

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

**SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG FEMALE STREET
CHILDREN: THE CASE OF LIDETA SUBCITY,
ADDIS ABABA**

BY

YILMA HIRPA

**SEPTEMBER, 2007
ADDIS ABABA**

SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG FEMALE STREET CHILDREN: THE CASE OF
LIDETA SUB CITY, ADDIS ABABA

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF GENDER STUDIES
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ARTS IN GENDER STUDIES

BY
YILAM HIRPA

SEPTEMBER, 2007

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
INSTITUTE OF GENDER STUDIES

SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG FEMALE STREET CHILDREN: THE CASE OF
LIDETA SUB CITY, ADDIS ABABA

BY
YILAM HIRPA

Approved by Board of Examiners:

	Name	Signature	Date
Advisor	_____	_____	_____
Examiner	_____	_____	_____
Internal Examiner	_____	_____	_____

Acknowledgements

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to my academic advisor Dr. Mulumebet Zenebe, who has provided me valuable comments and continuous assistance till the end of this study. Her suggestions, encouragement and patience, I am sure, have resulted in significant improvements. I would like also to thank leader of Lideta Sub City Social and NGO Affair Office, executive director and workers of Love for Children Organizations, representatives of Lideta Sub City Child Protection Unit, representative of Keblele 01/18 in Lideta Sub City, for their assistance and kind co-operation in this work. I am grateful to street educators from LCO who have assisted me in different stages of data collection.

I would further like to thank my friends at St. Mary's University College who have provided invaluable support and encouragement during my difficult time. I am profoundly grateful to all my families for their unlimited support all the time.

Finally, I would like to thank all the children, who have had the courage to share their deepest and darkest secrets with me and the key informants who have spared their time to provide information.

Acronyms

ACRWC-	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BoFED-	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BoSCA-	Bureau of Social and Civil Authority
RSVACSA -	Regional study on Violence against Children in South Asia
CRC-	Convention on the Right of the Child
CFDRE	Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD-	Focus Group Discussion
FSCE-	Forum on Street Children- Ethiopia
HIV-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRW-	Human Right Watch
JJPO-	Juvenile Justice Project Office
LCO-	Love for Children Organization
MOLSA-	Ministry of Labor and Social Affair
NASW -	National Association of Social Workers
NCTPE-	National committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia
OAU-	Organization of African Union
STI-	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN-	United Nations
UNICEF-	United Nation Children Fund
WHO-	World Health Organizations

Abstract

Sexual abuse of children is one of the most brutal forms of violence against children, because the risks are real. Some researches indicate that it is a common place and a serious problem among female children who are living and working on the street. However, this atrocious problem was explored with other issues like socio-economic conditions of female street children with little emphasis of identifying forms, causes and consequences in detail way. The main research questions addressed in this study were: What are the causes/risk factors associated with it? What are the consequences of sexual abuse among female street children? In order to answer these questions, qualitative data collection method pertaining to different objectives of the study such as in-depth interview with 17 female street children, focus group discussion and key informant interviews were used.

The study revealed that female children drifted away from home and school to street way of life was due to interrelated and complex problems. They engaged in doing different activities on the street that make them vulnerable and victims of problems including various forms of sexual abuse by diverse categories of people. Rape, prostitution, unwanted kissing, breast fondling and anal sex were reported as forms of sexual abuse among female street children. In this study, female street children existences on the street and gender socialization were prominent issues that have emerged as the causes of sexual abuse. As a consequence of their involvement on street life which in turn makes them available for easy prey by different abusers, they were victims of various forms of sexual abuse. Besides, due to gender socialization pattern in patriarchal society that creates boys/men to be active, strong, aggressive and dominant against women and children are found as a cause for various forms of sexual abuse. Poverty, lack of support and protection, migration and trafficking, being drug and alcohol addicted, HIV/AIDS epidemic etc. were also explored.

The findings further reveal that sexual abuses of female street children have a long lasting damaging effect on children's life in terms of physical and mental health. Female street children face short term and long lasting psychological consequences. Moreover, physical and verbal abuses are reported in this study as part and parcel of the problem of various forms of sexual abuse among female street children.

Table of Contents	Page
Acknowledgements.....	I
Acronyms.....	II
Abstract.....	III
CHAPTER I.....	1
1.1- Introduction.....	1
1.2- Statement of the problem.....	4
1.3- Research questions.....	6
1.4- Objectives of the study.....	6
1.5- Significances of the study.....	7
1.6- Definitions of basic concepts and terms.....	7
1.7- Organization of the thesis.....	9
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITRATURE.....	10
2.1- What is child sexual abuse?	10
2.2- Forms of child sexual abuse.....	11
2.3- Feminist perspective to child sexual abuse.....	15
2.4- Consequences of sexual abuse of children.....	17
2.5- Legal protection of children against sexual abuse.....	19
2.6- The situation of street children.....	22
CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	26
3.1- The study design.....	26
3.2- The study area.....	27
3.3- Source of data.....	27
3.3.1- Female street children.....	28
3.3.2- Key informants and Organizations.....	29
3.4- Instruments and Methods of data collection.....	30
3.4.1- In-depth interview.....	30
3.4.2- Focus Group Discussion.....	32
3.4.3- Key informants Interview.....	33
3.5- Negotiating relationships and Ethical issues.....	34
3.6- Problems encountered during the research process.....	36
3.7- Data organization and analysis.....	37

CHAPTER IV: FINDING AND ANALYSIS.....	39
4.1- Working conditions and reasons for being a street child.....	39
4.1.1- Working conditions of female street children.....	39
4.1.2- Reasons for being a street child.....	42
4.2- Forms of sexual abuse among female street children.....	53
4.3- Causes and risk factors for sexual abuse of female street children.....	65
4.4- Consequences of sexual abuse among female street children.....	79
CHAPTER IV: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.....	93
5.1- Summary.....	93
5.2- Conclusion.....	98
References.....	101
Appendix I-Interview guide.....	106
Appendix I.A- Interview questions for girl street children at Lideta Sub city.....	106
Appendix I.B- FGD guideline.....	107
Appendix I.C- Interview guideline for key informants.....	108
Appendix II- Lists of informants.....	109
Appendix II .A- Lists of female street children.....	109
Appendix II .B- Lists of FGD participant.....	109
Appendix II .C- Lists of Key informants.....	110

CHAPTER I

1.1 – Introduction

In the past few decades, abuse and violence against children has become a major concern and a serious problem worldwide. It is acknowledged as important social and health problem because of its impact on the normal growth and development of children. Child abuse is one of the most pervasive forms of human rights abuse that prevents children's enjoyment of their fundamental freedom. Sexual, physical, emotional (psychological) and neglect- make up, for the most part, the essence of child abuse. Sexual abuse of children is most devastating abuse. It is one of the most commonly experienced forms of abuse against children through out the world (Szymanczak, 2001).

Sexual abuse of children occurs in “child care institutions, in families representative of all classes, races and social strata, in state run and private institutions, on the streets, in classrooms, in pornography, advertising and films” which have overwhelming impact on social, health, mental wellbeing of children (Heiberg, 2001:5).

There are combinations of various factors that trigger and encourage sexual abuse of children. Hence, certain individual factors, such as age, gender and possible disabilities, affect the level of a child's vulnerability to abuse. As for the perpetrators, a history of previous abuse seems to increase the likelihood for abusive behavior, as does low educational attainment and substance abuse. In homes, young, single, poor or unemployed parents with four or more children are statistically more likely to resort to abusive behavior. Unrealistic expectations about child development, stress and social isolation have also been linked to abusive behaviors by parents (RSVACSA, 2005).

The problem of sexual abuse of children, which is a central issue to be dealt in this study, is identified by many concerned bodies as a fast growing phenomenon world wide and in Ethiopia. Children throughout the world are at risk of sexual abuse in nearly every aspect of their lives. Each year over a million children (below the age of 18) worldwide are subjected to various forms of sexual abuse (UNICEF, 2001 cited in Smith & Richter, 2004; Heiberg, 2001; MOLSA & National Steering Committee, 2002).

There is a recognized gap in researches on sexual abuse of children particularly taking victim's children's own perception and attitudes about their abusive experiences. Beitchman et al., (1991) argued that the literature describing the immediate and long-term effects of sexual abuse draws mainly from adult accounts. As a result, the secrets of sexual abuse of children may not have been so convincingly exposed without survivors' courage and decision to tell. Yet most of these adults didn't disclose the abuse in childhood. Besides, adults have reported what children have said to them during different stages of treatment. Hence, it remains unclear whether children, asked directly about their experiences, would trace the same themes. They also argued that even when researchers have attempted to use standardized measures of childhood distress, the report still rests on the adult caretakers' perspective (Beitchman et al., 1991 in Roberts and Taylor, 1993). It is important, therefore, neither to generalize from adult survivors' accounts nor to suppose that adults' views of the impacts of child sexual abuse accurately reflect the children's views.

Sexual abuse of children that entails economic, social and political aspects is universal crossing cultural and socio-economic lines. According to Heiberg (2001) in Save the Children report, figures of child sexual abuse are quite high in different countries. Accordingly, figures from the South and Central American region are alarming to be 20% to 40%, in Zimbabwe 30% of children reported having been sexually abused, in which the majority are girls. The prevalence in Europe lies between 7% to 20% for girls and 3% to 10% for boys. In Nicaragua, 20% of men and 26% of women reported having experienced sexual abuse before they were 19 years old. Similarly, NASW (2001:1) stated 'child sexual abuse is the most hidden form of child abuse in the US and North America in such a way that 10,000 of US, Mexican and Canadian children and youths become victims of juvenile pornography, prostitution and trafficking each year'.

Similarly, a study conducted by UNICEF (2001) cited in Smith & Richter (2004:144) on commercial sexual exploitation of children provides that 'there are between 400,000 and 500,000 child sex workers in India, in Cambodia 31% of sex workers are minors'. Finkelhor (1994) also stated on the same book, in the US that, the figures from nationally representative

samples of men and women are 16% and 27% respectively, and in Britain the figures for men and women are 8% and 12% respectively.

The above mentioned figures show that sexual abuse is a world wide problem among children especially for girls. It happens all over the world from the poorest countries of Africa to the rich countries like the United States which results in serious and often life threatening consequences on physical, psychological and social development including threat of early pregnancy, maternal mortality, infancy retarded development, physical disabilities and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS (MOLSA & National Steering Committee, 2002; Heiberg, 2001).

As indicated earlier, the vulnerability of children to sexual abuse is heavily influenced by some aspects of their identity such as gender, ethnicity, cast or economic status, which are part of the wider context of discrimination, neglect and disadvantage. Like wise, street children, refugee children and children who are victims of various forms of sexual abuse and traumatic situations are more vulnerable to be sexually abuse (RSVACSA, 2005; Yemane, 1995).

Researches show that street children are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and disproportionately affected. They are more frequently at risk to be exposed to various forms of sexual abuse than other children. Sexual abuse of street children is commonplace amongst both boys and girls albeit girls are believed to be at a greater risk (Wernham, 1993; de Oliveira, 2000). For instance, research carried out in Rwanda indicates that street children are extremely susceptible to sexual abuse. Accordingly, more than half of the boys interviewed and more than three quarters of the girls, including 35% of those under ten admitted they were sexually abused and exploited (HRW, 2003).

Thus, street children face the danger of getting in to accidents, violence and abuse while living and working on the street. They face hunger, diseases, homelessness, ill treatments by other, many forms of sexual abuse with extremely harsh conditions including unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood among girls, labor exploitation, STIs and HIV/AIDS, substance and drug abuse. Some studies and reports showed that sexual abuse, which creates overwhelming

impact on victim children's growth, development and mental well being, is widely spread among street children (particularly on female children) in Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa in particular (FSCE, 2003; UNICEF, 1993 cited in Yemane, 1995).

Furthermore, it was identified that girls are more vulnerable and victims of sexual abuse than boys throughout the world including Ethiopia. For instance, the UNICEF report affirmed that 'girls who work and live in the street are faced with extremely harsh conditions including sexual abuse by adults, rape—followed by unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood, and likely to join child prostitution' (UNICEF, 2007:2). Consequently, taking in to consideration the above mentioned facts, it is imperative and worthwhile to explore the various forms of sexual abuse, the causes/risk factors associated with it and the consequences among living and working female street children.

1.2 - Statement of the problem

The children of Ethiopia are among the most underprivileged in the world. Due to interrelated and complex socio-economic factors, a large portion of its population, especially children and women, are victimized. There are many poor, displaced, unaccompanied and abandoned children in Ethiopia. It is unfortunate that a substantial number of children are spending their life in the streets and the numbers, based on secondary data [*See Chapter Two-The situation of Street children*] are estimated to be growing at an alarming rate in all urban center of Ethiopia. Especially, 'the rising occurrence of children living on the streets of Addis Ababa has become one of the city's most pressing social problems' (UNICEF, 2007:1).

Street children are without proper parental protection, opportunities for schooling, health care, growth (both physical and mental), development of any kind, nutrition, shelter and even their right to a decent and human existence itself. Some drift into begging or petty crimes. In addition to the above mentioned problems, street children face the danger of getting into accidents and violence in such a way that they are beaten, tortured, sexually abused and sometimes killed (FSCE, 2003). However, it is very important to note that despite occasional periods of cognitive impairment due to acute social exclusion and some delinquent character, street kids are sentient and competent human beings the fact that they occupy an important

position particularly in creating a link between now and the future (WHO, 1993 cited in Tsegaye, 2003).

Among the above mentioned problems, sexual abuse is one of the most brutal forms of violence against children and present enormous challenges and risks. “The victim children are exposed to physical, psychological and social problems and have wide opportunities to face life endangering risks like HIV/AIDS. Thus, measures have been taken against sexual abuse of children at international and national level” (CYAO & FSCE-Ethiopia, 1996:15).

For example, taking into consideration the seriousness of the problem, Ethiopia have taken measures to protect and promote the best interests of the child, which in turn, refers to mental, physical and social development of the child in all dimension. It was stated that Ethiopia has ratified international conventions on the right of the child and the tents of this provision are also included in the constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (UNICEF, 1995 cited in Dessale, 1998). However, female children who are living and working on the street are particularly victims and vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse albeit there is a growing concern about elimination of all forms of child abuse at the national and international level.

While less numerous than street boys, girls living on the streets (among the most vulnerable children in the world) experience most of the same problem as boys and, in addition, are frequently subjected to sexual abuse. Some existing researches and reports by various concerned bodies testify this fact. For instance, in the study about the situation and survival strategies of female street children in Addis Ababa conducted by FSCE and Radda Barnen (1998:63), it was stated that “21 respondents [out of 113 respondents who said their sexuality increases their vulnerability to sexual abuse] admitted they were sexually abused. 33.3 % of 21 respondents also affirmed that they had experienced two or more rape cases on the street”.

Besides, an early survey report on the situation of street children in eight major towns of Ethiopia by FSCE asserted that ‘25.7% [131out of 509] of female respondents who were over 13 years old were practicing prostitution’ (FSCE, 2003:46). A recent survey report on living and working street children in Addis Ababa also affirmed that ‘among female children over 12

years old, 40% [20 out of 50] are exposed to prostitution' (UNICEF, BoSCA and BoFED, 2007:iv). Furthermore, it was identified in available researches related to street children that female street children are particularly vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse in such a way that many street girls are raped and engaged in prostitution (Yemane, 1995; Tsegaye, 2003).

Nevertheless, in these studies and reports, attention to street children in general and female children in particular has focused largely on their pressing economic and social plight - poverty, lack of shelter, lack of food, denial of education, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse, among others, with little emphasis on issues related to sexual abuse. Apart from these, it was identified that no exhaustive study has been made to discover issues related to sexual abuse among female street children who are living and working on the street. This research is, therefore, initiated with the aim of understanding the various forms of sexual abuse, causes/risk factors associated with it and the negative repercussions among female children who are living and working on the street.

1.3 - Research questions

The study attempts to give answers to the following main research questions:

- 1- What are the forms of sexual abuse among female street children?
- 2- What are the causes/risk factors that are associated with sexual abuse?
- 3- What are the consequences of sexual abuse among female street children?

1.4 - Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to explore the forms, causes and consequences of sexual abuse among female street children in Addis Ababa.

The *specific objectives* of the study are:

- To explore the factors that lead female children to street way of life and their current working and living conditions on the street.
- To identify the forms of sexual abuse among living and working female street children.
- To identify the causes and the risk factors associated with sexual abuse.
- To examine the consequences of sexual abuse.
- To know sexual abusers of female street children.

1.5 - Significance of the study

This study will have the following importance:

- The study took children's own view about their abusive experiences which in turn provide useful and detailed information about various forms of sexual abuse among female street children. This will fill a gap in research into child sexual abuse, namely, that not enough attention has been paid to the victim's own perceptions and/or attitudes about abusive experience.
- It will widen understanding and give better information about the distressing and highly challenging problem of sexual abuse among female street children than the previous researches which have treated the problem of sexual abuse with other issues like socio-economic problem of female street children.
- As it was clear from this study that the problem of female street children is like a two-sided sword; living and working on the street and sexual abuse. Consequently, it will disclose the seriousness of the problem of female street children to those working in the field of sexual abuse and female street children [like government organizations, non government organizations, researchers, advocates, and services providers], that it will enable them to be aware and better understand the phenomenon of sexual abuse and to develop appropriate and effective policies, programs and services so as to combat sexual abuse of female street children.
- Last but not least, it may serve as a background and a stimulus for further researches.

1.6 – Definitions of concepts and terms

Child – ‘a person under the age of 18 years’ (MOLSA and National Steering Committee, 2002:8).

The annual report of UNICEF (1991) which defined and distinguished street children were adapted for the purpose of this study:

Street Children- children of either sex falling under 18 years for whom the streets in the widest sense of the world have become their abode and source of livelihood. They are inadequately protected, supervised or helped by responsible adults. Thus, female street children in this study refer to those girls who are below 18 years of age, and include two categories:

Children on the street - these are children who are primarily engaged in economic activities of street such as car washing or watching, shoe shining, peddling or loitering, caring goods to earn income for livelihood. They maintain a strong family link, usually returning home at night, having spent all day away.

Children off the street - this term refers to children who are both economically and socially engaged in street life. These children live and work on the street without any kind of control or assistance from parents or relatives. They are engaged in the same activities as children on street.

Child Sexual abuse - in this paper, child sexual abuse refers 'as proscribed sexual conduct between an adult and a sexually immature child for purposes of the adult's sexual pleasure or for economic gain through child prostitution' (Hughes, 1987:248).

Rape – for this study, the term refers to any form of sex in which one person forces another person to participate. It means making an individual engage in a sexual act without that individual's consent or against that individual's will (Kelly, 1998:484).

Statutory rape- it is a legal term used in a situation where an adult or adolescent has sexual intercourse with a younger partner who is under the age of consent, even if that partner is willing to have sex. Age of consent varies in some states, but is usually the age of 18 (Byer et al., 1999:572).

Child prostitution – male or female person under the age of 18 years, who is coerced or forced to provide sex for money or goods (CAYO and FSCE, 1996:2).

Child Pornography - 'any visual or audio material which uses children in a sexual context. It consists of the visual depiction of a child engaged in explicit sexual conduct, real or simulated, or the lewd exhibition of the genitals intended for the sexual gratification of the user, and involves the production, distribution and/or use of such material.' (Arnaldo, 2001:38).

Gender Socialization – refers to the learning of behavior and attitudes considered appropriate for a given sex. This "learning" happens by way of many different agents of socialization (<http://www.en..wikipedia.org/wiki>).

Patriarchy - is a system of interrelated social structures which allow men to exploit women. It provides legitimacy to the oppression and exploitation of women by men, including violence against women and children (Wallby, 1986 quoted in Alem, 2004:1).

1.7 - Organization of the thesis

The thesis is organized into five chapters. Chapter one deals with the background of the study in the introduction part and presents statement of the problem. It also describes the research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study and definitions of concepts. The second chapter presents a review of related literature. Chapter three describes the study design, the study area, source of data, instruments and data collection method, negotiation with research participants, some research problems encountered during the research process and data analysis technique.

Chapter four is divided into four sections. In this chapter, current working conditions of female street children, reasons for being on the street, forms of sexual abuse among respondents, causes/risk factors associated with sexual abuse and consequences of sexual abuse were dealt in detail. Finally, chapter five summarizes the major findings of the study and provides conclusions.

CHAPTER II - REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 - What is child sexual abuse?

The definitions of child sexual abuse have changed over time. Child sexual abuse have been discussed in relation to childhood, child protection and conceptualized as the disruption of expected roles, relationships and behaviors. For example, Carl stated that there are many different interpretation of exactly what constitutes child sexual abuse, and definitions vary greatly in different states laws and penal codes. According to Carl child sexual abuse is ‘the exploitation of a child under eighteen by an adult or older child for the purpose of the perpetrator’s sexual gratification’ (Carl, 1993:23).

Tomison (1995) defined sexual abuse as “any act which exposes a child or involve a child in sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards” (cited in Townsend and Dawes, 2004:60). According to WHO (1997) child sexual abuse is an abuse of power that encompasses many forms of sexual activity between a child or adolescent (most often a girl) and an older person, most often a man or older boy known to the victim. The activity may be physically forced, or accomplished through coercive tactics such as offers of money for school fees or threats of exposure. At times, it may take the form of breach of trust in which an individual, such a religious leader, teacher or doctor, who has the confidence of the child, uses that trust to secure sexual favors.

Another, more inclusive definition offered by Calder is also worth citing here:

Child sexual abuse is a sexual act imposed on a child who lacks emotional, maturational, and cognitive development. The ability to lure a child into a sexual relationship is based upon the all-powerful and dominant poison of the adult or older adolescent perpetrator, which is in sharp contrast to the child’s age, dependency and subordinate position. Authority and power enable the perpetrator, implicitly or directly, to coerce the child into sexual compliance (Calder, 1999 as cited in Townsend and Dawes, 2004:55).

Hence, definitions of child sexual abuse are numerous. Some are succinct, others are more detailed. Although there are several definitions of child sexual abuse, definitions continue to encompass two major elements/factors. There is wide agreement on these basic conditions in the literatures: [1] sexual activities involving a child, and, [2] ‘abusive conditions’ such as coercion or a large age gap between the participants, indicating lack of consent. The sexual activities in different definitions show sexual stimulation of the perpetrator, and include both contact (in which the child has some form of physical contact with the perpetrator) and non-contact abuse (Levesque, 1999; Finkelhor, 1994 in Dawes et al., 2004).

2.2 - Forms of child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse can be physical, verbal or emotional and include: (a) touching and fondling of the sexual portions of the child’s body (genitals and anus) or touching the breasts of pubescent females or the child’s, touching the sexual portion of a abuser’s body; (b) sexual kissing; (c) penetration which includes penile and object penetration of the vagina, mouth or anus; (d) exposing children to adult sexual activity or pornographic movies and photographs (UN, 2000).

Furthermore, Carl and Finkelhor offer two general categories of sexual offences of a child: **[A] Non-touching** offenses include verbal sexual stimulation intended to arouse the child’s interest; exhibitionism (indecent exposure); voyeurism (peeping in doors and windows); primal scene (causing or allowing a child to witness adults having sexual relations). **[B] Touching offenses**, on the other hand, include nonviolent touches such as fondling; oral, genital or anal stimulation and penetration; incest; forcible offense of rape, physical injury, assault and murder. Child sexual abuse also includes coercion of the child by the perpetrator to touch or look at him for the purpose of his sexual gratification and the exploitation of children through pornography and prostitution (Carl, 1993; Finkelhor, 1994 cited in Dawes et al., 2004). Thus, forms of sexual abuse of children can involve the full range of human sexuality involving all the senses and various degrees of contacts, force and compliance. This study, however, gives more spotlights to the second categories/ forms of sexual offences among female street children.

Having seen the general forms of sexual abuses of a child in a capsulated manner, it is worth discussing some forms of sexual abuse which are rampant among female children who are living and working on the street together with the causes/risk factors. In view of this, it was stated in existing literatures that rape, child prostitution and other forms of sexual abuse are a cause for concern among girls and women in general and female street children in particular. Female street children are vulnerable and victims of various forms of sexual abuse (Ayalew and Elias, 1999; Yemane, 1995).

Accordingly, rape among girls and women are very rampant. Ashworth (1995) affirmed that rape of women and children are increased considerably according to reports from various parts of the world. It is however difficult to tell to what extent this represents a real increase in the number of rapes or an increase in the reporting of them. Even if figures show that the numbers of rape reports are increasing, still rape is one of the highly underreported crimes in the whole world. The reasons for this are considered to be shame, fear, embarrassment, not wanting to define some one as rapist etc (Ashworth, 1995 cited in Original et al., 2004).

Although rape is legally defined as forced sexual intercourse between a man and a woman, in about one-third of forced sexual encounter, penile-vaginal contact never occurs. But a variety of other forms of forced sex, including oral and anal penetration by the penis or vaginal penetration by fingers or objects may occur (Kelly, 1998).

Sexual gratification may not be the major reason for rape. Research conducted amongst convicted rapists suggests that the desire to dominate and humiliate the rape victim (often coupled with revenge motives) features most commonly. In furtherance of this motive the attractiveness of the victim is not a vital ingredient, although it is a paradox in a society that demands its females to make themselves attractive that if the rape victim has done so, she may well be condemned for it. The fact that most victims are young proves what matters more than physical appearance is vulnerability (Brownmiller, 1995 cited in Original et al., 2004).

Moreover, with regard to factors that increases child vulnerability to sexual abuse like rape factors that include age (being young), early childhood experiences of abuse/violence, alcohol

and drug use, poverty and economic dependency, educational status, sex and power motives and social fragmentation were identified by various researchers. On the other hand, among the factors that increase the risk of a man committing rape are those related to attitudes and beliefs as well as behavior arising from situation and conditions that provide opportunities and support for abuse (WHO, 2002; Levesque, 1999; Heiberg, 2001).

Socio-cultural factors acting at community and societal levels are equally important to individual factors that are associated to sexual abuse of children. These include social norms and expectation, laws and policies on gender equality, community instability, patriarchy, gender socialization, poverty, pornography etc (Townsend and Dawes, 2004; Heiberg, 2001).

Similarly, child prostitution is a cause for concern among girls who are below 18 years of age. "In prostitution, children are objects both of sexual and commercial exploitation" (Boongala, 1996:2). However, child prostitution has been in definitional ambiguity for long which makes it difficult to conceptualize. Terms like 'sexual abuse', 'commercial sexual exploitation', 'sale of children for sexual purposes' are interchangeably used to describe the same concept at different times. In essence child prostitution covers all these as far as the victim is a person below 18 years of age - as a child is defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Eshetu, 2004).

It is stated that Ethiopia is part of this problem and if the situation is not curbed, the number of child prostitutes seems to be on the rise. Child prostitution is very widely practiced in the urban centers of Ethiopia. The magnitude of child prostitution is not known countrywide. MOLSA estimates that in Addis Ababa alone, 7% of the female population are involved in prostitution and of these the fastest growing group are girls under the age of 18 (MOLSA, 1982).

Schludermann (1998) argued that 'child prostitution is seldom voluntary, and typically results from children leaving intolerable home situations'. According to this researcher, 'children involved in prostitution are from sexually and physically abusive backgrounds, as well as the high incidence of alcohol abuse and violence between spouses in the homes that such children

have left. Thus, children who run away from home are forced to find some way of making sufficient income to pay for food and shelter' (cited in Smith and Richter, 2004:145).

Similarly, Smith and Richter (2004) said that there are no a consistent picture of what kinds of children are most likely to be victimized, what kinds of families and communities they are likely to come from, or what types of adults facilitate and profit from these crimes.

Children are most often lured or forced into prostitution to support themselves and their family. In most cases, children that are forced into prostitution come from an impoverished environment. Besides, many of them have run away form home, form violence and sexual abuse. Children may leave their home and families due to physical or sexual abuse from a family member. For instance, family disagreement, rape, unwanted pregnancies, unhappy childhood, trafficking children and lack of opportunities for learning can push children toward the life of the streets. These children mostly involve into commercial sex/prostitution (Heiberg, 2001; CYAO and FSCE, 1996; Hanger, 1996 & Davis, 1993 cited in Rahmet, 2001). More to the point, Habtamu (1996) stated, migration from rural to urban cities and family breakdown as major risk factors for children to be engaged in street life and eventually into prostitution. He further added that early marriage which eventually leads to divorce and dropping out of school is another cause.

Generally, poverty is a factor in many instances of child sexual abuse. The links between poverty and abuse take a number of forms, including reduced supervision of children due to lack of substitute care and supervision and fragmented family structures, heightened exposure of children to threats in overcrowded living conditions, inappropriate fostering of children for income, economic dependency of children on abusive breadwinners, and lack of protective infrastructure in poor communities (Smith and Richter, 2004). Similarly, high rate of unemployment, natural calamities, harmful tradition practices, social discrimination and HIV/AIDS are some of the important factors that are directly or indirectly associated to sexual abuse and exploitation of children (Boongala, 1996; Smith and Richter, 2004).

To sum up the various causes for different forms of sexual abuse of children, Allyn and Bacon (2001:51) relate risk factors to individual, family and social variables. Hence, 'age, gender, family composition, parental illness, employment situation, family conflict, geographical location and lack of sex education' are identified as relevant variables for sexual abuse of children. They also discussed what Finkelhor (1984) said preconditions or risk factors to sexual abuse of children which include, male sex roles emphasizing dominance and power, child pornography, alcohol or drug abuse, family isolation, lack of supervision for the child and lack of support, use of coercion, little information about sexual abuse and lack of sex education.

2.3 - Feminist perspective to child sexual abuse

Feminists have attempted to explain factors of child sexual abuse by highlighting the unequal gender-based power relations within patriarchal society. Drawing on this seemingly pervasive ideology, they provide a powerful argument for how young children are socialized into a set of unequal gender and power relations that serves to perpetuate patriarchal ideology and create a culture of male sexual entitlement.

The feminist perspective begins with the assumption that sexual abuse is perpetrated almost exclusively by men, and that sexual abuse occurs both in normal and dysfunctional families (Calder, 1999 cited in Townsend and Dawes, 2004). Thus, men are not biologically hard-wired to behave abusively towards women and children, but through wider ideological influences and socialization processes, they come to believe that they have a right to be sexually and emotionally sustained by females. In the typical patriarchal family, men learn that their power is endorsed by patriarchy, which provides often unquestioned opportunity for them to intimidate and control those who are less powerful than themselves, namely women and children. One way in which intimidation and control can be enforced is through sexual abuse of women and children (Magwaza, 1997 cited in Townsend and Dawes, 2004).

Similarly, Allyn and Bacon asserted that feminist movement has been instrumental in bringing child sexual abuse to the attention of the public and in championing the efforts toward effective treatment and prevention. Feminists espouse the sociological view that considers the

assault of children as representative of societal values. According to them, “girls and boys set up differently by the society as victims in such a way that girls taught by society to be ‘vulnerable’; to feel guilt and shame; to be clean and attractive; to be manipulative and to please others. On the other hand, boys taught to believe they are ‘powerful’; not to be seen as victims; to think it ‘cool’ to be initiated by a female; etc”(Allyn and Bacon, 1999:117).

Feminists see child sexual abuse as more of a societal than a familial issue. Needless to say because of the patriarchal social structure, women and children have inferior status and are subjected to male dominance. Struve (1990) also asserts ‘advertisements in the media and the prevalence of child pornography suggest that children are exploitable’ (in Allyn and Bacon, 1999:117).

Furthermore, another factor that the feminist perspective has brought to our recent attention is that influence of socialization and child-rearing practice that may play a role in child sexual abuse. Central to any society that is characterized by a patriarchal ideology is the fact that most children will be socialized in to that ideology. Thus, boys learn that it is acceptable, if not desirable, to control and intimidate, and girls learn to accept that these dynamic are ‘normal’ (Townsend and Dawes, 2004).

Perhaps fundamentally informed by patriarchal ideology as well as most religious doctrines, children in most societies are brought up to trust unquestioningly and obey their parents and other adult authority figures such as teachers and clergy. Such unquestioning obedience to adults (whether male or female) has a double effect: it may either place the child at risk of sexual abuse because of his or her acceptance of subjugation, or it may provide a protective factor that allows adult members of the family ultra-protective rights over children (Townsend and Dawes, 2004)

In summary then, the underling argument that feminists provide is that unequal gender and power relations endemic in patriarchal society (and maintained by socialization process) go a long way toward explaining why men sexually abuse both women and children.

2.4 - Consequences of sexual abuse of children

Sexual abuse causes terrible pain at the time of the assault and can leave scars that linger on children's lives in a multitude of ways, threatening their physical and emotional well-being and development, their sense of self, their right to health and happiness. Sexual abuse is unequivocally associated with high level of distress and commonly profound disturbance of the child's physical, emotional, social, moral and intellectual development. The effects of abuse in the form of physical injury and psychological trauma are often felt into a person's adulthood and indeed throughout life (Dawes et al, 2004).

There are well documented consequences of rape for many female victims. For example, it has variety of negative reactions that can disturb the physical, sexual, social and psychological aspects of the victims' lives. The World Bank estimated that rape and domestic violence account for 5% of the healthy years of life lost to women of reproductive age in developing countries (World Bank, 1993). Rape is more devastating to women and girls as it is linked with reproductive health issue like unwanted pregnancy, Sexual Transmitted Infection and HIV/AIDS, unsafe abortion and other pregnancy outcomes (Sara, 2001).

Fear of sexual victimization is prevalent among women and young girls and affects their lives profoundly. Kershner (1996) indicated that the 'fear of sexual assault often makes women and girls feel vulnerable and weaker than men. They grow up learning to limit and restrict their behavior in various ways, such as never walking alone in certain locations or at night' (cited in Kelly, 1998:484). Rape is a violation of constitutionally guaranteed rights of individuals, such as: "the right to protection against bodily harm; the right to respect for human dignity, reputation and honor and the right to privacy" (the Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia Constitution of 1994 quoted in Original et al., 2004:118).

Similarly, some authors write of a 'rape trauma syndrome' signifying deep disruption of the victim's life-pattern and thought processes not just in terms of the physical effects of rape (physical pain, inability to sleep, prolonged distress), but also in terms of the effects on well-being (fears, mistrust of surroundings and other people, embarrassment, and so on). Rape is an experience, which shakes the foundation of the lives of the victims. For many, its effect is a

long term one, impairing their capacity for personal relationships, altering their behavior and values and generating fear (Temkin, 1995 & Young, 1983 cited in Original et al., 2004).

The psychological pain that follows rape may vary in its intensity depending on a variety of circumstances, although the reactions are generally difficult and unpleasant. According to Byer et al. (1999:572) “a women or a girl response depends on the nature of the attack whether she knows that assailant, the threat of danger, her stage in life and circumstances”.

Faller (1993) explained psychological impacts of sexual abuse which include sexual interactions with others, promiscuous behavior and adolescent prostitution. Sleeping problem, regressive behaviors, guilt and shame, self-distractive behaviors, depression, increased anxiety levels, low-self concept, fear of specific gender, eating disorders, running away, substance abuse, delinquent activities, suicidal behavior, problems relating to peers, school problem, changes in usual behavior (cited in Allyn and Bacon, 2001).

Besides, all cases of the rape of young children involve force. ‘If the child submits to penetration, then the penetration of the anus or the vaginal itself is forceful and, inevitably, painful for the child. Sex and the exercise of power come together in all cases of rape and reach an extreme in the rape of a small child’(Richter and Smith, 2004:24). Similarly, child prostitution has multifarious negative effects both on those who are engaged in the practice as well as the society. ‘Primarily, children engaged in prostitution are the direct victims of the practice, for it affects them physically, socially and psychologically’ (Levesque, 1999:82).

Generally, the following consequences have been identified due to sexual abuse of children in the form of prostitution by Hbtamu (1996):

- The spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS and eventually death;
- Self-degradation and lowering of self-esteem;
- Abuse of child rights;
- Physical and psychological torture of children;
- Stigmatization as social outcast;
- Mental and emotional disturbance;

- High possibility for alcohol, chat and other addictions;
- Guilt and hopelessness;
- Early pregnancy, illegal abortion and sterilization;
- Erosion and degradation of societal moral values.

2.5 - Legal protection of children against sexual abuse

To combat sexual abuse, legal protection is highly necessary. So, measures have been taken against sexual abuses of children at international and national level.

As discussed by Taliercio (1996) the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC), for example, Article 34 indicates that “state parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. For this purpose, state parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measure to prevent the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials. In the same convention Article 19 also pointed out that:

State parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent (s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of child.

Besides, it is elucidated in Article 36 that state parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation to any aspects of the child’s welfare (Taliercio, 1996:16-17). It was stated that Ethiopia has ratified CRC. In addition, Ethiopia ratified African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child (ACRWC) which is an international human rights instrument written by member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The charter obligates states parties to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse (MOLSA and National Steering Committee, 2002).

To mention, *The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia* (CFDRE) (1994) incorporates a number of basic rights for children. For example, Art. 9 and 36 deal with children's rights. As Art 9 states that 'all international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are an integral part of the law of the land' (CFDRE, 1994). Specifically, Art. 36 of the constitution protect children not to be subject to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work that may be hazardous or harmful to his or her education, health or well being (CFDRE, 1994).

Further more, some of the key provisions in the criminal law (2005) are read as follow:

- Rape of girl child of between 13 and 18 years of age by a person of the opposite sex will result in an aggravated case punishable with rigorous imprisonment up to 20 years (Art. (620) (2-a)). A part the age of the victim, one of the aggravating circumstances is the commission of the offence on an inmate of alms-house, asylum, hospital or establishment of education, correction, detention under the supervision or control of the accused person or on a victim who is dependent on or is under the direct control or custody of the accused (pp. 361).
- Sexual intercourse with a girl of 13-18 years by a person of the opposite sex will be punishable with a rigorous sentence of 3 to 15 years regardless of the consent of the minor for the act (Art. 626 (1)). The punishment will be aggravated to 20 years in the cases where the victim is the pupil, apprentice, servant of the perpetrator, or is in any other way directly dependent upon or subordinate to the offender (pp. 364 and 365).
- In Art. (635) (a), trafficking in women or young children by procuring them or inducing them to engage in prostitution, even with their consent , is punishable with rigorous imprisonment not exceeding five years, and fine not exceeding 10,000 Birr (pp.370).

2.6 – The situation of Street Children

The plight of street children is the result of social changes of varying degrees, changes that destabilize or disintegrate the family and community. In many developing countries these changes are natural outcomes of rural-urban migration, incipient revolution and other social unrest, and poverty, whereas in developed countries the plight of children is related to moral abandonment (MOLSA and Radda Barner, 1988).

The vast majorities of street children work and live in large urban centers of developing countries. Some of these are orphaned or separated from their families; still other are born on the street, often to older street girls. Whatever their individual circumstances, street children constitute one of the most marginalized groups in most societies (Labor, 1999 cited in Tadesse, 2006).

According to de Oliveira (2000) sexual abuse, violence in the neighborhood, abandoned by parents, thrown out/asked to leave, no clear reason, death or diseases of one or both parents, peer pressure, violence at home, became attracted to or comfortable with the street life, physical abuse and lack of a sense of belonging were found as a causes why street children go to the street.

While living and working on the streets, street children are disproportionately affected due to extreme poverty and living conditions and particularly vulnerable to different forms of sexual abuses. They remain disadvantaged for their lives because they lack experience of life in normal society (Yamane, 1995). Similarly, Wernham (1993) avowed, street children are more frequently at risk of sexual abuse than other children. They are easy targets to be abused because they are young, often small, poor, and ignorant of their rights and frequently do not have responsible adults to look out for them.

According to UNICEF, street children are the casualties of widespread poverty, rapid population growth, loss of traditional values, domestic violence, physical and mental abuse, and recurrent displacement as a result of civil war, draught and famine. Moreover, the numbers of street children increase as they have lost their parents to illness often associated with

HIV/AIDS (UNICEF, 2007). In Ethiopia, the growing number of street children is one of the most serious urban social problems. In the country as a whole, it was estimated in 1993 that as many as 100,000 children are engaged to varying degrees in street life activities. A considerable number of children work and live on the street without any adult care and protection (MOLSA and UNICEF, 1993).

It was estimated that the number of street children were approximately 200,000 who are working and living on the streets in urban areas, of which 150,000 reside in Addis Ababa. It was also said that about 70% of Ethiopian's street children live with their families in slum areas of the major cities, while the rest live alone on the streets, with no care and support (JJPO, 2005). Street children face hunger, diseases, homelessness, ill treatments by other, many forms of sexual abuse and exploitation with extremely harsh conditions including unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood among girls, labor exploitation, and substance and drug abuse (FSCE, 2003).

The female street child - the female child as a street walker and dweller is relatively a recent phenomenon in Ethiopia. 'The last 25 or so years have witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of female street children so much so that a conservative estimate would give that in Addis Ababa one out of ten street children could be a female' (FSCE and Radda Barner, 1998:31). Correspondingly, UNICEF (2007) estimate the number of street children to be between 500,000-700,000 nationally and approximately 150,000 are working and living in the streets with no care and support in Addis Ababa. Among these, the report indicates that at least 25% are female.

Different surveys also showed that the numbers of living and working female children are growing. For example, a survey conducted by MOLSA indicates that out of 10,000 street children throughout the country, out of which more than 25% of the sample population was made up of females (MOLSA, 1995). Similarly, female street children represented 24% of the sample population of 1000 street children in four major towns namely Addis Ababa, Nazareth, Bahir Dar and Mekele (FSCE and Radda Barner, 1998:15). Thus, female streetism, the life style of female children involved in street life, seems to be on the rise.

The choice to live 'on' or 'of' the streets has less to do with the issue of being a boy or a girl; it rather appears to be a matter of fate for those children under especially difficult social-economic conditions. This is particularly true in view of the fact that a great majority of poor children are being pushed in to street life because of poverty, broken homes, overcrowded housing, stressful conditions and other similar circumstances (MOLSA, 1995). Moreover, children living in certain types of family arrangements are more likely to become involved in street life, notably female-headed households and household with stepparents. Looking at certain data, a large proportion of street children come from families where one or both parents are missing (Tsegaye, 2003).

Traditionally, a girl is expected to spend much of her time and energy on activities that are confined to the domestic unit. Public opinion and normative constraints were also strong enough to keep girls with the 'home'. But, today social conditions and economic necessities, under a changing urban environment, are forcing more and more female children to be initiated daily into street life. Many of them, however, are engaged in activities that generate income and services for the maintenance of their families and themselves (FSCE and Radda Barner, 1998).

The majority of female street children have limited skills and capital to do street business on a large scale. They are made up of illiterate rural migrants and high school dropouts with slim chances of getting employment in the formal sector. The only avenue open to these children is to engage in activities available in the streets. Income generating activities which are commonly performed by female street children include: retailing of commercial items such as chewing gum, soap, napkin etc; peddling home-made foods such as roasted beans, potatoes; collection of firewood; acting messengers; vending newspapers and lottery tickets; changing birr notes into coins for a small commission mainly for shuttle taxis; begging; prostitution (FSCE and Radda Barner, 1998).

Despite the fact that most of the factors that contribute to child streetism are also pushing the female child onto the streets, some of the problems on the street are unique to female children because of their sexuality and invisible status in the society. Female children are more likely to

be victims of frequent sexual abuse and discriminatory practices than boys. For example, evidence from other African societies shows that discriminatory attitudes and practices that are deeply rooted in the cultures and traditions of many societies are perpetuated and accepted primarily because societies are basically complacent and satisfied with the status-quo (UN & OAU, 1994 cited in FSCE and Radda Barnen, 1998).

According to de Oliveira, sexual abuse and exploitation is listed first among the many problems to which female street children are encountered. Thus, there is a high risk of becoming victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuses, STD, promiscuity, early pregnancy and sexual exploitation. Due to various risk factors female street children are vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse (de Oliveira, 2000).

In general, female children who are living and working on the street are vulnerable and victims of sexual abuses. They face the danger of getting into accidents and violence. As stated in reviewed literatures, sexual abuses are widely spread among female street children in Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa in particular. Therefore, there is a need to investigate the various forms of sexual abuse, the causes/risk factors associated with it and the impacts in detail manner unlike the previous researches which treated sexual abuse of female children along with their pressing economic and social plight such as poverty, lack of shelter, food denial of education, AIDS, and substance abuse among others.

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 -The study design

The primary purpose of this study is to explore the forms, causes/risk factors and consequences of sexual abuse among female street children. Moreover, it aims to identify factors that push girls to street life and their current living and working conditions on the street. The researcher made careful decision as to which ways of data gathering methods would be best to understand the issue under study. Thus, a qualitative research methodology is considered appropriate and employed. The data essential for dealing with the stated objectives and answering the stated questions are based on primary and secondary data source. These took the form of qualitative data organized in a way that would respond the basic questions raised in the study.

It was mentioned that feminist researchers recognized the need to discover or develop research methodologies consistent with feminist values that could be advocated for general use in the social sciences. The methodology which they embraced was primarily qualitative (Mies, 1983 cited in Fonow & Cook, 1991; Skeggs (1995), Rose (1994), Smith (1998) cited in Mason, 2005). For this reason, such method permits girls to express their experiences fully and in their own terms as it is possible to develop in-depth relationships with study participants, document what actually happens by observing taboo behaviors in natural settings, address the larger social and cultural context in which study subjects operate, and provide more accurate understanding of study participants' behaviors and motivations. As aptly put by Mason (2005:1):

Qualitative researching is exciting and important. It is a highly rewarding activity because it engages us with things that matter, in ways that matter. Through qualitative research we can explore a wide array of dimensions of the social world, including the texture and weave of everyday life, the understandings, experiences and imaginings of our research participants, the ways that social processes, institutions, discourses or relationships work, and the significance of the meanings that they generate. We can do this qualitatively by using methodologies that celebrate richness, depth, nuance, context, multi-dimensionality and complexity.

3.2 -The study area

The study was carried out in Lideta Sub City, Addis Ababa. The rationales for selecting this area are three-fold.

[1] The researcher is very familiar with the study site as he has been living and working there for six years. Hence, it is conducive to select samples so as to generate sufficient data that would answer the research questions.

[2] The researcher became cognizant that (based on the information he acquired through observation, informal communication and discussion while living and working in the study area) female children who are living and working on the street of the study area are exposed to different maltreatment including brutal nature of sexual abuse. Thus, it would provide a useful context or situation for the generation of data.

[3] It was reported that high concentration of street children are found in different areas of Lideta Sub City. For instance, according to survey conducted by FSCE in 1998 and 2003, the prevalence of street children in particular young girls, who are living and working on the street, was very high the fact that the sub city is situated at the center of Addis Ababa and near to 'Merkato'. As a result, most female children in this area are seen engaged in different income earning activities and exposed to sexual abuse. Consequently, the research is delimited to the area of Lideta Sub City where female street children are seen in various activities and engaged to many forms of sexual abuse.

3.3 -Sources of data

This study utilized both primary and secondary data sources so as to obtain the desired information that would answer the stated research questions. Primary data collection was achieved through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) with female street children, interviews with key informants who have knowledge about the issue under study and through observations around the study area. With regard to secondary data sources, different studies, documents, reports, publications, discussion papers, conducted by individual researchers, government organizations and non government organizations, books, documents form internet were amply reviewed.

Obtaining rich qualitative data meant that research subjects should be pre-selected based on

their level of knowledge, experience, articulation and willingness to participate in a study of such sensitive nature. To this effect, the following sources of data were included in data collection:

3.3.1 -Female Street Children

The study takes central focus on female street children. In selecting female street children as the subject of the study to obtain rich qualitative data, the researcher took in to account the key question in qualitative samples as to whether the sample provides access to enough data, and with the right focus, that enable to address research questions. Bertaux and Wiame claim that:

The size of sample is dictated by the social process under scrutiny. This means that you sample until you reach theory-saturation point, that is, until you know that you have a picture of what is going on and can generate an appropriate explanation for it. This point is reached when your data begin to stop telling you anything new about the social process under scrutiny, and you cannot therefore anticipate in advance when and how that point will be reached (Bertaux and Wiame, 1981 cited in Mason, 2005:134).

Similarly, to obtain rich qualitative data, it was initially decided to take small samples of female street children from the study area. Blaikie (2000:203) said that ‘because qualitative methods are resource-intensive, smaller samples must be used’. Consequently, seventeen female street children for an in-depth interview and eight female street children for FGD were selected to participate in this research. It is worth mentioning at this point that the researcher carefully set some criteria for selecting participants for both in-depth interview and FGD. Hence, female children who are doing various activities to earn their livelihood were targeted and included in the sample. The informants were also between 13 to 18 age groups and lived more than one year on the street. The purpose of selecting such informants with different age, living and working experiences on the street was to generate diverse responses and with a belief that these girls could understand the issue and express their experiences straightforwardly.

With regard to the selection of research participants from Lideta Sub City, judgmental or

purposive sampling technique was employed. As to Blaikie (2000:205), this sampling technique is used ‘to deal with situations where it is impossible or very costly to identify a particular population and to select a variety of types of cases for in depth investigation’. In the process of selecting research participants, the researcher selected female street children that are working and beginning to earn their livelihoods. On the street, female street children work on getting food, money and other goods. These are obtained mainly by begging and working. Beggar children being alone or with groups, they usually target people in cafes, in public squares, or on street corners, where they approach drivers stopped at traffic lights. Working children are vendors of a variety of products. After selecting informants, the researcher made arrangements with participants for an in-depth interview and FGD by briefing the purpose and significance of the study.

On the basis of preliminary assessment/observation, different areas with high concentration of female street children were purposefully selected so as to target informants of the study. It was also stated by Social and NGO Affairs office in Lideta Sub City that quite large numbers of Female Street children are engaged in street way of life in these areas. Thus, female street children were purposefully drawn from diverse areas of Lideta Sub City (see the table below).

Table 3.1- Number of female street children interviewed, by place of interview, Lideta Sub City, Addis Ababa

Places of interview	Number of female street children	
	For an in-depth interview	For FGD
Mexico square area	3	2
Lideta Church area	4	2
Tor Hailoch area	2	-
National Theater area	2	3
Tekle Haimanot area	4	-
Sengatera area	2	1
Total	17	8

3.3.2 - Key informants and organizations

Key informants from various organizations that are knowledgeable with regard to the problem under investigation were identified and included in the study. Accordingly, organizations like Love for Children Organization (LCO), Lideta Sub City Child Protection Unit and NGO and

Social team of Lideta Sub City were purposely selected due to the fact that they have been working and concerned with the welfare of disadvantaged children in general and female street children in particular. Besides, they have provided useful, complementary and corroborative data to address the research questions as they have been operating in the study areas.

Hence, interviews and discussions were conducted with different informants from the above mentioned organizations and social institutions. The informants included program coordinator, street educators (named as Red Children who regularly conduct the roadside HIV/AIDS sensitization along with basic education to the target children and mothers on the street), team leader, police officers, nurse and counselor. In addition, two street boys who are living and working on the street were purposefully selected and interviewed; particular to obtain data on general situation of street way of life and their sexual relationship with female street children.

3.4 - Methods of data collection

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

3.4.1 - In-depth interview

For more qualitative data to be obtained, the researcher met with female street children for an in-depth interview who agreed to discuss the situations of their lives and the difficulties they encounter on a daily basis particularly on the problem of sexual abuse. As it was stated earlier, interviews were held with seventeen female street children who are living and working on the street. These children were composed of nine 'on' and eight 'of' female street children as these two categories of children were identified during pilot study. The former are children that spend the day and night in the street and the latter are children who come to the street for work during the day and they stay at home during the night with their relatives and/or with parents.

Interview guide was used to collect specific information about the issue under study. The questions of the interviews covered a wide range of issues/themes with a focus on forms,

causes/risk factors and harmful impacts of sexual abuse among female street children. Informants were also asked questions which were mostly related to their living and working situations on the street including their socio-economic background, their current working conditions, the causes for being on the street and their risk reducing strategies, among others, while living and working on the street among others (see Appendix I for all questions).

In planning and conducting the qualitative interviewing, rigorous attempt was made to begin discussions by warm-up questions with various participants of the study after having informed consent of participants of the study, and in some cases parents of the children. Then, the researcher used some questions related to the participants' background information and general working and living situations as opening or warm-up topics which in turn pave the way to discuss openly the major issues of sexual abuse among female street children. Similarly, attempt also made to make the questions understandable and clear to each interviewee.

After a through assessment of the interview guide, the instrument was tried out in a pilot study. The pilot study was conducted with three female children (two 'on' and one 'of' female child) who are living and working on the street of the target area. Subsequently, the researcher gained experiences of some aspects of the research process in such a way that it helped to obtain a lot of useful ideas on the identification and selections of samples, on the style and demeanor of asking questions, on the sequence of the questions and generally in conducting qualitative interview in an ethical way. The interview guide was also revised, modified and necessary questioning have been added to collect more meaningful data based on the feedback obtained during pilot study. What is more, the researcher became aware and adopted flexible approach while interviewing female street children. Bryaman said that:

Irrespective of whether the research problem is closely defined, qualitative researchers tend to the view that the predominantly open approach which they adopt in the examination of social phenomena allows them access to unexpectedly important topics which may not have been visible to them had they foreclosed the domain of study by a

structured, and hence potentially rigid, strategy (Bryman, 1988 cited in Blaikie 2000:253).

The other critical lesson learnt during pilot study was the issue of recording interviews. Interviewees were not feeling comfortable in the use of tape-recorder when asked about questions about personal matters which distress and annoy them. Consequently, taking into considerations this fact and given the sensitivity of the issue, the researcher made detail hand written notes for recording each interviews. Here, it is vital to note that the interview guides as well as the FGD guide were translated into Amharic so as to create effective communication and understanding between the informants and the researcher. Interviews with one informant took on the average 55 minutes and the researcher made all interviews himself.

3.4.2 - Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Primary data collection was also achieved through FGD with female street children. Selection of participants of FGD was deliberately aimed at recruiting female children who are living and working on the street for more than one year, between the ages of 13-18 years old and both categories of female street children; 'on' and 'of'. This method was used to identify the general opinion and experiences of a group of female street children, mainly about their common encounters while living and working on the street. Beside, it was primarily chosen for the purpose of substantiating, verifying, building on and adding depth to the results from others sources of data.

A relatively comfortable place, where participants of the focus-group could come easily, was selected. Thus, discussion was held with eight female street children in Kebele 01/18 hall after getting permission from responsible individuals to use the place. FGD participants were from five 'on' and three 'of' female street children who were purposefully selected from three different areas (see table 3.1). Here, it is vital to note that street educators from LCO played critical role not only became an invaluable informant of the study but also actively participated in organizing FGD with female street children. The discussion took a total of one hour and thirty minutes. The researcher took the role of moderator during the discussion.

Then, discussion that concentrated on different themes was conducted. For this reason, discussion guideline was employed. Self introduction, briefing about the purpose of the study and the importance of their participation in the discussion and asking permission to use tape-recorder were some of the ways used to create a comfortable environment and establish rapport with the female children so that they could be free to answer the questions and participate in the discussion. For recording purpose, unlike that of in-depth interview with informants, the researcher used a tape recorder after getting participants consent together with note taking. FGD participants did not show any signs of discomfort being tape recorded. Items recorded included the general situation of female street children including factors for being on the street and current working conditions, female street children problems and common encounters, sexual abusers, consequences of sexual abuse and survival strategies on the street. FGD participants were active and outspoken during discussion.

3.4.3 - Key informants Interview

This method was employed to collect data from those pertinent sources, specifically linked to the purpose of this study because of being member of a particular organization or institution. For this reason, interviews were conducted with those knowledgeable individuals on the subject. Interview guideline for key informants was specifically focused on the information about the general situation of female street children, the problem they encountered including sexual abuse, the impacts of sexual abuse and their programs to combat sexual abuse of female street children in Lideta Sub City among others.

Therefore, interviews and discussions were conducted with two staff and three street educators from Love for Children Organization (LOC), two staff from Lideta Child Protection Unit and with the leader of NGO and Social team of Lideta Sub City. Moreover, at the end of data collection period, the researcher conducted discussions with two street boys who are living and working on the target area. The discussion was aimed to gather information particularly on their relationship with female street children including sexual relationships. Interviews and discussions lasted on the average forty minutes. (See Appendix II-A.B & C for lists of informants). Generally, it was possible to gather depth and useful data that address the research questions by employing the abovementioned instruments and methods of data collections.

3.5 - Negotiating Relationships and Ethical Issues

The aim of negotiating relationships with informants is to allow the researcher to ethically collect necessary data that can answer the research questions of the study. In sensitive researches like sexual abuse of children, it was mentioned that negotiating relationships of informants through different ways prior to the interviews is important (Levett, in Richter et al., 2004; Mason, 2005). Accordingly, establishing trustful relationships/rapport has been found to be indispensable as the central theme of this research is sensitive.

The researcher endeavor to negotiate relationships with research informants and to win informants confidence particularly female street children was highly reduced due to the fact that subjects of the study (female street children) are open and have the skill of creating smooth relationships with any one who wants to talk to them. De Oliveria research on street children shows that ‘street children presence creates a variety of reactions in other individuals. These inevitable contacts demand from the children a great deal of social skill. Street children know that they have to act differently in the presence of different kinds of people’ (de Oliveira, 2000:19).

Therefore, the researcher didn’t encountered as such serious problem in creating trustful relations with research participants that helped him to easily gain permission to conduct interviews and discussions. The warm-up questions and informal discussions with female street children during the beginning of interviews and FGD had played a pivotal role in the process of winning confidences and creating rapport.

It was possible to decide early during the research process how, when and where to conduct interviews based on the preliminary observation and pilot study. This really helped the researcher to create smooth relationships with informants. Hence, interviews with female street children were generally conducted in places where they normally doing their daily activities. In some cases, the researcher used relatively calm places where it was possible to discuss with informants peacefully. Interviews with children were also conducted during day time except two respondents who discuss during evening time. Generally, interviews with female street children were conducted with the place and time they preferred and agreed.

As stated earlier, informed consent was given prime importance in this study. Hence, the researcher clearly stated the purpose and objectives of the study to different informants from various organizations and institutions participated in the study which in turn didn't raise any problem in terms of relationships. Access to information from such organizations and institutions was secured after giving the letter of recommendation written by Institute of Gender Studies, Addis Ababa University. The discussions provided with brief and detailed contextual and situational information of sexual abuse of female street children.

The issue under study is a sensitive one that requires ethical considerations. Thus, the researcher took great care to carefully handle interviews with children about sexual abuses and their subsequent experiences. Emphasis was placed on the female street children having the choice whether and to what extent they wished to participate in the research. Therefore, the research process began asking female street children whether they would agree to participate in the research. Thus, the researcher made an effort to explain the purpose of the study and what would be done with the results. The researcher spent time explaining that there were a lot of questions and if they thought any question to be silly, upsetting or too difficult, then they should let the researcher know. The children were encouraged and shown how to stop the interview at that point and were also encouraged to add anything that they thought was important. Participants were informed that they have the full right to discontinue or refuse to participate in the study. Moreover, the children were told to be free in expressing themselves as the information they provide would be kept confidential, for their names would not be mentioned and that they would not face any kind of problem as a result of being participants in the study.

Overall, many children did take control of both the interviews and FGD. The interviews were filled with emotions and the respondents were free in expressing themselves. Surprisingly, most of the respondents talked very frankly and openly about a range of issues without any hesitation. In line with these, the data obtained was of satisfactory depth and width. At the end of interview and FGD, the children were remunerated in cash for their kind cooperation and time. The researcher also bought some products from working children. Some of the informants were also pleased about the money the fact that they would use the money for food,

clothes and shelter. The researcher did however emphasize that the money was not a payment for the information provided. Besides, the researcher helped two informants (Informant 2 and 7) to get medical services by giving them some money. While discussing about the impacts of sexual abuse, these informants revealed that they were feeling pain in their private area as they were sexually abused while living on the street.

In addition, throughout the process the researcher did his best to be sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues, which would lead to giving the opinion of withdrawing or changing the subject. For the purpose of confidentiality and ethical considerations, in the discussion part and else where in the report, the names of research participants were not used at all.

3.6 - Problems encountered during the research process

Some problems were encountered while conducting the research albeit rich qualitative data obtained to address the research questions. The following were the major ones:

- In some of the cases, female street children work or walk in groups. Therefore, in order to get the real information and to keep informants privacy, the researcher found difficult to separate female street child from the group. It was also difficult to find private places for an in-depth interview. So as to be able to isolate the girl child and not raise suspicion amongst the friends it was vital to spend time to be familiar in the street. The researcher had to spend much time to establish good rapport with some informants as the type of the issue and the questions raised needed more time and effort to gain their trust. In line with this, the researcher used relatively calm places for interview with female street children that in turn avoided interferences by fellow friends and passers.
- On the subject of various forms of sexual abuseive experiences, some female street children were unusually quiet both during in-depth interview and FGD. These informants were reluctant to discuss the problem of sexual abuse in their day to day activities. They didn't want to recall what happened to them as such experiences lead them to regret and sorrow. For instance, two informants were withdrawn from the research when they asked about their experiences about sexual abuse while living and working on the street. Then, the researcher allowed them to escape from the research.

Whenever informants felt distress, the researcher tried to focus on other issues or in some cases left out the questions. On the whole, the way informants asked made these informants more open and frank to discuss their sexual experiences. Starting with more general questions/warm-up questions and then proceeding to the personal ones was found to be a good way to make the discussions smoother. Afterwards, some informants showed interest in taking part of the interview.

- In most of the cases, female street children discussed their abusive experiences openly and frankly the fact that the researcher established trustful relationships prior to the interview and FGD. However, the gender of the researcher (being male) was obstacles especially with one 'on' female street children despite the established rapport. The informant was not able to talk about her sexual abuse experiences to the researcher. Therefore, the informant was given the chance to withdraw from the research process.
- Some of the interviewees appeared to be tired and exhausted of approached and being questioned by individuals for various purpose. These informants were unwilling to discuss the situations of their lives and the problem of sexual abuse in their day to day activities. Still, the researcher had to spend much time in convincing most informants to participate in the research process.

Here, it is important to mention that the study is methodologically delimited in such a way that a sample of 17 female street children who are living and working on the street are targeted and included in the study for sensitivity of the issue and to obtain rich qualitative data that would answer the research questions.

3.7 - Data analysis

The data obtained through the aforementioned methods of data collection were organized in line with the objectives of the research and in line with the ongoing interpretation of the data. In this process, transcriptions and coding of the information from interviews and FGD were primary carried out to use the data systematically. Similarly, remarks taken by the researcher during data collection was also organized and included to enrich the discussion of the findings.

Data gained in the process of interviewing informants or from documents were analyzed using qualitative data analysis procedures that involve breaking down the information into different themes and categories which appear to be important. In this process, the researcher used a special form of coding which is a central activity in qualitative data analysis. Such coding also facilitates description and is used for analysis (Blaikie, 2000:239).

Accordingly, the researcher made himself familiar with the interviews and FGD transcripts, field notes and documents collected for the study by reading, studying and thinking about them. Then, qualitative data were categorized into different themes and categories for the purpose of retrieval of sections of text, or elements of the data, and some form of further analysis or manipulation. The method employed to organize and analyze the qualitative data was fundamental to explore the various forms of sexual abuse, the causes/risk factors and the consequences among female street children in the target area.

CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 - Working conditions and reasons for being a street child

This section seeks to present working conditions and causes that lead to street way of life of female street children who were selected to participate in the study from Lideta Sub City as these issues directly or indirectly would answer the research questions. The data collected represent the out come of interviews, FGD as well as previous research findings of street children in Ethiopia and other countries.

Information with regard to female street children general background characteristics such as age, educational level, status on the street, religion and place of origin are attached in the appendix part (See Appendix II-A). However, information in line with female street children's' working conditions on the street and reasons for being on the streets will be discussed in detail in the following part the fact that such issues have some sort of correlation to the basic question raised in the study.

4.1.1 -Working conditions of female street children

Female street children stay on the street for the most part of the day and even some stay the night as well. These children are not in school even though they are of school age and some struggle to continue their education during evening classes. Most of them have usually weary appearance while performing various activities on the street in order to secure their livelihood. Most of informants in this study are engaged in different activities for obtaining income to help themselves and their family for food, shelter and other basic necessities for life. These are obtained through various activities either by staying in one place or by carrying small items around the streets. These activities include selling of items such as roasted cereals 'kollo, boiled eggs, enjera, and other vegetables in small local market places. Other activities include selling napkins, peanuts, cigarettes, chewing gum, shoe shining, changing coins into 'birr' note for taxis, begging and prostitution, among others, are reported as the most activities performed by informants in the target area.

Female street children being alone or with groups, usually target people for begging in cafes, in the hotels, or on street corners where they approach drivers stopped at traffic lights. An

informant said that *‘we often ask people for money on the streets and car drivers on traffic light to cover our food and house rent as we sleep in rented house. If that doesn’t work, we work prostitution to secure money (Informant14).* An informant who sells small item like napkins and cigarettes affirmed that she doesn’t care doing begging and prostitution if she gets money.

Sometimes I don’t get enough money selling small items to cover my school fee and to help my poor mother, who sell ‘enjera’ in local market. Because of this, I often engaged in begging. Besides, I don’t mind to go with diverse men who asked me to sleep with them. I don’t hesitate to make sex with them if the money is good enough for me (Informant 8).

Similarly, FGD participants and street educators affirmed that most girls activities on the street are depend up on how much money they get. It was mentioned that some girls change their job and others do various job at the same time. Shifting one job to the other or doing different jobs simultaneously indicates that female street children are obliged to do different jobs to get more money for themselves or for their family. In order to fulfill their basic needs and to help their families, they are also engaged in sexually abusive conditions like prostitution. .

Here, it is vital to note that the type of work/activities female street children perform on the street varies based on their street status. The information gathered from informants in Lideta Sub City showed that the activities/work female street children are engaged depends upon their status on the street which can be categorized in to ‘on the street’ and ‘off the street’ children. In this particular study, there are informants who are categorized under ‘on the street children’ and informants who categorized under ‘off street children’. This means that members of the first group have families and/or relatives in their home and return home during night to sleep after working on the street during the day time. But, it does not mean that all female street children go back home during the night. As to FGD participant M, *‘these children may sleep somewhere during the night where they are comfortable. They may sleep on the street with other street children or they may go with various men to make sex work’.*

On the other hand, the second groups of female street children have no home. These children consider the street to be their home. They choose the street to live and to work all the time even if some of them had alternatives to stay in relative's home and some organization. From the above discussion we can understand that distinction of female street children being 'on' and 'of' determines the type of activities/work they perform on the street to some extent. For example, most 'of' female street children are engaged in begging and prostitution while selling petty items are performed by 'on' female street children although they are also engaged in sexually abusive conditions like prostitution.

Furthermore, in the discussion with participants of FGD and interview with street educators, it was pointed out that begging and prostitution are the major activities done by female street children who live and work on the street whereas selling small items, shoe shining and changing coins into birr note to taxis are the major activities of female street children who live with their families or with their relatives. However, they pointed that there are also girls who have families and engaged in begging and prostitution as well. Therefore, from the prior discussions one can understand that female street children activities to earn money make them vulnerable and victims of sexual abuse like prostitution.

4.1.2 - Reasons for being a street child

As it is shown in chapter two while discussing about the situation of street children in Ethiopia, it was stated that the flows of female children to the street have continued in spite of all of the hazards to which they are subjected when they are living and/or working on the streets. Hence, identifying causes that lead girls to the street is an important step in order to prevent children from running away to the street which in turn play a momentous role to lessen or curb the various problems they encounter on the street including sexual abuse.

Female street children in the study area have drifted away from their home or families of orientation to the street due to an assortment of causes. Hence, in the following section attempt has been made to discuss the major factors that lead girls to street way of life.

Problems occurred in the families of female street children were identified as the causes that lead girls from home and school to the street. Among the many problems in the family of the

subject of this study, the following were reported by informants that forced them to resort street life.

Female street children work most of the day time to earn money to support their families. Most of informants who work on the street of the target area reported that they come from poor family background. One of the informants is working on the streets due to the fact that her poor mother and her two young sisters do not have anything to eat at home, except waiting what she could do for them:

I have been in the street for the last three years. I often walk around Addis Ababa Stadium, Mexico and around National Theater. I am working on the street to help my mother who suffers a lot to raise her children. I have started working on the street to get money after my father passed away due to car accident. I was grade 6 before I started working. However when the problem became worst and difficult to be handled by my mother who struggle to raise her children, I decided to quit my education and start working on the street (Informant 11).

Similarly, FGD participants revealed that most girls work and live on the street due to the fact that they are from low income families. Girls are expected to help their impoverished family's members and themselves. Their parents are not able to provide enough resources to cover their basic necessities such as food, clothes and other needs important for life. Thus, they were triggered to work on the street to help their parents. Here, one can see from two dimensions girl's involvement on the street to help their families. First and for most, they are responsible for domestic activities. Second, they are expected to work on the streets which make them vulnerable to many problems as they are children. They have to bring money from the street working different types of activities which are crucial for the sustenance of their family. This information resemble to what Heyzer (1996) said about the responsibility of the girl child in the family in such a way that if the girl child caught in the poverty trap or if she is deprived of scarce household resources, she is expected to held back from school and to be the family's secondary nurturer.

Most families could not help their children but watch their children joining the streets. In some cases, families and/or relatives may initiate and force them to be in the street to do some work

there and bring money home. One informant said *'my mother is local drinks seller like Tej and Tella. I often help her at home. But, she told me to stop helping her in domestic activities and better to start working on the street. Now, I am working on the street in order to help my mother and to cover my education fee* (Informant 6).

A large number of informants covered in this study said that they take the money back home to support their parents, relatives and themselves. Thus, the above data shows that most female street children do shoulder family responsibility and significantly contribute to the sustenance of family members. They go out to the street with the aim of earning some income to help their families and themselves too.

Attempt has been made to explore family's employment status of female street children the fact that most informants mentioned they are performing various activities on the street to help their families among other reasons. Here, the purpose is to check informant's family economic level so that it is possible to understand from which family background these girls are. Hence, formal sector employment like working in organizations is hardly to be an opportunity for the families of these girls. Most informants stated that their parents do not have regular income working in organizations whether they live with their mothers only/father only or both. Domestic servant, daily laborer, beggars, sells food items in local markets; vending newspaper and lottery tickets; shoe repairing and farming were reported some of the ways principal income earners of families of female street children are engaged. One informant who lives with her mother stated that *'my mother is illiterate and doesn't have any formal employment in any organizations. She washes clothes in different houses to earn money. She prepares boiled potatoes every night and I sell it always during the day'* (Informant 3).

Likewise, another informant who change coins into 'birr' note to earn some money so that she can help her family said that *'my father is breadwinner of our family. He is a daily laborer. He earns little money as a daily laborer. Thus, I started working on the street to assist my family income* (Informant 4). So, one can understand that due to poverty families require their children to go out to the streets and supplement household income. In line with this, a survey conducted in 1992 in some selected areas of Addis Ababa clearly illustrate how poverty is

rampant in the inner city areas in such a way that: ‘about 60 to 70 percent of the population in Arada, Addis Ketema, Tekelhamanot, Kirkos and Kolfe did not have sufficient income to purchase the minimum basket’ (Solomon, 1993 cited in FSCE and Radda Barner, 1998:36).

Therefore, from the information about family employment status, it can be deduced that female street children belong to the very low income family as the type of occupation informants’ family or principal earner in their families engaged. Because of low income in their family or because of the inability of families to earn sufficient income, girl children (who live either with their mother only/father only or both) are forced or initiated by their families to work on the street which make the girl children vulnerable to many problems in the street.

Furthermore, female street children at Lideta Sub City prefer street life to home because of violence and abuse by their own family members. What some informants stated clearly signify that violence at home make girls to choose street life than their home:

My father often creates problems and quarrel with his families whenever he came home drunk. He was alcohol addicted and came home late being intoxicated. Our small home was always feeling with anxiety and fears. He had beaten my poor mother and me without any reason. He didn’t like me. I left my home as I was afraid that he will kill me (Informant 15).

I was born and raised in Dire Dewa. When I reached grade 4, my uncle brought me to Addis Ababa as I was not comfortable to live with my divorced family. I was neglected badly by my family. My uncle has a wife and three children: one boy and two girls. One day, when I was reading my books in my room, he entered my room and asked me to sleep with him. He had drunk a lot that day. Unfortunately, no one was around me. Then, he forced me to have sex with him. I joined street life after my uncle raped me (Informant 1).

The above quotations and information from informants revealed that female street children are more likely to join street or to leave their home due to sexual, physical and psychological violence at home. They choose street life as the alternative to various forms violence at home by older member of the family. An informant, who sells boiled potatoes on the street, gives

evidence that she is going to leave her home due to her parents: *'I can't see any difference for me being on the street struggling to get money by selling 'potatoes' and being in home where both my mother and my father hurt me'*. She described that when evening comes, she start worrying since her home is not safe. On one hand, her mother was not always pleased with what she did; on the other hand, her father who often intoxicated creates trouble in home:

My mother always took the money I brought home after selling boiled potatoes. She never satisfied with what I did and she blamed me for that matter. If the money is less than what she expects, she beaten me and insulted me thinking that I didn't work properly. Moreover, my father who came home being drunk always quarreled with my mother because of money. When I told him not to say bad words against my mother, he beaten me throwing everything that he can found around him. Unless things change in our home, I will leave my home soon (Informant 3).

It was also briefly indicated by street educators that quarrel between the girl child and family members is one of contributing factor that make girls at high risk to start a street way of life. The street educators said that it is common to find girls on the street due to some sort of disagreement/conflict between the girl and family members. The girl may quarrel with her mother, father or member of her family due to various reasons. She usually runs away from home being scared of beating and other problems whenever she clash with her families. To mention one, street educator F told a story of one girl: *'the girl was engaged in activities that her families don't like. She started affiliation with a boy in her village neglecting her education. At the end of the day, she became pregnant. Eventually, she made the street her place to live as their parents clash and abandoned her'*.

Moreover, some girl children are forced to leave home by their families because the family doesn't approve of a child's behavior or its consequences e.g. pregnancy. Besides, it is clear from the data that some factors contribute to different forms of violence in their home against female children: factors like poverty and alcohol abuse impacts on levels of violence in families.

In line with the causes related to family that lead girls to come into the street, it was explored that family breakdown due to divorce and death of one or both parents was identified as one principal factor that expose girls to street way of life. Some informants revealed that they start living and/or working in the streets of the target area after their parents divorced and start living separately that make women unable to help her children. Some informants also affirmed that they were exposed to street life due to the fact that they lost their parents with accidents or illness. What was said by informants clearly shows how they start living/working in the street. *'It is very difficult to live in home where there is no mother or father to prepare food and other basic things'*. Furthermore, one informant was very upset while she was reporting about the cause that forces her to work on the street:

I have started working on the street after my father has passed away due to HIV/AIDS. He was the only breadwinner of our family. My mother is now sick and can't move from place to place. I must work on the street to help my families as I have no other alternative to get money (Informant 8). Thus, children often join street way of life to get money when they lost their parents because of HIV/AIDS.

Here, it can be said that female street children come to the street to live or to work because of the breakdown of their biological parents. In a situation where there are no parents for better control and nurturing of their children, it is obvious that girl child are at high risk of getting into violence and to go into the street life for various reasons which include helping other family member or to help themselves for food, shelter and educational fee. If we look at an informant who lives with her uncle after her biological parents divorced, it is clear that she exposed to street life after her uncle raped her. Had her parents been living together, the girl may not be raped and may not start living on the street. Thus, it seems that non-parental upbringing might also create problem to girl children to be sexually, physically and psychologically abused and eventually make the girl child susceptible to street way of life. Therefore, different problems arising from family environment are the principal factors for girls to initiate or forced to resort a street life.

Here, it is vital to put the following quotation to explore other cause for the girl to be on the street:

I was good student before I dropped out from my education and exposed to street life. I became one member of a group of students in my school when I was grade nine to make the group five in number (three boys and two girls). We had good relationships and strong communications in our group. In the mean time, we started chewing ‘chat’, smoking ‘shisha and cigarette’ and ‘chebsi’. We hardly went to school and home. Finally, we decided to live in rented room when one of the girls in our group became pregnant. We were free on the street and in our room to do everything we want during the beginning of our street life. I am now begging on the street to get some money for our food, clothes and shelter (Informant 14).

As the above unpleasant incident discussed by one of the informants with irritated manner and the data from some informants clearly illustrate that some girls are exposed to street life caused by their behavioral problems. As to some informants and the above happening, it seems true that behavioral change of girls, for example being drug addicted which is unacceptable to the parents and the society at large; make the girl child to be deserted by the entire family members. Although such neglect by family make girls to go to street way of life, it should be critical to note that the girl’s behavior is the major reason to create such conflict between the girl and her family. However, the girl child shouldn’t be blamed as she is the product of the society at large.

Similarly, the street educators explained that a large number of children live in the street as they think that they enjoy freedom on the street than their home. Street educator G pointed out that *‘as parents often control their children not to do some bad things like chewing chat, smoking cigarette and drinking alcohol, children need a place where they can do whatever they want to do. Then, they come up with a quick decision that the street is conducive place’*. Thus, from the preceding discussion it can be said that the desire to seek freedom outside parental control may initiate the girl children to join the street way of life with a wrong idea that the street is a place where they get freedom and excitement. Here, it can be said that one of the contributing factors for girls to be exposed to street way of life is behavioral problems of the girl child which in turn initiate the girl child to choose the street than home and school to get freedom and excitement.

Another interesting finding in this study that lead girls to street way of life is peer/friends influence. Some informants mentioned that one of the causes that escort the girl children to live and work on the street is the influence of friends who once make the street a place to live and work. They signify that girls can easily be part of street life if they have friends who already became street children. One informant reported that she started working on the street after her friend, who was a neighbor and classmate, start working on the street. She said that:

I saw my friend dressing better when we go to school most of the time. I was curious to know how she dressed like that. She told me that it is the work she is doing whenever she gets free time that gives her opportunity to earn money. Then, she advised me to start working with her promising that she will help me. Finally, I have started selling tea and bread on the street (Informant 10).

Similarly, street educators affirmed what they usually encounter during their day to day activities on the street with regard to the causes that lead the girl children to the street life. Accordingly, it was pointed out that some street children in general and female street children in particular join street life to live/to work due to the fact that they were influenced by their friends ‘*Most girls on the street are victims of influence by friends who have already joined street life*’ (Street educator F).

The above description may indicate that girls are more likely to join street way of life as a result of the influence from friends. Pressures exerted by friends on girls initiate or encourage them to engage on street way of life that are exacerbated by poverty, violence and conflict in the family. Thus, peer influence can be seen as a contributing cause for the incidence of more girls on the street.

Furthermore, during in-depth interviews with the informants of the study, the researcher was able to raise some questions to inspect their place of origin so as to explore other causes that lead girls to street life. Incidentally, the data shows that female street children are from both Addis Ababa and outside. When a further question goes to those who came from other region

i.e. out of Addis Ababa, the data shows girls were exposed to street way of life due to some practices in their community among other factors.

Some informants signify that what their community practiced as a tradition, besides to violence and poverty in their family, forced them to resort street way of life. They mentioned that some harmful cultural practices in their community put them in danger and exposed them to many problems in their life. In addition to social, health, physical and psychological problems such harmful practices created in their lifespan, it also make girls to live on the street of urban areas. This was what an informant who came from the rural part of Ethiopia said in relation to how harmful traditional practice in her community makes a street girl:

I was given to my husband at the age of 13. By then I was going to school. I was forced to stop going to school and I got married. Since I had an ambition to be successful student, I escaped from my marriage after two days and run away to Addis Ababa with the money I stole from my husband. I stayed in a hotel for some days. I tried to find my aunt in Addis Ababa, but to no avail. I joined street life when I finished the money I brought (Informant 17).

From the above quotation it can be said that girls escape early marriage to fulfill their long term ambition and desire. They migrate to urban cities to find some better ways for survival. However, what they encounter in cities is quite hard that they eventually join street way of life as there are no any restrictions and rules on the street. Similarly, information from FGD participant affirmed that there are many girls who migrate to urban cities due to the need to escape from violence in their families and in their communities. The participant mentioned that girls run away from their birth place so as to make them free from harmful traditional practices. However, with no/little education and employment opportunity in urban cities, the girls ended up on the street as a final destination. Meanwhile, researches show that early marriage is commonly practice in Ethiopia. For example, ‘median age at first marriage in Ethiopia is 15.6 and practice in different parts of the country despite its negative consequence on girls’ (Kumsa cited in BERCHI, 2004:61).

Thus, from the foregoing discussion it can be deduced that one of the cultural practices by community is harmful traditional practice in general or early marriage in particular in such a way that girls leave their village to escape such practice. As such harmful practice has negative consequences, girls forced to leave their families and their place of origin that make their lives at risk of exposing street life. They migrated to urban cities to escape from such harmful traditional practices.

Moreover, what some informants from rural background mentioned clearly shows that sometimes girls come to Addis Ababa in general and other urban cities in particular with the promise of education and good employment opportunity by various groups of their community. They migrate from rural part to urban cities by families, relatives and friends for work in homes, hotels and restaurants as a child laborer. They move to urban cities with the promise of better education, food, and other necessities and due to family abuse, family disintegration, and poverty. This was what one informant in the target area said sadly about the reason how she joined street life:

I left my village and my family last year when I was 14 years of age. My father always tells me that I should work in Addis Ababa like the girls in our village. When his friend came to our village to visit his own mother, my father sent me together so that his friend search work for me. After some times, he put me as a domestic laborer in one house. I had worked every day from early mornings to late nights. I worked for about a year and hardly got any payment. I didn't see my father's friend from the moment we separated. Eventually, I run out from that house, and I am here on the street (Informant 2).

Street educator B on his part also affirmed that he encountered many girls on the street who came from places out side Addis Ababa. They come here because of family disintegration, violence in their family and their community, to avoid harmful traditional practices like early marriage, poverty in their family and child trafficking for domestic work, among others. But, they sometimes end up in the street way of life as they face difficulties to cope up in urban areas. Thus, from the former information it can be understood that girls migrate from their place of origin to urban areas for employment and education, among others, by various group

of the community they belong to. Hence, as the finding of this study revealed migration of girls from their place of origin to urban areas like Addis Ababa forced them to join street life.

Though the factors that lead girls to street life are interrelated, the finding of this study indicate that migration of girls from their place of origin to urban area, like Addis Ababa, is attributed to the cause related to practice in their community. As the data show girls exposed to street way of life because of migration initiated through child trafficking and run away to escape early marriage as the prominent factors for girls to move to urban areas in the study area.

Having seen about female street children activities on the street and the many causes that lead these girls to the street way of life, it is important to point out the risk involved in living and working on the street among female street children. Accordingly, the information from almost all informants in this study shows that living and working in the street is highly risky. They affirmed that they encountered various problems in the street by different group of people while they are living and working. Among the reported problems in the street female street children face, it was clear from the data that they are exposed to physical, sexual and psychological abuse and denied access for education, shelter, nutrition etc that are vital for life. Moreover, some informants revealed that they are without parental protection and exposed to bad weather conditions, health problems, drug abuse, accidents and societal discrimination.

However, it is very crucial to note the fact that despite they have encountered a lot of problem on the street, female children who are living and working are particularly victim of various forms of sexual abuse by various group of the society. The finding of the study shows that female street children were sexually abused while living and working on the street of Lideta Sub City. Therefore, in the following section, the researcher has made an endeavor to explore the various forms of sexual abuse among female street children.

4.2- Forms of sexual abuse among female street children

It was noted that while living or working on the street, female street children are vulnerable and at high risk of getting in to danger and different problems. Among such problems they

face on the street, sexual abuse was explored as major problem which has negative consequences among the victims.

As it has been indicated in chapter two, forms of sexual abuse against children have generally been categorized into non-touching and touching offences. However, from these categories, the finding of the study only revealed the touching sexual abuses against female street children as most of the questions raised during interviews were limited to such forms of sexual abuse.

In the process of exploring forms of sexual abuse among female street children, the researcher asked how informants engaged in sexual relation/experience in the first time. With regard to first sexual experience, the data shows that some informants became sexually active after they joined street way of life, and some other informants affirmed that they had sexual experience before they joined the street. Informants who had sexual experience either before or after street way of life explained how they were exposed to sexual relation. Rape, marriage, personal desire, promising of money/gifts was reported as reasons for their sexual initiation. They also witnessed the place for their first sexual initiation to be the street, hotel and individual house/room. Consequently, attempt has been made to identify the various forms of sexual abuse among female street children from the data gathered during fieldwork.

➤ **Rape**

Female street children are forced to do sex against their will while they are living and working on the street. The data from fieldwork demonstrate that they have been raped by different groups of individuals through the use of physical force (beating), fear (pointing knife), and deception (promising of material and money). As mentioned earlier, female street children were categorized in to two major groups based on their status on the street; i.e. 'on' and 'of' the street children. Thus, information from informants affirmed that rape is more pervasive among 'of' female street children who live and work on the street. Accordingly, these girls have been raped several times from the moment they joined street way of life. All of this informants said that they were forced to have sex several times after they were exposed to street way life. What informants sadly said clearly signify how rape is rampant among girls who are living on the street:

When my parents passed away, I joined street way of life. I was forced to beg for my food from the moment I lost my parents. On the first day of my street life I met a street boy. We met around Mexico square. The boy has been on the street for many years. Then, he told me that I can sleep on his 'plastic' shelter. He raped me in his room forcefully albeit I oppose to do sex with him. This was my first sexual exposure. From that incident we became friends. I remember that I was also forced to do sex by drunken other street boys when my friend is not around (Informant 7).

I was not treated well in the house where I was working as a domestic child laborer. I came to the street when I was repeatedly beaten and mistreated by the wife. She used to beat me telling me that I am not working well. So, one day I decided to run away from that house. I stayed on different streets found at Merkato, Piazza and now around Lideta church. On the street, I was frequently raped by street boys and other men (Informant 2).

The above incidents are what other girls who live on the street often experience in their day to day life on the street. All 'of' female street children explained that rape is common among them whenever they are on the street. Similarly, FGD participants also express that rape is rampant among female street children who live and work on the street. As to the participants, girls are forced to make sex with other street boys if she lives on the street. Hence, it can be said that 'of' female street children were raped due to the fact that as a consequence of their involvement on the street life that have little/no security.

Despite the fact that 'of' female street children are more victims of rape, the data showed that 'on' female street children also are vulnerable and victims of forced sex. These girls stay on the street for various activities most of the day time and often go back home to sleep in the evening time. Although they are safe from problems during night on the street, they are vulnerable to sexual abuse to the extent that some girls became victim of rape while working most of the day time. They are exposed to do sex with various groups of men through force, fraud and fear. These were what two informants who work on the street said with disappointing manner about their experiences:

It was late evening (around 10:00 pm) I returned home after I sold 'NIFRO' (boiled cereal). In my way to home, two drunken boys came to me and one of them snatched the money I got that day. Then, the other one treated me as if he were friendly to me, saying not to worry about the money and started touching my body and kissed me forcefully. When I tried to run away from him, he showed me something like a knife. Then, they took me to a public hidden area and raped me one after the other' (Informant 12).

I often beg on the street targeting car drivers. One day, a man gave me 10.00 Birr and told me to follow him. He stopped the car after the traffic light and opened the door for me to enter. Then, he promised me that he will give me clothes and money in his room when I told that I am working to get money. After that he drove the car to his home. But, when we reached his room, he asked me to do sex. When I say I don't need to do that, he forced me to do sex. He raped me (Informant 14).

The preceding quotations and information from other informants showed that female street children are victims of rape while they are living and working on the street. As the data from informants showed diverse categories of people were forced or deceive female street children to be engaged in sexual relation without their will. Young boys (both street and non-street), adult men who are strangers for the girls were identified as sexual abusers against female street children in the target area. Abusers are from various economic status and age group. What is more, as to informants, abusers are from rich, poor and they belong from old to young age groups. Informants revealed that sexual abuser are older than them in most cases. This indicates that rape committed by persons older and physically stronger than the victims.

Moreover, female street children were raped not only by single abuser but were raped to satisfy a group of individual. From the information gathered for this study, it was explored that a group of street boys and a group of young boys (non-street) forced girls who are living and working on the street to make sex. As one informant declared sadly *'I have been living in a group of street children after I joined street life. Street boys in that group consider me as girl friend for them. I was raped by all members of the group several times'* (Informant 1).

Another informant was about to cry when she explained her first sexual exposure:

I had a customer (around Addis Ababa Stadium) who often bought me 'KOLLO' and through time he has created smooth relationship. We had greetings and some kind of talk. Then, when he was sure I knew him well, he asked me to make 'Coffee' in his friend's house while they are chewing Chat. He was with other two men. He promised me that he will give me money for the time I spent and nothing will happen to me. He did exactly what he promised to me. But...

The girl stopped talking for some time and continued, with anger and guilt, telling what happened to her:

After two days he asked me to do the same. I went to the same house and made 'Coffee'. But, what happened to me was very terrible. Two of his friends left the room and he asked me to come on the bed. When I told him I never had sex before, he didn't listen to me. He raped me forcefully. When he finished, the other two also did the same. On that day, I had to satisfy not one but two rude men. It was my first exposure to sex (Informant 11).

Thus, the foregoing discussion indicates that female street children are victims of gang rape as well while they are living and working on the street being forced and deceived by diverse individuals. Similar to what has been said so far about one form of sexual abuse among female street children, street educators affirmed that rape is common among girls who are living and working on the street. According to Street educator B *'once the girl start living on the street, there is no any way to keep her from forced sex. She is forced to have sexual intercourse by single or group of boys against her will'*.

Hence, it is vital to note that rape of female street children is one form of sexual abuse and it is considered to be a statutory rape since this type of rape involves sexual relations between an adult and adolescent with younger children who are under the age of consent i.e. 18 years.

Meanwhile, a number of informants said that they were able to escape attempted rape while living and working on the street. To protect themselves from rape and other problems, street

girls use some risk reducing strategies. Accordingly, the data show that both ‘on’ and ‘of’ street girls often used combination of two or more techniques at different times that include limiting mobility, running and hiding, seeking protection from passer-by, giving coins and some materials. Moreover, according to street girls who join street life are sure to be raped by street gang or bigger boys living on the street. The street educators further explained what they encountered in their day to day activities and from their past living experience on the street that in order to protect themselves from different individual as well as gang rape, female street children would be the girl friend of one of the bigger boys living on the street. But, most new comers are reported to be raped before settling with one boyfriend. This implies that girls make choice to stick to one boy on the street as a mechanism or strategy in order to keep her form rape and other problems.

➤ **Child prostitution**

As it has been discussed in chapter two, child prostitution is one form of sexual abuse among children where children are engaged in promiscuous sexual intercourse for money, and /or material advantage. Besides, it has been noted that child prostitution, sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, sale of children for sexual purposes have been interchangeably used to describe the same concept at different times by different researchers (See chapter two). In line with this, prostitution was explored as one forms of sexual abuse among female street children in Lideta Sub city.

Female street children were asked during fieldwork to state whether or not they were engaged in sexual relation to get money or material as a gift. Besides, with the aim of getting a better understanding about their engagement in prostitution, those who were involved were asked to indicate the frequency of their engagement. The following anecdotes forwarded by two informants with depressing manner showed to what extent they are practicing prostitution:

I always do two things on the street (begging and prostitution) to help myself and my baby. I engaged in prostitution to get money so that we can live tomorrow. For me, when I have no any other option to get money, the quickest way of getting money is with prostitution. I always do this in order to live tomorrow (Informant 7).

I sell small items like Napkin, cigarette etc on the street for various individual. I often target people in hotels, cafes, car drivers and individual on the street. In this process, most men invite me for something to eat and to drink while I am doing my job. There are also rich men who came with their car and offered a lot of money for sex. I sometimes accept their invitation and go with those rich men as the money is a lot (Informant 13).

Thus, the findings of this study imply that child prostitution is one form of sexual abuse among female children who are living and working on the street in the target area. It is clear from the prior description that a number of Female Street children have been engaged in prostitution for different reasons. Some girls practice commercial sex most of the time and even adapted it as a means of generating income or as their main activities on the street. Some informants also revealed that they engaged in prostitution sometimes for material and financial gain.

Here, it should be noted that the status of female street children being ‘on’ and ‘of’ has a big deal to determine to what extent girls are engaged on prostitution. As it has been discussed earlier, for example, rape among ‘of’ female street children is more pervasive than ‘on’ female street children while living and working on the street. Like wise, the findings of this study indicate that ‘of’ female street children who live on the street are highly engaged and practiced prostitution with diverse individuals. Information from ‘of’ female street children showed that they engaged in prostitution most of the time with various individuals. Their clients belong to poor, rich, young and old men. They indicate that they often encounter drunken men as they come out to the street at night as well. An informant said that ‘*I do have a lot of clients. I don’t care who is sleeping with me if he gives me money*’ (Informant 2).

Another informant also witnessed sadly that she engaged and practiced prostitution with diverse individuals for the sake of money:

I stay in the main street till midnight looking for clients. Sometimes, my clients take me to a hotel or to their own room. When street boys come to have sex with me, they took me to hotels, lonely place such as rivers, and public abandoned areas or in a narrow street (Informant 15).

Female street children are helpless and they are usually coerced. They are particularly vulnerable to adult exploitation, and sell their body to various clients. Some use their car, other use hotels, street and their own room to exploit girls. On the other hand, as some 'on' female street children affirmed they sometimes engaged in prostitution depends on the economic status of their clients. A number of these girls affirmed that it is the money they earn will determine whether they practice commercial sex or not. Most of these girls stay the night with their parents, relatives or siblings in their home which in turn implies they are not engaged in prostitution at night. However, the finding of this study showed these girls are also exposed to prostitution while they are working on the street. They are vulnerable to adult exploitation, and sell their body to various individuals.

Some questions were raised to FGD participants with regard to commercial sex among 'on' female street children in particular so as to better understand the nature of commercial sex work among working female children. Most participants mentioned that female street children are engaged in sex relationship with adults usually adult men with car in exchange for money and gifts. It was mentioned that adult men often targets girls and sometimes some girls targets these men due to the fact that they provide them a big deal of money.

Similar to what were said by FGD participants and some informants, like that of Informant 13 stated earlier, one of street educators also explained that working girls on the street sometimes engage in prostitution in exchange of money and gifts especially with rich adult men . He pointed out that these girls have regular clients while working on the street:

I knew some girls who get money, clothes and gifts from rich men in exchange for sex. I observe such practice by these girls in my day to day activities on the street. When I tell them to stop doing such practice, they will stay away from me the next day (Street Educator B).

Generally, as the data of this study indicate that both 'on' and 'of' female street children are engaged and practice prostitution while they are living and working on the street in spite of the fact that it is more pervasive among 'of' girls to the extent that they did prostitution as their major activities on the street. They are exploited by diverse group of people. Here, it is vital to

point out what two informants, who live on the street and engaged regularly in prostitution, said candidly about the problems they face. Although a number of informants mentioned with distressing manner a lot of problems in doing prostitution, the information from two informants need to be seen as one form of sexual abuse among female street children. This was what one of the informant witnessed frankly being irritated:

My clients usually asked me to do different types of sex. One day, one of my clients took me to his room around mid night. He was intoxicated. Then, in his room, he took bath and I did too. Immediately he opened sex film. While we were watching the film, he asked me to do the same like the girl in the film. The man told me that he will give me more money if I do the same like the girl in the film. Though I was desperate to do what he wants, he forced and used me for anal sex' (Informant 9).

Thus, the implication of the above quotation which is similar to other informant is two- fold. Firstly, female street children are sexually abused while engaged in prostitution which has negative consequences on the well being of the girls. Secondly, they are in danger of various problems doing prostitution at the same time including rape (anal rape). Hence, it can be argued based on the finding of this study that anal rape is one form of sexual abuse among female street children in the target area.

➤ **Unwanted kissing and breast fondling**

Female Street children are sexually abused by various groups while they are living and working on the street. As stated earlier, they are victim of rape by different people and prostitution. These forms of sexual abuse are very common among living and working girls on the street. It has been stated that although rape and prostitution are very widespread among 'of' female street, 'on' female street children are also victims of such forms of sexual abuse to a great extent.

With the intention of identifying other forms sexual abuse among female street children, attempt has been made to document informants' first sexual experience /initiation. Thus, in an in-depth interview with informants of this study and discussion with FGD participants to

identify other forms of sexual abuse, kissing and touching of breasts without their interest have been reported. What one informant said clearly indicates how such forms of sexual abuse are common among living and working female street children:

I usually stay in my mother's side way small shop in our village when I am free from school (half day). I have started to help her in my free time when my sister became house maid. When I am working on the street, I encounter a lot of problem especially from boys. They often asked me to be their girl friend. Some young boys came and asked me to have tea with them. When I turned down their questions, some leave me alone peacefully. But, there are some rude boys who catch my hand, kissed and touched my breasts forcefully. This happened many times (Informant 5).

According to the above informant's experience and the data from other informants, unwanted kissing and breast fondling happened among living and working female street children. It was revealed by some informants that they were sexually abused in such a way that they were forced to be kissed and they were touched some parts of their body by different men. They affirmed that unwanted/forced kissing and breast fondling are rampant while living and working on the street.

Information from FGD participants also revealed that unwanted kissing and breast fondling among living and working female street children cannot be denied. FGD Participant T stated that '*boys (both street and non street) often create problem among those girls when they want sexual relationship. These boys touched girls' breasts and kissed them forcefully*'.

Therefore, based on the finding of this study, it can be said that unwanted kissing and breast fondling are other forms of sexual abuse among female street children who are living and working on the street. Although, most informants are not able to say such form of sexual abuse is not severe, as they often experience in their day to day activities and as compared to other forms of sexual abuse, it can be argued that this forms of sexual abuse among female street children need to be given equal emphasis to the other forms of sexual abuse due to the fact that

unwanted kissing and breast fondling by abuser might have negative consequence among the victims (See 4.4-consequences of sexual abuse among female street children).

By and large, the findings of this study denote that the problem of sexual abuse exists in the target area among girls who are living and working on the street. Female street children were victims of various forms of sexual abuse by diverse people while they were on the street due to different causes. As a consequence of their involvement on street life and as they have little/no security, they are more vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse. Similar to what has been mentioned here with regard to the existence of different forms of sexual abuse among girls who are working and living on the streets, in the UN expert group meeting on Adolescent Girls and their rights held in Addis Ababa Silva said that:

Being on the streets make the children vulnerable to many risks, but for girls, the additional risk of being sexually exploited, both by adults and their peers as well as being vulnerable to police abuse, is very real. Because of the very nature of their existence on the streets, girls are at greater risk to many forms of sexual abuse and exploitation (Silva, 1997: 5)

To strength the finding of this study with statistical records of the number of children who have been sexually abused in the target area, the researcher has made rigorous effort to find out the number of reported sexual offenses against children in general and female street children in particular from legal bodies and organizations which are working on issues related to street children. In view of this, the child protection program database center shows that out of 2448 offences committed against children 238 (9.7%) various forms of sexual abuse were recorded during April-December, 2004 in all ten sub cities of Addis Ababa. In particular, the records of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) of the Ledeta Sub City Police Station showed that a total of 92, 93 and 98 sex related offenses were recorded during the year 1996 E.C., 1997 E.C and 1998 E.C. respectively. The records showed all forms of sexual offenses against children including female street children in the Sub City.

It was indicated that such records are very alarming considering the fact that the proportion would be even higher if it was not for underreporting, which is pervasive in offences of this

nature. According to CPU staffs, the problem of different forms of child sexual abuse is worse in Lideta Sub City. However, most of the cases are not reported to the unit. Here, it can be argued that the reason why there were little reported cases can be attributed to the victims' child among other factors. Needless to say victims do not report the incidence to legal bodies for various reasons. For example, the findings of this study indicate that although female street children were sexually abused while living and working on the street of the target area, most victims didn't report to any legal bodies. A number of informants affirmed that they never tell such sexual abuse to anyone (except some who said they talk among their peers or groups what they experience in their day to day activities). What was said by one informant was a particularly articulate expression of a point:

I didn't tell any one that I was raped by three men as I was afraid of my mother and as I didn't know where to go. I feel always upset and worried about 'AYMERE' (to say HIV/AIDS) the fact that I don't remember whether they used condom or not. I couldn't sleep for so many nights from that moment (Informant 11).

Generally, a number of informants who were victims of rape while living and working on the street didn't tell their experiences to any body. They pointed out that they didn't report to legal institutions due to the fact that they were afraid of their parents; didn't know where to go and being threatened by the abuser. In line with this, Allyn and Bacon (2001) stated that children who are the victims of sexual abuse and exploitation often experience a range of negative emotions and behaviors, such as anger, guilt for being victims and culpability for the sexual activity. As a result, they hide their abusive experience. The foregoing discussion indicates that because of the victims hide their experience, it is quite difficult to get as many reported cases as possible from legal bodies and organizations. But, the few records mentioned earlier can show how sexual abuse is a serious problem among children in general and female street children in particular.

4.3 - Causes and risk factors for sexual abuse of female street children

In this section effort has been made to identify the causes for different forms of sexual abuse of living and working female street children the fact that identifying and understanding factors

and causes for sexual victimization of children would help to find remedies for such brutal problem.

As discussed in chapter two based on the findings of other researches, there are multitude and interconnected causes that play a role in sexual abuse of children. Thus, guided by such literatures and the data collected from fieldwork from participants of this study, it was possible to identify major causes and risk factors which are directly and indirectly responsible for different forms of sexual abuse of female street children at Lideta Sub City.

Here it is vital to note that in the process of identifying causes of sexual abuse among female street children, the researcher has examined and made comparison between the causes that push girls to street life and causes of sexual abuse among female street children. As a result, the finding of the study with regard to the causes of sexual abuse among living and working street girls were resembles and interrelated to some of the causes that initiate and force girls to resort street life. Therefore, all the causes and risk factors for different forms of sexual abuse of female street children were identified and discussed in this section albeit some of the causes were similar to the factors that lead girls to street way of life.

➤ **Worsening poverty**

As the information from most informants revealed, most girls were exposed to street way of life due to extreme poverty in their families which eventually exposed to different forms of sexual abuse. The following anecdote was given by one informant during in-depth interview with regard to how she joined the street and the problem she encountered:

I must work on the street to help my mother who can't bake even one 'enjera' although she has three children to feed. I also used the money to buy clothes. While working here, I face a lot of problems especially from street boys as they are among my customers. For your question about my sexual experience, I sometimes have sexual relation only with some men who often gives me a lot of money. These men usually came with car. Sometimes they used their car or they used rooms in a hotel (Informant 3).

The above quotation and the data from other informants show that female street children who were working on the street due to poverty to help their families and themselves are exposed to sexual abuse by various groups of people. Most informants who were engaged into commercial sex stated that they are doing prostitution in order to get money so that they can help themselves and their families. It was also mentioned that they were forced/initiated to make sex for many and material advantage while living and working on the street as it is the only and the quickest way.

Similarly, with regard to the causes to sexual abuse of children, the Social and NGO Affairs of Lideta Sub City head explained that one of the root causes for pushing children out to the streets and getting exposed to sexual abuse is poverty. He explained that there are many children who missed out their education due to poverty and go out on the street that exposed to all forms of abuse including rape and prostitution among others. As to this informant, girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse while they are living and working on the street the fact that almost all girls on the street are from impoverished family background. These girls use all possible ways to get money to the extent some even sell their bodies.

The forgoing description clearly indicates that female street children are sexually abused because of poverty which force or instigate them to street way of life and eventually to sexual abuse. Hence, it can be said that they are helpless and usually coerced. They are particularly vulnerable to adult exploitation, and sell their body to various clients. Generally, worsening poverty in the family which in turn affects the living condition of children can be one of the factors that expose children to situations that entail risk and make them vulnerable to different forms of sexual abuse.

Besides, female street children were sexually abused when one sees their activities in day to day life on the street. As mentioned earlier, a number of informants in this study have been engaged in various activities on the street for obtaining income to help themselves and their family for food, shelter and other basic necessities of life. These were obtained either staying in one place or by carrying petty items around the streets. It was also documented that some girls who are living and working on the street do not depend on one activity for different

reasons. They engaged in doing various activities on the street at the same time or they change their activities from time to time. Although their street status i.e. being 'on' and 'of' street child, determine the type of activities they were doing on the street, it was identified that they were victims of diverse forms of sexual abuse while living and working on the street. For example, 'of' female street children reported that they engaged in begging and prostitution most of the time. On the other hand, 'on' female street children sometimes engaged in commercial sex as they often went home during night and as they had other things to do on the street. Therefore, from the information about the type of activities female street children performing on the street it can be deduced that they are exposed to sexual exploitation due to the fact that they were engaged in abusive activities on the street resulted from worsening poverty in the family.

➤ **Lack of supervision**

The finding of the study indicates that girls exposed to diverse forms of sexual abuse while they are living and working on the street is lack of supervision due to family breakdown. It was explored how female street children in the study area sleep during night. 'On' female street children often went home to sleep during night. Whereas, 'of' street children stay and sleep the night in different areas, such as church yard, bus stops, on verandas, in plastic made houses on the street and rented houses. As a result, they became victim of various forms of sexual abuse on the street in the absence of families which in turn make girls out of parental supervision.

In line with this, Street educator F explained that as a result of lack of supervision from families, girls who joined street life engaged in commercial sex to get money. These girls who live on the street are sexually abused with no exception. She added that many girls who live on the street are particularly vulnerable to be sexually abused. Similar to what street educator stated, the data showed that all female street children who live on the street and don't have family supervision are raped and sexually exploited. This implies that lack of supervision due to family breakdown make girls victims and vulnerable to different forms of sexual abuse.

➤ **Being Drug and Alcohol abuse**

The findings of the study indicate that a number of female Street children who participated in this study consumed some kind of drug while they are living and working on the street. The data showed that almost all ‘of’ female street children were addicted to different substances. Although this group of informants reported they were addicted to substances, some ‘on’ female street children were also found to be drug consumers while they engaged in various activities on the street. Informants listed the type of substances they were consumed and addicted to. Accordingly, cigarette, chat and alcoholic drinks were reported by informants as the common type of substances they used with their friends. The following was a particularly articulate expression of a point:

I often stayed most of my day time chewing ‘chat’ with other street children. We also smoke cigarette. I did this for two reasons; firstly, I have to do this to be member of the group. Secondly, it gave me pleasure and kills most of my boring time. It helped me to forget any problems I encountered when I am living on the street. Then, we went to drink during night if we have money (Informant 9).

Besides, informant A from CPU who was asked about drug and alcohol use and some illegal activities of street children said that *‘street children (both boys and girls) and drug, alcohol and theft cannot be seen separately. Most of street children use chat, cigarette and alcohol to get pleasure and excitement which ultimately make them vulnerable to various problems on the street. You know there are enormous complexity in taking drugs and alcohol’.*

The preceding information implies that girls used drugs and alcohol while they are living on the street as a survival strategy and to escape their anxiety. They find relief, stimulate happiness under the influence of drugs and alcohol and they used drug to be accepted as a member in their group.

Here, it should be noted that not only female street children became drug abuse on the street, but also being drug abused exposed girls to street way of life from the very beginning. As it has been indicated in causes that lead girls to street life, some girls joined street with a desire to get freedom and excitement out of parental control. This implies that due to being drug

addicted, girls with wrong assumption separate from their biological families to stay from parental supervision in addition to peer influence. As to one informant said *‘I was addicted to chat and cigarette when I was at school. When I failed grade 9 two times, my parents abandoned me. Then, I left my home with my friend. Here, on the street, I earn money through begging and prostitution’* (Informant 14).

However, as most informants affirmed it is very common to engage in sexual relationship after the consumption of different types of such substances. Some informants revealed that they became active and encouraged to do commercial sex with different men. They didn’t feel shame to attract their customers on the street. Besides, it was also reported that drug was one cause for first sexual initiation for girls in this study. To mention one, the previous informant was about to cry when she explained her first sexual experience: *‘once up on a time, I was almost unconscious after excessive intake of chat and alcohol. Then, one of the boys, who was member of our group, took me to a room and raped me’*.

Moreover, street educators B said that drug and alcohol use among street children are common. He said that girls used drug often with the influence of their peers on the street. The sad part of being addicted to drug and alcohol is the fact that most of the girls don’t know what to do as they are under the control of street boys. In such situation, they are forced to make sex. Therefore, from the forgoing discussion it can be said that the use of drug and alcohol which in turn separate girls from biological parents and encouraged them to make sex with different men are factors for female street children to be sexually abused while living and working on the street in the study area.

➤ **HIV/AIDS pandemic and the spread of pornography**

It is fact nowadays that most adult men often target teenage girls for sexual relationship. I usually talk with female street children why their clients come to have sex with them. I realized from what female street children explained to me that adult men often target teenage girls as they believe these girls are free from the virus. On the other hand, female street children told me that adult men come to them while living or working on the street to do various forms of sex they saw from sex films (Street Educator G).

One can understand from the above quotation that HIV/AIDS pandemic played a significant role to various forms of sexual abuse of female street children in such a way that adult men sexually abuse female street children (who are easily available) as they believe they are free from the virus. Moreover, these adult abusers exploit girls for various forms of sex with the influence of pornography. As mentioned earlier, female street children are exploited by adult men to the extent that some force them to do the same sex like the girls in pornographies.

Besides, as it was mentioned earlier, from various causes that lead girls to be exposed to street way of life and to prostitution for obtaining money was due to the fact that they lost their biological parents with illness related to HIV/AIDS. Hence, children who lost their parents due to the disease are often drifted away from their home and ultimately exposed to different forms of sexual abuse. Therefore, we can understand that the spread of HIV/AIDS and pornography films are causes for diverse forms of sexual abuse among female street children.

➤ **Rural - Urban migration and trafficking**

Rural urban migration, which was identified as one major cause for girls to escort street life, is another cause for different forms of sexual abuse of female street children. As it has been briefly discussed earlier, a number of girls migrate to Addis Ababa due to various reasons that include family disintegration, domestic violence, poverty, to escape harmful traditional practice like early marriage and trafficking for domestic work. However, a number of these girls end up living miserable life on the street where they are particularly victims of various forms of sexual abuse. This was what an informant said about her depressing experience while she was living on the street after she came to Addis Ababa from Mekele:

I was married to the man that I didn't know when I was 14 years old. I was able to give birth, but I lost my baby during delivery. For this reason, my husband abandoned me and married other girl. Then, I came to Addis Ababa to work together with other girl. I was working in local drink house near Merkato. However, I usually quarreled with the owner as she didn't treated me properly to the extent that she forced me to sleep with her customers. Then, she banished me when I refuse to do that, and I was forced to do prostitution and begging on the street to get money (Informant 16).

As the above quotation and information from other girls revealed that once the girls leave their place of origin to urban cities, they frequently sexually abused by different individuals as they exposed to street life most of the time. They often engaged in prostitution to earn money so that they can live tomorrow.

With regard to rural urban migration as the cause for sexual abuse of female street children, it was mentioned by FGD participant that those working girls that came from country side to work in cafes and small hotels are very vulnerable to be sexually abused and exploited. As to FGD participants explained house maids and working girls in cafes and small hotels that trafficked from rural area often sexually abused. These girls become prey of rape by those immoral employers, get pregnant and abandon them to give birth on the street.

Similarly, street educators explained that they often come across cases in which girls left to the street being raped by relatives after they come for education, employment, etc. The sad stories of these girls are not only victims of rape by relatives, but also they become frequently sexually abused by street boys and adult men once they join street way of life. Thus, rural urban migration due to various reasons makes girls at high risk for various forms of sexual abuse on the street as girls became alone and unfamiliar with the physical environment. It is obvious that in such situation, girls' vulnerability to sexual abuse will be increased.

➤ **Coercion by adults and lack of support**

The findings of this study revealed that female street children are sexually abused due to the fact that they are coerced by bigger adults who are known to the girl child. Though there are various reasons that force children to commercial sexual practice, sometimes the girl child may engage in prostitution for financial reasons by the force or coercion of adults to benefit from such brutal acts. According to one of FGD participant girls sometimes come out to the street to do commercial sex because they are forced to bring money by someone. One participant has reported a story of one girl who once worked on the street in such a way that the girl was coerced by her brother to commercial sex during the night.

I knew the girl by the time she was working on street side where I usually do my work. The girl was 15 years of age and living with her brother. She used to tell me how her brother makes

her suffer a lot when she returned home during the night. He was so rude boy that he forced her to prepare food and to wash his clothes. The girl was in terrible situation. Then, the girl was being sent out by her brother to prostitute and she was coming home late every night. But, the girl came back home with out making money for many times as she didn't know how to attract customers on the street. Then, her brother had started beaten her severely. This happened for some days. Finally, the girl decided not to go home again and has started living on the street (FGD participant H).

The above story illustrated how young girls might be sexually abused being forced by adults known to the child to benefit financially from such abusive practices. Female street children were sexually abused as they are forced by someone who knows them. Street educator B explained: *'female street children often became the girlfriend of street boys to protect them from rape by street boys and strangers. However, the so called boy friends sell girls to other men so that they use the money for food, chat, alcohol etc. They often force girls to do commercial sex to get financial benefit'.*

Moreover, it was reported by some informants that lack of support to female street children while living and working on the street is identified as a cause for sexual abuse. On the street, girls encountered many problems including physical, psychological, sexual, health related, hunger etc. However, they are hardly given any kind of support by the society. As some informants stressed that sometimes the hardships exacerbated by those who are suppose to give some kind of protection and support. To this end, informants identified the police as abuser in addition to boys (both street and non street) and adult men. It was reported that the police sometimes use their authority to force girls for sexual relation or ask girls sexual favors in exchange of support/protection when female street children are in difficult situation. Most informants affirmed that some polices don't give appropriate protection and support whenever female street children encountered problems. A number of informants stressed that they became victims of sexual abuse due to luck of support from police as some police think female street children are worthless and nuisance.

Although lack of support from the police or from the society in general is the cause of sexual abuse among female street children, it was also reported by some informants that the police are

abusers of sexual abuse among female street children. What one informant said clearly illustrate how the police sexually abuse her using his authority:

Once up on a time, a young boy came and ate breakfast to the place where I was selling tea and food items. But, he left without paying the cost. I screamed and called a police. Then, the police attempted to bring the boy, but the boy run away. From that day, this police frequently came and told me I was responsible for every annoyance around that area the fact that I often called the police when some boys created problems. Then, he told me to have tea some other time if I want to work in that particular area where I had a lot of customers. I had to accept his request to continue working there and finally we made sex (Informant 4).

Therefore, from the prior discussion it can be said that female street children are also sexually abused by the police who are expected to give support and protection. Thus, such lack of support exacerbates the problem of female street children to be vulnerable for various forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. Generally, due to use of coercion by adults who want to benefit financially and lack of support while female street children living and working on the street were explored as the causes for sexual abuse of female street children in Lideta Sub City.

Generally, from the discussions made so far about the causes of different forms of sexual abuse of female street children, we can understand that their existence and living/working conditions on the street is a major risk factor for the problem. Needless to say once the girl joined street way of life what so ever the causes, she will be highly vulnerable and became victims of different forms of sexual abuse on the street. The findings of this study showed that female street children were victims of various forms of sexual abuse because of the very nature of their existence on the street due to different causes. In line with this Brownmiller (1995) cited in Original et al. (2004:117) stated that ‘the fact that most victims of sexual abuse are young girls proves what matters more than physical appearance is vulnerability’. Hence, it can be said that female street children in the study area are victims of diverse forms of sexual abuse because of their involvement on the street life which is resulted from various causes.

➤ **Gender socialization**

Culturally transmitted assumptions about men's dominance and power over women and children in patriarchal society are identified as cause for sexual abuse among female street children. Here, it is worth mentioning to see the various groups of abusers and the strategies/ways they employed to sexually abuse female street children just before analyzing how culturally transmitted assumptions of men's dominance and power over women and children resulted from gender socialization pattern in patriarchal society can be a cause for sexual abuse of female street children. Hence, various groups of individuals were identified as sexual abusers of female street children in this study based on the data obtained during fieldwork

Consequently, the finding of this study showed that boys (both street and non-street), different men who are strangers and known to the girls and police were identified as sexual abusers against female street children in the target area. Generally, it was reported by informants that abusers are from diverse socio-economic group (poor, middle, rich, educated, uneducated, drunken, etc), and different age categories (often younger than female street children include young, adult and old). According to both 'on' and 'of' female street children, the above listed groups of individuals are identified as sexual abusers of female street children. Moreover, the data revealed that abusers employed diverse strategies to sexually abuse female street children.

It was identified in this study that street boys were among sexual abusers of female street children. To this end, it was observed from the information that street boys were sexually abuse both 'on' and 'of' street girls who are living and working on the street. According to some informants, particularly 'of' female street children, they were sexually abused while they were member of groups on the street. According to these girls, they joined groups of street children as they taught the group plays a crucial role in overcoming many of the difficulties posed by street life that include finding materials and escaping maltreatment by various individuals. Indeed, street children help each other in various ways in their group. FGD participant N affirmed that:

Street children often seen gathered and move together on the street. In groups, they often help each other sharing clothes, foods and other things as they usually stay together for begging

around bars and restaurants. They are seen chewing chat and gambling on the streets. Sometimes boys only form their groups and sometimes girls form groups. I have observed both boys and girls form group as well to perform daily activities.

However, it was stated by a number of informants that living in groups make female street children to be sexually abused by members of the group. Informants affirmed that they were sexually abused without their consent while they were living on the street by street boys who lived on the street for many years. One informant said that:

It seems good to be part of a group on the street. However, it also puts someone, particularly female, in danger. When I was living in groups, I have encountered a lot of problems. Our leader, who has lived on the streets for many years, forced me to sleep with him. I did that several times as I am afraid of beating. At last, I left that group when he asked me to sleep with strangers for sex (Informant 15).

Similarly, the researcher was able to raise a question for two street boys about sexual experiences of street boys and girls while living on the street. They explained that street children have sexual experience among each other. Street boys make sex with street girls or with street prostitutes. A girl on the street is expected to have sex with street boys whether she likes it or not. They further asserted that street boys have the power to force the girl to have sex unless she has a boy friend.

It is vital to point out that living on the streets; children don't have similar or equal power. Often street boys have the power to exploit and abuse female street children. This shows that the boy's dominance and controlling behavior upon the girls as a result of masculinity definitions which is linked to dominance, toughness or male honor.

On the other hand, non-street young boys were also identified as sexual abusers of female street children in this study. A number of informants witnessed that they were sexually abused by young boys while they were living and working on the street. It was said that these group abuse girls using different ways. As it was mentioned earlier, girls are coerced to be sexually

abused and exploited by young boys for financial benefits. Besides, female street children were deceived and threatened by young boys and finally they were sexually abused against their will. One informant also affirmed, '*Young boys often touch my breast and kissed me forcefully while I am working on the street*' (Informant 6). Thus, young boys use diverse strategies (which include force, deceive, threatening) to abuse female street children sexually who are living and working on the street which may reveal how these boys encouraged to feel superior as a result of the influence of socialization in a male dominated culture.

Furthermore, adult men who are strangers to female street children and the police were identified sexual abusers of female street children in this study. Adult men from various socio-economic background target female street children for sexual relation as these girls are easily available on the street. A number of informants witnessed that these group often coerce by promising money and gifts, and ultimately use their force to abuse girls sexually. As mentioned earlier by some informants that the police abuse girls while they are living and working on the street. The police use their authority to entice girls for sexual relation with them other than their expected responsibility of giving protection and support for these girls whenever they are in troubles while living/working on the street.

The implication of the foregoing discussion with regard to some characteristics of perpetrators and the strategies they employ for sexual abuse of female street children is two-fold. Firstly, sexual abusers in this study are men from diverse socio-economic group and age categories that abuse girls before and after they join street way of life. Secondly, it is clear in this study that perpetrators employ diverse strategies for various forms of sexual abuse among female street children in which they predominantly use their power (physical, financial or hierarchal power) to control and intimidate victims' children. Similar to this finding, feminists argued that the sexual abuse of children is perpetrated almost exclusively by men across the world both in normal and dysfunctional families. What is more, feminists explained that it is crucial to understand the way in which various cultures construct expectations and norms for men in order to understand child sexual abuse. Hence, they argued that the risk of abuse is likely to rise where cultural constructions expect men to exercise power over women and children (Cambell, 1992 cited in Dawes et al., 2004).

Having said these, the researcher was able to see if cultural construction in Ethiopia would enable men to exercise power over women and children in a nutshell. Thus, it was possible to understand that Ethiopia is a patriarchal society where the subordination and exploitation of women by men institutionalized in cultural, social, economic and political structures. For example, it was identified that gender based violence is systematic and embedded in societal power relations in which men dominate women, and such dominance often is supported by a continuum force. Furthermore, it was explored that there is a tremendous denial about the issue of violence against women and children that contribute a great deal to the ever increasing reports of rape cases in Ethiopia. Women and children in Ethiopia are subjected to various forms of violence and abuse including child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, sexual abuse, child prostitution/commercial sexual exploitation, rape, child trafficking, murder, psychological abuse etc. It was also stated that Ethiopian culture tolerates sexual abuse and violence against girls and women that enable men to exercise power (Sara, 2001; Alem, 2004).

What is more, feminist researcher identified that the male constructed patriarchal society existing all over the world has made men owners of wealth and power that is used to dominate women and children. This culture becomes inherent in the manner in which the sexes are socialized. From the beginning, women and children are taught to be passive and submissive, while men are instructed to be active, dominant and aggressive. Tenderness, sensitiveness and empathy are encouraged for women and discouraged in men. This makes men to develop masculine self-concepts and act aggressively against women (Allyn and Bacon, 1999).

Therefore, sexual abusers of female street children in this study are the products of male constructed patriarchal society in which men see their abusive behavior as within their cultural given male rights. They grew up in a family and society where men demonstrate power over women and children. The adults who take these practices for granted will not easily give them up, and their children also come to see the practices as part and parcel of life. To this end, young boys (street and non-street) tend to subscribe to belief in their dominance over girls. What most informants said about sexual abuse of girls clearly illustrate that the use of power by various perpetrators to control female street children are the consequences of their socialization pattern in patriarchal family and society. For example, it seems fact from the data

that boys have taught to have masculine character in such a way that it is acceptable to control and intimidate those who have less power namely women and children. They set up in the society to believe they are powerful and not to be seen as victims. Hence, such socialization pattern was observed by children and perpetuated after their migration to the street life in such a way that they exercise their power.

Thus, as a result of gender socialization pattern in a patriarchal society which in turn make men to accept and believe men dominance and power over women and children can explain why young boys, adult men and the police sexually abuse female street children.

4.4 - Consequences of sexual abuse among female street children

Female street children face a life which is extremely hazardous and unhealthy conditions while living and working on the street in the study area. They were victims of different forms of sexually abuse by diverse individuals and as a result they endured various damaging consequences in their life. Therefore, the negative consequences of various forms of sexual abuse among female street children have been documented and discussed in this section.

➤ Early and Unwanted Pregnancy

Early and unwanted pregnancy was reported as a consequence of sexual abuse among female street children. It was stated by the majority of informants, who were sexually abused by different individuals while living and working on the street, that they became pregnant. The following testimonies given by two informants revealed that early pregnancy is the abrupt effects of rape among 'of' female street children:

I became pregnant after my first sexual exposure. As I told you, I was first forced to do sex by my uncle before I joined street way of life. Then, I was also forced by street boys for sexual intercourse after I started living on the street. Now, I have a one year child whom I don't know her father (Informant 1).

I became pregnant from a street boy who forced me for sexual intercourse after I joined street way of life. From that incident, we have started living together as friends in our plastic house.

He usually brings something to eat for us. But now, I must beg here on the street to get money to me and my child as my friend was taken to 'DEDESA' (to mean a place where people were arrested by police after 97 Ethiopian national elections) (Informant 16).

Thus, the above testimony and information from other informants clearly shows that 'of' female street children become pregnant due to rape by various group of perpetrators. As mentioned earlier, rape was more pervasive among 'of' female street children than 'on' female street children that can be attributed to their living and working conditions on the street among other factors. Hence, the data from fieldwork revealed that, all 'of' female street children became pregnant as they were victims of rape while living on the street. However, although 'of' female street children are more likely to experience early pregnancy due to forced sex, it was mentioned that 'on' female street children are also experience early pregnancy due to rape while they are living and working on the street. To strengthen this, one FGD participant said:

While working on the street, I often observe and know many girls who became pregnant due to rape and due to unsafe sexual intercourse with different individuals. For me, this has something to do with their existence on the street. Being a street girl makes her at high risk to be raped even though it is more likely for girls who make the street their home. To mention one, I know the girl (16 years of age) who was working on the street for many years. She is now six month pregnant due to unsafe sex with a street boy who is older than the girl. She is very much worried about her pregnancy as she is living with her aunt (FGD participant W).

Female street children have experienced early pregnancy without taking their street status into account. Being upset and frustrated, another informant also witnessed what happened to her after she was raped by three young boys while she was working on the street:

I was terribly sick for about two months as a result of rape which in turn make me pregnant. I had also spent miserable time when I made abortion. This was happened with the help of my friend who did the same some months ago. She took me to the woman who gave me something to drink. I was unconscious and severely sick after I drunk sour substance (Informant 11).

The foregoing discussion signifies that early and unwanted pregnancy as a result of sexual abuse of female street children is a serious repercussion on the girls which can be seen from two angles. On one hand, female street children ended up their unwanted pregnancies by giving birth which make girls at high risk of joining the rank of street mothers and make the born children to continue the despondent street life. On the other hand, they also ended up their pregnancies in abortion which make girls at high risk of getting grave health complication as most of abortion made in illegal and unsafe ways. As to the prior informant and other informants who abort their pregnancies indicate that since they do not have the necessary resources to seek safe way of abortion, they are forced to visit private houses where illegal abortions are performed. Consequently, they encountered serious health problems. Informant N from Love for Children Organization affirmed based on what she come across and heard in their day to day activities that there are a significant number of female street children who become seriously sick due to illegal abortion. Hence, many female street children encounter health problems and even some lost their life in this process.

Moreover, a question was raised to informants who were forced to sexual intercourse and ended up giving birth to explain how many children they have while living and working on the street. One informant was howling when she was telling her awful experience due to rape:

I had no option except to give birth two times. As you can see, I have two children (both are boys). The first boy was from my husband before I leave my village to Addis Ababa. The second boy was from a street drunken boy who raped me when I was sleeping on the street near Lideta Church. Both my children were born here on the street (Informant 17).

The finding indicates that a number of female street children, who became pregnant due to forced sex, have one child and some informants also witnessed they have more than one child. Here, it is worth to state the other striking finding of the study as to how female street children make use of the new born children. Hence, some informants affirmed that they used the new born children as a means of earning money. One informant said sadly ‘*people give me money when they see my baby. They often feel sympathy and provide me clothes and food as well (Informant 17).*’ Like wise, FGD participant N stated:

The new born child becomes a means of getting money for many young girls on the street. I know some girls who ask for money from individuals on the street with children. Sometimes, the girls are not the real mother of those children. After they make many with those new born children, the money will also be shared to the mother of the child.

In line with the negative consequence of rape among female street children, street educator G explained that unwanted pregnancy is one of the direst effects of sexual abuse among these children. I know many girls who have children while they are living and working on the street. He further said that it is rape that leads these girls to unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood. Nowadays, a quick glance on the street is enough to observe girls with their children begging on the main streets of various areas.

Furthermore, being pregnant in their early ages due to forced sex may lead victim girls to be fistula patients. Street educator F shares her experience while performing her day to day activity on the street:

Let me tell you my worst experience while I was teaching street children. This was happened two years ago. I met the girl in her plastic house near Abnet Hotel. She was seriously sick during delivery. Her baby died inside her and she suffered from fistula problem. She was suffering continuous physical pain. At that moment, her street friends dumped her because of bad smell. Then, I took her to Addis Ababa Fistula hospital around 'Tor Hailoch'. The hospital accepted her and gave treatments for free.

It can be said that female street children are more at risk of becoming fistula patients due to premature pregnancy as a result of sexual abuse. Childbearing at an early age, long before they have matured either physically or psychologically, is widely linked to health risks. The most widely described consequences of child pregnancy, however, is obstructed labor, leading to fistula. According to NCTPE 'fistula take various forms, but the basic characteristic is a hole between the urinary and/or the digestive system and the vagina, leading to continuous, uncontrolled passing of urine through the vagina. This has various disastrous impacts on the physical, mental and social health of the girl' (NCTPE, 2003:145).

Therefore, from the above discussion one can see that early pregnancy due to sexual abuse of female street children who are working and living on the street have worst aspects to the girls and to the new born. Firstly, girls who joined the status of street mothers have to intensively involve in street life for survival and to raise their children if they can give healthy delivery. This is due to the fact that these girls are not in a position to find better employment and living condition which they didn't have before. As a mother, they are in charge of raising their children while living and working on the street. Secondly, the new born children who are living with their teenage mothers on the street would not have appropriate upbringing environment in the normal childhood development. Most importantly, these children would become part of the culture of street life thereby exposing to the many problems and harsh conditions of the street life.

➤ **Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Risk to HIV/AIDS**

Another negative consequences of sexual abuse among female street children are sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the risk to HIV infection. A number of informants who were sexually abused, particularly those who were forced for sexual relations and those who engaged in prostitution, were mentioned diverse symptoms of having STIs. The following quotation is a particularly articulate expression of a point:

As I told you, a street boy raped me without condom several times while I was living on the street in groups. Similarly, I was raped without condom while I was working prostitution. As a result, I was suffering several health complications after such incidents. I had abnormal discharge from my 'private part' and I was feeling some kind of burning and pain during urine. Besides, I had pain around my abdominal area and I was feeling pain during sex with my clients. Because of these, I didn't work prostitution for a long time (Informant 15).

It can be said from the prior testimony that female street children are at high risk of getting STIs when one see the physical symptoms mentioned by informants due to sexual abuse. Such indicators mentioned by most informants may imply that these girls are in danger of getting STIs including HIV. Moreover, another respondent who was raped by two drunken young

boys added that *'I was feeling pain, itching and bleeding in my private area in addition to abnormal discharges'* (Informant 12).

More STIs over, the finding of this study proves that the majority of informants who suffer from such sexually transmitted infections didn't get appropriate treatment from any clinics and hospitals except some who said they were able to get medicines from NGOs. Informants stated that they didn't visit such health institutions as they are not able to afford the cost. Even those who seek assistance from NGOs affirmed that they visited NGOs when their infections became serious and not cured. To consolidate this, informant N from LOC said that:

It is obvious that female street children who are deprived of basic necessities for life are the most vulnerable group of the society. While they are living and working on the street, it is more likely for them to encounter reproductive health related problems particularly due to sexual abuse and exploitation. But, they are less likely to get medical services from hospitals and clinics whenever they are in such health problems. However, these girls often get some medical and other services from NGOs which are working on children. For example, female street children who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation often come to our NGO being physically beaten and infected with sexually transmitted diseases. Sometimes these girls are seriously sick particularly with sexually transmitted infections as they are not able to easily detect the symptoms quickly (Informant N).

From the foregoing discussion it can be said that female street children are in a serious health conditions as they are unable to get treatment on time. As a result, they become vulnerable to long term health consequences and complications. In line with this, it was explained that since many STIs lack clear symptoms, they may go undetected. Consequently, they have serious, long term health consequences among the victims including infertility, cancer and other chronic illnesses (Eng & Butler, 1996 cited in Kelly, 1998).

As mentioned earlier, female street children are affected by STIs due to sexual abuse. They stayed without getting appropriate treatment in their day to day activities on the street which in turn signifies these girls are at high risk of serious health consequences including risk to

HIV/AIDS. It is vital to note that female street children are in danger or at high risk of infected with HIV when one see the high rate of transmission of HIV in the existence of STIs. Similarly, Ansell (1994) cited in Kelly (1998:542) said that ‘the risks of transmission of HIV become even greater when there is another sexually transmitted diseases already present. Inflammation of tissues from STDs may well make it easier for HIV to enter the body’.

Here, it is also vital to point out other risk factors that make female street children vulnerable to the deadly diseases HIV/AIDS. For example, in Ethiopia, women and girls are disproportionately infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In line with this, Kumsa stated the US National Intelligence Council report in such a way that:

In 2002, the Council identified Ethiopia as on of the five populous and strategically important countries expected to make up the ‘next wave’ of HIV/AIDS explosion. The prophecy was quickly realized. Ethiopia is currently home to one of the world’s largest populations of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). HIV/AIDS impacts women and girls the most. In Ethiopia, women constitute 55 percent of PLWHA, while the infection rate for adolescent girls is three times that of boys (Kumsa, 2004:57).

For this reason, it is essential to explore other factors that put female street children in perilous situations to be infected with HIV in this study. A question was raised to informants during fieldwork to understand female street children’s sexual behavior while living and working on the street which may indicate their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. As a result, it was identified that their sexual activity while living and working on the street can be seen as risk factors that exacerbate the spread of HIV among female street children. Female street children in this study have risky sexual behaviors, which increases the likelihood of adverse sexual and reproductive health consequences including unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV/AIDS and STIs, when one examines the following anecdotes given by informants during fieldwork:

As I mentioned before, once girls join street way of life, they will be frequently sexually abused by various perpetrators that make these girls at high risk of STIs and HIV. In such situations, these girls are not in a position to protect themselves from STIs and the deadly diseases

HIV/AIDS as they are under the control of abusers. They have hardly any power to decide whether to use condom or not during sexual relation. Besides, I have observed many street children (both boys and girls) who are accustomed to drug and alcohol while living and working on the street. For example, after chewing 'chat' and drinking alcohol, most street children would be initiated to do unprotected sex with each other. In such situation, it is unlikely for girls to use any contraceptive to protect from unwanted pregnancy and HIV/AIDS and to negotiate safe sex with their partners. In line with this, many girls also engaged in prostitution that makes their life in difficult health condition after they took drugs and alcohol (Street Educator B).

I knew a street boy who used to sleep with many street girls and commercial sex workers before he started sexual relationship with a street girl. He used condom with his girlfriend during their initial relation. When he realized the girl is stable with him, he thrown the condom away. Now, the girl is pregnant (Informant 18- boy street children).

Female street children are relatively few in numbers. As a result, they are followed and targeted by street boys and other individuals for sexual relation. Girls who live on the street often stay with a street boys as boy and girl friend to avoid rape and other problems. Besides, 'on' street girls engaged in sexual relation with adult men for the sake of money. However, these girls have unprotected sexual relationship with their boy friends and with adult men as they are not the ones who decide what to do. For one thing, these girls didn't know their sexual mate background. On the other hand, these girls are not in a position to ask for condom use. The danger lies when their sexual mate is already infected with HIV. For example, it is obvious that street boys have more than one sexual partner. They are highly irresponsible in sexual activities that make them vulnerable to HIV (FGD participant N).

The above anecdotes and information from other informants clearly illustrate that female street children are engaged in risky sexual activities that increases the likelihood to be infected with HIV. Their risky sexual behavior includes sexual intercourse under the influence of substances like drug and alcohol and unprotected sexual intercourse with their sexual mate among others. It was identified that female street children used some drug and alcohol while they are living

and working on the street. However, they engaged in unprotected sexual relationship as they are under the influence of such substances. It was identified that some female street children practice promiscuous sex with various individuals like street boys, who have high risk sexual behaviors.

In addition, female street children were less likely to use and/or ask for condom in their sexual relationship. Although they believe condom may protect from unwanted pregnancy and HIV/AIDS, abusers usually don't use and don't let them to do so in sexual intercourse. It can be said that unable to use condom in sexual relation clearly indicate that they are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other STDs especially when they involve in promiscuous sexual activities.

Here, female street children risky sexual activities while living and working on the street can be seen as one of the diverse effects of sexual abuse among these children. As stated earlier, female street children are victims of sexual abuse while living and working on the street and even before joining street way of life. Besides, it was identified that a number of female street children have sexual relations with various individuals and street boys. However, it was stated in the existing literature that being victims of sexual abuse in early ages can make girls vulnerable for further victimization, as sexual abuse is unequivocally associated with high levels of distress and commonly profound disturbance of the child's physical, emotional, social, moral and intellectual development. Consequently, victims children may have sexual interactions with others, develop promiscuous sexual behavior and may engaged in adolescent prostitution (Faller, 1993 cited in Allyn and Bacon, 2001). Thus, it can be said that risky sexual activities of female street children in this study may be the result of prior sexual abuse by various perpetrators while they are living and working on the street and even before they joined street life.

Moreover, the finding of the study shows that female street children create risky sexual relations with street boys and/or with adult men as it provides them food, shelter, materials and protection. Here, it is interesting to cite one explanation given by one girl that could summarize what others mentioned. Being upset and worried, she said:

I spend my day time begging on the street and chewing ‘Chat’ with other street children. I had many sexual partners while I was living on the street. I often target my clients to get money during the night. Otherwise, I will stay with street boys. Unless I do this, I will be exposed to gang rape and other problems on the street. But, I am not saying I am safe from rape by street boys (Informant 9).

The finding of the study illustrate that a number of female street children are engaged in prostitution while living and working on the street. However, it was identified that in such risky sexual relationship, girls are hardly able to negotiate safe sex with their partners. Living as a boy and girl friend on the street or doing commercial sex with diverse individuals, female street children are not able to bargain safe sex like using condom to avoid reproductive health problems including HIV/AIDS. They are often under the control of their sexual mate whether to use condom or not that would exacerbate the risk of HIV infection.

Additionally, risk to HIV/AIDS should be seen from physiological vulnerability of women and girls. Various researches have documented this fact in such a way that the probability of male to female transmission is more than female to male transmission. For example, in studies that have been done on heterosexual couples in which one partner had already been infected with HIV, it is clear that ‘the risk of women contracting HIV from men is 10 to 18 times greater than the risk of men getting the virus from women’ (Ansell, 1994 cited in Kelly, 1998:542). Among other reasons, it was mentioned that vulnerability to HIV transmission is heightened for girls and women because the vaginal lining is less well developed and the cervix more vulnerable to injury, and semen remains in contact with the vaginal and cervical membranes longer than vaginal fluid remains on the penis (Alexander, 1996 cited in Bayer et al, 1999).

Therefore, from the preceding discussion one can see that female street children in this study are vulnerable to be infected with HIV/AIDS. It is also upsetting to see the risk of the virus from the viewpoint of new born child. For instance, ‘there is evidence that infected mothers can spread HIV to their new born infants by breast feeding’ (Bertolli, 1996 cited in Bayer et al, 1999:179). In summary then, STIs and risk to HIV can be seen among the commonest health

problems in the area of sexual and reproductive health among living and working female street children in this study.

➤ **Psychological repercussions**

The psychological impacts of sexual abuse among female street children were well identified during fieldwork. According to the findings of the study, the psychological consequences of sexual abuse among female street children who are living and working on the street are diverse. The following testimonies are fundamental to show how sexual abuse leaves the victims with enormous psychological repercussions:

I wished I could die when my uncle raped me. I even taught a lot to kill my self after such worst incident in my life. Besides, when I join street way of life, it happed frequently. I had to accept it as I had nothing to do about it (Informant 1).

I feel always upset and worried about 'AYMERE' (to say HIV/AIDS) the fact that I don't remember whether those young boys used condom or not when they raped me. I couldn't sleep for so many nights from the moment I was raped (Informant 11).

I often get money through begging and prostitution to live tomorrow while I am living on the street. I don't have any prospect in future due to the fact that I am always worried about my health condition. To think about future, one should be healthy and happy in the first place. But, I never get happiness all my life. It is better for me to stay on the street till I die, chewing 'chat' with other street children that gives me pleasure and help me to forget everything (Informant 15).

I blamed myself several times after I was raped by a big man. I feel always shame and angry about my most horrible incident. I would not have been raped if I hadn't gone with that irresponsible man. It makes me a girl who doesn't believe anyone. It was from that moment I started accepting sexual invitation for the sake of money and material from various individual while I was working on the street (Informant 13).

So far, I didn't have sexual relation with anyone even though young boys and sometimes big men asked me to do that. As I told you, young boys often create problems on me in such a way that they kissed me and touch my breasts forcefully. I have decided not even to talk young boys. I don't like these groups as they always bother me (Informant 5).

For me, it is scary to see young boys especially after two young boys raped me in my way to home. I was not able to sleep and eat properly. In general, I am frightened of men. Besides, I didn't move alone during the night from that horrific event. I usually went home before it gets dark (Informant 12).

From the above testimonies and the data from other informants, it becomes clear that psychological ramifications are among the atrocious effects of varied forms of sexual abuse among female street children in this study. As the findings of the study clearly show that sexually abused girl children who are living and working on the street develop and feel various psychological consequences including suicidal wish, worried of HIV/AIDS, hopelessness and feel unworthy (low self esteem), being unhappy, depression, blame themselves for the happening, feel angry and shame (feel guiltiness), hate and fear of other gender and anxiety. Moreover, it was identified that victim children were experienced sleeping and eating problem, become drug and alcohol addicted and develop promiscuous sexual behavior.

Furthermore, a street educator B explained the damaging effects of sexual abuse among female street children that would further strengthen the prior discussion:

It is clear that many female street children don't agree to be safe from abusive practice while they are working and living on the street. There are even girls who stay away from us when we teach them about reproductive health issues. They are not willing to return home although they encountered enormous problems on their physical, health and psychological aspects. Some girls are victim of fistula patients due to early pregnancy and some are surely infected by sexual transmitted diseases including HIV. As a result, they become drug and/or alcohols addicted and develop odd behavior. Most of sexually abused girls especially those who engaged in prostitution don't have hope in the future.

➤ **Physical effects**

It is clear from the foregoing discussions that female street children who are living and working on the street in the target area are subjected to an assortment of harmful effects due to sexual abuse. In addition to the above-mentioned effects on the victim girls, physical effect was also identified as negative consequence on female street children in this study.

Being shocked and irritated, this was what most informants said about their abusive sexual relationship: *'My sexual relation was harsh. It was very painful. It was hurting and unpleasant'*. One can understand from such phrases, used by sexually abused female street children, that sexual abuse causes terrible physical pain at the time of the assault. Female street children suffer from physical pain and injury during their forced sexual intercourse. Besides, it was stated that all cases of the rape of young children involve force. *'If the child submits to penetration, then the penetration of the anus or the vaginal itself is forceful and, inevitably, painful for the child. Sex and the exercise of power come together in all cases of rape and reach an extreme in the rape of a small child'* (Richter and Smith, 2004:24).

The findings of the study also illustrate that physical and verbal abuses are part and parcel of sexually abused girls who are living and working on the street. For instance, some informants avowed that they were physically beaten and verbally insulted during their abusive sexual relationship with various perpetrators while they engaged in prostitution. One informant put her experience with gloomy face:

You know, I was feeling pain during sexual intercourse with my boy friend. He was such a rude boy that he didn't take my feeling into consideration. He beat me and forced me for sexual relation many times. As I told you before, I get money through begging and prostitution. I was also beaten by various individuals after they satisfy their sexual desires as they didn't want to give money. Men are cruel in general (Informant 15).

Sexually abused female street children are subjected to physical violence as it can be understood from the above testimony. Physical beating which results injuries among the victims are very common. The findings also revealed that sexually abused female street

children suffered verbal abuse which exacerbates the existing problems and insecurities while living and working on the street. According to street educator G:

Female street children are subjected to a number of risks. I know that many street boys and various men offer a request to have sex with living and working female street children. . When they refused their request, they would be beaten or insulted badly. These acts are common especially for girls who live on the street. Most of the time, the words are very offensive which often carrying the implication that they are such worthless and have no value. I often hear offensive words from different individuals without any reason against female street children.

Thus, it can be said that physical and verbal abuse are very obvious among sexually abused female street children. Moreover, the impacts of sexual abuse against children do not rest simply on the victim individual. It is documented in the existing literatures that families, communities and nations are all victims and share the problem. Values, cultures, systems, structures of the society and the community may all be affected and breakdown. Support for families may be lost, respect for traditional role models can be irretrievably diminished and the pattern of relationships that passed on childcare and parenting basics may be broken. It leaves the whole community vulnerable to the direct consequences including HIV/AIDS orphan children and the loss of the young generation who are economically active. It, after all, becomes difficult to make a change and creates a denial of acknowledging the effect by community members (Jane and Maria, 1996 cited in Rahemet, 2001; Svevo, 2001).

CHAPTER V: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1- Summary

Child sexual abuse is most devastating and most commonly experienced forms of abuse against children through out the world. The problem of sexual abuse of children is identified by many concerned bodies as a fast growing phenomenon world wide and in Ethiopia. This research was initiated with the major objectives of exploring the various forms of sexual abuse, causes/risk factors associated with it and the negative repercussions among female children who are living and working on the street of Lideta Sub City, Addis Ababa. Furthermore, the research was aimed at identifying female street children current working conditions and the causes that lead girls to resort street way of life.

Qualitative data collection methods, from both primary and secondary data sources, were used pertaining to the different specific objectives of the study. As a result, in-depth interview with 17 female street children, focus group discussion (FGD) with eight street girls and interview with key informants were employed to collect comprehensive and detailed information. During the process of data collection, establishing trustful relationships/rapport has been found to be crucial as the central theme of this research was sensitive. Informed consent was taken and voluntary participation was ensured from all respondents. Data gained in the process of interviewing informants or from documents were analyzed using qualitative data analysis procedures that involve breaking down the information in to different themes and categories which appear to be important.

The research finding revealed that female street children were classified under two categories based on their street status i.e. ‘on the street children’ and ‘of the street children’. ‘On the street children’ often went back home to sleep during the night after working on the street during the day, whereas the second group stay and work on the street all the time. Except two girls, informants are from poor family background which is the result of little/no education and low employment status (no regular employment and income).

As to the form of various activities while living and working on the street of the target area, most informants engaged doing different works to earn income to help themselves and their

family for food, shelter and other basic necessities for life. These activities include selling of different petty items, begging and prostitution among others. Female street children are not solely involved in a single occupation and their activities to earn money make them vulnerable and victims of sexual abuse like prostitution especially among 'of' female street children.

It is found that there exist street children groups among girls, boys or both while living and working. Being a member of the group female street children help each other, share some materials and perform various activities. However, female street children are not safe from various forms of sexual abuse in their groups. Boy street children often abuse and exploit street girls sexually. Female street children being alone or with groups target people in cafes, in the hotels, or on street corners where they approach drivers stopped at traffic lights for begging and prostitution.

No single reason appears to explain the causes/factors for leaving home and family's orientations among female street children. Reasons related to the issue of familial environments or adverse family situation such as poor household economic conditions, domestic violence (sexual, physical and psychological), family breakdown due to divorce and death of one or both biological parents were the leading reasons for girls leaving home from home and school. Not to blame the girl child, behavioral disorder of the girl like being drug addicted and peer pressure were also documented as reasons for girls to escort street way of life. Rural urban migration and trafficking were the other important reasons for female children leaving home to street.

In this study, it is clear that living and working on the street is highly risky. Female street children are vulnerable and victims of physical, sexual, psychological abuses, denied access for education, shelter, nutrition etc exposed to bad weather conditions, health problems, drug abuse, accidents, lack of parental protection/support and societal discrimination while living and working on the street. However, various forms of sexual abuse against street girls were reported as the major problem by different group of people.

The results of the study reveal that a number of informants became sexually active after they join street life and some were active before joining street way of life. Rape, marriage, personal desire, promising of money/gifts were reported as reasons for their first sexual initiation on the street, in hotels and abusers home. Similarly, it is clear that all informants who participated in this study are victims of different forms of sexual abuse while living and working on the street.

Among the many forms of sexual abuse against female street children, they were victims of rape by single individual or by a group of abusers. A number of both 'on' and 'of' female street (albeit rape is more experienced by 'of' female street children) were forced to have sex with out their consent by different categories of people using physical force (beating), fear (pointing knife), and deception (promising of material and money) among other. In most of the cases abusers, who forced girls, were older and physically stronger than victim children and found to be young boys (both street and non-street) adult men who are strangers for the girls and the police. Anal rape was reported as a form of sexual abuse against female street children. In line with this, although female street children raped while living and working on the street, they never tell their experiences to any legal bodies except some who said they talk among their peers or groups what they experience in their day to day activities.

Furthermore, the study shows that prostitution is another form of sexual abuse among female street children where they engaged in promiscuous sexual intercourse for money and material benefit. Both 'on' and 'of' female street children were engaged and practiced commercial sex the fact that it is more pervasive among 'of' girls to the extent that it became their major activities on the street. The other frequent forms of sexual abuse among female street children were to be unwanted kissing and breast fondling by different men.

In this study, causes and risk factors that are directly and indirectly responsible for various forms of sexual abuse among female street children were documented. Poverty was one of the principal causes for sexual abuse of female street children. A number of informants were engaged into commercial sex being forced or initiated to get money so that they can help themselves and their impoverished families. In line with this, lack of supervision by families was identified as a cause for sexual abuse of female street children.

Female street children in this study were sexually abused due to being drug and alcohol addicted. It was clear from the data that female street children consumed and addicted to different substances like cigarette, chat and alcoholic drinks while living and working on the street as a means of survival strategies and to escape from their anxiety. However, it is very common to be engaged in sexual relationship after the consumption of different types of such substances. Even drug was one cause of first sexual experience/initiation for girls in this study before they joined street way of life.

HIV/AIDS and pornography films are causes for diverse forms of sexual abuse among female street children. HIV/AIDS pandemic played a role in such a way that adult men sexually abuse female street children as they believe they are free from the virus. Plus, the significance contribution of pornography to sexual abuse of female street children who are easily available and coerced is that adult abusers exploit girls for various forms of sex with the influence of pornography.

Rural urban migration and trafficking due to family disintegration, domestic violence, poverty, to escape harmful traditional practice like early marriage and trafficking for domestic work, a number of girls end up living miserable life on the street where they are particularly victims of various forms of sexual abuse. They often engaged in prostitution to earn money so that they can live tomorrow. Even before they drifted away to street life, migrated girls due to various reasons were sexually abused where they first arrived.

Female street children were sexually abused in such a way that they are sometimes engaged in prostitution for financial purpose by the force or coercion of adults to benefit from such evil acts. In addition, lack of support while female street children living and working on the street was explored as the causes for sexual abuse of girls. Generally, though diverse reasons were identified for different forms of sexual abuse among female street children, this research shows that the very nature of girls' existence on the street is the major risk factor for girls to be exposed to sexual abuse like rape, prostitution, unwanted kissing and breast fondling among others. Needless to say once the girl joined street way of life whatever the causes, she will be highly vulnerable and become victims of different forms of sexual abuse on the street.

Finally, it was possible to understand that Ethiopia is a patriarchal society where the subordination and exploitation of women by men institutionalized in cultural, social, economic and political structures. Women and children are taught to be passive and submissive, while men are instructed to be active, dominant and aggressive. Tenderness, sensitiveness and empathy are encouraged for women and discourage in men. This makes men to develop masculine self-concepts, devalue women and act aggressively against women. The study show that boys (both street and non-street), different men who are strangers and known to the girls and police as sexual abusers against female street children. Besides, it is clear in this study that abusers employed diverse strategies for various forms of sexual abuse in which they predominantly use their power (physical, financial or hierarchal power) to control and intimidate victims' children. The use of power by various perpetrators to control female street children is the consequences of their gender socialization pattern in patriarchal family and society. Therefore, as a result of gender socialization pattern in a patriarchal society which in turn make men to accept and believe men dominance and power over women and children were explain why young boys, adult men and the police sexually abuse female street children in Lideta Sub City.

With regard to damaging consequences, the study show that early and unwanted pregnancy was the effect of various forms of sexual abuse among female street children. They have experienced pregnancy without taking their street status into account although all 'of' female street children were pregnant due to rape while living on the street. Consequently, early motherhood, health complication of illegal abortion of pregnancies, fistula, etc were explored as abrupt worst aspects of unwanted and early pregnancies.

Another negative consequence of sexual abuse among female street children in this study is sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and risk to HIV/AIDS. It was clear that physical symptoms which include burning and pain during urine, abnormal discharge from sex organs, pain during sex, itching and bleeding for long time due to unable to get treatment make girls victims of sexual transmitted infections. They were encountered health complications which in turn show that they were at high risk of infected with HIV/AIDS as there is high rate of transmission of HIV in the existence of STIs. It is found that risky sexual behaviors of female

children (i.e. sexual intercourse under the influence of substances like drug and alcohol and unprotected sexual intercourse with their sexual mate) increases the likelihood of adverse sexual and reproductive health consequences including unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV/AIDS and STIs. Female street children are also at high risk of STIs and HIV/AIDS due to the fact that they are not able to bargain safe sex like using condom during sexual intercourse.

In this study, it becomes clear that psychological effects are among the atrocious consequences of varied forms of sexual abuse among female street children. Suicidal wish, worried and terrified of HIV/AIDS, hopelessness and feel unworthy (low self esteem), being unhappy, depression, blame themselves for the happening, feel angry and shame (feel guiltiness), hate and fear of other gender and anxiety were explored as psychological consequences. Moreover, sleeping and eating problems, being drug and alcohol addicted, and developing promiscuous sexual behavior were some of the impacts of various forms of sexual abuse.

The study illustrates that physical and verbal abuses are part and parcel of sexually abused girls in addition to physical pain and injury during their forced sexual intercourse. Problems like beating and offensive words are very common among female street children in relation to various forms of sexual abuses. Furthermore, families, communities and nations are all victims and share the problem of child sexual abuse.

5.2- Conclusion

The study has shown that female children are engaged in doing various activities while living and working on the street. They live and work alone or in groups without adequate food, shelter, education, affection and social security. Worsening poverty in the family, domestic violence, family breakdown, peer pressure, behavioral disorder of the girls child, rural urban migration among others were found to be interrelated reasons for leaving home and school to street life. Being on the streets, make female children vulnerable to many risks particularly to various forms of sexual abuse. The most important forms of sexual abuse faced by both 'on' and 'of' female street children include rape, forced anal sex, child prostitution, unwanted kissing and breast fondling. Street boys, non-street young boys, adult men and the police were the prime sexual abusers of female street children.

The reasons for various forms of sexual abuse among female street children are complex. However, their existences on the street and gender socialization are prominent issues that have emerged. As a consequence of their involvement on street life which in turn makes them available for easy prey by different categories of abusers, they are victims of various forms of sexual abuse. While living and working in the street, both 'on' and 'of' female street children are sexually abused as they are easily coerced and deceived. According to the finding of the study living and working female street children are victims of various forms of sexual abuse due to their existence on the street in general.

Moreover, the data from informants show that abusers who were from different age and economic background used different strategies to sexually abuse female street children. They predominantly used their power to dominate girl street children. Due to gender socialization pattern in patriarchy society that creates boys/men to be active, strong, aggressive and dominant against women and children are found as a cause for various forms of sexual abuse in this study.

Important causes/risk factors are also documented for different forms of sexual abuses. Poverty is a cause for sexual abuse. In the street, a number of informants are engaged in doing commercial sex work as one of their activities on the street to earn money so that they help themselves and their families. Lack of support and protection from the families in particular and the society in general make girls vulnerable and victims of sexual abuse. Besides, female street children are easy prey of sexual abuse due to the fact that they migrated and trafficked from rural areas for different reasons. Being drug and alcohol addicted also documented as a cause of various forms of sexual abuse of female street children.

Apart from these, the study has shown that HIV/AIDS epidemic is a cause and a consequence of sexual abuse of female street children. Abusers often target female street children as they believe female children are free from the virus. Due to this, female street children who are easily available and coerced become an easy prey of different forms of sexual abuse. A

number of informants who are victims of sexual abuse while living and working on the street reported their perceived risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS.

Sexual abuses of female street children have a long lasting damaging effect on children's life in terms of physical and mental health. A number of informants who are victims of various forms of sexual abuse in this study become pregnant, had practice abortion, and become fistula patient. They suffer from burning and pain during urine, abnormal discharge from sex organs, pain during sex, itching and bleeding for long time which in turn show sexually transmitted infections. The psychological consequences of sexual abuse among female street children who are living and working on the street are diverse. As is evident from the interviews, female street children face short term and long lasting psychological consequences. Moreover, physical and verbal consequences are reported in this study due to various forms of sexual abuse among female street children.

It is found in this study that female street children use some risk reducing strategies to avoid problems like rape. Techniques like limiting mobility, running and hiding, seeking protection from passer-by, giving coins and some materials to street boys and stick to one street boy as girl and boy friend especially among 'of' female street children were some of the ways girls used to reduce various problems while living and working on the street.

References

- Alem Habtamu (2004). *Themes on violence against women and related issues in Ethiopia*.
BERCHI: The Annual Journal of Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. No. 5,
Central Printing Press.
- Allyn & Bacon (1999). *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect*. (4th ed.) Fitchburg State
College. A Viacom Company.
- Allyn & Bacon (2001). *Child Abuse and Neglect: Multidisciplinary Approaches*. A Pearson
Education Company: USA.
- Arnaldo, A. Carlos (Ed.) (2001). *Child Abuse on the Internet: Ending the Silence*. Paris,
UNESCO publishing.
- Ayalew Semait & Elias Terfassa (1999). *Child Abuse and Neglect from the Perspective of the
CRC and Ethiopian Laws*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- Bayer, C.O., Shainberg, L.W. & Galliano, G. (1999). *Dimensions of Human Sexuality*. 5th ed.
McGraw-Hill College.
- Blaikie, Norman (2000). *Designing social Research: The Logic of Anticipation*. Polity Press,
Malden: USA.
- Boongala, Panudda (1996). *Strategy and Action against the Commercial sexual Exploitation of
Children*. International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor. Geneva.
- Carl, R. Angela (1993). *Child Abuse: What You Can Do About It.*, Joplin: Missouri, College
Press Publishing Company.
- Children and Youth Affairs Organizations & Forum for Street Children-Ethiopia (1996).
Summary Report of the National Conference on the Problem of Child Prostitution.
Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- Dawes, A., Richter, L. & Smith, C.H. (2004). *Confronting the problem*. In L. Richter, A
Dawes & C.H. Smith (Eds.), *Sexual Abuse of Children in Southern Africa* (pp. 1-20).
Human Sciences Research Council Press: South Africa.
- De Oliveira, Walter (2000). *Working with Children on the Streets of Brazil: Politics and
Practice*. New York, The Haworth Press Inc.
- Dessale Ayalew (1998). *The situation of street children and the role of NGOs in meeting their
needs: the case of Addis Ababa*. Unpublished master theses. Addis Ababa University:
Addis Ababa.

- Eshetu Alemu (2004). *Combating Child Prostitution: the learning point for child right organizations*. Addis Ababa.
- FDRE (1994). *Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*.
- (2005). *The Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*. Proclamation No.414/2004.
- Fonow, M. & Cook, A. (1991). *Beyond Methodology: Feminist Scholarship as lived Research*. Indiana University Press.
- Forum for Street Children-Ethiopia (2003). *Sample Survey on the Situation of Street Children in Eight Major Towns of Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- Forum for Street Children-Ethiopia (2006). *Child Protection Program Database Center Statistical and Analytical Report on Children in Conflict with the law, Child victim, Perpetrators against children reported to the CPUs: the case of Addis Ababa City Administration*. Addis Ababa.
- Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia & Radda Barner (1998). *The Situation and Survival Strategies of Female Street Children in Addis Ababa*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- Habtam Wondimu (1996). *Psychological aspect of Child Prostitution in Ethiopia*. Paper presented on the national conference on the problem of Child Prostitution in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa.
- Heiberg, Turid (2001) *An international overview of Save the children's work against child sexual abuse and exploitation: commodities in stigma and shame*. Save the Children, Sweden. Available <http://www.espat.no/dokumenter/commodities/20spank.doc>
- Heyzer, Noeleen (1995). *The Girl Child at Risk*.
- Hughes, N. Scheper (1987). *Child survival: Anthropological Perspective on the Treatment and Maltreatment of Children*. D Redial Publishing Company. Dordrecht: Holland.
- Human Right Watch (2003). *Street children and Sexuality*. Rwanda. Available <http://www.streetkids-srh.org/show-news.php>
- Juvenile Justice Project Office (2005). *A study of the efficacy of the existing formal institution of administration of juvenile justice in Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa.
- Kelly, G.F. (1998). *Sexuality Today: The Human Perspective*. 6th ed. McGraw Hill, Clarkson University.

- Kumsa Mekonen (2004). Women's Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS: The Need for Legislation. BERCHI: The Annual Journal of Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. No. 5, (pp. 57-91), Central Printing Press.
- Levesque J.R. Roger (1999). *Sexual Abuse of Children: A Human Rights Perspective*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington: USA.
- Mason, Jennifer (2005). *Qualitative Researching*. SAGE Publication, London.
- Ministry of Labor and Social Affair (1995). *The national survey on street children: Nature and Magnitude of the problem and method of Intervention*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- Ministry of Labor and Social Affair & National Steering Committee (2002). *Proceedings of the Workshop on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children*. Addis Ababa.
- Ministry of Labor and Social Affair & Radda Barnen (1998). *Survey on Street Children in Selected area in Addis Ababa*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- National Association of Social Worker (2001). *Commercial child sexual exploitation: the most hidden form of child abuse*. Washington. Available <http://www.socialworkers.org/pressroom/2001.asp>
- National Committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia (2003). *Old beyond Imaginings*. NORAD, Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.
- Original W/Georgis, Emebet Kebede & Mellese Damtie (2004). *Violence against Women in Addis Ababa*. BERCHI: The Annual Journal of Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. No. 5, (pp. 104-254), Central Printing Press.
- Rahmet Abdella (2001). *The psychological aspects of prostitution among female children on the street: the case of Merkato area*. Unpublished master's thesis. Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa.
- Regional Study On violence Against Children in South Asia (2005). *Child Sexual Abuse*. Islambad, Pakistan. Available <http://www.violencestydy.org/img/doc/o2.doc>
- Roberts, J. & Taylor, C. (1993). *Sexually Abused Children and Young People Speak Out*. In L. Waterhouse (Ed.), *Child Abuse and Child Abusers: Protection and Prevention* (pp. 13-37). Jessica Kingsley: UK.
- Sara Tadiwos (2001). *Rape in Ethiopia*. Reflections No. 5. Panos Ethiopia. Master Printing Press, Addis Ababa.

- Silva, Teresita (1997). *Adolescent Girls and Their Right: Focusing on Street Girls in Prostitution in the Philippines*. UN experts group.
- Smith, C.H., & Richter, L. (2004). *Commercial Sexual exploitation and trafficking of children*. In L. Richter, A. Dawes & C.H. Smith (Eds.), *Sexual Abuse of Children in Southern Africa* (pp. 143-175). Human Sciences Research Council Press: South Africa.
- Svevo, Kimberly (2001). *A Global overview of child abuse and neglect*. In Arnaldo, A. Carlota (Ed.), *Child Abuse on the Internet: Ending the Silence*. UNESCO Publishing, Paris: France.
- Szymanezak, Micheal (2001). *Child Abuse and Neglect in Easter Europe*. Available <http://www.canee.net/indes/id>.
- Tadese Hailue (2006). *A study on Street Children in Dessie Town*. Unpublished master thesis. Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa.
- Taliercio, Concetta (1996). *International Law and legal Aspects of Child Sex Tourism in Asia- A contemporary form of Slavery?* Stockholm: Sweden.
- Townsend, L. & Dawes, A. (2004). *Individual and Contextual factors associated with the sexual abuse of children under 12: a review of recent literature*. In L. Richter, A. Dawes & C.H. Smith (Eds.), *Sexual Abuse of Children in Southern Africa* (pp. 55-94). Human Sciences Research Council Press: South Africa.
- Tsegeye Tenkir (2003). *Streetism and the risk of HIV Infection: The case of Dire Dawa City*. Unpublished master's thesis. Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa.
- UNICEF, BoSCA & BoFED (2007). *Drafts Baseline survey of Children Living on the Streets of Addis Ababa*.
- United Nations (2000). *Definitions of Child Sexual Exploitation*. In NGO Group for the Convention on the Right of the Child ECPAT International.
- United Nations Children Fund (1991). *Annual Report*. Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.
- United Nations Children Fund (2007). *The UNICEF Protection, rehabilitation and Prevention of street children and street mothers project*. Available http://www.unicef.org.ethiopia/ET_mediachild.pdf.
- Wernham, Marie (1993). *Street children and Violence: Consortium for Street Children*. London, UK. Available <http://www.Street children.org.UK>.

- Wood, P, (2006). *Successful Writing for Qualitative Researchers*. 2nd ed. Open University, Routledge: New York.
- World Bank (1993). *World Development Report: Investing in Health*. New York, Oxford Press.
- World Health Organization (1997). *Violence against Women: The Girl Child*. In NGO Group for the Convention on the Right of the Child. ECPAT International.
- World Health Organization (2002). First World Report on Violence and Health. Available <http://www.who.int/violence-injury/prevention>
- Yemane Beyen (1995) *Health and Social Problems of street children in Nazareth Town*. Addis Ababa. Unpublished master's thesis. Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa.

Appendixes

Appendix I- Interview guide

A) Interview questions for girl street children at Lideta Sub city

i – Background information

1. Tell me about yourself. How old are you (probe for best estimate)? Where is your place of birth? What is your religion? What ethnic group do you belong to?
2. What is your current living arrangement (with whom are you living now)? What is your parents living arrangement? What is your mother and father educational status? What is your mother's /father's occupation?
3. Have you ever attended school? Probe, what is the highest grade level you completed? If you have never been enrolled to school, what factors hindered you from attending it? If you are school dropout, why did you give up?
4. What factors forced you to resort to street way of life? What do you work on the street? For how long have you been engaged in street way of life? Who helps/protects you while you are on the streets?

ii – Questions on Sexual abuse

5. What are the major problems that you currently encounter in your day to day street life? Have you ever had sexual intercourse? If yes, who was your sexual encounter and what was the main motive during the first sexual intercourse?
6. While you are living on the street, have you ever come across unwanted sexual advances? What are these unwanted sexual advances? Who are the perpetrators?
7. Have you ever faced an attempted rape? If yes, how did you manage to escape the attempt?
8. While you are living on the street, have you ever experienced unwanted sexual intercourse (rape)? Who were the perpetrators mostly and how long did you know the perpetrators? What are the conditions that contribute to force you to have sexual intercourse? Where and when did this incident happen to you?

9. Have you ever had any sexual intercourse with someone for the sake of money/material? Why did you engage in commercial sex work? Explain the kind of problems that you come across while working as a prostitute?
10. Do you have a habit of taking any kinds of drugs? Explain which drugs do you take and what makes you compelled to get involved with taking drugs?
11. Do you know girls who are sexually abused / exploited? What do you think the reasons why they are abused? Who are the perpetrators most of the time?

iii – Consequences of sexual abuse

12. Have you ever encountered any kind of health/psychological/social problem because of various forms of sexual abuse? Describe them together with the general effect these problems had on you?
13. Have you ever heard of HIV/AIDS? What are the major risk factors for HIV infection? What can a person do to avoid being infected with HIV virus?
14. In what way do you think that sexual abuse and exploitation affect girls' day to day life on the street?
15. What is that you would like to become in the future?
16. Do you have any technique to escape from the problem of sexual abuse?

B- FGD guideline

This part consists of unstructured questions asked to a group of female street children ages 13 to 18. The purpose is to get as much qualitatively detailed information as possible by allowing subjects to express and state their views freely and openly. Interviewers are encouraged to play an important role by empowering participant's ability to think and express their idea.

1. What are the causes that push girls to street way of life?
2. Discuss current working conditions of female street children?
3. What are the problems for female street children while living and working on the street?
4. Discuss different forms of sexual abuse among female street children?
5. Who are sexual abusers of female street children?
6. Discuss some of the impacts of sexual abuses?
7. What are risk reducing ways to avoid problems on the street?

C- Interview guideline for key informants

Name _____
Sex _____
Age _____
Educational level _____
Organization _____
Position _____

1. What are the major factors that lead female children to the street?
2. What are the problems these children encountered on the streets?
3. What are the risk factors for sexual abuse of female street children?
4. What are the effects of sexual abuse of female street children?
5. What challenges have you faced in the effort of supporting female street children?
6. What do you think should be done to reduce the problem of sexual abuse of female street children?

Appendix II- Lists of informants

A- Lists of female street children

No	Name of informants	Age	Educational level	Religion	Street status	Place of origin
1	Informant 1	15	6 th grade	Orthodox	Off	Dire Dewa
2	Informant 2	16	Illiterate	Muslim	Off	Gojjam
3	Informant 3	14	3 rd grade	Orthodox	On	Addis Ababa
4	Informant 4	15	4 th grade	Orthodox	On	Addis Ababa
5	Informant 5	13	4 th grade	Muslim	On	Addis Ababa
6	Informant 6	15	6 th grade	Orthodox	On	Addis Ababa
7	Informant 7	17	3 rd grade	-	Off	Addis Ababa
8	Informant 8	15	4 th grade	-	On	Addis Ababa
9	Informant 9	14	3 rd grade	Muslim	Off	Addis Ababa
10	Informant 10	16	5 th grade	Orthodox	On	Addis Ababa
11	Informant 11	15	6 th grade	Orthodox	On	Addis Ababa
12	Informant 12	16	Illiterate	Muslim	On	Addis Ababa
13	Informant 13	15	5 th grade	Orthodox	On	Addis Ababa
14	Informant 14	16	9 th grade	-	Off	Addis Ababa
15	Informant 15	16	5 th grade	-	Off	Addis Ababa
16	Informant 16	15	Illiterate	Orthodox	Off	Mekele
17	Informant 17	15	7 th grade	Orthodox	Off	Gojjam

B- Lists of FGD participants

No	Name of informants	Age	Level of Education	Street status
1	Participant S	14	Illiterate	On
2	Participant H	16	4 th grade	Off
3	Participant N	17	5 th grade	On
4	Participant M	14	7 th grade	On
5	Participant W	18	3 rd grade	On
6	Participant K	18	Illiterate	Off
7	Participant T	17	8 th grade	Off
8	Participant Z	15	2 nd grade	On

C- Lists of Key informants

No	Name of informants	Organization	Position
1	Informant T	Social and NGO Affairs Office, Lideta Sub City Administration Office	Social and NGO Affairs Team Leader
2	Informant L	Love for Children Organization	Excutive director
3	Informant N	Love for Children Organization	Nurse
4	Street Educator F	Love for Children Organization	Street educator
5	Street Educator G	Love for Children Organization	Street educator
6	Street Educator B	Love for Children Organization	Street educator
7	Informant O	Child Protection Unit, Lideta Sub City	CPU police Staff
8	Informant A	Child Protection Unit, Lideta Sub City	CPU police Staff
9	Informant 18	-	Off street children
10	Informant 19	-	On street children

DECLARATION

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

Name_____

Signature_____