily field work experience. Following the completion of data collection, audio materials were transcribed and translated in

to English since interview was conducted in Amharic.

With regard to the structure of analysis, the data collected from the interviews, the observation and literature reviews were categorized thematically. This was then broken down into sub-themes and concrete concepts. After identifying major themes and sub themes, category numbers were given to each raw data. The raw data were then distributed to the already identified thematic areas based on similar contents and finally I summarized the data. It is by drawing on these major themes that I lastly carried out the analysis.

During analysis, all major themes and sub themes were discussed in detail in line with each objective of the study. I tried to maintain consistency throughout the entire paper by organizing the main themes in to three, i.e., based on objectives and the sub themes under their respective major themes. In doing so, I made a continuous visit and revisit to the original raw data to see new clues and check if there are missed themes. The interview took place in adoptive parent/s/ house and also took 30 – 45 minutes.

3.6.2. Observation

It is the scientific data collection instrument and an important sources of data in many areas of investigation and serving for a useful purpose in adding knowledge to fields researchers intended to carry out observation method systematically through non participant group observation. It was administered by the researcher through observation check list. both the interview and other related activities gave the researcher an opportunity to observe the overall situations of children. The researcher carried out observation with her three friends who have doing in children and related areas in order to strengthen the reliability of the data and the researcher thought that group observation reduces a researcher bias.

Accordingly, the researcher observed the Physical appearance of the children and the relationship of adopted children with their adoptive parents and friends. Field note was taken at the time of all these

activities. School performance report cards, bedding materials, clothing, interaction with playmates and other members of family were observed

3.7. Data Collection Procedure

Based on the interview guide an open-ended interview was conducted. The interview was conducted with people who were taken from adoptive parents and key informants. The researcher regarding adopted children also accomplished an observation.

The interviews were consisted of seven /7/ demographic and seven /7/ open ended interview questions that were developed by the researcher. These questions were developed after completing a review of the literature, which helped the researcher for understanding of the issues surrounding contribution of domestic adoption.

In order to collect data, the following procedure was followed:

1. The researcher collected a letter from the School of Social Work to Addis Ababa women, youth and children bureau.
2. Explained the purpose of the interviews for the head of children department
3. The researcher was introduced herself by explaining from where she came, what was the intention of her present, and the purpose of the research.
4. Obtained oral and or written consent form to the adoptive parent.
5. Arranged appointment and meeting time.
6. Finally, in depth interview were carried out with a maximum of 30-45 minutes.

In addition, discussion was conducted between the researcher and the head of children department and experts especially working on children and domestic adoption program.

3.8. Data Analysis

As John(2007) stated data analysis were conducted for significant statements, meanings, units, textural and structural description of the “essence” and combination of both. When we say textual, it was about what participant experiences and when we say structural how they experienced it in terms of conditions, situations or context.

Qualitative content analysis was used to interpret data obtained through the survey material. According to Berg(2009),this form of analysis includes careful, detailed, and systematic examination and interpretation of a particular body of work to identify theme, patterns, and meanings.

The data analysis was started immediately after completion of the fieldwork. The data were sorted and categorized for analysis and then interpreted and discussed with explanation. The philosophical assumption of this study was as the alternative childcare guideline that stated that children must live together with their birth families. When it is impossible for children to live with their biological parents, domestic adoption is the best alternative for caring children.

3.9. Ethical Considerations

Since this study covered the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children, the researcher made a considerable care to ensure that the research was compiled with the necessary ethical responsibilities. For this particular research all participants were made aware in advance

of the purpose and objective of the study. They were informed that the research carried out for educational purpose and therefore did not involve any remuneration for being part of it as research participant.

Primarily, the adoptive parents and the experts/key informants/were asked about their willingness to participate in the research including in the process of administering the interview. They were also informed the confidentiality of information given for this particular undertaking.

The researcher listened attentively to the participant, questions were phrased in a caring manner and probing questions were only be used when it was necessary.

Chapter Four: Findings

This chapter presents the findings of the study using data collected from in-depth interview, key informant interview, observation and document review by using the method discussed in the previous section. The result of the research was organized under major topics as presented below.-

In order to understand the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children, ten individual adoptive parents in Addis Ababa city and three experts from governmental (BWYC) and NGO participated in in-depth interview and key informant interviews, respectively. In addition, observation of adopted children was made. The discussion made during interviews helped to appreciate the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children. On the basis of data generated from the interviews, a number of topics were identified and used as headings to present the results as follows.

4.1 Background Information of Adoptive Parents

Basic socio-demographic profiles of adoptive parents were summarized in the following table below.

Table 1: Socio-demographic profiles of adoptive parents.

List of Adoptive parents	Age	Sex	Education level	Marital status
Participant 1	45	M	12 complete	Married
Participant 2	38	F	Diploma	Married
Participant 3	42	F	Degree	single

CONTRIBUTION OF DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Participant 4	43	M	Degree	Married
Participant 5	45	M	12 complete	Married
Participant 6	52	F	Degree	Divorced
Participant 7	40	M	Diploma	Married
Participant 8	35	F	Degree	single
Participant 9	42	F	Degree	Married
Participant 10	54	F	Degree	Married

As the above table showed, four of the participants from the total adoptive parents in the study were male and the rest six were females .Regarding to their educational level, two of the participants were 12 complete, two were diploma and the remaining six were degree holders. Eight of the participants are in the middle adult age ranging from 35 – 45 years and the rest two participants were in range from 46 - 55 years old. Seven of the total participants were married, two of them were single and the remaining one participant was divorced.

The other category of profiles of adoptive parents including their religion, ethnic origin and occupation of their parents were summarized in the table below.

Table 2: Participants religion, ethnic origin and their occupation

List of Adoptive parents	Religion	Ethnic group	Participant occupation
Participant 1	Orthodox	Oromo	Merchant
Participant 2	Orthodox	Oromo	Merchant
Participant 3	Muslim	Oromo	Merchant
Participant 4	protestant	SNNPR	Merchant
Participant 5	Orthodox	Amhara	Government worker
Participant 6	Orthodox	SNNPR	Government worker
Participant 7	Orthodox	Amhara	Government worker
Participant 8	Muslim	SNNPR	Merchant
Participant 9	protestant	Oromo	Government worker
Participant 10	Orthodox	Amhara	Merchant

In the above table revealed that six participants were from Orthodox religion, two participants were Protestant, and the rest two participants were Muslims. Regarding to the ethnic group four of the ten participants were from Oromo ethnic group, three of were /from Amhara, and the other three from SNNPR. In addition, from the socio-economic background perspective of the adoptive participants, six among the ten were merchants, and the remaining four were government workers.

Table 3: Background Information of key informants/Experts of government and NGO/

List of Experts	Age	Sex	Education level	Marital status
Participant 1	48	F	Degree	Married
Participant 2	38	M	Masters Degree	Married
Participant 3	26	M	Degree	Married

4.2 Pushing factors of Adoption for Adoptive parent/s/

The main issue presented under this topic is about the pushing factors, which push adoptive parents to adopt a child. According to the information obtained from the in-depth interview and key informant interview, four major pushing factors were identified by both of the participant groups as pushing factors or reasons to adopt children. These major pushing factors were childlessness, need to support children, sex diversification and the final factor to adopt a child is to increase adoptive parent/s/ family size. The detail explanation of each of these pushing factors for adoption are further presented below:-

4.2.1 Childlessness/the need to have a child

The main pushing factor or reason why adoptive parents adopt a child or children is childlessness that is the need to have a child. The participants responded that when families have no biological children due to different reasons such as infertility, the best alternative to get a child is to use adoption. For instance, one of my interviewee said:

When I was a child, I saw many children playing together in my surrounding, At that time I wish to have brilliant children when reaches to marriage, Till then I was playing by toy like my child, After I get married I was worried for not bring a child because of infertility, During this time I

become stressed and depressed in this case I burst my tears daily then my husband suggest me to adopt a child and he also told me biological child, After that we decided to adopt a child immediately ,so my infertility is the reason of as for domestic adoption. (Participant 2/in-depth interviewee).

In addition to this Participant 4/in-depth interviewee / replied that, Because of my infertility, my Wife was determining to divorce me, then I became confused and I had talked alone and I shared my challenge to my mother, my mother advised me to adopt a child but it was difficult for me to accept my mother suggestion, when I discussed with my wife about adoption, she was happy by my opinion, because our marriage was broken-down. In general, I said for my self my infertility help us to make a blessed thing that is adoption.”Some other participants of in-depth interview and key informant reason out as their infertility is the main pushing factor for adoption.

On the other hand, some study participants replied that, the main cause to adopt a child is the deep love of children. For instance one of my interviewee in this category said,

Off course, I have three biological children but I adopt the child for the reason that I have passion and love for any children.(participant 7)

4.2.2 Need to support a child

The need to support a vulnerable child/children was found to be another pushing factor for adoption. This showed that some domestic adoptive parents adopt a child/children to contribute their part in

minimizing the existing number of children vulnerability in Addis Ababa and other regions of Ethiopia.

Participant 1 / the key informant/suggested that , Need to support a child one of the pushing factor for adoption activity that encourage many person to involve in this blessed activity, for the reason that majority persons think that adoption is amoral satisfaction and a way to approach to God, that means many persons contribute a lot in minimizing vulnerable children, this also indicates they support the government policy in rehabilitation children as a citizen.

Participant 2 / the key informant/ explained that, Domestic adoption is the main strategy to minimize the vulnerability of children and it solves the identity crises of vulnerable children ,since children are not migrated from their own surrounding, they could up bring in familiarizing with culture and norms that are expected from that community, domestic family attachment and good thinking to others.

In addition to the above idea Participant 5/the in depth interviewee / argued, I think that to help people it is enough to be human being, It translated in to Amharic ‘ሰውን ለመርዳት ሰው መሆን በቂ ነው.’ Since I am human being it is difficult for me that not giving attention for vulnerable children. I know that as they would be productive force for future to a country therefore I help them for the sake of me, I consider them like my children I don’t what my children get challenges tomorrow so that this message is not only for me all human beings have to support vulnerable children without hesitating at all. Some other study participants replied similarly like the above respondents.

In contrast to the above idea some study participants argued that children placed in domestic

adoption some times children faced different types of abuses such as sexually abuse, psychological abuse and labor abuse . For example one of the study participant said:

I think, the adoptive parents take the vulnerable children for purpose of labor exploitation for purpose of supporting them. For example I know a women who adopt a child ,she makes the child baking Injera, fetching water, cook wat, and so on and also she did not make the child attend her education where as the women takes care her biological children and makes them learn their education. (participant 3/key informant)

4.2.3 To have sex diversification in their family

Participants in this study believed that domestic adoptive parents adopt a child or children in order to have a diversified sex composition in their family. As to these participants, adoptive parents who have the same sex biological children could adopt a child or children who have or have opposite sex to their biological child/children. key informants also indicated that a female child is highly preferable than a male child by adoptive parents.

Participant 1 the in-depth interviewee said that, The reason why I adopted a child is need to have daughter. Previously, I got five sons in order to obtain female children but it was not achieved my dream therefore I have eager to see females in my home, then I decided to adopt a female child I decided with my wife to adopt a female child.

In addition to the above idea Participant 3/the in-depth interviewee explained that, My

preference was to adopt a male child because I have had a daughter but she passed away within one day sickness after that I believe that if I have a female child she may die hence I never went to adopt a female child.

Participant 1, participant 2 and participant 3/key informant answered that, A female child is highly preferable than a male child by adoptive parents, majority domestic adoptive parents assume that rearing a female child is easier than a male children due to having no behavioral problem and it is very simple to mold or control them.

In contrast to the above idea participant 5, participant 6 and participant 7 /in depth interview/ said that, Since the children are healthy, we do not mind to adopt a female child or a male child.

4.2.4 Increase adoptive parents family size

The participants in this study said that even if adoptive parents have both female and male their biological children. They need to add children with adoption and increase to the family size by adoption. This is especially true for adoptive parents who have more properties and capacities to raise more children.

participant 1 and participant 9 /In depth interview/ agreed that, Even if we have both female and male children we need to add children through adoption to increase our family size, since we have more properties and capacities to raise more children, and we don't want to give birth more children due to health related factors.

Participant 1 said that, According to bible, I accept that the words of God that is in Amharic

version “bizu tebazu midrnm mulat” that is why I want to add more children through adoption.

Participant 1 and 2 /key informants/also stated that some domestic adoptive parents adopt children when they have sufficient income to raise a child although they have their own biological children after who are living independently with their own income.

On the other handsome of the study participants spelled out even if the adoptive parents have more property and ability for bringing many children is not good for adopting more children because if the number of children many the adoptive parents may not be properly care and treat the adopted children. For instance one of the study participant of adoptive parent replayed:

Even though I have sufficient income, I did not want to adopt more than two children; because it is difficult to give enough time and deep love for many children; there for it is not good to adopt many children since it could not been treated the children properly.(participant 3/in depth interview)

4.3 Challenges and Opportunities of Domestic Adoption

4.3.1 Challenges of domestic Adoption

During in-depth interviews and key informant interviews, issues raised with regard to the challenges of adoption in this topic the challenge differences in the adoptive parents and experts of government office and Non Government Organization/key informants/. The first challenges that raised by the adoptive parents during my in-depth interview was, attitude of the Society. The

participants raised majority of our societies have negative attitude towards the adoptive children.

The second challenge is the procedures of Adoption(in the process of adoption the procedure takes time.) Thirdly, the influence of adoptive parent's family members is also a challenge and, finally, Recovery of the children psychological makeup is raised as other challenges, which is raised by the adoptive parents.

Participant 1 /in depth interviewee replied that , I got attitudinal challenge from my neighbors, they think that, As an adoptive child could not be reared like a biological child, that an adoptive child might go away from his/her domestic adoptive parents when he/she realize as he/she is not their biological child.

Similar to the above idea Participant 7/in depth interview/ said that, I think that it is difficult to adopt a child because yesew lig yesew new.

Participant 6 and participant10/ in-depth interview also replied, We want to adopt a child for purpose of spiritual value but were afraid of our family attitude and that child might also be disturbed psychologically and emotionally when the child recognize the truth. Three of them participant 5, participant 6 and participant 8 answered that, we passionate to domestic adoption however we have trait of that adopted child might committing suicide when he or she will be known as his/her biological parents had not realized we have heard that as an adopted child commit suicide because of the above reason.

In contrast to the above idea, participant 9 in depth interview/ replied, Previously I thought as my family disagree to my opinion of adopting a child. However after I bring my an adoptive child to home my family are very exiting by my action, that is adopting a vulnerable child; my mother

and my husband give any care and support to the child whenever he needs like a biological child.

With regard to procedure

Participant 1 / in-depth interview respond, I cannot tolerate the domestic adoption criteria because it is broad and time taking to fulfill the whole criteria.

In addition to this Participant 6 and participant 9 / in-depth interview said, Since we are employed it is very difficult to obtain permission from our boss because the criteria are not simple to accomplish in short period of time.

Participant 2 and participant 8/ in-depth interview/answered that, Even If we are self employed it takes time to fulfill the domestic adoption requirements in short time because of this we have discouraged to bring all documents to concerned body. Some other participant of the study answered similarly.

The challenges raised on the key informant side are classified by 3 main types those are, Sex biasness of adoptive parent/s/, Procedures of adoption(It takes long period of time) and Lack of awareness of adoptive parent/s/.

Key informants responded that the most challenges of domestic adoption are sex biased. Most of the adoptive parents prefer to adopt female child rather than the male child, which has a demerit in the live of male children who is in needy. Another challenges which is raised by the participants of the study (supported by adoptive parents) there is a big challenge in the procedures of domestic adoption, It takes time and budget and should fulfill all the criteria which are produced by concerned bodies. According to the

experts of BWYC domestic adoption has its own criteria. The criteria are the adoptive parents must be to fulfill in order to adopt children. Those criteria's are

- The adoptive parents must have Addis Ababa kebele identification card.
- Bring supporting letter from kebele or from community leaders.
- Marriage certificate, if available (if she/he is married), If the adoptive parent is single - unmarried certificate in this case child is given for female only.
- Medical certificates of adoptive parents are demonstrating good health from health institutions.
- Bring criminal clearance certificate from federal police.
- Bring salary indicator letter because it is possible to adopt the adoptive parents becomes the income level is greater than 3000 birr for the others trade license, bank statement.
- Photographs of the adoptive parent/s/
- Application letter for BWYC.

Due to the reason the process were taken long period of time during this time the adoptive parents discourage to adopt children. The experts' responds that in order to protect the child from different risks the adoptive parents must to be fulfilled the criteria. Finally, majority of the participant respond that the challenges of domestic adoption are lack of awareness of adoptive parents.

In terms of sex preferences, all key informants replied that, Many times, we have faced challenges from domestic adoptive parents they prefer female child rather than male child. They think that it is very simple to control and mold the behavior of a female child, their attitude contrasts the child related international conventions and national law because it is stated on that conventions and Ethiopian

constitution sex preference is considered as stigma and discrimination between a female child and a male child.

4.3.2 Opportunities of Adoption for Adoptive Parents

During my interview with the adoptive parents, most of the participants in the study explained that the main opportunities the adoptive parents get from the adoption are getting child which enables them to be a father or a mother and mental satisfaction obtained from helping vulnerable children. Furthermore, adoptive parents can get a chance to have a supporter when they get old especially if they do not have biological children.

The research Participants also added adoption can contribute for the sustainability of the adoptive parents' marriage may prevent from divorce due to not having a biological child. It could also create a good living environment in their family.

With regarded to the opportunities of domestic adoption, participant 2 respond, Domestic adoption is very interesting for me because it enables me to have a child and I consider her like my biological child, I did not feel as I am an infertile women.

In addition to this participant 6 /In depth interview/ said that, I am always exiting because I got moral satisfaction by offering this child from God. When I come to my home and I observe my children including my adoptive child I feel very happy as that time I consider myself as I am a child and lucky women while my children are laughing and playing a game.

Participant 9 and participant 10 said that, Now we are rearing an adoptive child we consider them

like our biological child so that we have moral satisfaction and great pleasure when we return back to home .

The other participants of the study replied that, Domestic adoption is the holly thing shall activity for us for the reason that it strength our marriage and preventing our marriage from divorce, we can say that we love each other because of our adopted children.

4.4 Contribution of Domestic Adoption in Minimizing the Vulnerability of Children

The researcher found that the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children was one of the issues addressed in this study.

Participant 4 and participant 7 said that, Domestic adoption has a lot contribution in minimizing children vulnerability, domestic adoption can help our adoptive children to have care givers, this also enable our adoptive children to be raised in their culture and they save from identity crises.

Participant 2,participant 3,participant 9,and participant10 argued that, We think that domestic adoption reduces vulnerability of children, in this case domestic adoption made children to have parents like us who can care to for them.

Similar to the above idea participant 2 /key informant interview/ explained that, In my working experience, I know two sibling children who lost their parents by death in case of HIV/AIDS ; the children did not have any relative person to care them, during that time they did not obtain food , education, counseling service and so on ; in this case they are appeared to be exposed to various problem, After the

children got the adoptive parents their problems is completely solved as that time I became very surprised and happy by the children change, so that domestic adoption has a great value to reduce vulnerability of children.

In contrast to the above idea Participant 3/key informant/ described that, Even though domestic adoption has contribution to minimize vulnerability of children; I think ,the adoptive children may face for psychological abuse because there is no sufficient awareness in our community regarding to domestic adoption; I remember a case, that is, one couples adopt a child by full filing the requirements of domestic adoption where as the wife and husband were very worried about societal attitude; they told me as their surrounding community discriminate by saying' abandoned child' in this case our children became worried about his identity and he starts to ask us 'who am I?'.

The researcher also observed the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing children vulnerability during observation. The observation was made based on observation check list mainly by focusing on the physical appearance and the relationship of adoptive children with their adoptive parents and friends. As observed in school and resident house, the adopted children's physical appearance looks better than children with in the orphanage and the livelihood of them also best with compared to children with orphanage. In addition to this, they dressed good and they have smile face. The living standard and other opportunities of the children seem satisfied like education, health service, love and affection of family, and other opportunities. The children were active participant for anything like playing, asking and answering, and so on. The children have good interaction with their friends and families.

This observation indicated that children placed in domestic adoption live better life than in

orphanages. The children got family love and affection and other necessities like children who live with their birth parents.

Majority of the participants preferred domestic adoption over inter-country adoption. This is mainly due to the fact that children can grow better within their own country which enables them to adapt the environment and culture they know. Furthermore, adoptive children keep their identity if they are raised by domestic adoptive parents than inter-country ones which means they will not face identity crises.

Finally, as the data obtained from the document review about the progress of domestic adoption with in BWYC for the last 5 years(2002 E.C - 2006 E.C) in relation to the number of children placed in domestic adoption was found to be 55, 90,85,97 and 110, respectively. This showed that the number of domestically adopted children increased from year to year.

Chapter Five: Discussion

5.1 Discussion of Selected Findings

The researcher examined the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing of vulnerability of children. The findings indicate that there are a lot of contributions of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children. Throughout, the discussion the researcher has analyzed the pushing factors of adoptive parents to adopt a child, challenges and opportunities of domestic adoption and their contribution to minimizing the vulnerability of children are discussed.

As presented in the previous section of this study, the main factors that push domestic adoptive parents to adopt a child or children are childlessness, need to support a vulnerable children, sex diversification in the family and increasing their family size. Some couples may not have their own biological children due to different reasons. In this case, adoption is the only alternative to have a child and to assure continuity of their successor, to secure inheritance of properties and leaving their paternal names in the line. The need to support and help vulnerable child is another pushing factor for adoption.

Especially now a days, families adopt children who are vulnerable to social and economic situations to play their part in minimizing the vulnerability of children. Increasing their family size is also one of the reasons to adopt a child to show their social and economic status. The other reason or pushing factor for domestic adoption is to have a diversified sex composition in the family. Parents whose biological children are of the same sex, could adopt children with opposite sex to their biological parents. The result of this study is consistent with other studies done by Desalegn (2006) and Jacques (2003). In line with this, Kirschner discussed Adoptive parents come to the adoption decision for many different reasons. Some adopt

because of infertility, and adoption is their alternative way to grow their family, others adopt in order to add to their family, to help a specific child, or for social justice reasons.

Various pushing factors of adoption for adoptive parents are presented in the previous chapter. The first pushing factor or reason why adoptive parents to adopt a child or children is childlessness that is the need to have a child. The participants responded that when families have no biological children due to different reasons such as infertility, the best alternative to get a child is to use adoption.

Similarly, (Goldberg, Downing, & Richardson, 2009; Kupecky & Anderson, 2001), states Some people adopt because they are unable to have a biological child this includes couples (both straight and gay) as well as single people. In these cases, the prospective adoptive parents may have already faced loss and disappointment. Some will have experienced repeated miscarriages or intrusive fertility treatments. It is only natural for adults to respond with grief to these losses, and they may also experience feelings of guilt, shame, inadequacy (“why me?”), loss of control, and even jealousy of those who have been able to have a biological child.

Regardless of the exact circumstances, couples and individuals who turn to adoption because of infertility may have already weathered an emotional roller coaster. Their feelings must be honored and addressed before parents can effectively support adopted children in healing from their own losses. For those who need help working through the grief of infertility, there are support groups and counselors who specialize in helping infertile couples and individuals. It is important to remember that both partners in a couple may not resolve their grief at the same pace, and arriving at the decision to adopt may come at a different time for each person. Although growing your family through adoption may include emotional ups

and downs, it also can be full of joy.

The second pushing factors of adoption for adoptive parents is need to support a child/children. From the findings I found, adoptive parents are need to support a vulnerable child/children was found to be another pushing factor for adoption. This showed that some domestic adoptive parents adopt a child/children to contribute their part in minimizing the existing number of children vulnerability. As (Stevens, 2011) wrote, Some adoptive parents find they need support to work through the emotions that arise before, during, or after the adoption is finalized. In at least one survey, the majority of adoptive families identified some ongoing issues that made daily life challenging—including emotional, behavioral, and school concerns. From the findings of the current study, I learned that the need to help the vulnerable children is one of the pushing factors that encourage the adoptive parent/s/ to involve in adoption activities. Participants of this study felt that their individual contributions are valued in bringing change in the life of vulnerable children.

Another finding of this study that calls for discussion is challenges and opportunities. The main issue to be discussed under this topic is the opportunities and challenges in the adoptive parents and experts of government office and Non- government organization are attitude of the society, the procedures of adoption/the process of adoption the procedure takes time/, the influence of adoptive parents family members and sex biasness of adoptive parents. Some adoptive parents wants female child only due to different reasons. In this case, sex biasness occurs and male children abused. Procedures /the process of adoption the procedure takes time/ is also another main challenges of adoption for adoptive parents. In this case adoptive parents comes to adoption but the process takes time and budget in this time the adoptive parents discouraged to adoption the above all listed challenges supported also by Desalegn (2006) , Selwyn.

J (2014) and wijedas. D (2014).Life link international adoption(Jan 22, 2013) also reported that the adoption process can be very exciting and rewarding. It is also not without its challenges, such as the waiting and paperwork. Then there are the additional challenges of international adoption, including navigating through the rules and regulations of various countries.

The other findings of this study is the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing the vulnerability of children. The main issues to be discussed under this study is the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children. Adoption is the main and one mechanism of solving children vulnerability. In this case when a child face highly vulnerable during this time the child placed in adoption in this case the child gets family love and affection in general the child gets all basic needs from the adoptive parents so the contribution of domestic adoption need for minimizing vulnerability of children this is supported by the study Desalegn (2006) and sammut.J (2015)

Chapter Six: Conclusion, Implications and suggestion

6.1 Conclusion

On the basis of the interpreted data from various sources, adoption has numerous effects. It is unquestionably takes people in agreement that it has a positive effect in minimizing the vulnerability of children. The role of adoption in general and domestic adoption specifically, can be the way to minimize and eradicate vulnerability of children. As to the data gathered from the sources; the least vulnerability of the children occurs when the children are adopted.

The result also illustrates by indicating the majority of the participants agree on vulnerability exposition of children before they adopted, and the least disagree that children are not only be exposed to vulnerability before they are adopted but they can also be faced vulnerability even after the adoption. From here, it is possible to summarize that children become vulnerable when they lead their life without supports, families, or other near relatives.

The benefit of domestic adoption relies on the holistic development of children. It doesn't affect the culture, the norm that they have in the community, they interact with their mates. Such domestic adoption has an ultimate benefit in protecting children from being vulnerable.

The research comes up with results like the contribution of domestic adopted children to the country. The children, who are adopted domestically, can be engines for the development of the state. They get education access by the adoptive parents. Subsequently, they become leaders.

The research indicated the most of the participants who are near to adoption; adoption has a great

and strong contribution. Since its effect is encouraging, it has ample of societal purposes. Hence, the contribution of adoption specifically the domestic one is enormous. In the building up a country the human power has unlimited outcome.

To use such outcomes as building blocks of the societal development children who are alleged to be on the way of vulnerability must be adopted by people who have the capacity. As a result, their contribution leads the state to the sustainable development that the country is looking for.

6.2 Suggestion

Then the researcher suggests that :

1. The vulnerability of children is the problem of the society, So the prevention methods should be given emphasis.
2. The government creates awareness to the community about the advantage of domestic adoption.
3. The government should revised the procedures/process/ of domestic adoption.
4. Addis Ababa City government should inspire/motivate domestic adoption in the city by dwellers.
5. While the adoptive parents take the children their monthly income should be under consideration. Thus, the concerned body has to consider the income and the age of the adoptive parents. Because it has psychological, emotional and physiological effect on the child.
6. Though domestic adoption is effective, it is not possible to say best. So when people

adopt children their income level, the educational level and societal behavior should be considered well.

6.3 Social work Implications

Social work practice is one of the professional practices to solve the problems of vulnerable groups in society. It is attempting to create favorable and just social environment within the societal Settings. Because children and women face various social, economic, political, psychological and other problems. The professional assistances in the area of counseling, advocacy, lobbying and facilitating for these groups is its major roles.

Thus, domestic adoption in Addis Ababa that may solve the problem of orphan and neglected Children. It is worth lobbied and advocated by social work.

6.4 Implication for Further Research

The contribution of domestic adoption are the less researched area. It was one of the constraints of the current study to find scientific inquiries conducted in Ethiopia in relation to domestic adoption. It is my suggestion more research is needed in the following areas: (1) the role of media in promoting domestic adoption. This research found that, all the participants' of the study have a view about the importance of promoting domestic adoption contribution. So, media could be the catalyzing agents behind advocating domestic adoption. I suggest further research is needed and (2) the challenges of domestic adoption would also be another area of investigation.

References

- Aron, S., Kate, S., Charlene, C., David, C., Michael, S., Elisabeth, B.H., & Krystyna, K. (2009).
- Blomquist, B. T. (2001). *Insight into adoption: What adoptive parents need to know about the fundamental differences between a biological and an adopted child--and its effect on parenting.* Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.
- Brodzinsky, D. (1990). *The Psychology of Adoption.* Oxford; Oxford University Press.
- Brodzinsky, D.M., Schechter, M.D., Hening, M. (1992). *Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self.* New York: Doubleday.
- Creswell, J. (2007). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: choosing among five approaches* (2nd ed.). London; Sage Publications, Inc.
- Derdeyn, A. & Graves (1998). Clinical vicissitudes of adoption. *Child Adolesc Psychiatry North Am.* 1998;7:373–88. [PubMed]
- Dessalegn Negeri, (2006) *Guddifcha practices As child problem intervention in oromo society. The case of Ada'al liban district*
Ed. Sage publication. Thousand Oak London. mj
- Eldridge, S. (2009). *20 things adoptive parents need to succeed.* New York, NY: Delta, a Division of Random House
- Family Group Decision Making for children at risk of abuse and neglect. Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group.
- Federal democratic republic of Ethiopia ministry of women's affairs Addis Ababa (2009). *Alternative childcare guidelines on community-based child care, reunification and reintegration program,*

foster care, adoption and institutional care service.

- Foli, K. J., & Thompson, J. R. (2004). *The post-adoption blues: Overcoming the unforeseen challenges of adoption*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale.
- Gray, D. D. (2007). *Nurturing adoptions: Creating resilience after neglect and trauma*. Indianapolis, IN: Perspectives Press
- Jewett Jaratt C. (1994). *Helping Children Cope with Separation and Loss*. Boston: The Harvard Common Press;
- John, W. C. (2007). *Qualitative inquiry and research design. Choosing among five approach*. 4
- Keck, G. C., & Kupecky, R. M. (2009). *Parenting the hurt child: Helping adoptive families heal and grow*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.
- Kreuger, L., & Neuman, W. (2006). *Social Work Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Applications*. Boston New York Sanfrancisco.
- Making, M.L. (1989). *Sense of Adoption: A Parent's Guide*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Melina L. Raising (1998) *Adopted Children: Practical Reassuring Advice for Every Adoptive Parent*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc;
- Melina L. (2000). *Talking to children about their adoption: When to start, what to say, what to expect*. Adopted Child.
- Okun BF, Anderson. (1996). *CM. Understanding Diverse Families: What Practitioners Need to Know*. New York: Guilford Press;
- Pavao, M J. (1998). *The Family of Adoption*. Boston: Beacon Press;
- Petersen, S (2011). *Exploring ethical dilemmas in development practices linked to inter country adoption*:

An Ethiopia-Australia case study.

Rosalyn, M., & Victor, W. H. (2013). Family reunification following foster care. Series document of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences. Retrieved from website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Rushton, A (2014). scoping and scanning review of research on the adoption of children, institute of psychiatry, uk

Appendixes

Appendix one: Consent form

Introduction of Confidentiality and Consent Agreement

Good morning/Good afternoon, I am Addis Alem and a student of the school of Social Work at Addis Ababa university. The purpose of this interview guide will be to gather information and data to conduct a Masters of Social Work thesis on the contribution of domestic adoption for minimizing the vulnerability of children: The Case of Addis Ababa city.”

I will ask you some very personal questions that may be difficult to answer it. So, I would like to request you will tell me your consent answers/responses. For each questions your answer will be very crucial and will have significant contribution to the study. Unless you agree, your name will not be written on this agreement. You also had the right not to answer on question/questions you may not want to answer. You will also had the right to stop the interview at any time when you want.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in identifying those problems.

This interview will continue with a maximum of 45 minute. So are you willing to discuss with me?

Yes . Signature_____

No. [I will thank him/her and theinterview will be collapsed]

Appendix Two: In-Depth Interview Guide for Adoptive parents

Background Information

Age

Sex

Educational background

Religion

Ethnic Origin

Source of income

Marital status

1. What factors pushed you to adopt a child or children?
2. What are the challenges and opportunities of being domestic adoptive parents?
3. How can you explain about the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing children vulnerability?
4. Which type of adoption do you think is best for the growth of children?
 - A. The domestic adoption, why?
 - B. The inter-country adoption, why?
5. How do you explain the care you are giving to your adopted child?
6. Have you taken any training related to domestic adoption?
7. What do recommend to be improved during in the process of domestic adoption?
8. What do you recommend about things to be done so as to motivate domestic adoption?

THANK YOU

ክፍል አንድ፡ የግለሰብ መረጃ

ክፍል አንድ፡ የግለሰብ መረጃ

ዕድሜ

ፆታ

የትምህርት ደረጃ

ሀይማኖት

የስራ ሁኔታ

የጋብቻ ሁኔታ

ክፍል ሁለት፡ መጠይቅ

1. ልጁን/ኗን/ ልጆቹን/ ለማሳደግ ምን ዓይነት ሰነድ አለዎት ?
2. የጉዳይ ፍቻ ቤተሰብ በመሆን ወይም ጥቅም አገኛ ምን ችግር ስለሚጠቀምህ?
3. የአገር ውስጥ ጉዳይ ፍቻ ልጆቹን ችግር ተጋላጭነታቸውን ሲገልጹ ለውሰድ ስለሰጡት ይገልጹ ታላቅ/ ያብራሩት?
4. የትኛው የጉዳይ ፍቻ አይነት ለልጆች ጤናማ እድገት ጥሩ ነው ብለው ያስባሉ?
 ሀ/ የሀገር ውስጥ ጉዳይ ፍቻ ለምን?
 ለ/ የውጭ ሀገር ጉዳይ ፍቻ ለምን?
5. ለማሳደግ ለወሰዱ ቸው ልጆች የሚያደርጉት እንክብካቤ እንዴት ይገልጹ ታላቅ?
6. ከሀገር ውስጥ ጉዳይ ፍቻ ጋር ተያይዞ የወሰዱት ስልጠና አለ?
7. ከሀገር ውስጥ ጉዳይ ፍቻ ሂደት ጋር ተያይዞ ምን መስተካከል የሚል ትኩረት አለ?
8. የሀገር ውስጥ ጉዳይ ፍቻን ለማበረታታት ምን መሰረት አለበት ብለው ያስባሉ?
9. ቃለ - መጠይቁን በጥንቃቄና ፍቃድ ሆነው ስለሰሙሉኝ እመሰግናለሁ!!

Appendix Three: In-depth interview guide for key informant

Background Information

Age

Sex

Source of income

Religion

Ethnic group

Educational Background

Marital status

1. What factors do you think push domestic adoptive parents to adopt children?
2. Can you explain the challenges and opportunities of domestic adoption?
3. How can you explain about the contribution of domestic adoption in minimizing children vulnerability?
4. Can you explain the advantages of domestic adoption to the vulnerable children?
5. How do you explain the progress of domestic adoption in Addis Ababa city?
6. Which type of adoption do you think is best for the growth of children?
 - A. The domestic adoption, why?
 - B. The inter-country adoption, why?

7. What should be improved in order to facilitate domestic adoption?
 8. What do you think is the role of the government and NGOs in domestic adoption of children
 9. What do you suggest to support children without parents?
 10. Which gender of children is preferred by adoptive parents to adopt?
 11. Do you think that there should be improvement in the policy of domestic adoption?
-

THANK YOU

Appendix four: Observation checklist for adopted children

The researcher prepared the following observation checklist in order to observe the adopted children's general situation.

1. The Physical appearance of the children.
2. The relation ship of adopted children's with their adoptive parents and friends.