

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE

CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS

**CHILD NEGLECT IN ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF SIMADA WOREDA,
SOUTH GONDAR**

TEWOLGN MOGES

June, 2012

CHILD NEGLECT IN ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF SIMADA WOREDA,
SOUTH GONDAR

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE CENTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

BY- TEWOLGN MOGES CHEKOLE

June, 2012

CHILD NEGLECT IN ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF SIMADA WOREDA,
SOUTH GONDAR

BY
TEWOLGN MOGES

Advisor _____
Name Signature Date

External Examiner _____
Name Signature Date

Internal Examiner _____
Name Signature Date

Declaration

I declare that **Child Neglect in Ethiopia: the case of Simada Woreda, South Gondar** is my own work and all sources have been duly acknowledged by means of complete reference and hasn't ever been presented at any academic institute elsewhere..

Acknowledgment

I am grateful to my advisor Girmachew (PhD) for his constructive comments in the undertaking of this research. I am also grateful for the assistance extended to me at the Institute of Human rights.

Furthermore, I am indebted to many people who have helped me in the completion of my thesis work including the children, parents and the Woreda's Youth, Child and Women Welfare Institution and other body participated in the study.

List of Acronyms

ACRWC-	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	Africa Union
CRC-	Convention on the Right of the Child
FDRE -	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
HIV-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IQ –	Intelligence Quotient
ICESCR	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN –	United Nation
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human rights
UNICEF –	United Nation Children’s Fund

Glossary of Local Terms

Beret	cattle’s home arrangement
Kebele	small administrative units within Woreda
Ketena	small administrative units within Kebele
Kuraz	objects serve as candle
Mucha	small
Tsebel	holy water
Woreda	District administration

List of Tables	Pages
Table 4.1 Age distribution of the child population.....	37
Table 4.2 Age distribution of the parent population	38
Table 4.3 Educational status of the child population	38
Table 4.4 Educational status of the parent population	39
Table 4.5 Means of livelihood of the study population	39
Table 4.6 Dwelling of the study population	40
Table 4.7 Family structure of the study population	40

Table of Contents

Chapter One	1
1.1. Background	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	3
1.3. Objective of the Research	5
1.4. Research Questions	5
1.5. Scope	6
1.6. Limitations of the Research.....	6
1.7. Organization of the Study	6
1.8. Operational Definitions of Relevant Concepts and Terms.....	7
1.8.1. Human Rights	7
1.8.2. Children	8
1.8.3. Child Neglect.....	8
1.8.4. Care giver	8
1.8.5. Parents	8
Chapter two – Review of the Related Literature	9
2.1. What is Child Neglect?	9
2.2. Forms of Child Neglect.....	11
2.2.1. Physical neglect	11
2.2.2. Medical Neglect.....	12
2.2.3. Educational Neglect.....	13
2.2.4. Emotional Neglect	13
2.3. Causes and Factors of Child Neglect	14
2.3.1. Family Formation	14
2.3.2. Poverty.....	16
2.3.3. Societal and Cultural Factors.....	16
2.3.4. Domestic Violence	17
2.4. Impact of Neglect.....	18
2.4.1. Health and Physical Development.....	18
2.4.2. Cognitive Development.....	19
2.4.3. Emotional /Psychological Development	19

Chapter Three

3. Research design and Methodology	25
3.1. Source of Data.....	25
3.1.1. Children	26
3.1.2. Key informants and the Woreda’s Youth, Child and Women Welfare Institution	26
3.1.3. Document Analysis.....	26
3.2. Primary Data Gathering Techniques and Instruments	26
3.2.1. Interview guide	27
3.2.1.1. Interview guide for children	27
3.2.1.2. Interview guide for parents	27
3.2.1.3. Interview guide for Key Informants	27
3.2.2. Unstructured Interview	27
3.2.3. Observation.....	28
3.3. Method of Data Analysis and Interpretation	29
3.4. Sampling Techniques	29
3.5. Ethical Considerations.....	30
3.6. Research Setting.....	31
3.6.1. Kebel 17.....	31
3.6.2. Kebel 16.....	31
3.6.3. Kebel 18.....	32
3.7. Fieldwork	32
3.8. Limitations of Methods used and Problem Encountered	32
3.9. Advantages of Methods Used	32

Chapter Four

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1. Background of the Study Population	34
4.1.1 Age Distribution	34
4.1.1.1 Age Distribution of Child	34
4.1.2. Educational Enrollment	35
4.1.3. Means of livelihood of the Household	36
4.1.4. Household Dwelling.....	36

4.1.5. Family Structure	37
4.2. Child Neglect.....	37
4.2.1. Malnutrition	37
4.2.2. Lack of Cleanliness	39
4.2.3. Lack of Response.....	40
4.2.4. Educational Neglect.....	40
4.2.5. Health Problem	44
4.2.6. Lack of Supervision.....	45
4.2.7. Early Marriage.....	46
4.3. Factors of Child Neglect	47
4.3.1. Family Formation	47
4.3.2. Cultural Factors	49
4.3.3. Poverty.....	50
4.3.4. Household Dwelling and Source of Income of Parents.....	51
4.3.5. Lack of Adequate Social Provision	51
4.3.6. Illiteracy.....	53
4.4. Child Neglect and Neglect loaded Child Human Rights Violation	53
4.5. Consequences of Child Neglect	54
4.5.1. Death.....	55
4.5.2. Delay/Damage of Socio- Emotional and Physical development.....	55
Chapter Five Conclusion and Recommandation	
5.1. Conclusion.....	58
5.2. Recommendation.....	59

Bibliography

Appendixes

- I) Appendix – Interview Guide
 - A. Interview guide for Children
 - B. Interview guide for Parents
 - C. Interview guide for key Informants

- II) Appendix – List of Key Informants

Abstract

This research explored on the issue of child neglect in Simada Woreda, South Gondar with particular reference to three Kebeles. The main objectives of this study were: unlocking the problems of neglect children encountered in domestic, school and community, identifying different forms of neglect children undergo with and detecting the possible causes pro to child neglect with their potential consequences.

In order to reach at the stated objectives, qualitative data collection method pertaining to different research questions of the study got suitable. Unstructured interview using interview guide meant to avoid any red herring on the main objective of the research; observation of the natural setting supported with photography and, key informant interviews were used.

Children as a consequence of their immaturity are visage to various form of neglect. It was uncovered through the undertaking of this research that educational, physical, medical, lack of supervision and response, psychological, early marriage found as forms of child neglect that claims the lives of dozen or paralyze their smooth development. In this study, rural dwelling, illiteracy, poverty, domestic violence, ill family formation, poor social welfare facility are a perpetuate issues that have came into picture as the causes of child neglect. The findings further reveal that neglected children have a long lasting damaging effect on their life in terms of physical and mental development. At worse child neglect claims their life. Thus, for everyone who dies as a result of neglect, many more are suffer from a range of physical, emotional and mental health problems.

Ethiopia has been adopted and signed many national and international child rights instruments and other relevant international human right documents. However, state institutions and agencies charged with the defense and promotion of internationally recognized child rights is ineffective. Thus, children do not fully enjoy those rights and entitlements enshrined in those international and national documents.

Chapter One

1.1 Background

In 1945 the United Nation General Assembly adopted the first comprehensive human rights document i.e. Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is watershed for the then subsequent human rights conventions and treaties. Meanwhile, this declaration in its article 25(2) dictates about child rights “...childhood is entitled to special care and assistance. All children whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection”¹. The FDRE constitution in its article 36 also explicitly stated that “every child has the right to life; to know and be cared for by his/her parents or legal guardians; not to be subject to exploitative practice, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his or education, health or well-being”².

Even though child rights implicitly include within the general concept of human rights, it is in 1989 which has got separate document and binding status. This separate document detailed the status and the proper care of children due to be protected by care giver and state. “State parties shall use their best effort to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upgrading and development of the child. Parents or, legal guardian have the primary responsibility for the up bring and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern”³. Furthermore “state parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, treatment or maltreatment or exploitation....”⁴

¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)

² FDRE. (1995). The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Federal Negarit Gazzeta of the FDRE – 1st year No. 1, Addis Ababa – 21st August 1995

³ Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Article 18

⁴ *ibid* Article 19

Nevertheless, “what is even more alarming is the fact that violence against children occurs despite the entrenchment of various provisions in numerous international and regional instruments as well, in domestic constitution, ensuring the protection of children”⁵. Those rights provided by UN Convention on the rights of children appear to be a remote aspiration to be achieved and enforced to date for the neglected children. For nation like Ethiopia where more than 85% of the population inhabits in rural, creating awareness about human rights is not an easy task to do, thus, most children and parents are not aware of those human rights conventions.

Defining the word ‘neglect’ is imperative to protect the well being of children due to the fact that definition limits/bounds the boundary of words. However, giving specific limitation to neglect is difficult. The word neglect in essence is vague; “borderline case such that it is impossible to tell whether the word applies to it or not”⁶. As Hormath argued it is difficult to “define and conceptualize neglect”⁷.

Meanwhile, one can define neglect in its minimum standard; “negligent child is an infant less than 18 years of age whose physical, mental or emotional condition has been impaired or it is imminent dangers of becoming impaired as a result of the failure of the parent or guardian to exercise a minimum degree of care and failing to supply adequate food, clothing shelter, education or medical, dental, optometrical or surgical care”⁸. Child neglect occurs when parents/guardians failing to provide for children’s’ privileges to physical, mental or psychological wellbeing and development. Current child unsafe leads the sacrifice of future well being of the child and will make them irresponsible citizens or to the extent of making them mentally/physically disable.

“Neglect includes abandonment, the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm as much as is feasible, the deliberate failure to carry out important aspects of care which results

⁵ Nielsen, J.(2008) Children’s Rights in Africa. A legal Perspective. page.165

⁶ Hurely(1994) A Concise Introduction to Logic. Page. 89

⁷ Horwath. J(2007). Child negligent: identification and assessment

⁸ Carrieri, C. (1992) Child Abuse, Neglect, and the Foster Care System effective social work and the legal System; The Attorney’s Role and Responsibilities Page.61

or is likely to result in harm to the child, the deliberate failure to provide medical care or carelessly exposing a child to harm for examples can amount to neglect”⁹.

Child neglect and abuse continues to be a serious problem for many children with children at their early infancy don't getting the necessary care and protection from parents. Whilst mothers or other family members works on the land or at home children are not getting necessary protection; time- on breast milk, protection from bad weather condition and from other hazardous conditions, and jump to provide what is ideal to the well being children. There are combinations of various factors that trigger and encourage neglect of children.

Consequently, taking in to consideration the above mentioned facts, it is imperative and worthwhile to explore the occurrence of neglect in a range of settings, the causes/risk factors associated with it and the consequences on their future life.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Every child has the basic human right to be safe”¹⁰. Children are the future responsible citizens of a country and their early age proper growing makes them responsible and effective citizens in the future. According to Child Convention “parents or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child’s development”¹¹. Children should be growing properly in their early age to be responsible citizens in their latter life. Children have the right to enroll to school at the right age since learning is prerequisite for their long journey and parents have also an obligation of sending them to school and ensure they are keep locked in. Making children responsible citizens needs the proper care of families and teachers in school in their early age.

⁹ Save the children’s definition on child protection. Available at Sca. Savethechildren.Se/PageFiles/31.. Accessed on November, 23

¹⁰ protecting the abused & neglected child a guide for recognizing & reporting child abuse & neglect. Available at www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/publication/22-163.pdf. Accessed on March 20, 2012

¹¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Article 17

Nevertheless, the reality of the world shows that for various social, cultural, political and economical reasons children are neglected in the home, at school and in the community. “Child abuse and neglect is a global problem deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices”¹². There are many different types of neglect, and they occur in a wide array of contexts. Parents and guardians failed to provide proper shield for their children. When we come to Ethiopia, as most countries, there is no comprehensive study that shows the magnitude of child neglect. Although child neglect is the most common type of maltreatment, its causes, effects, prevention, and treatment often are not as deeply discussed and explored by researcher as are those for abuse which have clear/visible effect on the development of children. Indeed, child neglect is less visible and more subtle and having long life effect on mental and physical condition of a child. “The effect of neglect can be life-long and have a series impact on a person’s quality of life. Not least it can leave children and adults, who have been neglected, feeling unloved and unlovable”¹³. “Child neglect- it is the worst kind of child abuse and yet the one that gets the least attention”¹⁴. Thus, though not documented dozen of children lost their life to neglect in this Woreda. For everyone who dies as a result of neglect, many more are injured and suffer from a range of physical, emotional and mental health problems.

Simada Woreda where this study was conducted as one of Woredas’ found in Amhara regional state, child neglect is mainly prevailed. Most population in this Woreda led their life in rain fed agriculture and cattle rearing with mainly subsistence way of life. As most research indicates¹⁵ poverty has proportional effect on child neglect when parents run to survive; they may give little attention to their children. Moreover, poor educational expansion, some traditional practice, rural dwelling and other human and natural made factors are explanatory cause of child neglect. The researcher, in this work, studied the possible causes; form, severity of neglect and its adverse effect on the all rounded development of the children.

¹² World Health Organization (2002). World report on violence and health. Geneva. page 59

¹³ Horwath. J(2007). Child negligent: identification and assessment”. Page.64

¹⁴ Horwath (2007)Child negligent: identification and assessment”. Page1

¹⁵ (World report on violence and health. World Health Organization 2002, Geneva, Child

Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook. Health Service Executive 2011. Available at www.hse.ie)

The researcher of this study had an opportunity of growing up in the Woreda under studied for many years. This has given him a chance to be familiar with child neglect in the area. This also enabled him to study some of the problems mentioned above. For this reason, the researcher of this study trusts that it is an appropriate and priority issue to study the problems of child neglect.

Finally, some of the major reasons that initiated the researcher to conduct this study in this Woreda include:

1. The researcher knows the study area very well and well acquainted with the culture/ways of living of the society; so that the community would provided the researcher valid information that is pertinent to this study.
2. Children do not get adequate security both from family and state.
3. Why children in this Woreda removed from parent care and attention?

1.3. Objective of the Research

The broad objective of this research is to look into and shed light on child neglect and other neglect-caused child rights violation prevail in Simada selected rural Areas.

- To overt the problems of neglect children encountered in domestic, school and in the community in general.
- Identifying different forms of neglect children undergo with
- Showing the potential slippery slope of the problem inflicted on children in their latter life?
- To dig out causes of child neglect; cultural, economical or other factors.

1.4. Research Questions

This research is conducted to answer as much as possible the following questions.

- What are the causes and forms of child neglect?
- How is child neglect inflicted?
- What is the seriousness of child neglect in the study area and what should be done to solve these problems?
- What is the role of the government?

1.5. Scope

The research covered different forms, causes, severity and consequences of child neglect from the perspective of child rights ratified by Ethiopia and other international child rights documents

1.6. Significance of the Study

Research studies are mainly conducted to solve societal problems and/or add valid knowledge to the existing ones. The empirical findings that the researcher got from this study could be significant due to the following reasons;

- To give an insight to interested investigators to conduct further investigation on the issue under study.
- Using this research the government also will consider child neglect and other related human rights violation inflicted on children in this Woreda.
- Using this research different NGO's will gaze their eye to this area to solve the problem.

1.7. Limitations of the Research

This research is dealt with child neglect in Simada Woreda of selected three Kebeles.

Thus, it does not include the life experiences of all children in the Woreda, hence the number of participants is very small in number. Nevertheless, as it has been mentioned earlier on, since the socio-economical and political dynamism of the Woreda is more or less analogous, this research will hopefully provide an insight into how other children in the Woreda experience neglect of various kinds through the examination of the research participant's living conditions, the forms of neglect they undergo with.

1.8. Organization of the Study

This research is divided in to five chapters. The first chapter dealt with the major contents of the study which includes background of the study, basic research questions, statement of the problem and conceptual frame work, the research design and methodology, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and organization of the study. The second chapter upholds review of related literature of child neglect in general and other related research works. The third chapter dealt with methods and methodology followed and employed in gathering and analysis of the relevant information.

The fourth chapter mainly focused on the analysis, interpretation and presentation of the data gathered. Chapter five presented the summary of major findings, conclusions drawn and possible recommendations based on the findings of the study. At the end, there are attached lists of reference materials and interview guide to children and key informants.

1.8. Operational Definitions of Relevant Concepts and Terms

This research is concerned with child neglect; form, cause and consequences. In doing so, it uses the following terms which will frequently be used in the forthcoming chapters. Thus, to avoid any confusion or overlapping their meanings and understanding for the purpose of the research at hand has been enumerated as follows:

1.8.1. Human Rights

United Nations define human rights as; “Human rights are those rights which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as human beings. Human rights and fundamental freedoms allow us to fully develop and use our human qualities, our intelligences, our talents and our conscience and to satisfy our spiritual and other needs”. Thus Human rights are universal value a person has merely he/she is a human being and the worth of every one. So, denying human rights would mean reducing the status of humanity and the worth of human life. The full range of human rights involve the respect, protect and fulfillment of political, social, cultural and economical rights. As it has stated, State has the duty and obligation to respect, protect and fulfill human rights. The UN Charter in its move to protect of the dignity of humanity has given rise to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Also a host of multilateral human rights treaties usually termed as conventions, as well as Resolutions, Comments or Declarations have been ratified by many states to supplement those covenants which include the Convention on the rights of children (CRC) to which this research work mainly rest with.

1.8.2. Children

A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier¹⁶.

1.8.3. Child Neglect

“A failure on the part of the either the male/female care-giver or pregnant mother; to complete the parenting tasks required to ensure that the development needs of the child are met. This should take into account the age, gender, culture, religious beliefs and particular needs and circumstances of the individual child. This failure, may be associated with parenting issue, it has occurred despite reasonable resources being available to enable the caregiver/s to complete the parenting tasks satisfactorily. Whilst neglect is likely to be ongoing, one-off incidents and episodic neglect can affect the health and development of a child”¹⁷.

1.8.4. Care giver

Caregiver: a person who is legally responsible for a child’s day-to-day care, for example, a foster parent¹⁸

1.8.5. Parents

The mother of a child; the father of a child; a person to whom custody of the child has been granted by a court order or agreement; or a person with whom the child resides and who stands in place of the child’s mother or father¹⁹. In this research work parents and care giver are used interchangeably to denote anyone who is in a care of children.

¹⁶ Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Article 1

¹⁷ Horwath (2007) Child neglect: identification and assessment. Page. 38

¹⁸ The B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect. For Service Providers. British: Columbia

¹⁹ *ibid*

Chapter two – Review of the Related Literature

2.1. What is Child Neglect?

There is no universally accepted definition of child neglect. Conceptualization of neglect has been challenging so as to develop working definition for any discipline that can go beyond the limit of time and cultural constraint. Thus, Scholars, researchers, agencies, policy makers, practitioner, and other individuals in many instances fail to delineate child neglect from other child maltreatment in their treatment of child neglect. Researchers, makes themselves distant from the works and investigation of child neglect. Some of their works, even, fail to make boundary between child abuse and neglect rather they studied child neglect by addendum to child abuse. Indeed, the nature of the word ‘neglect’ is vague to its operational definition. The problems as most scholars argue on the definition of the word neglect are the fact that there is no comprehensive research which detailed the scope and constitute dimension of child neglect. Child neglect is the wildest form of maltreatment, but has received the least attention from researchers and other responsible bodies which is neglect of neglect.

“The concept of child neglect has been constantly changing and also interpreted differently in different communities”²⁰. Most State of the world also doesn’t try to include the definition of neglect in their respective legal documents and other relevant national instruments. However, children in every corner of the world continue to undergo with neglect of different forms having irreversible damaging effect on their all-rounded childhood development.

Generally, review of different literatures dealing with researches reveals some points that makes problematic to define neglect such as;

- What is the minimal standard of caring children?
- What acts of omission constitute neglect?
- Should blameworthy of neglect be the result of an intentional action on the part of the careers?
- What is the distinctly adverse effect of neglect on the children’s over all development?
- There is a lack of consensus over what is ‘good enough parenting’.

²⁰ Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment page 23

- Should Negligence of parents due to poverty constitute guilty of neglect?

In light of the review of different literature dealing with researches and pursue to different organization, legal personnel, researchers and state agencies child neglect defined as “Failure of caretakers to provide adequate emotional and physical care for a child in general”. However, the question often irritate- should this failure deliberate/intentional or not, to be considered as neglect. Whether child neglect is intentional or not the net effect is that child is neglected against their potential/ideal future development. “Child neglect can be defined as a caretaker failing to meet the needs of a child that are deemed essential for physical, intellectual and emotional development”²¹.

World Health Organization define child neglect as “A failure of parents to provide for the development of the child- where the parents are in a position to do so with respect to health education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living condition”²². In this sense neglect constitutes when the cares giver has not capacity to supply necessary for the child development.

Horwath quote from Schumacher²³ underscores that “Neglect occurs when there is a deficiency in appropriate parenting behavior, rather than when an inappropriate parenting behavior occurs”²⁴. Similarly and strikingly Horwath²⁵ argued that Child neglect is a state of omission rather than an act of commission which is a state of child abuse. Accordingly, the Irish Department of Health and Children’s guidelines: “Neglect is normally defined in terms of an omission, where a child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, or medical care”²⁶.

All the above definition of neglect summarized by Jan Horwath definition as child neglect is;

²¹ Karen A.(2006) Exploring assumptions about child neglect in relation to the broader field of child maltreatment karen a. polonko source: journal of health and human services administration, vol. 29, no. 3 . Pp. 261 cited from Polansky et al., 1981:15; see also Straus and Kantor, 2005.

²² Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment

²³ (2001, p. 232)

²⁴Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment. Page.14

²⁵ Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment

²⁶ Ibid 16

“A failure on the part of the either the male/female care-giver or pregnant mother; to complete the parenting tasks required to ensure that the development needs of the child are met. This should take into account the age, gender, culture, religious beliefs and particular needs and circumstances of the individual child. This failure, may be associated with parenting issue, it has occurred despite reasonable resources being available to enable the care/s to complete the parenting tasks satisfactorily. Whilst neglect is likely to be ongoing, one-off incidents and episodic neglect can affect the health and development of a child”²⁷.

2.2. Forms of Child Neglect

As it is stated above, giving exclusive and all encompassing definition to neglect is hard-hitting. However, different institutions and scholars identified certain types of neglect which will pinpoint the understanding of child neglect.

2.2.1. Physical neglect

“Physical neglect is the most widely recognized and commonly studied form of neglect and includes failure to protect from harm or danger and provide for the child's basic physical needs, including adequate shelter, food, or clothing”²⁸. “Physical neglect for the younger ages focused more on "the mother's ability to provide for basic needs," while for older children, "the focus was on the mother's ability to provide for basic needs and to monitor the child ""²⁹.

Horwath defined physical neglect as “failure to provide an adequate hygiene living environment, ill-clad, dirty clothing, without proper shelter or sleeping arrangement, lack of cleanliness and poor hygiene”³⁰.

Furthermore, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect dictates that “physical neglect constitutes various forms; Leaving of a child without arranging for his/her reasonable care or supervision; this happens when the child left

²⁷ ibid Page. 38

²⁸ ibid quoted from Erickson and Egeland (2002:6)

²⁹ Ibid cited from Egeland (1997:407),

³⁰ Child neglect: identification and assessment (2007). Page.33

uncontrolled for long period of time”³¹. Still, child physical neglect occur if the caregiver fail to ensure the playing environment of the child safe from different risk-caused materials like sharp objects. A very young child who bewilders outside home compound will expose to car accident, infection of ill animals, even for child trafficking. Child needs well-balanced nutritional diet and time-on food and also weather- specific cloth with appropriately clean with regard to their age. “As the child develops, careers may pay little attention to balancing the child’s diet or noting what the child eats, with the children being given ‘a bit of this and a bit of that but not given an adequate meal at any time”³². Moreover, “a child physical development will depend not only on the child receiving appropriate nourishment but also on the right stimulation to develop gross and motor skills”³³.

“Food appears randomly with as little effort or preparation as possible. Babies and toddlers will be left soiled and wet for hours before they are changed”³⁴. As Howe³⁵ argued children instinctly look for food and will eat rotted food which is the result of lack of supervision on the part of parents.

Thus, child physical neglect has the most wakes less effects on cognitive functioning and academic achievement beyond the overt effect on the normal body development of the child.

2.2.2. Medical Neglect

This form of neglect occur when the caregiver fail to make the child lively to medical treatment, dental or optical care and withhold consent to medical attention. The care giver has the responsibility to both making the child to get preventive service and curing service. Horwath³⁶ goes on to add, care giver has the obligation of making the child to get a regular health checks. “The failure to provide or to allow needed care as recommended by a competent health care

³¹ DePanfilis (2006). Protecting the abused & neglected child a guide for recognizing & reporting child abuse & neglect. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families

³² Hawath (2007) Child neglect: identification and assessment (2007).pp.29 (cited from Rosenberg and Cantwell, p.1993)

³³ Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment Page.61

³⁴Howe (2005) Child abuse and neglect. Attachment, development and intervention 2007. Page. 136

³⁵ ibid

³⁶ Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment).

professional for a physical injury, illness, medical condition, or impairment”³⁷. “Whilst failing to take a child to regular health checks may appear less concerning than failing to provide treatment for an ill child, it can have a significant long term effect on the health and well being of the child”³⁸.

2.2.3. Educational Neglect

The duty of the care giver in enrolling children at the right school age and giving due support in their educational upgrading constitute educational responsibility of parents toward their child. However, the mere fact of sending children to school is not sufficient. Horwath argued that education involves “providing a stimulating environment for the child, including the infant and pre- schooler: showing an interest in the child’s education at school: supporting their learning and ensuring that any special education needs are met”³⁹- failing to do so, on the part of the parent, inevitably lead to educational neglect of children. “It also includes the failure on the part of the career to provide an environment where a child is able to achieve their cognitive potential”⁴⁰.

2.2.4. Emotional Neglect

“Emotional neglect defined as the hostile or indifferent parental behavior which damages a child’s self esteem, degrades a sense of achievement, diminishes a sense of belonging and stand in the away of healthy, vigorous and happy development”⁴¹. Emotional neglect occur when the caregiver fail to give proper psychological attention and became unresponsive. “Emotional/psychological deals with depriving a child of his or her basic needs that provide

³⁷ DePanfilis D.(2006) Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect

³⁸ Ibid page.28

³⁹ Ibid page.32

⁴⁰Horwath, J. (2007) child negligent: identification and assessment Page.40

⁴¹ Horwarth (2007) Child neglect: identification and assessment quote from “Iwaniec (1995, p.5?)

support for healthy emotional and psychological growth such as leaving a child feeling anxious, stressed or fearful after experiencing a parental quarrel or fight”⁴².

David Howe describes emotional neglect in this way: “Cares are unmindful and unresponsive to most of their children’s signals of the need and distress. They appear lost in an empty world of their own. Relationships are lifeless and dull. Neither pleasure nor anger feature in parent’s dealing with their children”⁴³. As Howe urged parents don’t deliberate to harm their children but there is no kindness or lively emotional involvement. Failure on the part of the caregiver to be lively to the child to their needs and questions or fail to advice when the child do malpractice or volunteer to do so constitute emotional neglect. “Mind-to-mind communication, so important for children’s psychological development, is sporadic and thin”⁴⁴. Care giver should guide, supervise, and encourage their children initiation and natural talent.

Children need adults to acknowledge, understand, explore, and explain and respond to their mental states.

2.3. Causes and Factors of Child Neglect

Parent or care giver do not found neglectful naturally rather varies environmental factors come together and makes the problem real.

2.3.1. Family Formation

The structure of the family has its own effect on the development path of a child; having both parents and single parents. “Children in single-parent households – in effect children reared by single mothers – are highlighted as being at significant risk of experiencing neglect compared to children living with long-term couples”⁴⁵. Thus, child from single parent householders are more

⁴²Alkema N. Emotional Disturbances: The Effects of Parental Neglect Types on Children. Available at www.csus.edu/./Alkema.pdf. Accessed on December 12

⁴³ Howe (2005) Child abuse and neglect: Attachment, development and intervention. 2005. Page.136

⁴⁴ Ibid. page.137

⁴⁵ What do you think? A multi- professional perspective on child neglect. quoted from Stone, 1995

by Jan Horwath Senior Lecturer in Social Work Studies and Teela Saunders Research Assistant The University of Sheffield

likely to be neglected than those who have both parents. Moreover, child who is rearing in ‘nuclear family’⁴⁶ is more likely neglectful than child rearing in ‘extended family’⁴⁷.

The educational status of the parent i.e. parent who is literate has more capacity and skill in rearing a child. Some care giver knows nothing about child rearing. “Parents need to have the cognitive resources to care adequately for a child. They also need certain educational abilities, such as literacy, to be able to care properly for their child.(e.g.,to read prescription labels on their child’s medication). It further dictates that studies have found links between child neglect and parents’ poor problem-solving skills, poor parenting skills, and inadequate knowledge of childhood development. Parents who are unaware of the developmental and cognitive abilities of children at different ages may have unrealistic expectations and be more likely to neglect their children. For example, a parent might expect that a 4-year old child can be left alone for the evening because of unrealistic expectations of the child’s abilities. Studies also have found that parents who are inconsistent with discipline or use harsh or excessive punishment can be at risk for neglecting their children. As would be expected, having parents who are engaged with their children and involved in their activities and education acts as a protective factor”⁴⁸.

Additionally, the health condition of the care giver- care giver who is undergoing with health problem will not accommodate the multiple needs and wants of the child. Moreover, parents who are in a state of addiction of drugs will have impact on the motivation of the parenting in carrying out their role in rearing their child.

⁴⁶ a family unit consisting of a mother and father and their children

(the American heritage dictionary of English language, fourth edition. Houghton Mifflin Company)

⁴⁷ A family group that consist of parents, children, and other close relatives, often living in close proximity
(ibid.)

⁴⁸ DePanfilis D.(2006) Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect page.37

Furthermore, Parents who owned children below the recognized year, usually 21 appear to be psychologically or materially unready to rear children⁴⁹. Meanwhile, parents who have great size of children will face problem to consider all children appropriately.

2.3.2. Poverty

“There is undisputed evidence that the incidence of neglect is more prevalent in areas of extreme poverty. Indeed, some researchers note that not all children living in such conditions are neglected, however, and they conclude that “poverty may contribute to neglect, but it does not define it”⁵⁰. Poverty does not bear direct and obvious relation with neglect.

Poor parents will not capable to provide to his/her child what is basic for their development. Poverty may also make the child isolated from his/her peer to the fact that the child feels inferiority and lose of self-confidence. Poverty further isolates children from their peers and feels shame of their home to invite their peers⁵¹. Poor care giver usually fail to meet the need of the child. As Horwath⁵² argued child from low income families is more likely to have poor diets and are unlikely to enjoy better health care.

2.3.3. Societal and Cultural Factors

“Children who live in dangerous neighborhoods have been found to be at higher risk for neglect than children in safer neighborhoods”⁵³. Moreover, as Horwath argued “larger social conflicts

⁴⁹ Sullivan S (2000). child neglect: current definitions and models—a review of child neglect research, 1993–1998 was prepared by for the family violence prevention unit, health Canada. Available at www.Childwelfare.gov/..Neglect.cfm. Accessed on December 14. page 21

⁵⁰ *ibid*

⁵¹ Howe D.(2005) Child Abuse and neglect Attachment, development and intervention.Page.114

⁵² Child neglect: identification and assessment (2007).

⁵³ DePanfilis D.(2006) Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect

and wars will inevitably place tremendous strains on society and family affecting the ability to meet the needs of the child”⁵⁴. “Cultural factors including religious factors which strain care giver to go to health centers rather attend to traditional beliefs. Culture determines conventional principles of child-rearing and care of children with different cultures have different rules about what are acceptable parenting practices”⁵⁵. Additionally, the attitude of the society toward little child also affect the parenting behavior of individual parents.

Moreover, “cultural norms associated with gender roles, parent-child relationships and attitudes towards the family can influence expectation about approaches to parenting, supervision, health care, etc, as well as the division of the parenting task amongst male and female careers and the role of the extended family”⁵⁶. As Horwath⁵⁷ argued the legal status of the state in addressing and identifying child maltreatment at different level has impact on the part care giver. Moreover Horwath states “the availability of preventive health care for children” and the accessibility of health centers in general have impact on “the career’s ability to meet the needs of their child”⁵⁸.

2.3.4. Domestic Violence

“Children living in a home where domestic violence is present are at a greater risk of being neglected”⁵⁹. There may chaos within family which put bad memory to the children. Children are at increased risk of being neglected in household in which the adults are violent towards one another. Parents as they get in and out to home may fight at each other or they may at war with neighbors that make them disinterested to their children safety. “The perpetrator likely to detached themselves from the experience of the family, whilst the victim may dissociate from the aggression or normalize situation. In this case, the career may become so occupied with their

⁵⁴ Horwath (2007) Child neglect: identification and assessment (2007). Page 19

⁵⁵ *ibid.*

⁵⁶ *ibid.*

⁵⁷ *ibid.*

⁵⁸ *ibid*

⁵⁹ DePanfilis D.(2006) Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. page.34

own needs that they lack empathy with the children's experience and consequently fail to protect them or support them through these experiences"⁶⁰.

2.4. Impact of Neglect

"Neglect is an insidious form of maltreatment. It starves the developing mind and stimulation of a child. It denies the child information and interest about the self and others"⁶¹. The impact of neglect on children ranges from death to long term gradual psychological and physical delaying.

"Neglect can have damaging long term effect on a child's physical, socio-emotional, cognitive and behavioral development; it affects the development needs of the child"⁶². As Horwath⁶³ argued neglect will not affect only the children's young lives and relationship with others but also adversely affects the future parenting models. The impact of neglect, in most instance, is not as immediately visible as others maltreatments which have an apparent effect on children.

Generally, as most research's and other study shows neglect has the following possible negative impacts on the development of the child.

2.4.1. Health and Physical Development

Child who is suffered from medical neglect gets poor physical appearance to the extreme of unable to walking. Some of the problems include, as review related literatures shows;

- Complication in the health system of a child which can't be easily diagnosed for medical treatment.
- Poor body mass index; imbalance between height and weight.
- Dry skin, scratchy body, thin limbs, frequent infection and other on and off skin problems.

⁶⁰ Horwath (2007). Child neglect: identification and assessment Page.104 cited from McIntosh, 2002

⁶¹ Howe (2005) Child abuse and neglect. Attachment, development and intervention. Page.111

⁶² Horwath (2007)Child neglect: identification and assessment). Page.14 Quoted from Hildray and Wolfe (2002)

⁶³ Ibid page. 41

Thus, “if children do not receive the proper immunizations, prescribe medications, necessary. surgeries, or other interventions, there can be serious consequences, such as impaired brain development or poor physical health”⁶⁴.

2.4.2. Cognitive Development

Neglected child suffer from difficulty in cognitive development; language delay; difficulty in expressing idea smoothly and understandingly, and difficulty in understanding others’ language. Horwath⁶⁵ further argues that neglected child usually fail to articulate feeling and poor at vocabulary. Poor academic performance with low learning initiation, end up with scoring low school performance is some of the effect of child neglect on cognitive development.

2.4.3. Emotional /Psychological Development

Neglect can have a strong impact on and lead to problems in a child’s emotional, psychosocial and behavioral.development⁶⁶. “All types of neglect and emotional neglect in particular, can have serious psychosocial and emotional consequences for children. Some of the short-term emotional impacts of neglect, such as fear, isolation, and an inability to trust others, can lead to lifelong emotional and psychological problems, such as low self-esteem”⁶⁷. Take caregivers’ active psychological parenting task away, child is left stranded in an infinite, indifferent, forlorn and horrible lonely world so that they will suffer from all the agony of existence.

Those of the above researches shows that, children who have experienced neglect have been found to demonstrate higher frequencies of insecure, anxious, lose of confidence, anger, poor self esteem, non-compliant, untruthful or un cooperative with other, aggressive, criminal, and avoidant attachments with their others. Child who has ever neglected frequently his/her emotion

⁶⁴ DePanfilis D.(2006) Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. Page. 22

⁶⁵ Child neglect: identification and assessment (2007).

⁶⁶ DePanfilis D.(2006) Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children’s Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect Page. 25

⁶⁷ Ibid (cited from Erickson,.M..F.,.&.Egeland,.B..(2002)

wires short-circuits his calm, and the dangers of passion have been pointed out often, at latter life.

2.5. Legal Protection of Children against Neglect.

With resort to international human rights laws children honored the status of human beings with equal rights and moral worth as adults honored. Human beings including children have unassailable right to life, security and development of potential personality. However, recognition for human rights starts to nurture as twenty century began to dawn and galvanized aftermath of Second World War that claim the lives of millions, though the world had been lowly painful. Since then, international community reaches consensus to the establishment of global organization which is intended to watch the peace, security and advancement of human dignity i.e. UN. During the two Wars children were suffering a lot and lost their life and their parents. United Nation Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by general assembly of the United Nation in December 10, 1948 amid tears of the world, comprehensively address human right in general and the right of child within the milieu of adults due to be protected by parents and states. “Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection”⁶⁸. There are also other international convention and treaty which deal with human rights and child rights in particular. Meanwhile, “The particular rights set forth in the major general human rights conventions apply to individual adults and children alike”⁶⁹.

However in the movement of UN Convention on the right of the Child, children were specifically addressed by Eglantyne Jebb’s article, who is the founder of Save the Children, in 1923, latter it was adopted by the League of Nations in 1924. The 1959 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child is the second declaration in the movement of child protection though it is not binding. It is in 1989 child rights got formal and binding list of rights due to be protected by parents and state. The adoption of child related declaration and convention

⁶⁸ Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) 1948

⁶⁹ Detrick S.(1999) A commentary on the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. Pp.1(cited from human rights committee, general comment 24 (thirty-fifth session, 1989), responded in: general recommendation and general comments adopted by human rights treaty bodies, UN Doc.HRI/GEN/1,PP.22-24, at p.22para.2(1992).

“is not duplicating the rights recognized in the international covenants, rather supplementing them, and only deals with specifically related to children”⁷⁰. Provide that children are minor, younger and susceptible to risks; they need the special protection and shield of their family and state. As the preamble of the 1959 child right declaration proclaimed, latter reinforced by the 1989 convention, “by reason of his/her physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth”⁷¹. Thus, conventions specifically deal with children’s need and want is imperative. Indeed, International covenant on economic, social and culture rights article twelve guarantees the following rights to the children and adults in general for the state to enforce;

- The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child;
- The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene;
- The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases;
- The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness⁷².

As it is stated above the United Nation Convention on Children adopted unanimously in 1989 offers the first comprehensive and most accepted document which dictates about child rights due to be protected by care giver and states. The Convention on the right to child has got universal acceptance and ratification with in short period of time after its adoption in 1989. As Weston⁷³ pointed out “it is a major shift regarding children’s rights; it separates children’s from the contextualization of their rights within family”. Convention on the Right of Child is watershed and a standardized reference for any child rights issue for international community.

With resort to article 19(1) of the CRC state party has the obligation “to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of

⁷⁰ Ibid page.2 (cited from UN Doc. E/CN.4/1324,at The Netherlands)

⁷¹ African charter on the rights and welfare of the child OAU doc. cab/leg/24.9/49 (1990), entered into force Nov.

⁷² International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 3 January 1976.

⁷³ Child labor and human rights: making children matter page 92

physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child”. Pursuant to the main objective to this research i.e. child neglect or abuse, international, regional or national human rights documents do not explicitly deal with child neglect or abuse and failed to define these terms.

Indeed, with reference to article 19(1) care taker is responsible for any physical or mental violence or any neglectful behavior toward children and state will interfere when the care giver failed to carry out their responsibility. Care giver has the forefront responsibility in fulfilling what is minimally adequate for childhood for their children. The care giver should keep their children well- guarded so that nothing wrong could happen on their sound development.

Thus, it is care giver who is the first to protect the child from being badly wounded by outrageous fortune.

Article 18 of the CRC acknowledges that "[p]arents . . . have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child⁷⁴," "but squarely imposes on the state an obligation to assist parents in this sphere, particularly when parents are working"⁷⁵. Furthermore, according to article 19(2) State's legislative, administrative, social and educational measures is appropriate, for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement"⁷⁶. Thus, state play an irreplaceable role by extending social programmers, to provide necessary support for the child, which is preventive for potential child abuse and neglect by parents.

Ethiopia ratified Convention on the Right of Children in 1991. "Since then, the government has carried out numerous activities geared towards ensuring the protection and promotion of the

⁷⁴ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. Article 18(1)

⁷⁵ The International Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Catalyst for Innovative Childcare Policies Author(s): Martha F. Davis and Roslyn Powell Source: Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Aug., 2003), pp. 689-719 Published by: The Johns Hopkins University Press. Pag.4

⁷⁶ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. Article 19(2)

rights and welfare of children”⁷⁷. In addition, Ethiopia ratified African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child (ACRWC) which is a regional human rights document adopted by member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Accordingly, the ACRWC dictates that “States shall take specific legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from....., physical or mental injury or abuse, neglect or maltreatment including sexual abuse, while in the care of the child”⁷⁸.

FDRE constitution also tries to enumerate the rights of the children under article 34; “every child has the right: to life; to know and be cared for by his or her parents or legal guardians; not to be subject to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his or her education, health or well-being; to be free of corporal punishment or cruel and inhumane treatment in schools and other institutions responsible for the care of children”⁷⁹. Moreover, the criminal code of FDRE made care giver guilty if they fail to do parenting task well.

“A parent or other person exercising the authority of guardian or tutor, who, for gain or in dereliction of his duty;

- a) Grossly neglects the children under his charge and abandons them without due care and attention or to moral or physical danger; or
- b) b) entrusts a child for a long time to a person, an organization or an institution with whom or where he knows, or could have foreseen, that it will be reduced to physical or moral destitution, or will be physically or psychologically endangered, is punishable with simple imprisonment or fine. In grave cases, the Court may in addition deprive the criminal of his family rights”⁸⁰. “Whoever, having the custody or charge of a minor, ill-treats, neglects, over tasks or beats him for any reason or in any manner, is punishable with simple imprisonment not exceeding three months. And where the crime causes

⁷⁷ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Country Response to the Questionnaire on Violence against Children. by the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social affairs. Submitted to: The UN secretary General’s Independent Expert on the Study on Violence against Children. May 2005

⁷⁸ African charter on the rights and welfare of the child OAU doc. cab/leg/24.9/49 (1990), entered into force Nov. 29,1999. Article 16(1)

⁷⁹ FDRE. (1995). The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Federal Negarit Gazzeta of the FDRE – 1st year No. 1, Addis Ababa – 21st August 1995.

⁸⁰ The criminal code of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia. Proclamation No.414/2004. Article 659

grave injury to the health, well-being, education or physical or psychological development of the minor, the punishment shall be, in addition to the deprivation of family rights of the criminal, simple imprisonment for not less than one year”⁸¹.

In general, children all over the world suffer from neglect of various forms for the fact that they are young and the result of high dependency on others older than them for their childhood enjoyment. Neglect leaves at worse the lives of the children and last long psychological/physical delaying. As stated in reviewed literatures, child neglects are rampant though comprehensive research haven’t done so far in Ethiopia in general and Simada Woreda in particular. Therefore, there is a need to investigate the various forms of child neglect, the causes/risk factors underling it and the impacts on the world of children in a detail manner.

⁸¹ Ibid article 576

Chapter Three

3. Research Design and Methodology

Basically, the choice of an appropriate research design/plan and method depends on the nature of the problem at hand and type of data the researchers going to deal⁸². “When choosing the research methods and sampling procedures that are going to be used, there are certain things that the research has to take into consideration. The researcher has to choose methods that are practical, cost effective, time efficient, ethical and can help reveal the adequate information so as to answer the research questions”⁸³.

The methodological approach of this research work is qualitative kind: using words and phrases rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data. In qualitative approach the source of data is the real world situation, not tainted with the biases of the researcher. “Qualitative research describes social phenomena as they occur naturally. No attempt is made to manipulate the situation under study as is the case with experimental quantitative research”⁸⁴. The researcher should goes directly to the natural setting of the population being studied and observe or acquainting him/herself to the reality of that given population. The field research method, in depth interview, and observation mostly employed by this kind of research which are usually requires for the researcher to go out in field and gets them in their natural setting. When we came to the research topics at hand, it tried to find out the forms and severity of child neglect and other neglect related child rights violation recognized by the FDRE constitution and international child rights conventions. Thus, qualitative approach has been chosen since such research methodology would enable children to speak the problems and life world from their own perspectives taking their interest and experiences into account.

3.1. Source of Data

Both primary and secondary source of information are employed as the source of data so as to obtain the desired information that would answer the stated research questions. Primary source of

⁸² Creswell J. (2009) Research design. Qualitative, quantitative, an mixed methods approaches.

⁸³ Selamawit T.(2007)Denial of rights, human rights abuses and violence against domestic workers in some selected areas of Addis Ababa. page 18 (cited from Silverman, 2005).

⁸⁴ Hancock, B (1998) An Introduction to Qualitative Research. University of Nottingham.

data gained from interviews of children and their families, children Affairs body and other key informants and observing the problem as non participate of the social problem ; Secondary sources of data for this research work obtained from statues and other legal documents; the FDRE constitution, international human rights instrument ratified by Ethiopia and other customary laws, books, annual reports, various journals, proceedings, internet sources, news paper and other relevant published and unpublished materials related to child neglect.

3.1.1. Children

Children are the main focus of this research and source of data as well. The researcher made observation and in depth interview with them pertaining to their status at home, outside home and at school. In selecting children as the subject of the study to obtain rich qualitative data, the researcher uses sampling that enables to address research questions plausibly.

3.1.2. Key informants and the Woreda's Youth, Child and Women Welfare Institution

Youth, Child and Women Welfare Institution is a governmental body working on welfare of children in the Woreda and the researcher has undertaken interview with these officials on the situation of children in this Woreda. Besides, they have provided useful, complementary and corroborative data to address the research questions as they are concerned body to this area. Furthermore, health experts, school teachers, parents and other community elders provided relevant information so as to enrich datum on the situation of children.

3.1.3. Document Analysis

Research works related to child neglect are reviewed as a source of data for this research.

3.2. Primary Data Gathering Techniques and Instruments

Qualitative data collection methods were used with appeal to different specific objective of the study. Each method assigned and tried to particular participants of the study and to specific research questions based on the type and quality of information sought to be fetched from that particular source.

3.2.1. Interview guide

3.2.1.1. Interview guide for children

A detailed interview guide that consists of three parts was prepared in English language that would guide the researcher to do not distract from the main topics in the meantime of interviewing. The first part comprises background information about children; child personal data, their background, their family context, and other short miscellaneous questions that required short answers such as “yes” or “no”. The second part contains maltreatment and any neglect they face in their day to day live. These include any neglect from school, parents or in the community.

The last part mainly concentrates on the children’s awareness of the existence of rights or laws which extend them some form of protection.

3.2.1.2. Interview Guide for parents

A detailed interview guide that consists of two parts was prepared in English language. The first part consists of personal information of parents; age, level of literacy, source of income, dwelling, age of engagement, etc... The last part includes the trait and behavior of parents toward their child.

3.2.1.3. Interview guide for Key Informants

Deep and specific question regarding children destinies in the Woreda; causes, forms and consequences of neglect, and possible solution have been taken is included in this part of the guide.

3.2.2. Unstructured Interview

“This type of interview is non-directed and is a flexible method”⁸⁵. Thus this kind of data gathering techniques was got important to explore or explain the problem further and deeper. “Interviewees are encouraged to speak openly, frankly and give as much detail as possible”⁸⁶. The child interviewee is allowed to talk freely about various aspects of they encounter of being child, especially on the problem of negligence. A series of face-to-face and open-ended questions

⁸⁵ Kajornboon A. Using Interviews as research instruments. Language Institute Chulalongkorn University. Available at www.culi.chula.ac.th/./Annabel.pdf. Accessed on January 18

⁸⁶ ibid

got more plausible than other methods of data collection. Thus, in-depth interview with both parents and children, and other relevant bodies took the form of free dialogue and questions follow up based on the response given till the issue under discussion is exhausted and time to look after a new topic.

Asking question, hear the answer, analysis its meaning for general understanding, frame question either to dig in to the earlier answer in more depth or to pass on the person's attention to an area more relevant to the inquiry. Listen, think and talk are almost done at the same time by taking notes. In the course of conversation, language other than English was employed since it was necessary for communication.

The interviews took place at different locations ranging from indoor to outdoor in plantation area and cattle shepherd areas. They were undertaken under the guidance of the questions that were prepared in the interview guide by taking notes.

3.2.3. Observation

Gets near to the community being studied and observe them in their natural setting which enables the researcher to see how the population units actually are. The researcher by being non-participate observer observed externally the situation of child neglect. This technique of data collection got necessary for infant children who could not undergo with interview of any kind. Thus, it enables to have a concrete feeling and situation of children. The researcher recorded the physical appearance, health, clothing, and general conditions of the child.

“The researcher can record observations of people, a situation or an environment by making notes of what has been observed. Photographs are a good way of collecting observable data of phenomena which can be captured in a single shot or series of shots”⁸⁷.

Thus, the researcher goes to the study area for more than one month and observed the reality as non participant in the community.

⁸⁷. Hancock, B (1998) An Introduction to Qualitative Research. University of Nottingham. page 12

3.3. Method of Data Analysis and Interpretation

The researcher did use notes in the meantime of interview and observation to handle information and data safely. Data analysis is ongoing process beginning from data collection. As Gay and Airasian argued there are steps for analyzing qualitative data. Among this, data managing, describing, interpreting and representing the findings in a written report, are few of them. “Data managing involves creating and organizing the data collected during the study”⁸⁸. Collected data will arrange and organize in a way of facilitating to interpretation and analysis. Data analysis is concerned with describing what is in the data. As the research is purely qualitative, it depends on analyzing ideas put forth by interviewees based on laws incorporated in Ethiopian legal document and international law. Therefore, the data collected from primary sources using different instruments, mainly through interviews and observation will organized, coded, condensed, and analyzed in to theme based on their similarities by keeping their coherence, and also compare with the idea stated in the literature review and conceptual frame work. Thus the analysis is continue throughout the research process and also made after a careful study of universally agreed upon child convention and other human rights documents; the 1995 Ethiopia Constitution, national human rights institutions, experiences of other countries, international and regional child Conventions ratified by Ethiopia and other human rights proclamations in the country. Moreover “the collected data were evaluated for their usefulness and centrality so as to bring meaning and coherence to them pattern, categories and the developing linkages. This is mainly to make sense out of this and present them in such a fashion that they will be engaged to the reader”⁸⁹.

3.4. Sampling Techniques

It is impossible to think and done for the researcher to study all relevant situation, events and population intensively and exhaustively in qualitative research, hence have to choose sample which enables to undertake the study lucratively. Sampling is the process of choosing a number of study units from a defined study population. As qualitative research needs a depth and thoughtful study of the given issue under discussion, sampling is becoming imperative.

⁸⁸ Gay and Airasian (2000) Educational Research. Competencies for Analysis and Application. Sixth edition. pp.240

⁸⁹ Selamawit T.(2007)Denial of rights, human rights abuses and violence against domestic workers in some selected areas of Addis Ababa, a research submitted to Gender institute , Addis Ababa University page 26.

For the purpose of this research, it was conducted in Simada Woreda, South Gondar. The researcher chose this Woreda due to the fact that the researcher has grown up in this Woreda and is acquainted with the socio-cultural and political dynamism of the Woreda. This Woreda contains 45 Kebeles in it with more or less analogous socio-cultural and political dynamism. Among these Kebeles the researcher has selected three Kebeles as they are logistically accessible to collect the information appropriately. In this research, the forms and problems of child neglect encountered, are likely to differ according to family formation, source of income, economic status of parents, dwelling and other factors.

Thus, using stratified sampling technique, the population was stratified through different variables and then samples are selected using simple random sampling. As a result of this, the researcher has put down certain criteria/variable that would determine the eligibility of prospective participants.

The first criterion set by the researcher is family composition; there are children who are reared by single parents and those having both parents; the prevalence and forms of child neglect also varies accordingly.

The second criterion chosen is the source of income of the parents. Some parents lead their life with agriculture and cattle rearing, and other households lead their life with small agriculture activities and trading; the incidence of child neglect is unduly influenced by source of income of the parents.

The third criterion is the economic status of the parents; children from better families are thought to be less neglected than children within the situation of chronic poverty. The fourth criterion is the educational status of parents. The last criterion is the dwelling of the household; rural or urban. The likelihood of negligence in rural is more severe than in urban.

With pursuant to these criteria, the researcher has selected 32 children with their parents as well and participated in the research.

3.5. Ethical Considerations

Research ethics includes confidentiality of the secret of studied population, falsifying, fabricating, misrepresenting research data, guidelines for authorship, copyright, crediting etc. Observance of ethical norms is important for unlocking the truth by avoiding error in fulfilling the objective of the research.

In this research at hand the researcher solicited various forms of information from the participants in relation to their childhood, experience of neglect from their parent, etc... which can be categorized as sensitive issues.

Thus, in order to secure these ethical issues of trust and vulnerability, the researcher has employed the use of certain ethical considerations. Informed consent of the participants was obtained at the inception of both the interview in order to assure that their participations were fully voluntarily of using their name while dictating their cases.

3.6. Research Setting

As it has been mentioned earlier on, the focus of this research is on child neglect in Simada Woreda, South Gondar. Simada Woreda situates in Amhara regional state and is one among fifteen Woredas found in South Gondar. Wogeda is its main town with 767 km far away from the capital city Addis Ababa. There are 267,807 inhabitants in this Woreda, out of which children comprises 147,178⁹⁰. 95 % of the population dwells in rural depend on rain fed agriculture.

Simada literally mean “listen up debt” to mean wake up, you will immerse to debt⁹¹.

Generally, it has 45 Kebeles out of which the following three Kebeles has been selected as a main research sites for the purpose of this study.

3.6.1. Kebele 17

This Kebele, contains three Ketenas’, is 18 Km far away from the main town of the Woreda with a population of 7,294. Out of this population size children comprise approximately 4,362⁹². Tsedoye is a focal point of this Kebele where the chair person seat and other governmental institutions get; high school, health centers, police station, etc...

3.6.2. Kebele 16

This Kebel situated 12 Km North West of the main town Wogeda with the population of 5,878, children take 3, 131 out of the total population⁹³.

⁹⁰ The 2005 Woreda population is that estimated by the Central Statistical Authority. Kebeles’ 2005 population calculated by multiplying the 1994 census figure by the increase in total woreda population since 1994

⁹¹ Source- Magazine prepared for Simada Woreda trade exhibition. How much you know about Simada- page five.

⁹² . Source- Simada Woreda ministry of health office, 2004

⁹³ ibid

3.6.3. Kebele 18

This research site lies 21 Km west of Wogeda with 6, 974 inhabitants; children comprise the number 3,999⁹⁴.

3.7. Fieldwork

The fieldwork for this research was conducted from November 20 up to December 20. Even though the researcher have grown up in this particular area and knows well the suffering of children of being neglected, he had not thought that doing a research on them would result in such a discovery into their world.

The first task of this research was to identify and locating households having children by asking the members of the community or directly go to their home. Out of the three Kebeles selected, the researcher contacted children when they go to school or playing around, or when they looking after cattle on the field.

My being member of the community quit helped in easing the challenge that these children and parents felt so that they were able to open up about their personal as well as live hood experiences. Both the parents and children were cooperative to whom I'm very much thankful.

3.8. Limitations of Methods used and Problem Encountered

The following are some of the limitations that were encountered in the use of the methods selected and problem encountered in the meantime. Some governmental bodies in the Woreda were uncooperative to give information about children, thus, refuse to answer question provided in the interview guide.

Some contradictions are happened on the result of interview of children and the school personnel on the situation of children in school. This was an insurmountable obstacle to the research.

3.9. Advantages of Methods Used

The advantages of the methods used can be list down as follows:

The use of qualitative method helped in finding out the real interpretation of the children regarding their reality of negligence and also experience in their own world.

Qualitative method also helped the researcher to eliminate the question of objectivity since it provided the opportunities to the children to express the realities they face in their daily lives.

⁹⁴ ibid

By triangulating the methods of in-depth interview, observation and interview of key informants the researcher was able to obtain an all-rounded data on the general conditions of children in the selected Kebeles as well as the types of neglect they face in their life. That is, the in-depth interview helped then interviewer to go in-depth by asking essential questions that probe and but also leaves room for explanations so that the children and parents can give immediate clarification and, interview of key informants enabled to got the general practical problem, causes and consequences of child neglect in the Woreda while the observation of the natural setting helped in the researcher to observe kids who can't express their problem and gave clear insight of what really neglect mean.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Background of the Study Population

The underpinning intention of this research is to investigate the prevalence, risk factors associated with child neglect and consequence in Simada Woreda, South Gondar.

In this part of the research work the general background of the research population dealt based on the results obtained from an unstructured interview and direct observation of the natural setting.

The general characteristics of the child and parents are examined in terms of their ways of living, educational status, family structure, dwelling and economic status of parents.

Thus, since the research is qualitative in approach, the definite number of child neglect in the study area has been considered as extraneous mainly because the sample selected is not a statistically representative one. However, some variables have been selected from the questions raised in the unstructured interviews on the background of the children and parents in order to grasp a better understanding of their parental formation, economic status, dwelling, and educational status.

4.1.1 Age Distribution

4.1.1.1 Age Distribution of Child

As the research is dealt with children, the age distribution is below/equal eighteen which is an internationally recognized child age.

Table 4.1 Age distribution of the child population

Age	No. of participants
6-10	10
11-18	10
<6	12

Source: Interview with children and parents, 2011, No. = 32

4.1.1.2. Age Distribution of Parents

Even though the number of participants in this research cannot be considered as statistically representative, it can be inferred from the findings that most parents gave birth at their young age.

Table 4.2. Age distribution of the parent population

Age	No. of participants
<25	16
25 -40	14
>40	2

Source: Interview with parents, 2011, No. = 32

4.1.2. Educational Enrollment

4.1.2.1. Educational Status of Children

The educational enrollments of children, who are in the compulsory school age, most of them are attending school

Table 4.3. Educational status of the child population

Educational status	No. of participant
Yet un enrolled	1
Attending	26
Drop out	5

Source: Interview with children, 2011, No. = 32

As the figure shows most children are now attending their education, though the statics is not representative of all children in the Kebels. In addition to this, parent who are not yet enrolled their children of a mandatory age reflected that the rationale for not enrolling their kids is a result of economic constraints since the children have to support their families with their labor.

There are assigned governmental bodies who inform and enforce parents to enroll their children to school. However, children who don't have parents fail to enroll and forced to drop out from school as a result of economical problems.

4.1.2.2. Educational Status of Parents

The figures above and interview shows that most parents are not educated in a formal academic institution.

Table 4.4 Educational status of parent population

Educational status	No. of participants
Informal	10
Formal	2
Un educated	20

Source: Interview with parents, 2011, No. = 32

4.1.3. Means of livelihood of the Household

Most population in the Woreda in general and in these Kebeles in particular engaged with agricultural activities supplemented by cattle rearing and trading as a source of income.

Table 4.5 Means of livelihood of the study population

Means of livelihood	No. of participants
Agriculture with cattle rearing	26
Cattle rearing with trading	2
Agriculture with trading	4

Source: Interview with parents, 2011, No. = 32

4.1.4. Household Dwelling

Large number of the respondent inhabit in rural area with only two of them are from urban. Children who dwell in urban have more opportunity to necessary service than children in rural due to the accessibility of most social service in urban.

Table 4.6 Dwelling of the study population

Dwelling	No. of participants
Urban	2
Rural	30

Source: Interview with children and parents, 2011, No. = 32

4.1.5. Family Structure

Table 4.7 Family structure of the study population

	No. of participants
Child having both parents	26
Child having single parents	4
Children having divorced parents	2

Source: Interview with children and parents, 2011, No. = 32

4.2. Child Neglect

Parents have the responsibility to protect the child’s safety and wellbeing to the extent of their capacity allowed. CRC⁹⁵ proclaimed that when parents, however, are unable or unwilling to meet this responsibility, the State has the power and authority to take action to protect the child from harms of neglect. To date, there is no comprehensive research done in Ethiopia on the rate and prevalence of child maltreatment in general and child neglect in particular. However, as other country, where adequate research done, child neglect believed to be an entrenched problem in Ethiopia as well which devastatly affect the world of children.

Thus, in order to understand and clarify the findings in this respect, different categories of possible neglect likely to be exhibited on child in accordance with those covered in the literature part of this research identified in order to analyze the world and situation of these children in this Woreda.

4.2.1. Malnutrition

Balanced nutritious diet is fundamental to the bodily and psychological development of children. In so doing, “an infant less than six months should receive only breast milk, while feeding a child older than six months in line with any of these three categories i.e. “breastfed and plain water only”, “breastfed and non-milk liquids” or “breastfed and other milk/formula” is not sufficient to ensure good nutritional status as they also require solid, semi-solid and soft foods starting at 6 months”⁹⁶. Children who are not breastfed have IQs that are 8 points lower than

⁹⁵ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25

⁹⁶UNICEF (2010). For infant and young child feeding. www.unicef.org/nutrition/files/Area

children who are breastfed⁹⁷. Meanwhile, after six months the baby needs supplementary nourishment in addition to the mother's breast milk. In this regard, CRC dictates that "States parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing"⁹⁸. Furthermore, CRC states that "state should take necessary measure to combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water"⁹⁹.

However, with resort to some problems, child could not get well balanced nutrition. The result of observation shows that children in this Kebeles, are malnourished of least and ill balanced foods. The deity system of the households, the researcher observed, is very unsystematic; foods remain open, irregular eating time, eating too much/too little, drinking water get un clean, little effort of food preparation, eating materials or food preparation objects are not as clean as they should be.

Getachew, he is a seven years old child, told that *I usually eat twice a day with no lunch. At the very morning, I eat too much stay to night outside home in looking after cattle without any food and water in the meantime. In addition to this, I usually provided food to eat after my parents finished their dinning and the food is the remains of them.* Most children, as the researcher observed, at their infancy gets foods which are unfitted with their very nutritional needs.

Moreover, drinking water is not as clean as intended for the nutritional need of children. Drinking water is fetch from river, commonly used by both animals and humans far from the home village. In the meantime, these rivers water is not protected from environmental pollution and wastage. Access to safe water is not assured for many household in those Kebeles.

Alem a fifty years old mother narrates the problem of water in this way-

We don't have nearby accessible water either for drinking or other home service, let alone getting clean/purified water. I usually wake up at the early morning and heading to river of a

⁹⁷ UNICEF. Education update children with disability major cause. www.unicef.org/..vol2disabileng.pdf

⁹⁸ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. Article 27(3)

⁹⁹ Ibid article 24(2) C

walking distance 10 minutes to fetch water to make breakfast ready for my children. Furthermore, as observation reveal, parents uses water fetching and collecting object that is not properly cleaned.

4.2.2. Lack of Cleanliness

Children are minor and none matured who want to bewilder everything to test and touch. With this wondering, children may encounter with different things which are unclean. If the parents don't extend due protection to children, they will soiled, play with mud or unclean by other animals feces. Thus, the parent should either protect or make clean the child from those things. The parents should also bath their baby on a regular time. The result of interview and observation opens that parents fail to make children clean.

A little female child her name -Askalech told that *my parents never take me to bath rather some times when I make the cattle access water to the river, I swim and make my body clean.*

What is clear from this respondent is that children aren't getting the attention of their parents to make their body clean so that their bodies will not be infected by diseases. As the observation shows the mother fail to protect the child from insects like fly which infects their face and eyes. Children are naked with no cloth to shelter their body from bad weather and dust materials. As observation of the studied area revealed some children remained soiled and looks dirty; the child's face is exposed to insects like fly as a result of being unclean. House is dirty, messy or sparsely equipped; the floor is soil/mud. Walls and windows are hole that would invite dangerous animals or children would suffer from cold. Moreover, cloths of children are limited, inappropriately clean and old- in need of repair.

Belaynesh a 12 year old child told that

I do have only two cloths, the one allotted only to holy days. Sadly, the cloth does not wash timely with appropriate cleaning material. These conditions make me vulnerable to insects such as louse, fly, fleas and other insects pro to bacteria. In addition to this I don't have shoes to my legs, due to this my legs frequently wounded and exposed to chilly weather condition. Thus, children are frequently ill as a result of lack of appropriate cleanness of the general environment and the home compound. A filthy floor constructed of mud; full of dust soil which is violent and disease-ridden. The general environment is also risk-loaded due to most households haven't any toilet arrangement and waste disposal pits for either liquid or solid wastes.

4.2.3. Lack of Response

Children need the psychological and bodily nearby approach of their parents for any positive and negative feeling. However, interview and observation result reveals that children are not getting the proper psychological treatment and attachment from their parents. Heart-to- heart communication, quit worthwhile for children’s psychological advancement is absent. Parents are not psychologically lively to their child rather makes child far away from their warmth attention. Parents in most instance are absent with their children or whisper if they are present with children. Under this circumstance huge gaps is created between parents and children, and ultimately marginalization of children became real.

One child by the name Shegaw told that *when I ask my parents something to do, they usually whisper in spite of my loudness and if they do respond, they argue ‘you are starting at fighting with us, shut up your mouse’, they said.* Thus, parents in most occasions are not emotionally engaged and thoughtful to their child.

Child- Yisaak confirmed that *my parent do not consider me as equal with them, in the meantime, they do not make any free discussion with me rather they impose any idea that pleased them. They do not show their love and invite me to share my feeling.* Furthermore, children needs constructive rewarding and compliment of their parent for any inspiration they shows. Nevertheless, as observation reveals caregiver usually belittles the motivation of the child and liable child for their problem in school or at home.

4.2.4. Educational Neglect

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration dictates that “everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory”¹⁰⁰. Education should not take as for granted rather should be based on human rights value and principles.

“Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. Parents have a prior

¹⁰⁰ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A

right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children”¹⁰¹. As explicitly proclaimed in this article, parents have legal, natural or moral responsibility to support and encourage their children to be effective at their education.

It further points out, educational curriculum for children shall design in away to promote human development which ultimately creates democratic society.

As table 4.3 above shows, most children in those Kebeles are enrolled and attending their education. Indeed, few children drop out of school as a result of economic pressure. Tsegaye was at grade three when he dropped out from school.

He argued that, *though my parents want to continue my education, due to the fact that my father is patient and he can't work well, I take his role at home. This affects my educational progress and drop out from school.*

Meanwhile, the mere fact of sending kid to school is not enough instead parents should support and initiate the child to actively attend their education. Parents should support their child's educational need; fulfilling schooling facility (pen, pencil, sport logistic, reference books, tutor, and the like. The finding of this research shows that, parents are sending their kids school just for the mere purpose of fulfilling state obligation.

Guday a grade six student argued that *my parent never encourages me to lively attain my education; when I ask them to buy pen, books or other materials, they are not usually pleased to easily do so. Their response is sadly heart breaking and moral daunting.* Thus, Parents are not committed to review to their children what the child was learning in school and motivated to strengthen their independent learning.

Parents are also forced children to involve at work which adversely affect their academic competence. Desalegn, a grade eight student said that *“as soon as I return from school, I get myself at work. I have barely any time for study. When I ask my parents to let me to do my home work, they responded me that ‘who want you fill your stomach than you’”. Often I miss the class as a result of failing to do my home work.*

Some child student said that teachers in those Kebeless' school do not understand the problem of the students they have with their parents.

¹⁰¹ ibid

Wubnesh a grade five student claimed *teacher are verbally abuse us amounting to humiliating our dignity and honor. They are so harsh of using physical and oral abuse to rectify any of our educational faults than giving counseling; this bullies us at school.* However, CRC article 28 (2) dictates that “States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention”. Still, Guday a grade six student said that,

One day in the class, one student who is not the members of the class during the break time wrote something on the board assaultful of the teacher. When the teacher enters to the class, he anger of what is wrote on the board, and then ask us to identify the responsible being. We respond unanimously that the child is not in this class; however the teacher directs his techniques to physical punishment to forcefully identify the child. The teacher by ordering us to pull out our hands punched all of us mercilessly. She said I return to home and told to my father the incidence and I told him to talk the teacher. However, my parents leave it without any due attention. After that, I refuse to go to school for two days. Generally, teachers considered us as minor and believing nothing will we came up with harm to them, thus treat us as they pleased. She said it is very sad of being children. Thus, teachers are employed physical force and oral abuse to make child students disciplined in their educational obligation.

Moreover, with regard to education state should ensure the fulfillment of the certain elements imperative to education in school. Thus

“Education in all its forms and at all levels shall exhibit the following interrelated and essential features.

Availability - functioning educational institutions and programmes have to be available in sufficient quantity within the jurisdiction of the State party. What they require to function depends upon numerous factors, including the developmental context within which they operate; for example, all institutions and programmes are likely to require buildings or other protection from the elements, sanitation facilities for both sexes, safe drinking water, trained teachers receiving domestically competitive salaries, teaching materials, and so on; while some will also require facilities such as a library, computer facilities and information technology;

Accessibility - educational institutions and programmes have to be accessible to everyone, without discrimination, within the jurisdiction of the State party. Among other variability education should be physically accessible - education has to be within safe physical reach, either by attendance at some reasonably convenient geographic location (e.g. a neighborhood school) or via modern technology (e.g. access to a “distance learning” programme); **Acceptability and Adaptability of education”**¹⁰² at primary level is imperative.

However in those Kebeles those elements essential educational feature are not available as they wanted. Guday told that

Since the school took one hour from our home on foot, every time I have to wak up early. In the morning, the cold lashed my body while the heat of the day burned when I return back to home at seven o'clock; however, the teacher and the parent take it as for granted. Sometimes I arrive late to class; sadly, the teacher punishes me by ordering to pullout my hand and forcefully punches with dry stick. On the other hand my parent commands me to return back from school quickly, just to order me to do varieties of tasks without any break. My mother order certain task, at the same time my father order on other task. When I fail to accomplish the presumed task, both of them verbally abuse or punched me. She continue to say that, the school environment with ill teaching-learning atmosphere, learning is deadly disgusting; sitting arrangement is very poor that we sit on ground made from mud, no toilet, overcrowded class, in adequate school premises (no safe sport field, Lab, library,...), teachers are indifferent to address our special problems. Furthermore I use Kuraz¹⁰³ to study at night which is uncomfortable and risk-loaded for the reason that the smoke carries gas.

As most children argued they are under moody environment to vibrantly attend their education. School premises are very poor of not inviting children to further develop their education. Parents at home also have irreplaceable role in initiating children for their academic achievement, yet failed to do so.

¹⁰² United Nation Economic and Social Council. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. General Comment No. 13 (Twenty-first session, 1999)

¹⁰³ Object, fuel by gas serve as a candle

4.2.5. Health Problem

Children are minor who no longer resist diseases that attack their body and at the same time they could not meaningfully diagnosis their problem for cure. It is parents/any caregiver responsible to any preventative medical service or curative service and it is government responsible to make the serve available. International convention on child dictates that “States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care”¹⁰⁴. Protection the safety of children involves before, during and after birth by giving due support to the mother.

CRC with appeal to article 24 dictates that states shall ensure access to essential health services for the child and his or her family by extending pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers”. Nevertheless, Informant one who is a director of those Kebeles’s health center located in Tsedoye told that, children in their early infancy are missed from getting immunization and medical checks; for prevention of polo, hepatitis, pertusis, tuberculosis, asthma, bronchitis etc... all of them are fatal to them.

Yet, besides health centers, there are other religious medication mechanism; using Tsebel¹⁰⁵ or other man made traditional medicine. Most household in this area uses those traditional medicines predominantly as they are easily accessible and low-priced. However, there are some diseases which need the attention of modern health centers. In so doing the parent should be responsible to take a child for regular medical checks. However, child, as observation of the community and interview shows, is not getting proper health attention. Parents usually being mute on the health situation of their children of believing it will goes to safe.

Adane, who is now a grade nine student, said that

My body was invaded by drops of white colors, I ask my parent to go to health center; however they take is easily to the hope of it will goes better. In the mean time as the problem aggravate,

¹⁰⁵ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. Article 24

¹⁰⁵ holy water

my teachers and other individuals at school advice me to go to health center; I went to health center and the doctors told me if you delayed more, your body would totally changed to white color.

What's more, children are victims of harmful traditional practice including female genital mutilation, early marriage, cutting of eye around face which affects not only the physical health but also their future psychological makeup. The researcher has observed of many children in those Kebeles who are the victims of those the above harmful tradition.

Thus, as the interview of parents reveals, scores of children lost their life per day and being physically/mentally disabled a result of lack of proper and periodic medication.

4.2.6. Lack of Supervision

CRC dictates that children need timely and appropriate guidance and supervision of their parents and, in so doing state should also support parents. “A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counseling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programmes and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence”¹⁰⁶. The fact of mental and psychological immaturity of children calls special safeguards and care from the care giver. In most juncture, the mind of infant child is so taken up with intense wondering of something; in the face of this bewildering they can't regard the risk associated with it.

When we came to the research at hand, most children in this Kebeles dwell in rural; this fact makes the children vulnerable to dangerous situation if there is not proper supervision extended to them. The female child, her name, Askalech a six year old child, looks after cattle alone far away from the home village. The cattle as the researcher observed shows, having long sharp horns may inflict harm on the child. She shares her experience of looking after cattle; *I usually wake at the early morning; eat any food I get and open cattle's' Beret¹⁰⁷ to make them available to graze land, often, far away from the village. The whole day I only stay with the cattle, no one supervise me.*

¹⁰⁶Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. .Article 40 (3)b

¹⁰⁷ Cattle's home arrangement

It is very terrible of allotted a six year old child to the task of looking after cattle. As she said, no one watch, if something wrong happens. This manifest that parents are not extended their timely supervision to their children despite allotting this kind of risky task to child is totally negligence.

“States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform to the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision”¹⁰⁸.

As the researcher observed, the topography of the area is very mountainous with chain of cliff which is risky to the overall safety of the child. Most playing fields of children are full of potential risk; sharp and heighty wood when children climb up on it they may ether fall from it or harmed with it; children when they play with big stone the stone may upset down and may inflict harm on them. Admittedly, infant children in most occasions have instinctual habit of taking any object they could hold of, that makes children vulnerable to dangerous condition.

As evident from observation while the mother is being undertaking work on plantation, the baby is feeding her mother’s breast milk. In the meantime, the baby is not available with a stimulating, stable and safe atmosphere. Imagine the hot side of the sun and risk associated with dangerous animals such as snake, spider, lizard or other dangerous insects in the unsafe zone of plantations area.

The failure of the parents in supervising their children also continues at home. Thus, young children at home are not getting thorough protection from the parents. Children, often, left to their own device in the house alone while the parents leave the home to their works. Children may fire-off, eat rotted food, and drink unclean water, harmed by sharp materials such as needle, etc ... all of which has slippery slope effects.

Thus, providing the whole structure of the area, it is inappropriate to the security of child if the parents shouldn’t strengthen their supervision and guidance.

4.2.7. Early Marriage

Early marriage is a marriage takes place before one or both of the spouses complete their child age. Eighteen is an international recognized child age. Early marriage/ Child marriage, is defined

¹⁰⁸ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. Article 3(3)

as “any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and childbearing”¹⁰⁹. As it is stated above children needs the fulfillment of an adequate physical need and psychological warmth of their parents. Child marriage; going to separates a child from the proper care of parents, enforces children to lives in their share of sphere or surrender them to dangerous caregiver. CRC under article 9 proclaimed that children have the right to live with their parents; to do not separate off from their parents against his/her will. Usually child engaged to marriage by the force of their parents with no due regard of their consent. Tirngo now a 28 year old mother got married to separate from her parents at ten and has been stayed with her husband and his parents till they became independent after three years. In this juncture, child may leave their parents in favor of unsuitable career and children submit themselves to the ruling others which is overtly negligence. The all life path and fortune of children will be controlled by others. Thus, early marriage can be the underlying cause of denial of access to education and deprivation of childhood enjoyment.

4.3. Factors of Child Neglect

Neglect can't exist just on void rather there are factories that commutatively give way to the incidence of neglect on children. At the fault of oversimplification, one can't make one factor responsible for the occurrence of neglect rather one or more factors react with the poor response of family and society makes the problem visible.

4.3.1. Family Formation

The general structure and function of the household glimpse the risk of neglect.

Children who are rearing by single parents are more neglected than children reared by both parents. As evident from table 4.7 some children are reared by single parents. As interview shows single parents feels helpless and unable (economically or psychologically) in their role of care giving. Giatie is rearing by single parent explained that *when my mother leaves the home for either religious ceremony or other social activities, I stay alone. In this situation I feel despair in a mire obscurity and negligent due to the fact that my father is died when I was four and I haven't any viable family members live around me.* Furthermore, children who live with

¹⁰⁹ United Nation Population Fund. In ending child marriage, A guide for global policy action International. Planned Parenthood Federation and the Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls.

step father or mother, as a result of death or divorce of parent, faces discrimination of favor and ultimately neglected.

My mother was divorced when I was 10 years old. We were three children and two of us were male and one female. Legesse, 10, narrates their situation of childhood suffering a lot from their step mother. Our father married wife of the then our step mother. In the first disjuncture, she warmly welcomes and gives due respect and honor. As time went by mistreatment came in. She order us to wake up very early in the morning to do various of tasks including fetching water, collecting fire wood, preparing food or other tasks. While our father was away from home, our step mother mistreated us. She denies us food, forcing us to miss the class frequently and to stay at home to do domestic task.

On the other hand, as the interview and observation indicates, there are parents' whose age is below 25. As it is naturally evident parents early engaged to marriage and parents who early gave birth to children, has the possibility of being neglectful parents due to the fact that they are not reaching at maturity level to shoulder parenting responsibility. Yirsa a three children father said that *I got married at 18 to the wife of 12 years old. We got our first kid after two years when my wife was at 14.* Here, the mother herself doesn't finish her childhood to owe motherhood responsibility. Child mother may not have the ability, knowledge, opportunity and skill to rear their children properly. The 'good enough parent' needs the skill and knowledge, and experience of parenting task. Thus, mother who borne child early will not have the skill and experience of parenting to fulfill the task of good enough parenting.

Size of the most households in this Kebeles as the researcher observed is very large to the maximum of twelve. Children in this household could not get equal attention from their parents. In addition to the large size of household, the inter-pregnancy interval is low; this creates complication in the growth of children. One father his name Yirsa narrates that; *I do have three children who born consecutively of a one year gap between delivery and conception of the next pregnancy.* As the researcher observed the young and old child have only minor physical developmental difference. Thus, one kid is born after another without getting proper infant-mother warmth/animation relationship.

4.3.2. Cultural Factors

Culture of a given society inevitably accounts parents of their way of child rearing. The definition of neglect, in most occasions, is regarded by the particular cultural value of society. Culture may also include the possible capacity of the parent or the state to satisfy the need of children.

Cultural value and practices predetermined the destiny of the child for good or bad. Cultural value include ritual/traditional activities, relationship among child, parents and community as well, all of which in turn affect the destiny of the child. As the researcher observed in this Woreda, within the house hold children are not honored the status of full human being. The community named children with local Amharic word as *nefs yalawoku/mucha* to mean nothing knows. Moreover, parents gave birth to child just to use them as tool to fix their problems and use them to suit their own purposes. Due to these facts, children in these areas forced to engage at labor at their early age. Genberu a 39 years old father claimed that; *I have a full power of using the children as I please due to the fact that I gave birth to them and I gave birth to them to serve me.*

Research done by Amhara regional state health Bureau list down the causes of the multy-problems that circled children in this Woreda- “parents consider children as minor so that they exclude them from decision matters that affects them”¹¹⁰.

Furthermore, one father by the name Melkam told that, *children should test the pain part of life meant to harden them, strength them to develop them so that they may ultimately produce a courageous men/women.* The people in this community earnestly believe that if the children grow up smoothly with due proper care, at latter age the child will not be courageous enough. Some Proverb within the society also negatively influences the health growing of children. For instance, the following proverb states that - *“Face and child can go with cold air condition with no risk followed”*. This proverb makes parents in this community to do not worry about the weather specify-need cloth of their children.

Some children and parents also believe that living with such condition is a destiny of human existence cannot be escaped.

¹¹⁰ Research Journal. Amhara Regional state. ministry of health 2002

Moreover, most of the Ethiopian society is patriarchal society that assigns domestic or reproductive roles to women via its sexual division of labor. Chap in household usually refrain from doing any domestic activities as the tradition blindly banning them to do so. Hager a twenty years old mother told;

I only perform all tasks of the children at home; washing of their cloth, preparing foods, controlling toiling needs of the children, bathing, sleeping arrangement, selecting appropriate cloth and other tasks besides the usual domestic tasks of preparing food, arranging home and etc.... Thus, women assume broader responsibility in household. This makes mother the sole child responsible caregiver and makes the children neglected.

4.3.3. Poverty

The economic status of the parents often determines the parenting capacity in pleasing what is deeming essential to the child. Neglect thrives in a poor economic condition of children. However, poverty is not always associated with neglect. Children from well to do family may face neglect of parents' attention. Sometimes, for children parent's wealth and material progress could do nothing to make their life meaningful or give them happiness without close attention from the career.

Correspondingly, in this Woreda the economic status of the populations more or less is comparable i.e. deadly poor. It is the most remote, backward Woreda in South Gondar; the populations usually stand on the safety net aid of the government. Chronic Poverty adversely affects children through its negative impact on the psychological treat of the parent and on the general economical accommodation of the parents. Previous research done in this Woreda by Regional Ministry of Health reveals that the detrimental effect of poverty on the overall developmental needs of children has been fatal. Other dynamic issue such as illiteracy, family formation, and traditional belief in the society coupled with the already economically limited parenting capacity makes the situation worse. One father by the name Gebyehu told the researcher that,

Though I have good intention of fulfilling what the children required; providing adequate food, buying cloths, and supplying other needs and wants to my children, poverty constrained me to do so. He further said that, I do have eight children; however, I can't even satisfy the bare minimum

need of clothing those children, supplying food, let alone providing weather specific cloth, well-balanced food or well arranged bed arrangement to them.

Haile, twelve years old child said that

I don't have any bed and sleeping cloth rather I sleep on the ground having slight cloth to cover my body. The ground is scratchy that makes my body ill. Moreover, the sleeping cloth is not thick enough to protect my body from cold and chilly weather condition. In a similar vein the other child Degenu said that;

As the result of my parents' poverty, we do have only one house to us and the cattle. The cattle and two of the children sleep aside with the cattle on the ground. There are many occasions that the cattle inflict harm on us. He further argued that *as we share sleeping home together with cattle the home smell dirty, decay and excrement with soiled floor.* It is evident from this that poverty erodes the capacity of parents in fulfilling what is please to their children

4.3.4. Household Dwelling and Source of Income of Parents

The incidence of poverty and neglect in rural area is severing than cities. The impact of poverty on the career's ability to meet the needs of the child is aggravated by lack of access to public service such as child-care, health center, housing, educational institutions and leisure service. Among the three Kebeles this research is conducted only the one Kebel has small town with approximately two hundred dwellers out of the total 7,294 population. This shows that most people dwell in rural area with no adequate housing, school, health center, road and other infrastructure facilities. This situation fuels the vulnerability of the problem of child neglect in these Kebeles. Wale a forty years old father describes the inaccessibility of facility in this Kebele like this- *the distance to the way to heath center and school takes one hour on foot. When one household member feels illness, there is no nearby medical treatment; in the meantime of transporting using manual system that person will die.*

On the other hand most parents depend on back ward rain fed agriculture and cattle rearing as a source of income which makes life fatal. Agriculture needs huge human resources with extensive effort that enforces parents to use the labor of their children.

4.3.5. Lack of Adequate Social Provision

As Ethiopia is among the least developed nation in the world, infrastructure facilities and social welfare system are virtually scant. As observation reveals, this Woreda worse than other

Woredas in South Gondar, has not adequate/standardized health center, education (kindergarten, formal and informal), legal institution, low level of socio-economic development, public library and lack of other premises ideal to the healthy development of the children. In those three Kebeles, there is only one health center to which there are no considerable numbers of doctors with poor material supply necessary for medication. (Informant2), manager of the three Kebeles health center situated at Kebele 17, told that there is no adequate doctors' proportional to the populations' number and there is no suitable health center premises; no water, sleeping arrangement for patient, ambulance, delivery class etc...

Moreover, though there is significant breakthrough on family planning, till some part of the society have little or no awareness on family planning. The health center of those Kebele's runs short to aware the society about family planning. This leads to large family size that unduly affects the hospital development of the children. Meanwhile, pregnant mother as the result of lack of adequate awareness on the possible adverse effect on the fetus, run twenty four hours on work ranging from carrying heavy object to undertaking various tired full tasks on plantation and have not regular medical checks before delivery. (Informant3) a health expert claimed that mother who pass in this situation give birth to a low birth weight infant and invite complication during delivery; mal presentation, abnormal fetal heart beat and preterm labor.

Kindergarten school, where children prepare themselves and will lead them to perform better in primary schools, are absent in those Kebeles. Thus, children force to begin at primary education without any prior childhood educational stimulation which is fatal for the then future development.

Furthermore, the inaccessibility of both print and broadcast media in the area disconnects the society from updated information. Thus, the societies get zero opportunity to be heard of their voice from concerned governmental body.

On the other hand, the habit of reporting neglected child to either criminal justice or other social welfare institutions on the part society is very poor. Children ever lost social shield to mean that no one speak on their behalf, no NGO, no vigorous Governmental institution, no longing individuals. As the Woreda Child Affair Officer (informant1) argued, the institution, puppet in itself, is poorly funded of doing the activities of awareness creating for the parents about child rearing. He further argued that due to the fact that there is no adequate logistic facility, we can't

go to remote area in fulfilling the mission of the institution. Thus, children, as observation of the three Kebeles reveal, left neglected.

4.3.6. Illiteracy

Parenting is not something that bestowed naturally but something gained either through observation or learning. Some parents may not have sufficient skill and knowledge in understanding the state of the child though have a good intention. Parents presumed to have the knowledge and skill of healthy diet, the food and drink requirement, bathing and sleeping arrangement, identify toileting need, etc... of the child at different age. As observation and interview reveals, most parents are not traversed with the relevant formal and informal education important to lead a good life or to being a good parent.

States shall ensure that “parents and children have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents”¹¹¹. As interview of parents reveal parents are also not getting the opportunity of learning and awareness from concerned body as how to rear children. Parents need certain educational abilities, to be able to care properly for their child. Illiterate parents could not support their children to read prescription labels on their child’s medication, to courage children’s educational competence and in general, lacks knowledge about childhood development.

4.4. Child Neglect and Neglect loaded Child Human Rights Violation

Children are facing various forms of human rights violations as a result of being neglected of socio-emotional and economic opportunities pertinent to their development. The fact of negligent children will allegedly result in other dire human rights violation; the right to participation, association, movement, leisure, religion, etc...

CRC in under Article 23(1) dictates that “States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community”. Children have the rights to participate in any decision that affect them. However, children for the fact that they are

¹¹¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25. Article 2E

neglected both at home and within the community have not any space to participate in the communities that affect them. They have no any leisure time to take rest or to organize and participate in entertainment pertaining to them. CRC in its article 12 stipulate that child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. Furthermore, children have the right to receive updated information that is important to their physical and spiritual well-being. “The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice”¹¹².

Participation enables children to acquire relevant information to build knowledge, communication skills, self-esteem and a greater sense of future responsible and democratic citizenship.

As observation and interview of children reveals children are distant from those the above rights guaranteed from different national and international child rights conventions for the reason that they are negligent.

4.5. Consequences of Child Neglect

The consequence of neglect on the world of children is far reaching. However, it is hard-hitting to discriminate the effect that neglect results from the harm other maltreatment inflicts on children.

As it is stated in the previous part, neglect affects the overall developmental aspect of the child; physical, emotional, behavioral or cognitive.

Children in this Woreda suffer from multiple problems on which their overall well being is at risk. Coming to the particular issue of neglect, it is nearly impossible to responsible neglect as the only possible explanation of the current problem children in this Woreda. Meanwhile the general consequence of neglect ranges from at worse death to lifelong developmental delay.

¹¹² Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25.). Article 13

4.5.1. Death

Deaths of children may arise from one-off accident due to lack of timely parental supervision or from persistence chronic neglect of parents. Significant number of children of this Woreda as interview of parents shows, lost their life accidentally/one-off neglect through floods, fire, dangerous animal, cliff, harm inflicted from insane person, etc...

One mother, Tirngo narrates how her first child took by flood;

He was looking after the cattle with other his relatives far away from the home. He was void of any rain/sun protection object-Umbrella. Thus, when heavy rain falls, the child hides in cave of a river in escaping the rain. The floods of the river full the cave where the child hides. The river was so violent; floods the plains, tear down trees, wash soil from one place to deposit it in other. The child was got this fortune as well, thus, lost his life in this way. This kind of neglect arises from parents' failure of timely supervision of a minor child outside home.

The other mother Addis narrates how she lost her third child to Hyena;

One night day, I left the home open to toilet, my child was slept alone. When I came back I lost my child and made loud cry to announce the situation to my neighbors. We run around in search of the child, however; we get only his body remains.

On the other hand the cares' private issue does impact on the daily activities of the child and at worse risk the life of children. Melaku a 38 years old guy narrates the tragic situation that took place in his neighboring home before one year in this way; *I used to have a fifty six old neighbor who was mentally insane; who had been administrated two children alone and owned gun. One day he killed the two children mercilessly with gun. This is very sad for the young children who have not vigilant parents.*

As observation and interview of health authority testified, death of children also occurred as a result of persistence lack of medical consideration and as a result of lack of an adequate nutritional attention.

4.5.2. Delay/Damage of Socio- Emotional and Physical development

Beside worse case of death of children, the impact of neglect on a child may not be visible and identifiable at an early age. Indeed, identifying the correlation of the impact of neglect on the mental/psychological development of the child needs deep and extensive research.

Generally, the effects of neglect are fatal and possibly long-lasting slippery slope and interpenetrated socio-emotional and physical developmental complication for the victims.

The child by the name Amhare who is disabled a result of deprivation of timely medical attention told that;

I was seven when this situation happen on me, I didn't ever thought of: I was playing on stone, suddenly the stone slid out and I got myself under the stone, my leg seriously damage. However, my parents failed to access me to health treatment as soon as possible; as a result I lost my right leg. Now I am seventeen, but I cannot perform things well and adequately due to the fact that both my mental and physical development is aborted.

Besides physical disability, children also suffer from poor physical posture, teeth decay/improper position and other physical inappropriateness.

As evident from observation children are mal nutrated arised from food shortage/ill balanced food and they are small in stature. As a result, their abdomen is protruding with head big as circumference of other parts of the body, as (informant3) who is the health expert in this Woreda argued, is the consequence of nutritional neglect.

Most children, as observation reveal and testify of health authorities, got with disproportional height and weight i.e. Body Mass Index and underweight appearance with poor growth pattern.

Neglected children are also end up with poor at educational performance and creative capacity.

Tsehaynesh a grade seven student shares her problem of education neglect;

Every day I should go a distance that covers one hour and half to arrive at school. However, in my staying at school I get nothing of any food and water. Due to this I usually thirst of water and hunger of food which makes me inactive in the classroom. In addition to this, I feel tired when I came to home to further read what I have learned in class room. Since the home from the school is far distant I shall return back as soon as we released from class. Thus, I don't have any opportunity to do group work with my classmate or to refer books in library. This makes scoring good grade unreality and my knowledge seeking interest deadly affected.

Furthermore, a grade seven student Abebe told that *I usually eat very little food at the very morning and heading to school a distance covers one hour; this leads me to be hunger while I learn in school. Thus, I don't get any motivation to attentively attend my education in the class and lag behind from my classmates in academic competence.*

As the observation of diet system of the household reveals children are provided with too little food, unbalanced food or inadequately prepared food; all of which malnourished the development of children. “Malnourished children, unlike their well-nourished peers, not only have lifetime disabilities and weakened immune systems, but they also lack the capacity for learning that their well-nourished peers have”¹¹³.

The other child by the name Guday told how her parents single out her at home and that affects her educational achievement,

My parents with unknown reason single out and prejudice me from other household members. My parents in most occasions have not trust on me when I ask materials that are imperative to schooling. I feel neglected at home, this bad impression continue to contemplate in my mind that distract my attention in the class room. I usually lost concentration and attention-span, which adversely affect my academic performance. Thus, I envisage tomorrow without meaning.

Moreover, as observation has reveal, most children were shy of making communication with the researcher for the reason that they have not built the habit of free communication with their parent at home. They are very soft spoken in spite of gravely neglected, extremely shy and could hardly look directly at the face of the interviewers. They appeared not to have confidence in themselves. The researcher and his relative due to the fact that they were growing up in this area, share the problem as well. As one of the researcher’s relative told, the current suffering is what he borrowed from his childhood neglect; *I do have great problem of expressing my internal feeling either in writing or orally, understanding what other argued or making textual analysis. I have no initiation to upgrade myself by reading further text book or listening media due to the fact that I was neglected the motivation to do so in my early infancy. He further argued that I am aggressive toward others.*

¹¹³ UNICEF. Education update children with disability major cause. www.unicef.org/./vol2disabileng.pdf

Chapter Five

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

In spite of the lack of general agreement, wide approval has gained the notion that child neglect is the failure on the part of the caregiver in providing what is deemed necessary for the natural development of children; psychological and physical. This study reveals that, child neglect, in its various forms, is the wildest form of maltreatment badly wounding the prospect of children in Simada Woreda. Children continue to live under a complex and unfriendly environment in which various forms of neglect are throwing them to hell. They are deprived of the simple joy of childhood. Children for the fact that they are immature both physically and mentally, depend on their parents for any childhood enjoyment.

Status and situation of children; parents' economic status and literacy level, family formation, cultural practice in the community and other variables variably regards the severity of neglect on children. Thus, chronic poverty of care giver, traditional belief entrenched in the society of considering children as minor, unsystematic family composition (early marriage, large family composition among others), lack of infrastructure facility, domestic violence, rural dwelling, and rampant illiteracy among others were found to be interbreeding reasons that claim the lives of most children at worse and abort their ideal development. Children in this Woreda are neglected from education, health, nutrition, psychological affection, etc... Parents, community, school teacher, are neglectful of children of deemed them as insignificant.

Thus, important causes/risk factors that limit the motivation and ability of care giver are documented for different forms of child neglect. Socio-economic and geographical circumstance, with which the parents live, as the researcher observed, is not ideal to child-rearing for parents. Worsening poverty paralyzes the capacity of the parent in fulfilling what is adequate for their children. In accessibility of both print and broad cast media in those Kebeles limit the opportunity of parents to learn and know how to rear child and to be effective parents in general. The source of income of most population in this Woreda is mainly depend on agriculture, orient from natural rain with traditional way; this makes parents hard to easily manage life, even, their bare existence. Failure of the government, though improvement yesterday than today, to make

prompt infrastructure facility to all rural areas hindered childhood enjoyment. Traditional belief, accredited from the past, belittle the status of children and get them out of the parent and community's warmth.

Children Neglected of various form at their early stage have borrowed both death at worse and a long lasting irreversible deleterious effect on their life in terms of physical and mental well being, and their parenting model. Their physical growth became non-natural of being dwarf, poor physical appearance, scratchy body, unnatural body color, and etc... on the other hand their mental/ emotional state is below normal. Most children in this area are scoring averagely low in school, as their teacher stated, which, the inevitable result of neglect, is as most research done in America and England reveals. Children are due to the fact that they are locked in in their rearing practice, end up with being shy of making communication with others and slow in their expression of ideas or encounter hardship in understanding problems. Generally, due to the fact of neglect, children in this area are not found as they ought to be and failed to be active/fruitful citizen.

It is found in this study that children who are above 12 in this area engaged with physical labor in different sector or leave the area as means to escape from the imminent risk of chronic poverty, parents negligence and other inter-marriage problems.

5.2. Recommendation

Finally, based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are forwarded to relevant authorities in the hope of making better the conditions of children in this Woreda with the presumed competence.

I. The Ministry of Youth, Women and Child Affair of the Woreda should:

- Promoting awareness about human rights in general and child rights in particular
- Create awareness to the general public about child neglect and the overall living conditions of children through the dissemination of information about their particular situation;
- Conduct, and encourage researches on children both in the rural and urban areas.
- Promote legal literacy among children in collaboration with other legal authorities so that children can know the legal rights that pertain to them.

- Work in collaboration with minister of education, health and court on the well being of children.
- Making their office open for any complaint regarding children
- Interdisciplinary- doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, legal practitioners, and many others expertise should included in the office that could positively impact children who face terrible problem each day. Sadly, there are no officers who have educational status of human rights and child related academic ranks in this Woreda Institution. The workers in the institution are graduates of geography that may negatively impact their expertise understanding the problem of children.

II. Schools should:

- Organize different meeting to discuss on the problem of child students
- Avoid any kind of physical and verbal abuse as a tool of rectify child student for their mal practice instead shall use counseling and advising with the collaboration of parents and community.
- Making the school premises ideal for learning-teaching progression.
- Believe children by recognizing their talent and initiation.
- Work to the development and improvement of education, through the training of teachers.
- Making schooling material accessible to teaching-learning process.
- Make live communication with the Woredas' Youth, Women and Children Welfare institution.

III. Legal Bodies should:

- Evaluate and review the existing laws that are relevant to the situation of children and enforce their application;
- Precisely define what child neglect does mean and, its constituent scope.

IV. Amhara Regional State, take in to account the remoteness of the Woreda should:

- Ensure the provision of a standardized form of education, health centers, legal institution, promptly media, road and other infrastructure in rural Kebles of the Woreda
- Well funding the Woreds' Youth, Women and Child Affair Institution required in realizing the stated objective of the institution.
- Well coming and making conditions ideal to child focused-NGO to run in the region.
- Enlighten the society through mass media about children and how to rear children within family and sustain the wellbeing of the family bondage.
- Promote awareness within the society to combat traditions that wound the honor and wellbeing of children.

V. Parents should

- As much as their capacity premised extended their care to their children
- Avoiding divorces which possibly reduce the pressure of parenting tasks
- Building healthy household; full of love and sympathy
- Continuously upgrading their all rounded knowledge presumably strengthens parenting capacity.

Finally, even though under traditional international law it is government charged with the fulfillment of the Rights of its citizen, the protection and care of children will be naïve and weak if there is not an overlapping responsibility and intervention by all section of the society including children themselves, family, NGO, and other section of the society . Indeed, governments have a responsibility to take all available measures to make sure that children's rights are respected, promoted, protected and fulfilled. Meanwhile, the primary responsibilities of caring children rests with the families and are best suited for the care and rearing of children and the government must help families to protect children's rights and create an environment where they can develop and realize their potential.

Bibliography

- African (Banjul) Charter on human and peoples' rights (1986). (Adopted 27 June 1981, OAU doc. cab/leg/67/3 rev. 5, 21 i.l.m. 58 (1982), entered into force 21 October 1986)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. OAU doc. cab/leg/24.9/49 (1990), entered into force Nov. 29, 1999.
- Carrieri, c. (1992) Child Abuse, Neglect, and the Foster Care System effective social work and the legal System; The Attorney's Role and Responsibilities. Congress library: USA
- Cathie, N. (1998) Children as citizens. Education for participation: Jessica Kingsley.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25.
- Creswell J. (2009) Research design. Qualitative, quantitative, an mixed methods approaches: London. third edition.
- Denis-Luc A. (n.d.) Spirulina as a food complement to improve health and cognitive development, Denis Von Der Weid. Antenna Technologies - Geneva, Switzerland
- DePanfilis (2006). Protecting the abused & neglected child a guide for recognizing & reporting child abuse & neglect. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children's Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Detrick S. (1999) A commentary on the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. Kluwer Law International: The Hague
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Country Response to the Questionnaire on Violence against Children (2005). By The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Submitted to: The UN Secretary General's Independent Expert on the Study on Violence against Children.
- FDRE. (1995). The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Federal Negarit Gazzeta of the FDRE – 1st year No. 1, Addis Ababa – 21st August 1995..
- Gallinetti and Nielson (2004) Child justice in Africa. A guide to good practice. Community law Center University of the Western Cape
- Gay and Airasian (2000) education research. Competencies for Analysis and application. Sixth edition.

- Hancock, B (1998) *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*. University of Nottingham.
- Horwath, J. (2007) *child negligent: identification and assessment*. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN
- Howe D.(2005) *Child Abuse and neglect Attachment, development and intervention*. Palgrave Macmillan: London
- Hurley (1994) *A concise Introduction to Logic*. Fifth edition. Wadsworth publishing company. Belmont, California.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. (1966). Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 3 January 1976.
- International Labor Organization: *Eliminating the worst forms of child labor* (2002). A Practical Guide to ILO Convention No. 182, Handbook for Parliamentarians
- International Labor Organization (2002): *Report of the Director-General: A Future without Child Labor*. Geneva, Switzerland
- Karen A. (2006) Exploring assumptions about child neglect in relation to the broader field of child maltreatment *journal of health and human services administration*, vol. 29, no. 3
- Martha F. and Roslyn P. (2003) *The International Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Catalyst for Innovative Childcare Policies.*: *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 689-719 Published by: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Murray A. and Straus (2005) *Child Abuse & Neglect. Commentary Definition and measurement of neglectful behavior: some principles and guidelines*. Glenda Kaufman Kantor Family Research Laboratory, 126 Horton SSC, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, USA Received 29 July 2002; received in revised form 4 August 2004; accepted 14 August 2004.
- Nielsen, J.(2008) *children's Rights in Africa. A legal perspective*. Ashgate Publishing Limited. *Research Journal. Amhara Regional State. Ministry of health* (Anon., 2002)
- Robert B. (1966) *Forced labor: the prostitution of children* U.S. department of labor. Papers from a symposium co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, the Women's Bureau, and the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, held on September 29, 1995 at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, DC.

- Ruth G.(2008) Developing an effective response to neglect and emotional harm to children. University of East Anglia and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Selamawit T.(2007)Denial of rights, human rights abuses and violence against domestic workers in some selected areas of Addis Ababa, submitted to the Institution of Gender, Addis Ababa University. Unpublished materials
- Sullivan S. child neglect: current definitions and models (Anon..n.d.) A review of child neglect research, 1993–1998 was prepared by for the family violence prevention unit, health; Canada.
- Susan S. Child Neglect: Current Definitions and Models(Anon..n.d.) A review of child neglect research, for the Family Violence Prevention Unit, Health Canada
- The B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect* (Anon., n.d.) For Service Providers. British: Colombia
- The Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Proclamation No.414/2004.
- The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) (2007). Child protection research briefing Child neglect
- United Nation Children’s Fund (2009). Introduction to Interpreting Area Graphs for Infant and Young Child Feeding
- United Nation Population Fund (2006). In ending child marriage, A guide for global policy action International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls. U.K.
- UN (1948) Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted December 10,1948.GA .Res.217 AIII . United Nation Document a/810 New York: UN
- United Nation Economic and Social Council (1999). Committee on Economic, Eocial and Cultural rights. Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. General Comment No. 13
- Watson (2005). Child Neglect. Available at www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/-as... accessed on December 10, 2011
- Weston (2005) Child labor and human rights: making children matter. Lynne Rienner publication company: London

Appendixes

I) Appendix - Interview guide

A) Interview questions for children

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. Are your parents alive and live together?
4. Are you learning or not?
5. At what age you enrolled to school?
6. Do your family support in your education?
7. How many times you eat per day and are that well balanced both in quality and quantity?
8. How frequently or in what occasion you get your body clean?
9. How many cloths you do have? And is that appropriately clean and genuine?
10. Do you make horizontal/open discussion with you parents?
11. For any question you forward to the parents, in what way they respond you?
12. Do your parents makes you live to any vaccination? Or get access you to health service?
13. With whom you share sleeping?
14. How your parent treats you?
15. What kind of responsibility you carry out at home? Looking after cattle or other tasks
16. Do you know that there is an institution which has the role of takes care of you?

B) Interview guide for parents

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. What is your educational status?
4. At what age you got married and gave birth?
5. How many children you do have?
6. How you led your life, source of income?
7. How do you approach you minor kids?
8. Do you make any transparent discussion with your child on any matter concerning them
9. What is your effort/motivation to supervise, support and encourage your children in their education, health or in all over their situation?
10. Do you have ever in situation of poverty?

C) Interview guideline for key informants

Name _____

Sex _____

Age _____

Educational level _____

Institution _____

Position _____

1. What are the major factors of prevalence of child neglect in this Woreda?
2. What are the problems these children encountered of being neglected?
3. What are the risk factors for children neglected?
4. What are the effects of parents' failure to take care of their children on children?
5. What challenges have you faced in the effort of supporting neglected children?
6. What do you think should be done to reduce the problem of child neglect?
7. What official activities have you ever undertake to reduce the problem of child neglect?

III) Appendix- list of key Informants

Name of informants	Institution	Position
Informant 1	Youth, Child and Women welfare	officer
Informant 2	Tsedoye health center	Director
Informant 3	Simada woreda health center	Lab officer