

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SEXUAL ABUSE OF MALE CHILDREN IN ADDIS ABABA

ATHESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIRMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK

BY

DEBEBE ERO

ADVISOR PROF. JAMES E. ROLLIN

JULY, 2007

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Sexual Abuse of Male Children in Addis Ababa

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ACRONYM

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BCVA	Bright Children Voluntary Association
CANU	Child Abuse and Neglect Unit
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CSA	Central Statistics Authority
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSCE	Forum for Street Children Ethiopia
HIV	Humane Immuno Virus
IFSO	Integrated Family Support Organization
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non Government Organization
NUCRC	United Nations Child Right Convention
PTSD	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
SC	Save the Children
USA	United States of America

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Abstract

Child sexual abuse is a complex social problem that threatened the well being of children in our communities. It is the sole responsibilities of no one of the agencies or government rather every member of our society has to be concerned about it in view of safe guarding the future of growing children. The problem seems to persist in the society despite the lack of attention due to cultural, traditional and religious factors that considers it a taboo and restrains people from openly addressing the issue. Recent studies have showed that boy children sexual abuse is among the social problems in Addis Ababa and other major towns of the country. Reports of the studies uncovered the causes of male children sexual abuse, the impacts on the well being of abused children and interventions to address the problem.

This research, besides extending the findings of previous studies, will investigate how social systems and institutions and the change in the social structure either contributed for the prevalence of or failed to address the needs and rights of abused children. It will look into the major causes, consequences of the problem, how existing facilities responded and its implication for social work practice as a growing discipline in Ethiopia. The study has described the problem based on the information generated from reported data to the police, administration of questionnaire to 21 abused children, and by complementing the information with an in-depth interview held with four victim children and young persons.

Hence, it is found out that the family which is responsible for character formation and socialization is challenged with problems of adjustment with changing environment. It couldn't properly control and guide growing children who become either abusers or victims of sexual abuse. Other institutions like the legal system as part of the larger social system are not found to be functioning properly to protect children from abuses. On the other hand, abused children have encountered serious psychosocial, physical and emotional problems and in some cases the abuse has influenced their sexual behaviour.

Interventions pertaining to the empowerment of families, and strengthening facilities available for children would help to prevent the problem from further expansion and to establish effective responses to abused children. Social work interventions should focus on mezzo and macro level interventions whose effects will likely trickle down to support services to individuals.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Sexual abuse of children particularly boys is recently attracting the attention of development practitioners and academic researchers in Addis Ababa. There isn't universally agreed definition of child sexual abuse. It varies depending upon the context, scope and objectives of studies, but generally refers to any form of sexual relationship between adults and children for the sexual gratification of the adult and that interferes or have the potential for interfering with a child's healthy development (Goldman, 2003, p.14).

Magnitude of the problems is heightened when adult survivors report its impact on their lives. Survivors of childhood sexual abuse often experience trauma that are difficult for them to transcend and the scope of the problem and pervasiveness of the crime are particularly grave concern to crisis workers (James, 2001).

Researches about the problem of sexual abuse of male children and magnitude of the problem didn't exist and our knowledge of the problem is very much limited. In a traditional society like ours it is also possible that people consider sexual partnership between same sex individuals is taboo and people don't talk about it. That was what the findings of this study disclosed about the responsiveness of parents when they knew about their children's sexual abuse. The awareness of community members about the problem, societal responses, and development interventions are all at the level of infancy.

The purpose of this study is to explore and understand the prevalence of sexual abuse of boy children magnitude of the problem on abused children and available response mechanisms to address the problem. The study is divided into six chapters. Chapter one addresses the magnitude of the problem and the relevance for conducting this study. The

methodologies applied to conduct the study are discussed in chapter two while review of available literature on the subject and the interpretation of quantitative data using simple descriptive tables are presented in chapter three and chapter four respectively. Then in the discussion and analysis part quantitative and qualitative results of the study are discussed and analyzed based on the literatures review and theoretical models identified for the study.

Summary of the research, conclusion and its implication on the social work practice is treated in chapter five and six.

1. Statement of the problem:

In most Ethiopian cultures sex in general is not something that is discussed openly. In particular due to the relatively intact traditional cultures, beliefs and public attitude, sex particularly between the same sexes (male to male and female to female) is considered taboo or unnatural. Such public attitude makes it very challenging to get information and data about the occurrence. It is reported that perpetrators who committed sex with minors are mostly persons who have close relation or contact with victims such as family members, friends, neighbors etc but are not substantiated with empirical facts and studies (IFSO, 2005). The problem seems to grow from time to time as children become increasingly vulnerable to such abuses due to many factors such as because of orphan hood, growing in single parent families, growing in institutions, living in neglecting families due to financial stress or abject poverty.

Some people assume that sexual abuse of children is widely prevalent in the society despite the fact that it is not officially acknowledged. It is also believed that the problem is underreported due to lack of awareness and attitudinal problems (MOLSA, 2005). This belief is based on assumptions about sexual taboos that the overwhelming majority of the victims did not report their victimization at the time of its occurrence. Moreover, it is probably true that situations involving female abusers as well as ones with boy victims are under identified, in part because of societal perceptions about the gender of offenders and victims.

Many studies conducted in other countries on the prevalence of sexual abuse on male children are those involving adults that explore the extent to which persons experience sexual victimization during their childhoods. Findings are somewhat inconsistent for several reasons such as differences in methodology, some studies may focus on special population, such as psychiatric patients, incarcerated sex offenders, and college students, where as others are

surveys of the general population

(<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/sexabuse/sexabuseb.cfm>; downloaded on 11/9/2006)

In Ethiopia, when development organizations design program interventions regarding sexual abuse and exploitation, women and girls usually or automatically come into the picture. Abduction, early marriage, female genital mutilation ...etc all are about the sexual abuse of the girl child.

However, in a recent development, a study conducted by Save the Children Norway (2006) has alarmingly revealed that out of the total (237) sexually abused children in Addis Ababa, 47 (22%) are male. The children have suffered the consequences of the abuse physically, psychologically, and socially. In this specific study, Ethiopian Diasporas and economically well established individuals have been cited as some of the contributing factors to the change with respect to sexual behavior and have been found to be perpetrators (Belay, 2006, p.70).

Another study conducted on child sexual abuse and exploitation has come up with the findings that "sexually abused female children were found to have exposed to unwanted pregnancy, infection from STD and mental disturbances while boy children had physical trauma and developed low self-esteem" (Azeb, 2003). However, the sporadic studies reviewed pertaining to the sexual abuse of male children haven't adequately discussed the issue in relation to the functionalities of the social system and institution in the society that are endowed with socializing, nurturing, and catering different services for the proper growth and development of children.

Such evidences lead us to ask a fundamental question, why sexual abuse of male children became an emerging phenomenon in the society? And what can be attributed to this social issue?

The change in the social structure and systems might have exposed male children to sexual abuse unlike the previous times. Since our society is in continuous change and development, the structure of social institutions including the family, our culture, the social system and traditional values are also in a continuous change. Besides, the adverse effects of globalization on our society have exposed the young population to foreign cultures like video films that might have significant influence on individual's partnership formation and sexual behavior.

In the process of societal change the mismatch between the needs of individuals, which is influenced by many factors, and the capabilities of social systems and institutions like the family, the school, health and other service delivery mechanism and the government legal system to meet the needs, could be among the factors that contribute for individuals to be exposed to different forms of abuses. The extent of responsiveness of these systems and the capacity to meet these growing needs could be affected by multitude of factors including the commitment of governments to strengthen and build the capacities of these systems and institutions. Understanding such societal issues would require conducting scientific researches and empirical findings that indicate subsequent actions which is currently missing in Addis Ababa pertaining to the sexual abuse of male children. .

. This research particularly discusses the problem of male children sexual abuse, the contributing factors, consequences on the victim children and will extend the results of previous studies. Above all, the issue will be discussed in view of the effectiveness of social

systems and institutions unlike the previous studies whose primary emphasis have been on the causes and magnitude of the problem in relation to consequences on the abused children.

The study, though limited in scope, will bring about empirical evidence about the sexual abuse of male children that will be instrumental to increase knowledge base about the problems of male children sexual abuse, to instigate and encourage in-depth research in the area, and to attract the attention of development organizations to initiate intervention programs. Particularly, the following research questions will be answered:

- What are the underlying causes of male children sexual abuse and the contributing factors?
- Who are the most affected children?
- Who are the abusers?
- What are the psychosocial, emotional and physical consequences of the abuse on the children? And what can society do to address the needs and rights of these children?
- What are the legal provisions, policies and infrastructures that exist to address the problem of sexually abused male children? And how do they function?

Abused children will experience physical, emotional, cognitive trauma and it could be possible that they themselves become abusers in the future. Therefore, investigation of this delicate societal issue is critically important for knowledge building about the magnitude of the problem and to understand to what extent it is affecting children in Addis Ababa. The research will be also important in identifying the implications for social work practice that can be applied at macro, mezzo and micro level interventions.

2. Delimitation of the Study:

Causes of male sexual abuse from perpetrators' perspectives, as to why they are attracted to male children, and their sexual orientation is not covered by primary data collection in this study. Therefore, the situation of perpetrators will be discussed based on literature review and data obtained from Forum on Street Children Ethiopia and the police.

The study does not go beyond the reported cases to the police and the findings can not be generalized to the larger population. The descriptive nature of the study also limits the findings to the level of understanding the problem situation.



4. Operational definitions:

Child: means every human being below the age of 18.

UNCRC

Child abuse: “child abuse is any act of commission which deprives children of their rights and liberties and/or interferes with their optimal development”

Professor David Gill

Child Sexual abuse: “ *the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent, or that violate the social taboos of family roles*”

Dr. C. Henry Kempe

Pedophile: “the condition of being sexually attracted to children” and “pedophile the person who is sexually attracted to children”.

Advanced Learners Dictionary

Child neglect: child neglect is a controversial term the working definition of which should take the local context into account. Therefore, for the purpose of this study, the definition given by renowned researchers in the area of neglect sounds more appropriate.

Polansky, Hally, and Polansky (1975) defined child neglect as “condition in which a caretaker responsible for the child either deliberately or by extraordinary in-attentiveness permits the child to experience available present suffering and/or fails to provide one or more of the ingredients generally deemed essential for developing a person’s physical, intellectual, and emotional capacities”. (Quoted in Tower 2000, p. 64)

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY

The target groups for this study are sexually abused male children between 10-18 years of age. The cohort is selected taking their capacity to easily comprehend the situation to explain to the researcher and to legally responsible bodies of the government. Besides, as it was designed in the research proposal, three youths who are above 18 years of age were also included in the in-depth interview. It was interesting for the researcher to note the individual differences in their perception to life, coping mechanism, social outlook and future plan. They have explained the long term impact of the sexual abuse, their current life and sexual behavior which was found vitally important for the analysis.

Irrespective of the above situation, understanding male children's victimization to sexual abuse as a complex social problem demands the application of relevant procedures, tools, standard methods to elicit data that can be used to produce quality outcomes. The methodology applied for the research are enumerated as follows,

Research design:

To undertake the study, different research methods have been applied that helped to gather both qualitative and quantitative data. Details of the methodologies used that are appropriate to the research topic and the type of data sought to meet research objectives are discussed in detail. Generally, the study aims to depict the sexual abuse of male children in Addis Ababa, its prevalence and the impact of the abuse on the victim children. The contributing factors to the victimization of male children and perception of the children to the abusers and the society at large have been also the subject of this study. This has required for the employment of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Through the quantitative

research methods, the socioeconomic characteristics of sexually abused children, the perpetrators, and their family situation have been thoroughly examined. On the other hand impacts of the abuse on the health, education, social value and future of children have been seen from wide range of qualitative dimensions.

Data Source:

The primary sources of data are sexually abused children. Sexually abused male children participated in the research through completing structured and semi-structured questionnaires and through in-depth interviews. The researcher has identified 21 children in collaboration with the Child Protection Units (CPU) located at each of the sub-cities and with the help of Bright Children Voluntary Association (BCV); an association of sexually abused youth that was established to prevent the prevalence of sexual abuse through public education and advocacy.

Further to this, quantitative data has been collected from the database of FSCE who maintains the records of child abuse cases from all sub-cities in Addis Ababa. The focus group discussion held with social workers working at the Child Protection Units, the police officers, and community representatives from selected sub-cities have been among the data sources for the study. The other source of data has been document review from authorized sources such as government reports, research works of academic institution and reports of commissioned researchers by non government organizations.

The study area:

The study was supposed to be limited to Addis ketema one of the ten sub-cities that make up Addis Ababa assuming that the prevalence of sexual abuse of children would be high due to its strategic location where the main bus terminal is situated and most children who

come from the regions reach and settle in that part of the city. Later on, however, the researcher learned that the prevalence of male children sexual abuse is dispersed in all the sub-cities and police records are almost high in sub-cities like Kirkos, Bole, Yeka and Nefassilk Lafto...etc. Besides, the number of abused male children found in one sub-city was very limited due to lack of willingness of their guardians to allow the children to participate in the research and the limited number of reported cases. Therefore, data was collected from those children who volunteered to complete the questionnaire and hence the study has gathered information from all kifleketemas with the help of FSCE.

Participants of the study:

A total of 21 sexually abused male children have participated and their responses captured through structured and semi structured questionnaires. In-depth interview has been conducted with one child and three youth to investigate about the aftermath of the abuse and the possible long-term impacts. Community leaders, CPU workers and police have participated in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) while professionals directly involved in the delivery of different services to abused children; Integrated Family Service Organization, Forum for Street Children, Yekatit 12 Hospital CANU project staff, Bright Children Voluntary Association's counselor were used as key informants.

Data Collection:

Qualitative data: this method of data collection was used to explain and describe the relationship and interaction that the abused children have with their peers, family members, neighbors, and the larger society. Their understanding about the sexual abuse, the extent of short and long-term harm of the act on the children, and the coping mechanisms are investigated.

In-depth interview:

In-depth interview was held with one child living on the street and other three youth who are above 18 years old, all of whom are victims of sexual abuse. Data on the individuals' personal histories, experiences, fears, perceptions and concerns were captured through this method.

An interview guide was used during the discussion with interviewee and it was tape recorded with their full consent. Interview guide basically focused on information pertaining to the family background and upbringing of the abused children, information about perpetrators, and changes on the abused children as a result of the abuse, self-perception and how they dealt with the situation.

The interview was tape recorded and transcribed the same day while information is still fresh in the memory of the researcher. The age of the street child was 14 years. The youths were 21, 22, and 23 years old.

The researcher has understood that due to the nature of the problem of sexually abused male children and possible stigmatization of the children resulting from affiliation with the study, concern about confidentiality, recruiting participants for an in-depth interview has not been simple. Had it not been for the CPU workers and BCVA, it would have even been more challenging to get the abused children and youth. It is clearly observed that the street child was relatively more open to participate in the interview and easily responded to the questions, although he was observed struggling to control his emotions during the whole process. On the other hand the youths have clearly explained the multifaceted impact of the abuse to their current life and their self perception and societal understanding.

Focus Group discussion:

Participants of the FGD were selected purposefully based on their willingness and understanding of the subject. More specifically two FGDs were conducted and participants for the first group were workers of child protection units, the police and community members, and in the second group school children and youth. The selection criteria were knowledge about the subject matter, opportunities for close interaction with the community, and knowledge about the current intervention program. The discussion has helped to elicit information on the societal responses, mechanisms for reporting incidence, effectiveness of the legal system and the practice of criminal justice system, and implication of this emerging social problem on the inter-generational traditions and values.

Quantitative data:

The research tool that was developed to collect quantitative data contained questions about the biographic data of abused children and their families/caregivers, socioeconomic data, information about the perpetrator and the abusive actions, types of abuses, knowledge about sexual abuse, and changes in the lives of the sexually abused child. Quantitative data was collected from abused children and the information gathered using this method was cross checked with quantitative data obtained from FSCE data base. Questions that reveal the perception of abused children about the adult community surrounding them and their understanding about the prevalence of child sexual abuse were included. The relationship between different variables such as the underlying causes of child sexual abuse, behavioral patterns of abusers, factors that expose male children to sexual abuse are addressed.

Review of literature and relevant documents

Review of relevant literatures included reference books, research reports, government's legal and policy documents such as the Constitution, the revised Criminal Code, CRC, and African Charter for the Rights and welfare of children, the Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy, and the Family code.

The documents reviewed from the CPU covered all child abuse cases for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006 that clearly revealed the trend of the reported incidence in Addis Ababa was increasing. Since the CPU's refer abused children for medical check up as part of collecting evidence to file perpetrators before the court, hospital reports were also reviewed. The document review further included annual performance reports of government and non-government organizations working on programs related to child sexual abuse.

Sampling:

Since the research topic is about culturally and socially sensitive issue, the victim children were selected to complete the questionnaire with the support of FSCE's Child Protection Units (CPU), and Berhan Children's Voluntary Association (BCVA) and purposive sampling and random sampling techniques were applied to identify the children for in-depth interview and completion of questionnaire respectively.

The statistical data on the reported cases of male sexual abuse has been received from FSCE's data base for all the sub-cities of Addis Ababa. The report indicated that there were 237, 350 and 322 reported cases of sexual offense for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006 respectively out of which male children sexual offence accounted for 47 (19.9%) in 2004, 55 (15.8%) in 2005, and 43 (13.4%) in 2006. With the help of CPUs the list of all male victim children age 10-18 years was extracted from the file and the total population of sexual victim

children was obtained. However, the 2004 figure has to be dropped because of the difference in age categorization from 2005 and 2006. The age categorization of children was similar for 2005 and 2006 i.e. 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-18 while it was slightly different in 2004 which was 0-8, 9-14, and 15-18. Since the focus of this research is children between the ages of 10-18 years, 98 sexual victim children, the list of who was extracted from 2005-2006 data, were taken to be the sampling frame for the research. Then due to the limited number of children, it was decided to include 20 % of the children in the research and 21 children were selected from the list using simple random sampling without replacement.

Challenges

In the course of undertaking this research, there was acute data constraint particularly on the Ethiopian context. The other challenge was finding abused children. Due to the societal and individual perception of male children sexual abuse some parents showed reluctance to allow their children to participate in the interview. When the children come for interview, most of the abuses occurred recently and I was forced to focus on information related to their reactions and feelings during the abuse and on the possible factors that exposed the children to the sexual abuse. Some of the children were not even able to tell the socioeconomic characteristics of their parents/guardians and I had to ask their guardians to complete such background information. The other challenge was the fact that the children who volunteered to complete the questionnaire were dispersed over the different sub-cities and I had to travel long distances the transportation cost of which and the time planned to complete the data collection was tripled than originally planned.

Ethics and Confidentiality

Ethics is one of the basic considerations during conducting this study. Since the issue is very sensitive, the necessary care has been taken to protect confidentiality of the information obtained from subjects of the study. The researcher has taken the accountability to keep the identity of the respondents and in-depth interview participants confidential. Hence, the interview was conducted with full consent and participation of the interviewee and for those who were not willing to be tape recorded; the response has been captured in hand writing. The tape recorded responses have been deleted after the interview was transcribed and the information was used for the study.

In order to make them confident and to create comfortable environment, the interview was conducted within their own living place for most interviewee and for some of them at the office of community workers; again with their own preference. Before the interview, the researcher has made sure that they have understood the purpose of the study, effective rapport was created and subjects of the study have expressed their readiness for the interview.

CHAPTER THREE: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE LITERATURE

1. Background

According to the 2006 State of the World's Children Report of UNICEF, children constitute nearly fifty percent of the total population in Ethiopia. The population increases almost by two million on annual base, adding to the strain on the capacities of families, communities and the government to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of children. Its outcome is already conspicuous in the level and depth of poverty. One of the features of the deepening poverty in the Ethiopian context is the expansion of vulnerable groups, including children. The number of street children is now in hundreds of thousands in major urban centers and orphans constitute more than 10 per cent of the total number of children in the country (MOLSA, 2005).

A large number of Ethiopian children are suffering from the ills of poverty and illiteracy such as living in extremely poor situation, suffering and dying from various preventable diseases, lack of access to education, working in hazardous conditions, exposed to various types of abuses, trafficking and being orphaned and/or infected by HIV/AIDS. Due to poverty related economic problems, loosening of family ties, peer influence, weak enforcement of the law, pulling environmental condition such as large number of drinking places and intermediaries, a large number of children are sexually abused and exploited.

Hence, the rights to survival and development, participation, the best interest of children and equity and non-discrimination are not adequately respected, protected and fulfilled.

2. Child Sexual Abuse: Prevalence and Magnitude

Most professionals are fairly certain they know what child sexual abuse is, and there is a fair level of agreement about it. Despite this, it is important to define what sexual abuse is because there are variations in definition across professional disciplines.

Generally three factors might be attributed to the understanding of sexual abuse from non abusive acts; power differentials, knowledge differentials and gratification differentials (<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/sexabuse/sexabuseb.cfm>; downloaded on 11/9/2006) Persons with power over children such as parents, teachers, guardians and caregivers etc have the physical and mental capabilities to manipulate the children while those with knowledge are developmentally advanced or intelligent to manipulate children in a situation where the victims do not have the capacity to predict the potential consequences of sexual relationships with adults. Another driving force could be the desire for personal sexual gratification, in which case, although perpetrators may try to arouse the sexual desire of the children, the act can't be performed with mutual understanding about the consequences of the sexual relation. Thus, sexual activities between these individuals and their charges are abusive.

Different researchers have defined child sexual abuse based on their objectives and findings of empirical data. Some of the definitions are illustrated below;

1. Child sexual abuse is "the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; ...the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and, the exploitative use of children in pornographic performance and materials (UNCRC; Art. 34); The definition encompasses comprehensive issues about sexual abuse of children either

induced or forced by persons who are physically and/or developmentally better than the abused.

2. According to the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of the USA, Child Sexual abuse is “ the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children (<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>). In this definition, any form of sexual relation with a child whether or not it happened by influencing, bribing or tempting or forcing the child, it is considered abusive.
3. Child sexual abuse is any act by an adult towards a child that can be linked to sex in one way or another. Here, a wide spectrum can be found, including indecent exposure, rape, child prostitution, abduction, incest, and sexual intercourse with children (Doyle, quoted in Getnet 2006, p.86).

Despite the differences in their scope, the definitions have common elements; that children can be abused by adults and children and the abuse could involve physical, sexual or emotional aspects; that child sexual abuse does include not only commission but also omission; that whether the act involves coercion or influence it will be considered an act of abuse if it is inflicted on children, and for an act to be sexual abuse penetration does not have to occur necessarily. It is further elaborated that child sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to, showing a child pornographic materials, placing the child's hand on another person's

genitals, touching a child's genitals, and/or penetration of any orifice of a child's body (mouth, vagina, anus) with a penis, finger, or an object of any sort.

Therefore, this study has adopted the definition given by the UNCRC which is relatively concise and widely used in many studies. However, under what ever circumstances that the sexual relation with children happens, it is interesting to note the argument of Finkelhor (quoted in Tower, 2000, p.121) which is most convincing about child sexual abuse;

that our society is based on consent and free will, and in order to consent one must have knowledge and authority. Children do not have knowledge of the meaning of sexuality, information to enable them to anticipate the direction of the sexual relationship, or any ideas of how others will react to their sexual involvement. Further, children have no authority in either a legal or psychological sense. Their natural awe of adults, perpetuated by their elders, renders them subject to the whims of these adults. Legally, children are unable to marry, drive a car, or enter into contracts prior to their maturity. Therefore, children are in no position to consent to relationships that carry so many implications as sexual liaisons with adults.

The argument emphasized on the fact that in a modern society where individual decisions are made on free will and consent, sexual relationship of adults with children is unacceptable not only due to the inability of the children to comprehend the consequence but also from the point of view of legal provisions. Depending on the specific legal provisions of countries that define a child, children do not have the legal authority to give consent for sexual activity with adults.

When discussing the Ethiopian context, there are limited data about the prevalence of sexual abuse in Addis Ababa. Forum for Street children (FSCE) has established data base of reported cases of male children sexual abuse to the police in all the sub-cities. The following tables show data for two years available at the police stations. The two years data has revealed that the number of victim children in 2005 has increased by 113 from 2004 which was 237,

while the number for 2006 has reduced by 28 children from 2005. The same trend is observed for specifically male children which is higher in 2005 than the reported cases for 2006.

Despite this situation, male children constitute 16.6% in 2005 and 13.4% in 2006. The reported cases of male children sexual abuse for the two years are 15% of the total. The report further indicated that the distribution of abused children seems to have similar pattern for the two years for which data was collected. The sub-cities such as Kirkos, Yeka, Lideta, Nifs Silk Lafto, and Addis ketema have the highest number of reported cases.

Sexually abused children in Addis Ababa 2005-2006

Years	Sex				Total	
	Male	%	Female	%		%
2005	58	16.6	292	83.4	350	100
2006	43	13.4	279	86.6	322	100
Total	101	15.0	571	85.0	672	100

Source: Forum for Street Children Ethiopia

Sexually abused male children by Kifle Ketema/sub-city(2005-6)

Sub-city	2005		2006		Total for two years	
	No of children	%	No of children	%	No of children	%
Addis ketema	9	16.4	3	7.0	12	12.3
Akaki kaliti	3	5.5	2	4.7	5	5.1
Arada	5	9.1	1	2.3	6	6.1
Bole	3	5.5	1	2.3	4	4.0
Gulele	-	-	2	4.7	2	2.0
Kirkos	9	16.4	9	20.9	18	18.4
Kolfe/Keranio	-		3	7.0	3	3.1
Lideta	8	14.5	8	18.6	16	16.3
Nifas Silk/Lafto	7	12.7	7	16.3	14	14.3
Yeka	11	20.0	7	16.3	18	18.4
Total	55	100.0	43	100.0	98	100

3. Factors that contribute to the Sexual Abuse of Children

3.1. Social change influence:

The sexual abuse of children is a world wide problem and the rate of abuse has grown with the advent of widespread divorce, remarriage, and easy conjugal pairings and dissolutions (increasing the amount of exposure of children to stepfathers, boyfriends, and lovers of children's mothers). The changes are accompanied by the rapid dissolution or abolition of traditional ties and control mechanisms, aided and abetted by popular pornography, portraying children as sex objects. The sexualization of life, which pervades the media, has led to new, increased, and heightened expectations (James K. Richard, Gilliland E. 2001, p. 237).

Divorce, separation and remarriage affect the proper functioning of the family as a complex and ever-changing system. In the changing environment like any system, families must maintain some type of balance, continue a flow of information, and monitor the communication among their members. Families do this through a series of subsystems, boundaries, roles, and communication patterns. Such continuous changes could create opportunities for the family to sustain itself throughout the changing environment and thrive. The negative impacts of social change influence and debilitate family cohesion and functioning. And, failure to discharge its responsibilities to provide proper socialization, nurturing, and security to their children brings a devastating effect on the family in general and children in particular.

Hence, clearly the toll that child sexual abuse extracts from society is devastating. Pedophiles and abusers are able to carry on their activities because children are largely powerless and vulnerable and because families and societies have been reluctant to face and

deal with the realities of the changing environment that exposes children to sexual and other forms of abuse.

3.2. Difficulties of families to meet parental responsibilities:

Family may include a wide range of association in modern societies like single parent families, as well as families headed by gay or lesbian partners unlike the traditional two parent family image (Shulman 1999, p.234). In the context of this paper, family is taken to include two-parents, single parent families and extended family members who are expected to perform specific functions, especially in reference to the growth and development of children. The parents, or parenting adults, are assigned certain responsibilities. The responsibilities may or may not be enumerated by legal terms since the customs and traditions of societies which are transmitted from generation to generation have implicitly and explicitly defined the roles of parents in the growth and development of children. The responsibilities are not confined to reproduction and socialization but also include imparting societal norms and values, psychological and emotional support, economic production and consumption, spirituality and social security. It is also largely within the family that character is formed, vital roles are learned, and children are socialized for responsible participation in the larger society. Further, it is primarily through family interaction that children develop (or fail to develop) vital self-esteem, a sense of belonging, and interpersonal skills (Hepworth H., 1990, p.256).

In another dimension, parental responsibility falls on maintaining conformity to what the larger society expects from its members. The society expects parents to furnish children with moral values, respect and security pertaining to ensuring services that are essential for the normal growth and development of children. The parent child relationship further should

ensure stability and integrity for the smooth functioning of the society as part of the larger system (cited in Tower, katz, 1971, pp. 6-13).

Stability and integrity mean parents need to provide a secure, stable, constant relationship on which their children can base their expectations and model their future relationships. Within this realm of security, parents have an opportunity to teach their children what society and their own culture will expect from them as adults.

3.3. The poverty situation:

In many developing countries, urban parents and children often bear the additional burdens of absolute poverty; insecurity of tenure, and poor or nonexistent infrastructure, as well as inadequate social, education, and health services (Blanc, 1994) and Addis Ababa is no exception. The problems of urban poor families are concealed by better looking economic activities of the sector relative to the rural sector. However, the urban sector strangles with high rate of population influx, environmental deterioration, inadequacy of social services and infrastructure facilities. The imbalance in resource distribution has possibly relegated millions of urban families to abject poverty and has made the environment extremely harsh and exploitative to children. Hence this preponderance of young population and wide spread poverty, as well as disruptions of families, marks the potential for abuse and other child-related problems in the country (Getnet 2007, p.85).

3.3. Child Neglect:

The neglect of families to offer supports to children exposes them to different forms of abuses including sexual abuse and exploitation. Child neglect may involve failure to meet the physical (food, shelter and lack of appropriate supervision), medical that includes (inability to

access children with medical services), failure to meet educational needs of children and emotional support that involves psychological care and attention.

However, we have to be careful in defining child neglect since what may work for developed countries may not be applicable to resource poor countries. Even within the resource poor countries, the context could be quite different for the economically well functioning community members from relatively poor community members. Economically poor families may not be blamed for their inability to provide adequate physical, psychosocial and emotional support to children.

Poverty can be viewed in structural and social systems functioning perspectives where families experience social injustice arising from the marginalization and exclusion of people from resources that are necessary for survival. It is the fragility of society's structure that makes injustice possible. Resource poor families do not have the time, energy and capacity to fully provide their children with any of the social, emotional and psychological support and securities (Sullivan Nancy E. 2003; p.8).

4. Who is sexually abused?

All children are vulnerable to sexual abuse. Sexual abuse and incest occur in every race, class, religion, culture, and country. Children whose emotional needs are not met—who are emotionally deprived, or otherwise abused and physically disabled—can also be more vulnerable because they need attention and some perpetrators exploit that need.

5. Who are the abusers?

The discussions we had in earlier sections have focused on the definition and contributing factors to child sexual abuse and do apply for female and male children. The

pertinent issue with male children is the fact that it is a recently growing phenomena particularly in Ethiopia compared to female children sexual abuse.

Perpetrators are most often someone the child knows and trusts. They are most often male relatives, including fathers, brothers, grandfathers, uncles and cousins; friends of the family; or neighbors. Perpetrators can also be female, including mothers, sisters, aunts, babysitters, and grandmothers. Usually the perpetrator has easy access to the child because she or he has sole responsibility for the child, or takes care of or visits the child, and is trusted by the child's parents. Despite this situation, in a recent study conducted in Addis Ababa, 43.75 per cent of perpetrators were found to be members of community including neighbors, 43.75 per cent strangers, 6.3 percent friends and school mates, and close relatives accounting for 6.3 per cent (Belay, 2006, p.23). According to the above report, majority of the abusers are found to be neighbors and strangers. This implies that every one can be potential abuser of male children but the sexual orientation of perpetrators and how they identify themselves in terms of sexuality have to be the subject of investigation to uncover the real account of who they are.

It will be worth noting about the concept of pedophile when we discuss about child sexual abuse since it is a fundamental concept to understand the issue. The word pedophile comes from the Greek and is a combination of the words for child and love; paedo and philia-child love. The pedophile's child love is based on a sexual desire for children who have not yet reached puberty and a sexual inadequacy and/or lack of desire when it comes to adults of the same age (Cited in Nyman A. O'Grady, 1992). The pedophile is emotionally and sexually fixated on children. He or some times she has some times stuck in a perversion which is often impossible to escape. The reason the sexual fixation on children is difficult to alter is that the perversion conceals anxiety-laden memories that must remain unconscious to prevent an

emotional crisis (Tower, 2000, p. 39). Hence, children know that they have to respect, love and trust adults the situation of which is exploited by pedophiles to satisfy their sexual desires.

From the very start, children have a need for protection, warmth and physical contact. Children enjoy caressing. There are no inborn taboos as to what part of a child's body we are "permitted" to touch. The only thing the child perceives is that touch feels different on different places on the body; it tickles, feels warm, is more intense, or less intense.

It is adults who show the child where on the body touch is permitted and in what manner. An inner perception of a boundary is sensed where the adults hand stops caressing. But where the hand fails to define this boundary, either by overstepping it or by not caressing the child at all, how is the child has to know where the boundary is? When children are left to themselves, neglected, abandoned or violated when they have been forced to turn to each other for closeness, protection and warmth, how are they then supposed to develop a sense of what is permitted and what is not? (Nyman, 1995, p. 34).

Boundaries can also be maintained between the family and the external world. Those that are too rigid create isolation for the family, but if the boundaries with the outside are poorly defined, non-family members may float in and out of the family constellation to the confusion of all (Tower, 2000, p.23).

This discussion could lead us to the understanding that unless the relationship of children with adults is well defined and parents or caretakers and society demarcated the boundaries, children could not understand abusive behaviors and could be easily exposed to sexual abuse.

6. Consequences of child sexual abuse:

The effects of child sexual abuse are wide ranging, and vary from survivor to survivor depending on a number of different factors such as; age of the victim, duration of the abuse, number of perpetrators, and severity of the assault. Some researchers are hesitant about the severity of the assault believing that all abuses are traumatic and harmful to victims (<http://www.kalimunro.com/articlesexualabuse.html>; downloaded on 6/11/2007). It is argued that while being assaulted a more violent manner does have its own specific effects, it in no way minimized the reality and experience of others who have not experienced that kind of violence. Some of the consequences of child sexual abuse are discussed below:

6.1. Psychological effect:

A good many researchers have explored and reported on the psychological trauma that resulted from the sexual abuse of female and male children of all ages. Some of the noteworthy findings of this research are that (1) histories of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse show that adult survivors symptoms are significantly correlated with depression, anxiety, shame, and humiliation. (2) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is associated with childhood sexual abuse (3) survivors of childhood sexual abuse demonstrate a propensity to be victimized again later in adulthood. (4) re-victimization or repetition of the sexual abuse tends to recur through the survivor's reenactment of the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse that was experienced during childhood. It is further indicated that the impact of resultant increased negative risk of PTSD, aggressive behavior, and sexually related problems following sexual assault are greater for boys than for girls (James K. Richard, 2001, p.237).

6.2. Emotional effects;

There is no single behavior that characterizes all sexually abused and neglected children. However, it is documented in many research findings that sexually abused children have emotional and psychosocial problems that include: Low self-esteem, Depression and anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Attachment difficulties, Eating disorder, Poor peer relations, Self-injurious behavior (e.g. Suicide attempts)

Many researches have confirmed that adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse often experience enduring problems such as depression, alienations, inhibitions, social introversion, and interpersonal hypersensitivity. Such survivors have also been found to manifest long-term physical health deficits. Compared with non-abused populations, survivors experienced more hospitalizations for illnesses, a greater number of physical and psychological problems, and overall poorer health. It was also found out that survivors showed more symptoms of shame, dissociation, and further victimization during adulthood than did non abused subjects (cited in Goldman, Kessler and Bieschke, 1999). Clearly, the long-term consequences of child sexual abuse are not only excessive and debilitating dysfunction during childhood, but such consequences are also likely to manifest themselves during adulthood (James K. Richard, 2001).

6.3. Physical effects:

This includes the immediate effect of bruises, burns, lacerations and broken bones and it might cause brain damage, hemorrhage, and permanent disability as long term effects.

6.4. Social effects

The social effects of sexual abuse could be stigma and discrimination that emanates from religion, tradition and heterosexual thinking of the larger community. Most religions and

traditions do not accept sexual relationships between individuals of same sex (male to male or female to female) and it is argued that societies usually confuse social sex role (the way society expect you to act according to your sex), gender identity (whether you consider yourself male or female), and gender role (whether you act so as to be taken as a male or female) (Morales T. Armando, p.315).

7. Copying mechanisms/strategies:

We all dissociate to some extent or another. Babies do it quite regularly. It is a natural physiological response to being overwhelmed. Children who are sexually abused are extraordinarily overwhelmed. Dissociation allows the child to literally take a break from the abuse, to distance her/him self from what is going on and ultimately to survive.

There are a whole range of behaviors that survivors may engage in that come from being sexually abused. They include: addictions, prostitution, isolation, and frequent sexual activity, avoidance of sex, over-working, inability to work, high-functioning, low-functioning, argumentativeness, avoiding conflict, perfectionist, and wanting to please others. All of these behaviors were learned in response to abuse and served an important purpose—staying sane and alive.

8. Available legal provisions to address child sexual abuse in Ethiopia

The revised criminal code under article 627 (2) states that “A woman who causes a male minor under the age of thirteen years, to perform sexual intercourse with her, is punishable with rigorous imprisonment not exceeding ten years”.

Under the title ‘homosexual and other indecent acts performed on minors’, Article 631 provides:

- (1) whoever performs a homosexual act on a minor, is punishable:

- a. With rigorous imprisonment from three year to fifteen years, where the victim is between the ages of thirteen and eighteen years; or
- b. With rigorous imprisonment from fifteen years to twenty five years, where the victim is below thirteen years of age.

The Penal Code has given emphasis to the physical, psychological and emotional harm that sexual abuse brings to the child depending on his or her physical growth and development. Because, the punishment is more sever on those/criminals who abused a minor below age 13. On the other hand if the abuse is inflicted on children between the ages of 13-18, the punishment is relatively simple. The subsequent sub-articles have detailed the status of the abused in relation with the perpetrator and enumerated the level of punishment accordingly.

Article 631 No. 3 reads “whoever performs any other indecent act on a minor of the same sex, is punishable with simple imprisonment”. However, although the statement indecent act is not clearly defined in the Ethiopian context, it seems to imply acts other than those involving penetration. However, if the abuse is committed by a young person between the ages 9-15 the penal code under article 53 allows not to see the case under ordinary penalties applicable to adults.

9. Theoretical Model:

Theoretical models applied to study human behavior depend on the findings of individual school of thoughts. The psychodynamic model asserts that mental events are not viewed as random occurrences, rather thoughts, feelings, and impulses are considered to be casually related phenomena (Fox, 2001 p.160). Child sexual abuse is, thus, explained in view of the individual’s psychopathology.

The behavioral model on the other hand views behavior as a set of learned responses to events, experiences or stimuli in a person's life history. Thus, rather than being concerned with the emotional dynamics of behavior characteristics of the insight approach, the behaviorists focus on specific behavioral goals and the bond between anxiety and stimuli evoking it. According to this theoretical model, the perpetrator of child sexual abuse should be explained in view of his or her adaptation to the environment and should be assisted in that line (Gibson L. Robert & Mitchell H. Marianne, 2003).

The sociological model emphasize on the social structure of society such as the family, neighborhood, schools, law enforcing agencies etc and the physical, economic, financial inputs made available to these institutions, are taken as root causes behind the inability of these institutions to secure the rights of children. Another sociological perspective-the functional model- attempts to explain child maltreatment in terms of the social software or the social code of conducts that govern the social institutions and organizations in question. The functional theorists insist that the causative factors behind child abuse are the social value systems, cultural milieu, religious beliefs, legal codes, etc (Gobena D. 1998. p12).

Therefore, this study looks into the sexual abuse of male children in terms of awareness and knowledge, the functional and structural inability of existing systems like the family, norms and the government's legal and policy environment to protect the individual child from sexual abuse.



CHAPTER FOUR: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESULTS

Quantitative results

The following pages will be dealing with quantitative description of filed data and information obtained from available data.

Background of Children and their Families

Table 1. Age of abused children by educational level

Educational level	Ages		Total	%
	10-14	15-18		
1-4	11	2	13	61.9
5-8	5	1	6	28.6
9-10	2	-	2	9.5
Total	18	3	21	
%	85.7	14.3		100.0

The educational level of the abused children shows that 61.9% of them are at the first level of primary education, 28.6% at the second level of primary education, 9.5% at secondary education level. At the time when the sexual abuse was committed to them, children who were below the age of 14 years old constitute a cumulative percent of 85.7 of the respondents and those in the age category of 15-18 years were 14.3%.

Table 2. Marital status of respondents parents during the abuse

Marital status of respondents parents/guardians	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Single parent	1	4.8	4.8
Spouse living together	3	14.3	19.0
Separated; interviewee living with female member	1	4.8	23.8
Divorced; interviewee living with female member	1	4.8	28.6
Widowed; not re-married	4	19.0	47.6
Grand parents/guardian	11	52.4	100
Total	21	100	

The marital status of the respondent children's parents or guardian revealed an interesting picture. Children living with single parent families either due to separation, divorce, never married and widowed all together constituted 33.4% of the responses while children living with grand parents or other guardian rated the majority 52.4% (11). Only 14.3% (3) children lived with biological parents; mother and father living together. The figure generally showed that 85.7% of the abused children live with grand parents/guardians and single parent families.

Table 3. Housing situation of the interviewees family

Housing situation	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
One room with out kitchen	8	38.1	38.1
One room with separate kitchen	1	4.8	42.9
Two rooms with out kitchen	3	14.3	57.1
Two rooms with kitchen	1	4.8	61.9
Three rooms without kitchen	1	4.8	66.7
Three rooms with kitchen	1	4.8	71.4
Above five rooms	3	14.3	85.7
Others	3	14.3	100
Total	21	100	

Regarding the housing situation of the parents or guardians of abused children, 42.9% of the families lived in single room houses, 19.1% lived in two rooms, while those living in three rooms and above whether it included separate kitchen or not accounted for 23.9% of the respondents. The children under the category of others (14.3%) lived in the institutional care system when the sexual abuse had happened to them.

Children were asked to estimate the average monthly income of the family with the support of parents and guardians and 13 out of the 21 sample have responded (see table 4).

Out of those who responded the monthly income of the family was less than 200 birr per month for 23.1% of the cases, 46.2% fall in the category of 2001 to 400 Birr per month and 7.7% in the income category of 401-600. The cumulative percent of families with monthly income of less than Birr 401 accounted for 69.0% of the respondents. On the other hand the family size for majority of the families (84.7%) is found to be above four persons.

Table 4. Income by family size

Income category in Birr	Family size						Total	
	1-3		4-6		7-9			
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
< 200	1	7.7	1	7.7	1	7.7	3	23.1
201-400	1	7.7	3	23.1	2	15.4	6	46.2
401-600	0	-	1	7.7	0	-	1	7.7
> 800	0	-	1	7.7	2	15.4	3	23.1
Total	2	15.4	6	46.2	5	38.5	13	100

Table 5.A/ Respondents' participation in family affairs

Does parents/guardian encourage you to participate in family affairs?	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percent
Yes	5	23.8	23.8
No	13	61.9	85.7
Don't know	2	9.5	95.2
Not applicable	1	4.8	100
Total	21	100	

Table 5.B/ Families that discuss sexuality with children

Do parents/guardians discuss sexual behavior with children	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	3	14.3	14.3
No	14	66.7	81.0
Don't know	3	14.3	95.2
Not applicable	1	4.8	100
Total	21	100	

It is further depicted that out of the abused children who responded to the question about child participation in family affairs, those who enjoyed parents or guardians' encouragement to participate are 23.8%. 61.9% are not encouraged. The response to discussion on sexuality is even lower than the rate of participation and children who never had discussion with parents about sexual behavior accounted as large as 66.7 % of the cases.

Table 6. Respondents' families by type of parenting style

Parenting style	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Authoritative	7	33.4	33.3
Authoritarian	7	33.4	66.7
Permissive	2	9.5	76.2
Neglectful	3	14.3	90.5
Others	2	9.5	100
Total	21	100	

The kind of parenting model has been investigated from the responses of children. In the first place the technical terms applied in categorizing the parenting style has been explained to assist children to have clear understanding about what it means before answering to the question. Accordingly, the responses have come up with important results as to what types of parenting styles were exercised in the children's families by indicating that, 33.4%

were authoritative parents, 33.4% authoritarian parents, 9.5% permissive, 14.3% neglectful parents and others 9.5%.

Characteristics of Perpetrators

Table 7. Relationship of abused children to perpetrators

Type of relationship	Frequency	Percent
Officials in the orphanage	3	14.3
Guest/not relative male	2	9.5
Neighbor male	12	57.1
Police	1	4.8
Others (unknown on the street)	3	14.3
Total	21	100

Children sexually abused by neighbors are 57.1% of the respondents, while 14.3% of the children responded that they were abused on the street by persons whom they don't know. Children abused by officials of orphanages accounted for 14.3%, non-relative guests abused 9.5% of the children.

Table 8. Distribution of perpetrators by age

Age category	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
<15	1	4.8	4.8
15-19	9	42.9	47.6
20-24	2	9.5	57.1
30-34	2	9.5	66.6
35-39	1	4.8	71.4
40-44	4	19.0	90.5
>=45	2	9.5	100
Total	21	100	

In some instances, mothers of abused children were also asked to assist the children in responding to the back ground information that included knowledge about the age, family situation and the features of perpetrators. Accordingly, the information about perpetrators age and characteristics was discussed based on the responses of the children. Of the total perpetrators, young offenders up to age 24 years accounted for 57.1% of the responses. On the other hand, the prevalence of adults who committed sexual abuse like those 30 years old and above accounted for 42.9% of the reported cases.

Table 9. Distribution of perpetrators by current occupation or employment status

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
NGO employees	3	14.3
Unemployed	6	28.6
Student	6	28.6
Police	1	4.8
Daily laborer	2	9.5
Others	2	9.5
Don't know	1	4.8
Total	21	100

Children were asked about the employment or occupation of perpetrators and majority of the respondents (85.7) had the knowledge about what the abusers were engaged in during the abuse. Individuals who do not have employment, and students together accounted for 57.2% of the abusers. The rest of the responses are almost evenly distributed; NGO employees relatively taking the next higher rate of response (14.3%).

Table 10. Distribution of perpetrators by type of addiction

Type of addiction	Number of responses	Percent
Chewing Chat	5	16.1
Drug/substance	3	9.7
Alcoholic	9	29.0
Watching pornographic video films	9	29.0
Don't know	5	16.1
Total	31	100

About the forms of addiction, 25.8% of the perpetrators are addicted to different kinds of drugs including Chat/Kat, 29.0% are alcoholics, and watching pornographic video films account for 29.0% of the respondents. Since the question was open to give multiple answers, the responses of abused children have showed that some of their abusers were found to have more than one kind of addictions. When the data is further disaggregated, abusers who have more than one addiction, in most of the responses, were reported to have seen that addiction to chewing Chat/kat can be directly linked with taking alcohol.

Description of how the abuse took place

Table 11. Distribution of abused children by type of abuse

Type of sexual abuse	Frequency	Percent of total number of abused children
Kissing/caressing or touching genital parts of the child	5	23.8
Molestation*	3	14.3
Showing sexual organ or leading the child to touch sexual organ of perpetrator	3	14.3
Oral sex	10	47.6
Anal insertion	21	100
Showing pornographic films/photos	1	4.8

* Treating aggressively

This question also allows abused children to give multiple responses. Accordingly, all the respondents (100%) have experienced anal insertion. 23.5% have experienced kissing/caressing, or touching genital parts, 14.3% molestation, 14.3% showing sexual organ or leading the child to touch sexual organ of the perpetrator, 47.6% had oral sex, 4.8% showing pornographic film,

Table 12. Place of abuse by number of abused children

Place of abuse	Number of abused children		Cumulative percent
	Frequency	Percent	
At home	11	52.4	52.4
Orphanage	3	14.3	66.7
On the street	5	23.8	90.5
Other places	2	9.5	100
Total	21	100	

The responses also showed that most of the children were abused at home (52.4%) be it in their own home or in the neighborhood and the next higher rate is on the street (23.8%), followed by orphanages (14.3%) and other places (9.5%) like in the forest and at the police station.

Table 13. How the sexual abuse took place

How was the abuse took place?	Frequency	Percent
Forcing to use drug/stimulant	2	14.3
Physical force	10	71.4
Verbal pressure/threat	2	14.3
Not forced	7	33.3
Total	21	100

According to the responses obtained about the use of force, 66.7% of the abused children have suffered different forms of force or coercion while 33.3% were not forced. Among those who were forced, the kind of force applied by perpetrators included using physical force 71.4%, forcing the child to use drug or stimulant 14.3%, and verbal pressure or threat 14.3% of the respondents. Again multiple responses are registered here and those who were forced physically may have been simultaneously forced to take stimulants or drugs and the physical forces are usually coupled with verbal threat or pressure.

Out of the children who responded that they were not forced during the abuse, 28.6% were offered with false promises, while 71.4% were given small presents like chewing gum, candy and bread.

Table 14. Duration of the sexual abuse on children

Duration	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Only once	7	33.3	33.3
Repeated for less than a month	8	38.1	71.4
Repeated for about six months	1	4.8	76.2
Repeated for about a year	2	9.5	85.7
Above two years	3	14.3	100
Total	21	100	

Children who are abused only once accounted for 33.3% of the respondents. Those who were repeatedly abused for a period of less than a month are 38.1%, and for more than two year accounted for 14.3% of the responses. When the cumulative percent is taken majority of the abused children (71.4%) fall in the two categories of responses that had experienced the abuse for only once and for less than a month time.

The responses about reporting the incidence were found to be interesting. Out of the respondents, 16 (76.2%) said yes to the question "did you report after the abuse took place?" The children who first reported to their parents or family members were 11(68.8%) of the respondents, and those who went to the police station accounted for 4 (25%) of the children.

Reporting the case, immediacy of reporting, and duration of the abuse have been compared between children who were forced against those who were 'influenced' using different means to involve into sexual relation. With regards to reporting the incidence, of the children who experienced force or coercion 85.7% have reported the case and out of them 83.3% reported in less than a week. In comparison, only 55.6% of the children who were sexually abused having been tempted or through inducement reported the case and only 40% of them reported in less than a week. The most (50.0%) compelling reasons for the delay were fear of harm by perpetrators, 16.7% felt shame about it, and 25.0% of the children felt that it might be normal behavior.

Regarding the difference on the duration of abuse, out of 14 children who reported to have been forced, 6 (42.9%) responded that the abuse happened only once, 6 (42.9%) for less than a month, 2 (14.2%) six months and above. On the other hand from the 7 children who reported to have been abused using different means of enticement, 33.3% reported that the abuse took place for less than a month, 22.2% for about one year and 33.3% for above one year.

Table 15. Actions taken by parents (more than one answer is possible)

Actions taken by parents	Rank	Frequency
Reported the case to the police	1	14
Took the child for medication	2	12
Warned the abused child not to reveal to the public	3	5
Revenged the abuser	4	4
Nothing	5	2

Actions taken by parents or guardians were sequentially rated by giving number one for the first action, two for the second, and the like. There were 14 responses who rated that parents or guardians first reported the case to the Police and 12 responses showed that after reporting to the police, children were referred for medical check ups. The third higher frequency of response (5) showed that parents or guardians warned the abused children not to disclose the case to anyone in the neighborhood. The fourth ranking frequency of response (4) showed that parents or guardians of the abused children revenged the abusers. And the last response in the raw showed that no reaction was observed on the part of the abused child's parents.

Impact (life changes) of the sexual abuse on children

Table 16. Impact of the sexual abuse on children

A/ Change in educational performance of children

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Remained the same	12	57.1	57.1
Reduced	3	14.3	71.4
Dropped out of school	2	9.5	81.0
Others	4	19.0	100
Total	21	100	

B/ Change in health condition of abused children

Health condition	Frequency	Percent
No health problem	6	28.6
Health situation deteriorated	15	71.4
Total	21	100.0

The responses regarding changes in the children's educational performance and health condition are revealed on Table 16A&B. It showed that the educational performance of 57.1% of the abused children was not impacted, 14.3% have reduced in their educational performance, 9.5% dropped out of school while the rest 19% were not in school at the time when the sexual abuse had happened to them. On the other hand 71.4% of the children reported to have experienced different levels of health problems.

Table 17. Change in interaction with family members after the abuse

Change in interaction	Frequency	Percent
Not applicable	4	19.0
Reduced	7	33.3
Remained the same	7	33.3
Strengthened	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

Interaction of children with family members reduced for 33.3% of the cases while for the same rate of respondents, it remained the same. Those who said it has relatively strengthened accounted for 14.3% of the responses. Children have stated that parents or guardians have tended to be more caring after the abuse had happened to children.

Table 18. Change of interaction with friends after the abuse

Change in interaction with friends	Frequency	Percent
Don't want to interact with them	3	14.3
Only some times interact with them	1	4.8
Would like to be alone	3	14.3
Would like to have new friends	2	9.5
There isn't change in interaction	11	52.4
Don't know	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

Regarding their own interaction with friends, 14.3% do not want to interact with friend as before, 14.3% would like to be alone and 9.5 % would like to have new friends. The responses for majority 11(52.4%) of the sexually abused children was that they don't have change in their interaction with friends.

Table 19. Perception about their friends' interaction with them

How do friends interact with you after the abuse?	Frequency	Percent
Same as before	14	66.7
Became distant	6	28.5
Don't know	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

On the perception of the children about how their friends interact with them 66.7% have the feeling that the interaction is same as before and the major reason mentioned is that most of their friends do not have the knowledge about the incidence, 28.5% felt that the interaction of their friends has reduced than was before.

Table 20. Current sexual practice of abused children

Sexual practice	Frequency	Percent
Abstinence	18	85.7
Heterosexual	1	4.8
Homosexual	2	9.5
Total	21	100.0

Table 20 refers to the current sexual practice of children and the responses showed 85.7% abstinence. Given the age of abused children, majority of whom were below the age of 14, the responses seem obvious. There is also similar response about the influence of the abuse

on the current sexual practice of subjects of this study where 57.2% (12) of the children do not have change in their sexual practice, and 5(23.8%) responded to have been influenced.

Children were also asked how they perceive awareness of the community about sexual abuse of children in general and that of male children in particular. In addition, there was a question pertaining to their awareness about the rights of children.

The responses indicated that 57.1% of the children have the perception that community members are aware about child sexual abuse while the responses for 42.9% were "I don't know". When referring particularly on community awareness about male children sexual abuse, 9.5% said yes they know, 38.5% have the perception that people don't know about it, and majority of the children 11 (52.4%) couldn't guess as to whether the community members know or don't know about it.

Out of the children requested, 33.3% had knowledge about child rights at the time of the abuse and 66.7% lacked awareness about child rights.

Qualitative Results

Case 1

Egegayehu¹ is 14 years old and lives on the street sheltered around Bistrate Gebirel Church, Mekanisa area. He was born in Amhara National Regional State specifically Gojam Finoteselam district. I found him around Nefas Silk Lafto Kifleketema with the support of CPU workers and voluntarily shared his case.

My mother died four years ago and I lived with my father, step mother and a younger brother. I never had formal or informal education. The livelihood of our family was based on the income generated by leasing my father's land on annual basis. My step mother is a housewife and my brother a child of four years old.

¹ All names given to the cases are fictitious to keep confidentiality of the interviewee

My father is a blind man who lost his sight having been beaten by individuals who had serious conflict over properties. It so happened that one day they ambushed my father and beaten him to death but fortunately his life was rescued by people who were passing by that road. However, he was severely hurt and lost both of his eyes.

My major task was to guide my father to every where; like to the church, weddings, funeral ceremonies, to the neighbors. I don't have any problem with my family members and my relationship with the step mother was also very smooth.

[The following was his response about the reason for traveling to Addis]:

While I was guiding my father, I noticed that many children in our locality traveling to Addis Ababa in search of job and when they come back after staying for certain period, they buy new clothes, oxen, grain and other items for their families. The children are blessed by their community members and neighbors for supporting their parents. Hence, I was tempted to financially support my father and the family, and decided to go to Addis Ababa like the children in our district.

One bright morning, I decided to make my dream of helping my father a reality and before he woke up, left the village and went to Finoteselam where I can get vehicle that will take me to Addis. On arrival to Finoteselam, I stepped on a cross country bus and asked a passenger who was an adult woman to pay the transportation cost for me by convincing her that I am going to see relatives in Addis. That was how I succeeded to come to Addis.

[When he explained his life in Addis Ababa]

The lady dropped me around a place called, Total and there was no any one to receive whom I know. I continuously cried and was not even aware how to ask help from the passers by. At this moment, a small boy came and asked

me why I am crying and I told him that I am just arriving from Gojam and doesn't know where to go. The boy was sympathetic about my problem and took me to Bistrate Gebriel Church where he is living as a street child, and promised me to provide the necessary support as far as we are together. The street child was originally from Wollo who came to Addis a couple of months before. Until the date of this interview, we live together by begging, and some times carrying goods for individuals. We sleep under the shade of a wooden fence in front of the church. I couldn't find job or income as I expected when I left from my birth place.

I have now friends on the street and there are some others who usually give me some tasks to perform and get small payments. I feel my friend is like biological brother, he is more active than I am in many instances I rely on him to win daily bread.

[How did the sexual offense happen to you?]

That very day, a friend who is working as Weyalla (assistant to taxi driver), invited me to pass the night at their home located around Mekanisa. He lives with his mother. I accepted the invitation and as we were going to my friend's living place, it is around 10:00pm in the evening; three young men came and forced us to go to Mekanisa River. They intimidated, beat and hurt us violently. When arriving at the side of the river near the bridge, they ordered us to takeoff our clothes. At that time I was thinking that they are going to kill and throw us in the river. In the mean time as they continued inflicting repeated physical violence on us, my friend screamed loud and suddenly run away and disappeared from their sight. They returned and did group anal sex to me. They ordered me to bend and when one of them performed anal sex the other one ordered me to suck his penis. They raped me turn by turn until 2:00am. When they get satisfied, two of them went to swim in the river while one was holding me. At about 2:00am my friend who

has escaped earlier came with armed police men and surrounded the place. The police men fired bullets and caught two of them while one of the abuser escaped. The prosecutor brought them to the court and they are recently sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment.

The sexual abuse had happened to me only once but I can not forget it through out my life. They beat me hard, inflicted physical hurt on me and was threatened with a knife. At first, what came to my mind was they are going to kill and throw me in the river and never had any idea about sexual offense against male person.

[He explained the consequences of the abuse in the following way].

Although I had medication with the help of the police, immediately after the abuse, for some time I had pain while walking and was bleeding during excretion, and was hurt on my back by perpetrators' beatings. But now, I am fine and do not have any problem of health.

Moments of the incidence are embarrassing and some times I hate myself. "I wish I could die (he couldn't control his emotion and tears came out of his eyes). Even today, I think of dying when the abuse comes to my memory. I couldn't forget it completely (a feeling of flashback is observed on his face). I would like the perpetrators to die, too".

I am male but sexually abused like a female. I didn't come to Addis to abandon my father rather it was to get money and help him. I wouldn't have been sexually abused and faced such problem, had I not been cursed by my father. My future is dark. I shouldn't have left him without his consent. I always feel guilty for that. Besides, I couldn't forget the sexual abuse; when thinking about my father, it comes to my mind and makes me sick. Some times street children in our area insult me saying that "you are bushti go away from us".

When I tried to share my problems with my friend, he also starts weeping. I think he has difficult time after he lost his mother to death and always cry when thinking that. Hence, I prefer not to share such issues with him.

Case 2

Abebe is a 23 year old young man who was sexually abused at the age of 13. He is an orphan who lost his parents at the age of 11 and lived for some time in the street. He was taken to the orphanage with his perpetrator and lived there for about five years. I got him with the support of bright children voluntary association and his interview is presented verbatim.

[Tell me about your background history?]

I was born in Negelle borena in Oromia Regional State. My father was serving at the Southern Regiment of the Military and lived in the Camps. My mother was a house wife. We were four in the household; myself, my elder brother and our parents.

I grew up like any other children of the military people in a strict and regimented family. I have attended school up to grade 5 at my birth place. The family was dependent on the income of our father for its livelihood.

As a military man my father believed in the strict disciplining of children and punishment was exercised through beatings, physical and verbal abuse of children. We don't have the freedom to talk with our parents as children, even our mother had no right to equally participate in the family affair with our father. He was dominant and suppressive father in the family. He strictly controls us at home but doesn't follow our situation outside. There was no follow up about our school attendance and study. Since we were living in the military camp most families exercised such type of child upbringing. I don't remember causes of conflicts in the family but it was there and the dominant figure was our father in all the quarrels. I was mostly close to my mother in the family.

At the age of eleven my parents died in a few months difference and the two children left with out any guardian. While my brother remained in Negelle, I traveled to Addis Ababa by Truck hoping to get better life opportunity there.

When I arrived in Addis, there was no one to care for me and hence ended up living on the street. I lived on the street for about four years and heard that there is an organization that helps street children through organizing them into Theatre club. I joined Adugna Theater and circus club where I receive the training for about two months. I have assisted the club by recruiting street children to be part of the project.

After the training was completed, the trainers organized a show where many guests were invited to see the performance. We did well. Some of the guests were foreigners and some of them were very much impressed by the message of the theatre show and were weeping.

However, after we completed the training from Adugna Theatre club, we hadn't any one to immediately support us particularly those of us who were not selected to continue in the dance club. Therefore, there was a foreigner who was invited to the show who was heading an orphanage by then. I heard about this person and two of us asked him to help us since both of us have lost our parents to death. He was willing to support us and gave us an appointment to come to his home around Megenagna/Lamberet the next day. The next morning I and my friend went to Megenagna/Lamberet as per our appointment and a small boy came and took us to the person's residence following our telephone call to him.

The person welcomed us at his home and gave us two towels to take bathe. I was the first to take a bathe with his assistance. Then he took me to his bedroom and massaged my body using different kinds of lotions that

made me relaxed and my body was stretched. He gave me a drink, chocolate and sweet candy very small one like a tablet. After that I was not conscious how my interest was aroused to sex and he started sucking my erected penis, kissed me on my neck and ears. Then he inserted his penis in my anus and made sex. In the afternoon, he did the same thing to the other boy and instructed us to freely enjoy life with him at his home. Our sexual relationship continued with him and lived in Addis for one year. He doesn't use any physical force but gives us excessive care and affection. The type of sex we were experiencing with him was anal sex and sucking his penis.

[What was your reaction the first time when the person sexually abused you?]

The first day I was confused and was not aware what to do about it. If I left him, street life is waiting for me so preferred to keep silent. Through out the year, I was provided with every thing I needed; food, clothing. In fact, I had neither any one to share with my feelings at that time nor other options to choose from. As a young person I had lack of knowledge and awareness about the implications of the abuse on my health and on the societal values.

[What is your current feeling about the first instance of sexual abuse?]

I don't want to remember it I had relatively good time. But after I knew that I am sexually abused and it is socially unacceptable, I was among the first abused children to openly disclose the situation and to bring the case to the court. But the law seems in favor of the perpetrators. Much hadn't happened to them.

What worried me more was the way officials at the orphanage treated us. One of the person, he is an Ethiopian, who works in the administration had tried to influence me to give up the case. I remember his words that "Shimeles why are you so much aggressive about it, it has once happened, if you withdraw from the case, he can send you abroad". This statement of an Ethiopian made me mad and wanted to kill him. One day I went to his

workplace with a big knife but couldn't find him. Then I wanted to revenge by abusing his child who was about 7 years old at that time. I bought different kinds of candies and chocolates and went to the school where the child was learning and gave him the candies to create intimacy with the child. Next time I did the same thing and meanwhile when I came to my conscious started asking myself that this innocent child didn't create any harm to me and he doesn't know even about the matter, so why should I revenge him because of his father's fault? Then I decided not to see the child again and withdrew from it.

Finally the management members heard about my intention to harm the person and at an extraordinary meeting decided to discharge me from the orphanage. Usually they give about nine thousand birr when children are discharged for whatever reason but I signed on 9000 and they paid me only one thousand five hundred.

[Tell me about your current sexual life?]

I used to be homosexual but now have female girl friend. I have told her all my past history and hence she is very much supportive to me. I can make sex with her but my interest is not that much strong while making sex with a woman. However, I somehow try to come back to normal life like any man in the society. Still I have the feeling and the interest to practice anal sex. The internal interest and inclination is not yet avoided.

[What is most important in your life now?]

To form a family and lead stable life is the most valued thing in my life.

[What is the most challenging experience you had in your life after the sexual abuse?]

The way I am living to day is the most challenging experience. I live by working as a broker for employment of house maids, sales and rent of houses. This is not a successful business in most of the times and don't get

enough for my survival. As homosexual, I had also difficulties of life while working on the street. Some times you get a person who picks you and some times you don't, and your livelihood is based on that. The alcohol, cigarette and other drugs also hurt you physically and you only remember that the next morning. This was the time that I usually get depressed and felt hopeless and useless in the society. You develop hatred to yourself as a person and life becomes meaningless.

[Do you think people know about male sexual abuse in the society?]

I don't think they know. There is no information source and public education for the majority of the people.

[What is your comment about the prevalence of sexual abuse of male children in the society?]

These days, the problem is expanding at an alarming rate. There are a lot of people or adults who practice sex with male particularly they prefer young children. There are three kinds of sex practices to day. The first is homosexuals who practice sex with adults or with grown up youth. The second are pedophiles. They are chasing after small children and there are brokers in the city who contact these people and facilitate the provision of children. The third ones are lesbians and they are also increasing in number though I can not tell the extent. Therefore, all these indicators imply the expansion of sexual abuse of male children.

This issue should be handled by educating the public and creating awareness about the problem.

[How do you value the environment in view of supporting abused children (the family, peers, neighbors, communities, and the police...)?]

In the first place there is no possibility of talking about the issue in public. When you get abused, you don't share it with others because of the fact that

it is taboo and you fear stigma and discrimination. Parents do not also teach their children to know about this problem thinking that it doesn't exist in this country, which is completely wrong perception. Therefore, the environment doesn't support you rather the abused person feels that it is stigmatizing and frightening. The police helps you to take the case to the court but not that much supportive to the child since the police and the judges have different perspectives to the crime.

[What is your personal vision of the future?]

I would like to get married, have family and lead happy life.

Case 3

Tekalign is a young man who grew up at the former children's Amba and currently lives as daily laborer tourist guide. He was sexually abused in the residential care system by one of the employee and the abuse lasted for long periods. Again the interview made with him is transcribed as follows.

[Tell me about your background history?]

I was born in 1984 in Bale administrative region. It was my God father who brought me to Addis Ababa having been promised to provide formal education. I stayed with him for five years. He cared for me like his own biological child but unfortunately he died because of car accident. The economic capacity of his wife couldn't support her two children and myself and I had to support the family by working on the street. Besides, our relationship couldn't continue as before and I had to work for myself and live on the street around Addis Ketema. One day in the middle of the night police men came and captured all the children who were sleeping on the street and took us to Tatek Tor Sefer. I was about 9 years old at that time. After staying one week at Tatek Tor Sefer they took us to children Amba where I lived there for about seven years.

[How was the life situation in the orphanage?]

I grew up in the orphanage that has relatively complete facilities like accommodation, food, health, clothing and educational services. We lived in dormitory life style. One father figure has been assigned for each dormitory who acts as a father to the children and who make follow up about everything regarding that specific dormitory and the orphans assigned there.

[When explaining about how he was sexually abused, he has to say that,]

There was a person who was assigned to take care of children in the village known as Ogaden where I was living. The person was very kind and he brings many gifts like candy, orange and when he went to Zuway or Addis Ababa. He doesn't use force to discipline children unlike other care takers and all of us like him very much. He has special affection to me. One day when he came from vacation, he brought me T-shirt, and Cake and invited me to come to his home to have supper together. He has wife and children but they are not living with him at Amba but they are in Addis Ababa. After taking meal, he invited me to drink beer but I refused to take because I never had alcohol before. Then he put pornographic film in the deck and we started watching sex film. He started fondling my body, kissing around my ear and patting on my bottom. Then put off his cloth and showed me his erected penis and asked me to take off my cloth also. When I said no he put off my trousers and started touching my penis and aroused my feelings. That was how he ordered me to put it into his anus and he also did that to me on his turn. I was warned no to tell to any one and we continued doing sex for about a year and half. When I was expelled from Amba due to disciplinary measures, I involved into commercial sex work lacking other means of survival.

[Tell me more about your current sexual life and your customers?]

As commercial sex worker, I look for people who are homosexuals. I know the place where I can find such people and easily identify them. We can easily communicate and understand each other.

[He explained the way he meets customers that]

When they come, such people scan the environment and their eyes look around. I show them signs with my eyes or forehead. Some of them directly come and ask me " gay? " and I respond yes. Some of them directly ask me to stay together and have a drink. Then I step into their car and go to drinking places if we pass the night together or if it is for a short contact they take me to the place where we do sex.

[Tekalign has also commented on the prevalence of sexual abuse of male children by saying that,]

I have the feeling that it is increasing. My feeling is based on the fact that, unlike the previous times you can observe many homosexuals in the city. I also feel that parents do not understand their children. The new generation has a different dimension of thinking which parents are not aware about it. Unless parents make follow up how their children pass their time and established continuous communication with them, it is difficult to know what the children face in the school, neighborhood and in the surrounding. Due to the spread of watching pornographic films, immature children are exposed to sexual acts not appropriate to their age. They could be easily attracted by taking it as adventure.

[His feelings about his current status and the health situation was described]

When I get acute shortage of money, I don't have option other than looking for customers. Since I have continuous itching on my rectum I also need to have sex and for that moment get pleasure. But next morning, I feel empty and worthlessness. Life is monotonous and I find myself in the same place all the time. I don't see any way out for the moment.

Case 4.

Kelemework is a young boy who is now 22 and lives with his uncle. He has been put to the remand home twice because of repeated conflicts with his grand mother at home. It was his grand mother who first took him to the police hoping that his behavior will be improved at the remand home. He was first abused at the age of 14 and he explains how the sexual abuse took place and its aftermath in his own words.

After I was released from remand home still I had difficulties with my grand mother and there was nowhere to go except to the street. I was sleeping around St. Kirkos Church and at around 1:30 am in the evening, amidst of deep sleep, I felt hard in my anus and somebody was doing sex to me. The person was very heavy and I couldn't throw him out of me and he had knife in his hand. When he is finished he threatened to kill me if I shouted and then repeatedly abused me. I didn't come to that place after that day but became sick and encountered difficulties during walking. I was bleeding during defecating and suffered a lot.

After I changed the place, while I was living peacefully around Hotel De-Afrique and Black lion hospital area, same problem happened to me by two persons but that day I was able to escape and shout. Police men came and arrested the abusers. Despite this situation I eventually developed the interest of making sex with male. That was how my life as gay started. My sexual interest inclined towards men instead of women. I didn't get medical treatment that cures my anus from itching. I need people to do me

sex so that I can get relief. Therefore, in order to get relief, I deliberately look for homosexuals to do me sex. I wouldn't hesitate to pay them for that when I am desperately in need. I have not practiced sex with woman and do not have interest to women at all.

[When explaining about his feelings as abused child and now as youth gay],

For my survival, I practice homosexuality and, in fact, enjoy it while doing sex. First we drink alcohol and then make sex for money. In my particular case, even if they don't give me money I am willing to offer my self for free. My interest easily arouses when I see them. But the next morning, I feel weak, hopeless, and helpless and feel bad about myself.

[The next question asked was why do you feel bad about yourself if you enjoy your sexual behavior?] And he explained that,

What makes you happy for the moment does not always please you, particularly may not give you mental satisfaction. A person who raped a small boy or a girl can enjoy it at that particular moment and can satisfy his sexual desires but may not be mentally happy after his act. Because, there are different factors that determine your happiness in life and I usually think about those moments. In this country, homosexuals are not accepted by law, the society denounces the act, you can not think about forming a family, having children...and so forth. Besides, I don't see possibilities to get appropriate medical treatment to get cured from my health problem and to have faith as a person, no religion accepts you as homosexual. All these things lead me to depression, hopelessness and feeling of bad or guilty about myself.

[He commented about the prevalence of male children sexual abuse that..]

I can safely say that it is increasing day-by-day. There are people who hunt for young male children for sex and this happens on the street, at schools, and with the help of brokers. Those abused children can also become abusers and it goes on and on as long as the denial continued and something is not done. I guess most families will experience it like HIV/AIDS and they will learn the hard way. It will knock the doors of every family in the near future. The factors that contribute to the expansion are people have denied admitting its prevalence and have failed to teach their children.

The qualitative data obtained from abused children who are now young adults at early 20s have revealed that the children grew up in single parent families or they are orphans. The abusive behavior of perpetrators was strange for them and never heard of male person having sexual relationship with male. The information also points out that particularly children with out adequate support and guidance of guardian are exposed to sexual abuse.

The sexual abuse in early childhood was found to have contributed towards shaping the sexual behavior of the children despite the economic factor that has put pressure on interviewee to engage in commercial sex work.

The psychosocial impacts seem to be serious for the abused children. Out of four interviewees, three of them are gay and reported that they enjoy their sexual partnership with men. However, all of them are worried about the attitude of the public which disapproves such sexual behavior. Even the interviewee who reported to have enjoyed having sex with male customers has lower self-concept and has the feeling of depression and worthlessness. They have perceived society non responsive partly due to lack of awareness and because of the impacts of tradition and culture that didn't encourage people to think concurrent with the changing behavior of individuals in the society.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Reported cases for two years (2005 & 2006) have revealed the existence of child sexual abuse in Addis Ababa. FSCE has defined sexual offense against children in terms of four concepts namely rape, unnatural carnal offence, sexual outrage, and attempted rape. The definition generally falls within the scope of definition given in this study and it is worth using the data for our discussion.

Reported cases to the ten kifle ketema's CPUs were 322 and 350 children for 2005 and 2006 respectively. The rate of prevalence for boys then was 15.8% for 2005 and 13.4% for 2006. The average prevalence of boy victims is about 15% of the total cases for the two years. The age distribution of victim boys ranges from 5-18 years. Except the difference in the frequency, it is found out that children of all ages are vulnerable to sexual abuse and sexual abuse is prevalent in all the sub-cities of Addis Ababa.

Background of families of abused children

Significant numbers of the abused children come from single parent families (33.4%) and majority (52.4%) of the remaining children live with grand parents. The qualitative data finding also revealed that three of the respondents were orphans while one was a street child who came from Amhara region in search of a job.

The other variable was the housing situation of families of children. This variable was taken with the assumption that the living arrangements and the availability of enough space at home could be one of the factors that limit the privacy of individuals at home. If male and female children or parents and children sleep and live in congested settings and shared the

same bed, the situation could tempt the abusers to commit sexual offence or incest. The result of this study about abused boys however didn't confirm to this assumption. However, majority (57.1%) of the families living in two and less number of rooms implies the residential situation may be an important variable. This has been further supported through observation of the homes of children during conducting the interview. The houses of abused children's families are by and large made up of wood and corrugated iron sheets and the neighborhood set up is congested in some instance about five to six families living in one compound owned by the Kebele.

Majority of the families can be categorized in low income groups falling below monthly income of less than Birr 400.00. The average family size on the other hand was found to be about six persons. The livelihood of the families is based on informal sector engagements such as petty trading, working in the garage, and daily labor.

On the other hand, although the issue of child participation in family affairs seems second thought to the research question of this study, it is worth noting some important aspects that might have influence on the responsiveness of parents to the child's needs and about providing standard guidance and control to children.

Communication among family members was assessed as a factor of relationship among members and children have responded that they are not encouraged to participate in family affairs. Particularly discussion on matters pertaining to adolescent sexual behavior that come due to the biological growth and development of children is not the subject of discussion in the abused children's families. Most of the responses (61.9) have confirmed that parents or guardians do not encourage children to openly discuss issues that are either common concern to family members or about individuals.

Children who reported that their parents are authoritative (33.4%) expressed that parents are responsive to their needs but are controlling. Among those who related the parenting style of their families as authoritarian indicated that what ever they said is correct and they don't have rooms to accommodate the opinions of children. They use excessive force for disciplining children. Many researchers also agree that authoritarian parents are characterized by seeking obedience from their children and their orders have to be accepted without explanation. In such types of families communication between children and parents or guardians will not be smooth and the relationship becomes distant. Children from neglecting parents took 14.3% of the responses in this study and such type of parents are very low performing both in terms of guiding their children, responding to the needs of the children and demanding from children to behave normal as defined by the family and the larger society.

Positive outcomes for children in relationship building, social interaction and educational performance are affected by the kind of parenting and level of support parents are giving to children. This point is therefore, raised to show the level of intimacy and interaction that children have with parents or guardian and this is reflected on the extent of children's openness to report cases of abuse to parents. The following statement is taken about the parenting practice of most families from the focus group discussion we had.

Parents exercise control and coercion on children to do what ever they are ordered by adults. Children do not have the right to ask explanation for what ever their parents do and obedience is appreciated even by the larger society. Since children are considered as immature and incapable of contributing ideas and opinion in family affairs, parents never have the courage to share what ever they have to them. Discussing sexual behavior even if the child is adolescent is considered taboo and hence parents fail to educate and prepare their children for successful sexual life as a young person. The method of disciplining children is through beatings and hence children are beaten at home, in school, in the neighborhood and are not motivated to openly share their problems with adults.

Who are the perpetrators?

The high rate of perpetrators are neighbors (57.1%), and it is found out that children are vulnerable to sexual abuse wherever they are be it on the street, in the neighborhood, at home, in the orphanage or correctional centers. Hence, children can be sexually abused by people whom they closely know and by whom they don't know. In addition, what is more interesting in the result of this study is perpetrators are children who are below the age of 19 for 47.6% of the cases, and out of them 60% are students. This result is almost similar with the one extracted from FSCE data in which neighbors were 31.9% of the perpetrators, unknown individuals 45%, and children of 18 years old and below 34.7%.

Adults and young people above 19years old who committed sexual abuse on boys are 52.4% and the data from FSCE goes as high as 79.2% for adult perpetrators. The question then comes that are the adult perpetrators pedophiles or pederasty? It is very difficult to conclude from this data. First the population of abused children is limited to reported cases to the ten sub-cities of Addis Ababa and due to social, cultural and individual factors and the complexity of the problems in the context of our society, sexual abuse of male children is under reported. Hence, the cases identified in the police station may not show the full picture of abused children and particularly it may not have clear understanding on the behavior and sexual orientation of perpetrators. Second, this study by and large describes the characteristics of abused children and perpetrators based on the information directly collected from the field and from unpublished data but has limitation regarding the behavior and sexual motives of perpetrators.

The qualitative results obtained from focus group discussions have showed that there are adult perpetrators who are recidivists and repeatedly imprisoned by committing criminal acts; other than sexual abuse. According to the discussion results, these perpetrators have either been themselves abused in the correctional centers or exercised homosexual behavior. The other important point is a child who was abused has been seen practicing anal sex on a younger child, according to the qualitative data findings.

One day a lady in the neighborhood saw a child who is about 14 years old doing anal sex with another child and she was upset and passed by. Another day the same woman saw this child doing the same thing to another child and this time she reported the case to the kebele. Kebele guards took the child to the nearest police station for investigation and CPU workers and police officers in the CPU investigated the case and understood that the child himself was abused for about four years. A person who used to live in the neighborhood abused the child since his tenth year and now when that individual left the area to another part of the city the child couldn't find someone who can do sex to him and started abusing other children (FGD participant police officer).

The discussion has come up with the result that there are individuals in the community who love doing sex with children who can be seen as pedophiles. However, it has to be further investigated whether these individuals have sexual fixation with children or if they have memories of emotional crisis that relegates them to involve in the act. On the other hand doing sex with children does not by itself show the sexual orientation of the individuals which encompasses the individual's preference for partners of the same sex, opposite sex, or both sexes not only for sexual but also for affect ional relations (Sheafor, 1998)

In the current survey, about 58% of perpetrators are addicted to alcohol and pornographic films and 25% have involved in using substance abuse that includes Chat/Kat. On the other hand data from FSCE showed that the relatively higher prevalence is addiction to Chat/kat and alcohol while 50% of the perpetrators do not have addiction.

The sexual abuse has involved anal insertion to all of the children included in this study and some of them have experienced other forms of abuses such as kissing and touching genital parts, molestation and rape, and oral sex and watching pornographic films. The focus group discussion participants strongly believe that the highest contribution that exposes children to sexual abuse is the love to films and those films are not appropriate to their ages and level of mental development.

Use of physical force is among the key features of perpetrators in this study. Adult perpetrators and young offenders use different forms of physical force, intimidation and threats on children to make them submissive and obedient so that they can do sex to them. Children who suffered force constituted about 66% percent of the study subjects and out of those who reported, most of them were coerced by physical force (71.4%) such as using knife and some times sever beatings. This was one of the reasons why some of the children (50% of those who reported late) were experiencing repeated abuse before any other person knew about the situation. It is also possible to conclude that children who experienced physical force most likely experience verbal pressure and intimidation or threat. By and large children who reported the case immediately and who had only one time sexual abuse are 33.3% while the rest had repeated rate of abuses which has its own implication on the social and psychological well being of the children.

Some parents were reluctant to accept even when the abused child reported the situation rather become reactive or warn the child not to talk about such shameful things. A case in point is a 10 years old child who directly went to the police station and reported the case when his mother failed to trust him.

I know the individual who abused me before. He works at the near by garage and live close to our home. He asked me to buy cigarettes for him and I did. When I came to give him the cigarette, he forcefully strangulated me, showed me knife and warned me that if I shouted, I will risk my life. Then he ordered me to bend on a bed he did anal sex to me. Before I left he gave me a warning by saying that "if you tell any one I will kill you with this knife". However, I immediately went home and told to my mother every thing that happened to me. She couldn't believe it rather warned me not to talk such things anymore. When I knew that my mother is not doing anything about it, I directly went to the police and told them what happened. They saw a symptom of semen on my anus. That was how the perpetrator was brought to the court.

This child is a living witness about the extent of responsiveness of parents to the children even when children tried to report the situation. The reasons for parents' silence are attributed to fear of stigma and discrimination. The deep rooted culture and norms that shaped their understanding of sex in terms of heterosexuality coupled with lack of awareness about male sexual partnership are also part of the reasons why parents feel shame to accept and report the case.

Impacts or Life changes of the abuse on children:

The educational performance of abused children is interrupted during the first reporting time to the police, while they repeatedly go to the court for the litigation and during medical follow up. Some of them (14.3%) reported to have decreased in their educational performance because of missing classes. A deteriorated health situation of children was reported due to the sexual abuse such as bleeding during excretion, pain, itching and feeling of uncomfortable while walking. Since most of the children come from low income families the health problem of children has created strain on their meager resources and hence they have resorted to seek the financial support of NGO projects. It is also found that it takes about a week or more for the children to get medical treatment due to lack of money for medication.

The life change of the abuse on children is also captured by qualitative means while the quantitative data has also produced indicators like reduced interaction of abused children with friends and preference to be alone or interest to change friends.

Impacts are noticed pertaining to the interaction of children with families, friends and their perception about others. Responses like don't want to interact with friends, would like to be alone, and would like to have new friends are indicative of the fact that there is a feeling of loneliness, depression and anxiety on victim children. The social impacts of the sexual abuse on male children can be understood from the responses of qualitative data. The street child who came from Gojam to seek job and support his father and who was sexually abused at 10:00pm in the evening near Mekanisa River by a group of three persons has to say the following for the question; how do you feel when you think of the sexual abuse today?

.....At first, what came to my mind was they are going to kill and throw me to the river and never had any idea about sexual offense against male person.I am male but they did sex to me like a female. I didn't come to Addis to abandon my father rather it was to get money and help him. I wouldn't have been sexually abused and faced such shameful problem, had I not been cursed by my father. My future is dark. I shouldn't have left him without his consent. I always feel guilty for that. I couldn't forget the abuse. When thinking about my father, the abuse comes to my mind and makes me sick. Some times street children insult me by saying "bushti"².

It is clear to understand from his statement that the child didn't suspect sexual abuse even when they took him to the forest and ordered him to takeoff his clothes. The environment in which he grew up, the tradition and culture of the community is not conscious of sexual partnership between men. It was a shock for him. The child was continuously weeping during the interview in a feeling of helplessness, vulnerability, loss of safety and powerlessness. The social circumstances and

² Bushti: stigmatizing word used to refer to men who do sexual intercourse with men

associated family situation interwoven with his current life situation have put him in a traumatic crisis situation and severely affected his inner feelings.

The relationship factor has been addressed in an interview with a young adult who was abused at the age of 12 but now a 23 years old young adult commercial sex worker. *"... I don't have many friends out side of the circle of homosexuals and I don't feel comfortable to associate with heterosexuals. Even if I want to entertain by taking tea or other drinks, there are specific places like where we usually meet"*. The response of the interviewee leads us to the understanding that specific places are emerging where sexual victims meet and identify themselves with specific groups.

In addition to this, the relationship of children to other children, and to the society changes because of the abuse. The results from key informants have depicted that some parents are found to move the abused children to a new place of living. Hence they have to look for new friends and adapt to new family and environment.

Functionality of the social system

The social change influence on the structure of the family has significant contribution for its failure or success to provide proper care and direction to children. Urban life has tended to nuclear family unit unlike the previous extended family system. Pertaining to the change in the family structure, another important finding is that most of the children in this study come from single parent families (not married 4.8%, separated 4.8%, divorced 19%) and from families headed by grand parents or other guardians (52,4%). Such influences also prevail in other societies and bring about change in the structure of the family as the typical two-parent

family of a generation ago has been replaced by an increasingly high percentage of single-parent families (Lawrence, 1999)".

Besides, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and the death of many parents to AIDS have contributed to the change in the structure of the family by increasing the number of single parent families. Consequently the number of orphan children who live with grand parents and guardian has increased adding to the vulnerability of children to different forms of abuse including sexual abuse due to lack of support and guidance (SC/USA, 2006). Children in such type of families, particularly those with economic constraints as one major factor, lack adequate services like education, health and life skills.

The other change in the social system includes the influence of foreign culture. Children are attracted to video films particularly pornographic films and tend to practice sex as they see it in the films. Parents couldn't control the situation as video houses are income generation for the livelihood of some families. Besides the traditional social tie, norms and religions are considered intact in this country and people get difficulties to accept the prevalence of sexual abuse on boys. However, there are evidences about individuals who have strong attachment with religions but involved in sexual abuse of children. An individual who raped four boys at the neighborhood was a young man who is engaged in religious services at one of the nearby church. Parents trusted him because of his religious personality. The issues raised above indicate that the social system, tradition, religion and the environment in general have difficulties to discharge their responsibilities of imparting norms and standards that shapes the behavior of individuals in the society. The changes in their structure have also affected the traditional role of the systems in shaping the future of children.

Another important issue identified was abused children's perception of public awareness about sexual abuses of boys; the children call it "denial of society on the existence of male children sexual abuse and homosexuals". One of the in-depth interview participants said that;

I feel that sexual abuse of male children is increasing from time to time although not reported. Some times parents do not have the gut to report the case and prefer to keep silent. Others do not accept the existence of the problem and prefer to close their eyes and mouth and simply denounce it in the pretext of religion. Originally it was the same for HIV/AIDS but later on when the virus knocked the doors of everyone, people started crying for help and the government forcefully began responding, the media pronouncing the pandemic. I believe, the same thing will happen to the case of male children sexual abuse. People will learn the hard way and will wakeup when their doors are knocked (young man sexually abused at childhood)".

The abused children further blame the government, media and community members for their failure to acknowledge the problems and to participate in seeking support to the abused children.

Legal provisions and available services for abused children:

The constitution of Ethiopia has incorporated international standards in the field of human rights and in its article 36 a specific reference to the rights of children enshrined in the convention on the rights of the child. This is one of the major political commitments of the government to improve the situation of children.

However, we are still far from adherence to the principles of the best interest of the child, respect for the child's views, and the child's participation in family, social and school life. There is lack of mechanism for the collection of consistent, adequate and reliable qualitative and quantitative data.

The revised criminal code under Article 631 has categorized minors into two age groups; those between 13-18 years and below age 13. The punishment level varies depending upon the age difference of the children on whom the homosexual act is committed. Further to that the Penal Code has promoted rehabilitative measures on young offenders to be treated differently from adults such as community services and provision of advice and institutional custody was the last resort for serious offences (FSCE, 2004).

Given this situation, young offenders had to pass through the ordinary criminal investigation procedure and detained with adult criminals until the Child Protection Unit was established in collaboration with Police Commissions. The establishment of a court system where children are separately treated from adults is another achievement while the management of cases is still cumbersome.

The implementation of the provisions in the Penal Code is worth noting. The qualitative data obtained from FGD has clearly showed that despite the availability of the system for separate trial of the cases of child sexual abuse, there is shortage of manpower at the police stations, lengthy trials which takes more than a year for some cases, and frequent postponements. The Polices assigned at the CPU have indicated that there are withdrawals at any level of the trial process by parents or guardians of abused children.

It came out of the discussion that despite the relative improvements in the number of reported cases and the presence of CPU, and separate court for the children, the training given to enforcement officials, judicial personnel, medical personnel and teachers is inadequate.

This situation is aggravated by hospital reports about the abused male children. "... the medical reports about abused boys do not support the abuse in most cases. For girls, the medical reports indicate whether the girls are virgin or not but for boys it is difficult to know

the problem from the medical reports. Is it because the boys do not have hymen? (FGD participant police) The police and CPU workers have complained that sexual abuses of boys are not reported on time. Parents fear stigma and discrimination on their children and some times they withdraw even after the case is reported. The health institutions also complain that if the case is not reported on time, it is not possible to identify even the visible damages to the child let alone to report the long-term impacts of the problem.

The discussion above indicates that the sexual abuse of male children is more damaging to the affected child. It is physically debilitating, morally and socially ostracizing and brings about emotional and psychosocial disturbance to the child.

CHAPTER VI: Summary, Conclusion and Implication for Social Work practice

Summary

The expansion of vulnerable groups such as children in especially difficult circumstances (orphans, street children, disabled children, young offenders...), displaced families, and economically disadvantaged women headed households, the elderly and others is a challenge to the socioeconomic development of the country. Among those affected children are victims of sexual abuse. The problem of sexual abuse is associated with the girl child and women; rape, abduction, early marriage are some of the traditional practices that expose the girl child to sexual abuse. However, boys were not immune to sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse is a serious crime that threatens both adults and children of all ages. Given the culture and tradition of society that strongly accepts heterosexuality as the only normal sexual behavior, it becomes more severe when the abuse happens on boys. Hence, sexual abuse of boys is not yet pronounced in the community. This does not however imply that it did not exist in the society. Literatures about the subject matter go back to many centuries and it continues to exist despite society's disapproval. In earlier times, the responsibility was attributed to individuals who committed the abuse as it is beyond their control, and treatments targeted individuals. In a later development, the social environment was given emphasis to have influenced the sexual behavior of individuals and treatments were targeted towards rehabilitating the individual to adjust to the environment surrounding him or her. This study has discussed the problem of sexual abuse of boys in relation to the environment and the function of different social institutions in the system. This is with the understanding that existing systems and structure of society such as the family, neighborhood,

schools, culture and tradition and the legal system have significant contribution in shaping the behavior of individuals.

The sexual abuse of male children is prevalent in Addis Ababa distributed over the sub-cities. There is clear consensus among the law enforcement body, social workers, the abused children and researchers that there is underreporting of male children sexual abuse. Our knowledge of the prevalence is based on the reported cases to the police child protection units but many of the parents of abused children do not like to report the case due to fear of stigma to their children.

The study has found out that male children at all ages are vulnerable to sexual abuse. Specific places of abuse where parents or guardians could protect children from going can not be listed since the home, the neighborhood, school environments are places where children encounter sexual abuse. Abusers can show more than one type of behaviors depending upon the situation but child molestation and rape, showing and touching genital parts of the child and the perpetrator, kissing, showing pornographic video films are some of the type of abuses on children. It is also found out that perpetrators have demonstrated aggressive behaviors and used weapons like knife to harass children, intimidated and threatened them and used enticements as appropriate.

The involvement of significant number of students and young people into sexual offense against boys could be viewed from the perspectives of lack of proper life skills orientation and the expansion of foreign culture as indicated in the main body of the study. Children are invaded by different kinds of video films that included pornographic shows and quite a number of abusers are unemployed youth who likely spend their time by watching films and chewing chat/kat.

Adults were also found to have been involved in the abusive act. Are they pedophiles, pederasty, or what was their motive? Is it just for sexual satisfaction or beyond? Based on the results of this study, it is difficult to categorize abusers by their sexual orientation which is viewed in terms of preference to have same sex sexual partner, sexual fantasy and affect ional relationship that can last for many years, since the sexual orientation of perpetrators is not thoroughly investigated.

The causes of sexual abuse of children in general and boys in particular could be explained in terms of the functionality of the social systems and institutions in the society. Abusers and the abused children are from the young segment of the population who need proper socialization, guidance and control, support and protection. The disintegration of families due to many reasons such as divorce, separation, death and the change in social system has multiplied the number of single parent families. And when these families are particularly from low economic performing social group, they fail to provide basic services, emotional, and psychological support required for the growth and development of children. Children are not prepared to be aware about life challenges in the society, to identify abusive behaviors, and to protect themselves from possible abuses.

Besides the environment seems hostile for small children, they live in a vulnerable setting where families are confined to live in congested neighborhoods.

Traditionally, the responsibility of imparting social skills and protecting children from harm used to be the responsibility of not only the parents but also relatives and neighbors. With the change in the family structure and social relationship, and with the expansion of nuclear families, such social relationships have gradually faded and individualism overshadowed the pattern of urban life. Child rearing practice is by and large swamped by the

dominance of parents which does not give the opportunity for children's empowerment, self confidence and assertiveness. This condition limits the children's capacity to explore possible abusive environments in their day to day lives.

It was also understood that the school system has focused on the academic teaching and couldn't continue to be the center of learning ethical and moral values like it used to be a couple of decades ago. The quality of teacher-student relationship is also hampered by the large number of students packed in a classroom which is practically difficult for the teacher to follow their performance let alone closely support individual child.

With the legal system the adoption of child right issues convention in the constitution and commitment to international legislations is an important achievement of the government. The establishment of courts for child offenders and abused children coupled with child protection units operating in the ten sub-cities is also an important result of the advocacy works of child centered organizations like Forum for Street Children Ethiopia. Despite such encouraging efforts, the capacity of the justice system needs much more improvement. Long delay of court cases, limited logistics capacity of the child protection units and prosecutors offices, inadequate training and skill upgrading on the rights of children indicate that the system is far from adhering to the principles of the best interest of the child, respect for the child's views, and the child's participation in family, social and school life. Besides, the systems do not provide efficient mechanism for the collection of consistent, adequate and reliable qualitative and quantitative data about the sexual abuse of boys.

Conclusion and Implication for Social Work practice

The study about the sexual abuse of boys in Addis Ababa is viewed in line with the functions of the family, institutions and the social system in general. It was understood that the

individual's relationship to social institutions and the social system is complex and interrelated. Societies through the established systems provide what is necessary for survival and for the continuation of the generation. Society should offer services like food, shelter, clothing, education, health and protection to its members. On the other hand, modern societies have established institutions in addition to the generational ones like the family unit that provide services on behalf of society. Such systems included the schools, the court and law enforcement bodies, the health institution, social organizations like the community based organizations, neighborhood groups, correctional institutions and others.

The social system also defines norms, cultures, accepted and unaccepted behaviors, and sets of standards for regulating the behavior of individuals. It is obvious that the social changes have affected and influenced the functions of these social institutions. Hence, adjusting the functions of the social system with the changing environment is expected from all social actors and the government.

Individuals become in conflict with the system when the system is not serving and guiding effectively. Such conflicts harm the individual and eventually the system as well by affecting its proper functioning. In the specific case of boys' sexual abuse, the children will experience physical damage, psychosocial and emotional problems while the abusers as individuals have committed crime that is discordant with societal laws and values.

Healthy and productive citizens will be produced when the family properly discharges its function of socialization, service provision, directing and controlling the child; the school should educate, the hospitals provide medical service, the police and courts ensure justice and equity. However, because of long bureaucratic process, capacity constraints, lack of coordination, and discontinuity of services, the system is challenged to function properly. This

situation interrupts the relationship of individual with the system and it has to be brought back to harmony in order to bring healthy life to the individual.

Therefore, the above point will lead us to the conclusion that the mere existence of systems in the society does not lead to the provision of the required services to those who are in need. That is what was observed in the case of male children sexual abusers and the children who are victims of abuse.

✓ The implication for social work practice is that, at the macro level there is a need to work towards influencing the legal system, policy makers and the government machinery to enhance commitments beyond the issuance of laws and policies. Sexual abuse on minors is a serious crime which has negative consequences on the well being of the abused children and the society. It has to be emphasized on enhancing the functionality of the systems to prevent and adequately address the sexual abuse of children through allocation of resources, public education and awareness creation. ✓

In the current situation of the existence of multifaceted problems in the Addis Ababa population and the larger society, it would be essential to gear the focus of social work practices with more emphasis on families, groups and communities rather than focusing on the individual. Social work education should be able to produce professionals who would be able to mediate between the system and the collective needs of individuals, and who should be able to play the role of advocate when necessary for the rights of abused children.

Finally, in order to develop knowledge base on the subject area it would be essential to have in-depth study on the prevalence and rate of increase of the problem, the sexual motives and orientation of perpetrators.

Recommendation

The intervention to overcome the problem of sexual abuse of children in general and male children in particular is not only the responsibility of the government but all members of the society should mobilize efforts against sexual abuse of children. The interventions could be at different layers each requiring cross sectoral linkages, partnership and collaborative efforts.

At the policy level, the government has ratified the international conventions and incorporated in the constitution of the land which is a positive development in mitigating the problem. This initiative should be supported by designing instruments that would facilitate the implementation of the laws, has to have adequate attention at sector policies and program frameworks, mobilization and allocation of government resources should be prioritized to meeting the rights of children. Capacities of government institutions should be built and regularly reviewed based on performance targets and indicators set at macro level program planning.

Adequate effort has to be made to build the capacities of families, groups and community so that mobilizing these groups against sexual abuse of children will be effective from the perspectives of prevention and delivery of services once the children are abused. Since deprivation of families from economic resources was found to be one of the factor that prevents parents from providing adequate care and protection to their children, economic empowerment of families should be the center of intervention along side the rehabilitation of abused children. Strengthening the family as a basic social institution not only by economic intervention but also through counseling and teaching about child right protection and

parenting would help to increase the awareness of parents about the risk factors prevailing in the community.

Finally, there has to be continuous exchange of information among service giving organizations like the health institution, schools, the judiciary and law enforcement bodies for optimal use of meager resource, effectiveness of work and scaling up of services to abused children. A system has to be developed for continuous data collection, analysis and sharing among development practitioners and policy makers at various levels.

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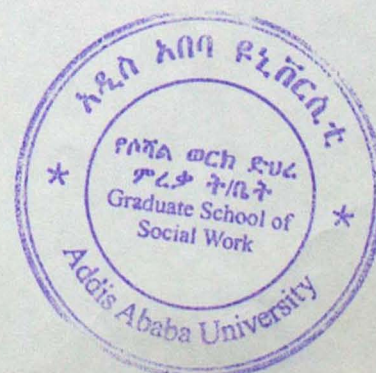
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Annex 1: Structured Questionnaire for Sexually Abused Children

Name of interviewer _____

Date of interview: Date _____ month _____ year _____

A: Biographic data

1. Age of respondent at the time when the sexual abuse occurred _____
2. Grade attained in formal education _____
3. How many individuals live in your family?
 - 3.1. Male _____
 - 3.2. Female _____
4. How many members of your family are in the following age group?

Age category	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Less than 5			
5-9			
10-14			
15-19			
20-24			
25-29			
30-34			
35-39			
40-44			
45-49			
50-54			
55-59			
60+			

B: Socioeconomic data

5. Marital status of respondent's parents/guardians during the abuse
 1. Single parent, not married
 2. Spouse living together
 3. Separated; interviewee living with male member
 4. Separated; interviewee living with female member
 5. Divorced; interviewee living with male member
 6. Divorced; interviewee living with female member
 7. Single parent family (widowed) not remarried
 8. Single parent family (widower) not remarried
 9. Complete orphan lives with guardian
 10. Others
6. How many members of the family work in the **formal sector** employment?
 - 6.1. Male _____
 - 6.2. Female _____
 - 6.3. Total _____

Type of formal employment engaged in	Sex of family member		Total
	Male	Female	

7. How many members of the family are involved in **informal sector** employment?

- 7.1. Male _____
 7.2. Female _____
 7.3. Total _____

Type of informal employment engaged in	Sex of family member		Total
	Male	Female	

8. Estimated total monthly income of the family Birr _____

9. Major sources of income for the family heads (more than one answer is possible)

Employment status	Male family head	Female family head
9.1 Employed in the formal sector		
9.2 Employed in the informal sector		
9.3 Gets pension payment		
9.4 Run own business		
9.5 Remittance		
9.6 Daily labor		
9.7 Others specify		

Note: Head of the family will be defined with the respondent

10. Housing situation of the interviewee's family

- 10.1. One room with separate kitchen _____ without kitchen _____
 10.2. Two rooms with separate kitchen _____ with out kitchen _____
 10.3. Three rooms with separate kitchen _____ without kitchen _____
 10.4. Four rooms separate with kitchen _____ without kitchen _____
 10.5. Five rooms with separate kitchen _____ without kitchen _____
 10.6. Above five rooms _____

11. Relationship of respondent to the family

Type of relationship	To the father	To the mother	To both father and mother
Son			
Son in-law			
Step-son			
Adopted child			
Foster child			
Relative child			
Non- relative child			

12. Type of interviewee's parents/guardian

1. Authoritative
2. Authoritarian
3. Permissive
4. Neglectful

13. Do parents encourage children to participate in the discussion and decision making on family affairs?

1. Yes
2. No

14. Do parents discuss about sexual behavior with their children in the family?

1. Yes
2. No

C: Information about the Perpetrator and his abusive actions

15. What type of relationship do you have with the perpetrator?

- 15.1. Biological father _____ mother _____
- 15.2. Step father _____ mother _____
- 15.3. Brother _____ Sister _____
- 15.4. Step brother _____ step sister _____
- 15.5. Guardian Male _____ Female _____
- 15.6. Guest/ Relative _____ Male _____ Female _____
- 15.7. Guest/not relative Male _____ Female _____
- 15.8. Friend Male _____ Female _____
- 15.9. Teacher Male _____ Female _____
- 15.10. Neighbor Male _____ Female _____
- 15.11. Others please specify _____

16. Age of perpetrator? _____

17. Occupation of perpetrator? Tell me the major ones , more than one answer is possible

1. Government employee other than teacher and police
2. Non government employee
3. Pensioner
4. Unemployed
5. Teacher
6. Student
7. Business person
8. Farmer
9. Police
10. Street vender
11. Daily laborer
12. Other specify _____

Non government employee include: NGO, UN and other agencies, Professional Associations, labor unions, Women Associations and the like

18. Does the perpetrator have any addictions, more than one answer is possible

1. Chewing chat
2. Drug pusher
3. Alcoholic
4. Watching pornographic films
5. Others specify _____

19. Do you live with the perpetrator under the same roof?
1. Yes 2. No
20. Type of sexual abuse inflicted on the child. (more than one answer is possible)
1. Kissing/Caressing or touching genital parts of the child
 2. Molestation
 3. Showing sexual organ to the child or leading the child to touch sexual organs of perpetrator
 4. Oral sex
 5. Vaginal insertion
 6. Anal insertion
 7. Showing pornographic films/pictures
 8. Using the child for pornographic pictures/films
 9. Others specify _____
21. Were you, in any way, aware or conscious about the intention of the perpetrator before it happened?
1. Yes 2. No
22. Where did the first sexual abuse take place?
1. At home
 2. At school
 3. In the orphanage
 4. On the street
 5. Detention center
 6. In the car
 7. Hotel room
 8. Others specify _____
23. Did any force or coercion involved by the perpetrator?
1. Yes 2. No
24. If yes, what kind of coercion?
1. Forcing to use drug/stimulant
 2. Physical force
 3. Verbal pressure/ threat
 4. Others specify _____
25. If no force or coercion is involved, how did the abuse happen?
1. Bribe/giving presents
 2. Negotiation
 3. False promise/influence
 4. Others specify _____
26. Period or for how long did the perpetrator abuse you?
1. Only once
 2. Repeated but for less than a month
 3. Repeated for about six months
 4. Repeated for about one year
 5. One to two years
 6. Above two years
27. Did you report the incidence to any other person?
1. Yes 2. No

28. If your answer to Q. 27 is yes, to whom did you first report?

1. To parents/family members
2. Friends
3. Police
4. Others specify _____

29. If your answer to question Q.27 is yes, how soon did you report?

1. Immediately after the abuse
2. Within a week time
3. Between one week and a month
4. One to six months
5. In one year time
6. Above one year

30. If your answer to question 27 is No, tell me the most compelling reason?

1. Fear of harm by the abuser
2. Felt shame about it
3. Fear of stigma and discrimination
4. Didn't know where to report
5. Felt that it might be normal
6. Others specify _____

31. Do your parents know about the case of abuse?

1. Yes 2. No

32. What measures did your parents/guardians take after the abuse? More than one answer is possible in a sequential order beginning from the first and ending with the last.

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------|
| 32.1. | Nothing | _____ |
| 32.2. | Warned the abused child not to reveal to the public | _____ |
| 32.3. | Took the child for medication | _____ |
| 32.4. | Reported the case to the police | _____ |
| 32.5. | Revenged the abuser | _____ |
| 32.6. | Others specify | _____ |

33. Do you know any other sexually abused male children?

1. Yes 2.No

34. If yes, do you have contacts?

1. Yes How often? _____
2. No

D: Live changes of the sexual abuse on the child

35. Educational performance

1. Remained the same
2. Reduced → Please explain _____
3. Dropped out of school
4. Others please specify _____

36. Health condition

1. No health problem
2. Deteriorated → please mention the type of illness developed because of the sexual abuse _____
3. Don't know

37. Interaction of the abused child with family members.

1. Reduced
2. Remained the same
3. Strengthened
4. Others

38. Interaction of the abused child with friends and peers

1. Don't want to interact with them
2. Only some times interact with them
3. Would like to be alone
4. Would like to have new friends
5. Others specify _____

39. How was your friends' interaction with you after the abuse?

1. Same as before
2. They became more closer
3. They became distant
4. Others specify _____

40. Do you think your parents/guardians have provided the necessary support to you after the abuse? 1. Yes 2.No

41. If yes to question "40" what type of support?

1. More follow up and advise than before
2. Change of school
3. Took me to professional counselor
4. Change of living place
5. Others specify _____

42. What is your sexual practice now?

1. Abstinence
2. Heterosexual
3. Homosexual
4. Bisexual

43. Do you think the sexual abuse has influenced your current sexual practice?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure about it

44. What is your understanding of community awareness about the prevalence of sexual abuse on children?

1. Community members are aware
2. Community members are not aware about the problem
3. Don't know

45. What about sexual abuse of male children? Do you think the community is aware?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

46. What is the reason for your answer to question "45"?

47. Were you, in any way, aware about the existence of laws and policies pertaining to the rights of the child during the sexual abuse happened?

1. Yes I was aware
2. No I was not aware

-----End-----

Annex. II

FGD guide for community members and school children as appropriate

1. Awareness about sexual abuse of male children, its prevalence and magnitude of the problem.
2. Understanding of community members about child sexual abuse and contributing factors in the family or community.
3. Male children sexual abuse: community responses in light of culture and tradition
4. Awareness about laws and policies regarding the rights of children
5. How communities understand and view capacities of the legal system (police, court) to prevent the crime and litigate child sexual abusers /criminals/
6. The impacts of child sexual abuse on communities, families and the abused children
7. Roles that communities and families can have to prevent the prevalence of child sexual abuse, and to rehabilitate the abused children?

FGD guide for Child Protection Unit workers:

1. Causes, prevalence and magnitude of male children sexual abuse.
2. Factors that contribute to male children sexual abuse.
3. Characteristics of abusers, social and economic profiles
4. Effectiveness and challenges of the legal system (police, court) to prevent the crime and litigate child sexual abusers /criminals/
5. The impacts of child sexual abuse on communities, families and the abused children
6. Responses /programs, projects/ to rehabilitate abused children, types and scope.
7. Roles of communities and families to prevent the prevalence of child sexual abuse, to manage the problem and rehabilitate the abused children?

Annex. III

In-depth interview guide for sexually abused male children

Background information:

1. Age of respondent
2. Physical address
3. Educational attainment
4. Health condition
5. Habits
6. Upbringing (with whom did you grew up? Explain about your childhood)
7. Who your friends are. How did you become friends? Their behaviors, habits, families,

Information about family/parents/guardians

8. Whom do you live with? Number of family members?
9. Composition of family members?
10. What is the means of livelihood of the family?
 - a. Monthly income of the family
11. Interaction among family members?
 - a. How do family members interact? Level of interaction, intimacy, participation ...
 - b. Have you experienced any form of conflict among family members?
Please explain further how do they deal with it?

Probe:

- i. Possible causes for most conflicts
 - ii. Who instigates conflicts in most cases?
 - iii. How often do conflicts occur?
 - iv. How are conflicts settled?
12. Who is more close to you in the family? Tell me more about it?
13. How do you explain the interaction and relationship that the family has with neighbors and other community members?

Probe:

- a. Parents interaction
- b. Children's interaction
- c. Interaction of the interviewee

14. How do you explain the child rearing practices of your parents/guardians?

Probe:

- a. Authoritative
- b. Authoritarian
- c. Permissive
- d. Neglectful

15. Do you experience freedom of interaction and discussion with parents? Explain how?

16. How is the living situation in the household? Housing?

- a. Size of the house?
- b. Number and type of rooms?
- c. Living arrangements in the family?
- d. What could have been done other than the current living arrangement?
Explain the reason.

Information about the perpetrator:

17. Explain the relationship or level of intimacy you have with the person who sexually abused you?

- a. How much is the age difference between you and the person?

18. How did the sexual act happen?

Probe:

- a. How did he/she approach you for sex? Were you conscious about his/her acts and how did you respond to it?
- b. Did he/she force or influenced you?
- c. Explain the type of sexual act you were experiencing with the person?
- d. Where did it happen most of the time? Reason for choosing the place?
- e. Frequency of the sexual relationship/abuse?
- f. How long did the sexual relationship last?

19. How do you explain the behavior of the individual/perpetrator?
20. Does he/she have any habit that is visible to you? Explain more about it?
(smoking, chewing chat, alcoholic etc)
21. How is the family situation of the perpetrator? (single, divorced, separated, married)
22. What is the type of job that the perpetrator engaged in? or do you know how he earns a living? Please explain.

Impacts of the sexual abuse on the child:

23. Tell me about your reaction at that time? How do you express your feeling?
24. Any attempt made to report the situation to someone immediately?
Probe: tell me more about it
 - a. What steps did you take after being abused sexually?
25. Tell me about your situation after the abuse?
 - a. How is your interaction with friends and age mates after the abuse?
 - b. How is your school performance after the sexual abuse?
 - c. The health situation, physical condition, sleeping, feelings
 - d. Relationship with family members
 - e. Eating habits
26. What is your current feeling about the first instance of sexual abuse?
Please explain more about it
 - a. Self concept (hopelessness, depressed, accepted the situation, couldn't accept the situation)
 - b. About perpetrator
 - c. About family reaction
 - d. About friends and communities at large
 - e. About law enforcement bodies
27. Tell me about your current sexual life?
28. What is **most** important in your life now?
 - a. Tell me more about your answer to the above question?
29. What is **least** important in your life currently?
 - a. Please explain the reason for your answer

30. What is the **most challenging experience** you had in your life after the sexual abuse?

a. Tell me more about it.

31. How do you explain the reaction of family members when they heard that you are abused sexually? Who told them?

Probe:

a. Shocked, told you to hide the situation, blamed you, ostracized you etc

b. Empathic response, shocked, tried to understand and supported you etc

c. Reported to the police and took it to the court?

d. Tried to revenge the perpetrator,

32. Do you think people know about male sexual abuse in the society?

a. Tell me more about your understanding in this regard.

b. What made you to believe that?

c. How do you think the society should respond to this situation?

33. What is your comment about the prevalence of sexual abuse of male children in the society?

a. Tell me more about your understanding or thinking in this regard.

b. What do you think is the trend in the future?

c. What do you think are the factors that contribute for individuals to commit sexual abuse against male children?

d. How should this issue be handled in the society?

34. How do you value the environment in view of supporting abused children (the family, peers, neighbors, communities, the police...)

35. What is your personal vision of the future?

Annex IV

Informed Consent Form

Kifle Ketema _____
Kebele _____

Introduction: Good morning/afternoon. "My name is _____ I'm student at the Graduate School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University. I am interviewing male children and adults who are victims of sexual abuse to find out the magnitude of the problem and to understand to what extent individuals and families are affected by the problem. The research is designed fully in partial fulfilment for the Masters Degree in Social Work and does not have any connection with any individual or agency be it government, non government or private.

Confidentiality and consent: "I'm going to ask you some very personal questions that some people may find it difficult to answer. Your answers are completely confidential. Your name will not be written on this form, and will never be used in connection with any of the information you tell me. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer, and you may end this interview at any time you want to. However, your honest answers to these questions will help me better understand the circumstances that many people are living with, and I will use the information to enrich the knowledge of academic faculty about the problem and as appropriate to initiate a wider and an in depth research about the issue. I would greatly appreciate your help in responding to this survey. The survey will take about one hour to ask the questions. Would you be willing to participate?" If you agree, I will taper record the interview.

Yes _____ No _____

(Date of interview and my signature certifying that informed consent has been given verbally by respondent)

DECLARATION

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

Name: Debebe Ero

Signature _____

Place: Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Date of Submission: _____



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

Name: James E. Rollin (Prof.)

Signature _____