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Running Head: EXPLORING SERVICE PROVIDED FOR

EXPLORING SERVICE PROVIDED FOR CRIME VICTIM CHILDREN IN THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

THE CASE STUDY OF ADDIS ABABA

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE STUDIES OF ADDIS ABABA
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BY: LELISE TERFASA

ADVISOR: MESERET KASSAHUN (PhD)

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ADDIS ABAAB UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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MSW EXAMINING COMITEE

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Lelise Terfasa titled: Exploring Service Provided for Crime victim Children, A case Study of Addis Ababa: is submitted and received in partial fulfillment of the requirement for Degree of Masters of Art (School of Social Works) complying with the regulation of the university and meeting the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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Acronyms

ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
E.C	Ethiopian Calendar
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
MOJ	Ministry Of Justice
NASW	National Association of Social Workers
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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Abstract

This research was conducted to fill the gap observed in the area of service delivery to crime victim children passing through the criminal justice system. The study populations were crime investigating police, public prosecutors and social workers selected from five Sub of Ministry of Justice and Addis Ababa Police branch offices. Purpose of the research was to identify the service package delivered to the children, the knowledge and skill base of professionals working with the children, the utilization of network and social workers engagement. The research utilized a qualitative research design from which an exploratory research type was chosen. Trough a case study approach that utilized an in depth interview guide as a method of data collection and a qualitative data analysis method to analyze major findings of the research. Based on the objective of the research, the finding of the research indicated that, although there is a separate system established in investigating and prosecuting crimes against children and social workers are engaged in the process, the system does not have multidisciplinary team that is specially equipped with the special knowledge and skill to provide a uniform and standard service to the children. Furthermore, the research has shown that there is lack of effective utilization of resource and networking. Based on the findings, the research has made a concluding remark that the system has a huge gap when compared with what's expected for a child friendly criminal justice system to be. Finally the research has forwarded a recommendation to help change the system at macro level and organizational level. It also indicated that the role of social workers as a practitioner and social work as a discipline is decisive in delivering an effective child sensitive criminal justice process.

Chapter One: Background

A child is every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier, (United Nations Convention on The Right of the Child ([UNCRC], 1989). Children, Due to their mental and physical immaturity, are vulnerable and they need special and appropriate care and protection which might include legal protection before as well as after birth Among the vulnerabilities they face due to their age, crime victimization is considered to be one (UNCRC,1989). The convention took into consideration the various international and regional legal instruments that considered all human beings to be equal and respected by the mere fact of being human and extended the specific rights to children in addition to this right because of the vulnerability they face due to their mental and physical immaturity.

Crime victim children are defined as a person under the age of 18 who is a victim of or witness to a crime, regardless of his or her role in the offense or in the prosecution of the alleged offender or groups of offenders separately from adults suffering the act of crime (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2009).

It is due to this vulnerability and victimization that a state is entrusted with a special duty to protect the rights of children. The protection of children is a value shared by all cultures and communities around the globe. According to Schene (1998), the responsibility for raising children well and preparing them for adulthood goes beyond the parents and is shared, to some degree, by the community at large. The community's investment in the well-being of its children is reflected in cultural, moral and social norms, and in legal frameworks that permit intervention in individual families when children are abused or neglected (Schene, 1998).

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The true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children – their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2010, p. 1).

Moreover, their rights have been addressed through international instruments like, The Universal Declaration of human rights, Declarations on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN on 20 November 1959, Geneva Declaration of the Child, 1924, The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in particular article 23 and 24, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights article 10 in particular. These instruments specifically address that every child is entitled to the right enshrined under their provisions.

Children who are victims and witness of crime are particularly vulnerable and need special protection, assistance and support appropriate to their age, level of maturity, and unique need arising from their age in order to prevent further hardship and trauma that may result from their participation in the criminal justice system (Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC], 2005).

The resolution has introduced a general guideline in which a criminal justice process involving children who are victims of crime and witnesses can be led. In order to make it possible for countries to implement the guideline at national level, UNODC (2009) in collaboration with UNICEF has prepared a handbook for professionals and policy makers on justice in matters involving child victims and witness.

Special attention in dealing with children who are victims and witness of crime is necessary to balance between the serious physical, psychological and emotional consequences of crime and victimization for child victim and witness going through the criminal justice

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system and the fact that the participation of the child victim and witness in the criminal justice process is necessary for effective prosecution, in particular where the child victim may be the only witness (ECOSOC, 2005).

In addition to this, UNICEF (2010) asserts that every society has to think deliberately about how it will protect its children. Normative standards (laws, culture, and religion) may shape how members of a community choose to protect children and the choices made may well affect the very nature of childhood. Nevertheless, the essential question remains: how will children be protected from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect, as well as man-made and natural emergencies, as a matter of a child's fundamental rights"

Ethiopia as a nation has also recognized the rights of children under its constitution. The (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [FDRE] Constitution, 1995) specifies that special attention to the best interest of the child shall be given in any matter and decision involving them (Article 36) In addition to this Ethiopia has ratified most of the international instruments concerning the well being of a child and is bound by it according to article of the constitution.

Accordingly the ministry of justice, in collaboration with the Federal first instance court and Addis Ababa city police has, prepared a separate investigation, prosecution and trial process for cases in which children under the age of 18 are victim can be handled since, 2000 E.C, (Ministry of Justice [MOJ], 2002 E.C). MOJ and Addis Ababa City police have later on agreed to work in the process of providing the service, starting from the time of pre investigation, through investigation and preparation for trial, (MOJ, 2002 E.C).

Crimes against children are uniformly investigated at the main Sub City police level in Addis Ababa except for murder case which falls under the jurisdiction of the Addis Ababa

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police Commission to investigate. There is a separate team of investigation and prosecution established in all sub city branch offices of the police and MOJ. This team is composed of prosecutors, crime investigating police officer, and social workers who help the children through the crime investigation process and give psychosocial support, (MOJ, 2002 E.C).

The coordination office for women, children and youth affair at the Ministry of Justice has prepared a separate team of public prosecutors, social workers and investigating police, in collaboration with Addis Ababa City police, to deal with the case of Crime victim children and developed a manual to guide the counseling process for women and children who are victims of crime while undergoing in the criminal justice system. The federal first instance court has also prepared a manual to guide the process of justice in dealing with women and children who are victims of crime (MOJ, 2002 E.C).

This study explores the social work practice with crime victim children at the ministry of justice taking a sample of five sub cities in Addis Ababa. The findings of this research are believed to have important implications for social workers & other practitioners, as it explores the practical aspect of rendering service to crime victim children at the time of investigation, prosecution, preparation for trial. Moreover, through examining a process in the criminal justice system situation of widows in light of social work theories, this research will add a dimension to the social work knowledge and intervention.

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Statement of the problem

Different studies have been conducted in the area of children's right and the role of justice sector, but not with specific emphasis on crime victim children. For instance, Zenaye (2008) tried to explore the role of government organs in the protection of the best interest of the child. The research was conducted in Addis Ababa using a qualitative method. She analyzed the best interest of the child in relation to adoption, maintenance guardianship and children in conflict with the law. But her study did not address the best interest of the child and the role of the justice organs in case where children are victims.

Zenebe (2008) conducted a qualitative research on implementation of the convention on the rights of the child with particular reference to civil and political rights. The focus of his research was Addis Ababa. It explored the political and civil rights of the child enshrined under the convention and the institutional capacity of the justice sector in terms of resource, organizational structure and network to implement it. The paper had an objective of addressing the issue of investigation, prosecution and interview of child victim in litigation, but the research as a whole gave much emphasis on the institutional capacities and responses to children in conflict with the law with a very less concern on the right of children who are crime victim.

Mubarek (2012) also conducted a qualitative exploratory research on the Role of Social Workers on Child Justice Administration in different Federal First Instance Court benches with the objective of assessing the role of social workers in different federal first instance courts in terms of their achievements, challenges and opportunities in protecting the best interest of children in cases where children are involved. The research tried to asses

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criminal and civil cases in which children are involved in, either as a victim or offender. The research, however, did not specifically focus on crime victim children going through the criminal justice system given the special attention they need due to their special circumstance they are in. The other limitation of the research is that it didn't see the case of crime victim children from the initial point in which they enter into the criminal justice system, which are investigation and prosecution aspects. The research findings could not be generalized to the social work practice at the Ministry of Justice and Police force because of structural and situational differences the institutions have.

Henok (2008) conducted a research on effects of networking on the child protection and Intervention based on the pilot program of the joint project established among Forum on Street Children Ethiopia, Child Aid Ethiopia, African Network for the Prevention and Protection Abuse and Neglect, Child Abuse and Neglect Unit, and Addis Ababa Police commission in Addis Ababa City Addis Ketema Sub City. The paper, with a qualitative research method reviewed the joint program from the point of view of rendering effective service in responding to the needs of the trafficked children with the objective of contributing to the effectiveness of the child protection activities of the pilot test so it could be replicated to other places. However, the paper is limited to the issue of trafficked children and how best their needs can be responded to when service are delivered in network than by the individual organizations and the issue of children who are victims of crime other than victims of trafficking are not the focus. The paper also doesn't address the process in which the children are to pass through in the criminal justice system as a crime victim and the effectiveness of networking with respect to that.

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Furthermore, MOJ conducted a research on the 9 Regional States outside the federal government on the service delivery for crime victim women and children while they are going through the criminal justice system. Focus of the study was Regional Police, Justice Bureau, courts, Prison Administration, Women and children Affairs, health Bureau and NGOs (MOJ, 2005). Using qualitative and quantitative research method the research evaluated organizational capacities of the institutions in terms of structure, human resource, service delivery and information recording in responding to the needs of the victims. Findings of the research were more elaborated through comparison of the states experience with various national and international best experiences and standards in rendering service for Crime victim women and children (MOJ, 2005). But the research is limited in assessing the organizational capacity of the Regional government and the findings of the research are not generalizable for the federal justice system given the difference in resources and structures the state and federal justice system have. The research also failed to look at the service package given for crime victim children given their special circumstance. Rather the issue was collectively dealt with the service package for victim women, children in conflict with the law and also children who are detained with their parents in the research.

The Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden (2006) conducted a research on ten Sub Cities in Addis Ababa with the objective of identifying the status of sexual and physical abuse committed against children and youth, how these files are handled at the prosecution office and give a plausible recommendation in addressing the prevention of such crimes. The study used a quantitative methodology and survey to collect the data and have assessed the status of the crimes in all sub cities, how cases are handled in the justice system. The research used the age, sex and educational level of the

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accused as a personal information variable and six types of crime as a non personal variable. The study also tried to give meaning to the findings of the survey using a qualitative way of analysis so the analysis of the survey alone will not lead to wrong conclusion.

The research lacks clarity in explicitly stating the dependent and independent variables it's confusing to tell whether it is the personal or the non personal variable that is dependent or independent. The other limitation is that the variables are set for accused person and the objective is set for assessing the violence against children and youth and it is as if the crime victims rather than then offenders are center of then research and this creates confusion in the findings .In other words the target population is not clearly specified. Secondly the study did not explicitly look at the service provision and protection provided for the victims and instead assessed the legal procedures followed by the departments in handling the case.

As can be seen from the above discussion, despite the availability of unpublished literatures in the area of service delivery for children with the justice system, available studies were not specific to children who are going through the criminal justice system as a victim especially at the level of ministry of justice. The researches mainly focused on reviewing existing laws and the practice hence failed to assess the service delivered to crime victim children while they are passing through the criminal justice system especially at the stages of investigation , preparation for trial and post investigation .

Hence this research is thought to contribute to what has been done so far by focusing on what's been discussed above, building on the limitations of others and assessing the practice in order to avoid the risk of secondary victimization from overlooking the issue of children who are victims of crime while going through the criminal justice system.

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Research question

1. What are the services given to crime victim children at the earliest, middle and later stages of passing through the criminal justice system?
2. Who are the professionals working on the service delivery to the children?
3. What is the professional background of the crime investigating police, public prosecutor and social workers?
4. What is the status of the police and Ministry of Justice in networking with other service providers?
5. What is the standard or guideline followed by the professionals in engaging with the children?

Objective of the research

General objective

The general objective of the research is to explore the current service delivered to children who are crime victim while passing through the criminal justice system at the stages of pre investigation, investigation, preparation for trial and post trial stages.

Specific objectives

1. To explore the service provided to the children at a pre investigation time, during investigation, preparation for trial and after the trial.
2. To Identify the professional background of service providers

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3. To identify the engagement process of the service providers with the crime victim children
4. To identify the referral system utilized by the ministry to fulfill the needs of the children
5. To identify the role and engagement of social workers in the process of providing service to the crime victim children
6. To forward a plausible recommendation that can help improve the system in which the children can be assisted while going through the criminal justice process.

Significance of the study

This research is expected to contribute to the knowledge base of social workers. Since there has been little research conducted in the area of child protection in the criminal justice system, this research is important in identifying what the service being given to crime victim children and contributing a literature for upcoming researches in the area. Furthermore;

- It increases the understanding on the issue of child protection in the multiple phases of the criminal justice system.
- Gives insight for social workers on knowledge, skill and practice needed to engage with children in the criminal justice system.
- Can be an input for understanding the issues of child protection from secondary victimization when being involved in the criminal justice system.
- Issues of social work engagement for child protection in the entire criminal justice system.

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- The output from the research can help ministry of justice, Addis Ababa city Police social work practitioner, social organizations and policy makers to take some actions and corrective measures on the identified problems and forwarded recommendations

Delimitation of the study

This study's aim is to explore and understand the service delivery system for crime victim children passing through the criminal justice system. The study does not generate data from all Sub cities MOJ and Addis Ababa Police branch offices in Addis Ababa currently working with cases in which children are victims. Moreover, the study focuses on cases of crime victim children handled by crime investigating police officers, public prosecutors and social workers in Lideta , Kolfe Keraniyo, Kirkos, Nifas Silk Lafto, and Yeka Subcity MOJ and Addis Ababa City police branch offices. Finally, the study focuses only on services delivered at Pre investigation, investigation, preparation for trial and post trial stages of the criminal justice system.

Limitation of the study

This research is carried out primarily taking the issue of crime victim children who are treated while going through a specific part of the criminal justice system, that is, the Ministry of justice and Addis Ababa police. However, it might have been possible to have a broader understanding of the issue if the research has considered the issue from the entire stages of the criminal justice system including court trial.

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In addition, absence of social work practitioner in all justice offices was one of the limitations of the study that hampered not to have a better understanding of the issues. The other limitation is that the research has based only on an in-depth interview as a data collection tool which might limit the credibility and trust worthiness of the findings of the research. Moreover, unavailability of different literatures and researches in the area is another limitation that hindered the researcher not to review multidimensional aspects of crime victim children that goes through the criminal justice system.

Operational definitions

Child: for the purpose of this research the definition of a child by UNCRC as any person under the age of 18, is adopted.

Crime victim children: are those children who have suffered an act of crime by any one and whose cases have been reported to the police.

Crime: is an act of omission or commission that is declared to be punishable by Ethiopian law.

A professional: for the purpose of this research are a social worker, public prosecutor, and crime investigating police officer who is engaged in providing service for the crime victim children in the process of pre investigation, investigation, prosecution, preparation for trial and post trial.

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Structure of the Thesis

Accordingly, This Thesis is organized in six main parts. The first part begins with the background of the study, highlighting the focus of this research. A statement of the problem, objectives, limitation and delimitation, significance of the study are also incorporated in the first part. The second part of this thesis comes up with presentation of a literature review, theoretical and conceptual framework. The third part presents the methods utilized, in the process of undertaking this research. Fourth part is finding of this particular research which is followed by the discussion of the findings in line with the available literature and objectives of the study. Finally, as a sixth part of the thesis, conclusions drawn from this study, recommendation forwarded and implications for social work based on the findings of this study are presented.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

This section presents core information or most recent views regarding practice with crime victim children. Recent books and legal documents are reviewed. The review of literatures is organized in to four main parts. The first part briefly presents the concepts of a child crime, victim children, professional, working with crime victim children in light of social work, and holistic and multidisciplinary approach provide effective child protection. The second part will deal with possible theoretical frameworks that guide the professional client relationship in social work. The third section presents the legal frameworks from a range international to national level that protects the rights of children guides the practice of professionals with crime victim children. Finally empirical findings on crime against children will be presented.

Conceptual framework

Concept of a child

Different meanings have been given to the term child in international, regional and national legal instruments. To mention some, UNCRC (1989) defined a child as every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. According to the African charter on the rights and welfare of the child (1999), a child means every human being below the age of 18 years.

According to the Ethiopian civil code (1960), a minor (child) is any person of both sexes, who has not attained the age of eighteen. Taking in to consideration the objective and

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focus of the research, the term child has been conceptualized by adopting the definition given to the term by the above national, regional and international legal instruments.

Concept of crime

According to Black's Law dictionary (2000) crime is an act that the law makes punishable. On the other hand, Martin and Storey (2007) defined crime as a conduct forbidden by the state being criminal and punishment.

Bearing in mind the objective and focus, for the purpose of this research, the term crime is conceptualized as an act of commission or omission for which there is punishment under the Ethiopian law.

Concept of crime victim children

According to ECOSOC (2005) a child victim or witness to a crime is "children and adolescent under the age of 18, who are victim of crime or witness to crime regardless of their role in the offence or in the prosecution of the alleged offender or group of offenders" (p.4).

Another way of defining crime victim children is as a child witnessing criminal offence ranging from personal to communal attack or in the family or in the community or a child who is affected by the violence in a family or a community that may be directed to him or another person (Boyd, 2003).

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The term crime victim children for the purpose of this research is conceptualized as those children who suffered an act of crime and who are going through the criminal justice system from the time of reporting the case to the police up to litigation in court.

Concept of professional

UNODC(2009) defines professionals as,” a person who, in the context of their work, are in contact with child victims and witnesses of crime or are responsible for addressing the needs of children in the justice system and to whom the Law or Act is applicable. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: child and victim advocates and support persons; child protection service practitioners; child welfare agency staff; prosecutors and defense lawyers; diplomatic and consular staff; domestic violence program staff; magistrates and judges; court staff; law enforcement officials; probation officers; medical and mental health professionals; and social workers” (p.5).

Taking in to account the focus of this study, the term professional is conceptualized as any person who makes contact with the crime victim children going through the criminal justice system who is hired by ministry of justice or Addis Ababa city police specifically as a police, social worker or public prosecutor.

Concept of Working with crime victim children in light of social work

The case of crime victim children started being seen separately from the other cases at the level of ministry of justice when there was an agreement entered in to with the Federal

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First Instance Court and the Addis Ababa city police to treat the cases separately (Lideta Justice Office, 2001E.C).

The prosecution office opened a center to entertain such cases at Lideta justice office and all cases investigated at the main sub city police station from all sub cities are screened through the Lideta center and went to court afterwards. The center had one social worker who was a Psychology graduate, to talk with the children at a time before litigation in court and sometimes when the cases get though, they were referred to him at the investigation stage (Lideta Justice Office, 2001E.C).

By the first quarter of the year 2003 E.C the case load was too heavy for the public prosecutors at the center in Lideta so the Coordination Office for Women Children and Children saw to the matter and it was decided on a meeting that all sub city Justice Offices should establish a team that entertains the matter of crime victim children separately. (MOJ, 2003).

Although the meeting seemed to have solved the case load on the Lideta Center, there was still one problem not solved, that is, a social worker to assist the children psychologically through the process was not assigned at every sub city level and at places they were assigned , there was high turnover. The problem seems to have reduced over the years but there is still vacant place of social workers in the Justice Offices so the children are simply treated as any crime victim when going through the investigation in the absence psychosocial support from a professional(MOJ ,2005).

When we see other countries experience in this respect, social work practice in the American criminal justice system has a long history in relation to the law enforcement which is most of the time the entry point in to the criminal justice system for offenders and victims

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and they see it very important for a social workers to engage with the law enforcement agencies in the process.

Baker (2003) notified the process of engagement for social workers with the law enforcement agency, which is the police under the American system, as a professional social work practice in police precinct, court, and jail and the service provided includes service given to crime victims, among others (as cited in Patterson 2012, p.147)

It is believed that the effect of victimization strikes hard particularly on vulnerable individuals, and children due to their age are considered to be among the vulnerable groups ("Crime victim assistance", 2011). Under a policy statement on crime and victim assistance, policy and advocacy at the local and national level to promote assistance for victims of crime to facilitate their safety and recovery from criminal victimization, opportunity for victims to share impact of the crimes they suffered in the courts and in the community was stated as an appropriate measure for social workers to take.

Literatures' show the England experience in evolving the child protection policies and actions towards the development of making the system integrated in responding to any child abuse neglect and violence. The role of social workers in this process has been stated to take significant place. The legal, statutory and historical background of social workers in working with agencies in case of child protection in England also shows that delivering integrated service for assessment of risk and best protection to children's need should be a paramount concern for a system and social workers are part of this system(Wilson, Ruch, Lymbery& Cooper, (2008), O'Loughlin&O'Loughlin ,(2008)) .

Bearing in mind the decisive role a social worker plays in facilitating and assisting the process of child protection service, they have to have a proper knowledge and skill in areas

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where they are needed to assist and escort the children to court and related institutions. But preparing and presenting evidence to court is a challenging but necessary step in professional development as a children and families worker for social workers so a social worker needs to be properly aware of the court procedure to effectively involve in the process (Davis, 2007).

It is also one of the cardinal professional values of social worker to continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice (NASW, 1999). Among the things the social workers are expected to do at MOJ, help the children in giving their victim statement during investigation and prepare the children for testimony in court is one (MOJ, 2005).

One can understand from the above discussion how a social workers role in working with crime victim children starting from the point of case reporting to the end of litigation is very important. We should also note that the social workers are not in this alone at the Ministry but they work with other professionals like the police and public prosecutor so their goal should always be to work in harmony for protecting the children best.

Concept of Professionals and victim child relationship

One of the factors that affect the professional child relationship is information sharing; In order to avoid the risk of having a client who doesn't have sufficient information about the process they are going through and lacking initiative and confidence in their own competencies; which leads to burnout, the professional must give the client some idea of what to expect, what the child welfare worker can or cannot do and the limitations on his\her time (Palmer, & Manji, 2006).

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In addition to taking this step as a risk avoiding measure, when a child is involved in the criminal justice process as a victim and has to be involved in the proceedings, they have the right to be informed about the procedures and importance, timing and manner of testimony; the right to be heard and express views and concerns; the right to effective assistance; and the right to privacy and safety. So professionals are required to communicate with the children not only out of avoiding risk but also taking it as the children's right to have sufficient information about the process they are engaged in (ECOSOC ,(2005), UNODC,(2009)).

Demands of child protection work, in terms of investigation and written reports, sometimes tend to draw attention away from building a helping relationship with the children. It has, however, been claimed that 'all social work helping takes place in the context of a caring relationship between the social worker and the client (Palmer & Manji, 2006).

A social worker who likely develops a positive relationship is the one who is respectful, attentive, interested, caring, trustworthy, friendly, genuine, unpretentious, sympathetic, warm, concerned, empathetic, accepting, compassionate, understanding, supportive, reassuring, patient, comforting, and solicitous (Lundy ,2004).

Although this may seem to be a daunting expectation for a child protection worker, Pollack (2003) identifies important skills for child protection service workers that can contribute to developing a positive relationship. Pollack (2003, p.234) notes "Effective child protection workers have skill in clarifying their role. They have frequent, open and honest discussions about: the purpose of the intervention; the dual role of the worker as an investigator and helper, the nature of the worker's authority and how it can be used, what is negotiable and what is not, and the limits of confidentiality". Thus, we can see that the

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characteristics of the worker as noted above and skills identified by Pollack together can contribute to positive relationships in child protection service.

Concept of Holistic and Multi Disciplinary Approach for Effective Child Service

The provision of all services to children – welfare, educational, health, child protection, family and juvenile justice – should be provided in a systematically coordinated fashion. And the issue we are talking about here involves protecting children in a process that might endanger their healthy development so the social workers may be needed to involve in the protection of the child victim not only when they go through the criminal justice process, but also in protecting them from the impact of the crime on the child's healthy development through working with other stakeholders (Broadhurst, Grover & Jamieson, 2009).

Investigators involved in child abuse and neglect cases recognize the need to eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort, promote proper and expeditious collection and preservation of evidence, and develop a coordinated system for identifying and investigating appropriate calls (Krase & Morse, 2009).

But they say that this is best accomplished through a multidisciplinary team approach where both child protection service and law enforcement share information, assign investigative tasks, and participate in a shared decision-making process. As a result of a team effort, the victim is less likely to be further traumatized by the investigation, and a positive outcome for all investigative parties is enhanced.

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This shows us that it is important for social workers to work in collaboration with the investigating police and prosecutor towards delivering effective protective service for the victim children and vice versa.

A multi disciplinary team in a child victim investigation comprises of medical personnel, the district attorney's office, victim advocates, mental health professionals, community service agencies, probation, and social service workers. These professionals are by written agreement able to coordinate their work on a particular case, sharing all necessary information in order to produce a more thorough and coordinated investigation, prosecution, supervision, and treatment in cases of child abuse and neglect (Krase &Morse, 2009).

Studies show that there is practice of social workers engaging with crime victim children who are going through the justice system in court, although it is a very recent practice (Mubarek, 2012).

MOJ, benchmarking the South African Tutuzela center, has tried to create a coordinated team of public prosecutors, social workers, police, and medical personnel look after the case of child and women sexual violence at Gandhi hospital though the service delivered in the center is only limited to cases of sexual violence and both adult women and children are treated in the same manner (MOJ, 2005 E.C).

Theoretical Framework for Working with Crime Victim Children

There are different theories that tried to address the issue of client professional relation. Among these theories, the Client Centered theory developed by Carl Roger is one theory that has a thematic point based on the belief that "we do not help our clients through an

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expertise with theories of personality, knowledge of family dysfunction, or a deep appreciation for critical ecological systems theory; Rather, we assist people's growth by providing a particular kind of relationship, through communications that have specific qualities of congruence, acceptance, and empathy .(Coady& Lehmann, 2008).

Ecological systems theory is another theory developed by taking central ideas from general systems theory and Ecological Theory. The central theme of this theory is that, person and the environment are unceasingly, intricately, thoroughly and reciprocally sustaining and shaping one another (Coady& Lehmann, 2008).

According to this theory, when we try to understand ourselves, our clients, or our work by focusing on one at the expense of the other, we become reductionist and prone to mistakes (Coady& Lehmann, 2008).

The theory focuses on the mutual contribution and response of a person and the environment, each to an unending transactional process on which both are altogether dependent. It helps the professional to see the client holistically and as a person continuously interacting with the environment and the broadness of the issues that they have to go through with the client (Coady & Lehmann, 2008).

Another theory that can be applied in direct practice with client is Relational theory. Mitchell (1988) states that Patterns of attachment and relatedness focus on how our early important relationships are internalized and create the blue print for our future interactions with people in everyday life; our relationships are influenced by our subjective sense of self, how we experience others, and our expectations of these interactions. Problems are conceived as difficulties in interpersonal relations (as cited in Coady & Lehmann, 2008).

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Another theory is Attachment theory holding that psychological problems derive from disturbances, deprivations, or disruptions in early care giving relationships and from resulting distortions or limitations in internal representations of self, others, and relationships.

According to Bowlby(1988) these internal representations are believed to guide feelings, thoughts, and expectations in later relationships (as cited in Coady& Lehmann, 2008).

Accordingly, bearing in mind the objective of this research , Ecological systems theory is adopted to explore and analyze the engagement of the professionals with the victim children and shaping the client professional relation in a way that the client gets to be treated holistically. This theory is chosen instead of the other theories because it is thought to be more in line with the objective of the research in closely exploring the engagement of professional's including social workers in the client system. It will help the research in looking at the problem from different dimensions and not to be limited on the current problem.

Although there is no evidence that shows the applicability of this theory in crime victim children related service provisions in Ethiopia, I would like to explore if the theory could provide important insight in working with crime victim children.

Legal Frameworks and Guidelines for Working With Crime Victim Children

International legal frame work

Various international conventions and documents have given special emphasis on the protection of the right of the child. Among these , Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant

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on Civil and Political Rights (in particular articles 23 and 24), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular article 10) are the major ones that specifically mentioned the extension of the rights enshrined therein to apply for children.

The rights enshrined under these documents are equally attributable to every child not withstanding his color, sex, culture, religious status or any discrimination as it's stated in the preambles of all the documents.

National legal framework

Ethiopia has ratified the 1989 UNCRC and other international instruments protecting the right of children and is bound by the obligations thereof by making these instruments part of the law of the land (FDRE Constitution, 1995, art.9). In addition, the constitution has given special emphasis for the rights of children under article 36 besides the human, political, and civil rights they have been guaranteed equally with every Ethiopian.

The revised criminal code of Ethiopia (1996 E.C) also gave special emphasis for crime committed against children through the provisions specifying the punishment for the crime there by; for instance article 561&562, for bodily injury, article 574 and the following for neglect and mistreatment, article 620 and the following for sexual abuse, and article 596& 597 for trafficking in children.

The criminal justice policy of Ethiopia (2011) under its preamble, has also clearly stipulated that the criminal justice system should always consider protecting the special interest of crime victim children at any stage process of undertaking its tasks.

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These specific legal provisions including the constitution and the criminal justice policy show that crime against children is given special attention by the state and considered as a crime punishable under Ethiopian criminal law.

International guidelines

Among international guidelines, ECOSOC, 2005 is the major international resolution enacted with the objective of helping government to amend national laws and procedures in a way that is protective for crime victim children and ensure the implementation of the convention on the right of the child, assisting government, national and international organization and any practitioner interested in designing policy program that is concerned with child victims of crime and witness, and to assist professional and anyone interested in working with crime victim and witness in sensitively caring for them.

The resolution filled an important gap in international standards in the area of the treatment of children as victims or witnesses of crime. In Addition to this, UNODC (2009), in collaboration with UNICEF and the International Bureau for Children's Rights, enacted a handbook for Professionals and Policymakers on the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime with the objective to assist countries in implementing, at the national level, the provisions contained in the ECOSOC Guidelines and in other relevant international instruments.

The guideline forwards a benchmarking principle for states to follow in a way of providing service to crime victim and witness children. The guideline clearly forwards the necessary steps to be followed and requirements to be fulfilled in working with the children

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starting from pre investigation through post trial period. The whole idea is to ensure protection of the best interests of the children who are involved as victim or witness of crime.

National guidelines

Among the national guidelines available to guide the process of handling crime victim children in investigation and prosecution process, the major ones are: The counseling manual and the prosecution manual prepared by MOJ Women, Youth and children affair coordination department 2004 E.C for guiding the counseling investigation and prosecution process given at any stage for crime victim women and children ;and the protocol prepared by the national coordination body for protecting crime victim women and children, to guide professionals involved in the process of handling crime victim children and women who come to the justice and protection center stationed at Gandhi hospital (MOJ ,2005 E.C)

Empirical findings on crimes against children

In America, for many years, the primary focus of criminology and child development has been on children as offenders rather than victim and the victimization of children has only come to be an academic concern due to in part the assumption that childhood victimization could be prime cause for delinquency (Widom, 1991).

In Ethiopia too it is not a very long time and experience since the justice system has started treating crime victim children with a special and due attention. The issue of crime victim children that falls under the jurisdiction of first instance court started to be treated in a

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separate investigation, prosecution and trial process after a mutual agreement has been reached between the Federal first instance court and Ministry of Justice Women and children affair Coordination office in the year 2000 E.C (MOJ, 2002).

Studies and reports that have been conducted in the area reveal that children have been subjected to criminal violence both in the name of punishment for bad behavior and form of abuse physically and psychologically. The result of a research conducted by African child policy forum (2008) shows that 74 % of children who have suffered corporal punishment have been beaten by the community, 73% heat in the head in the name of correcting bad behavior at home.

The constitution of Ethiopia gave children the right to be protected from physical harm, but the study shows that above 81% of children have been subjected to torture in schools. The study also revealed that children have been victims of sexual and psychological violence at school, home and community level.

The result of a survey study conducted by Save the Children Sweden in collaboration with Federal Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Project on ten sub cites of Addis Ababa in the year 1997 & 1998 E.C shows that among the 96% of Female victims of sexual violence 64for % for the year 1997 and 55% for the year 1998 were found to be women between the age 11 to 18 and the age from six to eleven. This shows that besides gender, age is a determining factor in victim's vulnerability to risk. According to MOJ (2005 E.C), 965 cases in which children has been victim of crime have been reported for the year and they have come seeking service from the criminal justice system.

This empirical finding is the result of cases reported to the criminal justice so it may not show the exact number of survivors who did not report their cases to formal resources, but

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it is evidence to the existence of criminal victimization of children in Ethiopia although their rights have been protected under the laws.

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Chapter Three: **Research Methods**

This section gives description of the study design, study area/setting, participant selection, data collection tool and procedure, data analysis, ethical consideration and trustworthiness of the study.

Research Design

This study used a qualitative research design. Moreover, since the issue of crime victim children is assessed in a few literatures in the country and the objective of this research is to dig more information on the area, the research is exploratory in its type. When a new topic was explored or research has said little about the issue, an exploratory type of research is a more appropriate type of research (Kreuger&Neuman, 2006).

Qualitative research is a method that begins with assumptions, a world views, the possible use of a theoretical lens, and the study of research problems and goes on inquiring into the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (Creswell, 2006).

According to Creswell (2006) qualitative research design has several approaches. Among these approaches a Case study approach was chosen. A case study is a qualitative research approach in which the researcher explores in depth a program, event, activity, a process, or one or more individuals. According to Stake (1995) the cases are bounded by time and activity, and researchers collect detailed information using a variety of data collection procedures over a certain period of time (as cited in Creswell, 2006).

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The distinctive need for case study arises out of the desire to understand complex social phenomena and it allows researchers to retain complete and meaningful characteristics of real life events including individual life cycles (Yin 2003, p.6-19).

Accordingly, the research has selected a case study approach because it has the aim of exploring the activities conducted by the professionals working with crime victim children in delivering service.

Study Setting

The study was carried out at Ministry of justice and in selected Sub City branch offices of the ministry in Addis Ababa. The specific areas selected for the study were, Lideta sub city, Gulele Sub city, Klolfe Keraniyo sub city, Nifassilk Lafto sub city and Yeka sub city.

The basis for selecting this research site is due to personal experience of the researcher while working as a prosecutor at the MOJ and the opportunity to observe gaps. The study focused on service given to children who are crime victim and whose cases have been reported to the police and are passing through the criminal justice process.

As far the study participants are concerned, employee of the MOJ specifically public prosecutors, and social workers and selected Sub City police officers who are currently handling the cases of crime victim children at the sub city level were included.

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Target Population, Sample and Sampling Technique

Since all MOJ branch offices in Addis Ababa sub-cities are currently engaged in practice with crime victim children, the researcher purposively selected five sub Cities based on availability of the participants and convenience. Having the five Sub Cities, research participants were selected purposively from a complete list of members gained from the human resource department of the MOJ and each Sub City police because Flick (1998) says in qualitative research it is their relevance to the research topic rather than their representativeness which determines the way in which the people to be studied are selected (as cited in kreuger & Neuman ,2006).

Initially the plan was to interview three professional from each of the sub cities, police, prosecutor and social workers, and also the one person from the ministries, Women Children, and Youth affairs coordination office in general with 16 people. But through the process of interview social workers were available at only Lideta and Nifas silk Lafto Sub Cities. Therefore the interview was conducted with, two social workers, five prosecutors, five Crime investigating Police officers, and with the head of women, children and youth affair coordination office at MOJ a total of 13 people.

Data Collection Instrument

According to Mack, Woodsong, MacQueen, Guest, and Namey (2005) in depth interview is one of the most commonly used data collection tool in qualitative research designs. It is effective method of eliciting information from individuals regarding their

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personal feelings, opinions and experiences. On top of that it is an appropriate tool for addressing sensitive issues For the purpose of hitting such advantages. This research also used an in depth interview as means of collecting primary data because the objective of the research is to deeply go through the service delivery system for crime victim children and bring out the exact picture so that it can provide ground for further research as well as for developing effective method in the process.

In this research an in-depth interview was conducted using interview guide tool (see Appendix A). The interview questions were prepared as open-ended questions, which was organized in sequence. The guiding questions for the interview were prepared in line with the objective of the research and conceptual framework of the research.

Data Collection Procedure

In this research, primary data was collected from key informants through and in-depth interview, in order to obtain relevant data, key informant interview guide was prepared an as instrument for the semi structured interview conducted. (See Appendix A).

Preliminary meeting was carried out before the initiation of the data collection with the research participants. Participants were informed about the research objectives and what's needed from them. Accordingly, a consent statement that states the terms of agreement for participation was presented for signing. In addition to this the consent of the heads of MOJ branch offices and respective Commanders of Police stations were obtained.

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After securing willingness to participate in the study, the researcher set the date and time according to each participant's convenience. Room for interview was facilitated by the offices for the interview session. This helped the interview process to be free from any kind of interruption and destruction. The data collection through interview was fully conducted by the researcher.

Medium of communication used at the interview was Amharic and further clarification on the issue and purpose of the interview was made for the participants full understanding. In addition to the primary data, literatures that have theoretical and empirical relevance to the subject under this study were used to gain in depth understandings of the phenomenon under inquiry.

Data Analysis

Data analysis in qualitative study, refers to" the work of examining, categorizing, tabulating and recombining qualitative events to address the initial proposition of the study" (Yin, 2003, P. 109). Padgett (2008) further asserts that data analysis must be contend with the mass of raw data that need to be reduced and transformed through an iterative process of reading, describing and interpreting. Thus, all forms of qualitative data analysis require prior management of raw data to enable the researcher interact with it systematically (Padgett, 2008). Before any attempt of data manipulation it is advised to have a general analytic strategy in the first place (Yin 2003, p.111).

Once the data collection was completed in line with the objective of the research and conceptual prepositions, the raw data and observation note were coded. The tape-recorded

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data was transcribed while the data from observation notes taken were narrated in a clear manner. In this process, maximum effort was employed not to twist the information from its original meaning.

The recorded data was transcribed by listening to the recorded voices in Amharic and then translated in to English. The transcription took 60 pages. After the transcription is completed, before starting the process of coding the transcriptions was thoroughly read for completeness of the information and then follows coding and thematic development procedures, which are the most commonly, used analytic procedures in qualitative research (Padgett, 2008).

Accordingly, information on key informant interviews was translated into the major findings. Tapes transcriptions and summary notes were the sources for the write-up. The major findings of the qualitative data were categorized into different major themes and sub-themes and analyzed. Furthermore, the available literatures were integrated with the major findings of the qualitative data.

Ethical Considerations

This study was carried out under the framework of the Code of Ethics of Social Work. First, approval of the research proposal was obtained from the school of Social Work at Addis Ababa University. A letter from the School was given to all institutions where the study is conducted. In addition, while undertaking the assessment informed consent from each study participants was obtained. The right of the respondents to refuse to answer for few or all questions has been fully respected. The interviews were conducted in a way that did not

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violate their privacy and confidentiality information. The names and addresses of interviewees were not recorded on the interview process as well as on the tape recorder.

Moreover, the following ethical issues were considered while undertaking the study: Respect for the agency policy and staff, privacy of interviewees especially during interview, Anonymity of respondent, respect for social work ethical guidelines and punctuality and presence at the agency have also been given due considerations.

Chapter Four: Findings

This section has two main sections; the first section presents the findings of the study in line with the objective of the research. In the second section, the findings of the research will be discussed and analyzed in light of the conceptual and theoretical frame work.

Background Characteristics of Research Participants

Table 1: Age, Sex, Professional background and work experience of the respondents

Informant (with pseudo name)	Age	Sex	Profession	Years of Experience	Educational Background
Participant -1 (Hanna)	28	Female	Public Prosecutor	5 Years	Bachelor of Law & Masters of Social work
Participant -2 (Emebet)	32	Female	Crime investigating Police	7 Years	Diploma of Police Academy
Participant -3 (Abeba)	30	Female	Public Prosecutor	5 Years	Bachelor of Law
Participant -4 (Ayalew)	32	Male	Crime investigating Police	9 Years	Diploma of Police Academy

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Participant -5 (Fekadu)	27	Male	Public Prosecutor	5 Years	Bachelor of Law
Participant -6 (Fetlework)	37	Female	Crime investigating Police	12 Years	Diploma of police academy
Participant-7 (Meseret)	30	Female	Public Prosecutor	4 Years	Bachelor of Law
Participant-8 (Wondemu)	46	Male	Crime investigating Police	23 Years	Degree of police academy
Participant-9 (Semerte)	27	Female	Public Prosecutor	4 Years	Bachelor of Law
Participant- 10 (Maeregu)	32	Male	Crime investigating Police	13 Years	Diploma of Police Academy
Participant- 11 (Fantaye)	34	Female	Public Prosecutor	10 Years	Bachelor of Law
Participant- 12 (Nebiyat)	27	Female	Social Worker	4 years	Bachelor of art in Sociology
Participant- 13 (Mikael)	29	Male	Social Worker	2 Years	Bachelor of art in Sociology & masters of Psychology

Service package provided to the crime victim children

In order to make the finding of the research concerning the service package easily understandable, the issue was categorized in to four sections which show the sequential stages the children pass while going through the criminal justice system. These are pre investigation, investigation, preparation for trial and post trial stages.

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Pre investigation period

Key informants provided information that the service given to children who are victims of sexual crime and children who are victims of other crimes, are different during pre investigation.

Children who are victims of sexual crime are directly sent to Gandhi one stop center where they will get a medical and psychological support before they undergo the investigation and give their victim statement. Whereas, victim children of all other crimes normally make first contact with an investigating police in the child protection and investigation unit office established in the sub cities main police stations. After asking the child or the person who brought him/her what has happened, the prosecutor and social worker, where there is a social worker, will be communicated to join the investigation process. In this process, a Crime investigating police officer from Kolfe Keraniyo noted:

We work on trying to calm down the child and the parents when they first come to report the crime. We do this because we face the child and the parents at a time when they are emotionally very disturbed to clearly report what has really happened. After checking what has happened to them we will send them to a place where they will get medical support if it is necessary.

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Investigation

The key informants addressed the process of investigation also to be different for the children who are victims of sexual crime and other crimes. A public prosecutor from Lideta Sub City noted that:

When the children are victims of sexual violence, the children are directly sent to Gandhi one stop center and the investigation process starts from psychologically supporting the children by social workers to open a file and take their victim statement. Afterward, the police investigation file will be sent to the sub city investigation and prosecution section and further investigation will be conducted. In the process of investigation and deciding the fate of the case legally, we may call up on the victim child again to clarify her victim statement.

Other Key informants also agreed with the statement above while a public prosecutor from Nifasilk Lafto Sub City mentioned a practice deviating from the others as follows:

In the investigation process for children who are victims of sexual violence, after they give their statement supported by social worker in Gandhi one stop center and the investigation file is sent to the sub city police for further investigation, we don't call up on the victim child for clarifying her/his victims statement or anything. The only time we meet with them is when we rehearse them of their victim statement for trial.

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According to the key informants, the investigation process usually starts by taking the victims statement with the support of a social worker, when they are available. According to the key informants, there are social workers working in the process of investigation with the police and prosecutors only at Lideta and Nifas silk Lafto Sub Cities. The key informants from Kolfe Keraniyo, Yeka and Gulel Sub Cities said that it's been from a range of one month to nine month since they have seen a social worker to help the investigation process in the sub cities.

On the other hand, children who don't have a place to stay because they cannot go back to their homes because of the nature of crime committed to them and the perpetrators being a close person, children who didn't have a safe place to live in the first place (like street children), and children who need a continuous and close psychological support because of the trauma they have experienced, will be sent to institutions that give shelter.

Children who are not sent to a shelter because of unavailability or the minimum age requirement, will get a psychological support from the social workers in a time scheduled for them to meet either at the police station or at the branch office. But according to the key informants, this service is being provided only in places where there are social workers.

Preparation for Trial

Key informants agreed on the point that there is a time gap between the investigation and prosecution of the files and the courts appointment for hearing the case. And in this process the children might forget details of what happened during the commission of the crime.

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Due to this reason, the children are rehearsed for their victim statement in order to help them remember details of the criminal act and be able to testify in court properly. In relation to this one of the key informants exclusively mentioned that;

...We meet the children after a long time of separation when we meet them for rehearsal and they may have forgotten the details of the crime that should be testified up on court. Therefore, we need to remind them and rehearse them of the details of the crime through a psychological support. But we also take the necessary care and provide them with psychological support in order to minimize the trauma they might suffer when going through the details of the crime again....

Another key informant added a different dimension to this practice saying that..." the children might not always be rehearsed in the process of social workers. In their absence, the public prosecutors will rehearse them without any psychological help...."

Post trial

Key informants addressed the service that the children get after trial to be that of a reunification for children with their parents if they have been sent to shelter during the investigation and trial period for children who have parents of primary care giver. For children who don't have parents or primary care giver to be reunified with, the police, prosecutor and social workers will search for institution that provides permanent shelter for the children.

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One key informant expressed that: "...This process is not always easy because there are times and situations in which the children are above the age which permanent shelter giving institutions will accept them and also don't have anywhere else to go...."

The key informants agreed the general problem they see in the quality of service they give to the children at all the service delivery stages to be, lack of sufficient and skilled manpower. A crime investigating officer from Gulele used a very strong term to express this problem;

"I might face up to ten child victim per day, and because I am only human, the quality of service I provide and the way I treat the children will definitely depreciate through the day and I will not treat all children the way they deserve to be treated. I cannot give what I don't have!"

The other problem they identified was that they face a hardship in delivering a consistent and standard service to all crime victim children who came to them seeking service because of absence of manual or guideline developed to guide their work throughout the process.

But the key informant at the MOJ Women, Children and Youth affair coordination office said that:

There are manuals prepared to lead the investigation and prosecution manuals prepared to guide the investigation and prosecution to the detail of what the characteristics of the professional working with the children in this process should look like. Trainings and discussions have also been carried out when distributed the manuals to the sub city investigation and prosecution level.

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Exploring Child sensitivity of the service delivery process

Pre investigation and Investigation period

Key informants addressed that the investigation process in which the victim children are passing is not child friendly and one of the manifestations for this is the office setup. One key informant expressed this as follows;

...This little office is allocated for the child protection and investigation unit to be used by service providers as an office and also engage with the children. At times, all professionals have their own clients to see (because the office and the professionals are supposed to work with ,not only victim children but also women who are victims of sexual violence) and we will be obliged to talk to the victim children in this little office with bunch of people in it.

Even yet, the key informant at MOJ women, children and youth affair coordination office said that;

The investigation rooms for the children are not in any way separated from the place where there are different kind offenders who are handcuffed and police officers wearing uniforms and carrying guns. So, there is no child friendly environment or office prepared for the children at the police stations like in the prosecution office and courts. At the time of investigation, the children are being provided service in an environment that is scary and discomforting to them where there are many people including the investigating police, public prosecutor and social workers.

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There are places and, times where the children go through the investigation process without any help from a social worker or any person who has special knowledge in working with them, and making the environment more comfortable for them.

One of the key informants added to this saying;

Making the environment child friendly ,depends on the professionals who provide service and often times, we as public prosecutors face conflicting interest between protecting the best interest of the child and having a successful and sufficient crime investigation. While we focus on making the crime investigation successful we may end up neglecting the victim children and make the environment uncomfortable for them. It also depends on the personal characteristics of the service providers whether to care for the children's comfort or not. So it is very difficult to reconcile between all this and say that the current system is child friendly to the fullest.

Preparation for trial

According to the key informants, the preparation for trial is processed in the public prosecutor's office (Ministry of justice Branch office. There are separate rooms, filled with toys and different materials in which the kids could play with and feel like they are not in a strange place.

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In a place where there is a social worker, the children get a psychological support during and after rehearsal, to minimize the risk of secondary victimization from remembering the traumatic experience.

But according to Key informants, there are only two places where there are social workers from the study area, and one key informant even said that “the children will be rehearsed by public prosecutors only, in the absences of social workers.”

Referral system utilized to support crime victim children

The key informants conveyed that they communicate with some nongovernmental organization to provide service of shelter and long term psychosocial support for victim children who are in need of the service.

These children are most of the time, children who are victimized by their primary care givers or their neighbors', and children who have no primary care giver nearby.

All of them agree that this service is not delivered to the children following a formal referral system. The key informant from MOJ, women, children and youth coordination office said that:

...for a very long time the work that we used to do with the non governmental institutions who provide shelter and other services to the children, was only based on the good communications that they had with our prosecutors, investigating police or social workers and writing them a letter of request by mentioning the reason we want them to give a child this service. (It was people based not system or network based). But now,

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based on a proposal from four selected branch offices of the ministry, we are trying to create a formal referral path way in a manner that will give the children an integrated service. While doing this, we are also trying to draw a system in which the same service delivery will not be repeatedly given to the children by different government offices. We have organized a selected team from both the government and non government institutions to prepare and produce manuals guidelines and memorandum of understanding. The team has accomplished its task and the documents are now ready for discussion and feedback from stakeholders.

Post trial

Key informants agreed on the issue that the service the children are provided with after trial is, for children who were sent to a temporary shelter for the reason of protecting them from further harm, the service providers would reunify the children with their parents or primary care givers.

For children who don't have a primary care giver or parents, the key informants said that they will find them a permanent shelter providing institution and they will facilitate their way in. All the key informants said that, the problem they face during this stage is, when the children are above the minimum age for which permanent shelter providing institutions require them to accept.

Counseling process for the children, which might continue even after trial when their situation requires so, is another service that is delivered to the children at the post trail stage

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by social workers. This process is undertaken by the social workers in communication with the children and their parents and by scheduling appointment for meeting them at the prosecutions office or the police stations.

Social workers Role and Engagement with Crime Victim Children

The social workers forwarded their opinion that they have a role of protecting the children psychologically challenges they face. In addition they claim that they assist them in improving their communication skill to make them comfortable in speaking the thing that happened to them.

They also said that they work with the children in the process of pre investigation, investigation and prosecution, and preparation for trial or rehearsal. The social workers said that they have a manual prepared by the Women, Children and Youth affair coordination office at MOJ to guide the engagement process they have with the children throughout the investigation, preparation for trial or other counseling sessions.

One of the social worker said that she finds it very important for a social worker to assist the children in all the process of the criminal justice system and she starts engaging with the children from the time they come to report the crime to the police station, but the other social worker said that: "...I don't find it necessary to engage with every crime victim child starting from the time they come to report the crime, unless the prosecutors or investigating police refer them to me after diagnosing a serious psychological disturbance..."

Exploring service provided for...

Both of them agreed with the information that they also work on a short term psychological support with children who seem to be in need of it but couldn't be referred to a long term psychological support service providing institutions because of different reasons.

The support process takes place at the police stations or ministries branch office based on the schedule they make with the children and their parents. The service can be provided to the children before, after or in the middle of the investigation and trial process based on the need of the children.

The Key informant at the MOJ Women, Children and Youth affair coordination office said that the social workers also have expected role, apart from the ones they are engaged in now. She stated that:

Although due to work load and getting carried away in the investigation and prosecution process did not allow the social workers to currently, when they are recruited, one of their job requirements is to do a background research in every crime against the women and children and seek solution to correct the problem from its root cause. For this reason they are expected to go in to the environment, family and society where the victim suffered the crime and do a deeper research to identify the problem.

The information obtained from key informants interview shows that Social workers help the process of investigation, prosecution and preparation for trial by providing psychological support and facilitating the communication between the victim children, and the investigation and prosecution team.

Exploring service provided for...

Key informants think that it's the presence of the social worker that makes the investigation process be somehow protective to the interest of the child. In supporting this, one key informant said that:

I think the existence of social workers is very important, because, the public prosecutor and the investigating police tend to focus on the legal and investigative aspect of the case due to our professional orientation, but the social workers focus on protecting the children psychologically. The social workers also have a good deal of advantage in helping the investigation process. They have the knowledge and skill to talk to the children, understand them deeply and guide them to the statement giving in the process minimizing the risk of secondary victimization.

The head of the MOJ women, children and youth coordination office added: "I think the presence of social workers is use full in two ways. The first is that the children do not speak the same language as adults do and they do not understand things in a way adults can do. To understand the language the children are speaking of and the meaning they give to what has happened to them is very hard for the public prosecutor and the investigating police, because their professional background is only focused on legal matters and investigation techniques.

The social workers due to his/her professional and educational background is I think the best person to work with the children and understand them and also to help the investigation and prosecution team to achieve the best evidence they can by understanding what really happened to the child.

Exploring service provided for...

The second reason is that again due to their professional and educational orientation, the public prosecutor and the investigation police tend to focus on the issue that happened during the commission of a crime only. But the social worker due to his /her professional background can see beyond the time of the commission of the crime, find out the cause in the environment that led to the commission of the crime and help find direction to further protect the child from other abuse and clear the environment from other possible causes for another crime too.

All the key informants at the study areas where there are no social workers expressed that they really perceive the importance of social workers, especially now that they don't have them to help in the process.

Chapter Five: Discussion

The findings of the research have been presented divided in to sub sections in line with the objective of the research and with the idea of making it more understandable. This section of the research will try to analyze the findings of the research in line with the existing literature.

Exploring service provided for...

Accordingly, the section divides the area of discussion in to seven sections. These are Engagement process with crime victim children in the criminal justice system, service delivery process in Investigation, preparation for trial and post trial stages, social workers engagement with crime victim children in the criminal justice system, multidisciplinary team approach for providing holistic services to crime victim children and finally networking and referral system.

Engagement process with Crime Victim Children in the Criminal Justice System

As it has been mentioned earlier, one of the objectives of this research is to explore the engagement process of the service providers with the victim children. Accordingly the findings of the research show that the children are contacted first by an investigating police and the process of engagement starts by asking the child what happened to him/her. But literature shows that the process of engaging with crime victim children should take a different form.

According to UNODC (2009) the process of engaging with the children should start by informing them of the legal procedures in the justice system that they are going to pass through, existing support that they are entitled to get, specific place and time for hearing the case, available services like, health care psychosocial support and other community services status of the offender whether he is in custody or released.

One reason for not informing the children of the rights that they have may be, as the finding of the research shows us, that there is no established standard and reliable service provision availed to the children.

Exploring service provided for...

As the finding of the research indicates, most of the services that are beyond the scope of the justice system are provided based on good communication with the service providers and availability of the resources. To address this problem exploring the Childs physical and social environment for already available resources, would have been one way of engaging with the children if the formal networking does not exist.

Therefore, it can be seen that there is no service available for the children to claim as of right because the process of engagement with the victim children is not guided by standards and principles that are suitable to them starting from the time the children make contact with the justice system and the reason for this is lack of resources necessary to provide effective and standard service.

This gap can be seen as a failure in part of the service providers, to see the children's need that arises as a result of their interaction with the justice system (the environment) and focusing only on the mere investigation and prosecution process only.

Exploring Child Sensitivity of the Service Delivery Process in Investigation, Preparation for Trial and Post Trial Stages

Pre investigation and investigation

UNODC (2009) indicates that a standard and child sensitive investigation process is one that is conducted by professionals who have special training in the investigation of crime against children.

Exploring service provided for...

The finding of the research also shows that the public prosecutors and polices working with the children starting from the time of investigation have no special training to enable them work in investigation with crime victim children except some short term on job trainings provided for few professionals while they were already working on the child investigation unit.

To answer to the unique needs of the child and establish an effective child sensitive service, professional engagement that is shaped with the thinking of identifying the Childs needs in light of his/her interaction with the environment is a necessary step a professional client relationship. Ecological systems theory substantiates this idea by saying that for professionals to engage in a helping process with a client without having the skills to look in to the client's problem in his/her interaction with the environmental system is a mistake. (Coady& Lehmann, 2008).

In analyzing the findings of the research in light of the standard requirement for creating a comfort zone for the children undergoing in the investigating process there is a huge gap between what is expected from the professionals and what they really are. This can be seen as a result of the professionals focused on the current problem of the children rather than seeing them in their interaction with their environment.

Preparation for trial

The research shows that there is a time gap between the crime investigation period and the courts hearing date in most of the cases. The children are rehearsed to remind them of their victim statement by social workers and in their absence, by public prosecutors.

Exploring service provided for...

It has also been identified by the research that the children might spend a whole day without giving their testimony and sometimes the cases hearing date might be postponed to some other time, in which case the prosecution office is obliged to rehearse the children of their victim's statement.

From this, one can see that the victim children are being reminded of the traumatic event that caused them harm repeatedly and are being exposed to secondary victimization by the process of preparation for trial and testimony in court due to the poor service provision on the part of the justice system. Secondary victimization means victimization that occurs not as a direct result of a criminal act but through the response of institutions and individuals to the victim (UNODC, 2009).

Post Trial

According to UNODC (2009) a child victim of crime is entitled to appropriate compensation for damage after trial, a lawyer that represent the child in the process, being directed to a restorative justice program if available, being connected with relevant institution or professionals for further counseling process, to be provided with a repatriation service which should be facilitated by the support person(social worker) in collaboration with appropriate consular office and the right to be informed of the release of the convicted person to the latest, a day prior to his release.

The findings of the research show that the post trial service provided to the children include; reunification for children who were in shelters and have a primary care giver, finding permanent shelter for children who don't have primary care giver and fulfill the eligibility criteria for entrance, and counseling service provided by social workers for children their situation requires after trial.

Exploring service provided for...

Although there is a provision in the civil procedure code of Ethiopia (1965 E.C) and criminal procedure code of Ethiopia (1954 E.C) that gives power to the public prosecutor to request compensation for damage from crime victim who are victims of bodily injury and serious human right violation. However, the research has identified that the prosecutor neither takes action to claim compensation for damage in the cases of crime victim children, nor inform the children with the right they have to this end.

Therefore, it can be seen that the current practice in relation to the service provided to crime victim children in post trial stage is far away from what is required by the standard to be provided for the victim children after passing through the criminal justice process and having to face the outcome of this process.

Social Workers Role and Engagement with the Victim Children

According to NASW (1999) one of the Ethical Principle of a social worker is to practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise. Social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice.

Davis (2007) strengthens this ethical principle saying bearing in mind the decisive role a social worker plays in facilitating and assisting the process of child protection service, they have to have a proper knowledge and skill in areas where they are needed to assist and escort the children to. But the finding of the research shows that the social workers, though they have knowledge that helps them understand children better and work with them in general,

Exploring service provided for...

they don't have the special investigative knowledge to help them work with crime victim children in the context.

But the research identified that the social workers working with the crime victim children in the study area have neither a general knowledge regarding investigation in the Ethiopian legal system nor the special investigation skill in cases where children are victims of crime.

The finding of the research shows that, Social workers engage with the children on the bases of helping the children go through the investigation process and give their true victim statement to help the investigation process without defining what the purpose and limit of the engagement process with the children is.

But according to Pollack (2003, p.234) "a good social worker is one who has skill in clarifying their role and they have frequent, open and honest discussions about: the purpose of the intervention; the dual role of the worker as an investigator and helper, the nature of the worker's authority and how it can be used, what is negotiable and what is not, and the limits of confidentiality". Thus, we can see that the characteristics of the worker as noted above and skills identified by Pollack together can contribute to positive relationships in child protection service.

UNODC (2009) requires the social worker (referred as helping person in the manual) to be a person who is selected by the victim or his guardians to help him/her throughout the entire process of the justice system. But the Finding of the research shows that, the social workers in the process are assigned permanently for the investigation and prosecution process in the station and they are there to help every child with the justice process until they are

Exploring service provided for...

rehearsed for trial and they will hand the children over to a new social workers assigned by the court during the trial.

The research identified that there is a different practice from place to place on the time when the social workers start engaging with the victim children. Some of the social workers engage with every child victim starting from the time when the crime is reported in the police stations and others start their engagement with the children when referred to them by police or prosecutors for having a complication in terms of clearly speaking what happened to them.

But Patterson (2012) strictly supports a social worker who engages in the criminal justice system as a helper for crime victim, to engage in the helping process starting from the investigation process because police investigation process is always the entry point in the criminal justice system where people who are traumatized and faced with disasters incidents come to seek help from the system.

As a special way of treating crime victim children ,UNODC (2009) also requires social workers (support person) to be available to help the children through the justice process starting at the earliest stage possible, and that is considered to be the time when the crime is first reported.

Broadhurst, Grover and Jamieson (2009) further strengthened the importance of social workers engagement trough out the process of the criminal justice system by saying that, the issue of protecting children while going through the criminal justice system is, protecting children in a process that might endanger their healthy development.

According to the central idea of ecological systems theory In order to be a competent practitioner in this area, the social workers need to develop a professional skill of looking in to the problems of the children in line with their interaction with the social environment and the

Exploring service provided for...

justice system. This is a necessary step that should be followed for rendering effective service to the children in protecting them from harm that can be caused due to their involvement in the justice system.

Therefore social workers may be needed to involve in the protection of the child victim not only when they go through the criminal justice process, but also in protecting them from the impact of the crime on their healthy development.

Compared to the professional standard and other international benchmarks, the practice of social workers engagement with the victim children, there is a gap manifested in the practice which can be attributed to the social workers failure to engage with every child from the time the crime has been reported through the process of investigation, trial and post trial period.

Multi Disciplinary Team to Provide Holistic Service for Crime Victim Children

According to Petr (2009) multidisciplinary approach is the best option to fulfill the needs of crime victim children that goes beyond the capacity of the agency .Krase, and Morse (2009) further strengthened this view saying that a multi disciplinary team in a child victim investigation comprises of medical personnel, the district attorney's office, victim advocates, mental health professionals, community service agencies, probation, and social service workers.

Krase, and Morse (2009) further elaborate this idea by saying that service providers who are working in the protection of children are able to coordinate their work through written agreement on a particular case and sharing all necessary information in order to

Exploring service provided for...

produce a more thorough and coordinated investigation, prosecution, supervision, and treatment in cases of child abuse and neglect.

UNODC (2009) puts a legal standard to the team of professionals involved in the multi disciplinary service provision. These are; one judge, one public prosecutor, representative of law enforcement agencies (in our case police), one representative of child protection service, one representative of the ministry of health, one representative of Bar association, One representative of each recognized victim support organization, providing services to children, and one representative of the ministry responsible for education.

Looking in to what has been identified by the research, in most of the study areas the professionals working with the children are public prosecutors and investigating police. Though there are social workers in some of the study areas, the finding of the research shows that there is a different practice in the process of engagement with every crime children from the moment they contact with the justice system is not the same.

From the practice of other countries and the legal standard required to create a team in providing effective service to crime victim children, it can be seen that, it is the existence of a multi disciplinary team of service providers that makes a service given to crime victim children holistic and effective.

Therefore, comparing the standard requirement in this regard with what have been identified by the research, it can be concluded there is a distance to go in bridging the gap and creating a multi disciplinary team that can provide holistic service to crime victim children.

Exploring service provided for...

Networking and referral system

Even though one of the core values of social work is the commitment to assisting client systems to obtain needed resources and fulfilling their needs, it is obvious that any service giving organization can't fulfill all the needs of its clients(Hepworth, Rooney, Kimberly & Larsen, 2006). In a situation where there is a gap in this regards, networking and referral system is a common trend.

Furthermore, Jhonson and Yanca (2004) elaborated that a networking and coordination in the real sense of providing service is the working together of two or more service providers in activity focused on particular client or persons focused in particular category (p .426)

The idea of networking usually goes with locating the available and necessary resources in the environment and connecting the client with it. The central idea of ecological systems theory is to look in to the client's environmental and social system to address their needs and locate the resources necessary for them in their environment (Coady& Lehmann, 2008).

While looking at the practice identified by the research, in a situation where the children are in need of service that is beyond the capacity of the justice office, like temporary or permanent shelter, psychosocial and long term medical support, the prosecution office or the police communicate with institutions that provide the service on personal level.

This indicates that there is no written agreement entered in to between the service providers to provide the service to the children in a coordinated fashion and there is no formal referral path way established.

Exploring service provided for...

Therefore it can be concluded that although the research has identified that MOJ is on the way to establish a formal network of service providers comprised of various nongovernmental and governmental stakeholders, the current practice in the study area didn't have any formally established network required by a standard service delivery for the crime victim children to protect their best interest and provide a satisfactory service. If the professionals are not specialists in relation to investigating, prosecuting and treating crime victim children, the service provided to the children will not be any different from other crime investigation and prosecution.

In general according to Ecosystems theory, person and the environment are unceasingly, intricately, thoroughly and reciprocally sustaining and shaping one another. When we try to understand ourselves, our clients, or our work by focusing on one at the expense of the other, we become reductionist and prone to mistakes (Coady & Lehmann, 2008).

Looking in to the finding of the research in line with this theory, it can be seen that professionals engaged with the children as a client to provide service, are so occupied with investigating the crime that has been committed and focusing on current issues and they failed to equally focus on from various social and environmental factors that caused the commission of the crime. The gaps in the service they provide and the remedy they seek is also the result of their failure to see the victims issue from his/her social and environmental perspective.

Chapter Six: **Conclusion, Recommendation and Social Work implication**

Conclusion

This study is believed to have contribution in advancing the existing knowledge regarding the social work practice with crime victim children at ministry of justice. The study looks into the practical experience of investigating prosecuting the crime against the children, preparing children for trial and testimony in court and working with the children after trial in court in five sub cities of Addis Ababa city.

In this study, it was attempted to understand the professional background and competence of the service providers, to identify the service package given to the children at every stage, examine the child sensitivity of the service delivered to the children, the networking and referral system utilized in delivering the service, and the role and engagement of social workers in this process. In this section, the concluding remarks of this study will be made in line with the objectives of the study.

Crime against children has been considered as a punishable crime under Ethiopian law and the criminal justice policy has also exclusively indicated that crimes in which children are victims should be treated separately in the criminal justice process.

Ethiopia has ratified all the international documents declaring the rights of a child and has also made a special clause in the constitution for every decision passed by any authority and service provided to be considerate of the protection of the best interest of the child.

Protecting children from harm have been a priority in every modern society and Ethiopia has also taken steps forward in protecting children from harm including criminal violence perpetrated against them.

Exploring service provided for...

Establishing a competent institutions and authority comprising responsible and well skilled man power is a step forward in executing the rights that are recognized in paper. The finding of the research shows that a separate investigation and prosecution unit has been established to deal with investigating and prosecuting crimes against children.

But it has been evidenced that the separation of investigation and prosecution unit by itself cannot be an end to delivering a standard service that enables children to pass through the system without being exposed to secondary victimization. Problems have been observed in the professional competence of service providers in every step of pre investigation, investigation, preparation for trial and post trial. It has also been observed that apart from problem in professional competence, there is a high gap between the number of clients and the professionals delivering the service that leads to poor quality of the service given to every child victim. It has also been identified that there is a huge gap in establishing a multi disciplinary team that is as per that standard requirement for providing effective child sensitive service for children who are victims of crime while they pass through the system.

Regarding the service package given to the children while passing through the stages of this criminal justice system, gap has been observed in the practice. The service delivery has no standard and depends on the personal characteristics and competence of every professional it also varies from one crime to another .Children seeking service from the system are not getting equal service because of either incompetence in the professionals or lack of resource.

The research has also identified weakness in the referral system utilization by the justice system. The referral system between the investigation and prosecution unit and other service providing stakeholders has been only based on personal communication. It has been

Exploring service provided for...

noted by the research that MOJ is on the way of establishing a formal referral system between different stakeholders but it is on its earliest stage.

Practice and engagement of social workers, though they are from different academic discipline, has also been identified by the research. But the process of their practice, starting from the time of engagement to termination, is not standard in all of the study area.

Though the cardinal principle of social work is to help clients identify their strength and resources and use them through their life, the social workers at the MOJ are so busy helping in the investigation and preparation for trial that they have forgotten the main reason why they are in the helping process.

In general, what is expected from a service provided to crime victim children by the criminal justice system, at the time of pre investigation, investigation, preparation for trial and post trial period, is not only limited to what has been provided to the children by the ministry is still at its preliminary stage and has a long way to go in reaching the standard requirement for providing effective service to crime victim children.

Recommendations

At the macro level, policy makers have to introduce and familiarize different policy frameworks that promote a specialized and standard professional practice that facilitates effective implementation of the existing legislations and modalities. Moreover, institutions in the justice system like MOJ and other concerned organizations have to promote the existing national, regional and international standards, policies and regulations that promote special treatment for crime victim children in the criminal justice system.

Exploring service provided for...

On the other hand, in the process of reviewing related literatures, it is understood that there is a significant paucity of academic researches on the area. Hence, academic institutions have to promote practice with crime victim children in the academic circle so that various researches and dialogues, especially on the service package, professional competence and multidimensional response of the justice system and its link with social work, can be carried out and all stakeholders engage in providing service to crime victim children can have evidence-based intervention. In line with this, academic institutions have to strive to equip their students with basic skills that can be input to establish effective and child sensitive justice system.

At the organization level, Ministry of Justice and Police force In collaboration with other Governmental and nongovernmental organizations, should come together, assess the current practice regarding the service delivered to crime victim children ,take the results of its study as a starting point in taking the necessary measures to make change in their organizational structure to insure a standard and uniform service delivery to the children. They should start from understanding that, separating the crime investigation and prosecution team for crime victim children and assigning separate professionals for dealing with their case is one thing to start providing the service, but is not even close to being sufficient.

The organizations should work together to improve the service to the international standard requirements for providing a child friendly criminal justice process. One way of specifically addressing this issue is, mobilizing resources and establishing a center in which all crime victim children can have access to social, economic and psychological support to recover from the trauma they suffered due to the crime.

Exploring service provided for...

MOJ and all the institutions in the justice system and other stakeholders should come to an understanding that children's best interest is a preliminary issue that should be considered in all the service given to crime victim children, which comes before the interests of each organizational boundaries and structures.

Implication for social work

Making professional practice with crime victim children at ministry of justice unit of analysis, this research has pinpointed how the establishment of a standard service delivery system is important in delivering and effective child sensitive service to crime victim children while they are passing through the justice system. Moreover, it has shown that the use of a specialized multi disciplinary professional team and working in collaboration with other service providers to be effective way of addressing the children's needs.

According to the NASW code of ethics, "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities and social workers as professional, are expected to have the knowledge and skill base that will serve the client in a best way possible. This indicates that social workers are expected to be equipped with all the necessary skill and knowledge to be able to engage in a systematic way of answering to the needs that arise out of their clients. This research also showed the necessity of the engagement for social work practitioners in the process of initiating strengthen or sustaining knowledge based professional practice with crime victim children and the necessity for them to also have the necessary skill that enables them to render effective service.

Exploring service provided for...

Social work as a discipline and social worker as a practitioner works closely with organizations like MOJ and vulnerable clients like crime victim children. The existence of an established working team between the police, social workers and public prosecution can be a great input to advocate cross cutting issues that social worker need to advance in the area of engagement with crime victim children.

In relation to this, the efforts of the organizations in the justice system like MOJ, and the police can be taken as a step forward to establishing a child sensitive criminal justice system although their knowledge and professional background is limited. This calls for the knowledge and skill base of social work to building a specialized child sensitive and multidisciplinary team to provide a standard service to the children. It also enables practitioners to promote the formation and utilization of effective networking between service providers and stakeholders.

The findings of the research shows that there is a huge gap between what the victim children should have been given to while they are in the justice process and what the system is currently offering. This gives a social worker as a practitioner and social work as a profession to promote change in a way the services are being delivered to the children because promotion of change for the betterment of services, systems and institutions is one of the cardinal principles of the social work profession.

Finding of the research shows that there is a problem of providing a comprehensive and effective service to the children which is attributed to the service providers being negligent in looking at the children from the social and environmental aspects that caused the victimization in the first place.

Exploring service provided for...

Protecting children from significant harm, being proactive in keeping them safe from abuse and the crimes perpetrated against them, is a key role for all social workers. Hearing and responding to children's voices is an essential component of the professional response to abused children (Davis & Nora, 2008).

Treating clients in a way that looks in to their problem from the social environmental aspects that caused it and to provide a holistic and effective service is Social workers best practiced mode of intervention. Therefore, it is clearly identified that establishing a system that provides holistic and effective service for children who are victimized by crime and are passing through the criminal justice needs a touch from social work.

Exploring service provided for...

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Annexes

Interview Guide For In Depth Interview

Introduction

First of all I would like to thank you for your commitment to involve in this study, which is for partial fulfillment of getting Masters Degree in social work. The general objective of the study is to have a better understanding on the service provided for crime victim children while passing through the criminal justice system. The data collected from this interview is purely for academic purpose and will be kept only in my hands and may transfer to my advisor as a cross references described on the consent form. Therefore, I kindly request you to be openly and genuinely respond to the questions I forward to you. This has a big contribution for the attainment of the goal of the research. This discussion may take about one and half to two hours.

I would like to thank you again for your willingness to participate in this research.

Interview guide for Social Workers

1. Would you please start the information from your current job, educational and professional background?
2. Do you have a special knowledge or experience in the area of working with crime victim children?

(Probe) have you ever had on job training to help your work?

(Probe) do you have knowledge about the legal procedures in the Ethiopian legal system?

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3. Have you ever had on job training to support what you are doing with the crime victim children?
4. Where do you start engaging with the children?
(Probe) how do you start the process of engagement?
(Probe) where do you terminate your engagement with the children?
(Probe) how do you terminate the engagement process?
5. Do you think the presence of a social worker is important for the crime victim children while going through the justice system?
(Probe) how do you think it helps?
6. Do you think the children should be contacted without the presence of a social worker?
7. Is there any manual or guideline that supports your work?
8. Is there a network established with other organizations or stakeholders to refer issues that are beyond the scope of your expertise?
(Probe) who are within the network?
(Probe) on what bases do you work with them?
9. Do you think the current criminal justice system is child friendly?
(Probe) do you think they are protected from secondary victimization while going through the system?
(Probe) do you think the current service delivered to the children is sufficient
(Probe) if not, what do you suggest?

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Interview guide for public prosecutor and police

1. Would you please start the information from your current job, educational and professional background?
2. Do you have a special knowledge or experience in the area of working with crime victim children?

 (Probe) have you ever had on job training to help your work?

 (Probe) do you have knowledge about the legal procedures in the Ethiopian legal system?
3. Have you ever had on job training to support what you are doing with the crime victim children?
4. Where do you start engaging with the children?

 (Probe) how do you start the process of engagement?

 (Probe) where do you terminate your engagement with the children?

 (Probe) how do you terminate the engagement process?
5. . Do you think the presence of a social worker is important for the crime victim children while going through the justice system?
6. (Probe) how do you think it helps?
7. Do you think the children should be contacted without the presence of a social worker?
8. Is there any manual or guideline that supports your work?
9. Is there a network established with other organizations or stakeholders to refer issues that are beyond the scope of your expertise?

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(Probe) who are within the network?

(Probe) on what bases do you work with them?

10. Do you think the current criminal justice system is child friendly?

(Probe) do you think they are protected from secondary victimization while going through the system?

(Probe) do you think the current service delivered to the children is sufficient

(Probe) if not, what do you suggest?

Interview guide for head of Women, children and Youth coordination office

1. Would you please start the information from your current job, educational and professional background?
2. Do you think crime victim children should be treated differently in the criminal justice process?

(Probe) why?

3. Do you think the current criminal justice system is child friendly?

(Probe) what do you do to protect the children from secondary victimization?

4. What do you think is the role of social worker in this process?

(Probe) how do you think they will help?

5. Do you have any capacity building initiatives designed for professionals?

(Probe) what are they?

(Probe) how often do you plan and execute them?

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6. Is there a manual or guideline prepared to guide the professionals in service provision?

(Probe) do you think it is compatible with international standards?

7. Is there a network established with other organizations or stakeholders to refer issues that are beyond the scope of your expertise?

(Probe) who are within the network?

(Probe) on what bases do you work with them?

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Informed Consent Form (English Version)

CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN A RESEARCH PROJECT ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Study Title: Exploring service provided for crime victim children in the criminal justice system a case study of Addis Ababa

Researcher: Lelise Terfasa

My Name is Lelise Terfasa and I am a student of Post Graduate School of Social Work at Addis Ababa University. I am conducting this research as part of the requirement of Masters Degree in Social Work. The main objective of my research is on exploring the case of crime victim children going under the criminal justice system. Social workers, crime Investigating police officers and Public prosecutors will be involved in sharing their experience. Since you qualified the criteria for this study, you are invited to participate in the study as a key informant. Only if you are willing to participate in the study, I am going to ask you some questions to be able to understand your experience. Sharing your experience in the practice may require expressing exclusive organizational matter. This is the risk associated with participating in this research.

In participating in this research, you will have a huge contribution for the betterment of people's the practice with crime victim children in the criminal justice system. You can see this as an opportunity of contributing your share for the foundation of better ground to address the needs of large number of crime victim children. To keep the confidentiality of the information you provide, your name will not be written in this form and will never be used in connection with any information you tell me. Your Participation in the interview has to be

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based on your informed consent. You are free to choose not to participate and if you chose to be a participant, you are free to withdraw from this study at any time during its course. Please feel free to ask about anything you don't understand and to consider this research and the consent form carefully as long as you feel it is necessary before you make a decision. If it is your will, I will record the interviews for convenience reasons but every cassette will be kept in a confidential manner and it will be disposed off afterwards. If you are interested to know about the findings of this research or any information related to this research, you can use this address to contact me.

Lelise Terfasa : Tel No. 0910641781, Email: lterfasa @gmail.com

If you are willing to participate in this research, you may confirm your willingness by your signature.

Authorization

I have read (or someone has read to me) this form and have decided to participate in the research described above. Its general purposes, the particulars of involvement and possible risks and inconveniences have been explained to my satisfaction. My signature also indicates that I have received a copy of this consent form.

Name of the participant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you very much for your cooperation and time.

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DECLARATION

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

DECLARED BY

Name: Lelise Terfasa

Signature: _____

CONFIRMED BY

Name: Meseret Kasahun (PHD)

Signature: _____

