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**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED SINGLE
MOTHERS LIVING IN TERCO**

BY

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN SOCIAL WORK**

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Degree Of Master In Social Work

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work, has not been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources of materials need for the thesis have been duly acknowledge.

Name: _____

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This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

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Abstract

This study explored the experiences of single mothers who are visually impaired in Together Ethiopian residence charity Organization. This qualitative study employed multiple case studies in which 12 visually impaired single mothers and six key informants selected by non-probability sampling were participated. Two FGDs with six members each were also conducted. The finding of this study shows that single mothers especially those who are visually impaired have so many challenges in their life like separation from their family, economic hardship, ignorance by the society, communication problems with their child/children due to lack of sight, challenges related rent house, lack of practical attention by government, low awareness by community members, betrayal by their husbands, and many other psychological problems. The strong facilitation of materials, government enforcement of laws and policies, strong facilitation of educational and vocational trainings, inclusion of disabled people in planning, monitoring and evaluation of development projects were also recommended.

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Chapter One

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Families, as socializing agents, are very important in the development of children. Maduewesi and Emenogu (1997) said that families have a paramount importance for the development of children and their wellbeing in many ways. The family is the first socializing agent that the child comes into contact with. It has a great influence on the child's physical, mental and moral development. The family also lays the foundation of education before the child goes to school and the personality that the child takes to school is determined by the home and the significant others who are found in it (Maduewesi & Emenogu, 1997).

Family also has its own influence on the child rearing practices of those families. Mothers who are single may face challenges which may be different from those who are not single. The study conducted by Rahel (2014) also states that there are three pathways to single motherhood. The first is single mothers who are never married. This category includes women becoming single mothers before marriage. Women may set out to have a baby with the intention of raising it alone or involuntary when mothers are having babies in the hope that the men will agree to a marriage. Besides, women may give birth out of social peer pressure when they are accused being barren. So they will trick a man just to get pregnant and prove they are fertile. The second pathway is divorce. Divorce has continued to be a global threat to families around the world and in Ethiopia. The third pathway to single motherhood is death of husband (Rahel, 2014: p8).

Although, there is paucity of data on single parent families in Ethiopia, mainly because vital statistics registration is yet to be started, a number of observations can be made based on the available data. First, empirical studies have indicated that the number of single mothers has increased in Ethiopia in recent years (Tirusew, 1993). According to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of Ethiopia, more than one household in every four (26 percent) is female-headed in 2011, increased from 23 percent in 2005 (CSA and ICF, 2012). The 2011 DHS also indicates that 17 percent of children in Ethiopia live in custody of single parents (either their mother or their father). Addis Ababa city has the lowest proportion of children who live with both parents standing at 52 percent while the national average is 72 percent (CSA and ICF, 2012). Hence the highest proportion of children living with only their mother or father in Ethiopia is in Addis Ababa.

One of the situations which forced those single mothers to face challenges of different types during child rearing is their status of disability. Disabilities exist everywhere in the world. They are of various kinds and have different effects on different persons in that some may be temporary or permanent, partial or total, fixed or changeable, have profound or no apparent effect on the working life of a person (ILO, 1985: 5). They can be classified on the basis of their causes, nature or other factors. Based on the cause or origin of the disability, it can be classified as: congenital or early childhood disability; war disability; industrial disability or occupational disease; accident in street, at home, at play; illness and disease (ILO, 1985: 5).

Disabilities have different forms and types. On the basis of clinical or nature, disability is classified as: orthopedic cases; blind; deaf; those with speech defects; those suffering from nervous disorders; the tuberculosis; paralyzed; and, the mentally retarded. Tirusew (1993: 69) listed seven types of disability groups based on the “international classification of diseases and

injuries”: the visual (the blind and the weak-sighted), the oral (the deaf and hard of hearing), the intellectual (mild, moderate and profound retardation), the motorical (neurological, musculo-skeletal and crippling, chronic health conditions), the lingual (oral and/or graphic), behavioral (emotional and social) and the multiple disabilities. Thus, this classification is made on the basis of the nature of disabilities. However, among these, as Terusew (1993: 69) put, only those with obvious impairments like the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, the severely mentally retarded and those with motor disorders seem to be the most recognized in Ethiopia even though there are a number of persons with hidden disabilities [mild sensory, physical, intellectual, communicative and behavioral difficulties] whose problems are not easily detectable. In this case, the researcher intended to focus on single mothers with visual impairment. This is because the researcher has seen such visually impaired single mothers during his field practice at the selected organization.

Therefore, single mothers with visual impairment face several challenges and experiences while rearing their children and process their livelihood with others. The challenges they face might put them to various forms of psychological problems. It can also interrupt the smooth relationship in the community.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Disability is an age old phenomenon in the history of human societies. It is often associated with various misconceptions and attitudes in different societies. Globally, persons with disabilities have been attached to loaded terms like ‘evil spirit’, ‘witch craft’, ‘ill’ and ‘unfortunate’ (Daniel, 2000:34). However, such attitudes of the general population toward disabled population have gradually been declining (Clapton& Fitzgerald, 1996:145). It has been

estimated that about 10 percent of the world population is with disability (Global survey on Disability and HIV/AIDS, 2004). According to this estimate, there are about 600 million persons with different types of disabilities in the world. Together with this prevalence, the nature of problems and challenges encountered by disabled persons makes disability a global concern. For instance, in the USA and UK more than 60 per cent of persons with disabilities live below the poverty line (Harknet ,1994). Nevertheless, the situation is often worse in developing countries. Among the aforementioned global estimate, 80 per cent of disabled persons are living in developing countries particularly in Africa. This huge prevalence is associated with the prevailing poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and superstitions in Sub-Saharan countries. Besides these, lack of immunizations, accidents, and malnutrition often aggravates the incidence of disability in the sub region (World Bank/Yale University, 2004). On the other hand, The African Campaign on Disability and HIV and AIDS report indicates that there are about 80 million people with disability in Africa. “These make up 15 to 20 per cent of people in the poorest communities, which are also severely affected by HIV and AIDS” (The African Campaign on Disability and HIV and AIDS Report, 2006:4).

However, this study focuses on single mothers with visual impairment. Single motherhood has been identified as a challenging role, with disadvantages including financial hardship and poor mental health. Resilience is a multidimensional construct, where two conditions need to occur: some form of adversity and positive adaptation. Developing resilience may empower single mothers to face the challenges whilst leading psychologically healthy and productive lives.

The status of women varies from one society to another; however, everywhere disability poses additional challenges for women. In conservative societies where the status of women is relatively low, it has a particularly negative impact, creating more challenges in their daily life.

Disability can be resulted in social and economic challenges of women with disabilities. Mindahun (2006, 19) although both men and women with disabilities suffer from discrimination, women with disabilities are doubly discriminated because of their sex and disability status. According to Mindahun (2006) this discrimination is severe and quite pervasive and affects all aspects of their lives as to education, employment, economic status, and marriage and family, health care and rehabilitation.

Men with disabilities are almost twice as likely to have jobs as disabled women (Mindahun, 2006). Even in sheltered workshops, prepared for training and employment of PWDs, the participation rate of women with disabilities is too low. Hence, women with disabilities are more likely than their male counterparts to be poor or destitute, illiterate or without vocational skills and most of them are unemployed. Neufeldt and Albright (1998: 14-15) point out two possible ways, which a disabled person, who is not participating in the labor force, is affected by discrimination. Firstly, having a job is a significant definer of adulthood in most societies. Not working means that a person might have great difficulty in defining his/her social role for others in response to the simple often asked question during introductions: “what do You do?” Secondly, Working means that one is contributing to the development of his/her society while not working means that he/she is taking away from it. Not working is usually accompanied by economic dependence, loss of self identity and self esteem. In addition, a very high proportion of PWDs, as compared to others, lead their lives in poverty in most countries of the world, and most often, alternatively, they pursue begging as a means of livelihood (“a form of self-

employment generally frowned upon in many societies”) (Neufeldt & Albright, 1998: 5). And, this is more serious problem in the developing world.

The world of women with disabilities is more difficult and they are vulnerable to discrimination because they are women and have disability. Many women with disabilities are further discriminated because, they are poor. This double or triple discrimination suffered by women with disabilities often ignored or unnoticed because, women with disabilities are sometimes considered as genderless human beings. ILO the right to decent work (2003.)

In most of the literature dealing with the experience of disability, little differentiation is made between men and women. There is now ample proof that physical, social, psychological, financial, natural, political and other disadvantages caused by disability have indeed a strong gender dimension. Coping mechanisms developed by disabled persons and their family are also gender-differentiated. There can be little value in adopting a blanket and standardized approach to disability, because the individual experience of disability varies markedly by sex and according to other important factors such as age, place of residence (urban/rural) and also the nature of the disability of individuals (Neufeldt and Albright (1998:78).

Disabled women encounter special problems in addition to those commonly shared with disabled men. Mindahun (2006) expressed this, as “double disability”. A study conducted in 1999 in Addis Ababa, on persons with hearing, visual, and motor impairments, showed that, at home female disabled are overburdened with household chores and many neither had the opportunity to go to school nor got the permission and time to interact with other individuals.

The livelihood survey conducted in 2008 also reveal that disabled women have much more constraints in social engagements and marital relationships than do male disabled. It is also indicated the day-to-day observations show that disabled women are exposed to several forms of

violence: physical including sexual violence, psychological, as well as various forms of hard labor. This shows that women with disabilities experience a high incidence of abuse – physical, emotional, psychological and sexual. Since most disabled women are hidden away in homes, this often happens within the family.

The impact of single motherhood, especially those who are with visual impairment, on children wellbeing is reflected through different channels. First, studies (McLanahan, 1984 & Harbest, 2012) indicated that single mothers with visual impairment experience usually high level of psychological distress because they are exposed to more stressful events and more ongoing strain in the form of low income than households headed by Married couples. Second, many of single parent households earn low income and are disproportionately living in poverty. Single parents, usually mothers are in a lack of financial support from a father and are often required to work longer hours there by making children receive less attention and guidance which impede their social development as well as education performance (Kunz, 2014). The relationship between poverty and child outcomes is well established: children from poorer backgrounds generally do less well on a number of measures, such as; health and educational attainment, than children from more advantaged backgrounds (Mooney, 2009, p.12).

The studies reviewed briefly above underline that the effect of single motherhood with visual impairment is not only enormous but also likely varies from society to society depending on the role family is supposed to play in children's well-being. Hence, although the effect of single motherhood on children's wellbeing is in largely negative, how and in what ways it affects the children's wellbeing should be contextually investigated. Such knowledge of the vivid experience of children affected by negative impacts of single motherhood and how they try to

cope-up with it undoubtedly has a paramount importance in informing social work practice and social policy.

However, despite the increasing number of single motherhood with visual impairment in Ethiopia, limited research is done on the experiences of single mothers in raising their children. So far little has been done in Ethiopia about the life and experiences of single motherhood on the effect of divorce, from children's wellbeing perspective (Serkalem, 2006). This study therefore aims to fill some identified knowledge gaps which are related with challenges related to single motherhood and visual impairment on child rearing.

Therefore, this thesis focused on the exploring the experiences of single mothers with disability i.e. single mothers with visual impairment. Single mothers are those mothers who are living only with their children and those who are with visual impairment. The study explore their experience throughout their life while child rearing, educating children, their social life with others, challenges and opportunities.

1.3. Research Questions

The study focused on answering the following research questions;

1.3.1. General research question,

What look like the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment in raising their children/child?

1.3.2. Specific research questions;

- i. What are the challenges of single mothers with visual impairment in child rearing?
- ii. What their past and present families' relationships look like?

- iii. What is the impact of past family relationship on the current life situation of single mothers with visual impairment?
- iv. What are the social, economic, psychological and spiritual impacts of being with visual impairment on child-rearing?

1.4. Objectives

1.4.1. General objectives

The general objective of this study is to explore the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment in raising their children/child.

1.4.2. Specific objectives

- i. To identify the major challenges that faced by single mothers with visual impairment during child rearing.
- ii. To assess their past family relationships.
- iii. To assess the impact of past family relationship on the present life situation of single mothers with visual impairment.
- iv. To explore the social, economic, psychological, and spiritual impacts of being with visual impairment on child-rearing.

1.5. Significance of the Study

Researches on the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment in the country are scanty; nor are in Addis Ababa specifically in Gulele sub-city. Hence, this research tried to fill the knowledge gap in the areas of women with disabilities example single mothers with visual impairment. In addition to filling the information gap in the areas of single mothers with disability challenges and experiences, it provides with the opportunity to

see the applicability of different social work theories and practicable models in research. Furthermore, examination of the challenges and experiences faced by single mothers with visual impairment offered divergent perspectives to understand the reasons of their difficulties critically.

In addition, this study helps to critically analyze the magnitude and the hardship life that single mothers with visual impairment lead. Hence, it was significant in that it helps to identify the major challenges of single mothers with disability face in their lives through the effective exploration of their life experiences by applying a qualitative data collection instruments such as interviews and focus group discussions. The research is vital for explaining the problem of visually impaired single mothers in their attempt to raise their children. It provided the chance to see what the social impacts of disability on child rearing practice does it have?. Moreover, it offered with the opportunity to assess the research participants past family relationship look like and helps to explain the causes and the magnitudes of their challenges.

Inadequate attention or failing to address short term and long term challenges faced by single mothers with visual impairment might have created burden for the nation and social malaise. Therefore, it has significance in identifying the major challenges and experiences of single mothers with visual impairment during child rearing. It also contributes to the other researchers to further study the issues related with single mothers with disabilities using other research methodological approaches and data collection strategies. In addition to this, it has great importance for the development of inclusive and contextualized women with disabilities policy and intervention strategies based on empirical evidences and research outcomes by

government, civil societies, and advocates of minority groups, religious people, and local as well as international charity organizations and donor agencies.

1.6.Rational for the research topic

This research explores the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment in raising their dependent children in the case of Together Ethiopian Residence Charity Organization found in Gulele sub city Woreda 7. It was motivated by researcher's frequent contact with single mothers who are visually impaired in the organization during BA field practice. This organization provides support for single parents with visual impairment and the researcher used to make frequent discussion, during field work, with single parents about their daily experiences in raising their dependent children. This frequent discussion aroused an interest inside the researcher to know more about single mother's experiences and its effect on children through systematic research. On the other hand, the proximity of the organization due to time limits. Finally, the researcher interested in this issue because he heard those visually impaired mothers talking about their life experiences and its challenges than sexual harassment while conducting research on sexual harassment.

1.7. Scope of the Study

To examine the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment at Addis Ababa is unmanageable at the current capacity of the researcher. Thus, this study was delimited in one of the ten sub cities of Addis Ababa that is Gulele sub city. It was delimited to one nongovernmental organization called Together Ethiopian residence Charity Organization. Regarding participants, the research focused only on 13 single mothers with visual impairment who are the current users of rehabilitation program of the organization among others. On the other hand, it was also delimited to qualitative research methodologically. It focused only on

the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment in child/children rearing. Hence, it does not include other aspects of women with disabilities. Thus, the political and the cultural dimension of the research area were not the focus of this research.

1.8.Limitations of the Study

The main limitations of this research can be mentioned in relation to the major resources time and money. Though data has been collected from visually impaired single mothers using interviews and FGD, the views of their respective family members and their children, who possibly can give their ideas about the single mothers, remain uncollected due to the financial and time constraints.

The other limitation of this study comes from the research participant's side. Also the researcher has planned to collect data from the whole population using total population sampling technique [13 visually impaired single mothers in the organization], He has got the consents or willingness of 12 visually single mothers only while some mothers were unwilling to give their views and even if some were volunteer to participate, but they tend to give a shallow kind of data or they tend to withdraw at the middle of the interviews were going on or tend to give a very quick responses.

The next limitation to this study can be viewed from the methodological point of view and tools used to collect data. It can be difficult to make generalization to every single mother out of this data collected from 12 visually impaired single mothers. Lack of ways to make sure to the truthfulness of the data gathered through interviews and FGD otherwise to take it as it is real to them was the other point could be mentioned what it limited the study.

Paucity of data on single mothers and vital statistical registration in general, and lack of data on the matter of disability and its fragmentary, incomplete and sometimes misleading is the other side of this research limitation.

1.9. Definitions of Terms

The following operational concepts are what in this study have used to clear ideas throughout the entire document.

Challenge: challenge refers to a new and firm task that tests once ability and skill (Hornby, 2000). Hence in this study the term challenge will be used to show that it is a new or difficult situation faced by single mothers with visual impairment in their life while trying to raise their children.

Disability: disability is a term or concept used to define different difficulties that may result from physical, hearing, visual and sensory problems or restrictions (Mindahun, 2006 p, 14).

Visual Impairment and Blindness: refers inability or restriction to see and it includes those individuals who have problems of vision either it is low or total inability to see(Ysseldykeand Algozzine,1995 cited by Mindahun 2006, p., 17).

Single Mother with Visual Impairment: mothers who lost their abilities to see and live without their husbands due to divorce or separations.

1.10. Theoretical Framework

The concept of disability is becoming a world phenomenon because the issue of sustainable development enforces the system to include them in the general population. Different theorists stated the issue of disability in different ways throughout different time period. Conflict Theory

draws attention to conflict, domination and oppression in social life. It also states that groups and individuals try to advance their own interests over the interests of others. On the other hand, power is unequally divided and some social groups dominated others. As a result, disabled people are being dominated and oppressed than any other social groups.

Systems Theory states that all people or groups in a system share a reciprocal influence on one another. In systems, causes are considered to be circular rather than linear. Systems possess structure, consisting of predictable patterns of behavior and boundaries. Because everything affects everything else in a circular, reciprocal fashion, it can be observed that different interventions can have similar effects.

In addition to this, the Black Feminist Theory also stated that people with disability especially females are double disadvantaged in that they are female and at the same time they are disabled.

On the other hand, the bio-psycho-social and spiritual model assumes that this segment of the society is disadvantaged and needs professional intervention to make them fully participate. From the bio-psycho-social and spiritual point of view, people with disability face several economic and social challenges which may harm their smooth relationship with others. Biologically they are disabled and face several challenges. The physical disability leads them to have psychological disturbance. This also in turn affect their social relationships i.e. prejudice and discrimination. It also hinders them to rear their children.

Therefore, the researcher explored the challenges and experiences of visually impaired single mothers in their life including psychological, spiritual, economic and social challenges while child rearing and accordingly, the bio-psycho-socio-spiritual model is used to elaborate more on

the biopsychosocial and spiritual challenges of visually impaired single mothers. The researcher also examined their experiences while living with their counterparts as a result of their disability status.

1.11. Organization of the paper

This study was organized into six chapters: chapter one is about the introduction of the paper and the background of the study, chapter two is about review of available literatures, chapter three is about methodology, while chapters four, five and six respectively are about presentation of the data/results, discussion and analysis; and summary, conclusion, social work implication and recommendation.

Chapter two

Review of Related Literature

2.1 Concept of Disability.

Pullin (2009) reported that be it directly or indirectly disability can lead to problems in people's lives. The problems might be viewed as either inherent impairment, or as created by the society's designed environment and other people's behaviors. The terms people with disabilities and disabled people emphasize each of these perspectives. As a result, exclusion and discrimination remain serious problems at an individual and a social level.

The idea that individuals with physical, sensory or cognitive impairments all together form a class of "the disabled" is a twentieth century invention. For in earlier times, classification was in terms of physical, sensory or cognitive condition. Persons were described as crippled or deaf or blind or mad or feeble minded, but only during the first part of the century was the term "disabled" introduced to characterize and collectivize them (Silvers, 2010).

According to World Bank and world health organization (2011), there are an estimated 15 million children's, adults and elderly persons with disabilities in Ethiopia representing 17.6 percent of population. A vast majority of peoples with disabilities live in rural areas where access to basic services is limited. In Ethiopia 95 percent of all persons with disabilities are estimated to live in poverty, May depend on family support and begging for their livelihood. People with a disability include: people who are blind or partially sighted, people with learning or intellectual disabilities, people who are deaf or hearing impaired, people with a physical disability, people with long term illnesses, people with mental health or psychological difficulties, people with an acquired brain injury (WHO, 1980).

In the medical model, disability is seen as some thing natural and residing in the body and/or mind of an individual. This model leads to thinking of disabled people as victims who must be protected, pitied and fixed. The social model of disability – developed in the British Disabilities Studies field – argues that disability is a result of social structures, not deficits in the body or brain. These social structures and norms disable people by devaluing and denying them access to society, including to education, jobs, public spaces, representation, and social encounters. The social model sees disabled people not as victims but as agents resisting oppression, overcoming challenges, and thereby changing social structures (Shakespeare 2000, McRuer 2006).

Oliver (1996) stated disability, according to the social model, is all the things that impose restrictions on disabled people; ranging from individual prejudice to institutional discrimination, from inaccessible public buildings to unusable transport systems, from segregated education to excluding work arrangements, and so on. Further, the consequences of this failure do not simply and randomly fall on individuals but systematically upon disabled people as a group who experience this failure as discrimination institutionalized throughout society.

The social model insists, disablement is nothing to do with the body. It is a consequence of social oppression. But the social model does not deny that impairment is closely related to the physical body. Impairment is, in fact, nothing less than a description of the physical body (Oliver, 1996).

Broadly speaking, systems of defining disability follow one of three approaches. These are:

- illness or impairment-based systems

- systems that focus on life activities that may be affected by impairment
- Systems that recognize the interaction between the person and the physical and social environment they live in (Dempsey and Nankervis, 2006).

According to Silvers (2010) in contemporary Western culture, to be disabled is to be disadvantaged regardless of how much success one achieves individually. This is the generic implication of applying the term “disability” and its cognates and translations to label the group of biologically anomalous people whom we think of as being disabled. The idea of “disability” now is associated with physical or mental differences that compromise people’s liberty to achieve typical levels of success in one or more areas of social participation, whether the relevant activities are learning, communicating, mobilizing, being employed or some other important productive activity. The key phenomenon that informs this idea is the experience of disabled people’s being more limited than other people in one or more seemingly important respects.

Even though it differs from place to place marginalization of persons with disabilities is a very common experience. In some communities and families, disability is accepted as a normal part of life and people with disability participate to their capacities and are assisted with tasks beyond their capacity. However, these situations seem to be the exception, according to the vast majority of studies and reports on disability, in which significant discrimination is recorded. Discrimination may occur because of fear, ignorance, and assumptions regarding lack of potentials of persons with disability (Albrecht, 2006 p.387.).

The development of a social interpretation or model of disability gave a critical impetus to a new form of disability politics. This focused on confronting the pervasive social and environmental barriers and attitudes to the inclusion of people with designated impairments in mainstream society (Barnes and Mercer, 2006).

As Albrecht (2006) explained the social model of disability considers persons with disability as members of communities with rights and responsibilities equal to all others; it states that the problem of disability is not in the impairment, but in society's response to the individual and impairment, and in the physical environment. WHO (2002, p.9) acknowledges that the social model of disability sees disability as a socially created problem and not at all an attribute of an individual. On the social model, disability demands a political response, since the problem is created by an unaccommodating physical environment brought about by attitudes and other features of the social environment. Therefore, according to Albrecht (2006) change must happen within families, communities, and societies.

As to Barnes and Mercer (2006) the experience of most persons with disabilities in their life chances is insignificant to make a decisive advance. A comprehensive set of exclusionary barriers from education, employment, housing and the built environment, to recreational and social relationships are widely experienced challenges which hinder their advancement in life.

Fear, contempt, distaste, distancing, mockery and condemnation, sometimes associated with the idea of divine retribution or karma, which form the unpleasant end of the spectrum are the attitudes towards disability and persons with disability in many cultures (Barnes and Mercer, 2006 by citing Miles 1983).

Hirandandani (2006) affirms that the social model emphasizes society's failure to provide appropriate services and adequately ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are fully taken into account in the social organization. Disability, according to the social model, Hirandandani (2006) adds, encompasses all factors that impose restrictions on people with disabilities, ranging from negative social attitudes to institutional discrimination, from inaccessible public buildings to unusable transport systems, from segregated education to

exclusion in work arrangements, and so on. It can be seen that the social model of disability derives from a social constructionist approach. The social model of disability has been put forth by people with disabilities themselves, mainly activists and academics with disabilities.

2.2. Types of Disability

Disabilities have different forms and types. On the basis of clinical or nature, disability is classified as: orthopedic cases; blind; deaf; those with speech defects; those suffering from nervous disorders; the tuberculosis; paralyzed; and, the mentally retarded. Terusew [1993: 69] listed seven types of disability groups based on the “international classification of diseases and injuries”: the visual [the blind and the weak sighted], the oral [the deaf and hard of hearing], the intellectual [mild, moderate and profound retardation], the motorical [neurological, musculo-skeletal and crippling, chronic health conditions], the lingual [oral and/or graphic], behavioral [emotional and social] and the multiple disabilities. Thus, this classification is made on the basis of the nature of the disabilities. However, among these, as Terusew [1993: 69] put, only those with obvious impairments like the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, the severely mentally retarded and those with motor disorders seem to be the most recognized in Ethiopia even though there are a number of persons with hidden disabilities [mild sensory, physical, intellectual, communicative and behavioral difficulties] whose problems are not easily detectable. this case, the researcher intended to focus on single mothers with visual impairment.

2.3 Disability in Ethiopia

2.3.1. Disability statistics in Ethiopia

According to WHO, about 15% of the world population is disabled as a result of physical, sensory or mental impairments. Ethiopian censuses and surveys portrayed the statistics of disability in Ethiopia. The demographic survey of 1979/80 shows that the number of disability was about 5.48% while the national census of 1984 shows 3.6%. Following this, a base line survey of 1995 shows that among the population of the country, 2.95% was people with disability and the national census of 1994 depicts 1.9%. On the other hand, the national housing and population census of 2007 also shows that the number of people with disability is reduced to 1.2%.

As demonstrated by Terusew (2005) adults with disabilities face similar difficulties though they are not developmentally vulnerable as the children with disabilities. However, their psychological and social situation may largely depend on the onset of the disability, the environment they were brought up as well as their present social environment. Generally, the range of their participation in community affairs such as local community organization festivals, weddings, funerals and other social occasions are highly limited. As it may be true in other parts of the globe, the degree of social distancing and discrimination is not the same across the range of persons with different disabilities.

According to Alemu (2002) the combination of poverty, ignorance, war, famine and drought with absence of adequate preventive and rehabilitation services could produce high prevalence of disability in Ethiopia.

Causes of disability usually in the developed nations are associated with aging (Mindahun, 2006). But in Ethiopia, as reported by Mindahun (2006), it is found to be result of

poverty and related issues, such as malnutrition, limited access to medical services, living in poor living conditions. Infectious diseases, pre-natal conditions, trauma and accidents, poor environmental sanitation, polluted water, family ignorance, communicable/ diseases, high prevalence of harmful traditional beliefs and practices etc. accounted for most of disabilities in children. Besides, due to environmental hazards, war, poor housing, and poor hygiene there are many people with physical or mental disabilities per head of population in Ethiopia (Center for Applied Research Development Oriented Services (CARDOS), 2007).

2.4. The Status of Single Mothers

In today's society, there are many different types of families. Some include intact, non intact, single families, stepfamilies and a variety of others. Along with these different varieties of families there is one common incident that can cause the family structure to change. One of the most striking changes in family structure over the last twenty years has been the increase in single-parent families. In 1970, the number of single-parent families with children under the age of 18 was 3.8 million in US. By 1990, the number had more than doubled to 9.7 million. For the first time in history, children are more likely to reside in a single-parent family for reasons other than the death of a parent. One in four children is born to an unmarried mother, many of whom are teenagers. Another 40 percent of children under 18 experience parental breakup (Jacqueline, 2006).

Survey data indicate that Americans have become increasingly accepting single-parent families formed through divorce and non-marital childbearing since 1960 (Thornton,1989; Thornton & Young-DeMarco, 2001).The U.S. Bureau of Census reported in 2001 that there are now over 12 million single parent households approximately 10 million of which are maintained by mothers (as cited in Walsh, 2003, p.121).Due to an increase in the numbers of children born

outside marriage and the rise in divorce rates, there has been a “three-fold increase in the proportion of children growing up in single-parent families since 1960 in US (Susan, n.d.). In 1990, of the children who lived with one parent, 39 percent had parents who were divorced, 31 percent had parents who were never married, 24 percent had parents who had separated, and 7 percent had one parent who had died in US. These different subgroups have different rates of employment, income, poverty, and welfare receipt. In general, never married mothers are the most likely to be poor, to receive welfare for long periods, and the least likely to work (Ooms, 1992).

2.5. Impacts of Single Motherhood

Compared to intact families, single motherhood is associated with a number of negative effects. In discussing consequences of single mothers, however, it should be recognized that single motherhood refers to a diverse category of mothers. Single mothers can be never married, widowed or divorced. They may live alone or may live with others. For instance, although, research has generally showed that single mothers are disproportionately among the poor; research also showed that single mothers living with relatives have better socio-economic status than single mothers heading a household (Amato & Keith, 1991).

Nevertheless, there are common challenges associated with single motherhood. McLanahan and Sandefur (1994) found that “single mothers seemed to suffer more following a divorce, perhaps because they typically experienced a severe loss of income since due to a lack of husband’s support (McLanahan and Sandefur, 1994). The loss of a husband's income (and the psychological effect on the custodial parent) was one of the most important factors in determining a child’s well-being. Carlson (1997, p.625) agreed noting that in single parent families, parenting abilities are affected by the family's financial status. Carlson also stressed that

single mothers suffer higher stress rates due to a loss of economic status, possibly leading to maternal depression, predicting negative maternal attitudes and ineffective parenting. Besides having to adjust to a lower standard of living, single mothers also experienced less access to occupational training and less access to the higher education needed to pull themselves and their children out of poverty (White, 2004, p.7).

Financial challenges can also affect the possibility of single mothers in developing social network. The low income status of single mothers also means that they have to move frequently in search of (better) jobs and or smaller homes that are more affordable. In addition, single mothers also tend to disengage from family and friends, not taking the time to maintain old relationships or to build new supportive ones. McLanahan and Sandefur (1994) asserted that single mothers tend to be so depressed at their lack of status and income following their divorces; they had no energy to maintain relationships. The authors asserted that this lack of family and friendship connections can have a detrimental effect on children's well-being, as they see their old, well-known world fall away (White, 2004, p. 7).

2.6. Impacts of being Single Mother on children's well being

Theoretical explanations about the impact of single motherhood on wellbeing of dependent children have changed over years. In 970s, the dominant model researches on single motherhood followed was the Family Deficit Model. The Family Deficit model views "the nuclear or two-parent family (otherwise known as intact family) as the ideal family structure. According to this model, single-parent families have a negative impact on children simply because they do not have a nuclear family structure. It is therefore considered an aberration, which lacks the capacity to produce a psychologically balanced offspring" (Azuka-Obieke, 2013, p.112). However since 1990s the notion of viewing single parents as inherently deficit is

increasingly rejected to be replaced by the Risk and Protective Factor model, which “does not regard single-parent families as irregular. Risk factors are background characteristics and life events that may have negative impact on child development. Whereas, protective factors are characteristics and events that positively influence children and help limit the impact of risk factors. Essentially, risk factors are the weaknesses while protective factors are the strengths of any given family” (Azuka-Obieke, 2013, p. 112). Rather than viewing single parenting as the cause of negative outcomes for children, the Risk and Protective Factor model views family structure as one of the many risk factors. For instance, Rodgers and Pryor (2001) undertaking a comprehensive review of the research evidence on the impact of divorce and separation on outcomes for children and concluded from the evidence that children of separated parents compared with children whose parents remain together are at increased risk of: Growing up in households with lower incomes and poorer housing; experiencing behavioral problems; performing less well in school and gaining fewer educational qualifications; needing more medical treatment; leaving school and home when young; becoming sexually active, pregnant or a parent at an early age; reporting more depressive symptoms and higher levels of smoking, drinking and other drug use during adolescence and adulthood (Mooney, Chris and Marjorie, 2009, p. 7). Given these obstacles, single mothers tended to feel more overwhelmed in their parenting role, experiencing high stress levels and depression (Carlson, 1997; McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994). The authors posited that a combination of these factors could lead to ineffective parenting, with the single mother unable to provide the firm, loving discipline that children need to develop a strong sense of security and well-being (White, 2004, p.7).

The role of the father in traditional African settings was considered vital in the upbringing of a child. One of the characteristics of the existing literature on single mothers is its

focus on the impact of single motherhood on children's wellbeing. Besides, there is no single cause for the declining well-being of children in single parent families, but rather many. No single explanation accounts for the differences, and some scientific support exists for each of the five perspectives: economic hardship, loss of parental support and supervision, lack of community resources, parental conflict, and life stress and instability (white, 2004).

Hilton and Desrochers (2002, p.31) cited the "parental adjustment perspective," which posits that the parent's psychological state after a divorce has a direct effect on children's well-being. Clarke-Stewart and Hayward (1996) found that children had stronger relationships with both parents and a greater sense of psychological well-being when the custodial parent had made a successful emotional adjustment to the divorce -- especially those children in mother custody (White, 2004).

Family disruptions often entail a number of changes which, taken together, can be more stressful than any one considered alone (i.e., moving, changing schools, loss of contact with the noncustodial parent, and a decline in one's standard of living). (White, 2004)

2.7. Social and Economic Challenges of Women with disabilities

Beyond the pressure and stress that single parents have to deal with, they are also very much concerned with providing finances to their respective family. Some single parents, specifically mothers who never worked in their entire life, would be forced to work in a full-time basis. This does not only adds pressure to single parenthood but more importantly, it limits the time that the mother has to spend with her children (Walsh, 2003). Financial crises are a standing situation with most of the single parent families. It becomes difficult in meeting the basic needs of children such as food, clothing, school fees, maintaining the previous standard of living and meet personal expense (Nidhi and Bharti, 2009).

Single mothers' unemployment has been stated to be more than twice as much as married women's, and the reason suggested is that single mothers have particular difficulty in finding jobs that are consistent with their family care responsibilities. It has been noted that this high unemployment rate is troubling for families since one fifth of all families with children are headed by working single mothers, and families of single mothers (considering both those who work and those who do not together) have a high poverty rate, 28.3 percent (Susan, 2013.).

Father's historical role in the family has been breadwinner. So the single mothers are plunged into poverty. The economic position of women who live alone with their children remains precarious and single motherhood is a major reason for poverty among women and thus their over-representation among the poor (Problem of Single Mothers ,2012).

Single women with children experience much higher levels of poverty than any other family type. In part, this is due to the prevalence of low paying, female dominated occupations – which typically pay in minimum wage or only slightly higher. Single mothers also face challenges arranging and paying for child-care, which can comprise about 1/3 of the household budget depending upon the age of the child (Christen, 2011).

Mother-only families are more likely to be poor because of the lower earning capacity of single mothers, the insufficient benefits provided by the state, and the lack of child support provided from the nonresidential father (Garfinkel & McLanahan, 1986).

A large body of research has documented the disadvantages of children raised in single-parent homes relative to children raised in two-parent homes. Lower high school graduation rates, lower GPAs, and greater risk for drug abuse are only some of the negative outcomes associated with growing up in a single-parent home.

Nelson (1990), cited in Waruesporn, (2011) argues that family income has effects on a single-mother's life tensions, which may diminish the emotional well-being of parents and have negative effects on children's self-esteem and children's behavior in school. Single-mother families are at a high risk of poverty and a poor psychological health due to the pressure the single-mother has to put up with in working to earn an income to meet the family's needs, leading to fatigue and emotional imbalance, which results in a lack of time spent with children. Parents under economic stress and single-parents often poorly supervise their children and may let them gain autonomy too early. Unsupervised adolescents are more likely to be involved in risky behaviors such as cigarette smoking, alcohol drinking, drug use, early sexual activity resulting in adolescent pregnancy (Richardson et al., 1993; Blum et al., 2000, as cited in Waruesporn, 2011).

Researchers who have compared single-parent mothers to married mothers have documented the lower economic status, higher stress levels, and lack of time for sleep and leisure among single mothers (McLanahan and Booth, 1989; Sanik and Mauldin, 1986).

Mindahun (2006, 19) although both men and women with disabilities suffer from discrimination, women with disabilities are doubly discriminated because of their sex and disability status. According to Mindahun (2006) this discrimination is severe and quite pervasive and affects all aspects of their lives as to education, employment, economic status, and marriage and family, health care and rehabilitation.

Men with disabilities are almost twice as likely to have jobs as disabled women (Mindahun, 2006). Even in sheltered workshops, prepared for training and employment of PWDs, the participation rate of women with disabilities is too low. Hence, women with disabilities are more

likely than their male counterparts to be poor or destitute, illiterate or without vocational skills and most of them are unemployed. Neufeldt and Albright (1998: 14-15) point out two possible ways, which a disabled person, who is not participating in the labor force, is affected by discrimination. Firstly, having a job is a significant definer of adulthood in most societies. Not working means that a person might have great difficulty in defining his/her social role for others in response to the simple often asked question during introductions: “what do You do?” secondly, not working is usually accompanied by economic dependence, loss of self-identity and self-esteem. Working means that one is contributing to the development of his/her society while not working means that he/she is taking away from it. In addition, a very high proportion of PWDs, as compared to others, lead their lives in poverty in most countries of the world, and most often, alternatively, they pursue begging as a means of livelihood (“a form of self-employment generally frowned up on in many societies”) (Neufeldt& Albright, 1998: 5). And, this is more serious problem in the developing world.

The world of women with disabilities is more difficult and they are vulnerable to discrimination because they are women and have disability. Many women with disabilities are further discriminated because, they are poor. This double or triple discrimination suffered by women with disabilities often ignored or unnoticed because, women with disabilities are sometimes considered as genderless human beings. ILO the right to decent work (2003.)

In most of the literature dealing with the experience of disability, little differentiation is made between men and women. There is now ample proof that physical, social, psychological, financial, natural, political and other disadvantages caused by disability have indeed a strong gender dimension. Coping mechanisms developed by disabled persons and their family are also gender-differentiated. There can be little value in adopting a blanket and standardized approach

to disability, because the individual experience of disability varies markedly by sex and according to other important factors such as age, place of residence (urban/rural) and also the nature of the disability of individuals.

Disabled women encounter special problems in addition to those commonly shared with disabled men. Many researchers express this, as “double disability”. A study conducted in 1999 in Addis Ababa, on persons with hearing, visual, and motor impairments, showed that, at home female disabled are overburdened with household chores and many neither had the opportunity to go to school nor got the permission and time to interact with other individuals.

The livelihood survey conducted in 2008 also reveal that disabled women have much more constraints in social engagements and marital relationships than do male disabled. It is also indicated the day-to-day observations show that disabled women are exposed to several forms of violence: physical including sexual violence, psychological, as well as various forms of hard labor. This shows that women with disabilities experience a high incidence of abuse – physical, emotional, psychological and sexual. Since most disabled women are hidden away in homes, this often happens within the family.

Chapter three

Research Method

3.1. Research design

This study is exploratory qualitative case study design, the design which can be used when the case is more than a single case. The type of case study that this study employed was Multiple Case study. Thus the data was collected and an attempt was made to answer the research questions. To do this, the researcher collected qualitative type of data from purposively selected women and key informants in the organization as well as from other persons with disability associations and organizations.

3.2. Description of the study area

Together Ethiopian residence charity organization is one of the newly established local NGO found in Woreda seven, Gulele sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The organization strives to create safe and rehabilitative shelter for women with visual impairment and their children to live in a peaceful and harmonize environment. Moreover, the organization in its different programs, undertaking several activities that comprise training, counseling, guidance and special support in pedagogical and technical fields when students with visual impairments enter educational institutions, during their studies and transition into the labor market. It also works on rehabilitation for visually impaired mothers with child/children.

3.3. Philosophy of the research

Unlike that of positivist, the researcher assumes that reality is not objective rather it is subjectively verified. The Researcher believed that in investigating the issue of challenges and

experiences of single mothers with visual impairment to be understood from the individuals own words and meanings. Each participant had unique ideas and perceptions which are real to them that can be generalized to the research participants only.

3.4. Method of the study

This section of the research elucidates the research methodology with detail procedures that were used to answer the research questions in line with keeping the trustworthiness of the research. To mention some, research method, data collection techniques, sampling methods and procedures, and ways of data presentation to be shown clearly.

Based on the approach mentioned above, for this particular inquiry to proceed, qualitative exploratory case study research method (i.e. multiple case study) was employed. Qualitative approach was based on interpretation of the perception and experiences of participants (Creswell, 2009). Because, scientifically, the researcher believes that the current experiences and challenges of single mothers with visual impairment have to be investigated from their own point of views and understandings qualitatively than to use numbers and predesigned questions that leads to objective interpretations of the data and statistical generalizations and conclusions.

3.5. Sampling method and sample size

Broadly, non-probability sampling method was used to select research participants. From non-probability sampling method, total population sampling technique was employed. Total population sampling is a type of total purposive sampling technique where the researcher wants to choose to examine the entire population because the population size is very small and have similar characteristics (Winnie, 2013, unpublished). In this respect, the entire population was chosen because the size of the population that has the particular set of characteristics that

the researcher interested in is very small. So as to generate the necessary and ample data for this research, 19 individuals were selected purposively.

3.6. The Research Participants

Twelve single mothers with visual impairment who are the users of rehabilitation program of Together Ethiopian residence charity organization found in Wereda 7, Gulele Sub-city, Addis Ababa were the major participants in this research project. Moreover, key informants from Together Ethiopian residence charity organization and from other one persons with disability organization and women's with disability associations took part in this research.

3.7. Inclusion criteria

In this research project, all single mothers with visual impairment who are the rehabilitation service users, who were volunteer to tell their experiences, and who have children in together Ethiopian residence charity organization were included. In addition, leaders and experts in different persons with disability organizations and associations and who were voluntarily give their consent were taken part in this study.

3.8. Data Collection Tools

In order to gather relevant information, both primary and secondary data sources were utilized.

3.9. Primary data collection instruments

3.9.1. Interviews

In the aim to extract ample amount of information, interviews was made with 12 individuals who are single mothers with vision loss. Unstructured open interviews were used.

This method is intentionally preferred not to restrict the participants from explaining certain aspect of the interviews. Based on the knowledge they have willingness and their availability, six key-informants from three persons with disability organizations and associations were approached for the in-depth interview.

3.9.1. Focus group discussion

In this study, focus group discussion had two advantages, one, serves to obtain data, meanwhile, two, as a supplementary source of data; it helps to cross check the information collected through other methods. Thus, this method was made sure that individual's view resembled that of the group. In designing these discussions, the group composition was homogeneous. These include all the 12 single mothers who were interviewed individually, also were included in the group discussion. Two focus group discussions of each group containing six discussants were conducted depending on their willingness to participate in a group. The focused interview and discussions were held to obtain the knowledge regarding the different dimensions of the life experiences and challenges of single mothers with visual impairment living in Together Ethiopian residence charity organization.

3.10. Secondary source of data

Regarding the secondary data sources, both scientific and theoretical perspectives were reviewed. Among others, documents, reports, publications, different studies were included. The data was collected from various sources. These sources included visually impaired female and single mothers as well as disability related literatures and models.

3.11. Methods of Data Analysis

According to De Vos (2005), Data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. Data analysis in this study includes preparing, organizing and analyzing the data in to themes and categories. The data analysis process was carried out soon after the data has been collected. Information from the research participants was recorded in the form of notes or sound recorders depending on their willingness. Collected data from the respondents was transcribed and then translated from Amharic in to English in order to make it complete for organization. To analyze the obtained data collected from the field, it was tallied, structured, organized and systematically framed.

3.12. Data quality assurance

So as to assure the quality and trust worthiness of the data, the researcher triangulated the stories and the data generated from the respondents with those of the key informants who are very close to the issue and the with the data collected from the FGD participants. This process of triangulation stopped the researcher from reaching into a counterfeit conclusion. To avoid biases during translation, double translation was used. In addition to this, written responses was read out again to the respondents so as to assure that what they want to say has been understood by the researcher.

3.13.Procedure of Data Collection

Researcher has gone through the following procedures to collect data after he has carefully developed the interview guide and the FGD checklist. First, the research area has been visited and successful communication with the manager of Together Ethiopian residence charity organization on the purpose of the research and their consent has been obtained. Second, each

single mother with visual impairment was contacted by the researcher and each was informed about the research purpose both by the researcher and by the manager of the organization in order to get their will.

Interview with each single mothers for 30 to 40 minutes was conducted both in the organization and in some other places where they wanted to be, and where it was comforted them. Each interview guide was read out to them and clarity was made when difficulty of the questions was observed and the understanding of the researcher to what they say was again read out to them so as to assure the quality of the data and their choices were respected whether to be recorded their voices, or written their responses on a paper.

Focus group discussions with two groups were facilitated with the same individuals. Both FGDs with the single mothers were held in Ethiopian national association of the blind [ENAB] upon their request considering its proximity to their work and mobility. It was conducted within 50 to 60 minutes and their responses were recorded and not were taken in the process of the discussions to support the quality of the data which was collected from the individual single mothers. In addition to these, interviews with six key informants who are working with them and have daily contact, were conducted so as to obtain further information's about the single mothers.

3.14. Ethical consideration

So as to respect social science research ethics and dignify the well beings of the research participants, social science research ethics were applied properly. Participants were informed that their participation in the study is voluntary, that they have the freedom to withdraw from the study at any time without any unfavorable consequences, and they are not harmed as a result of

their participation or non-participation in the process. To protect participants' interests and future well-being, their identity was protected. This was done by using the principles of confidentiality in which the researcher identified a person's responses, but promises not to disclose that person's identify in any report, paper, or public forum. Data collection, analysis and report was manipulated according to social science research ethics. Researcher also has ethical obligations to the scientific community on how data is analyzed and reported in his study. To avoid plagiarism, used sources were cited according to the reference style of the department that is APA style.

In general, this research was conducted in accordance with the ethics of social work research. The researcher first informed the respondents about the research and its purpose prior to every interview and discussions. He also told the respondents that he/she has the right to withdraw him/herself from participation in the research process anytime he/she wants without reasoning. So as to maintain anonymity and/or confidentiality, pseudo names and codes were used. Moreover, in the group discussions also respondents were told if there is any secrete issue to be shared they can approach the researcher in person in order to keep and assure confidentiality.

Chapter Four

4.5.Data presentation

This chapter deals with presentation of the information gathered through interview checklist and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Single mothers with visual impairment have been interviewed well and the information they have provided was recorded and carefully translated to English as follows. In addition to this, key informants, staffs, were interviewed.

4.5.1. Case 1

I am 28 years old. I am a woman with visual impairment. My visual impairment is since childhood. I have a three years child. I gave birth to my child when I was around 24 years old. She spends all the day with me because she has not been yet enrolled to school. Life is very difficult for a person like me especially for single mothers. There is some communication problems because it is difficult to understand every needs of the child. On this regard, rearing child is very difficult because it needs sight to follow child very well. For example, the child may get sick and at that time we need some one to be with us to help us. On the other hand, when the child needs a specific food of certain type I may not properly fulfill his specific need.

I separated from my family (father and mother) six years ago. My father is now living in Addis Ababa. I left my father by my own decision. After that I got myself on the street. I even got this child when I was on the street. After I got one guy who was also on the street, I made a relationship with him. We committed sexual intercourse and unknowngly I got pregnant at the of 24. Before we fall into sexual intercourse, he told me that he will fulfill all my basic necessities like renting house. However, when I become six months pregnant he left me alone and escaped.

During my stay on the street, I have faced so many challenges. I remember when the group of ten youngsters tried to mollify me but God rescued me from them.

My mother is currently living in Bahir Dar. My father took me here when I was only seven years old. Since then I haven't even hear her voice on telephone. Life on the street is very difficult. There is rain, sun, cold, and flood during summer. On the other hand, there are different people with different addictions like smoking, chewing khat, and alcohol. Living with them in one area is very dangerous.

I gave birth to my child by surgical operation in Hospital because I never made clinical check up before. Suddenly when I went to Ghandi Hospital, they told me that I left few days to give birth. Still my child has health problem which I think is due to the worst life I have spent on the street. I and my child spent only five days in the hospital then told to leave.

Then I came to sidist kilo to sister Tereza. I got this information from my friends and she took me to her institution for three months and then rented house for me. I am happy for having this child as every mothers feel. But, the challenge is on how to fulfill its needs. She taught me so many skills so that I can rely on myself. She did many things to me.

I faced so many challenges like isolation, prejudice, discrimination when living in the society. People usually talk so many negative words about me; when hear them I just keep quit because they would have fear God. I would have given response for what they have spoken, the conflict would have been occur. I don't want that! These and other issues make me fear, self isolation, self under estimation, despair, confusion and disappointment.

Economically, I don't have enough to live with my child. Spiritually, I am getting what I supposed to get from church. There is such big problem as far as I know regarding my spiritual life. I always think about how to work and be changed.

The other challenge we may face as visually impaired single mothers is that sometimes our children may escape from us intentionally. They may run away from us. The children grown up by sighted and visually impaired are totally different. Though I can't say it is because of lack of skills, it is surely because we can't see all what is happening.

Finally, I want to recommend that those who are visually impaired mothers have to get where to keep their children when they go to work or school. It will also be better if they get the chance to get training so that they can help themselves.

4.5.2. Case 2

I am 43 years old and I have two children whose ages are 17 and 10 respectively. I gave birth to my first child when I was 26. I am very happy with my children who I have without them? I have good communication with my children except when they were very kids. In the previous years it was too difficult to understand what they need even I could not help them in doing their homework. I do not go to the school to communicate with the school staffs due to my disability. I lived for 23 years with impairment. I withdrew the education in grade 8 before I got my impairment. After I lost my sight life became difficult for me even to pay for house rent and then became street women. Then I fall short of everything to lead my life. House rent, washing and totally working at home is very difficult to me. I had a husband and he left me because of my visual impairment. After he left me I came to Addis Ababa. I got two children thinking that I will

no longer return back to school to continue my education. My former husband now married another woman and we never meet.

My mother is not alive but my father is alive however I don't have any relationship with him and other relatives. Socially it is very difficult to live with others. The community we are living in has negative attitude about visual impairment. They are not willing to rent house for visually impaired individuals especially for those who have children. They assume that we cannot keep the compound clean due to loss of sight. In this case, I got troubled for three months searching renting house. On the other occasion, when I get house I may not get money to pay for it. I am the one who is psychologically harmed because of the attitude of the community.

4.5.3. Case 3

My name is AD. I am 38 years old. I have one child whose age is 10. I am very glad with my child and have good relation with him even though I have some challenges in helping him with his educational activities in case of my impairment. As much as possible, I am trying to have a smooth relation with my child's school and sometimes they tell me what is happening to my child. I am a teacher. I become visually impaired since my childhood. My child father is alive and divorced with me for his behavioral problem and now can't even help himself because he is poor. I gave to my child when I was 28. There are so many challenges in my life. Since I have no one to keep my child or send school I usually send my child to school and go to job. It is very difficult for me to be on time. Being single mother with visual impairment by itself is challenging.

Regarding my family relationship I am not that much active to develop family relationship with them. Both my father and mother are not alive. I have sisters and they are working in different a organization that is why we can't meet each other.

The main challenge in the community is that getting rent house is very difficult. They cannot be willing especially for those who have children rather they prefer to rent it to single because don't consume water or any other thing. They assume that we can't do anything thus they fear to take responsibility. Crossing the road with a child for us is very fearful. Sometimes drivers may not even stop on the zebra road. It is also very hard if we assume to work daily labor because it needs sight.

Finally, I want to recommend that the concerned body should pay close attention so that visually impaired females would not quiet their education. The government should organize them so that they work hard. On the other hand, media has crucial role in creating awareness about people with disability by presenting model women who disabled.

4.5.4. Case 4

I am 35 years old and have three children. My first child, whom I got when I was 22 years of age, is now in fifth grade while the second one in grade one. I feel happy when I hear the voice of my children but what makes me unhappy being limited to fulfill their needs. Being visually impaired parent is very hard especially in understanding their needs and helping them in their academic work. Communication is not as such easy for the children who are in the lower grade. Rearing children for visually impaired women is difficult if they have no assistant someone who helps their children. My communication with the school where my children are attending is very poor because of geographic condition. I lost my sight when I was 13 years of

age. I had no chance to join school because of low awareness of my parents to my disability and ability to learn like that of non-disabled of my friends. My husband was drunkard. When he comes he hit, insult, disturb me and doesn't even consider me as I am working. He always thinks that I spend all the day with other males. He is very reluctant to help me and my children. I don't feel comfortable when he comes to my home. He is now in Kality prison.

Paying 600 birr for house rent is very difficult for me. Now Together paying for my house rent. I pay one hundred birr each month to help my children get tutor. I had good relationship with my family when I was with sight. My family gave me to one guy as a marriage. I left that area after I lost my sight and come to Addis Ababa. The community is not willing to rent us their house.

When I lost money, I get disappointed, cry to God, and so on. I also have no time to go to church just as others do. When I go there I get disturbed because I couldn't do it regularly. I recommend government to provide them at least kebele residential homes for visually impaired females.

4.5.5. Case 5

I am 34 years old. My disability occurred ten years before and I was born to rural family and got no chance to join school. I have one child whom I am rearing alone. I love my daughter and she makes me happy to be with her. I gave birth to my child when I was 25 and her age is around 9 years and attending grade two. Except before I gave birth to my child now I have no any relation with my parents and other family members. As much as possible I try to have good communication with my daughter but it is not easy to help her in doing home-work like other non-blind mothers do. Concerning the school relation, I cannot communicate except sending to

and taking out from school for the reason that less understanding the school and I have. I got this child when I was on the street. My daughter does not know her father because I know him only in one day. The problems of street women especially those of visually impaired is not something we can simply talk about it. We, as visually impaired women, are sacrificing a lot. For example, I and some of my friends whom I know, have nothing to live except to live on begging. Many graduating students and others come to us and just ask our problems. Nothing is done till now. We are suffering a lot. I don't want to talk more than this.

4.5.6. Case 6

I am 27 years old. I have one child whose age is four. I love my child and feel happy with her because she is my child. Communication with kids is not easy for a blind woman specially whose child is attending in kinder garten or KG school. Though my kid has joined KG, I am not attending what the kid is getting trouble with her educational starting because it needs sight or some one to help your child. Some times I try to communicate the school teachers but not that much satisfactory. I became visually impaired when I was six years old. I am not living with my husband. As a single mother with visual impairment, I came across so many challenges because the father of my child left me alone. Then I start leading my life begging on the street though I didn't have skills on how to beg. This all happened because of the economic problems I have faced. Still there it is very difficult to me to lead my life properly, however Together is helping me covering house rent and keeping my child until I come back from work. I quitted my education in grade 11. This was happened when become pregnant. Firstly, the reason I come to live with the father of my child was the assumption that he may help me financially so that I can follow my education properly.

My previous family relationship was good before my visual impairment. However, after I get visually impaired my father sent me to the boarding school. He reported to the school that I am not his child. Though currently I have relationship with them, I don't fully trust them because they already hate me. The father of my child has nothing to help me and my child.

As visually impaired single mother, there are so many social challenges. For instance, they are not willing to allow us to rent their house assuming that we can't keep the compound clean especially to those who have children. When we come together to drink coffee I feel that they don't even greet me equally as others. This leads to isolation from others. I had nothing to rear my child. I fed her only my breast.

When I think of all these challenges I faced, I become incapable to trust others though they come to help me. My lifelong challenges made me to suspect everyone regardless of his/her personality. Regarding spiritual life, I don't have time to participate church activities.

I don't think visually impaired single mothers lack skills to rear their children. We can do almost all what mothers can do to their children. I usually tell my child how to cross the road, escape from cars, and so on. We usually communicate verbally with my child. I recognize my child when she becomes sick when she minimizes her usual characters.

Finally, what I want to recommend is that visually impaired single mothers can do everything if they get someone or organization that can keep their children. They can do anything if they get skill advancement training.

4.5.7. Case 7

I am 32 years old. I get visual impairment during my childhood in 1977. The cause of my impairment is measles for which I didn't get treatment. Then my family sent me to school. I have three children. The first is ten, the second is six, and the last is two and half years old. The mere presence of my children makes me happy though it is difficult to fulfill their basic and educational needs. I gave birth to my first child when I was 19. Two of my children are attending school while the last one is not. Communication with the school children is not easy for a blind woman. In addition to the economic hazards, communication is a big problem for me and to mothers like me. Their educational performance is very poor because no one is helping them when they get trouble. I have no any relation with the school because of less awareness. I am currently living without husband.

Being visually impaired has so many challenges like insulting our children, biting them, segregation, prejudice and discrimination. On the other hand, there is high economic challenge. I got my first child when I was in the school. Since my husband also was a student, we couldn't continue with our education. After I quit my education, I started to sell honey and butter to get income to rear my children. However, it was very difficult to carry child and move in the sun and rain because I didn't have someone to keep my children. It is impossible to add someone who may help me.

My father tried to take me to hospitals and they told us that I can't regain my sight. Then they sent me to the government boarding school. My mother used to ask me though they can't help me that is why I quit my education. Still my mother asks me but she has nothing to help me and she lives very far from me.

The other challenge is the attitude of the community. They insult my children i.e. *the son of blind*. But I don't make it a big deal.

Regarding spiritual life, I take part in the church activities. However, the attitude of people is very difficult. They condemn us! Church ministers don't even give us equal chance like others. They don't come to our home and pray. There is also discrimination in the church. Why they dislike us? God is love. They should start their ministry by helping those who cannot equally take part in the activities. Sometimes there is insult. By the way insulting someone is crime. I used to worship in very famous church, but I couldn't see them serving God as they supposed to serve. They don't even allow us to sit between others. They sometimes give us separate chair.

Such problem is also in the government office. We are not getting what we are supposed to get. It is very difficult for us to get residence ID card. I recommend the government to prepare at least the temporary ID card so that we can get the intended services. On the other hand, it is very much important if they prepare the way visually impaired women get chance to skill trainings.

4.5.8. Case 8

I am 25 years old. I get visually impaired when I was four years old. I have one child, whom I got at the age of 20, and he is now living with my mother. My husband left me after I gave birth to my child. After I gave birth I couldn't continue with my education.

Being visually impaired mother is very difficult. Sometimes he escapes from me. He disturbs me. I remember when my child put dirties in the casserole while I was cooking. After I finish cooking and the food is ready to eat, we find many dirty in it and we stopped eating it.

Sometimes people try to steal my child. I heard my child stolen more than twice. Then I sent him to my family. After my visual impairment, government took me to Shashamene to join boarding school.

My husband was very racist. He never supports me and his son. When I ask him to help me, he bit me seriously because he used to drink too much. He tried to take my child but he couldn't. Then I took the issue to the law and they warned him.

I don't have any social challenges like other visually impaired mothers. Even my neighbors look after my child. I didn't even face problems regarding house rent. They give clothes to my child and buy milk.

Economically there is a problem like money to house rent. Spiritually I take part in all church activities. There is not that much problem regarding spiritual life. But sometimes there is prejudice and discrimination.

Finally what I want to recommend is that the law is not equally treating disabled people. We are suffering because of lack of ID card, and other attitudinal problems. They have to treat us equally with other sighted individuals. On the other hand, the government should allow them to move and sell something so that they stop begging and help themselves. The government should give them shelter because there are so many visually impaired individuals on the street.

4.5.9. Case 9

I am 40 years old. I have been 25 years with disability. I have been inroled to school but I had poor achievement for different reasons. I have a daughter of 10 years old. I have good relation with her though there is some communication gaps particularly with her education. My

relation with my daughter school can be said poor due to my disability and less attention both from my side and the school itself. I feel happy for having her because I can forget my loneliness I can talk with her.

There are so many challenges. For example, insulting my daughter by health status. They ask questions my daughter doesn't feel comfortable to answer. They usually ask 'Do you have a father? Why your mother become visually impaired?' Such questions lead the one with the problem to be disappointed.

The other challenge is economical. When my daughter asks me what she saw from others, I may not have capacity to buy what she needs. She does not have someone to help her with her education at home.

I don't think visually impaired mothers lack the skills of motherhood. Sometimes we recognize what other mothers couldn't. The only difference is they see what is happening while we can't. I know when my child gets sick; it is the matter of attention. This means my visual impairment doesn't prohibit me from recognizing her problem.

I left my families when I was too young. I respect them but they don't treat me equally with my siblings. My husband was with me when I gave birth to my child. Then he left me and married another woman. Sometimes he comes to visit his daughter. I live peacefully with house renters.

Spiritually I attend church. I worship as others do. I don't expect some special treatment from church. I make fellowship with them. I found nothing new from church.

Finally, I want to recommend churches that encourage people with disabilities (if any). On the other hand, government should respond to the questions of residential home.

4.5.10. Case 10

I am 25 years old. I have one child whose age is five. I love my child but, she is not living with me because of economic bardun. I have no relation with my own parents and siblings because of my giving birth to my child. I lost my sight when I was two years old but I have never been to school so I know nothing. Rearing child lonely is very difficult. They may not be comfortable without father. It seeks father's love. I and my husband were separated because of his behavior. He had alcohol addiction. I repeatedly told him to stop it but he couldn't. Then we separated. My child is now living with her grandparents because I couldn't help her.

There are so many economic problems while rearing child. I don't have job to lead my life. If someone is not working it will be difficult to pay for house rent and other expenditures. Selling lottery, which most visually impaired individuals do as a source of income, is not enough to pay all expenditures.

My social relationship is not that much strong because when I come close to them I feel that they may think of me as coming to beg them some money. This led me to be far from others. There is also a fear of getting married for the second time this is because I don't want to give birth again. I am not active in spiritual life. I sometimes go to church. I am not that much far from and that much close to spirituality.

What I want to recommend is that the marriage should be legal. There needs to be lessons on pre and post marriage. On the other hand, reproductive health education should be given to

visually impaired females so that they keep themselves from unwanted pregnancy and other related problems. Non Governmental Organizations should be encouraged.

4.5.11. Case 11

I am 38 years old. I used to use eye glass as partial sighted. In 1987, I started to learn Braille. I have taken grade ten national exam in 1990 however; I didn't get enough score to attend the next level. Then I got married and now I have two children. My first child is ten years old and attending grade two and my second child is three years of age. I am very happy with my children except the economic challenge. I can say that I have good communication with my children but not with the school. Some times I get trouble on how to help in doing home-work.

When rearing children without father, there are so many challenges of which economic is the major one. It is very difficult to rear children then. The relationship with my families and husband was somewhat loose. My families inclined to my husband's side. I didn't get any right even to move. He was very dictator. I even had no right to know his salary. He had alcohol addiction. We don't have relationship with my families at this time except my mother. But sometimes my husband's sister sends clothes to my child.

Such mother will have many social problems like attitudinal problems. The community does not think that we can do something. Economically, lack of source of income is the source of every problem. Buying clothes to children, lunch, and other school fees are very costly this time. These problems make us not to be disappointed. On the other side, we I got disappointed I ask God the mercy and restore my hope on Him.

Finally, I want to recommend religious organizations to subsidize to those mothers. The government should also do what is expected from him like school.

4.5.12. Case 12

I am 39 years old. I got visually impaired when I was only two years of age. After that my families tried many traditional medicines. I have two children. I got my first son at the age of 19.

The problem differs. Some of the mothers have good economy but they don't have someone to be with them while other lacks both. The father of my children told me that first he completes his education then I will continue. However, after he completed his education, he refused to help me. Lack of father for children is the great moral decline.

I learned up to grade nine in Wolayta Soddo boarding school. After the organization that used to help me stopped helping me, I came to Addis Ababa and started to sell lottery to win the life. My family quitted the relationship with me assuming that I got something to live with here in Addis.

I got into marriage by peer pressure because I didn't have enough knowledge, spiritual growth and maturity. We lived together for many years. We got children. He graduated from Addis Ababa University by sociology. He then went to countryside to search job. He got job. Then he married another woman. I took the case to the court. The court ordered him to pay 60 birr per month. But after sometimes he stopped helping me. My first son withdrawn from Adama University two months ago because of lack of support and insecurities around universities. My second dauter is living with me and attending grade three. Having them does not make me sad because children are the gift of god so I am happy with them. I can communicate with my children but helping them in their education is difficult with having visual impairment. My

communication with my children school is not that much for many reasons. Even my children do not want my relation with the school because of discrimination that they get from their friends. .

I don't have that much social relationship with others because I run to survive myself and children. Regarding clothes my friends bring clothes to my children. My friend paid house rent for ten months. Then I got kebele house. Psychologically, I generalize all men as liars, lack of morality and untruthful. Regarding religious life, I am the follower of protestant religion and I have full confidence in God. I lead my life according to what the bible says. I love that life. I personally have no stigma and discrimination in church.

I personally believe that those women should have counseling, someone to show them the life directions, how they have to grow their spiritual life. The government is trying to solve the problem of house but the officers give priority to their relatives.

4.6. Interview with key informants

4.6.1. Key informant 1

My name is Azeb Gedamu. I have bachelor's degree in Psychology and Masters in Social Work and Community Development. In this organization, I am working as the head of Rehabilitation Work Unit which includes scholarship, day care, shelter and community work.

Working with visually impaired persons is the first time for me. It has difficult part. While you work for their well being they may not understand it in that way. Some of them do not even know how they became visually impaired because they haven't been told by their parents. Some of them were thrown from home to the street to beg during their childhood. On the other hand, some others connect the reason of their impairment with evil spirit as they have been told by their parents.

When they come to the street they face several challenges especially for females. They told us that they make normal relationship with males and then they unknowingly get pregnant. At that time their boyfriends left them. It is not appropriate to speak only their weaknesses. There are visually impaired women who treat their children more than other sighted women. The only thing is they can't see where the dirty spot on the cloth or on their children when they wash their clothes. I don't say this is lack of skill rather they need someone to assist them.

We usually give them the training like how to cook food and others. We don't allow them to say "I can't". We facilitate some important things and they do for themselves. If they get someone to assist them, they can do everything. Most of the time, they face challenges from the environment. Our community is not willing to rent them a living house or the road is not appropriate for them. I know one visually impaired woman who fell in the hole and died. She lost her life because of the inappropriate environment.

Socially, visually impaired individuals are not adaptive with others. They have active relationship with themselves rather. This type of segregation is resulted from societal attitude which does not pay attention to them. Economically they are very poor especially in our case. Because of that they can't continue with their education. We train them to make them business minded. These all resulted to psychological problems. They don't trust us! They doubt people! Even I couldn't build trust during the counseling. Spiritually, they attend church though I am not sure that they might be active.

In our organization, they don't have that much challenge in relation to where they have been living. It is just like a heaven for them. The challenge for our organization is the fear of sending them out because they stay here from one year to one year and half. The other challenge

is that they come with the aim of continuing with their education but when they come here they change their purpose. Our aim is to train them so that they can work and help themselves.

We can't work on reintegration because when they come here they report that they don't have family or any relative to help them. The other problem is that we can't get their families' address. Finally, they don't have willing to be reintegrated to their family or relatives. However, when they finish their time, they get into scholarship program. This could be through individual sponsors or other organizations.

Finally, I want to recommend that the community should be aware and help them. The government should also think over the residential home for these disadvantaged groups like renting kebele houses to them with low price. The training should be encouraged.

4.6.2. Key informant 2

My name is Wubakal Tesfaye. I used to work in the Rehabilitation Unit but currently I am a project coordinator in four project components.

Single mothers have impact on their overall life which might be economical, social, psychological or spiritual. The source of their income is begging on the street because the money they collect by selling chewing gum (mastic) or lottery is not enough. They are socially challenged. Our community is not willing to rent them house. The road is not safe. The parking does not consider them. They don't send their child to school because they use their children as assistive device wherever they go.

Sometimes they don't build confidence on others the reason for this, I think, is that they haven't get enough training. Though it is difficult to generalize, some of them have difficulty of

keeping their hygiene. This is because some of them are careless while others are unaware about hygiene. The most challenging situation is that most of visually impaired have the high probability of returning back to their former life because our organization does not provide lifelong or continues support.

We are working on scholarship opportunities to those who attended vocational training center on one hand and making linkage with other organizations on the other.

Finally, I want to recommend the road authority to pay careful attention during road construction. The community should also get awareness regarding people with disability in general.

4.6.3. Key informant 3

My name is Taye Nigatu. I am visually impaired and working on legal issues in this organization. This organization accepts those visually impaired who have low economic status. Some of them are referred to this organization.

They are economically very poor. They have given rehabilitation here in Together Organization. This organization assists them by giving them training and providing a one year shelter service based on the policy of the country. The policy of the country does not allow more than one year stay in shelter because it assumes that it will encourage dependency on others.

The main challenge of visually impaired is that they are economically poor, they don't have anyone to help them, they face different challenges regarding rent house, and so on. Sometimes there are people who help them.

The government should facilitate the assistive materials for visually impaired students rather than just talking on the issue of inclusive education. There are schools that do not have enough assistive materials.

4.6.4. Key informant 4

My name is X. I am working in Ethiopian National Association of Blind (ENAB) voluntarily on counseling and condom provision. I give counseling to those who have problems in their marriage and divorces.

Visually impaired single mothers have different challenges like rearing child without father, sending their children to school, treating children when they get sick, and so on. Most visually impaired females get pregnant by forceful sexual intercourse. The father of the child will not even be willing to be called her husband or the father of that child therefore they left them alone. On the other hand, there is segregation in the community like insulting them by their impairment, unwillingness to rent house, and so on.

Those who used to live in boarding school will not cope up with this challenging life. They couldn't clean their home very well. It will also be very difficult to keep their hygiene as expected from someone. Visually impaired can live with themselves even in narrow classroom but they can't live with other community.

There is segregation around church. Sometimes church congregations do not greet them which may create a feeling of isolation in the visually impaired person. Church sometimes followed their children whether they are being sent to school or not. For example, Compassion is helping some visually impaired females and their children.

Psychologically they see themselves as undermined, they don't feel confident, and they feel loneliness. They hate themselves. They don't want to talk about their families because they haven't got the necessary support from them during their lifetime.

The community awareness is also very low. They even think that visually impaired females would not give birth and lead their life. Such attitude needs to be changed. The concerned organizations should work on this issue. Visually impaired should be given priority in any social affairs.

The counseling should be given in organized way regarding life skills, marriage and related issues. The focus should be on their lifelong skills like how they have to work and change themselves. This will decrease the rate of challenges in the life of visually impaired.

4.6.5. Key informant 5

My name is Fikirte Melaku. I am general secretary of the ENAB women affairs. The main challenges of visually impaired females are expected to be separation from their husband. At that time, they start to face several life challenges. They are obliged to rear children alone. What they use as a source of income is selling lottery and begging on the street.

The main problem is that of economic. The economic problem leads to the inability to pay for house rent, school fee, and lack of someone to look after their children. They live limited life compared to others. Most people is not willing to look after their children. They have a fear to be with others because of the segregation comes from the community.

There are currently legal ways of disputing conflict between visually impaired females and their husband. When they betray their wives, they have the right to ask them legally so that they help them and their children.

Visually impaired females have no reasonable income to rear their children. Most of them sell lottery and beg on the street. They don't have someone to look after their children. I remember women who used to tie her child to her waist so that he/she will not escape.

There are also ups and downs to process anything in the government offices. Since they don't easily get residential ID card, they have high probability of missing their KG class. There is also insult like the son of blind, poor, and so on.

Such visually impaired mothers are not that much active in their spiritual life. They give priority to their basic necessities. If they lack basic necessities, they could be disappointed easily.

What I want to recommend is that government should organize them equally with other larger community. They usually were asked the house number. When they couldn't get the house number, they are obliged not to send their child to school. Government should consider all these. It should pay attention to those who are at low economic level. For example, if you don't save, you can't get residential home. The problem here is what is being done for those who can't save money such as visually impaired mothers?

4.6.6. Key informant 6

My name is Y. I am working as a deputy chair person at ENAB and also working in government women, children and youth affairs.

First of all, rearing child without father is very difficult. The child will not get love of father. Economically they help each other. Children will adapt the behavior street children if mother took him/her to the street because of economic problem.

The community is not willing to rent them house especially if they have child/children. Even their husband also left them alone. This will have negative effect on the development of child. Visually impaired mothers could not help their children with their education because they can't see words and make them study.

The problem starts when they are students. They love each other. After the women get pregnant males left them alone and make relationship with other women. This makes their life complicated. They develop psychological problems like fear, isolation, disappointment, self disrespect, and so on. The community also undermines visually impaired women.

Awareness creation is very important. The community should have ethics regarding people with disability. Government should give priority to those women. The NGO should focus on the sustainable development of visually impaired people.

4.7.Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Result

The following issues were raised by FGD participants:

1. The issue of children's identity: children always ask us who their fathers are and their whereabouts. This is very big issue to those who do not know where the father of their children is. It is also very heart touching when we hear our children saying "I missed my father!"

2. The FGD participants stated that all problems of these single mothers are mostly economic. The reason behind our problem is economy. I haven't learned my education well that's why I am in this problem said one mother. The other respondent said "when I came from countryside, I had no where to stay, then the father of my child got me and told me that I have to be with him". Most of them played on our life using our economic gap.
3. The relationship of single mothers with visual impairment with their father or mother or any other relatives are cut out because of their impairment. Most of them said that their families thrown them away because they felt shame of having such blind child. Then they have grown up in boarding school, religious organizations or on the street. One respondent said "my family thrown me when they realized that I don't have sight during my three years of age. Still now they don't know me and me, too. I don't know their whereabouts. Even when I gave birth to my child no body from my family was with me".
4. Lack of sight resulted in lack of skills to rear children equally with other mothers. For example, it very difficult for us to see where our child is, what he/she is doing/playing with, or whether he/she may face challenges. It is also very difficult for us to identify his/her specific need. When they beg on the street, some of them tie their child with their leg to keep them from car accident. On the other hand, they said, we can't see and help our children with their homework especially when they are in Kinder Garten. The other challenge is the fear when the school is far from our home, when the road is crowded by cars, and so on. We don't want to lose our children!
5. The respondents stated that their social relationship is loose with other community members than with those who are visually impaired. This is because (1) we are too busy

with our own problems, (2) the attitude of the community towards visually impaired is not good, (3) we are not economically capable to contribute during social gatherings, (4) we don't have capability to invite them in return to what they did for us and (5) the level of our economy cannot permit us to be with them. In this case, the probability of taking part in social gatherings like Iddir, wedding, mourning and others is very low for visually impaired mothers. On the other hand, the negative attitude of the community and their own load to rear children created this boundary between them. The other indicator of low attitude in the community toward visually impaired mothers is that they bring us something to eat or drink to our home rather than calling us to be with them. On the other side, they are not willing to rent their house to us especially when assured that we are with child/children. These all make us feel uncomfortable, shameful, undermined, disappointed, and isolated.

6. The main challenge with almost all visually impaired mothers is inability to respond to their children when they ask them who/where their father is. When this happens, they lose hope, moan, easily vexated, feeling scorn/freighted with, lose of sleep, lack of attention, and so on.
7. Unable to provide enough food, clothing, school materials, house rent and others are the main economic challenges being experienced by visually impaired single mothers. When their children go to school they compare many things with that of their friends. For example, they said, there are times when our children bring back the food we prepared for their lunch. They compare it with that of their counterparts and make a request so that we can prepare for them the same food. Since our economy is limited we can't fulfill what they claiming. The issue of house is still the unhealed headache for us. Mant house

owners rent low quality house for the high price we can't pay for it. We are not equally treated; they add the price whenever they want! When we couldn't pay for it, they enforce us to leave the house. We then obliged to live on the street. Most of the time, our children faced different health problems. It is very difficult for us to treat them well because of our economic limitation. In addition to what they have mentioned above, they drop from school because of unwanted pregnancy. However, they want to continue their education but they can't pay for school fees.

8. Regarding spiritual life, most of them stated that they have no time like others to take part in the church activities. Though some of them get material and other supports from their respective churches, they fear peoples' attitude towards them thinking that they are blow any of them economically. Thus, we don't pay close attention to spiritual life. Some of the mentioned that they feel guilty, sinfulness, shame, disappointment, and nonsense thinking that they haven't fulfilled spiritual responsibility through participation in church programs. However, others mentioned that being visually impaired or rearing child/children without father does not hinder them from growing spiritually. Even, they said, these limitations push us to come so near to God!

4.8.Recommendations drawn by the participants

4.8.1. To the government:-

The following ideas are what all participants agreed up on! We, visually impaired mothers, are forgotten by government. The plan of residential home even does not consider this vulnerable group. It focuses on those who can save whose income is average. What about those who have nothing and who can't save money? We can't even get kebele houses

because most of us came from different corners of the country- we don't have Addis Ababa residential Identification Card (ID card).

Therefore, the government should give priority to the disadvantaged groups when making plan. On the one hand, most of them quiet their education and the government should find a means of continuing with their education and training and vocational training centers should be facilitated specifically for single visually impaired mothers on the other.

4.8.2. To Non Governmental Organizations:-

The NGOs should not focus on short term relief which can lead to dependency syndrome. Rather they should focus on sustainable skill trainings which lead to sustainable development. On the other hand, it will be better if they help our children with material support, other school fees and health insurances so that they can properly follow their education.

4.8.3. To the community and religious organizations:-

The community should treat us as human being because we are human being like them. Their awareness about people with disability in general and visually impaired single mothers in particular should be altered. On the other hand, all religious organizations should take part in supporting single mothers.

4.8.4. To visually impaired single mothers:-

Single mothers should not have to be disappointed thinking that things will never change. It will be better if they think and be encouraged by thinking that tomorrow will be good!

4.9.Focus Group Discussion Result (FGD) 2

4.9.1. There are so many challenges that children face in the school. They are being insulted their counterparts as “the son of blind and beggar”. Such sort of insult is disturbing our children which may be developed into mental problems if continued. Even our children are feeling shame to bring us to school when they are told to do so. This is because of stigma and discrimination that is being thrown to them. On other hand, our children are developing behavioral change that they saw on the street like chewing kchat, smoking, stealing, and so on.

4.9.2. Challenges regarding family (father, mother, siblings, and other relatives) relationships:-

Almost all of single mothers with visual impairment are living far away from their relatives after they got visual impairment. Thus, they can't get any help or support from any of their relatives. Most of them left their family because they didn't get the necessary support they supposed to get while their brothers and sisters are getting what they suppose to get.

4.9.3. Social problems

Some of them have good social relationship with others while most of them do not. This is because the stigma and discrimination in the community is very high. The community does not make fellowship with them especially when they have children assuming that they consume more water and they do not keep the compound clean and their hygiene. Thus, they are excluded from social gatherings like Iddir, weddings, mourning, and others!

4.9.4. Psychological impacts

All of them mentioned that they get disappointed, fear of tomorrow, feeling sorry, confusion, and lose of meaning in life.

4.9.5. Economic impacts

Is this a life? It is better if we keep quiet about this. How one can live without having any income, house, or any other basic necessities while she is female with disability and having children? We, surely, are living above the died but below the living. Almost all of us are living either in rented house or in veranda (a porch along the outside of a building). It is very difficult to pay for house rent, lunch/breakfast for children, clothes, shoes, and other costs. We are not getting advantage from social services equally with others including condominium house.

4.9.6. Spiritual impacts

Most of the respondents mentioned that they usually go to churches or mosque not for the sake of spiritual life but they go there to beg for their daily bread. However, they stated that there still the problems of people's attitude about people with disability. Some of them do not allow us to enter into where servants are rather they prefer to send us away by throwing five or ten cents on our hands. But some of them spoke that they go to church/mosque without any problem and attend all church programs by which they get spiritual encouragement.

Chapter 5

5.1. Discussion

5.1.1. Background of the respondents

The respondents of this research are females who are visually impaired. They are single mothers who have child/children whose ages range from 25 to 40. Most of them have 1-3 children. All the children of the respondents are below 18 years of age. Regarding their level of education, only one woman joined college while others never. All the respondents came from different parts of the country. They came from street and currently getting services in Together Ethiopian Resident Charity Organization.

5.1.2. Major challenges in the life of visually impaired single mothers

The finding of this research shows that single mothers with visual impairment have so many challenges in their life. The literature stated that there are common challenges associated with single motherhood. McLAnahan and Sandefur (1994) found that “single mothers seemed to suffer more following a divorce, perhaps because they typically experienced a severe loss of income since due to a lack of husband’s support (McLAnahan and Sandefur, 1994). The loss of a husband's income (and the psychological effect on the custodial parent) was one of the most important factors in determining a child’s well-being.

One of the key informants of this study stated the following regarding the major challenges of visually impaired single mothers.

.....The main challenges of visually impaired females are expected to be separation from their husband. At that time, they start to face several life challenges. They are obliged to rear children alone. What they use as a source of income is selling lottery and begging on the street.

The main problem is that of economic. The economic problem leads to the inability to pay for house rent, school fee, and lack of someone to look after their children. They live limited life compared to others. Most people is not willing to look after their children. They have a fear to be with others because of the segregation comes from the community.....

In addition to this, the community worker at Together Organization mentioned the challenges of visually impaired as follows:

.....When they come to the street they face several challenges especially for females. They told us that they make normal relationship with males and then they unknowingly get pregnant. At that time their boyfriends left them.....

Carlson (1997, p.625) agreed noting that in single parent families, parenting abilities are affected by the family's financial status. Carlson also stressed that single mothers suffer higher stress rates due to a loss of economic status, possibly leading to maternal depression, predicting negative maternal attitudes and ineffective parenting. Besides having to adjust to a lower standard of living, single mothers also experienced less access to occupational training and less access to the higher education needed to pull themselves and their children out of poverty (White, 2004, p.7).

5.1.3. Past family relationships

In addition, single mothers also tend to disengage from family and friends, not taking the time to maintain old relationships or to build new supportive ones (McLanahan and Sandefur (1994).

In line with what the above literature said, the mother in **case 11** stated her relationship with relatives as follow:

.....*The relationship with my families and husband was somewhat loose. My families inclined to my husband's side. I didn't get any right even to move. He was very dictator. I even had no right to know his salary. He had alcohol addiction. We don't have relationship with my families at this time except my mother. But sometimes my husband's sister sends clothes to my child.....*

In addition to this, the mother in **case 9** reported her relationship with families as follow:

.....*I left my families when I was too young. I respect them but they don't treat me equally with my siblings. My husband was with me when I gave birth to my child. Then he left me and married another woman. Sometimes he comes to visit his daughter.....*

5.1.4. Impacts of past family relationship

The following literature stated that single mothers McLanahan and Sandefur (1994) asserted that single mothers tend to be so depressed at their lack of status and income following their divorces; they had no energy to maintain relationships. The authors asserted that this lack of family and friendship connections can have a detrimental effect on children's well-being, as they see their old, well-known world fall away (White, 2004, p. 7).

The mother of **case 7** stated that she left from school because of lack of family support.

.....*My father tried to take me to hospitals and they told us that I can't regain my sight. Then they sent me to the government boarding school. My mother used to ask me though they can't help me that is why I quit my education. Still my mother asks me but she has nothing to help me and she lives very far from me.....*

In addition to this, the other woman in **case 6** said that her father was good for her before her impairment and after she got visually impaired he reported her as if she is not her daughter.

.....My previous family relationship was good before my visual impairment. However, after I get visually impaired my father sent me to the boarding school. He reported to the school that I am not his child. Though currently I have relationship with them, I don't fully trust them because they already hate me.....

5.1.5. Social impacts in their life

As demonstrated by Terusew (2005) adults with disabilities face similar difficulties though they are not developmentally vulnerable as the children with disabilities. However, their psychological and social situation may largely depend on the onset of the disability, the environment they were brought up as well as their present social environment. Generally, the range of their participation in community affairs such as local community organization festivals, weddings, funerals and other social occasions are highly limited. As it may be true in other parts of the globe, the degree of social distancing and discrimination is not the same across the range of persons with different disabilities.

The woman in **case 2** stated the social challenges of visually impaired single mothers as follows:

.....Socially it is very difficult to live with others. The community we are living in has negative attitude about visual impairment. They are not willing to rent house for visually impaired individuals especially for those who have children. They assume that we cannot keep the compound clean due to loss of sight. In this case, I got troubled for three months searching

renting house. On the other occasion, when I get house I may not get money to pay for it. I am the one who is psychologically harmed because of the attitude of the community.....

In addition to this, the woman in **case 6** said that the attitude of the community is very hard to cope up with.

.....As visually impaired single mother, there are so many social challenges. For instance, they are not willing to allow us to rent their house assuming that we can't keep the compound clean especially to those who have children. When we come together to drink coffee I feel that they don't even greet me equally as others.....

5.1.6. Economic impacts

Literature stated that visual impairment has economic impacts on the life of single mothers with visual impairment. White mentioned that financial challenges can also affect the possibility of single mothers in developing social network. The low income status of single mothers also means that they have to move frequently in search of (better) jobs and or smaller homes that are more affordable. (White, 2004, p. 7).

The finding of the **case 7** confirmed the above idea as follows:

..... there is high economic challenge. I got my first child when I was in the school. Since my husband also was a student, we couldn't continue with our education. After I quit my education, I started to sell honey and butter to get income to rear my children.....

The woman on **case 6** mentioned that she start begging on the street as a result of lacking support from her husband or any other relatives. She put it as follows:

.....As a single mother with visual impairment, I came across so many challenges because the father of my child left me alone. Then I start leading my life begging on the street though I didn't

have skills on how to beg. This all happened because of the economic problems I have faced.....

On the other hand, the community worker of the organization said that,

.....Economically they are very poor especially in our case. Because of that they can't continue with their education. We train them to make them business minded. These all resulted to psychological problems. They don't trust us! They doubt people! Even I couldn't build trust during the counseling.....

5.1.7. Psychological impacts

Given these obstacles, single mothers tended to feel more overwhelmed in their parenting role, experiencing high stress levels and depression (Carlson, 1997; McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994). The authors posited that a combination of these factors could lead to ineffective parenting, with the single mother unable to provide the firm, loving discipline that children need to develop a strong sense of security and well-being (White, 2004, p.7).

One of the key informants stated as follows regarding psychological impacts of visual impairment.

.....Psychologically they see themselves as undermined, they don't feel confident, and they feel loneliness. They hate themselves. They don't want to talk about their families because they haven't got the necessary support from them during their lifetime.....

Growing up in households with lower incomes and poorer housing; experiencing behavioral problems; performing less well in school and gaining fewer educational qualifications; needing more medical treatment; leaving school and home when young; becoming sexually active, pregnant or a parent at an early age; reporting more depressive

symptoms and higher levels of smoking, drinking and other drug use during adolescence and adulthood (Mooney, Chris and Marjorie, 2009, p. 7).

The finding in FGD shows that the main challenge of almost all visually impaired mothers is the confusion when they are asked their father by their children.

.....The main challenge with almost all visually impaired mothers is inability to respond to their children when they ask them who/where their father is. When this happens, they lose hope, moan, easily vexated, feeling scorn/freighted with, lose of sleep, lack of attention, and so on.....

5.1.8. Spiritual impacts

The literature says that being visually impaired has spiritual impact on the life of someone with visual impairment.

Based Fear, contempt, distaste, distancing, mockery and condemnation, sometimes associated with the idea of divine retribution or karma, which form the unpleasant end of the spectrum are the attitudes towards disability and persons with disability in many cultures (Barnes and Mercer, 2006 by citing Miles 1983).

The community worker at Together Organization said that most family or visually impaired connect the reason for their loss of sight to evil spirit. She stated as follows:

.....some others connect the reason of their impairment with evil spirit as they have been told by their parents.....

Contrary to what the above literature says, the woman on **case 1** stated the following statement regarding her spiritual life.

.....Spiritually, I am getting what I supposed to get. There is no such big problem as far as I know regarding my spiritual life. I always think about how to work and be changed.....

5.1.9. Communication of visually impaired mothers with their children

The finding of this research showed that most visually impaired mothers communicate with their child/children more vocally than any other signs. Therefore, **case 1** confirmed this idea that there is communication problems between them and their children. She stated the situation as follows:

.....There is some communication problems because it is difficult to understand every needs of the child. On this regard, rearing child is very difficult because it needs sight to follow child very well. For example, the child may get sick and at that time we need some one to be with us to help us. On the other hand, when the child needs a specific food of certain type I may not properly fulfill his specific need.

The other study depicted that children direct their gaze less often than children of sighted mothers. This itself creates the communication gap between them and their children. Babies whose mothers were blind directed their gaze less often towards parents' face than did children of sighted parents, and they communicated more vocally with the parent than children of the same age (Sinju, 2013).

The women in **case 2** said that she has good communication with her children except when they were too kids. She mentioned it as follows:

.....I have good communication with my children except when they were very kids. In the previous years it was too difficult to understand what they need even I could not help them in doing their homework. I do not go to the school to communicate with the school staffs due to my disability.

In addition to this, the woman in **case 4** stated the communication with her children in the lower grade as follows:

.....Communication is not as such easy for the children who are in the lower grade. Rearing children for visually impaired women is difficult if they have no assistant someone who helps their children. My communication with the school where my children are attending is very poor because of geographic condition.....

On the hand, the women in **case 5** stated her situation as follows:

.....As much as possible I try to have good communication with my daughter but it is not easy to help her in doing home-work like other non-blind mothers do. Concerning the school relation, I cannot communicate except sending to and taking out from school for the reason that less understanding the school and I have.....

The woman in **case 6** also stated that communication with kids especially when they are in KG is difficult for visually impaired mothers. She said,

.....Communication with kids is not easy for a blind woman specially whose child is attending in kinder garten or KG school. Though my kid has joined KG, I am not attending what the kid is getting trouble with her educational starting because it needs sight or some one to help your child. Some times I try to communicate the school teachers but not that much satisfactory.....

Chapter 6

6.1. Summary, social work implication and recommendation

6.1.1. Summary and conclusion

The objective of this study was to explore the experiences of single mothers with visual impairment in rearing their children/child. The experience of single mothers in Together Ethiopian residence charity Organization was tried to be explored. To achieve such objective, the following research questions were developed. The research questions are:

- i. What are the challenges of single mothers with visual impairment during child rearing?
- ii. What their past and present families relationships look like?
- iii. What is the impact of past family relationship on the current life situation of single mothers with visual impairment?
- iv. What are the social, economic, psychological and spiritual impacts of being with visual impairment on child-rearing?

The method employed to conduct this study was qualitative which is case multiple case study. The information was gathered from the respondents by the interview checklist. In addition to this, FGDs were also conducted.

To analyze the information gathered from respondents, the information was broken down into themes. It was made taking into consideration the literature previously reviewed and the response of the respondents. Thus, the information gathered from single mothers with visual impairment and other key informants were carefully analyzed. Accordingly, the past family relationship and its impact on their current life, their main challenges, economic impacts, social

impacts, psychological impacts, spiritual impacts and communication of visually impaired mothers with their children were the major themes.

Based on the findings, single mothers with visual impairment have many challenges in their life. Their life challenges are directly interconnected with their loss of sight. The finding shows that families send their child away after they recognize that he/she is without sight. Since their relationship with their families is disconnected due to their visual impairment, most of them obliged to get into the economic hardship. The economic problem leads them to search for jobs/income.

According to the finding of this study, most of these mothers are beggars on the street while some of them sell lottery and chewing gum. Since they have child/children, they cannot even help them.

Almost all of them reported that the community is not willing to rent them house. These and other reasons forced them to depression, distress and disappointment.

6.1.2. Social work implication

The issue of disability in general and that of visual impairment in particular has direct implication to social work. In its definition, social work profession included promotion of social change, problem solving in human relationship, and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well being. Utilizing theories of human behavior and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments. Its primary goal is to help people in need and address social problems. Its primary goal is the issue of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and other forms of social injustices because there are vulnerable

sections of the society such as children, elderly, women and people with various types of disabilities (NASW, 1996).

Therefore, visually impaired single mothers are among the vulnerable groups of the society that social work profession should deal with. Social work intervention can be made at three levels i.e. micro, mezzo and macro level. Micro level is where social work intervenes with individual problems while mezzo and macro are respectively group/family and mass level intervention.

In this case, social work needs to intervene at three levels this is because there are individuals who are suffering with such problem. The intervention can also be done at family or mass level. Therefore, the issue of visual impairment is the pivotal concern of social work intervention.

6.1.3. Recommendations

1. To the government:-

Visually impaired mothers are not given equal chance with others practically. The plan of residential home even does not consider this vulnerable group. It focuses on those who can save whose income is average. What about those who have nothing and who can't save money? They can't even get kebele houses because most of them came from different corners of the country- they don't have Addis Ababa residential Identification Card (ID card).

Therefore, the government should give priority to the disadvantaged groups when making plan. On the one hand, most of them quiet their education and the government should find a

means of continuing with their education and training and vocational training centers should be facilitated specifically for single visually impaired mothers on the other.

2. To Non Governmental Organizations:-

The NGOs should not focus on short term relief which can lead to dependency syndrome. Rather they should focus on sustainable skill trainings which lead to sustainable development. On the other hand, it will be better if they help our children with material support, other school fees and health insurances so that they can properly follow their education.

3. To the community and religious organizations:-

The community should treat them as human being because they are human being like them. Their awareness about people with disability in general and visually impaired single mothers in particular should be altered. On the other hand, all religious organizations should take part in supporting single mothers.

4. To visually impaired single mothers:-

Single mothers should not have to be disappointed thinking that things will never change. It will be better if they think and be encouraged by thinking that tomorrow will be good!

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Appendix A

Consent form

My name is *Tariku Mechal*. I am Master degree student at Addis Ababa University College of Social Sciences department of Social Work. I am here to conduct my Thesis on “The Experience of Single Mothers with Visual Impairment”. The purpose of this research is to partially fulfill the requirement of Master degree (academic purpose), thus it does not have any connection with any government or non governmental organizations.

The identity of any participant will not be disclosed so that you can freely answer questions. You have the right not to answer or skip the questions you are not comfortable with. The information you will give me will be transcribed and compiled into the report format. Therefore, your genuine idea on the issue will be valuable to successfully accomplish my study.

Do you agree? Yes _____ No _____

Interview checklists

Part I: interview checklist for visually impaired single mothers

1. Would you please tell me about yourself?
2. At what age have you lost your sight?
3. How many children do you have? Please tell me the age of your child/children?
4. At what age did you give birth to your child?
5. As a result of giving birth to your children, what challenges did you face?
6. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied by giving birth to your child/children?
7. How is your communication with your child/children?

8. What is your education level? What are the main impacts as a result of giving birth on your education?
9. How long have you been with visual impairment?
10. What are the main challenges you faced as visually impaired single mother?
11. What did your family relationship look like before and after giving birth to your child/children?
12. What is your current relationship with your child/children, husband and relatives look like?
13. What are the impacts did you experienced as single mother with visual impairment during child rearing?
 - 13.1. Social impacts
 - 13.2. Economic impacts. (Tell me your financial burdens)
 - 13.3. Psychological impacts (your feelings about yourself because of challenges in your life)
 - 13.4. Spiritual impacts (Do you attend church? What services do you get from your church? Would you tell me if there are barriers that hinders your getting church services? What is your feeling about your spiritual life?)
14. Do you have any limitation to rear your children? What are they-----?
15. What do you recommend to change or improve the situations of visually impaired single mothers?

Part II: interview checklist for key informants for disability organization

1. Would you please introduce yourself and your responsibilities in this organization?
2. What do you know about the experiences of single mothers who are visually impaired?
3. What do you think are the main challenges in the life of visually impaired single mothers?
4. What do you know about the impacts of being visually impaired single mothers on their life?
 - 4.1.Social impact
 - 4.2.Economic impact
 - 4.3.Psychological impact
 - 4.4.Spiritual impact
5. Have you seen any social, economic, psychological or spiritual challenges of visually impaired single mothers in your organization?
6. What challenges did you observe while you work in this organization regarding single mothers with visual imparement?
7. What do you recommend to change or improve the situations of visually impaired single mothers?

Part III: interview guide for FGD

1. What do you think are the major challenges single mothers with visual impairment may face in their life?
2. What are their family relationship looks like?
3. What impacts does being with visual impairment have on child rearing?
4. What are the social, economic, psychological and spiritual challenges do they face?
5. What do you recommend to change or improve the situations of visually impaired single mothers?

Appendix B

የሥምምነት ውል

ታሪኩ መቻል እላለሁ በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የማህበራዊ ሳይንስ ኮሌጅ በሶሻል ወርክ ትምህር ጤት ድህረ ምረቃ ተማሪ ነኝ።

የጥናቱ አላማ ያለአባት ልጆችን የሚያሳድጉ እናቶች ልምዶቻቸውን እና የሚገጥማቸውን ዋና ዋና ተግዳሮቶች መለየት ነው። ጥናቱ የሁለተኛ ዲግሪ ማሟያ እንዲሆን ነው እንጂ ለሌላ መንግስታዊም ሆነ መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች ጋር ምንም አይነት ግንኙነት የለውም። በጥናቱም የሚሳተፉ በፈቃዳቸው ላይ የተመሰረተ ሲሆን ምርጫቸውም የተጠበቀ ይሆናል። የጥናቱ ተሳታፊዎች የሚሰጡት መልስ ለዚህ የጥናት አላማ ብቻ የሚውል ሲሆን ተሳታፊዎች ለሚሰጡት መልስ ሚስጥራቸው የተጠበቀ እና ማንነታቸው በምንም አይነት መነገድ ይፋ የማይደረግ መሆኑን እርግጥ ነው። ስለሆነም እርስዎ የሚሰጡኝ ሀሳብ (ምላሽ) ጥናቴን በስኬት እንድጨርስ የሚረዳኝ መሆኑን እየገለፅኩ ስለ ፈቃደኝነትዎ በቅድሚያ አመሰግናለሁ።

እሳተፋለሁ

አልሳተፍም

ክፍል አንድ

የመጠይቅ ዝርዝር ለአይነስውራን እናቶች

1. እባክዎ ስለእራስዎ ይግለፁልኝ _____
2. እድሜዎ ስንት እያለ ነበር አይነስውር የሆኑት _____
3. ምን ያክል ልጆች አለዎት እድሜያቸውን ቢነግሩኝ _____
4. እድሜዎ ስንት እያለ ነበር የመጀመሪያ ልጅዎን የወለዱት _____

5. ልጅ በመውለድዎ የተነሳ ምን ምን አይነት ተግዳሮቶች አጋጥሞዎታል _____

6. ልጅ ስላለዎት ደስተኛ ነዎት ወይስ አይደለም _____

7. ከልጅዎ ወይም ከልጆችት ጋር ያለዎት ተግባራት እንዴት ነው? _____

8. የትምህርት ደረጃዎን ቢገልፁልኝ ልጅ መውለድዎስ በትምህርቱ ላይ ተፅዕኖ አምጥቶታል? ያብራሩ _____

9. አይነ ስውር ከሆኑ ምን ያህል ጊዜ ይሆንዎታል _____

10. አይነ ስውር በመሆንዎ እና ልጅዎን ያለ አባት በማሳደግዎ የደረሰሱት ዋና ዋና ተግዳሮች ምን ምን ናቸው _____

11. ከቤተሰብ ከዘመድ እና ከጓደኞችዎ ጋር ከመውለድዎ በፊትም ሆነ ከወለዱም በኋላ ምን እንደሚመስል ያብራሩልኝ _____

12. አይነስውርነት እና ልጅ ያለ አባት ማሳደግ ያለውን ማህበራዊ፣ ኢኮኒሞያዊ ስነልቦናዊ እና መንፈሳዊ ተፅዕኖ ከአርሶ አንጻር ምን እንደሚመስል ቢያብራሩልኝ _____

13. ልጅ በሚያሳድጉበት ጊዜ አለብኝ የሚሉትን ውስንነት ቢገልፅልኝ _____

14. አይነ ስውር ሆነው ልጅ ያለአባት የሚያሳድጉ እናቶች የኑሮ ሁኔታ እንዲሻሻል ምን አስተያየት አለዎት? ከማን ምን ይጠበቃል? _____

ክፍል ሁለት

መጠይቅ ዝርዝር ለድርጅቱ ኃላፊዎች እና ባለሙያዎች (key informants)

1. እባክዎ ስለ እራስዎ እና በድርጅት ውስጥ ያለዎትን ኃላፊነት ይግለፁልኝ _____

2. ስለ አይነ ስውራን እናቶች የሚያውቁትን ክልምድዎ አንጻር ይግለፁልኝ _____

3. አይነስውራን እናቶች ያለባቸው ተግዳሮቶች ምን ምን ናቸው ብለው ያስባሉ _____

4. አይነ ስውራን እናቶች ያለባቸውን ማህበራዊ፣ ስነልቦናዊ እና መንፈሳዊ ተፅዕኖ ልጅ ያለአባት ከማሳደግ አኳያ እንዴት ይገልፁታል? _____
 5. አይነ ስውራን እናቶች ጋር በምትሰሩበት ጊዜ ምን ምን ዓይነት ተግዳሮቶች ያስተውላሉ? _____
 6. በዚህ ጉዳይ ላይ ያለዎት አስተያየት ምንድን ነው ችግሮችን ከመፍታት አንጻር _____
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ክፍል ሶስት

ለቡድን ተወያዮች የቀረበ የጥያቄ ዝርዝር

1. አይነ ስውራን ሆነው ልጅን ያለ አባት የሚያሳድጉ እናነቶች ያለባቸው ዋና ዋና ተግዳሮቶች ምንድናቸው ብለው ያስባሉ? ይወያዩ
2. አይነ ስውራን ሆነው ልጅ ያለአባት የሚያሳድጉ እናቶች ከቤተሰቦቻቸው፣ ከጓደኞቻቸው እንዲሁም ከሚኖሩበት ማህበረሰብ ጋር ያላቸው ግንኙነት ምን ይመስላል? ይወያዩበት
3. አይነ ስውራን ሆነው ልጅ ያለአባት ከማሳደግ አንጻር ያለው ተፅዕኖ ምንድን ነው? ይወያዩበት
4. አይነ ስውራን እናቶች ያለባቸውን ማህበራዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊ፣ ስነልቦናዊ እና መንፈሳዊ ተፅዕኖዎች አሉ? ካሉ ያብራሩልኝ
5. አይነ ስውራን ሆነው ልጅ ያለአባት የሚያሳድጉ እናቶች ምን ይመክራሉ? ምንስ መደረግ አለበት ብለው ያስባሉ ?