

**Addis Ababa University**  
**College of Law and Governance Studies**  
**School of Law**



**Children Right and Labour Exploitation in Wolkita Town, Gurage  
Zone, Ethiopia.**

**A Thesis Submitted to Addis Ababa University, School of Law for Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master of Human Right Law**

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**DECLARATION**

I, Moges Alemu Shewarega, declare that this work is my original paper which is entitled children Right to Child Labor Exploitation in Wolkite town, Gurage Zone, Ethiopia, has not been submitted for credit toward a degree at any other university, and all references utilized in the thesis paper have been properly cited.

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**Children Right and Labour Exploitation in Wolkita Town, Gurage Zone,  
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## Certification

This is to certify that, this thesis entitled “children Right to Child Labour Exploitation in Wolkite town, Gurage Zone, Ethiopia”, submitted to Addis Ababa university, school of law for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master of human Right done by Moges Alemu is submitted with my approval as his thesis advisor.

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(Center for Human Rights, CLGS, AAU)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kassahun Tilahun', written over a vertical line.

**January 30 2025**

## Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| DECLARATION .....   | i   |
| Certification .....   | i   |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....   | v   |
| ABSTRACT .....  | vi  |
| Acronyms .....  | vii |
| Chapter one .....   | 1   |
| 1.1. Background of the study .....  | 1   |
| 1.2. Research problem.....  | 4   |
| 1.3. Objective of the study.....  | 5   |
| 1.3.1. General objectives .....   | 5   |
| 1.3.2. Specific objectives.....   | 5   |
| 1.4. Research questions .....   | 6   |
| 1.5. Significance of the Study .....  | 6   |
| 1.6. Research methodology .....   | 6   |
| 1.7. Scope of the study .....   | 7   |
| 1.8. Data collection and analysis .....                                       | 7   |
| 1.9. Review literature .....  | 8   |
| 1.10. Organization of the paper: .....  | 9   |
| CHAPTER TWO .....   | 10  |
| 2 Conceptualizing Child Labour and Exploitation.....                          | 10  |
| 2.1 The Concept of Childhood under Ethiopian Laws .....                       | 12  |
| 2.2. General measures of implementation of rights of children inEthiopia..... | 13  |
| 2.3. Recognition of Child Rights in the FDRE Constitution.....                | 13  |
| 2.4. Status and Domestication of the CRC and ACRWC in EthiopianCourts .....   | 14  |
| 2.6. Determinants of child labour .....                                       | 15  |
| 2.6.2. Societal out look towards children.....                                | 16  |
| 2.6.3. Family characteristics and child labour.....                           | 16  |
| Chapter Three .....   | 19  |
| 3 Child labour law and Enforcement .....                                      | 19  |
| 3.1. International and national law regulating child labour .....             | 19  |
| 3.1.1. The ILO Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) .....                         | 20  |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 3.1.2. The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182) .....                                   | 20 |
| 3.2. Ethiopian Legal Provisions Relating to Child Labour .....   | 21 |
| 3.2.1. Minimum Age for Admission to Employment under the Labour Code .....                             | 23 |
| 3.3. The International Organizations working against Child Labour .....                                | 24 |
| Chapter four .....   | 25 |
| 4 Discussion and Finding .....   | 25 |
| 4.1. Cause of child labour .....   | 25 |
| 4.1.1. Problems on Practical implementation of existing laws and regulations .....                     | 25 |
| 4.1.2. Challenges faced by judicial, government entities and NGOs in delivering child protection ..... | 27 |
| 4.1.4. Socio economic problem .....  | 29 |
| 4.1.5 Societal Norm .....  | 31 |
| 4.2. The working conditions of children .....  | 32 |
| 4.3. The Challenges and Abusive Practices Child Labourers Face .....                                   | 33 |
| 4.3.1. Physical Abuse .....  | 34 |
| 4.3.2. Verbal Abuse .....  | 34 |
| 4.3.3. Psychological Abuse .....   | 35 |
| 4.3.4. Sexual Abuse .....  | 35 |
| Chapter five .....   | 37 |
| Conclusion and Recommendation .....  | 37 |
| 5.1. Conclusion .....  | 37 |
| 5.2. Recommendations .....   | 39 |
| 5.2.1 Awareness creation .....   | 39 |
| 5.2.2 Effective enforcement of existing laws .....   | 40 |
| 5.2.3 Establishing mechanisms for effective reporting of violence .....                                | 40 |
| 5.2.4 Providing support to victims .....   | 41 |
| 5.2.5 Enhancing child participation .....  | 41 |
| 5.2.6 Legal reform .....   | 42 |
| Reference .....  | 43 |
| Books and Journal .....  | 43 |
| B. International Instruments .....   | 45 |
| C. National Laws .....   | 45 |
| Appendix .....   | 46 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Semi-structured Interview format prepared for working children .....     | 46 |
| Semi-structured Interview format prepared for Government Officials ..... | 47 |
| Semi-structured Interview format prepared for NGO Officials .....        | 48 |
| Semi-structured Interview format prepared for children parents.....      | 48 |
| Focus Grouped Discussion Theme .....                                     | 49 |
| CHECKLIST FOR OBSERVATION .....  | 49 |

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## ABSTRACT

*The aim of this study is to evaluate children's rights and safeguard them from labour exploitation in Wolkite town. The study examines the circumstances that lead to children entering the workforce, the living and working situations of child laborers, the difficulties and abusive practices they encounter, and the laws that shield children from being exploited. The qualitative research methodology, the most popular research methodology, was used for data collecting in this study. Through focus group discussion, key informant interviews, semi-structured interviews, and observation, the researcher collected data relevant to the study. This study evaluates child labour laws and their implementation within the studied areas. The Ethiopian government has set up a number of organs in addition to the standard law enforcement and justice systems to combat child labour. The primary issue here is the ill enforcement of these laws which are contained in many national legal instruments. Incompatibility of international law with the domestic one and the culture of the society is also another problem in the study area. As a result, there is a significant discrepancy between national laws and their implementation, and this leads for clear violation of children's human rights in the study area. The government's comprehension and priority of child protection and child rights must be strengthened in the area of child exploitation and child labour. In summary, this study gives the go-ahead for additional research and creates a favorable environment for potential policymakers to intervene in the issue of children generally and child labour specifically in the study locations and the nation as a whole.*

## Acronyms

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ACRWC  | African charter on the right and welfare of child         |
| AIDS   | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome                       |
| CCPR   | Covenant on Civil and Political Rights                    |
| CRC    | Convention on the Rights of the Child                     |
| FDRE   | Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia                   |
| FGD    | Focus Group Discussion                                    |
| ICLS   | Indian corporate law service                              |
| IDI    | In depth Interview  |
| ILO    | International Labor Organization                          |
| IPEC   | International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor |
| KII    | Key Informant Interview                                   |
| MOLSA  | Ministry Of Labor and Social Affairs                      |
| NGO    | Non-Governmental Organization                             |
| UN     | United Nations  |
| UNCRC  | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child      |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund    |

## Chapter one

### 1.1. Background of the study

Humans are essentially characterized by their early years, or what we call childhood, when they are weak and defenseless. This situations call to the further treatment for children. Balanced development of the child's personality depends on raising him in a loving, caring, and joyful environment. Naturally, the primary obligation for giving this inherent right to additional care and protection rests with the child's parents and other close family members. Additionally, during the many years when a child is going through a personal development process, he deserves the respect and assistance of the state and society. <sup>1</sup>. Because of his immeasurable worth, which makes him the object of human affection, our duty to him is the sweetest and strongest of all our commitments

Legislators are essential to the protection of children. They can guarantee that nations have domestic procedures in place to stop and deal with child abuse. They can play a key role in securing the financial resources and political will necessary to support research and data gathering, as well as initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and strengthening capacity. Programs combating violence will never fully function in the absence of a supporting legislative and policy context.

A powerful social message that violence is unacceptable and subject to legal consequences is conveyed by laws that forbid various types of violence against children, such as emotional violence, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and physical punishment. However, enforcement is necessary for laws to be effective. Preventive measures can be taken by strengthening the prosecution of those who commit acts of violence against children through the use of professional prosecutors, police, and courts. Schools, organizations, workplaces, the corporate sector, and sports programs can also contribute by creating codes of behavior that promote safe, secure, and healthy settings free from exploitation and violence.

Child *labour* is problem for the whole world, with social and economic factors being the main

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<sup>1</sup> Telahun Theshome, child and law in Ethiopia (1997)

contributing factor. This violation is nevertheless common in both the formal and informal sectors worldwide, even though international instrument and laws concerning this issue have been passed in a number of countries to protect their citizen particularly the youngster from *labour* exploitation. Both are increasingly playing a fundamental role in many economies, particularly those in developing nations<sup>2</sup>.

Child labour is the term used to describe any economic activity performed by a child. The term was used to describe the activity of employing under age individuals for factory work during the industrial era. These days, it describes a condition where a child participates in economically exploitative activities that endanger their holistic development<sup>3</sup>. Child labour does not include official training opportunities or the occasional light job done after school<sup>4</sup>. Instead, "child labour" describes an exploitative circumstance in which: work is performed by under age, full-time, physically taxing, in substandard situations, with little pay, duty beyond their capacity, denial of several opportunities, degradation of dignity and self-worth, and harm to the worker's complete social and psychological development<sup>5</sup>. Children work in a wide range of industries, including as construction, mining and quarrying, street selling, household work, home-based jobs, factories and stores, agriculture, and pornography, among many others<sup>6</sup>. But not all jobs are bad for children's; they are only considered acceptable if they don't interfere with their education or jeopardize their holistic development<sup>7</sup>.

Worst types of child labour are defined by the ILO convention as involving children under the age of twelve, minors between the ages of twelve and fourteen who work in dangerous jobs, and children between the ages of fifteen and seventeen who work more than fourteen hours a week in economic activity. The worst types of child labour include forced labour, forced recruitment for use in armed conflicts, commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution or pornography), risky work that puts their lives, health, or morals in danger, and children under the age of eighteen who are

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<sup>2</sup> Assefa Admassie, *The Incidence of Child Labour in Africa with Empirical Evidence from Rural Ethiopia* (2000).

<sup>3</sup> Boyden liwis. *What Works for Working Children*. . (1998).

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF., *The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible* (UNICEF 2005)

<sup>7</sup> *Child Labour: A Textbook for University Students* (ILO/IPEC 2004).

involved in illegal activities (mainly drug production or trafficking). In no way is child labour incompatible with children working. The phrase "child labour" refers to a wide range of jobs or business ventures that kids engage in and that are typically seen as beneficial to their overall development, welfare, and education. Therefore, the kind of the work that children are doing is the primary concern with child labour.

The high rate of child labour in developing nations is caused by a variety of causes; most of them are related to economical problem and the circumstances that accompany it. Children should engage in a variety of activities to help them get by when there are insufficient resources to support a family. When this occurs, the children's day today life threatens the family's capacity to survive.

The lack of access to high-quality education has been linked to the encouragement of child labour. In areas where access to high-quality education is limited or nonexistent, parents may view child work as a means of preparing their kids for a future "career." Thus, proponents of this school of thought contend that in order to deter child labor, more people should complete primary education. For example, according to an ILO report, "education is crucial to preventing and ending child labour."<sup>8</sup> Of course, a significantly lower employment rate might not be the outcome of additional schools. The high prevalence of child work worldwide can also be attributed to cultural norms, family expectations, and flaws in the labour and capital markets. Child labour has become a global issue, particularly in developing nations like Ethiopia, which are also extremely impoverished. The majority of these children are from low-income households. Even if their parents promise that they will find employment and make money at home, children who leave the house frequently work as slaves<sup>9</sup>.

Despite Ethiopia's adherence to national legislation and international norms, minors are nevertheless employed in both legal and illicit trade. The informal sector employs the majority of the nation's working children. These jobs are found in areas where people work as food sellers, shoe shiners, and beggars and are subjected to inclement weather, traffic accidents, and criminal

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<sup>8</sup> "yachting and the maritime labour convention 2006," , The Maritime Labour Convention 2006: International Labour Law Redefined

<sup>9</sup> Research Policy Interface: Incentivizing Communities for Ecosystem Services in Nepal, 9 November 2016, Kathmandu Nepal; Workshop Report" (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) 2017)

activity. Although it is true that a large number of children are employed, nothing is known regarding the scope and volume of child labor in these fields. Young people are unable to bargain for improved pay and benefits while they are receiving benefits. Children who work endure unfavorable working conditions that have an impact on their physical, emotional, and general well-being.

The research is in the Gurage Zone, an impoverished part in central Ethiopia. Wolkite town is the city of the Gurage Zone. It is noted that a variety of child labor undertaking are practiced in the region. Most people in the town agree that Wolkite is one of the most prosperous commercial districts in the region. The town gives background information on child labor, the subject of the current investigation. The number of minors regularly employed in Wolkite Town is increasing because numerous companies are progressively growing. Thus, the current study assesses the impact of child exploitation and the preservation of children's rights in the town.

## **1.2. Research problem**

Since laws outline both the nature and bounds of state action as well as individual rights and obligations, they serve as the foundation for the protection of human rights, including those of children. The ratification and development of legal instruments in Ethiopia has so advanced significantly in order to protect children. In addition to being a member of many regional and global organizations, such as the African Union, United Nations, and International Labor Organization, Ethiopia has ratified a large number of international treaties. Ethiopia's constitution incorporates a number of conventions that it has ratified. In terms of the legal frameworks established in the country to protect children's rights, both national and international legislation have been established<sup>10</sup>. Contrary to assumptions, children in the research area are not shielded from labor exploitation in practice.

There is a clear difference between theory (principles) and practice. The practice of involving children in unlawful activities has continued despite national and international (UN and ILO) accords that were put into place to safeguard children from child labor. Children in the study area

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<sup>10</sup> 'Child Labour in Ethiopia with Special Focus on Child Prostitution, Addis Ababa'

participate in work that harms their physical or mental development and robs them of their childhood, potential, or dignity. Their activity poses a risk to children's mental, physical, social, or moral development. This has a negative impact on children's morals and general health by impeding their education and healthy development. It also hinders the country's future development and is a sign that children's rights are being infringed<sup>11</sup> , and this is against the human right of children stipulated under different national and international law .The government and society have not gone far enough in protecting the rights of vulnerable children against exploitation, despite the fact that it is a delicate issue with a tight deadline. Because they lack the skills needed for acceptable work when they grow up, children whose education is interrupted or denied owing to child labour are considerably more likely to experience unemployment or low-paying, unstable jobs for the length of their working lives<sup>12</sup>. Thus, the researcher attempted to show the implementation of national and international law for children right and effect of labor exploitation in the study area

### **1.3.Objective of the study**

#### **1.3.1. General objectives**

The main objective of the research is to explore status of the protection of the right of children and from exploitation, in Wolkite town

#### **1.3.2. Specific objectives**

- Reviewing about the right of children under national and international law in relation with exploitation of children.
- Examining the major determinants of child labor in Wolkite town.
- Exploring the human rights violations experienced by working children

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<sup>11</sup> “Bundesbesoldungs- Und -Versorgungsanpassungsgesetz 2010/2011 (bbvanpg 2010/2011),” , Bundesgesetzblatt (Recht Fuer Deutschland gmbh 2010) <[http://dx.doi.org/10.7328/bgbl\\_2010\\_0000433\\_h58](http://dx.doi.org/10.7328/bgbl_2010_0000433_h58)>

<sup>12</sup> “Child Labor and Economic Vulnerability: Poverty and Shocks as Determinants of Child Labour,” , World Report on Child Labor: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labor (International Labor Office.

- Exploring possible measures essential to improve the human right protection of working children and reduce labour exploitation in Wolkite town.

#### **1.4. Research questions**

- How does the existing national and international legal instrument recognize the right of children in relation to exploitation of children?
- What are the major determinants of child labour in Wolkite town?
- What kind of human right violations does working children face in Wolkite town?
- What measure should be taken to reduce child labour exploitation and improve the human right protection of children?

#### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

This study has different significance for different bodies. Such as for practitioners, researchers, policy maker and for academic purposes. This research is not the first and the last by itself. The findings of this study will provide insights about the livelihood situation of working children and hence can serve as a good reference for academicians. Academicians can use the information enlighten the community about adverse impacts of child exploitation. The result of this study will also support for those policy makers by considering the possible violation and the life situation of children in the city from the study. This can be helpful for government officials and other concerned bodies to design and implement policy that would help to tackle the problem.

#### **1.6. Research methodology**

The qualitative research approach was used to conduct this study. This method is used because it makes it possible to investigate attitudes and experiences. The purpose of this study is to examine the experiences of children in the research region and to assess the obstacles and opportunities for the successful protection of children's rights. This research should be conducted using a qualitative research approach. Purposive probability sampling was used to choose the sampling location and target population. Forty children workers were selected as participants in this study. Ten parents of children and ten members of the legislative and nongovernmental sectors made up the study's sample size. Sixty respondents in total were selected from the study

area based on their familiarity with and readiness for the exploration topic.

### **1.7.Scope of the study**

The study included children who were engaged in various paid labor activities and ranged in age from 9 to 17. This is due to the fact that this group is mostly responsible for the activities that abuse child labor in the city. Children of both sexes who were employed were sought for. The study takes into account children employed in shoe shining, housekeeping, construction, auto repair (garage apprentices), car washing, transportation, and similar occupations. Additionally, for the purpose of this study, certain local residents as well as relevant governmental and nongovernmental organizations were contacted.

### **1.8.Data collection and analysis**

Evidence necessary to answer the study questions has been gathered using a variety of primary data collection tools. In particular, four qualitative data collection methods were used: focus groups, key informant interviews, systematic observation, and in-depth individual interviews. Furthermore, secondary documents were analyzed to support information obtained using primary data gathering tools. Individual interviews with working children were conducted using semi-structured interview guidelines. The interviews were carried out in a consistent and rational way. The researcher created the interview questions, and experts in the field assessed them. Parents and children each had their own set of detailed interview questions prepared in order to facilitate transcription and coding, interviews were done in the local language (Guragigna) and were tape recorded. A total of sixty in-depth interviews with parents and children were carried out.

Another method of gathering data was observation. Observations, notes, and photographs of their working conditions and sorts of work have been made by the researcher. The observation process was organized, meaning a checklist was created beforehand. There are eight questions on the checklist that the observer must rate. In order to enhance data collected through other means, the study conducted focus groups with children from each working group to get more specific and insightful responses on delicate and private subjects. Focus group discussion (FGD) results are very useful for providing insights into children's knowledge, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. In addition, data will be gathered from various participants to learn about their knowledge and

opinions regarding the reasons behind child labour, working conditions, and the effects of employment on children's development.

Key informant interviews were conducted with government officials and NGOs. The key informant method was specifically used to interview the Wolkite town administration's women, children, and youth officer, the social affairs office, the Wolkita city administration police officer, the city public prosecutor office, and nongovernmental organizations like the Red Cross Association, Mulu Wengale Church, and Wolkite City Kale Hiwot Church. The interview's goal was to assess the circumstances that resulted in children being forced to work, the working environment, and the remedial measures implemented to address the problems.

The second and more important step after gathering data was to analyze it. Clarifying the findings and connecting the data to the research topic were the main goals of the thematic analysis method. Major themes that emerged from this study's utilization of in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and direct observations with the use of various secondary sources became the main focus of the analysis. The data in this study underwent qualitative processing and analysis. Voice recordings and/or field notes were used for key informant interviews, focus groups, and interviews. Word-for-word transcriptions of the voice recordings made during interviews were made. Following transcription, the data was translated into English from Amharic/Guragigna. The interviews were done with notes taken for those respondents who felt uneasy using an audio recorder. The most common phrases or quotes found in the field notes or interview transcriptions were arranged to decrease the data and then categorized.

## **1.9. Review literature**

There are many research and publications works done on the children right and child labour exploitation. However, there is no specific research yet done on the title on the children right and labour exploitation with the specific reference to the Guraga zone, wolkita town. Researchers like Solomon and Alemu analyzed the situation of child labor in Southern Ethiopia. However, it has gaps in the area of study and it has specification to one sector of the economy and they only analyzed the situation from health perspective

Another research work done related with this topic Alegnta, & Addisu, analyzed the situation of

child labour in the informal sector with focus on the informal sector of the economy in Addis Ababa. However, it has gaps in that it focuses only Addis Ababa no other part of the country. As far as my knowledge concerned there are a number of researches conducted on the issue of child labor exploitation in Ethiopia, but most of them has gap on the area of study. Even if there are documents on the issue under discussion, they are not comprehensive and detailed.

The researcher also expects more studies related with the issue however they could not be found due to accessibility. Related studies need to be conducted to investigate how much of the conventions and treaties have been considered or well taken in the study. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this study to investigate the causes of child labour, working condition in which children engaged and the effect of child labour in Wolkite town .However, some of the research works which I accessed does not specifically address the protection of child labour exploitation specific reference to wolkita town. Thus, my research work will try to outshine on the children right and child labour exploitation in wolkita town

#### **1.10. Organization of the paper:**

The research is organized into five chapters. The first chapter comprises the introduction parts of the study which contained background of the study, statement of problem, objective of the study, research question, significant of the study, Scope of the study, review literature and organization of the study. The second chapter is about conceptualizing the children right and exploitation. The third chapter deals with general overview on right of children under international and regional human rights instrument. The fourth chapter critically analyzed interpreted data to understand the situation of labour exploitation and efforts exerted to the promotion and protection of the right of children. Finally, the fifth chapter is devoted to draw plausible conclusion and forward practical recommendations.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2 Conceptualizing Child Labour and Exploitation

There is no single word or term that defines or describes the exact meaning of child. For the purpose of UNICEF and African charter of human right and child welfare, young people under the age of eighteen are considered as children. However, international labor organization (ILO) minimum age convention No. 138 of the 1973 stipulate that individual can join business life at the age of 15, provided that certain condition is met. State parties are required by article 32(1) to take administrative, social, legislative, and educational actions to guarantee the application of this safeguard. States Parties are also required by Article 32(2) to consider "the relevant provisions of other international instruments." States Parties are specifically asked to ratify the 1999 Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182) and the 1973 Minimum Age Convention (No. 138), as amended by recommendation (No. 146). As a result, Ethiopia ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182) in 2003 and the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) in 1999. The Dakar Optional Protocol on Minimum Age of Admission to Employment was also ratified by Ethiopia in 1999<sup>13</sup>.

Not all child work should be categorized as child labour that needs to be eradicated. The general consensus is that it is positive when children and adolescents participate in work that does not negatively impact their health and personal development or interfere with their education<sup>14</sup>. This covers things like working in the family business, doing household chores for their parents, or earning pocket money both during and after school. These kinds of activities support children's growth and the welfare of their families; they give children experience and skills and assist get them ready to become contributing adults in society<sup>15</sup>. Work that harms a child's physical or mental development and robs them of their childhood, potential, or dignity is commonly referred to as "child labour." It describes employment that poses a risk to children's mental, physical, social, or moral development. Additionally, it is against the human right of children stipulated under different national and international law by interfering with their education by denying

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<sup>13</sup> Handbook on the right of child in Ethiopia

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, supra note 7

<sup>15</sup> ibid

them the chance to attend, forcing them to leave early, or making them try to balance attending class with unduly demanding and lengthy tasks<sup>16</sup>.

In its most extreme forms, child labour includes the enslavement of children, their separation from their families, exposure to hazardous situations and disease, and/or their abandonment on the streets of large cities, frequently at a very young age. Certain types of "work" may or may not qualify as "child labour" depending on the children age, the nature and duration of the activity, the working environment, and the goals that each nation pursues. The response differs between countries and within a country's sectors<sup>17</sup>.

Specifically, ICLS defines three phrases commonly used to describe child labour and provides clarity on each. The three terms are child labour, child employment, and child labor in dangerous jobs<sup>18</sup>.

*Children in employment:* refers to children who, throughout the course of a seven-day reference period, spend at least an hour engaging in economic activity every day. All market output as well as some non-market production is included in economic activity (mostly the production of products and services for individual use). It covers jobs in the official and informal economies, both inside and outside of families, and for profit or remuneration (cash or kind), part-time or full-time, or as a domestic helper for an employer outside of the child's home (with or without pay)<sup>19</sup>

*Child labor:* Consequently, all children who are economically active are included in the definition of child labor; however, this definition does not include children who are 15 years of age or older whose employment is not considered to be among the worst types of child labor, including "hazardous work in particular," or those who are 12 to 14 years old and older and are

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<sup>16</sup> ILO/IPEC, Child Labor: A Textbook for University Students (International Labour office 2004).

<sup>17</sup> ILO. (2004). Child Labor: A Textbook for University Students

<sup>18</sup> Ho Min Jung and others, "ICLS : Intelligent Cricket-Based Location Tracking System Using Sensor Fusion," 2008 Ninth ACIS International Conference on Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Networking, and Parallel/Distributed Computing (IEEE 2008) <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/snspd.2008.129>>.

<sup>19</sup> ILO. (2004). Child Labor: A Textbook for University Students

only working a few hours per week in permitted light work<sup>20</sup>.

*Work by children:* It is any pursuit or career that, by its own nature or kind, has an unfavorable impact on a child's health, safety, or moral development. More precisely, hazardous work is defined as employment in perilous or unhealthy environments where subpar safety and health regulations and working conditions put children at risk of death, serious injury, or disease.

By this definition, all children in the age range of 5 to 12 who are economically active are considered to be engaged in child labour. However, children in the 12–14 age range who are economically active are only considered to be engaged in child labour if they work more than a minimal number of hours during the reference week<sup>21</sup>.

## **2.1 The Concept of Childhood under Ethiopian Laws**

Ethiopian law has no any specific definition for the term child rather Ethiopian law preferred to use it as “minors”, “infant”. “Young workers” or “young people”. Revised Family Code of Ethiopia under its Chapter Twelve deals with minors. The Revised Family Code defines a “minor” as a person of either sex who has not attained the full age of eighteen years old.<sup>22</sup> Based on this and other family law of regional state of Ethiopia, it is possible to conclude that the age for attainment of majority is 18 years.

Even though the convention on the right of child has put limit for childhood as 18, but the convention also allows for different purpose setting a minimum age in order to have a different minimum age the state need to balance the capacity of child provided by the Article 5 of the convention and the duties of state to the special protection of children. Finally Ethiopian law also has minimum age under different laws of the country regarding to the special protection of children.

FDRE constitution article 15 assure that every person has the right to life and Ethiopian civil code under article 1 provided that everyone become the holder of right and duties from his birth to death, but under article 2 of the same code provided the exceptional case for the

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<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*

<sup>22</sup> Revised Family Code, Article 215

commencement of personality which is from the moment of conception<sup>23</sup>. The labour proclamation under its article 89 also provided that, it is prohibited to employ a person less than 15 years of age<sup>24</sup>.

## **2.2. General measures of implementation of rights of children in Ethiopia**

Member states are required under Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to implement the rights guaranteed by the Convention through all necessary legislative, administrative, and other measures. Equivalent to this, Article 1 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child lays out the duties of member nations to acknowledge the freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Charter and to take the required actions to enact laws and other measures that will give the Charter's provisions legal force. Both the Convention and the Charter outline broad policies rather than specific remedies. A country is required to embrace a treaty in good faith after willingly ratifying and acceding to agreement<sup>25</sup>.

Ethiopia has been adopting a variety of actions as a signatory to both treaties to guarantee that child's rights as guaranteed by the Convention, the African Children's Charter, and other treaties be realized and upheld. From legislative acknowledgment of children's rights to various actions to be taken to give the terms of the two accords legal force in Ethiopia, these efforts include a wide variety of topics.

## **2.3. Recognition of Child Rights in the FDRE Constitution**

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Constitution upholds the rights of all people, encompassing women, men, and children. The right to equality and nondiscrimination is one of the fundamental principles of the Constitution<sup>26</sup>. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, or other social origin, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, or other

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<sup>23</sup> Civil Code, Article 2 cum Article 3

<sup>24</sup> labour proclamation art 89 sub 2

<sup>25</sup> Charter of the United Nations, Article 1; See also Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, Articles 26 and 27

<sup>26</sup> The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No.1/1995, *Federal Negarit Gazeta*, 1st Year, No.1, Article 25

beliefs, property, birth, or other status. Therefore, with a few age-related conditions, such as the ability to run for office, minors have the same rights.

The Ethiopian Constitution recognizes the vulnerable condition of children and ensures their right to protection. The Constitution also states that freedoms and human rights are inherent to humanity and cannot be taken away<sup>27</sup>. Important provisions pertaining to children's rights are outlined in the FDRE Constitution. The Constitution includes a specific section outlining children's rights exclusively.

As a result, the FDRE Constitution acknowledges children's rights to life, name, and nationality, as well as to know and receive parental care. It guarantees children's right to a life free from abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence. The clause specifically upholds children's right to life and prohibits child labor and other forms of exploitation that may endanger children's health and welfare. Additionally, harsh and inhumane treatment, including physical punishment, is forbidden in schools and other establishments that look after children, according to Article 36(1) (e). The idea that the child's best interests should always come first in decisions involving children is stated in Article 36(2). Children in legal trouble must be accommodated separately from adults, according to Article 36(3). Orphans are likewise granted particular protection under Article 36(5).

#### **2.4. Status and Domestication of the CRC and ACRWC in Ethiopian Courts**

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Constitution states unequivocally that it is the supreme law in the land<sup>28</sup>. According to Article 9(4) of the FDRE Constitution, all foreign agreements that Ethiopia accepted are considered to be an element of the national legislation. As a result, any law, tradition, or decision made by a public official or state agency that violates the Constitution is deemed to be unenforceable<sup>29</sup>. Additionally, Article 13(2) of the Constitution states that the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenants on Human Rights, and international instruments that Ethiopia adopted are to be followed in the

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<sup>27</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article 10(1)

<sup>28</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article 9(1)

<sup>29</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article 9(1)

interpretation of the fundamental rights and freedoms listed in the third chapter of the Constitution<sup>30</sup>.

Nevertheless seems that not enough is being done to give human rights conventions pertaining to women and children legal force. There is tremendous room for improvement in a methodical attempt to fully domesticate the international instruments to which Ethiopia is a party. Ethiopia has failed to publish the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in its official legal gazette, the *Negarit Gazeta*, according to the Commission on the Rights of the Child's most recent Concluding Observations<sup>31</sup>.

The reason or obstacle to these international instruments' legal execution has been their non-publication in the official law gazette. It is true that the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and its provisions have rarely been applied, especially at lower levels of the legal system. There are some bright spots in spite of this. Courts have recently been basing their rulings on pertinent clauses from the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Specifically, the Federal Supreme Court's Cassation Bench has used these international mechanisms in a number of its rulings.

## **2.6. Determinants of child labour**

In general, child labour is thought to be a result of ongoing poverty. To move money from the future to the present, low-income households employ child labor<sup>32</sup>. Natural catastrophes, man-made disasters (war and civil unrest), illiteracy, helplessness, and a lack of viable options all contribute to the deep-rooted nature of poverty and the hardships faced by low-income parents who feel obligated to send their children to work. But poverty cannot excuse all forms of work

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<sup>30</sup> FDRE Constitution, Article 13(2)

<sup>31</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Ethiopia, 1 November 2006, CRC/C/ETH/CO/, Para. 9.

<sup>32</sup> Mazhar, 'Child Labour in Pakistan: Including the Excluded Subsidized Education and Subsidy.tools to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Pakistan.'

and slavery; it is not the only issue in child labour<sup>33</sup>.

Hundreds of thousands of children are reportedly compelled to work as laborers before they ever attend school, and many are forced to quit school in the middle of a course of study in order to work. This is reportedly due to poverty. Children who are taken from their schools and forced into the workforce are isolated from their communities. Poverty and underdevelopment are directly associated with the issue of child labour. It is frequently mentioned that the primary factor causing child labor in general is poverty<sup>34</sup>.

### **2.6.2. Societal out look towards children**

Positive societal views exist toward having a big number of families. This is because it is believed that children are God's gift, to help with the labour needed for the family and to act as social security by providing for their parents as they age. According to these links, households that force their children to work from the age of seven are those that think having more children is beneficial for the economy. Parents in rural areas also prefer that boys attend school rather than girls because they want the latter to participate in activities at home.

### **2.6.3. Family characteristics and child labour**

In most societies, a child's family serves as both their first point of contact with the outside world and their primary source of emotional impact as well as their introduction to social interactions. Before beginning employment for others, many children begin by providing for their family. In many civilizations, cultural beliefs and expectations see this as a natural and "right" approach to expose a youngster to the obligations and responsibilities associated with growing up and becoming a member of a family. This is why they do this in addition to the fact that they are poor. This is a global phenomenon affecting millions of farming families. If the family cultivates their own land or works on someone else's, the youngster will begin the day in the fields with its parent, performing relatively simple tasks first and subsequently increasingly more

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid, supra note 14

<sup>34</sup>Rena, *The Child Labour in Developing Countries: A Challenge to Millennium Development Goals.*, vol 3 (2009).

difficult ones<sup>35</sup>.

*Size of house hold:* the size of the family has a significant impact on the employment and educational opportunity that children have<sup>36</sup>. The prevalence of child labour is favorably connected with high fertility rates. Considering that having children makes financial sense in the face of hardship, it is understandable that large families frequently also have severe child labor issues. The financial benefits of impoverished parents in South Asian nations having a large family have also been demonstrated by other researchers. Because of their economic utility, parents view children as a preferred commodity in the context of poverty and essential survival necessities, valued above other things. This likelihood that children from large families will need to work to support the household income with high fertility.

It has been suggested that there is a positive correlation between high fertility and the prevalence of child labour, meaning that children from large families are more likely to work to support the family's income. Because of their economic utility in the face of poverty and basic survival demands, parents view children as a preferred commodity when compared to other things<sup>37</sup>.

*Parental education:* Beyond the effect on family income, parental education consistently and significantly reduces the prevalence of child work. Parents with higher levels of education are more aware of the importance of education, whereas parents with lower levels of education would just wish to think that their own parents' judgments about human capital were sound<sup>38</sup>.

In rural India, children of mothers with less than a primary education are much more likely to work full-time than those whose mothers have completed middle school, and the father's education has no discernible impact on the likelihood of the children combining work and school<sup>39</sup>. The degree of education of the father and mother was also found to have a detrimental

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<sup>35</sup> ILO. (2004). Child Labour: A Textbook for University Students.

<sup>36</sup> L Rickey, *The Determinants of Child Labor and Schooling in the Philippines* (Department of Economics 2009).;

<sup>37</sup> R Akarro and N Mtweve, *Poverty and Its Association with Child Labor in Njombe District in Tanzania: The Case of Igima Ward* (Department of Statistics, University of Dares Salaam 2011).

<sup>38</sup> D Brown, deardorffa and sternr., *The Determinants of Child Labor: Theory and Evidence* (2002).

<sup>39</sup> Ibid supra note 28

impact on child labor in Bangladesh<sup>40</sup>. Years of education for the father have no bearing on child labour in Vietnam, but years of education for the mother have a negative effect on the likelihood of employment (both full- and part-time), as well as the likelihood of not getting into trouble at work or in school.<sup>41</sup>

*Socio cultural factor:* Children are viewed as social assets in traditional societies, and they are expected to help their parents out around the house. In order to preserve family traditions and teach children the trade of their ancestors, children have been placed in apprenticeships. Additionally, there are times when child labour is made possible by these traditional and cultural beliefs<sup>42</sup>.

The adult head of the household has power over the youngsters due to cultural norms. Given that children are viewed as innocent, submissive, and less disruptive, parents have the right to demand labour from any hiring companies as well as from specific employers and put their kids to work<sup>43</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> M Ravallion and Q Wodon, *Does Child Labour Displace Schooling ? Evidence on Behavioral Responses to an Enrolment Subsidy.*, vol 110 (Economic Journal 2000).

<sup>41</sup> F Rosati and M Rossie, 'Children's Working Hours and School Enrolment: Evidence from Pakistan and Nicaragua'.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid supra note 22

<sup>43</sup> Ibid supra note 29

## **Chapter Three**

### **3 Child labour law and Enforcement**

#### **3.1. International and national law regulating child labour**

Ethiopia has ratified significant regional and international treaties and documents pertaining to child labour prevention and protection measures. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, the ILO Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labor (no. 182), the ILO's Minimum Age Convention 1973 (no. 138), and the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons are among the international instruments.

These conventions define the worst types of child labor, specify the minimum work age, and outline procedures for safeguarding children against economic exploitation, dangerous jobs that interfere with their education, and jobs that endanger their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. In 2014, Ethiopia ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict, which forbids children from participating in armed conflicts or serving as soldiers.

Additionally, Ethiopia accepted and supported African Union accords and efforts pertaining to the rights and protection of children. These include the African Union Ten Year Action Plan on Child Labor, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), the African Union Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), and the Plan of Action, 2018–2030. Laws and policies that prohibit exploitative child labor and end child trafficking for sex work or other forms of labor must be in place in all Union member states.

According to Article 32(1) of the CRC, children have the right to be shielded from economic exploitation and from jobs that could endanger their health or hinder their development on all levels—physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social—or interfere with their education. Therefore, employment done by children that is exploitative, dangerous, and otherwise unsuitable for their age, harmful to their education, or harmful to their social, physical, mental, spiritual, or moral

development could be considered child labor. Article 15 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child also reflects the protection against child labour.

States Parties are required by Article 32(1) to implement this protection via legislative, administrative, social, and educational means. States Parties must also consider "the relevant provisions of other international instruments," according to Article 32(2). States Parties are specifically asked to ratify the 1999 Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182) and the 1973 Minimum Age Convention (No. 138), as amended by recommendation (No. 146). As a result, Ethiopia ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No. 182) in 2003 and the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) in 1999. The 1999 Dakar Optional Protocol on the Minimum Age of Admission to Employment was also ratified by Ethiopia.

### **3.1.1. The ILO Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)**

Adopted in 1973, the Minimum Age Convention No. 138 is a comprehensive legal treaty that aims to completely eradicate child labor in all spheres of the economy, regardless of whether the minors are working for pay. A synthesis of concepts developed by previous subject-specific agreements is clarified by the Convention. The Convention mandates States to protect children's labor, whether it is for themselves or for another person.

Parties must adopt a national policy aimed at guaranteeing the successful elimination of child labor and gradually raising the minimum age of employment or job admittance to a level that is in line with young people's maximum physical and mental development. The minimum age for employment within their jurisdiction must also be specified by States Parties to the Convention. Recommendation No. 146, which offers the fundamental framework, necessary policies, and enforcement mechanisms for the prohibition of child labor, supplements it.

### **3.1.2. The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)**

Adopted on June 17, 1999, the ILO Worst Forms of Child labour Convention (Convention No 182) is another fundamental agreement. Recommendation (No.190) adds to the Convention. States Parties are required by Article 1 of the 1999 Convention to take prompt, decisive action to

ensure that the most severe types of child labor are prohibited and eradicated. All children under the age of eighteen and all types of employment are covered by the Convention and Recommendation.

According to Article 3 of the Convention, "the worst forms of child labour " include those that could endanger children's health, safety, or morals. Article 3(d) of the 1999 Convention gives States Parties the authority to specify what kinds of work fall within this category.

### **3.2. Ethiopian Legal Provisions Relating to Child Labour**

Article 36 (1)(d) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Constitution states that every child has the right "not to be subject to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor to be permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his education, health, or well-being." Article 41 of the FDRE Constitution states that, to the degree that resources allow, the state apparatus must also set aside money to assist and rehabilitate children who have been abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Ethiopia must set a minimum age or ages for employment entrance, regulate work hours and conditions appropriately, and impose suitable penalties or other punishments to guarantee effective implementation as a Member State of the CRC and the aforementioned agreements<sup>44</sup>. In order to combat the prevalence of child labor, Ethiopia has implemented a number of action plans and tactics. These include the Draft National Action Plan on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child labour in Ethiopia, the National Action Plan on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children, the National Plan of Action for Children, and the Education and Training Policy.

The Revised Family Code outlines the duties that parents have to their children. These include the duty to keep in touch, the duty to take care of the child's person, determining the child's residence, monitoring the minor's health, taking appropriate action in the event of illness, guiding the child's upbringing, enforcing the necessary disciplinary actions to ensure the child's upbringing, directing and supervising the child's social interactions, and making sure the child receives general and professional education appropriate to his age. Specifically, guardians have

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<sup>44</sup> Sharon Detrick (n 19) 558

an obligation to protect the child's physical and intellectual development, as stated in Article 215 of the Revised Family Code. According to Article 195 of the Revised Family Code, if the adoptive parent enslaves the child, engages the child in immoral behavior for financial gain, or treats the child in any other way that could harm the child's future, the adoption agreement that has been granted by a court of law may be revoked. It is crucial that parents fulfill these responsibilities in order to stop child labour.

The Ethiopian Civil Code, on the other hand, outlines the penalties and remedies for child abuse and exploitation. Failure to oversee or educate someone in one's care carries extra-contractual liability under Article 2052 of the Civil Code. Compensation is one of the remedies outlined in the Civil Code. The Criminal Code's Article 576(1) forbids mistreating children. "Whoever, having custody or charge of a minor, ill-treats, neglects, overtasks, or beats him for any reason or in any manner is punishable with simple imprisonment not exceeding three months," one of its provisions states.

In addition to depriving the offender of their family rights, Article 576(2) of the Criminal Code stipulates that if the offense seriously harms the minor's health, well-being, education, or physical or mental development, the punishment must include simple imprisonment for a minimum of one year. According to Article 659 of the Criminal Code, a parent or other person acting in the capacity of a guardian or tutor who (a) willfully neglects the children entrusted to his care and abandons them without due care or attention, or exposes them to moral or physical danger, or (b) entrusts a child for an extended period of time to a person, organization, or institution with whom or where he knows, or could have foreseen, that the child will be reduced to physical or mental destitution, or will be in danger, faces simple imprisonment or a fine and fine.

According to Article 597, anyone who recruits, receives, hides, transports, exports, or imports a woman or a minor for the purpose of forced labour through violence, threats, deceit, fraud, kidnapping, or the offering of money or other advantages to the person in control of the woman or child faces a rigorous five- to twenty-year prison sentence and a fine of no more than Birr fifty thousand. The Criminal Code's Article 640 addresses the problem of child pornography. It states

that anyone who manufactures, imports, exports, transports, receives, possesses, displays in public, offers for sale or hires, distributes in writings, images, posters, or other objects that are obscene or grossly indecent, or in any other way traffics or trades in them faces a minimum sentence of six months in simple imprisonment and a fine. Additionally, anyone who advertises indicates, or makes known, directly or indirectly, how or from whom such objects may be obtained or circulated is subject to a fine and forfeiture of the incriminating materials.

According to Article 644 of the Criminal Code, anyone who knowingly offers, lends, gives, or sells such objects, images, or writings to a minor for profit or to provoke may be punished with simple imprisonment ranging from six months to three years and a fine, without affecting the forfeiture of the incriminating material where appropriate. This includes anyone who publicly displays video, in a shop window, in a booth, or in any other visible form without writings, images, or objects such as to stimulate, prevent, or misdirect the sexual instinct, or to arouse or to stimulate an excessively brutal or bloodthirsty instinct, or anti-social feelings, or feelings that are antagonistic to the family spirit.

### **3.2.1. Minimum Age for Admission to Employment under the Labour Code**

The Labor Proclamation No.1156/2019 also contains various provisions pivotal for the purpose of addressing child labour. It is the most important piece of legislation for addressing child labour. Article 8 of the Proclamation provides that a “young worker” is a person who is between the ages of 15 and 18. It also prescribes that no one may employ persons under 15. Thus, the law prohibits the employment of young persons in work which by their nature and/or the conditions under which they are carried out endanger the lives or health of young workers performing them.

*Regulation of Hours and Conditions of Employment under the Labour Code:* According to the labour Proclamation, adolescent workers' typical workdays cannot last longer than seven hours, which is one hour less than the typical workdays established for adult workers. Regarding night and overtime employment, children are shielded from working from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., working overtime, or working on public holidays or weekly rest days. Private sector employment connections are subject to the labour Proclamation. However, the Federal Civil Servants Proclamation No. 1064/2017 states in Article 14(a) that individual under

the age of 18 are not permitted to work as civil servants.

### **3.3. The International Organizations working against Child Labour**

Two of the most well-known international organizations combating child labour are the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The ILO assists governments in establishing conventions and policies and in carrying out a wide range of initiatives. These encompass both direct initiatives, such as providing children with vocational training, and indirect initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of government officials, employers, and organization personnel. Healthcare and education are two areas where the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) makes improvements. The following are the two international labor standard conventions that the ILO established. Two conventions strive to protect minors from exploitative jobs, hazardous jobs, and jobs that don't provide enough health care. They also set a minimum age, below which minors aren't permitted to work. Numerous academics and organizations, including UNICEF and the ILO, suggest that public and education policy be used to combat child labour<sup>45</sup>. Furthermore, a lot of nations have passed legislation prohibiting child labour; however, some have failed or were unable to accomplish this goal due to social and economic issues, such as cultural norms and poverty, which force low-income families to force many of their children into the labour force in order to raise their standard of living.

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<sup>45</sup> Bhat, Bilal Ahmad (2010). *Gender, education and child labour: A sociological perspective*, Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, J and K, India, 190006 :June,; Vol. 5 (6): pages-323-328.

## Chapter four

### 4 Discussion and Finding

Children need more protection due to their immaturity. They have the appearance of fragile items and precious national assets. But some people in the community exploit this resource before it's ready or ripe. In general, they are subjected to a variety of mistreatments, such as having their labor used for useful purposes. Even with legal protection at the national and international levels, children remain a vulnerable segment of society, susceptible to abuse at the hands of their own parents, relatives, or other individuals. Child labour exploitation is one of these forms of maltreatment that needs to be addressed.

The problem of child labour exploitation is too serious in *Wolkite area*. These working children in the city are exposed to several problems. It is safe to say that they are far from family protection and from the site of the government. Everyone in the study areas complains about child laborers, but nobody takes any concrete action to address the issue. These children ' living and working environments are bad for the development of their holistic personality. They are truly "abandoned children," as the researcher discovered, particularly among orphan child laborers and children living without parents. They live in an unstable environment, no one watches after them, and no one remembers them. Their lives are filled with suffering and adversity.

#### 4.1. Cause of child labour

##### 4.1.1. Problems on Practical implementation of existing laws and regulations

According to an analysis of how the laws, policies, and regulations mentioned above are being implemented, improvements are still desperately needed. It is clear from the examination of pertinent legislation and regulations that Ethiopia forbids child labor exploitation of minors, but still children continue to experience this problem in the study area.

There is little implementation of such sophisticated international conventions and regional agreements, even if Ethiopia has accepted them. Cultural obstacles exist, and domestic and international instruments are incompatible. The minimal age for child labour and the notion of

childhood varies depending on the culture. Poor enforcement of rules and regulations in this area is caused by a few of causes, according to conversations with parents, children, and law enforcement officers. The main causes are low rates of reporting unlawful punishment to law enforcement because of the victim child's relationship with the offender, awareness, and cultural issues; and, for cultural and attitudinal reasons, law enforcement officials' lack of dedication and focus on the investigation and prosecution of reported cases. Ethiopia's cultural and historical background, authorities at certain police and prosecution offices publicly expressed during the study that they were unlikely to pursue incidents of violence, especially when the offenders were parents.

Despite Ethiopia's ratification of international accords, domestic laws can contradict them. For example, ILO Convention 182 states that each nation must create and review a nationally defined list of hazardous activities in order to determine the specific types of work that are forbidden. According to labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019, "the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), now reconstituted as the Ministry of Labor and Skills, may prescribe the list of activities prohibited to young workers, which shall include in particular: work on electric power transmission lines; work underground in mines and quarries; the excavation of tunnels and sewers; and the transportation of passengers and goods." Nevertheless, there is no explicit reference to any illegal or dangerous agricultural practices. Furthermore, the primary obstacle to addressing the issue of the most severe types of child labour, such as forced labour, is not only the inconsistency between Ethiopian domestic and international law, but also the lack of resources, attitudes, and cultural norms in the country's implementation of international treaties and conventions.

Some lower-level local government officials and groups that defend children's rights and help children in need are unaware of or less conscious of the existence of such complex agreements and tools. For lower-level government stakeholders, there are no training facilities or refresher courses on current or future child labour regulations.

A legal expert in Wolkitā stated this:

*There are no implementation guidelines and the international agreements are not adequately domesticated. Child labor exploitation takes place in some industries of Ethiopia. However,*

*many of local police officers and legal professionals are less familiar with the conventions and are not as qualified to apply them to local situations.*

Children are exposed to the most severe kind of child labour since there is no legal requirement requiring free basic education or a minimum educational age. Social programs that are currently in place that aim to reduce child exploitation sometimes overlook industries where child labor is prevalent. Some of the programs are out-of-date and have not been replaced by more recent, modern initiatives.

Another obstacle to the enforcement of laws is cultural differences. Numerous national legislation is derived from the global Child Convention. However, the definitions of childhood and child labor vary depending on the cultural setting. These cultural structures have an impact on and attract law enforcement personnel from communities. Children's participation in household chores and agricultural work is regarded as essential to their growth in Gurage communities.

#### **4.1.2. Challenges faced by judicial, government entities and NGOs in delivering child protection**

Even though the Ethiopian government has delegated child protection duties to a number of state agencies and judicial actors, there are still gaps that make it difficult to effectively coordinate efforts to combat child labor. Coordination efforts to reduce child labour at the national and regional levels were hampered by the primary issues, which include small committee budgets, conflicting mandates, and inadequate coordination between the committees and agencies.

In order to prevent or remove children from all pertinent sectors of child labour, such as domestic work and agriculture, and to ensure that safeguards are in place to guard against child labor violations, judicial actors and labor inspectors lack the technical and financial resources to create or expand social protection programs. State agency informants lament that they lack the funding, staff, and facilities necessary to provide social services like rehabilitation and reintegration centers across the nation, especially in rural areas.

The primary obstacle for state actors continues to be a lack of funds and budget.

The intricate and interconnected difficulties faced by government actors in the study area were further disclosed by actor interviews and conversations. Absence of suitable human resources (the human resource lacks the necessary knowledge, enthusiasm, attitude, and skill about the requirements of children and the intricacies of child work). According to informants, because they lack other means of support that would enable them to maintain or guarantee their daily meals and that of their family, even the exploited children themselves would not want to leave that exploitative situation. "Whenever we meet these children, they frequently ask us what kind of support we will be able to provide them after we make them leave work," a labour inspector adds. This shows the government's total capacity and resource limits.

NGOs and international agencies are primarily responsible for child protection initiatives, including trafficking. Child labor is frequently not a top priority for state authorities. Informants frequently cited issues like the lack of explicit legal frameworks (guidelines, directives) that support networks, the lack of forums that help actors working on the issue of child rights and wellbeing network and coordinate, and the appropriate government body's lack of commitment to start forums among actors in these areas.

A lawyer in Wolkita justice office further explained challenges to police and court as follows:

*We don't have enough skilled investigators to present important evidence. Some of our police officers are prone to corruption, and they lack the necessary tools to handle such major crimes. Additionally, to prove the case, the majority of the evidence is insufficient. In addition, our office does not have the funding or resources to effectively combat child labor exploitation.*

Attitude issues exist in government institutions. Even though these organizations have a tremendous obligation to combat child labour exploitation, the majority of their employees frequently view children participating in labor exploitative activities as normal and appropriate. The authorities and specialists who oversaw these facilities lacked expertise and awareness of both international child treaties and state legislation.

In order to carry out their activities, NGOs that offer services or are involved in the fight against child labor exploitation face a number of obstacles. Lack of funds and resources, short-term, project-based programs, conflicts within NGO sectors, a high rate of government leader turnover

in pertinent state agencies, and restrictive and shifting legal frameworks are the main issues facing NGOs and IOs. Other difficulties cited by informants in NGOs and IOs included a lack of current data and information regarding the state of child labour exploitation and a lack of land in cities to construct shelters for Limitations of resources and coordination

Community-based organizations frequently emphasize how important it is for child rights protection initiatives to have a sufficient budget, qualified staff, and the cooperation of all parties involved. Because of this, the community-based actors' efforts have been hindered by a lack of institutional capacity, including logistics, human resources, and funding. Volunteer organizations, civic societies, and community-based organizations frequently lack adequate funding, offices, and qualified staff.

Lack of drive and dedication to collaboration between CBOs and NGOs seems to be a major issue. According to informants, non-governmental groups always face this issue. Many voluntary organizations that work with children lack the drive to coordinate and collaborate with other organizations that do the same, unless the state initiates them reactively.

The main reason for the lack of active participation among community-based organizations and associations is their fear of persecution after exposing instances of child labor exploitation in their locality.

#### **4.1.4. Socio economic problem**

According to the study, the primary cause of children enrolling in child labour programs is poverty. Parents' limited income is the major reason they send their children to work. Consequently, impoverished parents who are unable to pay for their children's education are compelled to put their children to work rather than school. Child work is viewed as a result of poverty or a downturn in the country's economy additionally; this study demonstrated that the primary cause of children being forced into child labor was parental poverty<sup>46</sup>. In addition, a few parents of child laborers expressed their dissatisfaction with the city's current rising cost of living. As they went on to explain, they undoubtedly encouraged their children to participate in

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<sup>46</sup> M Pantea and others, "Microwave Vacuum Drying of Porous Media," *2007 8th International Conference on Telecommunications in Modern Satellite, Cable and Broadcasting Services*

the labour market and bring something more to the family

In addition to their basic need for food, children are working to pay for stationary, clothes, shoes, and other necessities. However, because of their tremendous poverty, parents ignore these necessities and just contemplate what their children need to eat. Without realizing how it affects their growth, this progressively encourages children to participate in constructive activities.

When the household's primary provider passes away, children are forced into child labour. When one or both of their parents pass away, children take up child labor to preserve their own lives as well as the lives of the surviving family member. If both parents passed away, the problem would get worse. According to the parents who were interviewed, one of the factors that led to children being forced into child labour was parental mortality

The major cause leading children to form a child headed household is also loss of parents due to different reasons. As a country of many adversities and insecurities, many children are left unaccompanied and this in turn led them to involve in income generating activities at their very young age. Due to HIV/AIDS, a large number of children are orphaned nowadays and do not receive family protection, which forces them to labor in a variety of jobs. The spread of HIV/AIDS and other societal issues are the primary causes of Ethiopia's high rates of child labour<sup>47</sup>.

One of the child respondents, who lost both parents to HIV and now lives with her elderly grandmother, indicated how HIV had a significant impact on the prevalence of parent diseases and poverty in the research area. Her grandmother makes a living by engaging in small-scale trade. She clarified that she works for her grandmother to help her and also to increase her income by putting in extra hours.

When a child's living expenses exceed their parents' income, parents or guardians will rather have them work as children to help augment the family's income than send them to school. Some of the respondents acknowledged that they were coerced into working as children by their parents in order to augment the household income by earning money from their labour. In addition to the children response participants of the key informant interview have supported this finding. According to one of my informants, if he didn't comply, his father would frequently beat

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<sup>47</sup> Boyce, Sonia," , *Oxford Art Online* (Oxford University Press 2003)

him. "If I refuse to do the assigned tasks, my father will severely beat me, deny me food, and dismiss me from the house," he stated. What will you eat if you refuse to work? He constantly asks Me.); *'Leave the house if you are not employed!'*

#### **4.1.5 Societal Norm**

Research has shown that other factors that push children to entrepreneurship are culture and tradition. Due to cultural differences, in many countries children are forced to work from an early age. Some societies believe that children should acquire skills that will help them in the future. Because they believe it will help them improve their business. Therefore, most parents, especially in developing countries, prefer their children to work and earn income at a young age.

In the majority of Ethiopian communities, children are generally viewed as parental property. Parents usually seem to have every right to do whatever they like with their children and the prevailing attitudes in society mean that abusive parents are not scrutinized by society or the government. In other words, children are not treated as human beings born and endowed with their own particular interests as well as the capacity to make decisions for themselves. The low status accorded to children and a lack of awareness about alternative forms of discipline were frequently cited by children and adults as the major cause of continued use of corporal and other forms of punishments against children.

In certain societies, child labor is seen as a socialization tool. Children were forced into child labour at a young age (while they should have been in school) as a result of these societal presumptions. Therefore, the decision to enter the child labour camp was influenced by the cultural expectations of the society in which the vast majority of the child laborers in the current study reside. Children from low-income families are expected to contribute to the family's income, and this is accepted as normal by the family and the community. The study also supports the cultural belief that Gurage communities are known for their work culture and every family should expect economical support from his children. Key informants participated in this study have also shared similar idea as a cause for child labour exploitation in the Wolkite town.

*.....most of the working children from Guraghe ethnic group are encouraged and supported by their family to develop their business. This is due to the deeply rooted cultural understanding of the society to hard work.*

*(KII, Mulu Wongale church leader)*

## 4.2. The working conditions of children

Children are seen working in a variety of sectors in the study area. The most typical jobs for children in the city involve, among other things, spending long hours on the streets. These categories of activities are typically divided into groups based on gender and age. Typically, children are not limited to a single type of task, such as gathering firewood and water, herding livestock, or performing other household tasks.

The majority of working children who are female are involved in petty trading, whereas the male children are primarily involved in various occupations including vehicle washing, shoe shining, and working with taxis, which are often referred to as "Wayalas." Children that are begging are typically in comparable situations.

Most of these young people who work put in between half and full working days, with an average of ten hours each day. Their daily earnings range from birr 50 to birr 100. Additionally, it has been discovered that some young people who live with their families and work the streets full-time only attend school for half of the day. The majority of youngsters in the 9–17 age range works half or full days, putting in an average of 10 hours per day at the work place. During the time of data collection, fifteen of the respondents worked after school and on the weekends.

This data generally paints the image that the majority of child laborers put in lengthy hours at work many days a week, leaving little to no time for leisure, education, or study. This demonstrates unequivocally that the majority of study participants don't have enough time for study sessions, finishing school assignments, or getting enough sleep.

Unlike other types of work, domestic work limits a child's ability to play, relax, and have free time—all of which are essential for the healthy and complete development of their personality. An indicator of child exploitation is the amount of time spent working both daily and weekly. My participant was asked to identify when they go to bed each night and when they get out of bed in the morning in order to determine this right. A quick examination showed that the domestic worker go to bed around midnight and begin work as early as six in the morning.

It was also enquired throughout the interviews if the children had any downtime or breaks during the day. They replied that they had to be on guard at all times in order to follow their bosses' instructions. If that doesn't happen, children could face physical and verbal abuse or even be

shunned. As a result, child domestics are raised in a society that essentially discourages positive personal growth.

Article 36/1d of the Ethiopian Constitution, which states that minors should not be subjected to exploitative employment situations that may be detrimental to their health or wellbeing, was found to be in direct contradiction with this<sup>48</sup>. As the researcher saw and one of my key informants' government official extensively discussed, children engaged in economic activity were physically frail.

As the researcher has observed, the activities are too much tiresome and consume a lot of energy. Children don't get sufficient food while they are working. Hence, compared to other activities children who are participated in cultivating process exert more energy. Because of that they are physically weak. It is evident from all of these that children were engaged in risky jobs that compromised their health and welfare. Children's constitutional rights, which are protected under FDRE constitution article 36, were thereby violated by the actions in which they were involved.

The local government representative in the city administration and the NGO who actively involves with the protection of child right has tried to reduce the effect of labour exploitation in city, however due to the complexity of problem still the children are under abuse. The researcher has also observed the activity of the local government and non-government organization .The city administration is trying to create sport fields for children and the government has trying to support economically poor family with the support of NGOs, but most of the NGO residing in the city are spiritual organization (church), thus their basic aim is to preach their religion not to support children financially. Even if the researcher expect activity from law enforcing organ but they cannot did special protection for the children, due to the problem, like poverty and the deeply rooted culture of the community.

### **4.3. The Challenges and Abusive Practices Child Labourers Face**

Both sexes who labor as children encounter a variety of abuses from bosses, coworkers (older

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<sup>48</sup> Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia proclamation No1/1995 federal negarit gazeta (1995)

kids and adults), security personnel (policemen), hooligans, and clients. This occurs because there is insufficient legal protection for working children and the belief that children are defenseless against harm. I spoke with a number of working children who said they frequently experience abusive behaviors including intimidation or threats—whether physical, verbal, or psychological.

#### **4.3.1. Physical Abuse**

Children who disobey their parents' or employers' orders and fail to complete their assigned responsibilities may be disciplined in many ways. This could be anything from a straightforward physical punishment to a house ban. The majority of children respondents reported that when they don't want to work or don't complete an assignment by the deadline, they get punished. Furthermore, they encounter the same issue when their product quality declines and it fails to find a market, as well as when they lose money, lose sellable objects, or break tools. Furthermore, whether they get insults or curses from their combative employers, "parents," "relatives," and senior coworkers, they are also not required to respond. They would be given a slap or whip if they answered or countered. Employers' primary concern is that these kids would "escape" if they refused to follow instructions, or "*lej kalteketa yaschegeral*." Working Children may occasionally experience physical abuse without any justification.

The most common type of physical abuse experienced by working children is corporal punishment. This is generally true for children who work in an indoor environment. They encounter abuse from adult coworkers, "parents," "relatives," or bosses. While children in an outside environment face abuse from coworkers (older child laborers or adults in the same business), clients, security personnel (particularly those who target street vendors), and hooligans, self-employed and employed individuals also face similar abuses.

Physical abuse occurs in a variety of ways in the research areas, as we shall discuss. The study showed that "parents," "employers," or "relatives" in particular, deploy a variety of punitive tactics, including food deprivation, slapping, smashing against walls, hitting with any available instrument, and whipping with electric cables or sticks.

#### **4.3.2. Verbal Abuse**

A common tactic used by those involved in the labour market to intimidate working children is

verbal abuse. Insults are one way that verbal abuse manifests itself. When a child works and transgresses the law or the interests of his or her employers, parents, relatives, and other family members, they are subjected to derogatory language and expressions from others. The majority of bosses or "parents" used to make fun of working children for even the smallest infractions. It is, as many of the kids I spoke with made clear, the beginning of physical abuse.

Workplaces, "parents," and "relatives" frequently verbally abuse working children. The majority of the words and expressions parents employ to disparage and curse youngsters are shameful and disparaging. Attributions such as "*yeshermuta lej*," "*yedikalla lej*," "a son of woman" (*yaset lej*), and other derogatory terms (which allude to a child who is not adequately disciplined and raised) are among the insults that the children are reluctant to repeat since they felt embarrassed to have spoken them to me.

#### **4.3.3. Psychological Abuse**

Working children are exposed to physical and verbal abuse as well as psychological abuse by employers, parents or relatives and coworkers. However, those who work with children, such as employers, may have difficulty understanding young people's morals and feelings. Therefore, they often resort to coercive tactics to control their children. These strategies are often used to make children "good" and "abundant" by forcing them to work and complete tasks or sell their possessions quickly. Employers or "relatives" often use every possible means to intimidate child workers.

Working children reported receiving numerous psychological threats from their employers, "parents," or "relatives";

#### **4.3.4. Sexual Abuse**

In Ethiopia, the issues of sexual harassment and abuse are becoming more prevalent by the day. It's undeniably been a problem for street children and female for a while. The evaluation found that a larger percentage of girls, especially those over 12, experienced sexual harassment. The majority of these incidents included the employers' sons as well as other people, such as the sons of neighbors. Simultaneously, a significant portion of child domestic workers have either never been subjected to sexual harassment or have not considered the circumstances in light of behavior that has incited them sexually.

A female child domestic worker whom this study participates was afraid of what her family members might do sexually. She feel as though her family members are preoccupied with

thoughts of sexual abuse and harassment all the time These emotions are partly brought on by the possibility of rape, which makes females live in continual terror since they think that if a girl is raped, she loses her right to life, dignity, and security . Child domestics believe they are severely impacted emotionally as a result of this behavior or action; in particular, they seem to be suffering from severe depression. The symptoms listed by the young domestic workers themselves include anxiety, crying, insomnia, and terror

## **Chapter five**

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

#### **5.1. Conclusion**

A major problem that has been getting worse globally, particularly in poorer countries, is child labour. Child labor is prevalent in both developed and developing countries. This study focuses on children who engage in different economic activities: shoe shining, domestic work, construction, commercial sex, vehicle maintenance (garage apprentices), car washing, transportation, and allied industries because there is currently a dearth of information regarding child labor in urban areas.

Even though Ethiopia has made some progress recently, the worst types of child labour are still common there. Major regional and international agreements and instruments pertaining to child labour prevention and protection protocols have been ratified by Ethiopia. The worst types of child labour are prohibited under applicable domestic laws. Since the current protection systems rarely reach these individuals, children and teenagers who are displaced from the study regions continue to endure the worst types of child labor despite the extent of laws, policies, and protective structures.

According to the study's findings, Ethiopia has passed a number of national and international laws safeguarding the rights of children, but these laws have not been put into practice. Cultural barriers and a lack of implementation techniques and guidelines are some of the obstacles that prevent laws and regulations from being put into practice. The rules and policies pertaining to protecting children and preventing child labor are not uniform and are scattered across various ministries and sectorial bodies. Ethiopian child protection issues are being handled by a number of government entities as well as international organizations, NGOs, and CBOs. Government and non-governmental organizations face difficulties include limited ability and resource gaps, coordination issues, lack of commitment, and attitude issues, according to this study.

Children are being forced to participate in economic activities for a number of interrelated reasons. The main factors influencing children's participation in the workforce include inadequate rule and regulation enforcement; issue with reporting assault, another obstacle to the

enforcement of laws is cultural differences.

The Global Child Convention serves as the model for many domestic laws. However, the definitions of childhood and child labour vary depending on the cultural setting. These cultural structures have an impact on and attract law enforcement personnel from communities therefore; Incompatibility of international law with the domestically promulgated law is also another problem in the study area and in Ethiopia in general. Some of the factors that motivate children to work as children, particularly in economic activities, include parental pressure, parental death, the community's culture, the children's sense of independence, and the desire to support their parents.

All international treaties and agreements that Ethiopia has ratified are generally regarded as official national legislation, according to Article 9(4) of the FDRE Constitution. Ethiopia has ratified several international accords concerning child labor and children's rights. The country's legal provisions, such as the Constitution, labour Code, and Criminal Code, contain a variety of legislation that safeguards the rights of children. Thus, it makes sense to conclude that Ethiopia has legislation safeguarding the rights of children in general and working children in particular. Unfortunately, the government is not politically committed to addressing child work, and there is a lack of cooperation between government agencies and the justice department, which is in charge of upholding the laws against child labor.

There is still a big disconnecting between the rules and how they are being implemented, despite the fact that there are several restrictions regulating child labor in different legal documents. Unquestionably, the local police department's ability to enforce the child labor regulations and prosecute violators has improved somewhat; still, victim or community reports are still necessary.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the authors recommend adoption of the following measures to address the problem of violence against children.

### **5.2.1 Awareness creation**

One major issue has been recognized as a lack of awareness regarding children's rights. It is thought that this ignorance will negatively affect the programs that are put into place. The mere establishment of children's rights in the society may not bring about the necessary transformation because violence has deep cultural and traditional roots. Beyond this, efforts must be made Children should be the focus, but so should other pertinent actors who could have an impact, like parents, teachers, and traditional and community leaders.

Children are more likely to report an abuser and are less likely to believe that abuse is their fault when they are taught that they are unique and have the right to safety. Children ought to pay attention to and heed the guidance imparted by their parents or guardians. This will significantly lower the number of children participating in child labor activities overall and child labor exploitation specifically. In order to ensure children's rights are upheld and they are free to learn, it is also imperative that awareness-raising programs should be developed by the city administration for them on their rights and how these rights will affect their future growth and development.

The researcher also suggested that professionals in fields like law enforcement, education, healthcare, social work, and childcare facilities should receive more training on the Conventions' requirements. It is crucial to raise public knowledge of these services' availability, which can be accomplished through activism, media campaigns, educational and athletic organizations, and after-school programs.

At the national, regional, community, and family levels, there must be a substantial shift in societal attitudes and ideas regarding children's status in society. Preventing violence from occurring in the first place is not the same as responding to violent acts. This requires altering

deeply ingrained cultural and societal norms and practices, including the idea that some forms of violence are not only acceptable but also justified in some circumstances. Changing behavior takes time, but generations are not required.

### **5.2.2 Effective enforcement of existing laws**

The majority of issue related with child labor exploitation is covered by current law, and the judiciary and law enforcement agencies recognize how common the issue is. However, very few accused criminals are prosecuted. The main difficulty is with the court system, which cannot handle it even though the executive branch, judiciary, and all other branches of government are required to efficiently implement the law. Due to a lack of dedication and issues with attitude, it is evident that these organizations are not carrying out their duty in an efficient manner with regard to violence against children. In order to fulfill its duty to eradicate violence against children, the government should allocate the necessary financial and human resources and show a genuine commitment, for example, by collaborating with other initiatives and incorporating other actors.

In order to guarantee efficient coordination, it is also necessary to increase the technical expertise, financial resources, and logistical capabilities of the organizations in charge of upholding current laws.

### **5.2.3 Establishing mechanisms for effective reporting of violence**

New approach has to be implemented to boost the reporting of violent crimes against children as part of the enforcement of the laws. Because of persistent issues with culture and attitudes of Guraga community in general and the community of wolkiti city in particular, many of these crimes go unreported. Typically, victims and other community members do not disclose any form of labour exploitation especially parental violations, regardless of how serious they may be. Other measures, such as successful awareness-raising tactics about children's rights, will progressively address the reporting issue. By providing law which contains a system for mandatory reporting and legal consequence of its failure to report for concerned body, the government can better regulate such problem in the study area.

### **5.2.4 Providing support to victims**

By lowering the variables that make families more susceptible to violent behavior and enhancing the abilities of parents and other caregivers to raise children, this strategy aims to stop violence and abuse before it starts.

Few programs are now underway to assist victims of degrading and physical assault. Many children are emotionally distressed due to maltreatment, and many have joined the street and become prostitutes. Addressing the issue of labour exploitation against children includes providing these children with significant support by helping them recover from their trauma and reintegrate into society. In order to assist victims of labour exploitation, it is crucial that practical initiatives be implemented in communities and in schools.

Put more effort into identifying the causes of violence and how they impact children's, families', and communities' ability to bounce back. These elements include natural disasters, organized crime, political instability, huge population movements, poverty and inequality, and environmental degradation.

### **5.2.5 Enhancing child participation**

Child participation is given particular attention in the different international instrument especially on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Because it empowers children to assert and defend their rights, participation is extremely important. Any forms of interventions that do not involve children are usually not successful. Children in Ethiopia are now marginalized in society and have limited influence over matters that impact their life. Children's issues might not be adequately handled if the status quo is maintained. Therefore, it is necessary to create practical activities that will increase the involvement of children of all ages. In this situation, processes that are efficient, methodical, and long-lasting must be established.

Find strategies for talking to and involving kids about the part violence plays in their lives and what they can do to address it. Assist in ensuring that girls and boys who are especially vulnerable are included in society. Compile and analyze data on direct or indirect violence against children.

### **5.2.6 Legal reform**

Enacting explicit legislation against violence against children is essential. Comprehensive implementation and enforcement measures should be in place in tandem with these prohibitions. Legislative and regulatory measures should be taken to strengthen efforts to prevent the social acceptance of child abuse and to require a case reporting system. The country's local laws should be in line with the international treaty that Ethiopia has already ratified; governments should also use the power and authority granted by the constitution to amend laws that conflict with the international instrument that Ethiopia has ratified and that pertain to the treatment of negligent parents.

It is advised that Ethiopia has a Hazardous Activities Framework (HAF) through the Ministry of Labor and Skills, considering the agricultural industry, where a large number of youngsters in rural areas labor. A national hazardous activity framework should outline a list of activities that are forbidden to all children under the age of 18, including the maximum number of hours that children of different ages may work, in accordance with the ILO minimum age convention 138 and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and their respective supplementing Recommendations (Nos. 146 and 190).

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- Maritime Labor Convention. *INTERNATIONALLABOURCONFERENCE*,(p.112). ILO.(2006).
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- Proclamation No. 1/1995, the Constitution Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

## Appendix

### **Addis Ababa University** **College of Law and Governance** **School of Law**

#### **Semi-structured Interview format prepared for working children**

This semi-structured interview is prepared by a post graduate student in Addis Ababa University to deal with my master thesis for partial fulfillment of Master's Degree in human right law. This interview schedule was structured for Wolkita City's working youngsters, government official , parents and nongovernmental organization officials. Finding out more about the causes, effects, and current state of child labor in the city is the aim of this study. Dear Respondents, the success of the research greatly depends on your invaluable information. Thus, I respectfully ask that you respond truthfully, and I want to reassure you that the data you submit will only be utilized for scholarly purposes.

#### Identification of particular

|  |                   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
|  | City              |  |
|  | Kebele            |  |
|  | Work Type         |  |
|  | Date of interview |  |
|  | Interviewer       |  |

#### Some guiding question

- Can you please tell me about yourself and family background?
- What is your livelihood? Tell me about your housing, nutrition and health status?
- In what type of work are you participating?
- When did you begin working?
- How many days do you work a week?

- How much money do you earn a day?
- Is the money you earn adequate to fulfill your needs?
- How do you begin working this job?
- What was the reason behind involving in this work?
- Is it due to your family's influence or by yourself?
- Does anyone (parents, relative, or someone else) force you to engage in this work? Why?
- Did you face any problems or difficulties with your current job?
- Of what kind is it (bullying, insult, sexual violence, etc.)?
- Who is creating the problem? How?
- What measure did you take to resolve the problem?
- What kind of support did you receive from government and non-government organizations?
- What measure should the government take to reduce the problem you are facing and improve your livelihood?

## **Semi-structured Interview format prepared for Government Officials**

### **Some Guiding Questions**

- Can you please introduce yourself (your education background, position and experience)?
- Where does working children coming from (place of origin)?
- Is it from rural area or in the town itself?
- Is there working division by place of origin?
- How do you evaluate the livelihood situation of working children?
- Their housing, nutrition, health and education?
- In which types of work are children mostly involved in?
- What is pushing children to work at their younger age?
- Do parents force children to work?
- What human right violation could working children experience?
- Who are the perpetrators?

- What has been done by your office to protect children from labour exploitation?
- What are the government and non-government organizations doing to support child workers and to protect them from child exploitation?
- What is your suggestion to the future to eliminate child labour?
- Could you elaborate on Ethiopian child labor and child rights legislation and frameworks, both domestically and internationally?

Could you talk about your judicial or practical experiences with situations involving child labor exploitation?

How do you assess how domestic laws and practices relate to international child instruments, such as whether they are compatible?

Could you explain the difficulties in handling cases involving child labor exploitation?

### **Semi-structured Interview format prepared for NGO Officials**

- What are the causes of child labor in wolkite city administration?
- Do the activities have impact on the enjoyment of their human right
- Is there any effort that has been done before to reduce the problem,( the problem of child labor) in the study area?
- What does your organization perform to combat child labor in the city?
- In your opinion what should be done to reduce the problem of child labor in city administration?
- Any suggestions or comments as far as child labor is concerned

### **Semi-structured Interview format prepared for children parents**

#### **Some Guiding Questions**

- Can you please tell me about yourself (your background and livelihood)?
- How many children do you have?
- How many of them are learning?
- How many of them are working (disaggregated by gender and age)?
- What is child working?

- Do you insist your child to work and earn money? If yes, why? If not, what forced him/her to involve in child labor?
- Do he/ she contribute something to the family's income from his/ her earning?
- What kind of human rights violation do children experience at work?
- Who is the perpetrator?
- What is your suggestion to the future to eliminate child labor?
- Do you know about the right of children and law regarding their protection

### **Focus Grouped Discussion Theme**

- Definition of child labor
- The rights of children, national and international law.
- Factors drove children to engage in child labor
- Working condition
- Time child laborers spend per day or days per week
- Perception of community about child labor
- The consequence of their work on their development and participation in education
- Possible intervention mechanisms

### **CHECKLIST FOR OBSERVATION**

- The types of activities that children are engaged
- The way they perform their day to day duties
- Physical appearance of the working children like clothing, neatness
- Working hazards and risks
- Employment mechanisms
- The proportionality between their work and their age
- The suitability/conduciveness of their working condition
- Kinds of tools used by the children during work