



**ADDIS ABABA UNIVRSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE STUDIES**  
**CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**CHILD LABOR IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMIC SECTOR: THE  
CASE STUDY OF BROOM SELLERS IN ADDIS ABABA, LIDETA  
SUB-CITY (WEREDA FOUR).**

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**SEPTEMBER, 2014.**

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**Child Labor in the Informal Economic Sector: The Case Study  
of Broom Sellers in Addis Ababa Lideta sub-city (Wereda Four).**

**By:  
Leake Aregawi Ghiday**

**MA Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment to the Masters of Arts  
in Human Rights**

**Advisor: Fasil Mulatu Gessesse**

**September, 2014**

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MA THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT TO THE  
MASTERS OF ARTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

**BY:  
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**SEPTEMBER, 2014**

## DECLARATION

I, Leake Aregawi declare that, this thesis is the result of my own work and all sources and materials used for this thesis have been appropriately acknowledged. This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree of Masters of Art in Human Rights to the College of Law and Governance, Addis Ababa University through Center for Human rights. I confidently declare that, this thesis has not been submitted to any other institutions anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma or certificate.

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**Date of Submission: September, 2014.**

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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis entitled “Child Labor in the Informal Economic Sector: The Case Study of Broom Sellers in Addis Ababa, Lideta sub-city (wereda four)” Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Award of Degree of Masters of Arts in Human Rights to the College of Law and Governance, Addis Ababa University, through the Center for Human Rights, done by Leake Aregawi Ghiday, I.D. No. GSR /2483/05 is submitted with my Approval as a University Adviser.

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**Date: September, 2014.**

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**Leake Aregawi**

**September 4, 2014.**

## Acronyms

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights
ACRWC	African Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CLM	Child Labor Monitoring
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
DRC	Development Research Center on Migration, Globalization and Poverty
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
ICESCR	International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	Institute of Ombudsman
IPEC	International Program for the Eradication of Child Labor
TBP	Time Bounded Programme
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MOWCYA	Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SPIF	Strategic Programme Impact Framework
UDHR	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank

## ABSTRACT

*Child labor is a pervasive problem of developing states especially, in the informal economic activities. Likewise, child labor is common in the urban communities of Ethiopia, like its capital-city of Addis Ababa. Although, there are different informal economic activities where child labor widely exist in the city, this study targets on children who work in broom selling who live in Lideta sub-city Wereda Four. This study is primarily aimed at exploring child labor in broom selling; the nature, working condition or environment and its physical, health, mental and developmental impacts on the broom seller children. It also demonstrates their socio-economic background, the reasons for their work in broom selling and their living conditions. Moreover, it also indicates the child rights violations that those children have in this broom selling. The study employed a qualitative research methodology through, in-depth interviews, key informant interview, and observation in addition to analysis of relevant literatures and secondary data sources as basic instruments to get the necessary information for the study. The findings of the study shows that,*

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## Chapter One

### 1. Introduction

Children and childhood is entitled to special care and protection, considering the vulnerability of children and the vital significance of childhood for a safe and healthy development of their life.<sup>1</sup> Children have the right to be children; to be loved, cared, cherished, educated, nourished, clothed, and fostered as children when they are children.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, there are multifaceted challenges of childhood which hinder children's physical and mental development which results from different natural, social, economic and other factors.<sup>3</sup> One of these challenging factors is the issue of child labor.

Child labor refers to the employment of children in any work that harms and deprives their childhood.<sup>4</sup> It consists the employment of children in an economically exploitative, or is likely to be hazardous to or interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.<sup>5</sup> Hence, it is basically against the wellbeing of children which hinders their growth and development as a child.

Child labor is not a new phenomenon and has been part of the society before centuries ago. Historically, child labor was not the preserve of Africa, Latin America and Asia in which some of the worst excesses occurred in Europe in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.<sup>6</sup> Children have been active in the economic activities of their family and society throughout the world.<sup>7</sup> In due course of time, considering its multifaceted impacts on the children life and

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<sup>1</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child. 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Ferdous Ahamed, "Child labor and Bangladesh, To what extent can Bangladesh remove child labor particularly in the Bangladesh Ready-made Garment (RMG) sector?" (*International NGO Journal* Vol. 8, no. 2, 2013), 31.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 32.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Kaushik Basu and Pham Hoang Van, "The Economics of Child Labor," (*The American economic review: American Economic Association*, vol.88, no. 3, 1998), 214.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

development, states, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations prohibit child labor.

Child labor is a serious and contentious issue throughout the developed and developing world as it is demeaning and damaging to a child health and mental development.<sup>8</sup> As a result, child labor is very often equated with child abuse.<sup>9</sup> It is a denial of children to enjoy child hood which is basic and essential for their further development, despite the special care and protection they require and have from many international human and child rights documents.<sup>10</sup> Children need a conducive and favorable environment in order to grow economically active, productive adults with the ability to participate effectively in the social, cultural and political activities in society.<sup>11</sup>

Currently, the issue of child labor gets a global concern from different stakeholders as a grave issue which needs the necessary attention to make an end to it. It is recognized as a significant violation of children's rights, fundamental labor rights and human rights, as well as a substantial barrier to national development.<sup>12</sup> This also arises from its abusive, exploitive, and hazardous nature of the economic activities they practice. In recent decades, the international community has established important standards on how it should be defined and its elimination prioritized.<sup>13</sup> However, these standards did not ensure the elimination of child labor throughout the world community due to different reasons in addition to the lack of effective implementation of these standards.

The severity of the problem of child labor is quite different in its nature and from region to region despite its common existence throughout the world society. Recent International Child Labor

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<sup>8</sup> Herath, Sharma, eds. *Child Labor in South Asia. Theoretical and Empirical Debate's on Child Labor; Labor and Economic Development; Emerging issues in Developing Asia*. Croft Road: Ashgate Publishing Limited, (2007): 3.

<sup>9</sup> Basu and Pham Hoang Van, "The Economics of Child Labor," (1998), 412.

<sup>10</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 (2), (1948).

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* Article 27 (1).

<sup>12</sup> ILO, "World Report on Child Labor: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labor," (*Geneva: International Labor Office*, 2013), 1.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 3.

reports indicate the decline of child labor at the global level.<sup>14</sup> However, developing states have a greater number of child labor as compared to the developed states.<sup>15</sup> The largest absolute number of child laborers is found in the Asia and the Pacific region which is followed by Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>16</sup> For the overall 5-17 years age group, child laborers number almost 77.7 million in Asia and the Pacific, 59.0 million in Sub-Saharan Africa, 12.5 million in Latin America and the Caribbean and 9.2 million in the Middle East and North Africa.<sup>17</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region with the highest incidence of child labor with more than one in five children in child labor.<sup>18</sup> Child labor is often a symptom of poverty in which it is most pervasive in countries where their income level is lowest.<sup>19</sup> Child labor as a common and pervasive social problem in developing states is also a problem of Ethiopian children, society and government.

Child labor in Ethiopia is further exacerbated by chronic economic poverty throughout the society. Hence, children are active participants of the economic practices of the family and society. Although, the constitution and laws of the state prohibit child labor, millions of children are subject to abuse and exploitation. The agricultural, industrial and service sectors are common places in which many children are exposed to child labor which extends from domestic work activities (non-economic) to exploitative and hazardous labor. One of the victims of this social malaise are children who work in broom selling throughout the whole Addis Ababa who live particularly in Lideta sub-city Wereda Four.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Addis Ababa as the biggest and capital city of Ethiopia, hosts many child laborers in different economic activities. One of these economic activities is broom selling. Now a days it is common to see children working in broom selling activities throughout the town. These children particularly

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 2.

<sup>15</sup> ILO, "World Report on Child Labor: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labor," (2013), 2.

<sup>16</sup> ILO, "Marking progress against child labor: Global estimates and trends 2000-2012," (*Geneva: International Labor Office, IPEC*, 2013), 4.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 1.

<sup>19</sup> ILO, "*World Report on Child Labor*," (2013), 11.

found in Lideta sub-city Wereda Four, which is one of the 10 sub cities of Addis Ababa. This broom selling is an economic activity of many children and adults who live in Addis Ababa particularly around Lideta sub-city, (wereda) four. These children carry and travel to sell the brooms to the users throughout the whole city on foot. This work requires energy to carry and travel the whole day due to the heavy load of the nature of the brooms and the lasting travel of the broom seller children until they enter their sleeping home. This broom selling is a street work by its nature which could have significant problems on the life of those children.

These broom seller children are subject to child labor which is similar to the problem of millions of children who are exploited at work or employed under conditions that seriously jeopardize their health, safety, education, morals and dignity.<sup>20</sup> Although there are important human /child rights instruments and labor conventions which aim in the protection of children from child labor these broom seller children did not get the necessary protection from these instruments. This also arises from different economic, social, political problems as well as legal, and policy enforcement gaps with in a society and state.

Poverty, death and separation of family, and migration are among those determinant socio-economic factors behind child labor in many cities of the developing states and Addis Ababa.<sup>21</sup> These factors mainly force children to engage in different economic activities to overcome their problems and lead their life. The interdependence between poverty, migration, child labor and education is significant in which one influences the other.<sup>22</sup> The enforcement of child rights laws and child labor conventions in Ethiopia is generally weak.<sup>23</sup> This also arises from the existence of gaps in law and policies related to child labor and child rights by concerned authorities or

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<sup>20</sup> Mohammad Ali Khan, "Health and Living Conditions of Child Laborers: A Study in Dhaka City in Bangladesh," (M.Phil. thesis, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 2000), 16.

<sup>21</sup> Eric Edmonds and Maheshwor Shrestha, "Children's Work and Independent Child Migration: a critical review. (Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Innocenti Working Paper, no.19), 2009. 20-35.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Rakeb Messele, "Enforcement of Human Rights in Ethiopia," (Action Professionals Association for the People, (APAP), Addis Ababa, 2002. 3.

institutions. This also increases the exposure of children like these broom sellers to engage in different economic activities which are hazardous in their nature.

Child labor is the most abusive and exploitative work in which children rights and the very existence and development of children is in danger. It is an exploitative work due to long hour's work of child laborers and their low or free payment work.<sup>24</sup> A child laborer is a child denied the liberating benefit of education, one whose health, growth and development are threatened, who risks losing the love, care and protection of family and who cannot enjoy the rest and play that are every child's right.<sup>25</sup>

It has a multifaceted violation of basic rights and freedoms that children have considering their special vulnerability. They are subject to physical, emotional and psychological abuses which makes them vulnerable to childhood and behavioral disorders.<sup>26</sup> Beyond this, not only the denial of rights starting from the prevention of economic exploitation to the right to education on countless fronts, it also poses a hindrance for development in which inter-linkages of child labor with poverty and education explain the development challenge that it poses.<sup>27</sup> As a result, child labor has a long lasting serious challenge up on the individual children as well as the society and state development.

### 3. Research Questions

This research aims at providing an answer for the following questions

- From where and how broom selling children come to Addis Ababa, Lideta sub-city wereda four? Why do they work?

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<sup>24</sup> Faraaz Siddiqi and Harry Anthony Patrinos, "Child labor, Issues, Causes and Interventions," (Human Capital Development and Operations Policy, (HCO), Working Paper, 2004) 2.

<sup>25</sup> UNICEF, *Beyond Child Labor: Affirming Rights Child Labor Putting rights at the center.* (2001), 1-2. [www.unicef.org/publications/files/pub\\_beyond\\_en.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/pub_beyond_en.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>27</sup> Kailash Satyarthi, "Human Rights and Child Labor; Global March against Child Labor," (2013), 3. [www.kailashsatyarthi.net/news&events](http://www.kailashsatyarthi.net/news&events)

- What is the nature of broom selling activity, working and living condition of broom selling children?
- What are the physical, health, educational and developmental (physical and mental) impacts of this broom selling on these children?
- What are the enforcement gaps on child rights and child labor policies to ensure effective protection for these children by responsible authorities?
- What are the possible solutions to ensure effective protection of the broom selling children from this child labor?

#### 4. General and Specific Objectives of the Research

The general objective of this research is to explore child labor in broom selling; the nature, working condition or environment and its physical, health, mental and developmental impacts on the broom seller children.

Additionally, the specific objectives of this study are also the following one.

- To assess where and how these broom selling children come as well as their causes to engage in broom selling.
- To investigate the nature of their work, working and living conditions and environment.
- To examine the physical, psychological, health, education and development impacts of broom selling on these children.
- To investigate the main enforcement gaps related to child rights and child labor laws and policies to mitigate this problem.
- To look in to the protection mechanisms for the effective and efficient protection of these broom seller children.

#### 5. Significance of the Study

There is a growing interest up on the issue of child labor and child labor in the informal economic sector in recent time in Ethiopia. There are different research studies which are done on the informal economic sector in different work areas both individually and by concerned organizations

and authorities. However, the issue of child labor in broom selling has not been a target of any study which is conducted either for academic or policy purposes before. Though exact figures are still unavailable, a significant number of children in Addis Ababa, Lideta sub-city (wereda Four) are working in the informal economic sector of broom selling.

Therefore, this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the nature of the work and magnitude of the problem with practical insight to the situation and life of children broom sellers in Addis Ababa, Lideta sub-city (wereda Four). By investigating and analyzing the nature of their work, working and living conditions, access to education and its physical, health and developmental impacts this study will contribute to the information available on child labor in the country. In addition, the findings of the study will create awareness to the public, non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as the policy makers in order to design programs and strategies that would help to tackle this problem and to save those children from this child labor to ensure their basic rights and freedoms. Finally, this study will provoke ideas concerning child labor and identify the major issues for further research.

## 6. Scope of the Study

The problem of child labor is widely prevalent throughout the state both at the rural and urban communities. Child labor has different violations of children rights and freedoms. However, so as to make the study manageable and comprehensively address the issues by the time, financial and material resources available at hand only children who work in broom selling throughout Addis Ababa, specifically in Lideta sub-city (wereda four) are the targets of this study. Hence, its findings may not be applicable for children who are out of this broom selling who live out of Lideta sub-city (wereda four). This research revolved around this informal economic sector child labor; where, why and how they come here, its nature, working condition and environment and its impacts up on those children's physical, health, education and development.

## 7. Limitation of the Study

In conducting this study the researcher has faced some limitations. The educational level of those children was a big challenge to be interested to share their experiences and in appropriately understanding the questions and answering or giving response for it. Their lack of rest time due to the nature of their work has been another challenge to communicate them.

However, these limitations did not have a significant adverse effect on the findings of this study. The researcher has made significant effort to establish a good interaction with the informants by approaching them through their friends and individuals who are nearest to them to feel comfortable and confident. The researcher has also arranged favorable condition for interview based on their available free time when they gather together for their lunch and comeback to sleeping house at the evening time. The use of different methods and resources have been instrumental to fill the data gaps which have been difficult to get through one instrument. So, the researcher believes that a complete picture of the problem has outlined by effectively utilizing the existing resources of the study.

## 8. Structure of the Study

Generally, this research has four chapters. The first chapter contains introduction, statement of the problem, research questions and objectives, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, description of the study area, review of related literatures and research design and methodology which includes sources of the data, data gathering techniques and sampling design, ethical consideration and analysis strategies.

The second chapter deals with the theoretical foundations and incidence of child labor. It contains sub-topics which contains definition of key terms and concepts, defining child labor, theoretical perspectives on child labor, the incidence of child labor in developing countries, sectoral analysis and incidence of child labor, the incidence of child labor and the informal economic sector in Ethiopia, rural to urban migration and child labor and rural to urban migration of children from Tigray to Addis Ababa.

The third chapter of this study also deals with international, regional and domestic laws and policies on child rights and child labor. Hence, it contains issues related to international conventions on the protection of children from child labor, regional conventions on the protection of children from child labor, ILO Conventions in the protection of children from child labor, international policy commitments on child labor, domestic legal standards and policies on child rights and child labor and institutions working on child labor in Ethiopia.

The last and fourth chapter of this study is about data processing and analysis. This analysis also contains about the personal and family background of those children, their migration process and reasons and nature of their work, working and living conditions, the impacts of their work on their physical, health, education and development. It also deals about the enforcement problems institutions working on child rights and child labor for the effective protection of children from child labor. Finally, it deals with conclusion and recommendation to realize the rights of children rights and mitigate the problem of child labor in broom selling.

## 9. Description of the Study Area

In 2003, the Charter of Addis Ababa City Government, Proclamation No. 1/1995 E.C, divided the city into ten sub-cities for the purpose of realizing good governance and administration.<sup>28</sup> These ten sub-cities are Bole, Nifas Silk-Lafto, Kolfe-Keraniyo, Yeka, Akaki-Kaliti, Arada, Gulele, Addis Ketema, Kirkos and Ledeta Sub-city.<sup>29</sup>

The total population of Addis Ababa was estimated to 3,048,631, which is 3.71 percent of Ethiopian population of 84.3 million and 22.42 percent of urban population (14 million).<sup>30</sup> The population of Addis Ababa is a composition of different ethnic groups in which Amhara, Oromo, Guraghe and Tigrians, Silte and Gamo accounts for above 90 % of the total population.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Addis Ababa Population Images: Population Affairs Coordination Sub process Finance and Economic Development Bureau. Addis Ababa, Oct. (2009): 9.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> CGE, "Socio-Economic Profile of Addis Ababa," (Addis Ababa: Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, 2013), 16.

<sup>31</sup> CGE, "Socio-Economic Profile of Addis Ababa," (2013), 18.

This study was conducted in Addis Ababa, Lideta sub-city Wereda Four. Lideta as one of these 10 sub-cities of Addis Ababa has 10 Wereda administrations.<sup>32</sup> It is found among Addis-Kifleketema and Arada in the North, Kirkos in the West, Nifas Silk Lafto in the South and Kolfe-Keraneo in the East. This sub-city has relatively the lowest number of population from all Addis Ababa sub cities. Similar to other many sub-cities it has diverse population from different ethnic groups of the state. The life of the population is dependent in different economic activities in which broom work and selling is one of those economic activities. A number of broom selling children predominantly live in this sub-city particularly in Wereda Four.

## 10. Review of Related Literatures

The issue of child labor has been a target of many academic writings. However, due to the dynamic nature of the socio-economic and political life of peoples and societies new developments are inevitable which may require attention and investigation. As a result it is important to see some of those researches done before, their perspective, and basic differences with this study.

The first one is Alegnta Felleke's research work on Child Labor in the Informal Sector, a study on the Impact of Child Labor in the Case of Children who are engaged in Blacksmithing Activity in Kolfe/Keranio Sub-City in August, 2008. This study mainly aims at the causes of child labor, assessment of the living and working conditions of the working children, the perceived impacts of child labor on the children's health, education and physical wellbeing, and the social work implications of the study based on findings. This study is different from Alegntas research, on the case study and study area, the use of pure qualitative methodology and is more specific one.

Another important research study is also done on Child labor in the informal sector (a case study of child Shoe polishers in Gulele keflea ketma) which was done by Solomon Shimelis in June, 2006. This paper also focuses on examining the causes and consequences of child labor on child shoe shiners in Gulele sub city which starts from assessment of the demographic and socio-

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<sup>32</sup> [www.addisababacity.gov.et/index.php/en/sub-cities/lideta](http://www.addisababacity.gov.et/index.php/en/sub-cities/lideta).

economic characteristics of the working children, the nature of their work, the working condition and its impacts up on the children health, education and mental development. However, this research study is different in terms of the case study itself, the study site and the methodology employed by the researcher.

Thirdly, there is also a study which was conducted on Child labor in the informal sector, the case of Gulele sub-city particularly in Shiromeda and Addisu Gebeya which was done by Addisu Gedlu in July, 2008. It aims at assessing the factors that contribute for the involvement of children in the labor market; the living and working conditions of child laborers; the negative and positive impacts of child labor on the working children; the perceptions of child labor from the perspectives of working children, employers and members of the society; the challenges and abusive practices child laborers face; and the legislations that protect children from labor exploitation. But, this research study is different in terms of its specific focus on broom selling children which is a new case and area of study.

Another study which is related to this writing is also conducted by Habtamu Getnet in March, 2011 on the livelihoods and survival strategies among the migrant shoe-shinning children; a case study at Arada sub-city. This study also aims in exploring the livelihood and survival strategies among the migrant shoe-shinning children. Additionally, there was a study which was conducted by Ethiopian human rights commission research officer in March, 2010, which deals with an assessment of the National Policy and Legislative Response to Child Labor in Ethiopia which was conducted by Ghetnet Metiku. This is a wider study which focuses on the prevalence, magnitude, causes and effects of child labor, outline the international legal standards and good practices for a child-rights based response to child labor, and assess the policy and legislative response to child labor.

However, this study is also different from Habtamus' study because of it's the target studies or the case study, study area, and is too specific and its special focus on child labor issues. All those studies are important for this writing, although they are not the only one of these studies which were conducted before on child labor and child labor in the informal economic sectors.

Generally, there is no any study conducted before on this broom selling economic activity. This also makes it as a new economic development or dynamics which is widely prevalent throughout the whole city. As a result, it needs a study and investigation up on its nature, and impacts up on the life of those children which also particularly deals on those children right to education, health and development.

## 11. Research Design and Methodology

This study employed a qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research is multi method in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter, because of the reason that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or interpret a phenomenon in terms of the meanings people bring to them.<sup>33</sup> It also allows flexibility in the research process and the subjects being studied to give much richer answers to questions.<sup>34</sup> Hence, the reason why this study employ qualitative methodology is to enable informants to express their ideas and experiences in their own words to get the full picture of the phenomenon.

Qualitative research is an important method for the preliminary and exploratory stage of a study.<sup>35</sup> Therefore, the specific methodological approach that the researcher employed is case study because of the reason that the purpose of the study is to describe and explore the in-depth experience of the broom seller children.

### a. Sources of the Data

The main sources of the data are these broom seller child laborers in Lideta sub-city Wereda four and concerned governmental authorities and experts working on child rights and child labor. The second important source is also document analysis of research works which are reviewed for the

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<sup>33</sup> Dawn-Snape and Liz Spencer, *Quantitative Research Practice; a Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers*. SAGE Publishers LTD. (2003), 12.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Jennifer Rowley, "Using Case Studies in Research," (*England: Ormskirk, Management Research News*, Vol. 25, no. 1, 2002), 18.

purpose of the research. As a result, previously conducted research papers, international and national documents, records and reports, journal articles and conference papers were reviewed in addition to the first hand data from the respondents to make reach the full picture of the situation.

#### b. Primary Data Gathering Techniques and Instruments

The first data gathering technique used by the researcher is interview guide. An in-depth interview has employed to generate primary information from individuals who have experienced an event or who have some knowledge or information about the phenomenon. It specifically targets the group of child laborers who work in broom selling. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ethiopian Institution of Ombudsman, the Federal Supreme Court and Lideta sub-city of Wereda Four were also those concerned institutions and authorities who are nearest to the issue. In addition to this, the researcher has also employed direct observation and interaction as an important data gathering techniques for the successful accomplishment of this study.

#### i. Semi-Structured Interview

It is widely recognized that Interviews are the most common and ideal for collecting data on individuals' personal views, experiences, beliefs and/or motivations of individuals on specific matters.<sup>36</sup> As a result, a semi-structured interview was used to collect the experience, life of those children who work in broom selling. The reason why this study employed semi structured interview is that it helps to define the areas to be explored and also allows a certain degree of flexibility for the interviewer and interviewee children to diverge when it seems necessary. Open and close ended questions were designed for both the individuals who work in broom selling and selected individuals from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Federal Supreme Court, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Institute of Ombudsman and the Lideta sub-city Wereda Four Administration to get their professional insights in child labor and child labor in broom selling.

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<sup>36</sup> P. Gill, K. Stewart, E. Treasure and B. Chadwick' Methods of data collection in qualitative research: interviews and focus groups, (Cardiff: *British Dental Journal*, Vol. 204, no. 6), (2008), 292.

ii. Direct Observation and Interaction

Direct observation is a systematic noting and recording of events, behaviors, artifacts or objects in the social setting of a certain study area. It is in the form of field notes which are essential to get additional information from this broom selling and broom selling children. This study has employed this methodology to get additional important issues from the working and living condition and environment of these broom seller children.

c. Secondary Data

In addition to the primary data, information from official documents, legal conventions and standards, and policies were used. Academic literatures, articles, publications and other secondary sources were also used for the successful completion of this study.

d. Sampling Design

This is the process of choosing a number of study units from a defined study population. As far as this research is a qualitative one, its sampling design is purposive which aims at getting the best informants for the research. Although sampling design is subjective to financial resources, man power, and available time to the study the researcher has employed the principles of sufficiency and saturation which are two commonly used principles to select adequate number of participants from the target population.<sup>37</sup>

This is to mean that enough members of participants enable the researcher to get full understanding about the problem of child labor in Broom selling. The researcher has also conducted interviews based on the research questions and listen to the idea of the targeted children who work in Broom selling until the point of having the sense of listening similar information. Beyond that, it also includes key informants and authorities concerning the issue. The approach I choose to study the

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<sup>37</sup> Minrie Greeff, et.al., “*Research at Grass Root Level: For the Social Sciences and Human Services Profession: Information Collection*,” Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), 2005. 294.

problem of these group of children is case study which is important to offer a deep and holistic analysis of the single group case.

e. Data processing and Analysis

The methodology of the data analysis will follow the inductive reasoning. The data collected from the broom seller children and other documents were processed and analyzed by using recursive abstraction interpretive technique where data sets are summarized and at the end come to a compact summary and conclusion of the all gathered data. Simple tabulations were also used. The data analysis was taken in light of the information the researcher get, the real condition of the children and the international and national legal frame works.

f. Ethical Considerations

Ethical consideration is also another essential element of a research methodology what the researcher take in to consideration throughout the interaction between with the people who were participants of the study. The observance of ethical norms are essential for unlocking the truth by avoiding error in fulfilling the objective of the research.

The researcher has conducted the study by taking in to consideration of those all ethical standards of a research. Firstly, participants of the research were briefed about the purpose of the study and were asked for their informed consent to be involved in due respect. The issue of keeping information confidentiality was also assured and implemented for the participants. Additionally, it was taken seriously caring from talking and using things which might be against their dignity.

## Chapter Two

### 2. Theoretical Foundations and Incidence of Child Labor

#### 2.1. Definition of Key Terms and Concepts

Definition of key terms and concepts are important elements of a certain writing to have a clear and targeted understanding of a certain issue. Differences in terms of the meaning and definition of terms and concepts are available. But, what is taken here is what is agreed mostly by respective institutions as well as scholars. The following terms and concepts are basically important for this study.

**Child:** the most common definition in regarding to the term child is given by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It states that a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.<sup>38</sup>

**Child Work:** Child work is different from child labor. Child work refers to children or adolescents' participation in work, economic activity that does not negatively affect their health and development or interfere with their education, is often positive. Child work refers to light work (that does not interfere with education) is permitted from the age of 12 years.<sup>39</sup>

**Child Labor:** Although the term child labor is a complex term, it mainly includes the following activities. a) all economic activity done by children until age 11; b) all economic activity done by children aged 12 to 14, excluding permitted "light work" in the sense of Convention 138; c) all economic activity carried out under hazardous conditions by children aged 15 to 17, and d) "the worst forms" of child labor carried out under age 18.<sup>40</sup> Therefore any form of work which is exploitative and hazardous for the child's welfare is a child labor.

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<sup>38</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article (1), 1989.

<sup>39</sup> ILO, Convention No. 138, Minimum Age Convention. Article 7(1). 1973.

<sup>40</sup> Elena Arnal, Steven Tobin, Raymond Torres, Combating Child Labor. Review of policies. 2003. P.14.

**Informal Economy:** refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements [...] They are operating outside the formal reach of the law; or [...] although they are operating within the formal reach of the law, the law is not applied or not enforced; or the law discourages compliance because it is inappropriate, burdensome, or imposes excessive costs.<sup>41</sup>

**Migration:** is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes which includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants.<sup>42</sup>

## 2.2. Defining Child Labor

Whereas this chapter deals with the theoretical and historical foundations of child labor in general, it is important to see what child labor is first to have a brief understanding about what child labor is. Similar to many social science terms and concepts, child labor did not have one agreed universal definition of what it mean and what it constitutes. It covers a wide range of moral or ethical, social, economic, and legal issues which makes it complex. However, different writings stated that, the meaning of child labor depends on identifying what a “child” mean and the distinction between “child work” and “child labor” first.

Defining the term “child” is not also an easy task. In the western countries, while it is customary to define the term child by chorological age, in many societies cultural and social factors are also important.<sup>43</sup> The necessary protection that a child gets from his parents or family reduces from time to time and assumes family and individual responsibility below the legally established age of 18. Participation of children in economic activities are considered as normal and litmus tests of the childhood for further adulthood responsibility. This could also exposes children to engage in

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<sup>41</sup> ILO, *Conclusions concerning decent work and the informal economy* (Geneva: International Labor Conference, 90th Session, Record of Proceedings, Vol. II, 2002), 25.

<sup>42</sup>IOM, “International Migration Law, Glossary in migration,” (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, ISSN 1813-2278, 2004), 42.

<sup>43</sup> Grootaert and Kanbur. “Child Labor: A review: Background paper for World Development Report.” (*Policy Research Working Paper, no. 1454, 1995*): 3.

different economic activities which are exploitative and hazardous ones like the broom seller children. In those societies like many Ethiopian society, the evolution of a child to adulthood passes through socially and biologically defined life phases, over which the degree of dependence and the need for protection from family and care taker reduces through time.<sup>44</sup> Those social and cultural values come in conflict with the legally established standards and rights and principles which makes it difficult to abolish child labor in many societies. But, in any way the worst forms of child labor cannot be excused on the name of those cultural and social values for every child below eighteen years old due to their adverse effects on children health and development.

Many international and national organizations, and legal documents define child in terms of the chronological age of the child. When we look to the definition given by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), it defines child as all children below the age of eighteen (18).<sup>45</sup> In addition to this the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), also defines as every human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.<sup>46</sup> This is also true with in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) which defines child as every human being below the age of Eighteen (18) years.<sup>47</sup> Those international institutions and legal instruments reflect predominantly the western chronological age in defining the term child while there are societal and cultural differences on it especially from the developing states. Despite these controversies in defining what a child mean, it is widely recognized that a child is every human being below the age of Eighteen (18) years.

The second important issue in defining and interpreting child labor is the distinctions between child labor and child work. On the one hand while some institutions, organizations and academic writers equate child work with child labor, others do not agree with this equation and argue that they are different issues. But, for the purpose of this writing child work is different from child labor in which child work is equated with light work which is permissible to children aged 12/13-14/15. Those who see child work as a child labor, it ranges from acceptable and constructive work that make children part of the socialization process, teaches the child survival skills and less

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<sup>44</sup> Grootaert and Kanbur. "Child Labor: A review. 1995. 3,

<sup>45</sup> UNICEF, "The State of the World's Children." (New York, Oxford University Press, 1997), 1

<sup>46</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article (1), 1989.

<sup>47</sup> The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, article (2), 1990.

marginalized on the one side.<sup>48</sup> On the other side, participation of children in exploitative, hazardous conditions and unconditionally worst forms that hinder the mental and physical development of children are activities which are considered as a child labor.<sup>49</sup> Hence, economic activities including unpaid work like that of a family farm, household enterprise and domestic work which are harmful to the health, education and healthy development of the child should be taken as child labor or whether it should be viewed only as wage employment are still contentious issues.<sup>50</sup>

However, not all works done by children are considered as child labor which should be targeted for its elimination. Children's participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling are considered as positive.<sup>51</sup> This also includes, helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays are activities which contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families.<sup>52</sup> Hence, child work is also mostly equated with light work in which adolescents' participation in work, economic activity that does not negatively affect their health and development or interfere with their education, is often positive.<sup>53</sup> The nature of the work, its impacts up on the child, age of the children and the relationship between the child and the employer are basically important to define and to understand what it constitutes.<sup>54</sup>

Despite those complexities, the dominant principle of the ILO Convention and the CRC which state that, work should not interfere with the education and the fullest mental and physical development of the child is the bench mark in defining child labor, formulating national policies and practices and is also widely used in academic writings as well.<sup>55</sup> Child labor includes all economic activity done by children until age 11,<sup>56</sup> all economic activity done by children aged 12

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<sup>48</sup> Assefa Admassie. "The Incidence of Child Labor in Africa with Empirical Evidence from Rural Ethiopia", *ZEF – Discussion Papers on Development Policy no. 32*, (2000): 6.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> ILO. Article 7(1) of the Minimum Age Convention no. 138.

<sup>54</sup> Assefa. "The Incidence of Child Labor in Africa with Empirical Evidence from Rural Ethiopia", (2000): 8.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>56</sup> Arnal, Tobin, Torres. *Combating Child Labor: Review of policies*. France: (OECD), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Cedex 16, (2003): 14.

to 14, excluding permitted “light work” in the sense of Convention 138,<sup>57</sup> all economic activity carried out under hazardous conditions by children aged 15 to 17, and the worst forms of child labor carried out under age 18.<sup>58</sup> Work becomes unacceptable when it is exploitative, hazardous which hamper a child’s physical, mental, moral, social development and when it denies access to education. Any work be it domestic, formal or informal, paid or unpaid is a child labor when it denies the necessary protection and freedom of his/her childhood. This is also central point to the overall work of this study.

### 2.3. Theoretical Perspectives on Child Labor

Due to the multifaceted nature of the issue of child labor, there are different theoretical perspectives up on it. Those theoretical perspectives are also essential to understand what child labor is, its moral, legal, social, economic and political perspectives. They are also essential to understand its causes, consequences and directing the policy alternatives to be taken by those international and national organizations of both governmental and non-governmental ones to mitigate the problem. As a result, there are four common theoretical perspectives on child labor which are also basically relevant for this writing. These are, the labor market perspective, human capital perspective, social responsibility perspective and children centered perspective.

#### 2.3.1. The Labor Market Perspective

The labor market perspective is the oldest and basis of many ILO Conventions and national laws of governments concerning child labor. This perspective of child labor is predominantly dominated by the western cultural ideals of child hood which principally emphasizes on the idea that, child must be separated from work and the possible impacts of child labor on adult workers as well as the work environment.<sup>59</sup> It is a legalistic approach that tends to explain child labor through the theory that the weak are exploited by the strong and the exploiters must be controlled through

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<sup>57</sup> ILO. Convention No. 138, Minimum Age Convention.

<sup>58</sup> ILO. The Worst Form of Child Labor Convention, no. 182. 1999.

<sup>59</sup> Addisu Gedlu, “Child Labor in the Informal Sector, The Case of Gulele Sub-city, Addis Ababa” (M.A. thesis, Addis Ababa University, 2008), 11.

legislation and its effective enforcement.<sup>60</sup> Hence, it concerns with the necessity of legal standards which prohibit children to engage in child labor which could give adequate guarantee from exploitation and harm. The exploitive class wants children for low or no payment unlike the adult workers which in turn results to the adult unemployment and servitude and exploitation of the children.<sup>61</sup>

The labor market perspective considers children as powerless and incapable of protecting their interest, innocent and incompetent to defend themselves from exploitation and other evils which makes them free of responsibility to make economic contribution to their families and obliges adults to take care of children.<sup>62</sup> This theory argues that, there is an intrinsic contradictory relationship between the participation of child labor and adult employment in which, child participation in work is not only against their rights, it is also reduces employment opportunity of the adult workers.<sup>63</sup> It advocates policies which discourage child participation in economic activities and child labor in order to protect adult employment and wage competition by using minimum prohibitions on work and compulsory education.<sup>64</sup>

Education and child work are incompatible and child labor should be prohibited until they reach the legal age and accomplish their basic education. It also puts the state with the highest responsibility in eradicating child labor.<sup>65</sup> However, this theoretical perspective is subject to criticism because of its special concern of the interest of adult workers, underestimation of children as incapable of expressing their views, interest and prohibition of any form of economic participation.

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<sup>60</sup> Eddy Joshua Walakira, "Interpretation of Child Labor in Uganda: A Case of Children's Work in Fishing Communities in Wakiso District" (M.A. thesis Wien University, 2009), 13.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Solomon Shimelis. "Child labor with in the informal economic sector: A Case Study of Child Shoe Polishers in Gulelie Kifleketema" (M.A. thesis, Addis Ababa University, 2006), 25.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

### 2.3.2. The Human Capital Perspective

This theoretical perspective considers child labor as a result of underdevelopment, and defines it as a work that undermines development of the health status, knowledge, and skills that children need to contribute in adult life both to national economic development and their own prosperity.<sup>66</sup> Child labor is not only a result of economic and social underdevelopment of a state and society, it also hinders the growth and development of the child with necessary knowledge, skill and attitude.

In this discourse, there is no fundamental objection to children being economically active as long as their human capital is not threatened and is properly nurtured. Without objecting to children's participation in work where their lives are not endangered, this perspective is more concerned with concepts such as poverty alleviation, labor productivity, and developing human resources with marketable skills.<sup>67</sup> This theoretical perspective encourages policies and activities to develop children skills, attitudes and other capacities they need to contribute to economic development and for their better life.<sup>68</sup> It is not basically against child work that can contribute to their development as a responsible adults and helpful to them and their families, rather it is against child labor that denies their right to education and that exposes them to physical and mental abuses.<sup>69</sup>

Advocators of this perspective are suspicious of organizations and government policies and actions which are coercive by their nature like that of removing their source of income which is basic for their survival and winning the daily bread. They believe that, this could force them to engage in a more serious and dangerous works such as prostitution, drug trafficking and other criminal acts. It is important to have appropriate adjustment and supervision programs for their rehabilitation, education and direct assistance of those child laborers.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Alegnta Felleke, "Child Labor in the Informal Sector: A study on the Impact of Child Labor in the Case of Children who are engaged in Blacksmithing Activity in Kolfe/Keranio Sub-City" (Ma. Degree thesis, Addis Ababa University, 2007), 15.

<sup>67</sup> Walakira. "Interpretation of Child Labor in Uganda", 2009, 13.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Solomon, "Child labor with in the informal economic sector", 2006, 23.

The Human Capital theory evaluates children work based on its contribution to the overall development of children. While it supports work that is important to the socialization of child, it opposes child work that deprives children of education in which child labor without schooling perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty across generations.<sup>71</sup> It targets eradication of poverty and its causes through access to education to enrich children with necessary knowledge and skill to contribute to a virtuous cycle of rising incomes and economic development as a result of which poverty and child labor can be reduced or eliminated.

### 2.3.3. The Social Responsibility Perspective

From the social responsibility perspective child labor is seen as work that exploits, alienates, or oppresses children and separates them from society's normal protections.<sup>72</sup> This perspective arises out of concern about social inequality, many types of discrimination, unjust concentrations and use of economic and political power, cultural alienation, dysfunctional family and community relationships, social irresponsibility and decline of social values and moral fiber.<sup>73</sup>

Child labor according to this perspective is a problem of social exclusion, leading to work that exploits, alienates, and oppresses children.<sup>74</sup> Children are exposed to oppression and exploitation because they are not connected to their families and communities and sees child labor within the context of social rather than economic development. Therefore, policies on social inclusion and protection of those marginalized and excluded ones is necessary to ensure child rights and eliminate child labor.

### 2.3.4. The Child Centered Perspective

The Children Centered Perspective puts the interests of children first, in the understanding and interpretation of child labor. It is underpinned by the Rights Based Approach (RBA) and puts

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<sup>71</sup> Solomon, "Child labor with in the informal economic sector", 2006, 23

<sup>72</sup> Myers W.E, et.al. "Valuing Diverse Approaches to Child Labor: Child Labor Policy Options" (Amsterdam: *Akzant Academic Publishers*), (2001): 37.

<sup>73</sup> Addisu, "Child Labor in the Informal Sector", 2008, 12.

<sup>74</sup> Walakira, "Interpretation of Child Labor in Uganda", 2009, 14.

premium on the best interests of the child as provided under the CRC and other human rights instruments.<sup>75</sup> The CRC provides that, “In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”<sup>76</sup> As a result, this perspective considers children as rights holders with their own voices which demands to them to be active participants in decision making. Any kind of work which threatens their wellbeing, individual and social development and endangers their rights is a child labor that should be abolished.

This perspective of child labor points out that, child-centered interventions in child work have children as their primary clientele, putting their interests first and foremost without filtering them through prior adult agenda which is most associated with organizations for the protection of children.<sup>77</sup> It is prominently represented at the international level by the UNICEF and international child rights organizations such as the Save the Children Alliance, and at the national level by a huge number of non-governmental and community organizations promoting children’s rights and welfare. Generally, the first two perspectives are of an economic orientation, while the latter two tend to emphasize social and cultural factors which are central on the issue of child labor.

All those theoretical perspectives are vital to this study to understand what child labor is, its causes, and impacts up on children which is related to the broom selling and its impacts on these broom seller children. They are also important in giving insight on the policy alternatives to reduce or eliminate broom selling child labor.

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<sup>75</sup> Walakira, “Interpretation of Child Labor in Uganda”, 2009, 14.

<sup>76</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3(1), 1989.

<sup>77</sup> Walakira. “Interpretation of Child Labor in Uganda”, 2009, 15.

## 2.4. The Incidence of Child Labor in the Developing Countries

The period of activism and economic progress in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries saw sharp reductions in child labor in industrial nations despite its continuity in many other parts of the developing world.<sup>78</sup> The gradual decline in child labor in the industrial states creates hope that, it would eventually disappear elsewhere.<sup>79</sup> However, child labor has not faded away which is endemic in today's developing countries.<sup>80</sup>

Based on the most recent estimates from 168 million children which accounts for about 11 percent of the whole world child population, around 85 million children are subject to hazardous work that directly threatens their health, safety and moral development.<sup>81</sup> More than 90 percent of this child labor found in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.<sup>82</sup> Similarly the 2013 ILO report also indicates that, the largest number of child laborers are found in Asia and the Pacific region and Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region with the highest incidence child labor.<sup>83</sup> In this region more than one in five children (21%) in the 5-17 years age group are in child labor compared with 9 per cent in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and 8 per cent in Middle East and North Africa (MENA).<sup>84</sup>

A significant number of African, Asia and Latin American states are at extreme risk of child labor.<sup>85</sup> Ethiopia is one of those states with extreme risk of child labor from the world, Africa and sub-Saharan states together with Pakistan, Burundi, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Somalia, North Korea and Myanmar.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> Kaushik Basu and Zafiris Tzannatos, "The Global child Labor Problem: What do we know and what can we do?" *The World Bank Economic Review* Dec. Vol.17, no. 2, (2003), 148.

<sup>79</sup> Jane Humphries, "Child Labor: Lessons from the Historical Experience of Today's Industrial Economies". *The World Bank Economic Review*, vol. 17, no. 2. (2003): 175.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> ILO, "Marking progress against child labor: Global estimates and trends 2000-2012," (*Geneva: International Labor Office, IPEC*, 2013), 1.

<sup>82</sup> Assefa. "The Incidence of Child Labor in Africa with Empirical Evidence from Rural Ethiopia."(2000), 3.

<sup>83</sup> ILO, "Marking progress against child labor: Global estimates and trends," (2000-2012) 5.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Luke McKenna, "Child Labor is making a Disturbing Resurgence around the World", Maple croft: Jan. 6, (2012). <http://www.businessinsider.com/author/luke-meckenna>.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

The higher incidence or extreme risk of child labor within the developing states especially the sub-Saharan countries is related with their poverty. Child labor is fundamentally related to poverty of society and states.<sup>87</sup> In addition to the economic underdevelopment, their cultural and social values on child and child work are also one of the factors behind their high incidence of child labor.

Mostly from the global south, children are not only right holders who should be cared and protected by their family but also holders of responsibility especially helping their families.<sup>88</sup> Beyond their economic contribution to their family, the participation of those children in different economic activities is considered as a socialization process of the child to adulthood which demands more responsibility. Within those states the development of the formal economic sector is at its lower stage which is dominated by those informal economic activities where a great concentration of child labor found.

## 2.5. Sectoral Analysis and Incidence of Child Labor

The sectoral analysis of child labor is also essential to understand the nature of those different economic activities and the degree to which children are more prone to exploitation and abuses. Based on the formality of employment relationship and the economic terms, there are two common sectors to analyze child labor. These are the formal and informal economic sectors.<sup>89</sup> Formal economic sectors refers to a legally established enterprises which is within the reach of the government.<sup>90</sup> This formal economic sector is characterized by restricted entry, frequent reliance on external resources, corporate ownership, large scale and formally acquired skills.<sup>91</sup> This also makes it less susceptible to child labor and exploitation as compared to the informal economic sector.

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<sup>87</sup> Edmonds, Eric V; Pavcnik, Nia, "Child Labor in the Global Economy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*: Vol.19, No.1, (2005), 200.

<sup>88</sup> Addisu, "Child Labor in the Informal Sector", 2008, 25-27.

<sup>89</sup> Assefa Admassie. "The Incidence of Child Labor in Africa with Empirical Evidence from Rural Ethiopia" (2000): 9.

<sup>90</sup> ILO. *Child Labor: A textbook for university students*, (Geneva: International Labor Office), (2004), 23. ISBN printed version: 92-2-115548-X. ISBN web pdf version: 92-2-115549-8

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

The informal economic sector on the other hand was initially used by the ILO to describe the activities of the working poor who were working very hard but who were not recognized, recorded, protected or regulated by the public authorities in the beginning of 1970's.<sup>92</sup> It refers to economic activities which are out of government reach which lacks legitimate control and taxation, in which they also lacks a formal employee relationship.<sup>93</sup> It includes all economic activities by workers and economic units that are in law or in practice not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements, operating outside the formal reach of the law.<sup>94</sup> Although they are operating within the formal reach of the law, the law is not applied or not enforced or the law discourages compliance because it is inappropriate, burdensome, or imposes excessive costs.<sup>95</sup>

In its broader understanding it is a “catch-all” term for activities ranging from those generating the least income (e.g. collecting garbage and scavenging, shining shoes) to more productive enterprises with several employees (e.g. small-scale fishing, mining, quarrying, agricultural and commercial activities).<sup>96</sup> The informal economic sector is characterized by ease of entry and exit, reliance on indigenous resources, family or one person ownership and/or operation, small scale of operation, long hours of work, bad working conditions, no records kept, skills acquired outside the formal system, and labor intensive and adaptive technology.<sup>97</sup>

The increasing pressure on export firms, the ratification of ILO Conventions and the enforcement of laws on domestic firms has meant that many (or indeed most) formal sectors have lower child laborers or are less vulnerable to child labor.<sup>98</sup> Much of the problem, however, lies now in the informal economic sector enterprises.<sup>99</sup> In Africa, the majority of the labor force is in the informal economy which is estimated that as many as 9 in 10 rural and urban workers have informal jobs.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> ILO, Decent work and the informal economy, (Geneva: International Labor Conference 90th Session Report VI, 2002), 1.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> ILO, *Conclusions concerning decent work and the informal economy*, (Geneva: International Labor Conference, 90th Session, Record of Proceedings, Vol. II, 2002), 25

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> ILO. *Child Labor: A textbook for university students*. (2004), 23.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> A. Nippierd, S. Gros-Louis, and P. Vandenberg, Employers and Child Labor. Guide 1: Introduction to the Issue of Child Labor (Geneva: International Labor Office), (2007):14.

<sup>100</sup> ILO, The informal economy in Africa: Promoting transition to formality: Challenges and strategies. Employment Sector and Social Protection Sector, (Geneva: International Labor Conference), (2009), 6.

Most are women and young people who have no other choice than the informal economy for their survival and livelihood.<sup>101</sup> The bulk of new employment in recent years, particularly in developing and transition countries, has been in the informal economy because of the fact that, they cannot find jobs or are unable to start businesses in the formal economy.<sup>102</sup>

In Africa, for instance, informal work accounted for almost 80 per cent of non-agricultural employment, over 60 per cent of urban employment and over 90 per cent of new jobs over the past two decades.<sup>103</sup> Similar to the agricultural sector with in the rural areas, the informal economic sector is part of the economy that includes the income-generating activities carried out by the majority of the urban poor.<sup>104</sup> Moreover, the possibility of exposure for hazardous child labor is much wider in the informal economic activities which exposes them to wider vulnerability due to lack of legal and regulatory frameworks.

## 2.6. The Incidence of Child Labor and the Informal Economic Sector in Ethiopia

It has been customary in Ethiopia that children have always been part of the productive and reproductive role of societies since time immemorial.<sup>105</sup> It has been considered as a normal responsibility of a child to take part on the economic and non-economic activities of their society for many years.<sup>106</sup> A significant number of societies in Ethiopia consider work is learning, where the attitudes, knowledge, skills and behavior relative to living and interacting in society are nurtured and developed, closely tied with the family and community.<sup>107</sup> As a result, child work and child labor is common with in the Ethiopian society.

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<sup>101</sup> ILO, *The informal economy in Africa: Promoting transition to formality*: (2009), 6.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> Charlotta Schlyter, “International Labor Standards and the Informal Sector: Developments and Dilemmas” *Employment sector*, (Geneva: International Labor Office, 2002/3), 1.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb279/pdf/sdg-2.pdf>.

<sup>104</sup> ILO, *Child Labor. A textbook for university students*. (2004), 23.

<sup>105</sup> Government of Ethiopia, “A study on the situation of child labor in Ethiopia: review of existing studies and brief assessment. People in need Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, (July 2009), 9.  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc95/pdf/rep-i-b.pdf>.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> Addisu, “Child Labor in the Informal Sector”, 2008, 25.

Child labor in Ethiopia is also related with the chronic poverty of the state and society which was widely prevalent before two decades. However, Ethiopia has achieved a remarkable economic and social progress, particularly over the past decade with annual economic growth has averaged 11% between 2004-2011, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa and one of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa that is on track to meet most of the MDG targets.<sup>108</sup> Although, poverty levels are estimated to have declined sharply, from 38.9% in 2004/05 to 29.2% in 2010, still there are many population below the poverty line.<sup>109</sup> Hence, child labor is still a serious problem of the developing countries like Ethiopia in recent decades.<sup>110</sup>

Because of poverty, inadequate access to education and lack of awareness, indifference of parents for their safe growth, migration, children as young as 5 years old actively work for low wages in family farms, informal businesses and even at times in the formal sector.<sup>111</sup> Developing states with economic transition have a high incidence of child labor. The increasing of foreign direct investments, and multi directional development programs with in states have a possibility to increase the number of child laborers. Based on recent reports, Ethiopia is the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) ranked state with extreme risk of child labor from the world, Africa and sub-Saharan states together with Pakistan, Burundi, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Somalia, North Korea and Myanmar.<sup>112</sup>

Based on the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) survey report on Demographic and Health related issues of 2011, from the total number of economically active children aged from 5-17, 28% of them are subject to child labor.<sup>113</sup> This survey report also indicate the percentage of child laborers in sex which is 31.1 and 23.5% for child boys and girls respectively. As a result the number of male children is greater than female children who engaged in child labor. In rural areas, children

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<sup>108</sup> The United Nations in Ethiopia: Transforming Ethiopia Together. Delivering as One in Ethiopia, (2012), 9.

<sup>109</sup> The United Nations in Ethiopia: Transforming Ethiopia Together. (2010) 10.

<sup>110</sup> Kaushik Basu, *Child Labor; Cause, Consequence and Cure, with Remarks on International Labor Standards*. Policy Research Working Paper 2027. December, (2009), 1.  
[elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/book/10.1596/1813-9450-2027](http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/book/10.1596/1813-9450-2027)

<sup>111</sup> Government of Ethiopia, “National Employment Policy and Strategy of Ethiopia”, Addis Ababa, November, (2009), 2.

<sup>112</sup> Luke McKenna, “Child Labor is making a Disturbing Resurgence around the World”, Maple croft: Jan. 6, (2012).  
<http://www.businessinsider.com/author/luke-meckenna>.

<sup>113</sup> CSA, “Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Calverton, Maryland, USA: Central Statistical Agency and ICF International, (2012), 33.

work primarily in family-based agriculture and commercial agriculture which include work in tea, coffee, sugarcane, onions, bananas and cotton production.<sup>114</sup> They are also active in domestic work, engage in activities such as cattle herding, petty trading, plowing, harvesting, and weeding, while other children, mostly girls, collect firewood and water. This child labor around the agricultural sector in the rural parts of the society can also force children to migrate to the urban areas to escape out of it and in search of better work.

The informal sector of the economy in urban areas like the agricultural sector in the rural areas massively uses child labor due to low level of the large scale commercial farms and infant stage expansion of large industries.<sup>115</sup> The most common types of child labor in Ethiopian urban communities like Addis Ababa are shoe shining, lottery tickets selling in the streets, vending Injera (traditional bread), Street Vending (Kolo) and Bread Peddling, working as Taxi assistant (Woyala in local language), begging, weaving, blacksmith work, carrying goods for people and so on.<sup>116</sup> However, what we should have to know here is that, these are not the only areas of informal economic sectors that children are subject to child labor which are hazardous by their nature in which many of them are unable to attend school and are unpaid which exposes them to exploitation and hinders their future development.

Although it has never been a subject of study and investigation before, broom selling as an informal economic activity is also one of those works in which many child laborers found. This economic activity did not get attention from responsible institutions and academic writings. Broom selling did not considered as a child labor for different parts of the society and institutions. Broom selling is the process in which children carry these brooms on their shoulder to sell and distribute throughout the whole city of Addis Ababa and its neighbor cities on foot.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> United States Department of Labor, *2008 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Ethiopia*, 10 September, (2009), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4aba3edf28.html> [accessed 3 April 2014]. 2.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Government of Ethiopia, "A study on the situation of child labor in Ethiopia: review of existing studies and brief assessment. People in need Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, (July 2009), 13.

<sup>117</sup> Observation of the researcher, Gullele, June 20, 2014.

## 2.7. Rural – Urban Migration and Child Labor

There is a strong connection between migration and child labor in which one causes the other. One of the major reasons behind child labor with in these urban areas is independent migration of children for work. Independent migrant children refers to children who migrate without their parents or legal guardians and live changing their usual residence.<sup>118</sup> As a result those independent rural to urban migrant children lead their life independently within the urban community without their parents working indifferent economic activities.<sup>119</sup>

Children without their parents who migrate in search of work to the urban areas and lead their life independently are highly vulnerable to different forms of exploitation.<sup>120</sup> They did not have any organ who is responsible for their care and protection and provide their basic necessities which forces them to engage in different forms of work, mostly in the informal economic sectors which are hazardous by their nature.<sup>121</sup> The informal economic sectors have small capacity to invest in which they exploit the children to maximize their profit by reducing their costs and increasing their working hours. Children who employ with in those many informal economic sectors around the urban areas work extremely difficult activities for their physical, moral and mental wellbeing.

When we look at the problems of migration of children and child labor, they are similar in terms of the push and pull factors behind to each other and one can also be a cause for the other. In both of them the main reasons are social, economic and cultural issues in which one influences another.<sup>122</sup> Economic poverty, lack of quality education, family breakdown, loss of parents and other related issue are some of the reasons for migration of children and child labor.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>118</sup> Yaqub, Shahin, “Independent Child Migrants in Developing Countries: Unexplored Links in Migration and Development”, (*Florence: Innocenti Working Paper* No. 01, *UNICEF Innocenti Research Center*, 2009), 15.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> Eric Edmonds and Maheshwor Shrestha, “Children’s Work and Independent Child Migration: a critical review”, (*Florence: Innocenti Working Paper*, no.19, *UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre*, (2009), 1.

<sup>121</sup> Shahin, “Independent Child Migrants in Developing Countries”, (2009), 15.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*

## 2.8. Rural – Urban Migration of Children from Tigray to Addis Ababa

Migration as a social, economic, cultural and political issue is common in individuals, groups and communities. In Ethiopia migration is a wider phenomenon in which individuals and groups migrate from one area to another due to different socio-economic reasons. Rural to urban migration in Ethiopia consists 24.8 percent which makes it second, to the rural-rural form of migration which contains 48.9 percent of the total migrants in the country.<sup>124</sup>

In Ethiopia, studies indicate more recent migrants are younger than the total migrants in which majority of them are at the age group of 10 – 29 years.<sup>125</sup> This also indicates a significant number of children are subject to migration from the rural parts of the society to the urban areas. Although, there are no adequate reports up on the independent migration of children in Ethiopia, around 11.4 percent of children aged 5-17 have independently migrated at some point in their lives.<sup>126</sup> Many children migrate from the rural parts of the state to the urban areas, especially to Addis Ababa in search of their daily bread and better life. The migration process of those children have different forms which includes trafficking, peer influence, ethnic and blood relationships.<sup>127</sup>

Reports indicate that around 10.7 % of the total migrants in domestic household servants in Addis Ababa come from Tigray regional state.<sup>128</sup> A significant number of those migrants are also children who migrate independent of their parents. Children working in cities and towns are much more likely to be working outside the protective environment of the family.<sup>129</sup> Those children also engage in different forms of economic activities beyond domestic work which is predominantly on the informal economic sectors of the city.

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<sup>124</sup> Askale Mekonnen and Tadesse Haile, “Rapid Assessment on the Causes and Pattern of Rural- Urban Migration in Five Major Towns of Ethiopia,” (Forum on Street Children, (FSCE), 2004), 6.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> Eric Edmonds and Maheshwor Shrestha, “Children’s Work and Independent Child Migration: a critical review” (Florence: Innocenti Working Paper, no. 19, UNICEF Innocenti Research Center), (2009).

<sup>127</sup> Askale and Tadesse, “Rapid Assessment on the Causes and Pattern of Rural- Urban Migration in Five Major Towns of Ethiopia,” (2004), 6.

<sup>128</sup> The Ethiopian Urban Migration Study 2008: The Characteristics, Motives and Outcomes of Migrants to Addis Ababa. World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Africa Region Report No. 55731), 2010. 14.

<sup>129</sup> Lorenzo Guarcello, Furio Rosati, “Child Labor and Youth Employment: Ethiopia Country Study,” (World Bank Social Protection Discussion Paper no 0704), 2007. 14.

## Chapter Three

### 3. International, Regional and Domestic Laws and Policies on Child Rights and Child Labor

#### 3.1. International Conventions on the protection of children from Child Labor

At the international level the most important human rights law are the bill of rights which include the UDHR, ICCPR and ICESCR and its two optional protocols.<sup>130</sup> Human rights law are a guarantees of dignity and freedom for every individual human being. Beyond that, they also give special protection for vulnerable groups like children in many areas. This also begins from the UDHR which become an authoritative international standard and common yardstick to measure the degree of respect for and compliance with international human rights standards.<sup>131</sup>

The UDHR states that, childhood is entitled to special care and assistance from parents or legal guardians and the government.<sup>132</sup> It also states, elementary education shall be free and compulsory which indicates about the special right of children to get access to education.<sup>133</sup> Children needs special protection from any kind of threat and violation of rights they encounter. This essential principle and right of the child is widely prevalent in many of the subsequent human rights instruments at the international, regional and national levels.

The other important international human rights laws which deals with children rights and freedom are the ICCPR and ICESCR. The ICCPR states, the right of children to measures of protection, as are required by their status as a minors, on the part of his family, society and the State.<sup>134</sup> Similarly the ICESCR also state about the need for special protection and assistance for children and young persons from economic and social exploitation.<sup>135</sup> Employment of children in work which is harmful to their morals, health or

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<sup>130</sup> The International Bill of Human Rights, (Geneva: United Nations, Fact Sheet no.2 (Rev.1), 1996. 1. But, this study did not see the optional protocols.

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet2Rev.1en.pdf>

<sup>131</sup> Jack Donnelly, "Human Dignity and Human Rights," (USA: University of Denver, Swiss Initiative to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2009), 5.

<sup>132</sup> UDHR, Article 25 (2).

<sup>133</sup> Ibid., Article, 26 (1).

<sup>134</sup> The ICCPR, 1966, Article 24 (1).

<sup>135</sup> The ICESCR, 1966, Article 10 (3).

dangerous to their life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law.<sup>136</sup> The ICESCR, also grants children a right to free and compulsory education at the primary level school.<sup>137</sup> Besides, it also indicate about the purpose and necessity of education for the full mental development of the child.<sup>138</sup> Hence, any kind of work which threatens and denies access to education is basically against this basic international law.

Beyond those international bill of rights, the CRC as a specific international child rights law is important in the protection of child labor. It is a reflection of a new vision of the child as neither the property of parents, nor as helpless objects of charity, rather as holder of rights and responsibilities appropriate to his/her age and stage of development.<sup>139</sup> This convention clearly states the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.<sup>140</sup>

Working for long hours with minimal or no payment and working conditions which did not give stimulation for proper physical and mental development which could endure lives of pure deprivation is prohibited.<sup>141</sup> Any form of work which is exploitative, hazardous by its nature, interfere on education, or harmful to the child wellbeing and development aged below 18 years old is a child labor which should be abolished.<sup>142</sup> It also states that, every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.<sup>143</sup> The parents or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.<sup>144</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> The ICESCR, Article 13, sub article 2 (a).

<sup>138</sup> Ibid., Article 13 (1).

<sup>139</sup> Archer Heinzen, "Education to Combat Abusive Child Labor Task Order, Report for the Basic Education and Policy Support", (BEPS) Activity, 2006), 2.

[pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/Pdadm248.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdadm248.pdf)

<sup>140</sup> See Article 32(1) of the Convention on the Rights of Children, (1989), It also calls on countries to establish a minimum age for admission to employment and to appropriately regulate work hours of children.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid., Article 27 (1)

<sup>144</sup> Ibid., Article 27 (2).

Considering the importance of the natural family environment of the child, it gives a special attention for a child who is temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment. A child who is deprived of family environment shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the state.<sup>145</sup> Children who live out of their family whether they are migrant or not needs special consideration and assistance from their government.

### 3.2. Regional Conventions on the Protection of Children from Child Labor

Regional human and/or children rights conventions are also equally important for this study which mainly focus on the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) of 1990 which was entered into force 9 years later and the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of the Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Convention on IDPs). The ACHPR, states about the need for protection of children from any form of discrimination and violation of their rights stipulated in international laws.<sup>146</sup> This also indicates about the protection of children from child labor and exploitation in every economic activities which is against their education, health, and development which is stated in different articles of the international bill of human rights.

The ACRWC, as a specific legal document in Africa states that, children should be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.<sup>147</sup> It also obliges states to take every legislative and administrative measures to abolish child labor which particularly emphasizes on minimum wages for admission to every employment, appropriate regulation of hours and conditions of employment, appropriate penalties and promote the

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<sup>145</sup> See Article 20(1) of the CRC, 1989. Article 20(2) also obliges states to ensure alternative care for children deprived of his/her family environment based on their national laws. Additionally Article 20(3), states when considering solutions due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

<sup>146</sup> The ACHPR, 1981, Article 18 (3).

<sup>147</sup> ACRWC, 1990, Article 15 and 15 (1).

dissemination of information on the hazards of child labor to all sectors of the community.<sup>148</sup> Every child shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health.<sup>149</sup>

In addition to those important points the ACRWC also clearly state about parents care, protection and responsibility for their child.<sup>150</sup> Parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development the child and shall have the duty to ensure that, the best interests of the child are their basic concern at all times and to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, conditions of living necessary to the child's development.<sup>151</sup> Similar to the above international legal standards it forbids child labor and exploitation in every employment. In addition to that, parents have the primary responsibility to take care, protection and assistance to their children in every socio-economic matters depending on the available resources they have. Beyond that, governments have a duty to assist the family unit as an important social environment for the growth and development of the child.

The other important regional legal document the Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Peoples in Africa also prohibits child labor for children. It stated that states have the responsibility for the special protection for and assistance to internally displaced persons with special needs, including separated and unaccompanied children,<sup>152</sup> Hence, it gives a special protection for children who migrate independently from any threats of their life and development like child labor at their place of destination.

### 3.3. ILO Conventions on the Protection of Children from Child Labor

In addition to these international human and child rights documents, there are two basic international conventions adopted by ILO which are crucial for the protection of children from

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<sup>148</sup> Ibid., Article 15 (2).

<sup>149</sup> ACRWC, article 14. The best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health includes the provision of nutritious food and safe drinking water, as well as adequate health care. In its article, 12 (1), the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

<sup>150</sup> Ibid., Article 19 (1) and 20.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid., Article 20 (1). Additionally, CRC, Article 3 (2), 27 (1) and (2) state family protection and responsibility as well as adequate standard of living based on the available resources.

<sup>152</sup> Convention on IDPs, Article, 9 sub-article 2 (C), It has entered in to force in 2012 after three years of its adoption.

child labor and exploitation. The First one is, the 1973 Convention no. 138, on the minimum age for admission to employment which was adopted by the ILO of the United Nation. Convention no. 138 states, the Minimum age for employment shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years.<sup>153</sup> However, this convention also states that, member states whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, where such exist, initially specify a minimum age of 14 years.<sup>154</sup>

Beyond setting the minimum age of employment, this convention also relates the issue of labor and education. Any kind of employment which denies children access to primary level education is against this law.<sup>155</sup> It also reflects that the minimum age limit on the developing states is not static which makes it subject to change depending to their economic development and the fulfillment of their educational facilities. But, this convention states that national laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 12/13 to 14/15 years of age on light work which is not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and not such as to bias their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programs approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received.<sup>156</sup>

The second important convention is the 1999, ILO Convention no. 182, which deals with the worst form of child labor. This convention states the worst forms of child labor includes;

- All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

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<sup>153</sup> ILO, Convention No. 138, Minimum Age Convention. Article 2(3).

<sup>154</sup> See Article 2(4), of the ILO Convention no. 138.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid., Article 2 (3).

<sup>156</sup> Ibid., Article 7 (1, 4). Light work is allowed outside school hours and for a maximum of 14 hours a week; for children from 15 years onwards regular work is permitted for a maximum of 43 hours a week.

- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.<sup>157</sup>

This convention defines child as every human being below 18 years old.<sup>158</sup> Beyond this, the types of work referred to under Article 3(d) shall be determined by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, taking into consideration of those relevant international standards, in particular Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Worst Forms of Child Labor Recommendation, 1999.<sup>159</sup> It also obliges member states to identify the types of work so determined exist and periodically examined and revised as necessary, in consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned.<sup>160</sup>

Generally, those principal international conventions together set the legal boundaries for child labor, and provide the legal basis for national and international action against it. Those basic rights and freedoms of children also belong to every children because of being a child. They state about the need for special protection of children as minors and vulnerable with in a family, society and state from any kind of violation or denial of their rights and freedom. All those basic human rights documents state any kind of child labor in different economic activities whether it is formal and informal is against his/her basic rights, freedom, education, leisure, health and so on.<sup>161</sup> They prohibit any kind of exploitation of children which is against their childhood, rights, freedoms and their development. However, children who work in the informal economic activity of broom selling are subject to child labor which violates these basic child rights and freedoms.

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<sup>157</sup> ILO, The Worst Form of Child Labor Convention, no. 182, (1999), article 3. The worst form of child labor is prohibited for any children below the age of 18.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid., Article 2.

<sup>159</sup> ILO, the Worst Form of Child Labor Convention, no. 182, (1999). Article 4(1).

<sup>160</sup> Ibid., Article 4 (2, 3).

<sup>161</sup> Kailash Satyarthi, "Human Rights and Child Labor, Global March against Child Labor", (2010), 2. [www.kailashsatyarthi.net/news&events](http://www.kailashsatyarthi.net/news&events).

### 3.4. International Policy Commitments on Child Labor

The ILO is the leading international organization in the fight against child labor. The role of ILO as a core international organization in fighting child labor is beyond standard setting in which policy alternatives and evaluation of the policy implementation are also integral to its objective i.e. elimination of child labor especially the worst form until 2016.<sup>162</sup>

Although there were initial reactions from the global south on the issue of child labor, the interest in the problem was resurfaced in 1990's when world leaders committed themselves to safeguard the basic rights and interests of workers and dedicated to the promotion of ILO conventions.<sup>163</sup> When the International Labor Conference adopted the much-discussed Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, in 1998, the effective abolishment of child labor was one of those four basic principles in addition to freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the principle of non-discrimination.<sup>164</sup>

One significant turning point in the fight child labor with in the international level is the establishment of an International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC).<sup>165</sup> It is the largest single programme and most important actor in the field of technical cooperation in fighting child labor.<sup>166</sup> Its mandates range from advocacy and awareness raising to technical cooperation with governments and assistance to children in regional, sub-regional and national projects.

The policy commitments of ILO focuses on the basic principles of international labor and legal standards. Initially the main tools for the effective abolishment of child labor has been the adoption

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<sup>162</sup> ILO, "Accelerating action against child labor, Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work," (International Labor Conference, 99th Session, report no.1 (B), 2010) 11.

<sup>163</sup> ILO, "The end of child labor: Within reach Report of the director-general Global report under the follow-up to the ILO, declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work," (Geneva: International Labor Conference, 95th Session Report I (b), 2006), 4.

<sup>164</sup> Ibid.

<sup>165</sup> ILO, "A Contribution to the Un Secretary-General's Report to the September 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Follow-Up to the World Summit For Children," (Geneva: International Labor Office, 2000), 2.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

and supervision of the labor standards and the minimum age standards should be linked to schooling.<sup>167</sup> However, due to the need for comprehensive policy reforms later it focuses on the implementation of those important ILO standards, more effective labor inspection, compulsory education, public awareness campaigns, development of international solidarity and cooperation with developing countries and efforts to establish a fair international system.<sup>168</sup>

ILO also makes child labor to be viewed in the wider context of socio-economic policies, in particular macro-economic policies and employment programmes, women's equality and educational expansion.<sup>169</sup> Beyond that, its priority action also focuses on the worst forms of exploitation and hazardous working conditions, which could neither be justified by poverty nor allowed to prevail until it was fully eradicated.<sup>170</sup>

The policy of Child Labor Monitoring (CLM) is central in fighting child labor as against child rights and freedom. It includes the identification, referral, protection and prevention of child laborers throughout the development of a coordinated multi sector monitoring on both formal and informal sectors.<sup>171</sup> Thus member states are expected to overcome their responsibility towards its successful eradication.

ILO has also promoted the issue of Time Bounded Programme (TBP) policy to member states in which using the Strategic Programme Impact Framework (SPIF) as an approach to identifying desired outcomes and ways to achieve them.<sup>172</sup> Hence, the eradication of the worst form of child labor until 2016 is the current global agenda of ILO and its members. The policy commitments of ILO also extends up to the direct assistance to member states poorest parts of the society and the child laborers to prevent and protect from child labor and exploitation. As a result ILO gives a special emphasis to Africa as a continent with the highest incidence of child labor.

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<sup>167</sup> ILO, "Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work," (Geneva: International Labor Conference, 95th Session Report I, B, 2006), 22.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*, 23.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>171</sup> ILO, "Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work," 2006.

<sup>172</sup> *Ibid.*, 24.

### 3.5. Domestic Legal Standards and Policies on Child Rights and Child Labor

In addition to the international and regional human rights instruments and labor conventions, national laws play a key role towards the effective protection of human and child rights and freedoms. National governments are expected to overcome their responsibility in the domestication of international human rights documents they sign to ensure their effective implementation.

Ethiopia has ratified many major human and child rights instruments like ICCPR and ICESCR,<sup>173</sup> CRC,<sup>174</sup> ACHPR in 1998, ACRWC in 2002 and the ILO Conventions on Minimum Age Convention of no. 138,<sup>175</sup> and Worst forms of Child Labor Convention no. 182.<sup>176</sup> It has also adopted the Convention on Internally Displaced Persons in 2009 yet, not ratified. The domestication of international human rights instruments at the national level is weak which limits the direct enforcement of many international human rights by the courts.<sup>177</sup> However, more than any other international conventions the CRC is in a better way to ensure effective protection of children rights and fight child labor.

Despite the controversies up on the status of the international human rights standards vis. a vis. the constitution, the FDRE Constitution clearly states that, all international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are an integral part of the law of the land.<sup>178</sup> The national level legal standards on child rights and child labor starts from the constitution as a fundamental and supreme law of the state. The FDRE Constitution states that, “Every child has the right not to be subject to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his or her education, health or well-being.”<sup>179</sup> Beyond that it also gives the necessary protection

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<sup>173</sup> Taobo Zheng, “Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties,” (USA: Human Rights Library University of Minnesota), 2008. Ethiopia Ratified both ICCPR and ICESCR on June 11, 1993.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*, May 11, 1991.

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*, 1999.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*, 2003.

<sup>177</sup> Rakeb Messele, “Enforcement of Human Rights in Ethiopia,” (Action Professionals Association for the People, (APAP), Addis Ababa, 2002. 15.

<sup>178</sup> See article 9 (4) of the FDRE Constitution. Addis Ababa. 1995. Article 9 (1) on the other hand states the constitution as the supreme law of the land. Beyond that, any law, customary practice or a decision of an organ of state or a public official which contravenes this Constitution shall be of no effect. Ethiopia has ratified CRC in 1991.

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid.*, article 36(1) of (d).

up on the best interest of the children in decision making and implementation which affects the interest of the child.<sup>180</sup> The Constitution strictly forbids any work which is hazardous or harmful to the child education, health or well-being and development in general. It is a principal document in the fight against child labor and exploitation as against child rights and freedoms.

Moreover there are more specific laws which concern child rights and child labor. The Labor Proclamation No. 377/2003 sets the minimum age for employment at 14 and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18.<sup>181</sup> The law forbids employers from using “young workers,” defined as children aged 14 to 18, when the nature of the job or the conditions under which it is carried out might endanger the life or health of a child.<sup>182</sup> It also prohibits all children from working at night, and working overtime, hazardous work which includes digging tunnels, working underground, in sewers, with electric transformers, and transmission lines.<sup>183</sup> It also states that the normal working hour for those young child workers is 7 hours a day in which night work between 10 pm and 6 am, overtime work, weekly rest days or public holidays are prohibited.<sup>184</sup> This national proclamation however specifically concerns with the formal economic sectors where the relationship between the employer and worker is established.<sup>185</sup> As a result, child labor with in the informal economic sector is not targeted by this proclamation.

Additionally the Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also prohibits trafficking, child pornography, commercial sexual exploitation of children and the use of children in illicit activities.<sup>186</sup> It also criminalizes harmful traditional practices up on children.<sup>187</sup> The civil code and federal family codes are also important legal standards for the effective realization of child rights in Ethiopia. This are basically important child rights laws in the state which could help us to fight child labor and ensure better protection of children rights.

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<sup>180</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article 36(2).

<sup>181</sup> Government of Ethiopia, Labor Proclamation, Public Law Number 377/2003, (February 26, 2004); <http://chilot.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/proc-no-377-2003-labour.pdf>.

<sup>182</sup> Ibid

<sup>183</sup> Ibid.

<sup>184</sup> Government of Ethiopia, Labor Proclamation 377/2003. Article 90 and 91.

<sup>185</sup> Government of Ethiopia, Labor Proclamation, Public Law Number 377/2003, Article, 2 sub article 1 and 3 and article 4.

<sup>186</sup> The Criminal Code of the FDRE Proclamation no. 414/2005. Article, 635.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid. Article, 562.

However, although the constitution and criminal law of the state are basically important legal standards to protect children from child labor in every formal or informal economic sectors, the labor proclamation exclusively focuses in the formal economic activities which indicates about the legal gap in fighting child labor in the informal economic activities. This also hinders the authority of governmental authorities in fighting and investigation of child labor in the informal economic activities.

### 3.6. Institutions Working on Child Labor in Ethiopia

National governments are responsible for the establishment of national institutions responsible for the effective realization of the ILO basic principles of work which are freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, non-discrimination and the abolishment of child labor which are highly important for rights and freedom of laborers and children. Hence, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is established as a chief governmental institution responsible on the issue of child labor and child rights in Ethiopia. The powers and duties of MOLSA are related to ensuring the maintenance of industrial peace, issue and follow up implementation of occupational health and safety standards and undertaking studies on manpower employed in the formal and informal sectors.<sup>188</sup>

MOLSA has identified work activities which are prohibited for young child workers aged 14-18 based on the authority given by the FDRE Labor Proclamation no. 377/2003, of article 89 (4). These are work in transportation of passengers and goods by road, railway, air and local water, work carried out on dockside and warehouses involving heavy weight lifting, pulling or pushing of heavy items or any other related type of work, work connected with electric power generation plants and transformers or transmission lines.<sup>189</sup> Construction work on high scaffolding, working in sewers and digging in tunnels, street cleaning, toilet cleaning, separation of dry and liquid waste materials and transportation of waste materials, working on production of alcoholic drinks and

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<sup>188</sup> Government of Ethiopia, "Definition of Powers and Duties of the Executive Organ, Proclamation No. 691/2010," Article 30. Addis Ababa, 2010.

<sup>189</sup> FDRE Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. List of Works Prohibited for Youth Workers. Addis Ababa, April 2013.

cigarettes, hotels, motels, night clubs and similar service giving activities.<sup>190</sup> Work involving exposure to extremely high or low temperature or radiation, grinding, cutting and welding of iron, work involving the operation of electrical machine to cut, split, shape wood, felling timber, work that involves mixing of chemicals and elements, which are known to be harmful and hazardous to health and any other activity which endangers the moral and psychological growth of a child.<sup>191</sup>

Beyond the identification of those hazardous economic activities which are prohibited for the youth children it also formulates a national action plan in 2012 from 2013-2015 for the elimination of the worst form of child labor until 2016 which is part of the international action plan of the time bounded program (TBP) against child labor. International and national institutions or organizations including religious ones were actively involved in the policy formulation process.<sup>192</sup> This national action plan on the elimination of child labor states that those basic international conventions, policies and national legal standards are taken in to consideration. It also states about the attention given on national policies on social security development, health, HIV/AIDS, education and training and demographic policy which deals about the need for special care and protection of children as a future responsible citizens of the state.<sup>193</sup>

Beyond that national developmental programs like that of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) which aims on sustainable development, reduction of poverty and improvement on the living standard of the society also gives attention to women and children to ensure their beneficiary from the development program.<sup>194</sup> Programs on children should be based on the principle of the best interest of the child and should be protected from child labor.<sup>195</sup> Additionally, health and education sectoral developmental practices are also aimed at improving the health condition and access to education which also helps to reduce poverty is important in reducing child labor.<sup>196</sup>

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<sup>190</sup> FDRE Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. List of Works Prohibited for Youth Workers. Addis Ababa, April 2013

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> FDRE Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. National Action Plan on the Protection and Elimination of the Worst Form of Child labor, 2013-2015 (2005-2007). Addis Ababa, January 2013.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

The labor sector development program is basically based on two basic principles which focuses on development and protection policies. The protection of children and elimination of child labor is also central one.<sup>197</sup> The national action plan has also identified strategic actions to prevent and eliminate child labor which include, awareness creation, building and strengthening organizational capacity, strengthening of law implementation, direct actions and assistance service for child laborers, access to education and technical vocation and social and economic assistance for the poor community.<sup>198</sup> Beyond that on its part three, it identified on the role of different institutions international and national, organizations and parts of society in fighting and eliminating child labor.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is also responsible to follow up and coordinate the implementation of the national action plan on the protection and elimination of child labor. To this effect the ministry has established a national steering committee on child labor from different authorities. The Committee includes members from MOLSA; the Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA); and the Ministry of Education.<sup>199</sup> Hence, MOLSA is the principal governmental institution on the fight against child labor in Ethiopia with its focus on prevention, withdrawal and protection.

Secondly, the MOWCYA is also important institution in the protection of children rights and child labor. It is the core executive body mandated for the rights of women and children.<sup>200</sup> It is responsible for the effective protection and realization of child rights which also includes monitoring and information management duties.<sup>201</sup> It has a women's and children affairs sub-committee under the social affairs standing committee. This is also essential for the effective undertaking of all activities related to women and child rights.

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<sup>197</sup> Ibid.

<sup>198</sup> FDRE Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. National Action Plan on the Protection and Elimination of the Worst Form of Child labor, 2013-2015 (2005-2007). Addis Ababa, January 2013.

<sup>199</sup> Ibid.

<sup>200</sup> The Government of Ethiopia, Definition of power and duties of the Executive Organs Proclamation no. 691/2010, Addis Ababa, 2010.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

Thirdly, the institution of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission is also another organization in the protection of child rights. Based on the proclamation no. 210/2000 the organization of the commission includes a Commissioner heading Children and Women affairs.<sup>202</sup> The objective of the EHRC is to educate the public, be aware of human rights see to it that human rights are protected, respected and fully enforced as well as to have the necessary measure taken where they are found to have been violated.<sup>203</sup> It has full power to receive and investigate all complaints on human rights violations made against any person, save cases brought before the house, the House of the Federation, Regional Council or before the courts of law, at any level.<sup>204</sup>

Recommendations up on laws and legislatives, policies, consultancy on rights related issues are also important responsibilities of the commission. Translation of international human rights documents in to different local languages and participation in forwarding opinion on human rights reports to international organs is also among its functions.<sup>205</sup> The existence of one special program which focuses on women and child rights is mainly due to the vulnerability of those sections of society and the special attention which should be given for them. As a result the EHRC is one of those institutions working on children rights. The Commission is explicitly empowered to undertake investigations into rights violations, either following a complaint or on its own initiative. The other essential institution working on child rights is the institution of Ombudsman. Based on the proclamation No. 211/2000, the ombudsman shall have an Ombudsman heading the children and women affairs.<sup>206</sup> As a result the institution of Ombudsman is granted power on the supervision of the activities of the executive organs which are related to administrative cases. It supervises those actions and decisions did not contravene the rights and freedoms of citizens.<sup>207</sup> Its function in the issue of Children and Women is also similar to its overall powers and functions. The ombudsman heading the children and women affairs works on children rights for their effective realization.

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<sup>202</sup> The Government of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission Establishment Proclamation No. 210, Addis Ababa, 2000.

<sup>203</sup> Ibid.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid.

<sup>205</sup> Ibid.

<sup>206</sup> The Government of Ethiopia, A proclamation to provide for the Establishment of the institution of the ombudsman no. 211. Addis Ababa, 2000.

<sup>207</sup> Ibid.

In addition to those executive institutions the existence of the judicial organ is always important for the adjudication of cases and effective realization of issues related to human/children rights. Although there are complexities up on the justifiability of the socio-economic rights of human/children rights the existence of judicial institution is always central in the protection of children rights. The Federal Courts Proclamation no.25/1996 grants national courts power to see cases on the rights of human being which are against their rights, freedom and against the constitution and international human rights standards.<sup>208</sup> The federal courts proclamation empowers courts to consider cases arising in international human rights standards like the CRC although there are controversies whether they can apply it directly or not. As a result the courts are also central in the fight against child labor as a crime which violates children rights and wellbeing. But, although there are complaints which come to the Child Justice Project Program, most of the time did not get legal protection.<sup>209</sup> This also indicates the limitation in the enforcement of children rights for the effective protection of children from child labor.

However, those institutions who granted power for the effective protection and realization of children rights have many practical challenges which hinder to successfully work on child labor. The Ministry of labor and social affairs states that one of the main institutional limitation is lack of coordination, capacity, and organizational structure with in those authorities on each level of administration.<sup>210</sup> Additionally, gaps in legislation and implementation of legal standards continue to put children at risk which exposes them to child labor and exploitation.<sup>211</sup> Government efforts to address child labor have not sufficiently targeted sectors with a high incidence of child labor who are out of the formal employment relationship with in the informal economic sector.<sup>212</sup>

The other essential limitations of those institutions in the protection of children from child labor are related to lack of finance, skilled human power and lack of awareness about the rights of children and child labor. In addition to this, especially with in the courts there is complexity on the

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<sup>208</sup> The Government of Ethiopia, Federal Courts Proclamation no.25/2010. Addis Ababa, 2010.

<sup>209</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with Children Legal Protection Expert under the Children Justice Project. August 3, 2014.

<sup>210</sup> FDRE Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. National Action Plan on the Protection and Elimination of the Worst Form of Child labor, 2013-2015 (2005-2007). Addis Ababa, January 2013.

<sup>211</sup> United States Department of Labor, *2008 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor – Ethiopia*. 2014.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid.

direct enforcement of those international child rights standards. The issue of children rights lacks one responsible authoritative institution and its own comprehensive legal document which makes it also challenging for its effective realization. Even, the issue of child labor with in the ministry of labor and social affairs gets attention in a very recent years in which there is no any study conducted before on the condition of child labor in the country.

But...I have to see it...

## Chapter Four

### 4. Data Processing and Analysis

In this chapter the data findings of the study are presented and interpreted. The main sources of this data are obtained from Thirteen (13) children who work in broom selling using an interview guide within the study area. The findings of this study are going to be processed and analyzed based on the interview schedule which will start from the personal background of those broom sellers, their family background, their migration process, nature of their work, working and living condition and its impacts on their physical, psychological, health, education and development. Finally, the enforcement gaps on child rights and child labor policies to ensure effective protection for those children by responsible authorities is also another area to be analyzed which will lead this study to conclusion and recommendation at the end.

#### 4.1. Triggering Factors for their Work in Broom Selling

##### 4.1.1. Personal Background of the Broom Seller Children

The personal background of those broom seller children is essential to the demographic characteristics of the respondent's which refers to their age, sex, ethnicity and their original residence. This is also important for the overall analysis of this study.

Table 4.1. The following table indicates about the personal background of the children.

Respondents	Sex	Age	Educational level	Ethnicity	Wereda
Case-1	M	14	0	Tigriyan	Sehati-Samre
Case-2	M	13	4	>>	>>
Case-3	M	16	0	>>	>>
Case-4	M	17	0	>>	>>
Case-5	M	12	0	>>	>>
Case-6	M	15	3	>>	>>
Case-7	M	16	2	>>	>>
Case-8	M	14	2	>>	>>
Case-9	M	13	0	>>	>>
Case-10	M	16	3	>>	>>
Case-11	M	15	0	>>	>>
Case-12	M	13	1	>>	>>
Case-13	M	15	0	>>	>>

The child laborers who work in broom selling are males (Boys) in their sex who are below 18 years old. The majority of these children in this case study are aged between 14-17 years which is known as the youth children.<sup>213</sup> However, there are also children who are below 14 years old. International labor standards did not allow children work below the age of 14/15 years old.<sup>214</sup> The researcher also observed that, all these people who engaged in this broom selling are entirely males including the adult ones. These children come from a specific place (Wereda) known as Sehati-Samre which is found in the southern part of Tigray. This work of broom selling has intimate relationship with these male population which includes children and adults who migrate from the community of Sehati-Samre. The reason why only male's work in this economic activity is that, it is tiresome by its nature which requires huge energy and physical strength for its day to day activity.

In this broom selling there are children who are below the international legal age for employment. The minimum age convention also allows children aged between 12/13-14/15 to do light work

<sup>213</sup> Government of Ethiopia, Labor Proclamation, Public Law Number 377/2003. 2004. Article 89.

<sup>214</sup> ILO, Minimum age Convention no. 183, article 2(3). 1973.

which is not likely to be harmful to their education, health, development, and their general wellbeing.<sup>215</sup> However, this broom selling is a hazardous work which denies and prohibits those broom selling child laborers their family environment, access to education and completion of their basic education which are very crucial for their further growth and development. Hazardous child labor is also recognized as one of the worst forms of child labor by the international labor organization which needs urgent attention to abolish it.<sup>216</sup> It is prohibited for children aged below 18 years old from working on economic activities which are hazardous by their nature.

Access to education at their place of origin of these children of this case study is also very limited. The majority of those children did not get access to basic-primary education. Although some of those children started education, they drop out before they complete the primary level of education which is one of those basic and important rights of children at the international and national levels and the prime targets of international and national policies to eliminate child labor.<sup>217</sup> This also proves that children with low access to education are more prone to child labor and exploitation within the informal economic sectors which did not require specific skill and knowledge to join the work.<sup>218</sup> Free and compulsory education as a basic right of children at the primary level is stated in many international documents like UDHR, ICESCR, CRC, and ACRWC. However, these broom selling children lack access to basic primary level education which indicates the denial of their rights.<sup>219</sup> Outside that, this broom selling denies or interferes their access to education for these children and is a kind of hazardous work which should be eliminated.<sup>220</sup>

The Labor Proclamation No. 377/2003, in Ethiopia also prohibits child employment and work below the age of 14. But, the scope of this proclamation is the formal economic activities in which legally established employer and work relationship exists.<sup>221</sup> The children who work in the

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<sup>215</sup> ILO, Minimum age Convention no. 183, article 7(1, 4).

<sup>216</sup> ILO, Convention no.182, on the Worst form of Child Labor. 1999. Article, 3.

<sup>217</sup> ILO, "Joining forces against child labor, Inter-agency report for The Hague Global Child Labor Conference of 2010," (Geneva: Understanding Children's Work (UCW) Programme, 2010), 40.

<sup>218</sup> ILO, *Child Labor: A textbook for university students*. 2004. 24.

<sup>219</sup> ICESCR, Article 13, sub article 2 (a), CRC, Article 28 (1), ACRWC, Article 11 (3).

<sup>220</sup> ILO, the Worst Form of Child Labor Convention, no. 182. Article 3 (d). The absence of compulsory education is also against the ICESCR of Article 13 which states "everyone has the right to education. In which primary education should be compulsory and free to all."

<sup>221</sup> ILO. Proclamation no. 377

informal economic activities like broom selling lacks legal protection from this proclamation. However, every children whether they engage in the formal or informal economic sectors have equal rights which deserves equal protection from the law. International labor standards prohibit employment of children below 14 years old except the light works.<sup>222</sup> Four of these thirteen children in this case study are below the legal age which is legally prohibited by those international labor standards and against basic rights and freedoms of children. In addition to this, children work in hazardous conditions which denies access to education and threatens their health and wellbeing is also prohibited for every children who are below 18 years old. But, these children are victims of this broom selling which denies them access to education which is necessary to improve their lives as a pre-requisite for individual development and as an important liberating and empowerment tool of those vulnerable groups.<sup>223</sup> All those conditions of these broom selling children are against these basic international human rights and labor standards which amounts to hazardous child labor.

#### 4.1.2. Family Background

Respondents in this case study are also asked about their family background in order to get an insight about their parents and family to investigate their relation with their engagement in this economic activity of broom selling. They were asked to respond questions about their parent's presence, their education, means of livelihood and their family size. This will also be important to indicate some of the factors behind their work in Broom selling.

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<sup>222</sup> ILO, Article, 2(4) and

<sup>223</sup> Klaus Dieter Beiter, *The Protection of the Right to Education by International Law: Including a Systematic Analysis of Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. International Studies on Human Rights, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, vol. 82, (2006), 26.

Table 4.2. The Following table indicates about the family background of those respondents

Respondent	Both Parents exist	Only Father exist	Only Mother exist	Formal Educational Level	Means of Livelihood	Family size
Case-1	No	No	Yes	Un educated	Farming	5
Case-2	Yes			>>	>>	6
Case-3	>>			>>	>>	4
Case-4	>>			>>	>>	6
Case-5	>> (separated)			>>	>>	5
Case-6	>>			>>	>>	5
Case-7	>>			>>	>>	7
Case-8	>>			>>	>>	5
Case-9	>>			>>	>>	7
Case-10	>>			>>	>>	8
Case-11	>>			>>	>>	6
Case-12	>>			>>	>>	6
Case-13	>>			>>	>>	7

Many of these children have both parents while case one has ceased his father, case five also lives with his father due to separation of his father and mother. However, although many of these children have both parents their presence did not rescue them from migration and work to this broom selling. This also indicates that, the death and separation of parents is not the most imperative triggering factor for majority of these broom selling children migration and work in this broom selling.

The parents of those children are uneducated or poorly educated who lacks any formal education in their life. It is believed that, parental education plays an important role in determining child labor and schooling.<sup>224</sup> When parents have access to education their knowledge about the value of education is high which also helps them to prevent their children from migration and work in this broom selling. Farming is the means of the livelihood of the parents of the children under the study which is common to all rural societies in the country. Farming is one of those economic activities

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<sup>224</sup> Tienda, M., "Economic Activity of Children in Peru, Labor Force Behavior in Rural and Urban Contexts," (Rural Sociology, 1979), 44.

which is labor intensive by its nature in which parents force their children to be engaged in farm works leaving their school. According to one respondent in case-2, he said that:

“My parents have a wide farming land. Sometimes they employed individuals in daily salary to work there. But, they order me to stop school and to help them working in the farming activities. When I left school and help them in the farm land they did not gave me the necessary protection as their son. Latter I told and force them as I want to come here with my friends.”<sup>225</sup>

Weak parental education is often related to weak family protection which is related to maltreatment which also force children to migrate for work and to engage in a more hazardous conditions at their place of their destination.<sup>226</sup> Parents did understand about the impacts of child labor and importance of education on the development of the child. When parents force their children to work in farming stopping their school and did not provide the necessary protection for the child, they often choose to leave their parents to escape from it. Denial of access to school and drop-out of school are also among the major triggering factors behind these child laborers in broom selling. Hence, lack of parental education and weak parental protection from child labor are an important factors for the denial of access to education which also forces those children to engage in child labor.

The family size of these respondent's in this study ranges from the middle size to large size family. three of them have 7 families and one of them have 8 families which are believed as a large family size. But, the majority of those children who are part of this case study have a family size of 4-6 which is believed as a middle size family. The family size of those children is also one factor behind the migration of those children to this Broom selling work together with their poverty.

The other basic factor behind the engagement of these children in broom selling is also a much common and wider problem of parents, communities and societies of the poor states which is

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<sup>226</sup> Edmonds and Shrestha, “Children’s Work and Independent Child Migration: a critical review.” (2009), 5.

poverty.<sup>227</sup> Except three out of thirteen of the respondents of the interviewed children they stated poverty as their main factor which forces them to engage in broom selling. Poverty and death and separation of parents together with low school attendance and drop out of school of children are from the key reasons for the migration of these children and work in this broom selling. To strengthen this argument one of those respondents in Case-1, stated that:

“My father died when I was around three years old. I have been living with my mother after my father’s death. My mother did not have any capacity to send me to school for learning. She can’t afford all the necessary costs for my schooling like exercise book, Pen, pencil, and other basic necessities like food, uniform clothes, shoe and other related expenses. Beyond that it is difficult for her to send me to school as far as she cannot overcome the responsibility of works in the farm alone. All those basic problems prohibited me to go to school which latter force me to migrate and engage in Broom selling.”<sup>228</sup>

The problem of economic poverty of this child is also further exacerbated by the loss of his father at his child age. Social factors like the separation, death and migration of parents are some of the causes for child labor in many societies.<sup>229</sup> The death of parents for children forces them to assume responsibility to help for their family and work in different economic activities.

Another respondent in case-4, expresses his reason why he work in Broom selling:

“It was my parent’s economic poverty which force me to come and work here. I was not in school which also increases my suffering from working in farming. Although I did not want to come here leaving my father and mother, poverty forced me out. I decide to come here to support myself when I heard about the work from my friends.”<sup>230</sup>

Economic poverty of parents is commonly agreed as one of those basic problems which force children to migrate in search of job to secure their daily consumption which force them to engage

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<sup>227</sup> ILO, ILO, “*World Report on Child Labor*,” (2013), 12.

<sup>228</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 1, June 25, 2014.

<sup>229</sup> Ann Whitehead and Hashim, “Children and Migration: Background Paper for the UK Department of for International Development (DFID) Migration Team,” (University of Sussex: the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalization and Poverty, no. 12), March 2005.

<sup>230</sup> Interview with case 4, June 18, 2014.

in child labor.<sup>231</sup> Another important factor behind their migration and engagement in this broom selling is also lack of interest in education which causes to drop out of their school life and latter to their migration in search of work. This also related to their weak belief on education, poverty and inherent culture of migration and begging of the community of Sehati-Samare to Addis Ababa.<sup>232</sup> It is important to look what two children in the case study has sated directly to make this argument sound. One of those respondents in Case-3, stated that:

“My lack of access to education at my place of origin is not a problem of economic poverty and incapability of my parents to help me to go to school. I did not have interest in education. This also related to the low belief on the importance of education on the community. My lack of interest in education is the prime factor rather than my parent’s economic capacity to come and engage in this work. I decide to come here when I saw my friend having a mobile phone and told me about this Broom selling.”<sup>233</sup>

Similar to this, another respondent in Case-6, raised a similar problem about his migration and reason to engage in this Broom selling:

“Initially I have entered school and attend up to grade three. But due to lack of interest in education I left out school and decided to work with my parents in farming for a time being. Latter I decided to travel to Mekelle and work there. However, when I heard about this broom selling from my friends who have been working in this work I decided to come with them. Even my parents did not know when and how I come here. They heard latter about it from my neighbors who saw me when I come. My parents have the capacity to help me in providing the necessary things for my life and my education but, I was not interested in education. I believe as I can have a better life if I work.”<sup>234</sup>

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<sup>231</sup> Development Research Center on Migration, Globalization and Poverty (DRC), “Independent Child Migration: Introducing Children Perspectives.” No.11. Aug. 2008, 2.

<sup>232</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 4, June 18, 2014.

<sup>233</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 3, June 20, 2014.

<sup>234</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 6, June 30, 2014.

School dropping out at the primary school level leaves children without the necessary knowledge and skill which exposes them to engage in child labor especially in the informal economic sector which does not require any formal education.<sup>235</sup>

To sum, poverty of parents together their poor school level, weak parental protection, disintegration or death of the parents and high work at the place of their origin are among the main determinant triggering factors behind their work in this hazardous child labor of broom selling. This also further worsened due to the low attitude on education and culture of the community in which these broom seller children live which force them to their low access to school and dropout. This lack of basic education and school dropout in addition to their migration are additionally vibrant triggering factors behind their work in this broom selling.

#### 4.1.3. Migration and Child Labor in Broom Selling

Socio-economic factors like poverty, family problems and access and dropping out of school are not the only factors behind the problem of children which force them to child labor. Migration is also an important factor behind the issue of child labor especially in urban areas of developing states.<sup>236</sup> Child migrants mostly originate from the same area or district of a certain place.<sup>237</sup> This also proven to be true that all those broom seller child laborers migrate from the rural parts of southern part of Tigray specifically from a locality (Wereda) of Sehati-Same.<sup>238</sup>

Their migration process starts from the rural parts of the community of Sehati-Samre to Mekelle, the capital city of Tigray regional state. Some of these children have been working in the town to get some money for their transport before they start their journey to Addis Ababa. One of the interviewed respondents in Case-7, stated that:

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<sup>235</sup>Juliet Manzala Setebe, “Informal Labor Market in Tanzania: A Case of Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam,” Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Degree Program in Social Services, 2012), 13.

<sup>236</sup> Edmonds and Shrestha. ‘Children’s Work and Independent Child Migration. (1999), 20.

<sup>237</sup> Ibid., 63.

<sup>238</sup> See table 1.1 of the personal background of the children.

“I have been working in different economic activities like construction works and other related activities in Mekelle before I come here. This is also to collect money for my transport to come to this Broom selling”<sup>239</sup>

However, it does not mean that all those children get their money for transport from their own. Some of those children also get money from their parents and peers in the form of debt to be paid after their work. The cases of two respondents will help to prove this issue. In an interview with one respondent in case-2, he stated that:

“When I decide to come here I forced my family to give me 500 birr for my transportation. I start my travel with my friends from my locality to Mekelle and arrived Addis Ababa. When we arrive at Addis Ababa bus station we called a phone to someone to take us who works on the broom selling and come. After that I go with him to Lideta and introduce me with whom he works to start working.”<sup>240</sup>

This also indicates parents have their own role in the arrangement of the migration process of the broom selling children in terms of financing their transportation. Some of these children also come paying their transportation fee from their friends in the form of debt. One of the respondents in case-5, stated that:

“Initially when I decide to come to this work with my friends I told them as I did not have any birr for transportation and told me as they will pay for it. After that, they paid for the transportation and arrive at the place of the work.”<sup>241</sup>

As a result, the migration process of these broom selling children further exacerbated because of peer influence. Studies also indicate ethnicity, peer influence and blood relationship which are some of the major factors in the migration process of children from the rural to the urban community in Addis Ababa.<sup>242</sup> The researcher also observed that, these broom selling children travel in peer or group throughout the whole city to sell their broom. At least they meet around the areas they use their lunch throughout their movement.

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<sup>239</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 7, June 30, 2014.

<sup>240</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 2, June 18, 2014.

<sup>241</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 5, June 30, 2014.

<sup>242</sup> Askale and Tadesse, “Rapid Assessment on the Causes and Pattern of Rural- Urban Migration in Five Major Towns of Ethiopia,” (2004), 6.

Kinship relationship is also one important factor behind the migration of those child laborers in Broom selling. Those children are Tigrigna speakers who come from Southern Tigray, Wereda of Sehati-Samre. This is an important imperative as they have blood relationship among those individuals. Beyond that, to strengthen this argument, in an interview with one respondent in case-10 about the way he come to this broom selling, he stated that:

“Initially when I decided to come here, I know about my uncle’s son as he is working here. I communicate and told him as I want to come to the work. When I arrive at the bus station of Addis Ababa he come and take me with him to the work area to work with him.”<sup>243</sup>

The research also observed that, when they meet around their living area after they come back from their work, and communicate about their work to each other they say and call naming, the son of my uncle and aunt.<sup>244</sup> This is also a socially and culturally established norm which is used by individuals who have blood relationship among or between them.

In general, the migration process of those children from their place of origin to their destination work area is through bus. These broom selling children are independent migrant children who migrate without their parents or legal guardians. They arrive in their work area with the help of their friends or peers and with individuals who have blood relationship who have been working there and know about the work. As a result peer influence and family blood ties or kinship are central in the migration process of those broom selling children.

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<sup>243</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 10, June 25, 2014.

<sup>244</sup> Researcher observation and interaction, June 16, 2014. It is common to talk to each other saying in Tigrigna; Wedi Haweboy, Akoy and Hafteboy and Hatiney), which indicates about their blood ties.

## 4.2. Nature of the Work and Working and Living Conditions of Broom Seller Children

### 4.2.1. Nature of the Work

The nature of the work of this broom selling is the distribution of these material products to the direct users or customers. It is a heavy load work while carrying the brooms on their shoulder and travelling on foot throughout the whole day for a long hours. These children carry these heavy load products and travel on foot to sell and distribute these material products from Lideta to different corners of the city of Addis Ababa. They also travel to neighboring small cities. This heavy load is likely to hamper the development of these working children. Hence, this broom selling is basically a child labor which violates the rights of children to be protected from hazardous works.<sup>245</sup>

This broom selling work needs energy and strength to carry and travel the whole city for a long hours. The children do not make the brooms by themselves, they get them from their permanent customers with whom they live. The owners of those products work and distribute their products to those children and accumulate their profit.



Picture 4.1. Two broom selling children carrying and travelling around Gullelie sub-city (Menen), June 29, 2014.

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<sup>245</sup> ICESCR, Article 10 (3) and CRC, 32 (1).

Generally, the working condition of the broom selling children is hazardous and exploitative one. They are subject to heavy load which could have a multidimensional impacts on the children development. This heavy load also creates a high degree of mental and physical tiredness as it requires them energy and strength.

#### 4.2.2. Working Conditions of the Broom Seller Children

The table below indicates about the working and living condition of these broom seller children. However, firstly it is important to see their working conditions as the main target of this study. It specifically indicates about with whom they live, the number of population in the house, the working hours per day and their working days in a week.

Table 4.3. The living and working condition of the broom selling children

Respondents	With whom he lives	Number of population in the house	Working hours per day	Working days per week
Case-1	With his relatives	8	12 hours	Every day
Case-2	>>	15	13 hours	>>
Case-3	>>	6	13 hours	>>
Case-4	>>	25	14 hours	>>
Case-5	>>	6	12 hours	>>
Case-6	>>	10	12 hours	>>
Case-7	>>	12	13 hours	>>
Case-8	>>	15	11 hours	>>
Case-9	>>	5	12 hours	>>
Case-10	>>	8	10 hours	>>
Case-11	>>	30	12 hours	>>
Case-12	>>	10	13 hours	>>
Case-13	>>	6	12 hours	>>

During the course of the study, the researcher observed that, those who make the brooms allow these children to sleep in their work house to make them their permanent customers to distribute their products to maximize their profit while sitting their home for themselves.<sup>246</sup> They did not have any other thing they get from their customers while they work.

<sup>246</sup> Observation and interaction of the researcher, June 17, 2014.

These children did not have any salary or payment while they work in this broom selling. The only income they have is the amount of money they get beyond the price set of the brooms when they receive from their customers. In an interview with one respondent in case-5, when he state about his daily income and the condition of his work;

“I don’t have any payment from the owner of those Brooms with whom I live. The working condition of this broom selling and the daily income from it is very different. While I carry heavy load of 25-30 kg and travel the whole day, there is time that I come back without selling one broom. If I get for my lunch and dinner I am happy.”<sup>247</sup>

Their day to day life is dependent on their chance of selling or not selling these material products while they travel carrying the whole day. The theory of the labor market perspective which states child labor as an exploitation of the weak by the strong one goes to this phenomenon in which the owners of the brooms use and exploit the energy of those children to collect money and accumulate their capital. To strengthen this observation in my interview with one respondent in case 12 he stated that;

”When they allow us to live and sleep in their house work they know as they could accumulate their profit, making their brooms while they distribute to us to sell them to the direct customers. Our income is dependent on selling and not selling those materials beyond the fixed price. Indirectly they are using us an instrumental means to maximize their income and profit.”<sup>248</sup>

Child labor with in the informal economic sector is exploitative due to a long hour’s work of child laborers and their low or free payment work.<sup>249</sup> The working condition of these broom seller children is exploitative and tiresome which demands a huge amount of energy with long hours of work which is beyond the capacity of these children. As we can see from the above table 4.3, the working hours of these Broom sellers is between 10-13 hours per day.

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<sup>247</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 5, June, 30, 2014.

<sup>248</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 12, June 26, 2014.

<sup>249</sup> Siddiqi and Patrinos, “Child labor, Issues, Causes and Interventions.” 2004. 3.

In my interview with case 13, when he speak about his working hours he stated that:

“Always I wake up before the sun rises around 6:00 am and carry my Brooms. I start to travel to the place what I chose to go for the day. I did not have any rest time. The only break what I have is at the lunch time which is about 15 or 30 minutes with my friends. I come back when the sun sinks at around 6:30 pm.”<sup>250</sup> This child works for 12:30 hours per day.

In addition to this another respondent in case 3, has also stated in regarding to his working hours and days as follows;

“I always wake up around 6:00 am. Because, always the owner of the house rent in which I sleep needs it for work before 7:00 am. I carry and start my work while travelling from one direction to another. I come back and enter my home around 7 pm at the night time. It is similar work from Monday to Sunday which did not have any rest time and day.”<sup>251</sup> Hence, this child works for 13:00 hours per day.

Most of these broom seller child laborers in this case study work for a long period of time which ranges from 10-14 hours per day which mean 70-98 hours per week. They did not know a rest time in their work from week to week and month to month except the time of their lunch which is for 15-30 minutes. Moreover, they did not rest and enjoy weekly rest days, or public holidays. This is also because of the nature of their work and independent life out of their parents as migrant street children in the city.

The Labor Proclamation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also clearly stated that, the normal working hour for young workers aged from 14-17 is 7 hours per day.<sup>252</sup> It also clearly prohibits night work from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am overtime work, weekly rest days or public holidays.<sup>253</sup> But, this is not a reality for those children which indicates about the clear violation of the labor proclamation of the state and the rights of those children.

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<sup>250</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 13, June 24, 2014.

<sup>251</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 3, June 20, 2014.

<sup>252</sup> Government of Ethiopia, Labor Proclamation, Public Law Number 377/2003. 2004. Article 90.

<sup>253</sup> Ibid., article 91.

One child in case 7, when he express about his rest time and work condition, he stated that;

“When you come here and start working, it is really difficult. I travel on foot from Lideta up to Burayu, Sebeta, Sendafa, carrying those Brooms on my shoulder. It is boring and tiresome. Here there is no rest time. My rest time is when I enter my sleeping house.”<sup>254</sup>

Denial of rests time and work for long hours for those children is against the basic rights of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts which is clearly stated in the CRC.<sup>255</sup>

The daily income they get from their work, depends up on their chance of selling and not selling those brooms. Those children who are part of this case study stated as they did not have any form of payment in their daily work. Their daily expense to their food and other necessities depend on whether they sell the Brooms they take or not. An interview with case-12, stated that;

“My daily income differs from time to time. It depends on my chance from day to day. There are days which I did not sell while carrying the Brooms and travel the whole city. There are also days which we get some 60-70 birr. When I did not sell and did not have some money left, I ask for my friends to pay for my lunch and dinner.”<sup>256</sup>

The working hour of those children and their daily income is incomparable which clearly indicates the exploitative nature of the broom selling. Their long working hour with in this hazardous work even did not guarantee their daily bread.

The working condition of those broom seller children is challenging both in the sunny and hot and the rainy seasons. At the sunny and hot season they suffer from hot radiation from the sun which makes it challenging to travel from one area to another due to the increasing feeling of tiredness. During the course of study the researcher observed that, these children sit around a tree and the sides of the houses wall to escape from the sun’s high temperature and high feeling of tiredness

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<sup>254</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 7, June 30, 2014.

<sup>255</sup> CRC, Article 31.

<sup>256</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 12, June 26, 2014.

and take some rest.<sup>257</sup> It also makes it difficult to travel from one area to another and sell their brooms.

The working condition of this broom selling during the summer season is also difficult. There is rain which not only disturbs their work but also could make those products out of use. In an interview with one respondent in case-2, he stated that;

“In the summer season it is difficult to work. The rain can make our materials out of use. Sometimes it is difficult to get houses to escape from the rain. When the rain did not stop and continue raining, we did not have any alternative rather to come back home while it is raining.”<sup>258</sup>

The working condition and environment of these children is also exposed to threat and suspicion in their interaction with the community. Because, they are subject to cheating, theft, and other physical and psychological harassments from the city hooligans. In an interview with one respondent in case-2, he stated his story what he faces while selling as follows:

“When they saw us carrying the brooms they insult us saying “**Guhafat**”, “**Resehat**” and so on (which mean to say a collection of Garbage’s, and Dirty in English). Beyond that, one day while I was negotiating about the price of the Broom to sell for someone, one child comes and cheat me one Broom. When I travel some distance and check their number I knew as I was cheated. I come back with my two friends and ask for the one whom I sell. But, we did not get it. When we start going home some three or four young boys come and order me to go keeping silent while my friends left with them by their order. After that, they order them to give some money and go. They paid 20 birr and come home to escape being beaten up by them.”<sup>259</sup>

Another respondent in case-4, also stated that;

“There are individuals who beat us to give them money. They also use some mechanisms to take money from us. One day while I travel to sell, one young individual comes and ask me about the

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<sup>257</sup> Observation of the researcher. June 17, 2014.

<sup>258</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 2, June 18, 2014.

<sup>259</sup> Ibid.

price of the Broom. When we negotiate and agree about the payment he told me as he gave me the agreed price while he did not.”<sup>260</sup>

Generally, the work condition of these children is subject to exploitation in which these children did not have any salary from their customers. The exploitative nature of this work emanates from the indirect use of these children by those who make the brooms to collect their profit by allowing them their working house for their sleep freely. It is also exploitative and hazardous because of the fact that, these children are subject to long hours of work, lack of rest time and days. In addition to this the working condition of these children is also subject to physical and mental abuses.

#### 4.2.3. Living Conditions of the Broom Seller Children

These broom selling children live without their parents at their place of their work in Lideta sub-city Wereda Four. As an independent migrant children who migrate and live without their parents or guardians, they live together with their relatives who work with them in broom selling. Independent migrant children are the most vulnerable parts of society at their place of destination.<sup>261</sup> They did not get the necessary care, protection and love from their parents which shows about the failure of family responsibility and government duty in the protection of children from any form of violation of their rights. The CRC and ACRWC, clearly stated that, parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development the child.<sup>262</sup> However, these broom selling children did not get the necessary protection from their parents as well as their government.

The house these children sleeps is a working house of these who work the brooms. The primary purpose of these rent houses is for the work of broom making. However, those who rented the house allows these children to sleep there at the night time. In the course of the study the researcher observed that, the number of population in one house who sleep together depends on its size. It ranges from 5/6-25/30 in one house which ranges from 2x2 and 4 x5 meters of houses respectively.

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<sup>260</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 4, June 18, 2014.

<sup>261</sup> Eric and Shrestha, “Children’s Work and Independent Child Migration: a critical review

<sup>262</sup> CRC, Article 3 (2) and ACRWC, Article 20 (1).



Picture 4.2. The sleeping house environment of the broom seller children. June 29, 2014.

The house is made of metal and wood which also contains different parts in which those children sleep inside of it. It is not difficult to imagine how much it is serious for their health and wellbeing when a significant number of population sleep and live together in one house. In an interview with one respondent in case 2, when he explains about the problem in his sleeping house he stated that;

“I sleep with some 15 relatives who work with my customer. We sleep together stretching a carton on the floor. The floor is used for work at the day time and we sleep on it at the night time. All the wastage and raw materials of the Broom work are along one side of our room. It is very difficult to enter and sleep there. There is a bad smile resulted from the wastages. It also lacks access to water and toilet which makes it difficult to keep our safety. But we did not have any alternative.”<sup>263</sup>

Another respondent in case 7, has also stated that;

“I sleep with some 12 relatives in one house which is owned by our customer. The house is not a normal house for sleeping rather a house used for work by our customer. Even when you enter the house there is a huge amount of wastage materials both inside and outside of it. We enter the house

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<sup>263</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 2, June 18, 2014.

when our customer finishes his work around 8:30 -9:30 pm and simply some of us sleep putting the plastic and cartons on the ground.”<sup>264</sup>

As a result those children are prone to different health risks which arises from the uncomfortable condition of their sleeping house.

One respondent in case 11, stated the main problems which result from the environment and house they live as follows:

“It is difficult even to sleep in the house and I always fear their possible consequences on my health due to the existence of different parasites like lice and pick which are easily transferable from one another due to the nature of our sleeping house. Especially at the sunny and hot season there is time I sleep out of the house to escape from these parasites outside of the house”<sup>265</sup>

The researcher’s communication and interaction with individuals who are neighbors of those children also expressed the problem of those children as follows:

“It is common to see those children who work in broom selling sleeping behind the houses at the night time to escape from those parasites. They have great problems in their working and living houses which lacks safety.”<sup>266</sup>

Sanitary and safety problems in their sleeping houses also makes it difficult to sleep at the night time. They become dinners of parasites which denies them their peaceful sleeping and rest at the night time. As a result they suffer from sleep depression which could have other related problems in their health, psychological and mental wellbeing. They have basic problems related to blankets, mattress, toilet, water which are basically important for their living.

Due to the absence of payment and their low income, they use their food in houses which ask least price with lower quality service. The researcher has observed that, there are women’s who provide food organized in the name of small and microfinance organizations around their living district. They told me that the quality and price of the food they provide to them is lower than the normal

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<sup>264</sup> Interview with case 7, June 30, 2014. Kot (is an Amharic term which is used to name a kind of sleeping area which is made in side of the wall house above some meters from the ground and below some meters from the roof.

<sup>265</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 11, June 19, 2014.

<sup>266</sup> Researcher observation and interaction with the neighbors of those children.

food and price they provide to others.<sup>267</sup> To strengthen this idea according to one respondent in case-12, when he talk about the quality of the food he use and its price:

“The quality of the food they provide to us is very low. As a result sometimes I enter in to conflict with them. They did not care and respect us. I pay 7 or 8 birr for lunch and dinner which mean 15 birr daily. They provide us a food which is lower in its price and quality.”<sup>268</sup>

However, there are also times that they use food with those adult men’s especially the priests which they get from begging while they travel to sell their brooms.<sup>269</sup> This is also due to the problem in terms of their income and due to the absence of any permanent payment from their employers which makes it a clear exploitation of those children and their desperate life.

In sum, the living condition of these children is difficult and challenging. The congested large number of population in one house could expose them to different transmissible diseases. Their sleeping houses lacks sanitation, water, toilet and other basic necessities for their wellbeing. These broom seller children also have acute problems related to food both in terms of quality and access. All these conditions can expose them to health and developmental problems.

#### 4.3. Impacts of their Work, Working and Living Conditions on their Development and Wellbeing

There are different physical, psychological, health, education and developmental problems which face these broom selling children as a result of the nature of their work, working and living conditions.

##### 4.3.1. Physical Injury

There are different physical Injuries that these broom seller children face while they work. Most of the time they suffer in pain and injuries which is a common symptom of the nature of the work.

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<sup>267</sup> Researcher observation and interaction with those who provide them food.

<sup>268</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 12, June 26, 2014.

<sup>269</sup> Communication and interaction with the neighbors of these children.

Due to the heavy load they carry and the long distance they travel/walk in barren foot pain around their neck and shoulder is one of the physical problems they face. In an interview with one respondent in case-5, he stated that:

“I have a severe pain in my shoulder when I carry the broom. I also have pain around my neck and the arms.”<sup>270</sup>

The physical hazards of this work is not only confined to their shoulder and neck. Due to the heavy load pressure on their shoulder and other body parts of the children, they also suffer pain on their backbone and legs around their knee and ankle. In an interview with one respondent in case-4, he said that:

“Most of the time I feel pain on my shoulder, elbow, arm, backbone and my legs and foot. I have a high feeling of tiredness on different parts of my body which results from the heavy load I carry. My hands are not free because of their role in carrying the brooms.”<sup>271</sup>

Child laborers in Broom selling also suffer from skin abrasion which results from their heavy load and friction of the wood and their skin. This is also a common injury which they face around their shoulder when they carry and travel. In an interview with one respondent in case-3, he stated about the injuries he face as follows;

“I have a problem of abrasion in my shoulder which results from carrying the broom. When it takes time it changed to scratch. I have also faced a problem in my ankle which creates me a problem to walk normally. Although, it is difficult to work having this problem I did not have any other alternative to get some money for my food.”<sup>272</sup>

Hence, physical injuries and pain around their shoulder, backbone, hand and their foot are widely prevalent due to their heavy load and long and continuous walk while carrying these products. However, the longtime impact of this work can be very much worse which could result to abnormal structure of their physical appearance. Heavy load work and travel for a long distance of

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<sup>270</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 5, June 30, 2014.

<sup>271</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 4, June 18, 2014.

<sup>272</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 3, June 20, 2014.

kilometer's often also create musculoskeletal disorders which results from strains and sprains of their body. This can also create worse problem on the future development of those children.

#### 4.3.2. Health Problems

In addition to the physical pains and injuries, these children who work in broom selling also have different health problems which resulted from the nature of their work, working and living conditions. Based on the preliminary investigation of the researcher, the most common health problems which they face are relapsing fever, typhoid fever, cough, itching, congestion of nose and headache. In an interview with case-9, about the health problem he faced he stated that:

“There are health problems which I have faced. One of those health problems is relapsing fever which transmits from lice, pick, and other parasites which are easily transferable from one to other when I sleep together. In addition to this mostly I suffer from cough, congestion of nose and headache.”<sup>273</sup>

Another respondent in case-1, when he speak about the health problem he faced he said that:

“I have faced itching in my skin due to the lack of clean living house, clothes and water to wash my body. I have also suffered from typhoid fever for some days one time. Headache and cough due to bad smiles is also common.”<sup>274</sup>

In my personal observation of the children, it is common to see scar around their necks and hands and itching their body which indicates about the problems on their health.<sup>275</sup> Their response to overcome those different health problems is also very weak. Those employers did not give them any protection and help when they face health problem. Most of the time they did not go to clinics and hospitals due to their lower level of understanding about the possible consequences of their health problems and their low income. The only time they decide to go is if it continues for some days and weeks and becomes serious.

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<sup>273</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 9, June 24, 2014.

<sup>274</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 1, June 25, 2014.

<sup>275</sup> Observation and interaction of the researcher, June 17, 2014.

In an interview with one respondent in case-6, he explained his experience as follows:

“Mostly when I feel some pain or I face health problems, I did not go to clinics or hospitals. I believe that I will be fine after a certain time. I worry about the amount of money first rather than my health challenge if it is not serious. Even if I want to go to the hospital my capacity does not allow me to pay the amount of birr required.”<sup>276</sup>

These broom seller children are subject to different health problems like relapsing fever, typhoid fever, cough, itching, congestion of nose and headache. Their response to these different health problems is weak because of their limited knowledge and understanding about their health problems and their low income. Their customers did not give them any protection from these health problems for these children. Hence, this broom selling has many health problems which threatens their development and wellbeing.

## DO I NEED TO RELATE THE CONCLUSIONS WITH THE LABOR LAWS AND CHILD RIGHTS

### 4.3.3. Lack of Access to Education

The other impact of this child labor assessed in this study was the educational problems they have in their place of destination because of their work and other related issues. They stated that one of the main problems created due to the nature and condition of their work is loss of access to education. In an interview with one respondent in case-4, when he stated about the impact of his work on education he said that:

“I did not have any time to go to school. Am living here without my parents working this broom selling the whole day. Although I want to learn at a night time, my mother tongue language did not allow me to listen and speak what a teacher can say.”<sup>277</sup>

As we can understand from the personal background of those children many of them did not have basic education before while some of them start schooling they did not end their primary level of

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<sup>276</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 6, June 30, 2014.

<sup>277</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 4, June 18, 2014.

education.<sup>278</sup> Moreover, their access to education at the place of their destination and considering has acute problem. This also arises not only due to the nature of their work but also due to the absence of any responsible body like the parents and governmental and non-governmental organizations who can help their access to education to develop their basic skills for their life.

International conventions on human and child rights and labor conventions state primary education should be free and compulsory. Beyond that it is a basic policy of the ILO in its movement against the worst form of child labor. However, basic or primary education in Ethiopia is not compulsory despite the free for all educational policy of the government which is widely recognized as one legal gap on the right to education of children to gain basic knowledge and skill and to protect them from their engagement in child labor.<sup>279</sup>

The international convention on the rights of the child stated that a child who is permanently or temporarily deprived of family environment shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the state which consider the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.<sup>280</sup> However, all those children in this case study did not have any access to formal education at their place of their work. The nature of their work and working conditions did not allow them to go to school.

#### 4.3.4. Physical and Mental Development Problems

The physical and mental development of these broom selling children has basic problems because of their work and working conditions. The developmental impacts of their work are also interdependent to the physical, health, and educational problems they encounter. The current participants of this study tried to state about the possible physical and mental impacts of their work which could face in their future development. In an interview with case- 2, he stated about his doubt in his future development as follows:

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<sup>278</sup> Table 4.1, the personal background of the broom seller children.

<sup>279</sup> The FDRE Constitution. Article 44 (1), 1995.

<sup>280</sup> CRC, Article 20 (3) of the, 1989.

“In a condition in which I am living in a lower standard of living which I did not fulfill my basic needs like food, good sleeping house, adequate rest and leisure it is difficult for my development. I did not get the necessary provisions for my life adequately.”<sup>281</sup>

In addition to this in an interview with another respondent in case-5, about the possible developmental impacts that his work:

“I have not any access to school before and here. The nature of the work is difficult considering its overall impacts it has. I cannot grow up physically and mentally.”<sup>282</sup>

It is obvious that the lower standard of their living, psychological, health and educational problems have different physical, and mental developments problems. It can be easily understood that their denial to basic education which is a vital right and entitlement of children has greater impact for their development. Additionally their denial of family environment in addition to low level of societal interaction and communication can result a basic problem on their social development.

#### 4.4. Challenges of Children Protection in the Context of Child labor

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is mandated with preventing child labor protection and ensure better prevention and protection of children rights.<sup>283</sup> It has identified some economic activities which are hazardous by their nature. In addition to that it has also a National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor up to 2016. However, it has basic enforcement problems.

In an interview with one expert in child labor protection in the MOLSA, stated that, one of the basic problems to address child labor and ensure better protection of children from child labor the prime focus on the formal economic sectors in which the institution lacks legal authority to investigate the conditions of those child workers in the informal economic sector.<sup>284</sup> Therefore, there is lack of organized and coordinated work in investigating the work conditions of those child

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<sup>281</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in case 2, June 18, 2014.

<sup>282</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with one Respondent in Case 5, June 30, 2014.

<sup>283</sup> Government of Ethiopia, Labor Proclamation 377/2003. Article 89 (4).

<sup>284</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with MOLSA, Child Labor Protection Expert. June 15, 2014.

laborers in the informal economic activities.<sup>285</sup> Those labor inspectors mostly work and investigate based on the law which focuses on the formal organizations.<sup>286</sup> But, it does not mean that the law cannot apply to those informal economic activities.

The labor proclamation only applies to contractual labor, excluding children who work without a contract which is common in the informal economic sectors.<sup>287</sup> This is a major setback on the enforcement of those child labor standards on the informal economic activities which contain the highest number of child laborers and child rights violations in Addis Ababa and the whole state.

Other major enforcement problem is also related with the absence of compulsory education with in the state.<sup>288</sup> Free and compulsory education is one of those important rights of children at the primary school level in many international conventions like CRC and an important policy to eliminate child labor at the international level.

According to the expert of the child labor protection there are also problems related to financial and skilled human power within the department to effectively work different activities.<sup>289</sup> Even the attention given to child labor is a recent one which was mainly started in 2003.<sup>290</sup> The other limitation on the enforcement of rights, laws and policies on child rights is related to the lack of coordination among governmental institutions.<sup>291</sup> The relationship among different governmental administrative levels and executive institutions is very weak.

The second important institution responsible for the enforcement of child rights is the justice sector. The judicial organ is responsible for the effective protection of children rights and freedoms. However, there is no clear cut about the issue whether the judiciary can apply child

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<sup>285</sup> Ibid.

<sup>286</sup> Ibid.

<sup>287</sup> United States Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Findings of the worst form of child labor in Ethiopia. 2012. 2.

<sup>288</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>289</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with MOLSA, Child Labor Protection Expert. June 15, 2014.

<sup>290</sup> Ibid.

<sup>291</sup> Ibid.

rights conventions directly or not. According to the Children Legal Protection Expert in the Federal Supreme Court, although there are improvements in the use of international conventions by the judicial organ like the principle of the best interest of the child, which is part of the CRC fundamental principles a lot is expected in using those international conventions by the judicial organs at the federal and regional levels.<sup>292</sup>

The other central institution responsible for the promotion and protection of the children rights is the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. In an interview with the expert on women and children affairs, he stated that lack of human and financial power is one of those problems which hinder the effective enforcement of child rights and activities related to the elimination of child labor.<sup>293</sup> He also stated that, their activities specifically related to child labor is low. The Institute of Ombudsman is also important governmental institution with authority on child rights protection. As the Children, women and disabled peoples study and supervision expert stated the main target entities are governmental executive units which clearly indicates their low emphasis on the private economic activities and the informal economic sector.<sup>294</sup> Their coordination with other government institutions is also low, despite their responsibility to supervise the actions and decisions of the government executive institutions in terms of human or child rights protection.

In another interview with the Lideta sub-city Wereda 04 expert of Children rights protection advocacy, care and support one of the main enforcement challenges in children rights protection is related to loose coordination, control and supervision of responsible authorities of the government in different levels.<sup>295</sup> The society also lacks clear awareness about child labor and activities related to the protection of children from child labor and exploitation is also weak.<sup>296</sup>

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<sup>292</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with the Federal Supreme Court, Children Justice Project, Children Legal Protection Expert. August 3, 2014.

<sup>293</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with the EHRC Women and Children Affairs expert. July 25, 2014.

<sup>294</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with the FDRE Institute of ombudsman/ Date of Interview: August 6, 2014.

<sup>295</sup> Anonymous Interview Conducted with the Lideta Wereda Four Administration Children rights protection advocacy, care and support expert. July 28, 2014.

<sup>296</sup> Ibid.

#### 4.5. Conclusions

Children are entitled to special care and protection, considering their vulnerability and the vital significance of childhood for a safe and healthy future development of their life as a future responsible parts of a society and state. However, millions of children are subject to exploitation and degradation of their rights despite the existence of many conventions and legal standards for their protection. Child labor is a widespread phenomenon in today's world especially in the developing countries of the informal economic sector. In Ethiopia child labor is widely prevalent in the agricultural sector of the rural parts of the society and the informal economic sectors of the urban community of the state. In Addis Ababa, the informal economic sector is the area where majority of child laborers exist. Hence, this study shows that broom selling is one of these informal economic activities where a significant number of children are subject to child labor in Lideta Sub-city Wereda Four.

The findings of this study shows that, the majority of these participant child laborers in this broom selling are youth children aged from 14-17, although there are some children who are aged from 12, and 13 which is below the minimum age for employment. These children are independent migrants who come from the rural parts of Southern Tigray particularly, from the locality (Wereda) of Sehati-Samre and live without their parents at their place of work. Moreover, nearly all those children in this case study have a disadvantaged background in economic and social related issues. They are from the poor family in economy and education with low or poor basic education for themselves. Their migration and independent life out of their family environment and participation in this broom selling activity here in Lideta is the consequence and manifestation of different vulnerabilities.

The main causes behind their work in broom selling is complex which is a result of different factors which are interdependent to each other. There are different socio-economic factors like poverty, death or separation of family and migration. Similar to the human capital perspective economic poverty and underdevelopment of the state and the family is the most basic factor behind their engagement in broom selling. Poor economic conditions of the family and weak protection of those children, low educational level and together with the low access and interest in education of some

children are important factors for their present life. Peer influence and blood relationship are also central in the migration process of these children from their original residence to their current destination. As a result migration is one of the main factors behind the child labor of those children who work in broom selling.

This study also disclosed that, broom selling is a child labor which is hazardous by its nature, working and living conditions and its impacts on their physical, health, education and the physical and mental development of these children. The nature of their work is carrying heavy load and travelling which did not have any rest time in which they work from 10-14 hours per day and every 7 days per week which mean 70-98 hours per week. These children did not have a salary. Their income is dependent on selling or not selling the broom, beyond the price set when they take from their employers. These children also did not have any leisure and rest time from day to day.

Moreover, their extreme exposure to hot sun radiation during the sunny season which results to high temperature and increasing feeling of tiredness, the rainy and chilly weather condition in the summer season, their unsafe and uncomfortable sleeping house which resulted from lack of sanitation, necessary facilities to sleep, bad smile, the high density of workers per room, the garbage's and wastages of the broom work, psychological or mental as well as physical harassments from the community members are some of the basic problems related to this work which makes it hazardous work. Hence, it violates the basic international and national labor standards as well as basic children rights and freedoms.

The study also reveals that, child labor in broom selling does not only takes away those important protections which they deserve as a children, it also denies their family environment, their right to education, and threatens their health, and development. Those children face different kinds of physical pains and injuries related to their work. Their injuries and pain is also related to their heavy load and long distance travel while carrying those material products. Pain around their shoulder, neck, backbone, elbow, arm, knee and ankle are common. Skin abrasion and scratch are common physical injuries of those children related the materials they carry on their shoulder.

The health condition of these broom seller children is also negatively affected due to the nature of their work, living and working circumstance. They are subject to various types of health problems which threaten their life. This study also exposed that relapsing fever, typhoid fever, cough, itching, congestion of nose and headache are common health related problems with in those children. Psychological problems of stress, feeling of tiredness, feeling of insecurity, violence, harassment, isolation and feeling of inferiority as well as absence of family love are also undeniably significant within those children due to their living and working condition.

The educational problems resulted from their work is total denial of access to formal education. Initially the majority of those children did not have any access to education at their place of origin. While some of them have started education they did not complete the basic primary level school. At their place of destination in Lideta, they did not have any advantage of formal education due to their work. The lack of access to education of those children not only violates one of their basic rights, they are losing the opportunity of meaningful education which can equip them with knowledge and basic life skills to escape from this exploitation. Their continuous involvement in this broom selling work can perpetuate the vicious circle of poverty. The physical and mental development of those children have a serious challenge as far as they are subject to low standard of living, denial of family environment, and the absence of formal education.

This study also indicted problems related to enforcement of children right related international conventions, legal standards and national laws and policies to ensure better protection these broom selling children and prevent them from this child labor. The basic enforcement gap related with those responsible institutions is gaps in legal basis in the informal economic sector which highly exposed to child labor and exploitation. This broom selling is an informal economic sector which lacks legal protection from the labor proclamation of the state because of its prime focus on formal sector which is based on contractual bases.

The other enforcement gap is also related to the capacity of institutions which is related to finance, skilled human capital, lack of awareness, coordination, continuous and sustainable communication and work among responsible institutions on the issue of child rights and child labor. Although there are basic international and national legal standards to protect children from violation of rights

the judicial organ of the state did not use adequately those legal standards especially those international conventions on child rights and child labor.

#### 4.6. Recommendations

Based on the above conclusions, the researcher has forwarded the following main recommendations to the concerned authorities, to see end the child labor in broom selling and ensure effective protection of their rights in Lideta sub-city Wereda Four:

- **Awareness Creation:** The findings of this study indicate that the awareness and educational level of the community on child labor both at their original place and area of destination is low. Hence, a wider awareness creation through media like television, newspapers, child rights based association of children and panel discussions has to be done by the concerned authorities like MOLSA, EHRC, IOM and MWYCA. Awareness creation should be done about child migration and child labor in broom selling in collaboration to the Tigray Regional Human Rights Commission Bureaus around the rural areas, particularly in the locality (Wereda) of Sehati-Samre. Campaigns around the rural areas of the social community about the value of education and the universal right to education are also important. But, awareness creation at the place of their destination is also important which focuses the community and police force.
- **Developing Programs on Raising Family Income and Reduction of Poverty:** As far as the main problem of those children is related to economic poverty, basic poverty alleviation programs, assistance for the family and children in terms of finance and other alternatives at the place of their origin is crucial one. The EHRC in collaboration to Tigray Regional Human Rights Breaus, and NGO's should develop programs and policies which focus on alleviating regional and rural poverty and inequality which contribute to high level of children and adult migration are needed on the southern parts of Tigray, particularly the Wereda of Sehati-Samre.
- **Legislative and Policy Intervention:** One of the basic challenges in the informal economic sector like this broom selling is the lack of legislative and policy

standards. The MOLSA should develop policy and legislative interventions which specifically targets on the protection of child labor in the informal economic sector. Broom selling should be recognized as a hazardous and exploitative economic activity which denies basic rights and freedom of children.

- **Compulsory Education:** This study also indicates that, lack of access to education is one the causes and rights violations of these broom seller children. But, as a basic children rights and an important policy strategies to abolish child labor, education should be compulsory at the primary school level to abolish child labor in broom selling. The MOLSA and EHRC should recommend for legislative improvement in education to be compulsory at the primary school level to abolish child labor.
- **Capacity Building:** The EHRC together with MOLSA should offer continuous capacity building trainings to government officials who work in child labor especially to the lower administrative levels like the Weredas and Kebeles, the police force, court officials both in Lideta subcity to equip them with better understanding about child labor for better protection of children rights.
- **Coordination among Institutions:** This study indicates that coordination among government authorities like the MOLSA, EHRC, IOM and MWYCA is low. Therefore, strengthening their horizontal and vertical coordination is very important for the effective abolishment of child labor in this broom selling and other informal economic activities. Particular emphasis is also important at the lowest administrative levels because of their direct relationship with the child laborers.

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## List of Interviews

### Respondents

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Case, 2. (June 18, 2014). Broom Seller Child. (A. Leake, Interviewer)

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## Key Informants

Anonymous. (June 15, 2014). MOLSA, Child Labor Protection Project Expert. (A. Leake, Interviewer)

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## Interview Guide

### Appendix One:

#### Interview Guide to Collect Information from Broom Seller Children

##### Introduction

This study aims at exploring Child labor with in the Informal Economic Sector; The Case Study of the Broom sellers in Addis Ababa, sub-city of Lideta particularly Wereda Four. It examines the nature of their work, working condition and its physical, health, educational and development impacts on these children. I am conducting this research for the requirement of M.A (in Human Rights) Degree. I am going to ask you a series of questions relating to this topic which requires your participation which contributes much for the successful completion of the study. Your responses will be used to compile a research report which is only for academic purposes and will

be treated in strict confidence and your anonymity will be maintained. Hence, my sincere gratitude goes to you for your voluntariness and the time you sacrifice to respond my interview.

1. Personal Information

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Educational Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Wereda: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Family Information and Reasons for Work

A. Do you have parents?

Both \_\_\_\_\_ One \_\_\_\_\_ None \_\_\_\_\_

If one parent who? \_\_\_\_\_

B. What is the educational level of your parents?

Your Father's \_\_\_\_\_ Your Mother \_\_\_\_\_

C. What is your parent's occupation?

Your Father's \_\_\_\_\_ Your Mother \_\_\_\_\_

D. What is the size of your family? \_\_\_\_\_

E. What is your reason for work?

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F. Why do you prefer this work?

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3. The Process How they Come and Reach their Palace of Destination

A. Where do you come from?

B. Who was the decision maker to come and work here?

By yourself \_\_\_\_\_ Your Parents \_\_\_\_\_

C. How do you come here? By Bus? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

D. With whom do you come to this work? With your parents \_\_\_\_\_

Broker \_\_\_\_\_ Friends \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

E. Is there anyone who told you about this Broom selling work?

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F. Is there a gap when you heard about the work before you come here and start working and living here? Did it match to what you heard before about the work?

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G. Who and how did you receipt when you reach here in Addis?

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H. Who paid you for the transportation? Your Parents \_\_\_\_\_

By yourself \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Working and Living Conditions

A. Are the brooms you sell are your products?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If your answer is, no how do you get these products?

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B. Do you have any agreement with whom you work? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Do you have payment? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ if your answer is yes, how much is it? \_\_\_\_\_

D. How many hours do you work per day? \_\_\_\_\_

E. How many days do you work peer week? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Do you have leisure time? \_\_\_\_\_

G. Do you use tools for work? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what tools do you use? \_\_\_\_\_

H. Can you tell me about your working condition?

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I. With whom do you live?

Parents \_\_\_\_\_ By your own \_\_\_\_\_

Other relative (specify relationship) \_\_\_\_\_

Unrelated persons (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

J. How many children do you live together?

K. Do you have house you sleep? Do you pay for it?

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L. How many rooms does the house of the home have? \_\_\_\_\_

M. How much money do you get from your work per week on average? \_\_\_\_\_

N. How much money do you spend for yourself weekly on average? \_\_\_\_\_

On what do you spend?

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O. Do you give money from your earnings to your parents or guardians?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

P. If yes, how much do you give your parents or guardians weekly on average? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Impacts of the broom selling Children

A. Have you been injured, or suffered from illness, pain while working? Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If, yes, mention it

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B. How frequently did you face these injuries?

Usually \_\_\_\_\_  
Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_  
Rarely \_\_\_\_\_  
Never \_\_\_\_\_

C. Is there anything told you which makes you feel bad mentally or psychologically?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If your answer is yes What it was?

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D. Do you have faced other physical problems as a result of your work? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

No, \_\_\_\_\_, If yes, what physical problems do you experience?

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E. Did you take any measures to treat the health problems you faced in relation to your work?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If your answer is no, Why

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If your answer is yes, what are the actions you take to treat your health problems?

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F. Do you have any access to school when you arrive here?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ No, \_\_\_\_\_

If your answer is yes, what is the program you studied?

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G. How do you explain the impact of your work on your future physical and mental development?

## Appendix Two:

### Interview Guide to Collect Information from Key-Informants (Government Authorities and Experts).

#### Introduction

This study aims at exploring Child labor with in the Informal Economic Sector; The Case Study of the Broom sellers in Addis Ababa, sub-city of Lideta particularly Wereda Four. It examines the nature of their work, working condition and its physical, health, educational and development impacts on these children. I am conducting this research for the requirement of M.A (in Human Rights) Degree. I am going to ask you a series of questions relating to this topic which requires your participation which contributes much for the successful completion of the study. Your

responses will be used to compile a research report which is only for academic purposes and will be treated in strict confidence and your anonymity will be maintained. Hence, my sincere gratitude goes to you for your voluntariness and the time you sacrifice to respond my interview.

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Level: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your position in the institution you are working?
2. What kind of services does your institution provide to the community around and who are the main target beneficiaries of the services provided by the institution?
3. Is there any particular program or service provided by the institution targeting on child labor?
4. How do you see the informal economic sector and child labor? Can those labor standards apply over those non- informal economic sector?
5. Do you believe that child labor has given the necessary attention and focus from the government, media, and forums? If not why?
6. How do you see the coordination between different institutions who work on child rights and child labor?
7. Can you say there is an effective enforcement of these human rights conventions, international labor standards and national laws and proclamations in Ethiopia? If your answer is no, why?
8. Do you believe compulsory education at primary level can reduce Child labor? If your answer is yes, why the Ethiopian government fails to make it compulsory?
9. How do you explain the physical, health, education and developmental impacts of broom selling on the children?

10. What do you recommend about the possible solutions to combat child labor in broom selling and to ensure better protection of their right to education, health and development?