

Addis Ababa University

School of Social Work

Exploring Challenging Experiences of Informal Sector Workers: the Case of Youth Shoe Shiners

in Addis Ababa

By

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Acronyms

CSA: Central Statistical Authority

FDRE: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

IASSW: International Association of School of Social Workers

IFSW: International Federation of Social Workers ILO: International Labor Organization

IRIN Integrated Regional Information Networks

MFIs: Micro Finance Institutions

MoE: Ministry of Education

MoFED: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

MoLSA : Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

MSE: Micro and Small Enterprise

MYSC: Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture

NASW: National Association of Social Workers

NEPS: National Employment Policy Strategy

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

NLF: National Labor Force

PASDEP: Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty

SSA: Sub Saharan Africa

TVET: Technical and Vocational Education Training

UN: United Nations

UNCHS: United Nation Center for Human Settlement

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

USD United States Dollar

WB: World Bank

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore experiences of youth shoe shiners in Arada sub city, woreda six in Addis Ababa City Administration. Specific intentions of the study were exploring causes that initiated them to be shoe shiners, challenging experiences of shoe shiners and strategies that shoe shiners used to cope up with different challenges.

The methodological inquiry was a descriptive phenomenological approach which was appropriate to understand the phenomenon from the lived experiences of participants' standpoint. The purposive sampling method was used to select study participants. Data were collected through Semi structured and open ended questions by in depth interview, focus group discussions and observation. . The sample size of in- depth interviews and focus group discussions were twelve and fourteen youths respectively. The data obtained from the participants were analyzed thematically in descriptive ways participants stand point. The study found out different initial causes for youths shoe shining. These were poverty, family break and peer pressure. Furthermore, the study found different challenges such as challenges of access and recognition to working place, unsuitable working conditions, and basic necessities problems and related health problems. The study also found different types of strategies to cope up with urban vulnerabilities such as livelihood diversification, using lower price foods and black market cloths and using social networks among themselves and with other people in Addis Ababa. The finding of this study implies the need of advocacy of social workers for policy considerations of youths who are working in precarious informal workers like shoe shiners to provide opportunities of job creations in urban areas to transit in better economic level. The finding also calls for social work intervention of some form of social welfare service for youth shoe shiners by governments and nongovernmental organizations.

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Chapter One: Introduction

At present time issues of youths working in informal sectors become critical agenda due to decent work deficit in developing country which needs critical exploration in the area to come up with supposed recommendation for policy and intervention to alleviate the problem of youths. Therefore, this study mainly address experiences of informal sector workers particularly youths shoe shiners in Addis Ababa.

1.1 Background of the Study

There are more than 1.2 billion youth people (15 to 24 years of age) in the world, of which, about 90 percent are living in developing countries. The proportion of youth population in Sub-Saharan Africa is 14 percent (UN, 2011), in Ethiopia it is about 21 percent (CSA, 2008). Nearly 75 million youth around the world were unemployed in 2011 (UN, 2011). The youth unemployment rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is 11.5 percent (ILO, 2012); and about 28 percent in Ethiopia (CSA, 2011). As a result, youth unemployment turns into a serious threat to the social and economic stability of a nation which calls scholars, governments and other international organizations to deal on the issues to come up with supposed solution.

Youths who lost employment opportunities in formal sector join informal sector as an immediate solution for their livelihood (Lal & Raj 2006). According to Reddy, Vijay and Manoranjan,(2002), though it is precarious, informal sector plays an important role in creating jobs for those having low level skills. In urban areas of Africa, for example, the employment in informal sector is estimated to be 60.3 percent (WB, 2008); and is about 37 percent in Ethiopia (CSA 2011). This showed that employment opportunities of youths in formal sectors in Africa and Ethiopia were very limited. However, studies in the area of informal sector workers particularly youth shoe shiners has not yet been done in Ethiopia.

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Clifton and Hervish (2013) highlighted that Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have the youngest population in the world with youth in the age group of 10 to 24 accounting to one-third of the total population. The rate of growth in the youth population is higher than the rate at which employment is being created by the public and the formal private sectors. In 2012, 12% of youth in the labor force are unemployed in SSA (ILO, 2013a). This rate of open unemployment, although close to the global average, hides the real extent of lack of livelihood opportunity for the youth in SSA. The majority of the youth reported as employed in SSA is underemployed or are in vulnerable employment (Elder et al., 2015). Estimates from a sample of 24 African countries show that 49% of working young people lives on less than USD 1.25 a day (AfDB et al., 2012). In addition, the unemployment rate in SSA does not account for the significant number of discouraged youth who are ready to work but have given up their job search (Elder et al., 2015, Garcia & Farès, 2008). The above literature imply that the prevalence of multiple problem of youth in SSA in relation to opportunities of youth employment that give background knowledge about the present youths problem research of Ethiopia, particularly, youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa.

World Bank (2009) study shows that the consequences of the high population growth and lack of education and job opportunities in rural areas of SSA lead disadvantaged youth to urban drift. Rural young sub-Saharan Africans put their lives at risk by moving to the city for greater employment opportunities. (Erulkar, et al., 2006) acknowledge that most research about rural-urban migration state that youths are the most likely migrants in Ethiopia. Drawn from a population-based survey of over one thousand adolescents aged 10 to 19 in the slum areas of Addis Ababa, the authors determine that migration was commonly correlated with employment opportunities.

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Youth migrants from rural areas, who are attracted to urban centers with the expectation of better employment opportunity and better livelihood, are exposed to additional risks. They may not have the same employment opportunity as urban born youth who have better education, information, social capital and other resources. They may also lack the social safety net from family, relatives and friends that provide youth a certain level of access to food and shelter in urban areas in times of crisis, including unemployment (Erulkar, et al., 2006).

The informal sector employment is more accessible than formal sector employment to people with low human, financial and social capital (Maloney, 2004). While the informal sector has long been considered a residual sector, it has been, in fact, an important source of employment in urban areas of developing countries. It employs 30% to 70% of the urban work force in Latin America (Maloney, 2004) and account for 33% to 82% of all non-agricultural employment in Sub-Saharan Africa (ILO, 2013b). It has been argued that the informal sector employment has on average lower returns than formal sector employment. If the informal sector is always low-return and migrants are not able to launch to a formal employment, then it is possible that it could also be a poverty trap for migrants instead of a transition to better livelihood (ILO, 2013b). This article highlighted the importance and opportunities of informal sectors especially for rural migrants with low human, financial and social capital to urban center to self-employment for livelihood. However, it did not show the reality of different types of informal economic activities like shoe shining in Latin America and SSA. Hence, my research study explored experiences of youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. In the other side, the article review shows because of informal sector's low-return and migrants' incapability to launch to a formal employment, informal sector become poverty trap for migrants instead of a transition to

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better livelihood. Therefore, this study explored the challenges of youth shoe shiners that made them incapable to transition to better livelihood in Addis Ababa.

The issue of street working youth is one of the fastest growing social problems in Ethiopia. A large number of these youth are forced to work on the streets to satisfy their basic needs and support their families (Global Security Organization, 2008). Because working in the streets led to some sort of vulnerabilities that harms present and future life of youths. This literature gave general knowledge of street working youths' social problem of Ethiopia which did not specifically address detail problem of street shoe shining workers problem.

Among street working activities, shoe shining occupation is one of informal self-employment sectors that youth are primarily engaged for livelihood. Shoe shining occupation is informal sector self-income generating activities in the sense that it is unregistered and unrecorded in official statistics because of its category of under informal sectors and that it is operating on a very small scale and with a low level of organization (Madhura, 1991). This article did not identify different types of risks that informal self-employment workers face in general and shoes shiners particular in relation to its being unregistered and unrecorded in official statistics. Because of lack of support and recognition of shoe shine working by government, youth face multiple dangers and risks. Hence, this study explored different types of vulnerability of youths shoe shiners that resulted from lack of government support and recognition of the sector as source of employment creation sector.

According to CSA (2003) most of informal sector activities have very low levels of capital, productivity and income. They tend to have little or no access to organized markets, to credit institutions, to modern technology, to formal education and training facilities, and to many public services and amenities. They are not recognized, supported or regulated by the

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government, and often compelled by circumstances to operate outside the framework of the law (CSA, 2003). Though CSA identified different institutional input challenges that informal self-employed individuals face in their business working, it did not address the vulnerability that results from these challenges particularly, vulnerability of youth shoe shiners faced due to lack of support or regulation and recognition.

Ahmadou Aly (2014) noticed some causes for participation in the informal sector. These ranged from pure survival strategies in lack of adequate jobs, unemployment insurance or other forms of income maintenance, to desire for independence. Others also prefer to join the sector for need of flexible work arrangements and, in some cases, the prospect of quite profitable income-earning opportunities, or the continuation of traditional activities. Ahmadou Aly (2014) explores the reason of engagement of informal sector workers in abstract form that did not indicate different types of informal self-employment sectors and the reason of youth engagement of individuals in every types of informal sector. Because informal sector activities comprise multiple self-employments such as street vending, shoe shining and so on.

According to World Bank (2008) informal sector has challenges and risks of vulnerability on youth. However, these sources did not specifically explore the challenges of youth shoe shiners come across in Africa in general and in Ethiopia in particular. Therefore, the researcher explored in detail the challenging experiences and survival mechanisms of street based self-employment youths who were engaged in shoe shining for the livelihood sustainability in Addis Ababa.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Being one of the dominant informal sector workers, youth shoe shiners experiences in Addis Ababa prompted several enquiries. This is because informal sector workers in urban areas have experiencing multiple challenges in working and other situations that need detail enquiries of those challenging experiences. For instance, as Metasebia, (1999) highlighted from her study, Africa is witnessed by massive labor force growth, poor opportunities of urban formal employment and large informal sectors in the major cities. UNCHS (2006) study report show that as the formal sector fails to provide adequate employment opportunities, big number of job seekers have opted to engage in informal jobs even though incapability of the sectors to provide livelihoods. However, this study report did not address all things about challenges of informal sector workers in general and challenges of youth shoe shiners in particular which expected to be answered in this study. According to the International Labor Organization, approximately 85% of all new employment opportunities around the world are created in the informal economy (ILO, 2014). However, the people involved in informal sector livelihoods, street sidewalk vendors face more problems in the courses of running their activities. Every business day poses a challenge to their survival because they do not have legal recognition, (UNCHS, 2006).

The informal economy increases as a result of high unemployment, underemployment, poverty and precarious work (ILO, 2014). Most people enter the informal economy not by choice, but out of a need to survive and to have access to basic income-generating activities (ILO, 2014). The informal economy is marked by acute decent work deficits and a disproportionate share of the working poor. Empirical research has shown that workers in the informal economy face higher risks of poverty than those in the formal economy. As a result of these and other factors, there is a significant association between working informally and being poor and vulnerable (ILO, 2014). Most people who are engaged in the informal economy are

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exposed to inadequate and unsafe working conditions, and have high illiteracy levels. Workers in informal sector are in low skill levels and they have not adequate training opportunities; have less certain, less regular and lower incomes than those in the formal economy. They also suffer longer working hours, have not collective bargaining and representation rights and they have uncertain employment status; and are physically and financially more vulnerable because work in the informal economy is excluded from social security schemes, safety net program and other labour protection(ILO, 2014).

In Ethiopia, youth migrants from rural areas, who are attracted to urban centers with the expectation of better employment opportunity and better livelihood, are exposed to additional risks and multiple vulnerabilities (Erulkar, et al., 2006). They may also lack the social safety net from family, relatives and friends that provide youths a certain level of access to food and shelter in urban areas in times of crisis, including unemployment (Erulkar, et al., 2006). Even though, shoe shining is one component of informal economic sector, challenging experiences of youth shoe shiners have not yet explored which initiated the researcher to explore in detail. Therefore, this study focused on exploring reasons that initiate youths to join shoe shining, exploring challenging experiences that youth shoe shiners faced and assessing the strategies to cope up the challenges that the youths shoe shiners have used in Addis Ababa.

1.3. Research Questions

- ✓ What reasons initiate youths to engage in shoe shining in Addis Ababa?
- ✓ How do youth shoe shiners face challenging experiences while working in street?
- ✓ How street youth shoe shiners cope up the challenges they encountered during their stay in shoe shining in Addis Ababa?

4. Objective of the Study

1.4.1. General Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to explore lived challenging experiences of youth street shoe shiners in Addis Ababa.

1.4.2. Specific objectives of the study

The following specific objectives are identified in line with the general objective of the study

- ✓ To assess reasons that initiate youths to engage in shoe shining
- ✓ To explore challenging experiences of youth shoe shiners while working in street as informal sector self-employment.
- ✓ To assess the strategies that street youth shoe shiners use to cope up the challenging experiences they come across during stay in shoe shining in Addis Ababa?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The findings of the study provide knowledge about experiences of informal workers particularly youth's shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. Specifically, it is important to have knowledge of reasons why youths shoe shiners take part in street shoe shine working, different challenging experiences of them in working and urban living context and survival livelihood strategies that they developed to cope up through time during shoe shine working and living in Addis Ababa. Furthermore, it would be knowledge base for alternative policy formulation that would enhances situations of informal sectors workers including youths shoe shiners for government.

It also gives knowledge and the way for governmental and non-government institutions, international institutions that directly and in directly working with youths agenda, particularly for those who are engaged in informal economic sectors like shoe shines working in urban setting to

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alleviate existing problem by formulating sustainable programs based on policy formulated by government.

Besides, this study would help for social work practice by giving theoretical and empirical knowledge for working practitioners with destitute and precarious informal sectors workers to come up with clear and precise intervention mechanisms. The finding of this research would give empirical knowledge for advocators for urban based vulnerable youth's informal sector workers to bring issues and agenda for responsible government bodies for advocacy.

Finally, it will serve as a springboard for other fellow researchers who are interested to conduct further study on different issues in relation to urban based informal sectors working youths in particular with youths shoe shiners.

1.6. Scope of the study

The study was conducted in Addis Ababa at Arada Sub City, Woreda 6. It focuses on youths' who are between the age 15 to 29 and who are currently engaged in shoe shine working. The study generally explored challenging experiences of informal sector workers in particular focusing youths' street shoe shiners. This study specifically attempt to study reasons for youth shoe shiners to engage in street shoe shining challenging experience of shoe shiners in street and strategies youths used to cope up challenges they encountered during working on street in Addis Ababa.

1.7. Limitations

The major limitation of this study is related representation of wider experiences of youths shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. The study was planned to be conducted in Woreda six of Arada Sub City in Addis Ababa. Hence, the result may not necessarily represent the reality for the entire youth shoe shiners in of Addis Ababa. Other limitations were related with research

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participants' reservation to tell detail experiences due time consideration for shoe shining because their earning is based on working whole day on the streets. I tried to compensate some amount of money per individual for using their working time for the study. However, due to shortage of money to give sufficient amount, some youths reserved telling detail experiences. This would create some limitations on gaining detail data to come up with full experiences of shoe shiners.

1.8. Definitions of Terms

- Informal employment: refers working in sectors out of formal employment sectors to generate livelihood income earning.
- Shoe shining: refers to the cleaning services that are given by youths shoe shiners who use tools like a small box containing a brush, shoe polish, pieces of cloth and a tin half full with water and with different types of shoe cleaning inks which could be categorized under a broad informal sector of economy.

1.9 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of six chapters. The first chapter contains background of study, statement of the problem, objective of study, research question, scope and limitation of the study. In the second chapter, conceptual framework, and review of related literature are outlined. The third chapter deals with methodology under which philosophical paradigm research design, research area, sampling techniques and sample size inclusion criteria and data collection methods, methods of data analysis, and ethical consideration. Chapter four is about presentation of finding and discussion is done under chapter five. Finally, under chapter six conclusions of the study and its implication for social work practice, policy and research are presented.

Chapter Two: Review of literature

This chapter dealt with two major literature areas such as conceptual development and some empirical literature. The conceptual literature dealt about conceptual development of informal sectors, understanding the concept of youths in Africa and in Ethiopia national policy frameworks of youths and some literatures on livelihood strategies. Empirical literature dealt on challenges of youths in employment and street working youths.

2.1. Concept of the informal sector

Informal sector is a term, which is commonly used to encompass petty trading, self-employment, casual and irregular wage worker, employment in personal service or in very small “micro” enterprises in manufacturing and service. Those unable to find or retain full-time regular wage employments well the ranks of the informal sector, characterized by its relative ease of entry with low capital investment requirements and by being relatively labour intensive and unregulated. Informal sector enterprises are not officially registered businesses and exist largely outside the tax system (Allen & Thomas, 2000). The international labor organization first used the term informal sector in the early 1970s to refer to informal economic activities (ILO, 1972). The first appearance of the term “informal sector” in an official document was in the report of a comprehensive employment mission to Kenya undertaken by the ILO in 1972.

One of the main findings of the mission was that, in developing countries like Kenya, the main employment problem was not unemployment, but the existence of large numbers of working poor, many of them working very hard in the production of goods and services, but whose activities were not recognized, recorded, protected or regulated by the public authorities. This phenomenon was labeled in the report as the “informal sector”, and explained by the inability of the other sectors of the economy - agriculture or other rural activities on the one

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hand, and modern industry and services on the other - to provide adequate incomes or employment opportunities to a rapidly growing labour force. As a result informal sector economic activities were gradually created to the gap of inability of other sector. However, informal sector is criticized as a vast area of backwardness, poverty, insanitary conditions, hazardous work, illegality and open use of child labour or because it is simply be ignored. (BardonRémi , 1997).

There is no doubt continued to be, controversies on what types of activities and what categories of workers the informal sector covers. There are some common characteristics of the informal sector. The informal sector is a concept to describe a variety of activities producing goods and services through which individuals derive employment and incomes. These activities are undertaken with the primary objective of self-generation of employment and incomes, rather than maximization of profit or of return on investments as they are typical for the formal sector. The conditions under which these activities come into existence and the constraints under which they are undertaken confer certain characteristics on them (ILO, 2000). These sectors are informal in the sense that they are for the most part unregistered and unrecorded in official statistics, and operating on a very small scale and with a low level of organization. Most of them have very low levels of capital, productivity and income. Informal sector tend to have little or no access to organized markets, to credit institutions, to modern technology, to formal education and training facilities, and to many public services and amenities. These sectors are not recognized, supported or regulated by the government, and often compelled by circumstances to operate outside the framework of the law (ILO, 2000).

The activities of informal sector range from street vending, shoe-shining, food processing and other petty activities requiring little or no capital and skills and with marginal output to those

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involving a certain amount of investment in skills and capital and with higher productivity, such as manufacturing, tailoring, car repair and mechanized transport. While some informal sector activities resemble traditional activities in handicrafts, food processing or personal services, others such as car repair, recycling of waste materials or transport, are new and arise from modernization (Bardon Rémi, 1997). According to Charmes (2000), the main features of informal sector economic units are: ease of entry, small scale of the activity; self-employment, little capital and equipment; labour intensive technologies; low skills; low level of organization with no access to organized markets, to formal credit, to education and training or services and amenities; and cheap provision of goods and services or provision of goods and services otherwise unavailable (Charmes, 2000). Because shoe shining is one component among heterogeneous informal sector activities which can commonly share some characteristics of informal sector activities.

2.2. Livelihood and street youths living on street based activities

This framework is used primarily to widen an understanding of the lives of youths shoe shiners who make their living from street based activities. I analyzed and understood how, in different contexts, youths working on the street (as individuals or a group) manage to cope with and adapt their livelihoods. They are poverty-stricken and their needs and problems are a result of wanting to meet basic needs for survival and to pursue livelihoods (Schuwatzma, 2001). Everyone's livelihood is made up of these three components. These are activities, assets, and entitlements- together with the short term coping mechanisms and long term adaptive strategies that the person employs in times of crisis so as to adjust to hardships, loss, and change, to maintain a livelihood (Ellis, 2000). In line with this, the livelihood approach enabled the

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researcher to understand factors limiting street youth's access to productive resources, assets and strategies they employ in tackling them.

Assets, structures and processes and vulnerability contexts have an adverse impact on the survival strategies and outcomes of the urban poor street worker youths like shoe shiners. Rural youths migrate to cities in search of employment with a hope of raising money to contribute for family's wellbeing and for themselves. Assets not only include financial but also the more intangible assets of labor, skills, capacity, and the social relations which underpin livelihood activities. These intangible assets are important in the lives of street working youths (Ellis, 2000). Thus, livelihood approach enabled the researcher to understand which assets street youths shoe shiners in Addis Ababa have or lack to attain livelihoods and to what extent their access and control of assets is restricted or enhanced by the structure and process.

The concept of diversification is helpful to assess youths' activity in the process of maintaining their daily life. Youths engaged in streets in a diverse range of activities in order to make their living, mainly take place in the informal sector. As urban livelihoods are characterized by a dependence on cash incomes often earned in the informal sector, the researcher attempted to explain youths shoe shiners survival strategies to increase their incomes and reduce expenditures.

Another analytical principle of the livelihood approach, which is relevant to youth shoe shiners, is the vulnerability context. Poverty in urban areas may happen by a combination of factors that produce a wide range of vulnerabilities. The urban poor are more immersed in the cash economy and live in slum, squatter and periphery of urban centers. Their lack of legal status, insecure, low income employment, rising food price, poor sanitation among others makes them vulnerable (UNDP, 1999). Since much of youths' daily lives is often spent seeking to mitigate or cope with present or likely future stresses and shocks, understanding what trends

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street youths are responding to, and thus what motivates them to engage in and adjust their particular livelihood strategies, both as individuals and groups, is a central issue.

I would say that these and other factors make street youths more vulnerable than the rest of the urban poor. The concept of vulnerability is helpful because it emphasized on understanding the wider shocks and stresses to which youths livelihoods are subject. I would assert that gaining better understanding about what resources do street youth shoe shiners have or lack to maintain livelihoods, how do they pool these resources and diversify activities in order to reduce risk, ensure their wellbeing and co-ensure one another to earn a livelihood on the street is vital before any intervention which attempts to make their livelihood productive and efficient.

2.3. Understanding the Concept of youth in contemporary Africa

The continuing debate on who is a youth in Africa has not resolved the confusion surrounding the concept of youth. Therefore, the concept of “youth” has been understood and used differently by different governments, NGOs and the public in general in many African countries and elsewhere in the world (Mkandawire, 1996). In much of Africa, for instance, laws define adulthood as commencing from the age of 21 although in recent years there has been an attempt to lower this age to 18 years (Curtain, 2000; Mkandawire, 1996). However, for most countries, 21 years still remains the age at which many of the activities and responsibilities of adulthood are assumed legally.

Sociologically, youth denotes an interface between childhood and adulthood. However, in many African societies, especially rural Africa, the status of adulthood is largely determined by the capacity to sustain a legal marriage. Abdullah (1999) observes that in Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea-Conakry and Senegal, adulthood is defined as the capacity to sustain a marriage. Those who are not married, or are not able to do so for economic or other reasons, as

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many young people in Sub-Saharan Africa currently are whatever their chronological age, still be regarded as children. Hence, it is not uncommon to find a 12 year old girl who, by virtue of being married, will be considered an adult, while an unmarried 40 year old man will still be considered a youth or child and still be dependent on the father for support (Mkandawire, 1996).

Nonetheless, it is generally the case that youth as a social group are defined in terms of age. For this reason, the spectrum of youth has been variously defined as ranging from the ages of 10 or 11 years (as in some cultural traditions in Africa) to as high as 35 years (as in South Africa, for instance). In an attempt to standardize youth programmes, international organizations, in particular the United Nations and the (British) Commonwealth Association of Nations have come up with specific age categories to define youth. For instance, the United Nations uses the age category 15-24 years to define a youth, while the Commonwealth uses the age category 15-29 years. Most African countries have either adopted the UN or Commonwealth definition. However, the age range 15-30 years is generally taken as representing the category of youth in Africa (Mkandawire, 1996).

In much of Africa, the tendency to extend the category of youth to 30 years and beyond seems to be a reflection of the emerging phenomenon of a prolonged period of youth dependence. In Sierra Leone, for instance, young people have coined a neologism of “Youth Man” to describe their status or anyone who has gone beyond the age customarily associated with youth (Abdullah, 1999). As Abdullah observes, this is a metaphor for Africa’s poverty. It is a reflection of the inability of many young people to pursue independent or sustainable livelihoods as a consequence of the depressed or stagnant economic situation in contemporary Africa. But, Ethiopia’s national youth Policy defines youth as those individuals in the age range 15-29 (MYSC, 2004) which is similar Commonwealth definition of youth.

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But for my analytical purposes of this study, I use the age category 15-29 years as the definition of youth in line with National Youth Policy of Ethiopia of 2004. My consideration of age (15-29) for this study in line with National Youth Policy of Ethiopia of 2004 is primarily to applicability of the findings to policy implication and to match and realize the study with current socio economic and cultural setting of Ethiopia.

2.4. Policy Frameworks

2.4.1. National Employment policy of Ethiopia

The National Employment Policy and Strategy (NEPS) of Ethiopia to approach the problem of unemployment, underemployment and working poor through a coordinated employment policy framework has been enacted in 2009. The policy framework addressed the issues of labor demand, labor supply and labor market institutions governing the labor market. The policy framework is prepared to guide interventions to improve employment by linking economic growth, employment and poverty reduction to ensure the growth is shared and pro poor. The employment policy has objective primarily focusing on three major dimensions. These are enhancing social welfare, accelerating economic growth and achieving political stability objectives by widening employment opportunities by using different policy based strategies (NEPS, 2009).

Moreover, the National policy framework of 2009 has guide line to promote self-employment and support the informal economy. The policy framework acknowledged as most people in urban areas work as self-employed individuals in the informal sector by producing primarily services and other non- tradable commodities. The informal sector has been as the employer of last resort in shortage of formal employment. The sector is dominated by unskilled youth and women, the most vulnerable groups of people in Ethiopia who face the challenges of

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low return and underemployment. To address the problem of poor vulnerable group in informal sector, the Government in the National Employment policy and Strategy(2009) of Ethiopia formulated some strategic plan to maximize the productivity of informal sector to reduce urban poverty. The policy see the informal sector as critical for creating decent jobs for poor skilled women and youth (NEPS, 2009). For instance, in the country five year plans, PASDEP the government identified some instruments to support poor urban unskilled labor force in informal sectors. These instruments are promoting micro and small enterprises (MSEs), development program, promotion of micro finance institutions (MFIs) technical and vocational education and training (TVET)(MoFED, 2006). Analyzing of this policy documents for my study created awareness in what are already formulated policy issues and implementation gaps in employment for youths in Ethiopia that resulted in unemployment, underemployment and precarious working situations like shoe shining and other types of informal economic activities.

2.4.2. National Youth Policy of Ethiopia

National Youth Policy of Ethiopia which was formulated in March, 2004 deals with youth policy issues that comprise entrepreneurship, education to youth employment and cross cutting issues such as social services and HIV/AIDS. In relation to self-employment and informal employment opportunities for youth, the youths policy framework aims to create and facilitate the situations for youths of out of formal school by expanding and giving adult education primarily focusing on skills and attitude changing (MYSC, 2004). This youths policy helped me understand government policy in Ethiopia to solve socio economic problem of youths.

2.4.3. Labor proclamations 377/2003

Ethiopia issued proclamations in the effort to improve employment outcomes through improving employment relations (Labor Proclamation 377/2003). This labor law was

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proclaimed in 2003 to ensure worker-employer relations that are governed by certain basic principles, to guarantee the rights of workers and employers to form associations, and to strengthen and define labor administration.

A portion of the labor law is devoted to 14-18 year-olds. Under Article 89 of the Labor Proclamation the statutory minimum age for young workers is 14 years. The proclamation prohibits employment of those under age 14 and prohibits employment of young workers for activities that would endanger their life and health. These prohibited activities include: e.g. work in transport, work in arduous, hazardous or unhealthy activities, such as mining. Work performed under the regime of vocational training course is exempted from this protection. Labor Law generally stipulates a maximum workday of 8 hours or 48 hours per week (article 61, sub article 1). However, article 90 states that the normal workday for young workers should not exceed seven hours. In addition, employers are prohibited from employing young workers for night work (between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.), overtime work, weekly rest days, and public holidays (Labor proclamations 377/2003). Reviewing of this labor related proclamation increases awareness of labor laws in Ethiopia and to see gaps in implementation of these labor proclamations which resulted in violations of rights of youths and harms health situations of them during work. The above proclamations and regulation did not directly address workers rights and problems in informal sector like shoe shining in Ethiopia that helped me recommend for policy implications of my study to address the challenging problems of informal sector workers including youth shoe shiners.

2.5. Challenges of Youths in employment

Youth unemployment and the associated problems of poverty and lack of livelihood opportunities for young people are major global concerns. The current global youth

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unemployment rate is estimated at about 12.6% and is expected to remain high for many years to come (ILO, 2013a). Youth unemployment is higher in urban than in rural areas, and higher among young women than young men (Elder et al., 2015). In poor developing countries, the employment problem is more about vulnerable employment such as informal sector self-employment and underemployment. The dominance of rain-fed agriculture in Africa makes employment and under-employment to be a seasonal phenomenon in rural areas.(Ghose et al., 2008).

The effect of youth unemployment is not limited to loss of current income and livelihood; it has long term consequences on their life-long welfare in the form of lower future employment prospects and lower subsequent earning. This is because unemployment periods result in depreciation of acquired general skills, lack of specialized training and lack of experience (Arulampalam et al., 2000, Gregory and Jukes, 2001). The youth population of about 200 million people in Africa makes the continent the youngest in the world and is projected to expand more rapidly than anywhere else in the world (AfDB, 2012).

Youth are in general more vulnerable to unemployment than adults. While youth account for 40% of Africa's working age group, they constitute 60 % of the total unemployed (AfDB et al., 2012). Even then, youth unemployment rate is a poor indicator of their lack of livelihood access since it excludes the significant number of discouraged youth who are ready to work but have given up their job search (Garcia and Farès, 2008).

A recent study that used survey data on youth employment from several countries shows that the youth unemployment rate in Sub-Saharan Africa averaged 7.5 per cent but youth who are neither in employment nor in formal education or training totaled 17.7 per cent. The prevalence of unemployment and lack of Wage employment opportunities is high for low skilled and low

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educated youth. As a result the majority of youth are in vulnerable employment, which consists of low-earning self-employment which is often not accompanied by employment benefits or participation in a social security scheme (Garcia and Farès, 2008). Estimates from a sample of 24 African countries shows that 49% of working young people live on less than USD 1.25 a day (AfDB et al., 2012).

Ethiopia has an estimated population size of 86.6 million in 2013 (CSA, 2013a) with the overwhelming majority of the population (84%) living in rural areas (CSA, 2008). According to the National Labor Force (NLF) survey in 2013, the rate of unemployment in Ethiopia is 4.5 percent, with an urban unemployment rate of 16.5% and a rural unemployment rate of 2% (CSA, 2014). However, this rate of unemployment may be an underestimate, especially for rural areas. Given that agriculture is the main activity in rural areas and members of farm households are typically expected to contribute to the family agriculture in some capacity, most people who would consider themselves as unemployed are likely to be registered as employed because of their contribution to family labor. The data supports this argument. While 55% of those reported as employed in rural areas are unpaid family workers, only 4% are paid employees (in agriculture or non-agriculture sector). These unpaid nature of working for family, lack of diversified employment opportunities and unproductivities of agriculture triggered youth to search self-employment informal activities in urban area (CSA, 2014).

According to the 2003 National Policy Document of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, the Ethiopian Youth (age 15-29) are facing many problems and challenges. The major ones include: unemployment, shortage of vocational and technical schools as well as recreational centers for talent development, and weakness of youths related institutions for positive experiences of moral and life skill development. Consequently, many youngsters in urban areas

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are forced to involve in anti-social activities such as substance abuse (chat, shisha, and alcoholism), commercial sex work, begging, street life and criminal activities. (MYSC,2003)

Moreover, TekalignAyalew (2011) noticed that unemployed youth faced common risks like addiction to substance abuse, chat, Shisha (a stimulant drug to be smoked), cigarette and alcoholic drinks that resulted in high rate of crime and youth delinquency in the town of Arbaminch. For instance, his finding from Arbaminich town's first instance court report of 2008 indicated that for the consecutive three years (2005-2007), 3547 offenders were accused and out of which the majority (2795) offenders (more than 70%) were children & youngsters under age category between 15 and 29 years. According to the same source, high rate of unemployment, high consumption rate of substances such as *chat*, *shisha*, alcohols and the consequent addictions are considered as major factors for their involvement in criminal activities.

2.5.1. Challenges of Street working

Among the self-employed in the informal sector, street workers are the most visible in urban areas. Street vending is one aspect of informal working in which individuals work in street. According to ILO, street vending includes activities like hairdressers/barbers; shoe shiners and shoe repairers; and mechanics and so on (ILO, 2013b). In Africa, street vending accounts for 12-24% of informal self-employment (ILO, 2013b). For those engaged in street vending, it is also often the main source of household income (Roever, 2014).

Street vendors frequently face eviction, arbitrary confiscations of merchandise, demands for bribes, harassment and physical abuse in their work place, including from police and other state actors. State sanctioned evictions that target street vendors are frequent and have been justified by city cleanup for modernization; pressure from formal businesses who are worried from 'unfair' competition; and preparation for specific public events such as visits of dignitaries,

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hosting of international sport competitions and other tourist events (Skinner, 2008, Bromley, 2000, Potts, 2007, Hansen, 2004). Such large scale evictions sometimes compromise the livelihood of thousands of urban dwellers. For example, a street 'clean up' operation in Zimbabwe in 2005 resulted in the loss of livelihood for 75000 street vendors in Harare (Potts, 2007). As a result, these who left street vending became jobless which resulted in multiple phase of vulnerability. Similar targeting of street vendors and informal business has been documented in other African cities with cleanup operations that involve arrest of street vendors, destruction of their business place, and confiscation of their wares (Skinner, 2008). The above literature review analysis indicated generally African street vending, confiscation and displacement of street vendors which did not address Ethiopian reality of street vending confiscation by state actors and displacement of street workers for different reasons. Thus, my thesis addressed challenges of street workers problems in particular emphasis on shoe shiners on streets of Addis Ababa.

The youths in Ethiopia account for a quarter of the total population (CSA, 2013b). The youth unemployment rate according to the 2013 labor survey is 21.6% in urban areas and 3.1% in rural areas (CSA, 2014). A worrisome development in Ethiopia in recent years is the ever shrinking access to agricultural land for youth in rural areas due to farm size scarcity and high rate of population growth. A recent study in Ethiopia shows that with a decline in access to farm land, youth in rural areas started looking for livelihood outside of the agricultural sector. Since the non-farm sector in rural Ethiopia is very much underdeveloped, lack of access to farm land combined with low interest in agricultural livelihood has already initiated significant rural-urban youth migration in recent years (CSA, 2014). Because of absence of employments in formal institutions for unskilled and low education status youth in urban, youths started to join in

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informal self-employment economic sector in street. This is because informal self-employment sectors are easy for all unskilled and low education status youths.

In Addis Ababa, lottery selling and shoe shining are the two major occupations of street working youths. Lottery selling is a highly itinerant street hawking activity. Shoe shining is another dominant settled street work. However, there are also other street activities of begging, washing cars, providing change for taxi drivers, assisting taxi drivers in facilitating in picked up and dropped off passengers (Aptekar & Abebe 1997). Lottery vending and shoe shining operate as an extension of the informal economy. Lottery Venders purchase their merchandise from National Lottery Administration and sell it to the public. Shoe shiners, purchase their inputs from the formal market and sell their services to the public. The two occupations are mainly conducted by the boys (Aptekar & Abebe 1997). Even though this study has given general information of street working in shoe shining and lottery vending in Addis Ababa, detail challenging experiences and related vulnerability on independent street working youths specially on these who migrated from rural area to lead independent survival life in Addis Ababa are not explored well that explored by my study.

2.6. Social safety and protection mechanisms in informal sector

As noticed by Forastieri,(1999) who is occupational health specialist in Occupational Safety and Health Branch in ILO improvement of working conditions and environment in the informal sector through safety & health measures is crucial for wellbeing of individuals who are engaged in the sector and for productivity of the informal economic sector. Inadequate safety in working condition of informal sector and health standards and environmental hazards are particularly evident in the case of the informal sector. Informal sector's workers do not have the necessary awareness, technical means and resources to implement health and safety measures.

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The protection of welfare of workers and the health in the informal sector is a challenge which should be faced with an integrated approach to health promotion, social protection and employment creation. Innovative means to prevent occupational accidents and diseases and environmental hazards need to be developed through cost-effective and sustainable measures at the work-site level to allow for capacity-building within the informal sector itself (Forastieri, 1999). From this literature review I understand that informal sector workers have rights to get social protection and welfare services in situation where they are in need and vulnerable. In Ethiopian reality at present time informal sector workers including youth shoe shiners do not have welfare and social protection which is the gap found in study from shoe shiners. Thus, the above literature review and study finding imply for social work intervention and social policy recommendation to alleviate the existing problem of youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa in particular and in Ethiopia in general.

The research done by Gezahegn, Nebil, and Hayat (2010) highlighted the role and importance of microfinance institutions in youth employment and entrepreneurship by giving support to young people by providing the necessary start up and working capital in the form of loans. Currently, there are 29 MFIs in Ethiopia providing products from individual loans to MSE business and cooperative loans. But their research does not indicate accessibility of loans from microfinance institutions to informal self-employed and working youth in Ethiopia to support them.

According to Gezahegn, Nebil, and Hayat (2010) there are several governmental and non-governmental training institutions providing training in a number of fields. Informal and short-term training is also available at sub-city levels for those who face skill gaps in their business with no education requirement. The Ministry of Education's (MoE) Technical and

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Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system offers an alternative to the academic subjects that were previously being provided in secondary schools. Currently, there are around 126 governmental TVET institutions. So the government should facilitate situations for low skill labour force who are engaged in daily livelihood to enable them and make them productive. But their research also does not indicate accessibility training for these who engaged in informal economy working youth from these training providing institutions in Ethiopia to support them.

2.7. Approaches to survival mechanisms

The appropriate approaches to address the challenging experiences of shoe shining youths would be the livelihood approach. Even though there are multiple approaches and strategies to poverty alleviation of youths, this approach is selected as appropriate poverty alleviation approaches among the others to youths who are engaged in urban informal activities.

2.7.1. The livelihood approach as survival mechanism

The sustainable livelihood approach has been developed to better aware of the efforts of the poor to earn a living and their long-term strategies for survival. It emerged in the 1990s as a new approach to poverty alleviation. The concept has been defined as a livelihood depends on the capabilities, assets and activities, which are all required for a means of living. A person or family's livelihood is sustainable when they can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance their capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining environmental resources (Chambers & Conway, 1992). The important feature of this livelihood definition is to direct attention to the links between assets and the options people possess in practice to pursue alternative activities that can generate the income level required for survival (Ellis, 2000).

Assets may well be described as stocks of capital that can be utilized directly, or indirectly, to generate the means of survival of the household or to sustain its material well-being at different level above survival. Assets can be identified in five category of capital: human capital, physical capital, natural capital, financial capital and social capital (Carney 1998; Ellis 2000). This capital can be stored, accumulated, exchanged to work to generate a flow of income or other benefits (Rakodi 2002).

A livelihoods approach is seen from the point of view of the individuals, households and social groups who are trying to make a living with limited assets. This approach puts people at the centre of development and provides a framework for understanding the opportunities and assets available to poor people and the sources of their vulnerability, as well as the impact upon them of external organizations, processes and policies (Scoones 1998; Ellis 2000).

2. 7.2. The urban livelihood context

Recent conceptualization of livelihoods have proposed frameworks that seek to reflect the diversity and complexity of ways in which different groups make a living (Satterthwaite& Tacoli, cited in in Rakodi, 2002). The livelihoods of the poor are determined predominantly by the context in which they live and the constraints and opportunities this location presents. This is because context largely determines the assets accessible to people, how they can use these, and thus their ability to obtain secure livelihoods (Meikle cited in Rakodi, 2000).

These frameworks have been developed from urban perspective, in which they are sufficiently broad to incorporate non-natural resource- based livelihood strategies (Tacoli, 1998 and Rakodi, 2002). Most urban areas, despite distinctive individual attributes, share similar economic, political, social and physical characteristics with each other. These have implication

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for how poor men and women live and frequently mean that the livelihood strategies of the urban poor have to be different from those of their rural counterparts.

Living in an urban environment is clearly a distinct experience. Yet despite the contrasts in terms of contexts, there is one factor that remains unchanged: people themselves. Wherever people live, they retain essentially the same human needs, and the desire for the same entitlements or rights. They require access to productive resources and from these an income to support consumption needs. Thus, these requirements amount to the entitlement each person has to lead a life that is fundamentally secure in respect both of the basic needs and broader social and psychological sense of a livelihood (De Haansetel., 2002; Scoones 1998).

Rural livelihood systems can be found in villages and small towns with agriculture as the primary source of livelihoods. Secondary and tertiary livelihood activities include wage labor, informal labor on large farm land, and migration to urban centers. Whereas a cash economy is the major indicator of informal employment, being the primary source of livelihood in urban areas (UNDP, 1999). Urban livelihood strategies center on income-earning activities in either the formal or informal sectors, as wage employees, in self-employment (Rutherford, Harper & Grierson cited in Rakodi, 2002).

The urban setting results in a different emphasis for each type of livelihood asset (Carney 1998; Rakodi 2000). Many of the physical, economic and social infrastructures are not owned by the men and women who use them as livelihood assets. This highlights the fact that the existence of assets alone is not sufficient to promote livelihood assets. The brief discussions made so far indicate that there is a room to adapt rural livelihood approach into the urban context. This is so mainly because the asset portfolios utilized by rural and urban publics have some overlap though there are differences in social structure and vulnerability contexts which make them pursue

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different livelihood strategies. For my research purpose on shoe shining youths challenging experiences in Addis Ababa, analyzing of aforementioned urban perspective livelihood strategies of urban poor helped me to know the experiences of what livelihood strategies those youth are using and how they are using these strategies for survival mechanism during staying in Addis Ababa working shoe shine occupations.

2. 7.3. The influence of lack of Human Capital on livelihoods

It is often said that the chief asset possessed by the poor is their own labor. Human capital refers to the labor available to the household: its education, skills, and health (Ellis 2000). Lack of human capital in the form of skills and education affects the ability to secure a livelihood more directly in urban labor markets than rural areas (Rakodi, 2002). This theoretical framework analysis helps the researcher to see how youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa are facing multiple problem due to lack of skills and low level of educational status. This is because to get decent jobs for leading sustainable and healthy livelihoods quality skills and achievement of high educational level is prerequisites especially for sustainable urban livelihood of an individuals and households. Health is also other key element of human capital that needs for any given human being to engage him/ herself in work for acquiring livelihoods. Therefore how lack of skills and low educational level of youths shoe shiners influence are seen from explorations of experiences by in depth interview, focus group discussions and observations in work places.

2. 7.4. Social capital as survival mechanism

Social capital is defined as 'the rules, norms, obligations, reciprocity and trust embedded in social relations, social structures, and society's institutional arrangements, which enables its members to achieve their individual and community objectives (Narayan 1997 in Rakodi 2002).

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Social capital is traditionally construed to include two factors: the networks of affiliation to which people belong (family groups, friendship ties, networks of professional colleagues and business contacts, membership of formal and informal associations and groups) and the informal behavioral norms individuals and groups rely upon in establishing, maintaining, and using those networks. These norms include behaviors such as reciprocity and trust (Emamaline, etel. 2007). This theoretical framework analysis helps the researcher to see how youths shoe shiners in Addis Ababa are using social networks and relations among each other and other urban community people in different contexts.

Chapter Three: Research Methodology

3.1. Philosophical stance/ paradigm

The experiences of youth shoe shiners in the street were explored in line with constructive paradigm of research approach. This is because according to Creswell (2009) research studied in constructive world view is necessary to rely on the participant's views of reality of the situation being studied to know the reality they actually experience and the knowledge they constructed within those experiences and situations. Youth shoe shiners in the street constructed and developed their own knowledge from their experiences. So what is right for them is the knowledge they gain from their experiences of working and living. Therefore exploring experiences they encountered interpreted from the perspective of participants in the research. This was because as Creswell, (2009) highlighted individuals understand the reality of world from their experiences of living and working. Thus they developed a subjective meaning of their experiences.

Therefore this research had been conducted by understanding the subjective reality of situations of youth shoe shiners in streets of Addis Ababa. However, for the sake of balancing and reasonable judgments of reality in the analysis of experiences there were some views of researcher in analysis part of this study. But great emphasis was given to subjective reality of research participants. In line with this, Kenneth Todd, (2011) noticed that there is always a room for a reasonable judgment analysis of study in spite of the need to see life as they live in a subjective reality world view.

3.2. Research Design

The researcher employed qualitative research design. The reason for choosing qualitative research design is mainly because of its advantage in gaining detailed information about the

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issue, as stated by Creswell (2007). Among qualitative research design, a descriptive phenomenological research approach was used. According to Creswell (2009) descriptive phenomenological research approach focuses on the experiences. The rationale for a descriptive phenomenological approach in this study was that such inquiry enabled to deal with the experiences of shoe shining youths in the study area. Therefore, this research method helped the researcher explore the feelings, understandings and knowledge through interviews, discussions and observations that rewarded the researcher by offering an in-depth understanding of a particular problem and experiences rather than presenting it with numerical representation.

The purpose of this research has been to explore the challenging experiences and survival mechanisms of youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. Hence, this research is an exploratory research. According to Weinberg (2002) exploratory research is applied in a research on which a situation, concept and people that the researcher be familiar with little about. This means exploratory research is selected when there is little known about the issue under study. Exploratory research uses to maximize and broaden the knowledge on youth shoe shiners by using systematic data collection and analyzing data to come up with generalizations of situations as explained by (Weinberg, 2002) in the reason of using exploratory research. Exploratory research suits with qualitative studies instruments such as observation, interview, and focus group discussion (Weinberg, 2002). Therefore,, description of research findings on experiences of shoe shiners were done as suggested by David and Robert (2007).

3.3. Research area

The study area covered Woreda 6 of Arada sub city in Addis Ababa City Administration. This woreda is purposively selected because the area is densely populated by

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shoe shiners. The study area is also purposively selected, because of my familiarity with the area and shoe shiners who work in the area of study. This helped the researcher gather data of experiences of youth shoe shiners in depth. The study focused mainly on three major issues. These are identifying the major reasons lead youths to street shoe shining, exploring youth shoe shiners challenging experience of working in street as informal sector self-employment, assessing the experiences of management of challenges and policy interventions that help mitigate the challenges of street youth shoe shiners to livelihood improvement.

3.4. Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

Purposive sampling method was used to select research participants who were concerned persons of the study. This sampling technique was used as a means to select research participants. This was purposively done in order to understand the experiences of shoe shiners in depth. Moreover, snowball research participants were selected so as to get youth shoe shiners who were stayed long years in Addis Ababa to get detailed challenging lived experiences. Furthermore, focus group discussion was held by selected focus group discussants of youth shoe shiners in the study area. With regard to sample sizes, for phenomenological approach the number of sample size should be small. This is because as Creswell (2007) explained qualitative research is highly intensive in terms of data and time requirement. Therefore, twelve youth shoe shiners on the street were participated in this interview and two FGD of shoe shiners on the street with maximum number of nine were carriedout based on the inclusive criteria.

3.4.1. Inclusion Criteria

The following criteria were applied to choose the participants of the study for the purpose of study reliability in the course of data collection.

- Shoe shining youths on the street

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- Youths who are voluntary to participate in the research
- Since the focus of this study is to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon, it would be appropriate to take into account consideration of age of participants. Therefore, youths between 15 to 29 years of age for in-depth understanding were selected so as to gain deep and various reality of phenomenon.
- Again to gain depth understanding of the phenomenon spending time on shoe shining in Addis Ababa were considered. Therefore, spending more time at least two years on shoe shining was prerequisite to participate. Because they would have more experiences of shoe shining.

3.5. Data collection methods.

Relevant data were obtained from primary sources. These primary data were gathered through in depth interview, focus group discussions and field observation. These tools are appropriate to gather data in detail for the qualitative research as suggested by Creswell (2007).

3.5.1. Individual Interview

Scholars like Denzin (1978) and Spradley (1979) as cited by Bruce (2001) define interview as simply as a conversation with a purpose of gaining information. The primary purpose is to gain relevant information from the stand point of the research objective and to gain constructive view from participants in the research.

It is often used as a method of generating data for understanding people's knowledge, experiences, opinions, beliefs, needs, perceptions, and constraints. It can be categorized as structured, semi-structured or unstructured in their settings (Robson, 1993). Therefore, the researcher conducted in depth interview with selected participants who have experiences of youths shoe shiners in the study area. Triangulations were used to make the data more credible

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and valid, crosschecking information from different youths shoe shiners. Hence, the researcher interviewed different individuals using the interview guidelines to triangulate the data from different directions. Interview questions first developed in English and translated to Amharic. The interviews and focus group discussions were held in Amharic. In-depth interviews were conducted with 12 key informants. These in depth interview participants were selected purposively based on their knowledge and experiences they have from their working experiences in shoe shine occupation.

3.5. 2. Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussion is making group interaction, which enables the participants to get a chance to discuss each other's idea and share their information in relation to the intended objectives (WoldieAsfaw, 2007). The main intent of conducting focus group discussions are for triangulation of other sources. To carry out these focus group discussions for this study, two FGDs were held. Each FGD contained seven participants who were being selected from different location of the community in the study area. There four the total participants of focus group discussants were fourteen. The selection was based on their knowledge and exposure to the subject matter under study. According to Morgan (1988) focus groups discussions give room for a variety of responses and openness on views that is not be viewed in individual interviews. Therefore, focus group discussants of youth shoe shiners shared different views on their experiences of shoe shine work which helped the researcher cross check different ideas and see experiences in variety angles.

3.5.3. Observation

Observation is a tool that helps the researcher to take field notes on the behavior and activities of individuals at the research sites (Creswell, 2007). It has vital role in providing first-

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hand information on the issue under investigation if it is critically observed and recorded (Degefa Tolossa, 2005). Observation in research is used for watching what actually happening and how it is happening that provides valuable information throughout any research process (Ennew et al., 2009). Therefore, this data collection method was used for collecting information through observing directly youth shoe shiners on the streets and their social situations. Observation is a researcher-centered method that helps the researcher balance interpretation with other methods (Ennew et al., 2009).

Hence, this method added a new dimension in the understanding of the context and the phenomena of shoe shine practice and experiences of youths in the street. Therefore, two field trips were made for observations of real experiences and situations of shoe shine working youths in woreda 6 of Areda Sub City in Addis Ababa. The first observation was to collect preliminary data to identify and refine the study topic and the second observation was for further understanding of real picture of the experiences of youths shoe shiners in the study sites.

3.6. Methods of Data Analysis

According to Patton (2002), phenomenological study analysis seeks to hold and reveal the meaning, structure, and lived experiences of a phenomenon for a person or group of people. Thus, to make analysis of this phenomenological study of participants experiences, I used certain stages of data analysis techniques as Colaizzi's (1978) suggested seven stages of data analysis for phenomenological study to enquire lived experiences of research participants.

The first step I used as stated by Colaizzi's (1978) was reading and rereading the participants' descriptions of the phenomenon after transcribing from tape recording of in depth interview voice to acquire a feeling for their experience. For this purpose first I recorded all interviewees' voice by tape record and later I transcribed manually after repeatedly listening recorded voice of

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interviewees. For the purpose of accuracy of data analysis, codes were given to each research participants by giving pseudonyms or false names for actual participants for anonymity. The transcription was translated from Amharic to English by repeatedly reviewing the translated information to ensure accurate.

Second stage was separating and extracting significant statements that pertain directly to the phenomenon. In this stage of analysis, the transcripts was read and reread to separate words and sentences of participants' explanation of phenomenon using color by highlighter pen to identify significant words, phrases and statements and quotes of particular participants during transcribing on hard paper.

Third step of data analysis was formulating meanings for significant statements. Under this stage I sorted similar ideas of in depth interview participants to formulate meanings of phenomenon based on highlighted significant statements of participants.

Fourth step of data analysis was categorization of formulated meanings of experiences of youth shoe shiners. In this stage I formed sub themes and themes to write analysis of common experiences of youth shoe shiners and I did accordingly. Following the thematic area the entire data transcripts were re-arranged. This is because Strauss & Corbin (1998) argued that events, happenings, actions/interactions that are found to be conceptually similar in nature or related in meaning are grouped under more abstract concepts which are termed as categories.

Fifth stage of analysis was integrating the findings into thorough description of the phenomenon being studied. In this stage, the already arranged and organized data were set to be analyzed by triangulation the data which were gathered by three major methods such as in depth interview, FGDs and observations. Because triangulation increases validity by incorporating several viewpoints and methods in social science research as stated by Sabina and Khan (2012).

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Social science reality is so complex that it is impossible to be captured by a single way of data collection or technique that needs triangulations of data analysis from different sources.

According to Patton (2002), triangulation strengthens a study by combining different methods.

Hence, I analyzed data by triangulation from in-depth interview, FGD and observation

The findings from these three sources were integrated in places where it is necessary by describing phenomenon of experiences of youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. In this stage segmenting of coded texts comparing and contrasting phenomenon in themes and sub themes and integrating of themes for giving meanings of phenomenon of experiences of youth shoe shiners. Analysis of data was made by giving greater emphasis for subjective reality of participants' experiences in the study. Six stage of phenomenological study was communicating with participants on the study finding to compare and contrast with their lived experiences for validation the findings through various ways. Thus, I informed on findings of study for participant youth shoe shiners and they gave me feedback on finding comparing with their real experiences.

Last stage of phenomenological study analysis was incorporating changes based on feedback given by participants into the final description of the phenomenon. Accordingly, I made some modification in some parts of findings of study after feedbacks of study participants. Data which were gathered by focus group discussion were also analyzed in the same manner as mentioned above following the same procedure as in depth interview. I summarized finding of focus group discussion and integrated with finding of in depth interview for triangulation for the purpose of truthfulness and quality assurance of study.

. The data were also gathered through directly observing of youths shoe shiners in their working and living environment to see different challenging experiences of them. This is because

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(Ennew et al., 2009) stated that observation in research is used for watching what is actually happening which provides valuable information throughout any research process. Thus, the observed realities were transcribed in Amharic and later translated into English by repeatedly reviewing the translated information to ensure truthfulness. Finally, I made analysis of finding by developing certain meaningful concepts of reality of observation and triangulate it with findings of in depth interview and focus group discussion for quality assurance as stated so far. Then after, discussion has been done and come up with conclusion of the study.

3.7. Ethical Consideration

The research topic is approved by the school of social work of Addis Ababa University. The objective of the study was explained to the identified participants. The researcher told his participants briefly that any information concerning them would never been passed to any individual or institution without their agreement. The participants were kindly requested to be part of the study. They were also informed that it was their right not to participate at any time in the process of data collection. To ensure anonymity participants were not required to write their names. In this research, actual names of participants and facts that show their clear identity is hidden and replaced by pseudonyms. This is because according to (IFSW and IASSW, 2004) study dealing with human beings should be done in great caution. Thus, common social work ethical values of autonomy of a person, justice and beneficence were respected during this study.

Chapter Four: Findings

In this chapter finding from three main sources such as from interview, FGDs and observations were presented. The main study findings were organized in line with research questions in different themes for the purposes of easy references. first demographic characteristics of in depth interview and FGDs participants presented; secondly, causes for youth shoe shining on streets of Addis Ababa in which poverty; family breakdowns; disagreement within family members; peer pressure are presented as sub-themes.

Thirdly, challenging experiences faced by youth shoe shiners in which challenges of access and recognition to working place and registration for youth shoe shiners; experiences of youths shoe shining problems and their health situations; earning of youths shoe shiners; the ill-treatment that youth shoe shiners faced; shelter problems of youth shoe shiners; low level of education and lack of quality skill; lack of support for entrepreneurship and absence of support from micro finance institutions are discussed.

Finally, survival strategies of youth shoe shiners such as ways of getting access to food stuffs; ways of getting access to clothes for youth shoe shiners; livelihood diversification; the social networks of shoe shiners; social safety net youth shoe shiners have in urban areas and lastly social relation between youth shoe shiners and community people are presented.

4.1 Demographic characteristics of in depth interview and FGDs participants from youth shoe shiners

Demographic characteristics of the youth shoe shiners who participated in depth interview and FGD participants were presented in three tables.

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Table1. In-depth interview participants from youth shoe shiners

No.	Names	Sex	Age	Educational status	Place of birth	Pattern of shoe shining	Living with
1	Anore	M	15	grade one	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
2	Amanuel	M	17	-	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
3	Bruk	M	16	Grade four	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
4	Chakebo	M	17	grade eight	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
5	Terekegn	M	16	-	Gurage	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
6	Shikur	M	15	grade five	Gurage	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
7	Wolango	M	15	grade one	Wolayta	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
8	Dawit	M	15	grade two	Wolayta	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
9	Anduelem	M	15	grade five	Addis Ababa	Mobile shoe shiners	families
10	Efrem	M	15	grade four	Addis Ababa	Mobile shoe shiners	families
11	Engidaw	M	15	grade three	Wolayta	Mobile shoe shiners	friends
12	Esubalew	M	16	grade two	Addis Ababa	Mobile shoe shiners	families

Table2. FGD1 participants from youth shoe shiners

No.	names	sex	age	Educational status	Place of birth	Pattern of shoe shining	Living with
1	Abute	M	16	Grade two	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
2	Adisu	M	15	grade four	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends

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3	Minaye	M	15	grade five	Gurage	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
4	Mohammed	M	16	grade three	Gurage	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
5	Degu	M	15	grade three	Wolayta	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
6	Fekedu	M	16	grade four	Wolayta	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
7	Agegneu	M	15	grade four	Addis Ababa	Mobile shoe shiners	families

Table3. FGD2 participants from youth shoe shiners

No.	names	sex	age	Educational status	Place of birth	Patterns of shoe shining	
1	Ergudo	M	16	Grade three	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
2	Gichore	M	15	grade two	Hadiya	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
3	Mustafa	M	15	grade four	Gurage	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
4	Aschalew	M	15	grade three	Gurage	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
5	Dangota	M	17	grade five	Wolayta	Stationed shoe shiners	friends
6	Dinkayew	M	16	grade six	Addis Ababa	Mobile shoe shiners	families
7	Mamush	M	16	grade six	Addis Ababa	Mobile shoe shiners	families

The above three tables contain five major demographic characteristics of youth shoe shiners. The first table contained demographic characteristics of in depth interview participants and the second and third contained FGDs participants of shoe shiners. These demographic characteristics were sex, age

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distributions, and place of birth and education levels and patterns of shoe shiners. Total participants of youths shoe shiners were male. This was because during field work the researcher came across in every place that males predominantly occupied shoe shine working in every corner of research area. So no female youths participated in this research. Majority of youth shoe shiners who participated in depth interview and FGDs have low education level and two youths shoe shiners were illiterate who never attended primary education. As can be seen from in depth interview and FGD participants of this study shown on the above tables, six of the street shoe shiners were born in Addis Ababa and twenty of the shoe shiners migrated to Addis Ababa from Southern part of Ethiopia such as Hadiya Gurage and Wolayta Zone. There are basically two patterns of shoe shining, namely stationed and mobile shoe shining. Furthermore data from table indicated that there are basically two patterns of shoe shining, namely stationed and mobile shoe shining

4.2 Reasons of youth shoe shining on streets of Addis Ababa

During in depth interview youth shoe shiners gave several reasons for their coming to Addis Ababa from rural areas. Those who were born in Addis Ababa also shared the reasons to engage in shoe shining in street which are briefly presented in the following sub-themes.

4.2.1. Poverty

Research findings from in depth interview and FGDs indicate that poverty as a main reason for coming to Addis Ababa and to work as shoe shiners on the street. Manifestations of poverty were seen on youths in different dimensions. For example, as in depth interview and FGDs participants stated, families were unable to fulfill basic needs of youths such as food, shelter, clothing and education. Because of this, they lost other choice except to see outside to get alternatives. Consequently, they moved to Addis Ababa in order to search for better life.

Regarding to this Anore shared his experiences as follows

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I came from Hadiya Zone. My parents had eight family including me. All of them were younger than me. My father was a farmer. My mother was a housewife. She had no source of income. We had a small farmland and had no other properties. Such a meager income was not enough to meet our basic needs. Hence, we could not afford the expenses for our cloth and educational material. Even the food we get was not sufficient. We cannot get three meals a day we get a small amount of food for breakfast; we miss either our lunch or our dinner because it is not available. We were leading a miserable life situation. So this situation forced me to Addis Ababa in order to escape from such a serious poverty and bad living condition ((Anore, interviewed on February 10, 2016).

Besides, Concerning the poverty and economic situation of his family Amanuel said *My families are too poor since my father was dead early. We have a small plot of land but we have no oxen to plough. Beside this the productivity of the land is too low because it is over cultivated, hilly and eroded. What we produce is only subsistence that cannot cover other expenses of my families. Even the yield only covers to feed us from three to four months in a year. Thus, we suffered a lot in the remaining months. What makes worse the situation at this time is that we are left empty hand since our mother had sold all the properties to feed us. This situation obliged me to look for other alternative means of survival outside my birth place that is the reason for my being here in Addis Ababa (Amanuel interviewed on February, 11, 2016)*

Similarly, Bruk described the reasons for coming to Addis Ababa as can be seen below:

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I am a seventh son for my parents. My families cannot provide all what I need since they are very poor and what they get is not adequate to feed our family. As a result, we pass most of the time half starved. They could not buy clothes on time and send us to school since they do not afford it. I came to Addis Ababa in order to get income for my survival and to support my families too (Bruk, interviewed on February, 11, 2016).

During focus group discussion, participants also revealed that it had been poverty that forced them to come to earn income for their survival and share economic burden of their parents. They described that their parents also choose to send their sons to urban areas in order to work and supplement family income. During the discussions with the FGDs youths, they state that their parents themselves support their youths by giving them travel expenditure because parents anticipated that the donation of their youths might bring a difference in the economic condition of the family.

Other in depth interview participant youths shoe shiners who were born in Addis Ababa also described the aforementioned reasons like youths shoe shiners that enforces them to join street shoe shine working in one or other ways. Anduelem was one of in depth interview participants. His age was 15 and was born around 5 kilo in Addis Ababa. He said the following about the reason to join street shoe shining.

My family is very poor and daily labor workers because they are illiterate. Thus they are not employed in any organizations to be paid regularly per month. In some situations we are in secure of daily food when they lose daily based labor jobs. Now I am grade five students at day program in government school. Some time I miss my class when I lose money to my daily food expense and start

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street shoe shine work moving in sides of street. Before and after school time I am always occupied on shoe shine work in street near to school. This is because shoe shine work easy to join that does not need much money to work and it is self based work that I interrupt at any time when I want to go school to learn. But I know that it adversely affect my education and my future career and destiny. I have no alternatives better than shoe shine work at this time to get my basic livelihood to myself (Anduelem, interviewed on February, 16, 2016).

Furthermore in depth interview with Engidew who came from Wolayta Zone and Esubalew who was born in Addis Ababa were conducted to reasons that motivate shoe shining. They described similar reasons that initiate them to start shoe shining in street of Addis Ababa as mentioned so far by other in depth interview participants. Shortage of income earning means of their family becomes main reason to join shoe shining in streets of Addis Ababa. According to them living in Addis Ababa is not possible for poor people without working for everyone to sustain life in urban area.

Besides in depth interview and FGDs participants of youths shoe shiners were generally asked about the reasons for specifically choosing shoe shining from other informal economic sector available in urban areas. With reference to this, all in depth interview and FGDs participants revealed that lack of decent work in formal sector as the main reasons to opt shoe shining. They depict that they easily get into shoe shining because shoe shining is the easiest of other works available in the city for youths to start. It needs a small amount of startup capital and little trainings or instructions from friends.

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4.2.2. Family break down

Moreover, Chakebo shared his experiences that caused him to come to street as a shoe shiner

My father died in 1996 E.C. My family had sold all what we had for his medical expenses. After two years of my father death, my mother also became seriously sick and died in 1999 E.C. I have two brothers and two sisters and I am elder of all. We have nothing to eat in our home which forced me to come to work engaging in any jobs in Addis Ababa. After death of my parents, my brothers were given to a non-governmental organization in Addis Ababa for adoption and my sisters started to live with my relatives. Since there was no one who would care us, we were forced to be dispersed. Having lost other alternative, I started shoe shining as a means of getting income for my daily survival (Chakebo, interviewed on February 13, 2016).

Similarly, Terekegn shared reason to join street shoe shining as follows

Both my father and mother died while I was seven years old. My grandmother brought me to her home. She had a small plot of land and a few cattle inherited from my parents when they died. However, she sold the cattle to feed me and her as there was no body in the family who support us. Unfortunately, she gets sick and passed away in 2001 E.C. When she died, I was left alone in a home without any hope. Then, I moved to Addis Ababa to search for a job (Terekegn, interviewed on February 11, 2016).

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Finding from in depth interview with Terekegn indicated that death of both parents became reason to join street shoe shining. From in depth interview it was understood that his family past away while he was seventh years old. Responsibility of taking care of him left in the hands of his grandmother. Due to lack of income to survival livelihood, his grandmother had sold a small plot of land and a few cattle inherited from his parents when they died. Situations became worse when his grandmother past away due to absence of primarily food and other livelihood that finally resulted in shift rural living to urban to get alternative jobs of livelihood.

Again in depth interview participant youth shoe shiner whose name was Efreem unveiled the reason to begin street shoe shining. He was born in Addis Ababa and said the situations of his family background as following,

Now I am 15 years old youth. I started working shoe shine before five years at the age of ten. I have five years experiences of shoe shining in the street. I lost my both parents at the age of eight because of death. I have one younger sister and we live to gather in one room which our parents already got from kebele. Because of this we have no problem of shelter for a time being. But we have nothing else to use for our other basic needs like food, clothes and other expenses like education. This is because our parents were very poor and nothing left for us after their death to sustain. Thus I drop out my education from grade two to work for our basic needs fulfillment and to help my sister to continue her education and now she is grade seventh student. Working at this time as shoe shine worker is the only alternative to me for our livelihood until I get other opportunities of jobs (Efreem, interviewed on February, 17, 2016).

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Finding from in depth interview with Efreem indicated that family breakdown due to death of both parents forced him to join street shoe shining for life sustaining of him and his sister by working. From this it is understood that lack of opportunities and support for livelihood forced youths to work as shoe shiners

4.2.3. Disagreement within family members

Shikur, also described disagreement within family members and lack of other decent work opportunity in Addis Ababa as primary factors that forced him to join street shoe shining. He explained the situations as follows.

I left alone when my father divorced my mother. After four years, my mother remarried to a person whose occupation was daily laborer. My mother does not want to lose me and took me her home. But my step father doesn't want to see me in his home. He always blames my mother saying that he had nothing to do with us [me and my mother] feeding somebody else's child. Because of this I decided to leave the home (Shikur, interviewed on February 14, 2016).

Similarly, Wolengo expressed *similar experiences like his fellow shoe shiners* as follows:

My mother died while I was nine. Due to this, my father married another wife. She always orders me to undertake laborious jobs beyond my capacity every time. One day she told me to take a sack half-full of maize to grinding mill which is far from home. I had never resisted her instruction but that day I refused since I cannot carry such a big load. Consequently, she told to my father and he repeatedly hit me until I had lost my consciousness. Because of this, I passed the whole day weeping and the next day I decided to run away from home to come to Addis

Ababa since I thought that no life can be worse than the suffering I was facing (Wolango, interviewed on January 18, 2016).

4.2.4. Peer pressure

Peer pressure was also another factor which attracted youths to come to Addis Ababa to for shoe shinning activity. Youths were attracted by the information from their friends who visited Addis Ababa before them. For instance Dawit stated about peer pressure as follows:

I got information about Addis Ababa from my friends, who visited the city before me.

They told me that it is possible to get jobs and improve one's life in the city. This is because in my locality there has not income earning opportunities for youths. Keeping cattle for others is the only means of getting income for few youths in our locality. Hence, we suffer from lack of resources. But when we see youths who come back from Addis Ababa during holidays, they return home well dressed and they come with some amount of money. Moreover, they bring clothes and small amount of money for their families. I estimated that I would enjoy the same opportunity from the Addis Ababa. As a result, I was very much eager to come to the city. But things are not as easy as I was expecting when I reached the city. Even getting a piece of bread for survival has become hard (Dawit, interviewed on February, 19, 2016).

The above in depth interview participants detailed that information he got from his friends and the cloth they wear and brought for their families attracted him to come

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to Addis Ababa and to be engaged in shoe shining. Lack of opportunities for income earning in rural areas were push factor for youth that initiated to left home village.

4.3. Challenges of Youth Shoe Shiners in Addis Ababa

4.3.1. Challenges of access and recognition to working place and registration for youth shoe shiners

Study participants indicated that the challenges of access and recognition to working place and registration as youth shoe shiners. As a result they described that finding suitable shoe shining place is difficult. Reference with this Chakebo said

I faced problem of good and suitable shoe shining locations. When I started shoe shining in around streets, police forced to stop working because of traffic problem that might be created. When I shift working place, I lose all opportunities that I can get from that place customers. This problem create lose of income earning for livelihood (Chakebo, interviewed on Febraury, 19, 2016).

As the finding indicates, there were two types of shoe shining. These are stationed and mobile shoe shining. During in depth interview and FGDs stationed youths shoe shiners described that they have a designated area where individuals have a de factor cognized spot where they set up their business. The stationed shoe shiners revealed that the materials used for shoe shining were packed and moved at the end of every working day, but the specific working spot of each shoe shiner is recognized and respected within the group of vendors stationed in that place.

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On the other hand, during in depth interview mobile shoe shiners informed that they often do not have a specific work place. For instance, Anduelem said

I carry my shoe shining tools in a small parcel or box and move from place to place looking for customers. Sometimes, police prohibit working in busy business areas even though those places have high demand of shoe shining. Police displace from work setting when I start shoe shining in places like public institutions such as universities and hospitals where high demand is present. This influences my income earning (Anduelem, interviewed on 14 February, 2016).

Other Study participants described that they were displaced when there is a road expansion and other construction. In depth interview participants revealed that due to these cases they lack shoe shining places and no alternative places given to them to sustain their livelihood work. They said from their experiences that sometimes and in some places they were allowed to work and other times they were displaced and evicted by police or security guards that made their livelihood very risky and volatile.

According to in depth interview participants who work in stationed place, recently registration of the workstations has been introduced as recognition of the work place for youth shoe shiners by community security policy in street sides of Addis Ababa. They added that the primary objective of the registration is not necessarily to give formal recognition to shoe shiners activities rather it is to fight crime and keep order in the community by giving security information for community policy.

For further understanding the experiences of youths in registration for working place in depth interview and FGDs has been made with participants. They told that the police provide some training after registration to youths through workshops to create awareness on community

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security issues. After training youths are expected to cooperate with the police on crime and security issues in and around their working stations. They described that the main criteria to registration were that they would have already been in a station at the time of the registration. The participants reported that youth members in each registered shoe shine stations are expected to report and register any additional member they would like to admit in that cluster. No other unregistered individuals are supposed to base work around that place. New individuals are thus able to register if the existing youth are willing to allow them to work in their area and facilitate their registration. According to participants youths shoe shiners who have been already occupied the stations will allow new comers through social networks. In depth interview and FGDs participants also elaborated that police ordered to buy uniform that allow them identify from others by writing telephone address of community police office at the back of their wearing uniform t-shirts to be called at the time of security problem with in community. Furthermore, participants informed that the registration provides temporary ownership to their work place till they stop working there by their free will. However participants detailed that they have no other legal permission and registration of ownership of stations by public authority as a guaranty and no replacement or compensation if needed for public use or is leased to other businesses by responsible government authority. In depth interview participants revealed that they have not support and recognition by authority that led youths faced problem of job security and reliability.

4.3.2. Experiences of youths shoe shining conditions and their health situations

In relation to this, an attempt was made to explore the working condition of these shoe shinning youths and its effects on their wellbeing. In line with this, the serious problems participants described were the weather condition and the place where they work. Participants mentioned that they always start working early in the morning and under extremely cold and

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muddy condition especially during the rainy seasons. According to them the dry season is also equally challenging by excessive heat when the sun stroke in the afternoon shift. The other problem mentioned was lack of suitable clothes and to protect them from the harsh weather condition. Observation at their work setting in open spaces was additional reality that assured explanation gained study participants. For example, Engidew shared his shoe shining experiences as follows,

I always start early in the morning at 7:00 am and stay on the street for more than eleven hours waiting for customers. There is stiff competition for customers as there are a number of shoe shiners. The nature of work is very challenging; the sun heat burns me the whole days since I have nothing to protect myself with. Because of this, most of the time, I suffer from serious headache during the night. The excessive heat even changed the color of my skin. My face was normal when I come here. But now its color is totally changed to charcoal due to repeated exposure to sun and wind for a long time (Ingidew, interviewed on February, 17, 2016).

Furthermore, in the study, youths shoe shiners were carefully observed while they were working. According to my observation youths shoe shiners were working in a dirty, open air environment with excessive dust. They are exposed daily to cold temperatures in the early mornings and to excessive heat due to the scorching sun in the mid day and afternoon. Furthermore, during a sunny day youth shoe shiners were exposed to dust and windy conditions and when it rains their work place becomes muddy. Most of the youth shoe shiners normally worked sitting on the streets thus during a dry day they were affected by dust and in a rainy day by mud and these situation made them look unclean and dirty. Most of the youth shoe shiners

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were seen wearing old, dirty and torn cloths. Moreover, youth shoe shiners are prone to accidents from cars and bicycles. Moreover, participants mentioned about many problems that they encounter while working. Some of these problems were hazardous and boring work environment, long hours of work load and injuries by a sharp tool used for sewing shoes..

The surroundings of the work places of some youth shoe shiners were dirty and covered by solid and liquid wastes, creating conducive place for breeding flies. Moreover, some youth shoe shiners were observed eating food in their unhygienic work place without washing their hands which would result in high risk of getting infected with typhoid, cholera, flu, diarrhea and other related diseases.

During field work and observation time some dangerous used items such as syringes, rusty nails and broken glasses were seen in the work place of some youth shoe shiners. In those working places some youth shoe shiners were seen walking on bare foot that could be highly dangerous for their health if those materials get their parts of body. Furthermore, some youth shoe shiners were observed to have infections, swollen pus, and scabies, unhealed open wounds caused by a sharp tool used by youth shoe shiners and coarse skin, perhaps due to the bad working conditions.

The direct observation also revealed that many youth shoe shiners were involved in carrying and lifting loads for walking passengers as an extra work when there was no shoe shine work to be performed. These youth shoe shiners were seen carrying heavy loads, over and above their weight. In depth interview participants indicate that when they carry heavy loads beyond their capacity they likely to damage their healthy physical development and face backaches and pains in their shoulder. For instance, Dawit stated about his experience as follows

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I sometimes carry heavy load materials when I face shortage of income earning from shoe shining. After a long time experiences of carrying heavy materials beyond my capacities, I feel backaches and pain in my shoulder. This time I am working only shoe shining because I cannot carry even simple materials due to health problems (Dawit, interviewed on February, 20, 2016).

In depth interview participants and FGD discussants highlighted about shoe shining youths' health and food. All of them explained that they do not get adequate and balance diet. Most of the time, they eat a small piece of bread and have a cup of tea on breakfast. Sometimes they could not get lunch and join with food at dinner time. Most of them further described that sometimes they do not have three meals a day and they eat only twice since they do not have enough money.

Observations were taken to know how feeding situations affect youths shoe shining places. From the observation it was identified that youths eat at their work place without washing their hands since they cannot get water. The food they eat are also prepared and stay in unclean environment for a long time as they always get it from poor individuals whose livelihoods are dependent on petty trade on the streets. The hazardous working condition coupled with poor nutrition and sanitation often makes them liable to various health problems. During in depth interview many of them complained that they repeatedly face health problem such as headache, flue, fatigue, diarrhea, typhus and pneumonia. For example, Anore said

I always eat breakfast in my work place without washing my hands that resulted in diarrhea and flue. Also most of the time I wear the same clothes day and night which would causes typhus and pneumonia. I work for a long period of time for whole day through the week setting in one place that cause health

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problems like fatigue and headache. Therefore, I feel sick that cause various health problems Due to shortage of income earning from shoe shining, I could not get treatment in health centers (Anore, interviewed on February 22, 2016).

In addition, many of them clarified that they couldn't get treatment for these health problems due to lack of money to go to health institution.

4.3.3. Earning of youth shoe shiners

Almost all of those youths described that they work from dawn to dusk everyday without rest including some public holidays. However, their earning is too small contrary to the length of their working hours as they described. It is understood from the interview that their earning is subjected to daily fluctuation at average fifty Ethiopian birr per day for most participants. They described during the interviews and the FGDs that the amount of their earning is influenced by many factors such as skills and place of work which they operate. Youths working on streets corner where there are a large number of customers often get relatively better amount of income. Such places are also areas with relatively good sanitation and seating arrangements. The skillful youths have more possibility to get more customers since they work quickly and neatly. However, in depth interview participants of mobile youth shoe shiners and new beginners of youth shoe shiners workers described that their earning is too low which cannot cover their daily necessary livelihoods expenses. Reference to this Terekegn expressed the situation as follows:

When I get good opportunity I could earn 50 birr or some more amount of money. This seems a large amount of money for youths but it is not enough to cover my daily basic needs as life in Addis Ababa is becoming very expensive from time to time. I spend much money in food stuffs from this money. Besides, I have to save small amount of money to pay house rent. Therefore,

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there are many days that I miss my breakfast or lunch to save money for different urgent cases (Terekegn, interviewed on February 16, 2016).

Thus, this inadequate amount of money is not sufficient even to satisfy their stomach let alone other expenses as described by most of them.

4.3.4. The ill-treatment that youth shoe shiners faced

Regarding to the working circumstances, some of youths also expressed that they experienced various types of abuses. According them, the street gangs sometimes rob their money when they go home at night. If the youths do not have money or if they refuse to give them the money, the gangs beat them and spit out on their faces. There is also a situation where their money, their tool box and inks are stolen. A tool box is the most important property for the shoe shiners. It contains their brushes, inks, pieces of clothes used for drying shoe, polishes, hammer, nails, spare heels, glue used or cleaning and mending shoes. Therefore, according to them losing this tool box means losing all their property. Concerning this, Anduelem explained his abusive experiences as follows:

One day, one big adult of street dweller asked me to give him 10 birr; I told him that I had nothing. Then, he threatened me by saying that I would pay for the consequences and went away. Another day, he got me alone in neighbors while I was going back from my work place to home in evening. He slapped in my ear, kicked me, and threw away my toolbox and inks. He ordered me not to say anything, took ten birr from my pocket and escaped (Anduelem, interviewed on February 15, 2016).

Youths also revealed that they had experienced various types of abuses from their customers. These include psychological and verbal abuses and refusal of payments for the

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services they provided. The clients insult or bit youths in extreme cases when they make mistakes while polishing shoes. This usually happens when they put inks or dirty water on customer's trousers or socks and work slowly. Some customers even refuse to pay the amount required for the services given. The other point they described as a cause is abuse from customers due to disagreement on the size of shoes cleaned and payment requested for the services given. Wolengo, described this situation as follows.

The amount of payment we charge for shining shoes differs based up on the size of the shoe. For example, usually I requested different amount of money for small, medium and large sized shoes mostly three birr for small and mediums and five birr and above for big shoes like boots. However, most customers with big sized shoes often do not agree to pay me this amount. In line with this, there were times I experienced slapping, kicking and receiving less payment than usual for which they considered me as deceived them(Wolengo, interviewed on February, 20,2016).

I have also observed that youth shoe shiners were victims of verbal abuse. Being insulted screamed at or being beaten are the common forms of punishment for making a mistake at work, working slowly and for not properly cleaning a shoe. During the observation some clients of youth shoe shiners were seen harassing, insulting and in some cases refusing to pay the youths for the service rendered. This usually happens when youth shoe shiners make minor mistakes like accidentally brushing socks and trousers with shoe polish and being slow in performing their tasks.

4.3. 5. Shelter problems of youth shoe shiners

All interviewed, and FGD discussants described that they live in groups in small rented room together with friends from their place of origin. They also described that as they live in very single shanty room. They added that youth shoe shiners rented room in group of four up to six to minimize the costs of monthly house renting. They told that monthly payment for rent reached from 200 to 250 birr per month per individuals. Regarding quality of houses, they state that rented houses were without kitchen for cooking and other activities because the quality houses are costly which are beyond their financial capacity. For example, Anore described the situation as follows

Our house has no water facility. We buy it from the neighbors. Sometimes even if we have money to buy water, we cannot do that because the neighbors who sell a bucket of water close their gate before we return home from work. Hence, there is a time when we pass the whole night without drinking water unless one of us come back to buy water. Moreover, most of the time water is also not available in the area for various reasons. Due to this, we take shower only twice in a month. Likewise, we wash our clothes only once in a month. Even, there are also times when we pass the whole night without drinking in case we are thirsty. Therefore, access to water is one of our critical problems. (Anore, interviewed on, February, 2016).

As understood from the interview with the youths, majority of them also described that they had no access to sanitary toilet facilities. They state that their house had toilet hole with no shade

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or roof over it. The rest of them said that they use open fields and ditches for toilet and waste disposal.. For example, Shikur said the following,

Our household has no toilet. We use open fields for this reason we wake up very early in the morning in order not to be seen by neighbors while using open fields. But they all know that we are the one who use open fields in the neighborhood. Hence, the neighbors and the community have negative attitude towards us because they consider us as those who pollute their environment and living area (Shikur, interviewed on February, 21, 2016).

Some in depth interview participants such as Esubalew and Amanuel said that, in the day time they use toilet in cafeterias and restaurants. To do this they order either tea or coffee that averagely costs them from three to five birr which is another expense to them.

4.3. 6. Low level of education and lack of quality skill

In depth interview and FGDS with youth shoe shiners were made about relationship of their low level of education, lack of quality skill and livelihood work. In depth interview and FGD participants of youth shoe shiners described that youth shoe shiners began shoe shining with low labour quality. They informed that youths those left schools at an early age stayed being employed in the informal sector without further improvement in their human capital development to diversify decent livelihood work. They also added that youth shoe shiners began labour market at their earlier age. According to youth shoe shiners lack of vocational training limit their present and future capacity to sustainable livelihoods. They described due to lower

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level of their education status, they did not get opportunities to train in vocational center which finally led them to engage in shoe shining in urban areas.

In depth interview and FGDs participants who came from rural areas to Addis Ababa face difficulty of getting chances vocational training due to lack of residence and identity cards. According to some youth shoe shiners staying whole days in shoe shine working in streets were other constraints to join vocational training. In depth interview participants informed that lack of social protection in urban areas from parents or other means was other constraints that prohibit youth shoe shiners to join vocational training. In depth interview youth shoe shiners who came from rural areas described that accessibility of vocational training was rare unlike urban born youths.

4.3. 7. Lack of support for entrepreneurship and absence of support from micro finance institutions

In depth interview participants were interviewed to know the support youths shoe shiners get from micro finance institutions in the form of loans necessary to start up and working capital. They detailed that they did not get any support for entrepreneurship and they were not loans from micro finance institutions. Some in depth interview participants who have wish and have pre information about the process in which micro finance institutions provide loans for youths informed that micro finance institutions in Ethiopia providing loans for youths who have a plan in some government priority sectors and areas and for youths who are organized. In depth interview participants detailed that even though there are various forms of government support for youth employment in some target economic activities, shoe shiners are out of target of government that would not get any supports from government. For instance, Efrem said

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Once up on time, I want money to shift from shoe shining to other self based business. I asked trade enterprise office of woreda six in Arada Sub City in Addis Ababa to facilitate conditions to get money loan from one micro finance institution which are present around 5 kilo. However, the office asked my previous jobs and I tell them as I am shoe shiner around 5 kilo. They respond to me that shoe shining is out of target of government to get supports. They informed to me that they give support for those who are organized in group for support of entrepreneurship. Then I return back to my previous shoe shining to get my daily livelihood (Efrem, interviewed on Febraury, 20, 2016).

4.4. Survival strategies of youth shoe shiners

In depth interview and FGDs were conducted with youth shoe shiners to know survival strategies to cope up with urban vulnerabilities. They adapt various mechanisms to fulfill their basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing which are essentials for their daily existence; they cope with shocks and show flexibility through various kinds of survival strategies. The most frequent strategies they use are: reducing the number of meals per day, eating cheaper food stuffs, living in group in shanty dwellings and using cheaper clothes. They also engage in other informal activities so as to diversify and increase their level of earning and economic savings.

4.4.1. Ways of getting access to food stuff

Youths Shoe shiners buy foods usually from small cafeteria, street cafes and food venders in streets. In depth interview participants described that they eat in working place from street venders bread with cup of tea for breakfast and either for lunch or dinner from small houses. In depth interview youth shoe shiners informed that they were exposed to vulnerability of food deficiency and shocks when their daily income from shoe shining lower than daily food

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expenses. They detailed that they use various ways of coping strategies to adapt themselves with the capacity of daily income they gain from shoe shining. According to in depth interview participants such as Amanuel and Dawit and FGD discussants Ergudo and Mustafa reducing of meal per day is one of coping strategies of youth shoe shiners. They usually take little and cheap Meals per eating time. In depth interview and FGDs participants informed that youths worry about what may occur tomorrow and constantly adjust the minimal food intake for the sake of preserving survival livelihoods which will serve during harsh conditions of life.

4.4.2. Ways of getting access to clothes for youth shoe shiners

In depth interview participant such as Abute and FGD participant such as Aschalew disclosed that using clothes from different sources is also other mechanisms of coping in response to financial vulnerability. They also revealed that buying second hand clothes from street clothes vender with cheap price is another copying strategy. According to study participants, they buy some new clothes from street venders when they want to go to visit their family at some public holidays especially during *Meskel* and *fasca* holidays. But According to in-depth interview with youths urban based born youths shine worker in mobile type who were born in Addis Ababa, they buy new clothes during beginning of *Ethiopian New Year* and *Timket* holidays. In depth interview participants also described that they get clothes in the form of gift from people they know.

4.4.3. Looking for alternative income earning activities

Youths shoe shiners were observed doing different activities in addition to shoe shining. They were also asked why were engaged in a wide range of different economic activities in the urban informal sector. In depth interview and FGDs participants described that they were working as a strategy of diversification of their livelihood in Addis Ababa. In depth interview

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participants and FGD participants described that they were engaged in informal economic activities like, hawking, peddling, portaging, daily labor, working as assisting in taxis driver and facilitator for passengers in taxi, and collecting fare and so on. Beside the shoe-shiners participate in informal economic activities like Petty trade, carrying luggage, messenger service, and car cleaning, watching and parking to maximize sources of additional income. According to study participants of shoe shiners the aforementioned activities are undertaken simultaneously or alternatively with the shoe shine service. According to FGD participants, some of the youths shoe shiners also engaged in side activities like selling mobile cards, soft papers, chocolates, and so on together with the shoe-shining in order to generate better income.

4.4.4 The Social Networks of youth shoe shiners

In depth interview and FGDs was conducted with purposefully selected youths shoe shiners to know the importance of social networks of youth shoe shiners for them in different situations of urban living conditions. Accordingly, they described social network as very essential to secure sustainable livelihood earnings and to share lived experiences of mutual support. In depth interview and FGDs participants informed that social networks of youth shoe shiners made social networks by their similarity in place of origin and street occupation and personal characteristics to fulfill their basic needs. They disclosed that communal life style develops strength; endurance and defense power among the youth of shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. For instance, Chakebo shared his experiences about the importance of communal living situations as follows

Communal life style is inevitable in urban life situations for youths who are engaged in informal economic sector like shoe shine work. Because it is difficult to live alone renting urban house for precarious worker like us, My daily earning

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which I get from shoe shine service provisions is not sufficient enough even for daily food stuff. Therefore covering house rent cost for me in individual level is not possible. Thus, as a solution I rented my living home with my six friends to live together sharing rent cost among us. The other importance of social relation among youth shoe shiners is to help each other during sick and hungry by contributing financial aids among group members. Because of these cooperation and collaboration with my friends, I would feel relief and be wellbeing from my earlier shocks (Chakebo, Interview on, February 24, 2016).

The researcher tried to observe and had conversational interviews and discussions with street youth shoe shiners to see the social networks or supports that recent migrants and older ones do maintain. For example, Wolengo described the process of adapting and the ways of taking experiences from his senior shoe shiners as follows

At the inauguration of shoe-shining work, I observed tasks performed by the other shoe-shinning boy and make trial of the activity. At first, I attempted to harmonize him with the unknown street work conditions in particular and the urban setting in general by serving as an assistant shoe-shiner to my friend. In some situation that I lost money capital, I rely on my friends who provide me with old tins, water bottles, soap and shoe polish and I compensated for them by returning when I purchase my own polish. In general, the seniors give all the necessary host services and create the opportunities to develop the skills and experiences of shoe shine work for me. Thus I acquired all the necessary skills and capabilities while adapting from my friends and relatives at different time.

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Besides, in depth interview and FGDs participants revealed that by using social network youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa city established Iqub and save their money based on weekly or monthly bases. In depth interview participants forwarded that Ikub is mainly formed in favor of a particular ethnic line that is established based on verbal agreements, trust and reciprocity. They described that Iqub helps members of social groups to sustain each other and maintain unity. They also highlighted youth shoe shiners use Ikub as the strategies to preserve future survival livelihood by saving money which enable them to cope vulnerable conditions of life.

4.4.5. Social safety net of youth shoe shiners in urban areas

In depth interview participants were asked about availability social safety net in situations when they lose saving, employment and income source. They described that they do not have formal social safety net to provide them with sustenance in the case of loss of income and employment from any governmental and nongovernmental organizations. According to them youth shoe shiners are very vulnerable in the cities because they have left their parents and their villages where they would have been afforded with a fall back options in times of crisis. However they described that they have informal social protection system during loss of income or saving from their social network group in different form like loans and in some situations free aids until recover from the emergency. In depth interview and FGDs participants informed that Iddir is used as informal social welfare service providing institutions youth shoe shiners have used at the time of vulnerability in different situations like deaths. In depth interview and FGD participants described that youth shoe shiners have established Iddir to provide welfare services to a member at the time of vulnerability. They also described that Iddir institutions use for youths when they lack income earning in some situations of vulnerability.

4.4.6. Social relation of youth shoe shiners and community people

In depth interview and FGDs participants were asked to know social networks of youth shoe shiners with different urban community people. They detailed that they have contact with shop owners or owners of the cafeteria or small restaurants (including barmaids), and public institutions like Police in various milieu. Moreover, observed has been done to see social relation youth shoe shiners have with shop owners. Observation results reveal that youth shoe shiners have a very strong social interaction or network while they practice their day to day economic activities. In depth interview participants informed that shop owners permitted youth shoe shiners to work at the free space in front of their shops. The youth shoe shiners detailed that they bought working material like different shoe shine inks like white cream, Kiwi cream and so on in credits or loans forms to return after working from the shop owners. They also described that youth shoe shiners develop interactive social networks or links with the community police in mutual interest. Furthermore in depth interview participants also described that police take responsibility to provide security to street youths shoe shiners while they work in streets around hotels and other public places. In depth interview participants also detailed that youth shoe shiners gave information to the police when they came across people committed crimes.

Chapter five: Discussions

In this chapter discussion has been done based on findings of the study. The discussion is presented with the same thematic area which was used to present during data analysis in the previous chapter.

5.1. Reasons of youth shoe shiners to work on streets of Addis Ababa

Majority of youths who are engaged in shoe shining in street of Addis Ababa came from rural areas particularly those who are working in stationed places. During my in-depth interview they gave several reasons for their coming to Addis Ababa from rural areas. As understood from finding the reasons mentioned by shoe shiners were related with poverty in one or other means though there were other independent factors to force youths in shoe shining like disagreements within family and peer pressure. Still those disagreements and peer pressure have some sort of connection with poverty situations of family background that could be seen from in depth interview participants. This is because; poverty is more of abstract term that is labeled to indicate various resource shortages and incapability to achieve those resources that limited power for youth shoe shiners

5. 1.1. Poverty

Poverty is one of prominent reason to youths come to Addis Ababa and to work as shoe shiners in street which in turn is related with many problems. These were their families were unable to fulfill their needs for food, shelter, clothing and education. Because of this, they lost other choice except to see outside to get alternatives. Consequently, they traveled in order to search for better life. For instances, the circumstances of youths interviewed with reference to this issue indicated poverty and related problem enforced him to shoe shiners in street.

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Poverty forced the youths from the southern part of Ethiopia to Addis Ababa.

Participants of the FGDs also revealed that it had been poverty that forced youths to come to earn income for their survival and share economic burden of their parents. More particularly, economic situations of their households motivated for looking other opportunities in urban areas for a better life for themselves and their families. In addition, lack of resistance to tackle rural life challenges and shocks is one of the other driving forces of youths to leave rural areas to Addis Ababa. Besides, finding indicated that lack of decent work in formal sector became the reasons to opt shoe shining for youths in Addis Ababa because of availability of shoe shining for all. According to CSA (2014) report non-farm sector in rural Ethiopia is very much underdeveloped and lack of access to farm land combined with low interest in agricultural livelihood has initiated significant rural-urban youth migration in recent years. Because of absence of employments in formal institutions for unskilled and low education status youth in urban, youths started to join in informal self-employments economic sector in street (CSA (2014).

The finding from in depth interview participant showed that lack of diversified jobs around rural areas forced youths to other opportunities in urban areas. According to in depth interview participant, keeping cattle for others is the only means of getting income for few youths in their locality. To escape from that kind of miserable livelihoods activities in rural area, the research participant come to Addis Ababa when he see youths who come back from Addis Ababa during holidays.

5.1.2. Family Breakdown

The finding from study indicated that loss of parents in one or other reason were contributing factor for youths to join street shoe shining. Being orphaned or abandoned due to

death, divorce or separation coupled with poverty would expose many youths to face a problem of accessing their basic needs and schooling. The finding indicated that family break resulted in another vulnerability which finally forced youths to look other opportunities for searching income to survival livelihood. Thus, due to lack of subsistence of livelihood youths shift rural living to urban to get alternative jobs of livelihood.

5.1.3. Disagreement within family members

Finding from in depth interview showed that divorcing of marriage of his mother and father became primary caused to begin conflict within family members.

Research finding indicate that that disagreements within family members caused youths to leave home seeking personal security and privacy. Disagreements may rise due to many reasons among and within family members. For instance whenever parents separate due to death or divorce, conflicts may happen within remaining family members. Due to death or divorce either of the remaining father or the mother remarry and lack an opportunity to provide the necessary care and support for youths from the first marriage. Because step fathers or step mothers do not consider step sons as their own. Failure to undertake the assignments often results in various forms of abuses such as beating, refusal to provide them food and verbal threatening from the step parents. These conditions resulted in get out from home to search other opportunities for survival.

5.1.4. Peer pressure

The research finding from in depth interview showed that peer pressure was also another factor which attracted youths to come to Addis Ababa to be engaged in shoe shinning. In this regard youths were also attracted by the information they heard from their friends who came to work in informal sector Addis Ababa before them. The finding indicated that because of

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information they get from their former friends, they would be very impressed to come to urban areas to led independent life. The finding indicated that youths were very attracted when their friends return home well dressed and they come with some amount of money. Because of this youths who lived in rural area estimated that they would enjoy the same opportunity from the Addis Ababa as their fellow youths.

5.2. The Challenges of youth shoe shiners

The issues which are discussed under this theme are the following. Those are Challenges of access and recognition to working place and registration for youths shoe shiners, working condition, low earning and health situations of youth shoe shiners', mistreatment of youth shoe shiners, shelter problems of youth shoe shiners, low level of education and lack of quality skill of shoe shiners and finally lack of support for entrepreneurship and absence of support from micro finance institutions.

5.2.1. Access and recognition to working place and registration as youth shoe shiners

Finding indicated that getting feasible and marketable space to work for shoe shining is not easy although it has been known as informal self-employment which is based on the street. From the findings, it was understood that there were two types of shoe shiners. These were stationed youth shoe shiners and mobile youth shoe shiners. As mentioned so far getting suitable and marketable shoe shine services places were tedious and difficult for those who need to work as stationed youths shoe shiners

Finding from in depth interview and FGDs showed that once youths get stationed shoe shining places, others would not compete in that working location. The specific working locations of every stationed youth shoe shiners is known and respected by other nearby stationed

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shoe shiners around that area. Finding showed that whether they were workers in stationed or mobile situations, they take shoe shining materials home when they stop daily working every day and they come next day carrying those materials. Besides, itinerant youth shoe shiners do not have a specific work place and they work in moving from place to place in areas where people usually run business.

From the finding, it was also understood that there were working place security problems which was exposed to eviction or displacement for different reasons when there is a road expansion, area development or any other construction that result in displacement of shoe shiners, there is no mechanism by responsible organizations to provide them with an alternative place to work. Public police also displace them for the traffic purposes that adversely affect their daily survival income. Those working in large stations are considered to have a permission to work there and will neither be chased away nor threatened by individuals and businesses. But for the itinerant youths who are continuously moving, the permissibility of their work depends on the specific time and place. Sometimes and in some places they are tolerated and work without any interference and other times they are chased by police or security guards, these scenarios make their livelihood very risky and volatile.

Another finding from in depth interview participants who work in stationed places show that registrations of working locations had been taken by community security policy as acknowledgment and recognition of the work place for youth shoe shiners in street sides of Addis Ababa. Finding from in depth interview indicated that primary objective of the registration is not necessarily to give formal recognition to shoe shiners activities rather it is to give security information for community policy to keep order in the community. Finding showed that the police provided some training after registration to the youth shoe shiners through

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workshops to create awareness on community security issues. As a result youth shoe shiners are expected to cooperate with the police on crime and security issues in and around their working stations.

From in depth interview and FGDs finding indicated that the registration provided them with a stronger claim to their work place which hitherto has been tacitly recognized. In addition finding indicated that shoe shining is not given value and the shoe shining is still not considered as business. That is why their work place is not eligible for replacement or compensation when needed for public use or is leased to other businesses. This is because the youths have no other legal permission and registration of ownership of stations by public authority as a guaranty. Finding from in depth interview and FGDs show that youth shoe shiners faced lack of job security and reliability due to lack of recognition and support for their self-employment activity by authority. This resulted in many problems like inability to earn income from self based informal economic activities like shoe shining to meet their regular food, shelter and clothing needs.

Regarding to working place eviction and related vulnerability study done by Skinner, (2008), Bromley (2000), Potts (2007) and Hansen (2004) show that harassment and physical abuse were seen in their work place police and other state actors. State sanctioned evictions that target street vendors and other informal sector workers are frequent and have been justified by city cleanup for modernization; pressure from formal businesses who are worried from 'unfair' competition; and preparation for specific public events such as visits of dignitaries, hosting of international sport competitions and other tourist events. Such evictions exposed workers in the street for the livelihood problems of thousands of urban dwellers which resulted in multiple phase of vulnerability.

5.2.2. Youth shoe shiners' working condition, low earning and health situations

According to Kelk(2003) pervasive illiteracy, wide spread of diseases, poverty and precarious working condition of poor have direct association. This is because disease increase expenditure at the same time reduces effective working time and capacity of working which plummeting labor productivity and availability of work and income that finally expose for various vulnerability

The finding from in depth interview and FGDs indicated that they always start working early in the morning and under extremely cold and muddy condition especially during the rainy seasons and hot weather conditions during winter seasons in the side of streets. From in-depth interview and FGDs it was understood that the sun stroke in the afternoon shift and the dry season was also equally challenging them. They lack suitable clothes and other things to protect them from the harsh weather condition which resulted in some health problems that return have negative influence in gaining income. The experience of one youth shoe shiner which was explored during in depth interview indicated the above mentioned reality. The finding from in depth interview showed that youth shoe shiners spent whole day time starting from early morning up to dusk in the side of streets to gain livelihood income from shoe shine services for customers. The work was full of competition to get customers among shoe shiners which made their income earning from it made lower. Similarly, the study conducted by Meng and Zhang (2001) in China validate that income earning in the informal sector are on average lower than that of the formal sector. Thus, earning from shoe shining is lower that could result in vulnerability.

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The finding from experiences of shoe shiners indicated that working in the street was very challenging and risky because of the nature of work. This was due to the sun heat burns the whole days as it comes directly from the sky since youth shoe shiners lack protection of the sun heat in the streets that resulted in serious headache and related health problems. For instance during in depth interview eleventh in depth interview participant youth shoe shine worker shared that the excessive heat changed his natural physical skin color to black like charcoal due to repeated exposure to sun and wind for a long time.

From in depth interview it was also understood that the nature of their work adversely affect their health condition because of work for a long hour sitting in one place without having rest that may result in weakness and back pain. From observation result, it was understood that youth shoe shiners were working in a dirty, open air environment with excessive dust, which makes their health a victim of working conditions, lack of water and above all adversely influence level of income they earn.

Finding from in depth interview and FGDs indicated that income earning from shoe shining could not covered all expense including expenses of per day meal for youth shoe shiners. Finding indicated that food stuff expenses took greater share of expenses for youths in Addis Ababa. Moreover, finding showed that expenses of rent houses were another headache for youths which could not be possible to jump to next month. This situation forced youths to miss at least one term meal period to save money income for argent and monthly consistent rent house expenses. The study done by Meng and Zhang, (2001) noticed that informal sector is not used as a stepping stone from poverty due to its precious work conditions.

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5.2.3. The mistreatment of youth shoe shiners

Finding from in depth interview show that street gangs rob their money when they go home at night waiting in streets. Besides it was understood that youth shoe shiners were beat when they refused to give and defend themselves. For instance, the experience of Anduelem show that street dweller gangster slapped in his ear and took the money he had in his pocket when he went home from work place in evening. A study done in Guatemala show a serious gang problem which was also typically framed as a “youth problem”, where a combination of poverty, social exclusion, and a serious lack of education and employment opportunities were related as drive factors for youth and participation in gangs practice which disturbs normal social economic order of community people(Seelke, 2011).

The other ill treatment found from in depth interview, FGDs participants and field observations were verbal abuses experienced on youth shoe shiners from customers. The finding indicated that youth shoe shiners were victims of verbal abuse such as being insulted. The finding show that verbal abuses happened when youth shoe shiners made minor mistakes like accidentally brushing socks and trousers with shoe polish and being slow in performing their tasks. Finding from in-depth interview show that customer abuses youth shoe shiners due to disagreement the prices paid for shoe shine services.

In depth interview finding from Wolengo indicated that a cause for abuse from customers was disagreement on the size of shoes cleaned and payment requested for the services given. According to him prices was determined based on the size of shoe such as for small three birr, medium five and large size between five and above. Finding from interview participant showed conflicts and abuses occurred when customers with large shoe refused to pay claimed money by shoe shiners.

5.2.4. Shelter problems of youth shoe shiners

According to Erulkar, et al. (2006) youth migrants from rural areas, who are attracted to urban centers with the expectation of better employment opportunity and better livelihood, are exposed to additional risks. They may not have the same employment opportunity as urban born youth who have better education, information, social capital and other resources. They may also lack the social safety net from family, relatives and friends that provide youth a certain level of access to food and shelter in urban areas in times of crisis, including unemployment.

Similarly, in relation to shelter problem from in depth interview and FGDs, it was understood that shoe shiners lived overcrowded since such small single rooms have no enough space to accommodate a group of four or six members of youths. They lived in overcrowded rent houses because they could not rent house on individual basis since they could not afford the money to rent. From the observation it was understood that rent houses in most have not water provisions, toilets and other facilities and infrastructure which is basic necessity for human being that need to be accessed.

Finding from in depth interview showed that shoe shiners get access to water for drinking and other activities through buying from neighbors though results from some in depth interview participants indicated youth shoe shiners use hazardous source of water such as sewerage water for washing their clothes. For example finding from in depth interview with Dawit indicated that their rent home did not have water access in the compound they lived and they use water by buying from neighborhoods. The participant disclosed that in some cases they lose water from neighborhood if they unable to fetch water in day times due to their overtime work characteristics whole the day. This was because neighborhood people who sold water closed their gate before they had returned home from work. Finding from in depth interview indicated

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that they lack water to drink if one of the group members could not come on time to fetch water from neighborhoods. Due to unavailability of water they took shower once within fifteen days and wash their clothes once a month in some situations. From this finding it was possible to understand that shoe shiners were living under poverty line that street shoe shining could not provided them subsistence livelihoods to sustain in urban areas which resulted in multiple vulnerability.

The other problem understood from in depth interview with youth shoe shiners were lack of access to sanitary toilet in rent houses and in places where they work shoe shining. Though there were toilets in rented houses, the toilets were open and were not covered to protect it from some bacterial diseases. Again finding from participants indicated that in absence of toilets in rent home youth shoe shiners used open fields and waterway for toilet and waste disposal. For example in depth interview finding from Efrem showed the above reality in relation to toilet. The rent house he rented to live with group together has not toilet that forced him to use open field every morning around his rent home. The finding from in depth interview show that community people has negative outlook to youth shoe shiners because they suspect that youths use open field to defecate as their rent has not toilet that resulted in pollution of their living community. Finding from some in depth interview participants indicated that youth shoe shiners use toilet in cafeteria and restaurants. They daily use tea or coffee from cafeteria simply to use toilets which they expend additional money without need to drink tea or coffee.

5.2.5. Low level of education and lack of quality skill

According to Rakodi (2002) lack of human capital in the form of skills and education affects the ability to secure a livelihood more directly in urban labor markets than rural areas that

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finally pave the way to vulnerability. As exploration show from in depth interview and FGD participants of this study, youth shoe shiners, get into self labour market to give services of shoe shining to clients, with a low quality labour force. This is because most of the labour force has low educational levels and lack quality skills. According to in depth interview and FGDs, youths those leave schools at an early age usually stay being employed in the informal sector without further improvement in their human capital to get decent livelihood work. In addition to this human capital problem was created because of youths leave school and enter the labour market too early without having the necessary human capital. This would increases unemployment and decreases employment rate due to lower level of youth's human capital. Lack of vocational training to youths engaged in shoe shining is additional constraints that deteriorate their present and future sustainable livelihoods.

However, in depth interview and FGD participants forwarded that there is no access to any vocational training in urban area to them because of different preconditions that hindered them to involve in training. According to some participants, their level of education is one of primary constraints since they have early entered into shoe shining without completing even primary level education.

They also described that those who come from rural areas in search of jobs have also surplus constraints to get support in urban settings opportunities of training from governments training institutions. This is because they do not have identity card of Addis Ababa to be registered to get any support to get chance of training. According to them, even for those who got identity cards by different means, they did not have time to join vocational training. This was because shoe shining was the whole day work that began in the early morning and end at nearly 12PM. They described that absence of social security in urban based setting either from parents

or other means to daily food and shelter provisions for rural origin youths were major constraints not to join vocational training to get skills of better jobs and employments. According to them high level of educations and quality skills are prerequisites to get decent work in any field of employments to work.

5.2.6. Lack of support for entrepreneurship and absence of support from micro finance institutions

According to Gezahegn, Nebil, and Hayat (2010) there are several governmental and non-governmental training institutions providing training in a number of fields. Informal and short-term training is also available at sub-city levels for those who face skill gaps in their business with no education requirement. The Ministry of Education's (MoE) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system offers an alternative to the academic subjects that were previously being provided in secondary schools. But their research did not indicate accessibility training for these who engaged in informal economy working youth from these training providing institutions in Ethiopia to support them. Finding from in depth interview show that youth shoe shiners did not get loans from micro finance institutions to begin other private business out of shoe shining to get sustainable livelihoods. From in depth interview, it was comprehended that they did not get financial aids and other supports for development of self based and private entrepreneurship from micro finance institutions. From in depth interview it was understood that youth shoe shiners have a wish to shift shoe shining when they get opportunities of financial and other aids from governmental organizations. Youth shoe shiners understood that micro finance institutions in Ethiopia give loans for youths who have well organized project in some priority areas and for youths who were organized to work in enterprise level.

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To be beneficiary from these aids of micro finance institutions, shoe shining occupations is not suitable for youths to work in cooperative by establishing organizational structure like other formal of economic sectors. In depth interview participants detailed that even though there are various forms of government support for youth employment in some target economic activities, shoe shiners are out of target of government that would not get any supports from government.

5.3. Survival strategies of youth shoe shiners

As discussed so far from finding of in depth interview and FGDs youth shoe shiners income earning of livelihoods was very low that could not cover different types of basic needs. The finding of exploration indicated that youth shoe shiners have developed diverse means to cope up with vulnerabilities in urban and to fulfill their basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing. From in depth interview with youths various coping strategies from shocks have been explored such as reducing the number of meals per day, eating cheaper food stuffs. Furthermore, living in group with youths who come from the same origin areas in urban dwellings by sharing rent house expenses were explored. Besides, using cheaper clothes to cope urban vulnerability for youths in Addis Ababa were explored from in depth interview participants. In depth interview finding also showed that youth shoe shiners worked in multiple informal activities in order to increase their earning and to diversify urban livelihoods income.

5.3.1. Ways of getting access to food stuffs for youth shoe shiners

Finding from in depth interview show that youth shoe shiners got food from different sources such as by buying from small tea houses, street cafes and food vendors in streets. From in depth interview it was understood that youth shoe shiners eat in working place from street vendors' bread with cup of tea for breakfast in the morning. Finding from direct observations and

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in depth interview indicated those youths went together in group to have a lunch or dinner from small houses from working places.

From in depth interview, it was understood that youths' daily income from shoe shining lower than daily food expenses. As understood from in depth interview and FGDs, reducing of meal per day was one of coping strategies of youth shoe shiners. They have developed the habit of consuming cheap meals per eating time. Finding from in depth interview and FGDs indicated that the reasons for consuming cheap food and little food were for saving of income for survival livelihoods which would serve at time of vulnerability and shocks.

5.3.2. Ways of getting access to clothes

Cloth is one of basic needs for human being to protect from different kinds of danger in the world and it has social value for human being. That is why people respect and credit people who wear good and clean cloths. Nevertheless, finding from some in depth interview FGDs indicated youth shoe shiners experienced to vulnerability of wearing cloths. They wear the same clothes day and night due to absence of appropriate cloths to wear for day and night. Finding from in depth interview and FGDs showed that to overcome the problems and as a mechanism of coping in response to financial vulnerability, youth shoe shiners had been using clothes from different sources. They buy from black market or used clothes from street vendors for lower prices than normal market prices to minimize the expenses of livelihoods. It was understood that they buy some new clothes from street vendors when they go to visits their family at some public holidays especially during *Meskel* and Christmas and other holiday's festivity. Besides, finding from in-depth interview with youths' urban born mobile youths shiners born in Addis Ababa indicated that they buy new clothes during festivity especially at beginning of Ethiopian New Year and *Timket* holidays. Youth shoe shiners also get clothes in the form of gift from people

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who know in work setting from clients and from people they know in different situations. This refers that youth shoe shiners have developed good socializations with the community people and customers.

5.3.3. Looking for Alternative Earning

As stated by Satterthwaite&Tacoli, cited in in Rakodi, (2002), recent conceptualization of livelihoods seek to reflect the diversity and complexity of ways in which different groups make a living. In the case of youth shoe shiners, finding indicated that they maintained diffident urban based labor work for living and livelihood that ascertain importance of livelihood diversity in urban areas. They did it as a means of overcoming to financial shortage and widening of livelihood earning income that would enhances youths options to get daily and sustainable livelihood in Addis Ababa. Finding from the study showed that shoe shiners were engaged informal economic activities like, hawking, peddling, portaging, daily labor, working as assisting in taxis driver and facilitator for passengers in taxi, and collecting fare and so on. Beside results from observations, in depth interview and FGDs showed that shoe-shiners involved in informal economic activities such as Petty trade, carrying luggage, messenger service, and car cleaning, watching and parking to maximize livelihood income earning. Youth shoe shiners simultaneously or alternatively also engaged in side activities such as selling mobile cards, soft papers, chocolates together with the shoe-shining so as to diversify sustainable income livelihood.

5.3.4. The social networks of youth shoe shiners

As Emamaline,etel. (2007) stated social networks would be manifested within family groups, friendship ties, networks of professional colleagues and business contacts, membership of formal and informal associations and groups in which individuals and groups rely upon in

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establishing, maintaining, and using those networks for different purposes, for instance, livelihood and to resilient from vulnerability. In the case of youth shoe shiners, in depth interview was conducted to know why youth shoe shiners had formed social networks among themselves. The finding showed that social networks use for many purposes for youth shoe shiners. From in depth interview and FGDs it was understood that social networks of shoe shiners were very useful to share lived experiences and provide mutual support for them. Youth shoe shiners interact among themselves through various social networks to deal with life experiences. The researcher's observation and accounts of in-depth interview partly showed that youths who inhabit similar places of occupation and those coming from similar areas of origin exhibit active interaction and support each other's. This show that social networks of youth shoe shiners was formed by their similarity in place of origin to fulfill their basic needs and goals.

From in depth interview it was also understood that youths formed residential arrangement based on the origin they come from. For example youths who came from Hadiya live together forming groups with their own ethnic groups, Wolayta with their own ethnic groups, Gurage with their own ethnic groups and so on. Finding from in depth interview and FGDs indicated that through social networks youths help each other while sick, ensure security, share ideas and material including money and get guidance and care from one another. Therefore, social networks are means for youth shoe shiners to develop resilience and coping mechanisms from vulnerability in the streets and other urban setting.

Finding from in depth interview and FGDs showed that living together is inevitable livelihood strategy relevant to minimize urban living expenses. Finding from in depth interview indicated that communal life style developed strength, endurance and defense power among the youth of shoe shiners in Addis Ababa.

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For example the experience of Chakebo showed how communal way of living function for youth who are living together in Addis Ababa. Finding from in depth interview with him show that communal life of youth shoe shiners was very essential in urban areas for youths engaged in precarious informal economic activities like shoe shining. This was because income earning from shoe shining for youths were incapable to cover all living expenses in Addis Ababa. That was why he and his six friends rented living home together to share expenses by making social networking among themselves. Other finding showed that social relation among youth shoe shiners as crucial social capital which helped youth shoe shiners during sick and hungry by contributing financial aids among group members that finally made youths resilient from any vulnerability and shocks.

Besides finding from observations, in depth interview and focus group and discussions with youths indicated that new migrant shoe shiners maintain relationships with former youth shoe shiners to get supports. They make efforts to get entry into the prevailing social networks of the older youth shoe shiners by integrating recent youth's migrants to their already existed social networks. The older migrant youths offer new migrant youths with different kinds of social support like where to find work and how one can develop skills of shoe shine working.

Finding also indicated that former youths tell information new youths how to deal with the public, where to get cheap prices of food and shelter, where to buy clothes, how to interact with one another and other services they need to get. For example finding from Wolengo showed how youth shoe shiners adapt the skill from senior shoe shiners. Finding indicated that at the beginning, youth observed shoe shining from friends of senior workers and made trail of shoe shining. Then he became assistant shoe shiner for his senior shoe shining friend. From this finding one can understand that how social capital which obtained through social networks of

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youths become bases for livelihood income earning. When shortage of income encountered to buy shoe shining instruments, he borrowed seconded instruments from his friends until he gained his own new instruments from market. Furthermore, his senior shoe shining friends provided host services until he works some periods to have some amount of income earning.

In depth interview participants and FGDs were also asked about mechanisms youth shoe shiners save income earning. The result shows youths save money income by forming Ikub institutions by using social network based on weekly or monthly interval. The finding indicated that youths who came from the areas of origin and ethnic groups formed based on verbal agreements. Finding from the study show that trust and reciprocity as a primary element to strengthen social networks of youths and their Ikub institutional sustainability to save their income earning from shoe shining. From the finding, it was understood that youths use Ikub as the strategies to preserve future survival livelihood by saving money which enable them to cope vulnerable conditions of life in Addis Ababa.

5.3.5. Social safety net youth shoe shiners have in urban areas

Finding from these explorations showed that youth shoe shiners did not have formal social safety net to provide them with sustenance in the case of loss of income, employment and in other vulnerable situations of youths from governmental organizations. Finding from youths who came from rural areas indicated that they were very vulnerable in the cities because of separation from their parents and their villages from where they would get help in times of vulnerability. Thus, those who migrated from rural areas without their family have not opportunities to rely on to get food and shelter in time they have no saving and lose employment. However, show that youth shoe shiners have informal social protection system during loss of income from their social network group. loans and free aids were some social protection

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mechanisms for youths till recover from the emergency which they get from informal social protection system.

Finding indicated that Iddir is used as informal social welfare service providing institutions youth shoe shiners have used at the time of vulnerability like deaths. Finding indicated that shoe shiners organized and established Iddir, which is an informal social welfare service institution that social welfare services were given at the time of vulnerability for the group members.

Finding from the study show that youth shoe shiners use Iddir institutions to recover from vulnerable situations of group members, such as at the time of sever sick by contributing money from group members to resilient vulnerable youths from crisis. It was understood that Iddir has been used as one of the coping strategies for youth shoe shiners to challenge vulnerability and shocks in urban based dwelling among themselves.

5.3.6. Social relation between youth shoe shiners and community people

From the study, it was understood youth shoe shiners have made social networks with different urban community people. In the process of making their livelihood, they develop contact with neighbors, shop owners or keepers, owners of the cafeteria or small restaurants, barmaids and public institutions like Police in various milieus.

Finding from in depth interview and observations show that youth shoe shiners have a very strong social interaction with shop owners when they practice their day to day economic activities. It was understood that shop owners allow place around and in front of their shop for mutual benefit. Youth shoe shiners in turn buy shoe shine materials such as white cream, Kiwi cream from shops in credits to return after working from the shop owners. This business

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interaction benefited both sides by exchanging money and materials between shoe shiners and shop owners.

Finding also indicated that youth shoe shiners have strong relations with the community police for common benefits. The finding from study show that youth shoe shiners inform to the police when they see people committed crimes. From the study results it was understood that police protected the wellbeing of youth shoe shiners during they were working in streets, around hotels and other public places.

CHAPTER SIX: Conclusion and Social Work Implication

6.1. Conclusion

Shoe shining is one of informal sector economic activities in which youths who have low educational status engage for their livelihoods income earning in streets of Addis Ababa. Finding from three main sources such as from in depth interview and FGDs and observations on experiences of youths shoe shiners in Addis Ababa were presented. The main study finding was organized in line with research questions. Finding from the study showed that there were several reasons for youth shoe shiners for coming from rural areas to Addis Ababa and begin shoe shining. Finding indicated that poverty as a main reason for rural youths to come to Addis Ababa and to work as shoe shiners in street of Addis Ababa. Manifestations of poverty were seen on youths in different dimensions. For example youths families were unable to fulfil their needs for food, shelter, clothing and education which resulted in working on streets as shoe shiners.

Finding from the study also indicated that family breakdowns and disagreement within family members in one or other ways as causes to begin shoe shining for the purposes daily livelihoods. The other reason for youths to begin shoe shiners in streets was peer influences. In this regard youths were attracted by the information they heard from their friends and cloths they wore when they came back home village.

The study found different problems that shoe shiners came across in different situations. Problem of access and recognition to working place was one of critical challenge for youths shoe shiners. Moreover, the study found that youth shoe shiners lack formal and institutional registration for recognition of shoe shining occupation which resulted in precarious and unstable livelihoods for youths.

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Besides, the study found that working in extremely cold and muddy condition in the rainy seasons and hot weather conditions during winter seasons in the side of streets for whole days beginning in the early morning which would result in health problems. Instability and precarious working situations of shoe shining which resulted in less income earning was also found from the study. Incapability of covering livelihood expenses due to less income earning from shoe shining was another experienced problem youths came across in Addis Ababa. They also experienced many types of ill-treatment from different sectors of community people whom they contact in different situations. For instance, robbery by street gangs when they go home at night in streets and theft practice of working materials were some immoral and ill treatment practices that youths shoe shine experienced. Verbal abuses and insulting by customers due to improper shoe shine service was also found from the study. Shelter problem of youths shoe shiners was found as another challenging experience of youths in Addis Ababa. Results of study show that youth shoe shiners were living in overcrowded small single rooms which have not enough space to accommodate. Rented houses have basic facility problems such as shortage of water or lack of water in some situations in rent house compound and toilet problems which finally resulted in health related vulnerability due to sanitation problem.

Finding shows that youth shoe shiners' low level education and lack of quality skill have a negative influence to get decent work in formal employment sectors and increased unemployment rate of youths. Besides, the study found that youths stayed in the informal sector without transition to better employment and without further improvement of their human capital to diversify decent livelihood work. Moreover, the study found that lack of vocational training deteriorated present and future sustainable livelihood capacities of youth shoe shiners. Similarly, lack of support for entrepreneurship from micro finance institutions limited the power of youths to

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get opportunities to run their own small private business enterprises to get sustainable livelihoods.

Finding indicated that youths constructed different type survival and cope up urban vulnerability mechanisms for various types of vulnerability. Reducing the number of meals per day, eating cheaper food stuffs and eating by sharing food were mechanisms to minimize expenses of food. Besides, the study found that shoe shiners lived together in group with youths who came from the same origin by sharing rent house to lower expenses. Moreover, the study found that youth shoe shiners have developed and constructed knowledge of using cheaper clothes as additional coping mechanisms from urban vulnerability and shocks.

Moreover, the study found that youth shoe shiners have constructed knowledge of engagement in multiple informal activities in order to increase earning and diversify urban livelihoods income. The study also found that youth shoe shiners use social networks in different urban living situations to minimise urban based vulnerability. Finding from study show that social network use as a crucial social capital which helped youths during social crisis and emergency time to minimize and resilient from vulnerability. Learning skills of shoe shining was also result of social networks of youth shoe shiners among themselves. Furthermore, social networks as imperative, became bases for establishment of Ikub, traditional institution that youth shoe shiners use to save their income earning for the purpose of preserving for future survival livelihood from shoe shining in Addis Ababa. The study found that Ikub in turn strengthened social relations which youths use in other situations of urban vulnerability. The finding show that youths use Ikub as the strategies to preserve future survival livelihood by saving money which enable them to cope vulnerable conditions of life in Addis Ababa.

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Youth shoe shiners also established Idir, which is informal social welfare service institutions that social welfare services or social safety net program given at the time of vulnerability for the group members by the help of social networks. However, the study found lack of formal social safety net program to provide them with sustenance in time of loss of income, employment and in other vulnerable situations of youth shoe shiners from governmental organizations. . The study also found that youth shoe shiners have constructed social relations in the process of making their livelihood with neighbors, shop owners, owners of the cafeteria or small restaurants, barmaids and public institutions like Police in various setting.

6. 2. Social Work Implications

It is imperative to bear in mind that the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable and living in poverty (NASW, 2005). Thus, informal sector workers particularly youth shoe shiners are sections of people who are living in poverty and faced multi-dimensional vulnerability that need to be addressed. The challenging experiences of youth shoe shiners are clear indicator to recommend for some social work practice, social work policy and for further research study in the area of shoe shiners youths.

6.2.1. Implication for social work practice

Social workers should advocate for provisions of moral and material support for youth shoe shiners by the municipality and other stakeholders so as to improve the working environment of youth shoe shine workers. Thus Addis Ababa municipality should facilitate better operating spaces such as shades, containers, building public latrines and drinking water around their working areas and other material support that would also improve city beauty and

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reduce youth shoe shiners and the public health risks. This in turns would enhance income earning of youth shoe shiners to have better and sustainable livelihood. Besides to alleviate shelter problem of youths, social workers should advocate for facilitating any alternative measures either giving some incentives or advising house renters not to add extra money for house renting by the City Administration of Addis Ababa to decrease vulnerability.

Social workers should advocate for policies and programmes interventions by the government on enhancing employability, skills and training, productivity and entrepreneurship to help meet the massive demand of youths for jobs and livelihoods in ways that enable youth shoe shiners entry into the economic and social mainstream. Furthermore, extensions of some occupational welfare and protection and health care to workers in the formal sector including youth shoe shiners should be promoted to incorporate occupational welfare and protections and health care of informal sector workers youths like youth shoe shiners in streets of Addis Ababa. Besides, building and establishing institutions of informal sector working for the protection and safety of workers are very important that must be established as institutions and agency in the organizational level to support youths in work setting that social workers need to advocate. For enhancement of all those support and provisions for youth shoe shiners, the administrative government of Addis Ababa should create conducive environment for youth shoe shiners by giving legal recognition identification card for residency.

6.2.2. Policy implications

Rural development and agricultural policies, including supportive legal frameworks for cooperatives, need to be enhanced and strengthened to build rural youths economic capacity that would decrease migration of labor forces especially youths to urban centre from rural areas.

Policies and programmes should focus on bringing marginalized youth shoe shiners and economic units into the economic and social mainstream, thereby reducing their vulnerability

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and exclusion. This means that programmes addressing the informal economy, such as provision of education, training, microfinance, etc., should be designed and implemented with the main objective of bringing workers or economic units in the informal economy into the mainstream, so that they are covered by the legal and institutional framework.

Government should adopt appropriate macroeconomic, social, legal and political frameworks for the large-scale creation of sustainable, decent jobs and business opportunities for youths. Moreover, government should adopt a dynamic approach to place decent employment at the centre of economic and social development policies and also to promote well-functioning youths labour markets and labour market institutions, including labour market information systems and credit institutions. To increase job quantity and quality, emphasis should be placed on investing in people, especially the most vulnerable – in their education, skills training, lifelong learning, health and safety – and encouraging their entrepreneurial initiative. Poverty reduction strategies, in particular the poverty reduction strategy should specifically address the problems in the informal economy.

To address the needs of the poor and vulnerable in the informal economy particularly, youth shoe shiners, social workers need to advocate governments to adopt policy and programme to extend the coverage of social security. Formulations of policy and programme of micro insurance and other community based schemes are important but should be developed in ways that are consistent with the extension of national social security schemes. Policies and initiatives on the extension of coverage should be taken within the context of an integrated national social security strategy.

Adopt and policies programmes aimed at creating decent jobs and education, skill-building and training opportunities to help workers and employers move into the formal economy.

6.2.3. Implication for Research

This study implies that there is necessitate for study focusing on the experiences of other informal sector workers in Addis Ababa and other urban areas to identify intervention to alleviate problems. This is because youths have been engaged in different types of urban based informal precarious economic activities for their immediate survival livelihoods. Therefore, the findings of experiences of youth shoe shiners may serve as a base for further research on the experience of different types of informal sector workers For instances street food and coffee vending by women in streets of Addis Ababa is one of informal economic activities some women are working that needs further study to see their experiences.

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Addis Ababa University

Graduate Program

School of Social Work

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Bekele Habtamu Lamango, entitled: Exploring experiences of Informal Sector Workers: the Case of Youths Shoe Shiners in Addis Ababa and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master of arts for the Degree of Master of Social Work (MSW) complies with the regulation of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Signed by the Examining Committee:

External Examiner _____ Signature _____ Date _____


Internal Examiner _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Advisor _____ Signature _____ Date _____

-----Chair of Department or Graduate Program Coordinator

Declaration

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

Student Name Bekele Habtamu Signature  Date 1/07/2016

Advisor's Name Yania Sied-Mekiye (PhD) Signature _____ Date _____

Guide lines for interviews of research on experiences of street youth shoe shiners

Addis Ababa, January, 2016

Appendices

Appendix I: General elaboration about research for volunteer participants for consent to take part in research.

Dear Research Participants,

My name is Bekele Habtamu, a master student in School of Social Work in Addis Ababa University. I thank you for taking time to take part in this interview. At present time, I am working a thesis for partial fulfillment of master of Social Work. My study is on youths working as Shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. The topic of my research is exploring experiences of youth shoe shiners in Addis Ababa. To do this study, I purposefully selected shoe shine working youths on streets of Addis Ababa city, Arada Sub City Woreda 6 to get challenging experiences they faced while they are working on street. This is the very reason why I am requesting to do an interview with you. Accordingly, the data I get from you is solely for academic purposes and will not be used for other purposes. Dear participants, your response will be kept confidential and I kindly request you to participate voluntarily in this study. The quality of the study depends up on your genuine response. So I would like to ask your consent.

As we progress in the interview I shall be taking notes. I shall appreciate your comments on all issues I wish to know about in case there are areas on which you feel uncomfortable to comment, kindly feel free to indicate so and we shall proceed to other issues. Furthermore, participation on this study interview is on your free will that you can withdrew at any time you want if there is a situation that make you feel uncomfortable.

Thank you in advance of your kindly cooperation!!

Confirmation statements of consent from Key participants of this Study

I certify that I have read and understand this consent form and agree to participate as a key informant in the research described. I understand that any information obtained from me for this research will be kept confidential. To further ensure privacy, I have the option of using a pen name. I agree that all known risk to me have been explained to my satisfaction and I understand that no compensation is available from Addis Ababa University, its employees and the researcher for any injury resulting from my participation in this research. I understand that participation is voluntary, refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled and the subject may terminate participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled.

Signature -----

Date -----

Appendix II

Interview Guiding Questions for in depth interview and FGDs participants of youth shoe shiners

Background Information

Name _____ sex _____ Age _____ Place of Birth _____ Educational status _____ Patterns of shoe shining _____

I. Interview questions about reasons for participating in street shoe shining

If your birth place is rural area and come to Addis Ababa,

1. What motivate you to come to Addis Ababa?
2. When did you come to this town?
3. Please can you elaborate the main reasons that force you to start street shoe shine working?

II. Questions related to the problems that the street shoe shining youths face

1. What were the difficulties you faced when you started shoe shine working?
2. How do you see the challenges of access to shelter, food and other basic necessities to survive in Addis Ababa?
3. Is there any problem in relation to access to water for your daily shoe shining business? If yes elaborate these problems.
4. And how do you get access to water for cleaning shoes of customers?
5. How lack of human capitals for instance lack of education and low level skills, lack of training for entrepreneurship, adversely influence your daily life and work on street?
6. Do you think that little recognition of shoe shine working by government institutions and lack of legal framework to support shoe shine working adversely affect youths? If yes how?

7. How did you get this working site to run shoe shine working? Is there problem to get access to working place? If yes, how you elaborate problem of access to suitable and profitable site of shoe shine working?

8. How unsanitary Working place and hazardous working condition affect your health condition? As other informal sector economy, shoe shine working youths lack social security. So, how do you survive in time of emergency in Addis Ababa?

9. What do you suggest to have social protection for this sector?

10. What type of support do you want to get from governmental institutions?

III. Questions related to survival strategies they experience

1. How do get daily food?

2. How do get cloths you wear?

3. is there other works that you work in addition to shoe shine working to diversify your livelihood? If yes, what are those jobs?

4. How social capitals such as social net work of youths shoe shine workers among each others are using for your livelihood strategies and to cope up the challenging experiences during working time as shoe shiner on streets and in other situations in Addis Ababa?

5. What kind of social relation do you have with other people in working places and other conditions within community?

6. How much money you earn daily from shoe shine working? How much money you spend for your daily expenditures?

7. Do you save money? If yes, what strategies do you use to save?

8. How do you see shoe shine working as sources of your livelihood and for other purposes?

9. Finally, do you have anything to say?

Check lists for observation

1. Shoe shining places
2. Youths physical conditions, clothing and others
3. Interaction of them among themselves, with other social community, barmaids or cafeteria and restaurants
4. Shelter, food items and feeding places and where they wash their clothes

Focus Group Discussions guideline

1. Why did you migrate to Addis Ababa?
2. With whom did you migrate?
3. How do you choose to work as shoe shiner on streets?
4. How do you see working on street as shoe shiner?
5. How much you earn daily?
6. What do you do with the money you earn?
7. How do you find food and shelter?
8. How do you find working place?
9. How long have you been working on street as shoe shiner?
10. What are the major problems of street working as shoe shiner?
11. How do you experience the challenges on streets during working time and in other situations?
12. How little recognition of government and lack of support affect your work on street?
13. How do you usually deal with the problems?
14. Where do you get support in time of difficulties?
15. How do you maintain social relations among each other?
16. What kind of relations do you have with other people in the town?
17. What is the significance of these social relations?
18. How these social relations help you in your daily life, working situation on streets and in time of emergency?
20. What kinds of supports do you need from government and other NGOs for your working as shoe shiner on street in particular and for your future career in general?
21. Finally, do you have anything to say?

በአዲስ አበባ ዩንቨርሲቲ የሶሻል ወርክ ት/ቤት 2ኛ ዲግሪ ፕሮግራም

በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ በልስትሮ ስራ የተሰማሩ ወጣቶች ተሞክረው ለይ ጥናት ለመስራት የተዘጋጁ ቃለ መጠይቅ መማሪያዎች

አዲስ አበባ፣ 2008 ዓ/ም

አባሪዎች

አባሪ አንድ፣ በጥናቱ በፈቃደኝነት እንድሳተፉ ስለጥናቱ ለተሳታፊዎች የምሰጥ አጠቃላይ ማብራሪያ ወደ የጥናቱ ተሳታፊዎች፤

እኔ በቀለ ሀብታሙ አበላለወ፤ በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በሶሻል ወርክ ት/ቤት ሁለተኛ ደግራ ተማሪ ነኝ። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ለሁለተኛ ዲግሪ ጥናታዊ ጽሁፍ በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ በልስትሮ ስራ የተሰማሩ ወጣቶች ሕይወት ተሞክረው እየሰረሱ በመሆኑ እንደተደግሞ በስራ ለይ የተሰማረኛል ስለሆነ የመረጃ ምንጭ እንድትሆኑ መርጫቸዋለሁ።

በመሆኑም ወደ የጥናቱ ተሳታፊዎች ይህ መረጃ ለጥናት ብቻ የሚያገለግልና ለሌላ ዓላማ የማይወልድ መሆኑን እየረጋገጥኩ መረጃውም ለሌላ ወገን የማይሰጥና ምስጥራዊነቱም የተጠበቀ በመሆኑ በጥናቱ እንድትሳተፉ በትኩረትና እጠይቃለሁ።

የጥናቱ ጥረት በእናንተ ትክክለኛ ምላሽ የተመሰረተ በመሆኑ በጥናቱ እንድትሳተፉ በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ። ቃለ መጠይቁን ስንጀምር ምላሻችሁን በጽሁፍ እቀበላለሁ። በቃለ መጠይቅ ጥናቱ ላይ የማይመቹ ሁኔታና ጉዳዮች ካሉ በነጻነት ሀሳባችሁን እንድትገልጹ አበረታታለሁ። ከዚህ በተጨማሪ በቃለ መጠይቁ ሂደት የማይመች ሁኔታ ካልተፈጠረ በጥናቱ ያለመሳተፍ ሙሉ መብት ስላላችሁ በፈለጋችሁ ጊዜ ከቃለ መጠይቁ ውጪ መሆን ትችላላችሁ።

ስለትብብራችሁ ከወዲሁ አመሰግናለሁ!!

በጥናቱ ለመሳተፍ የሥምምነት መግለጫ ማረጋገጫ

በዚህ ጥናት ለመሳተፍ የስምምነት ሰነድን ስፈርም ስለ ጥናቱ ሙሉ እውቀት በማግኘትና በመረዳት ነው። ለዚህ ጥናት የሚሆን መረጃ ከእኔ የተሰጠው ለጥናት ብቻ መሆኑንና ሚስጥራዊነቱም እንደምጠበቅ እረዳለሁ። የሰጠሁት መረጃ የእኔ መሆንና ለደህነነትም ከዚህ በታች በብዕር የተፈረማ ፊርማ ይኖራል። በጥናቱ በመሳተፍ የሚደርስ ጉዳት ቢኖር እንኳ ከአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲና ከአጥኚው ምንም አይነት ካሳ እንደማልጠብቅና እንደማልጠይቅ አስማማለሁ። በጥናቱ መሳተፍ በፈቃደኝነት ላይ የተመሰረተ ስለሆነና በጥናቱ አለመሳተፍ ምንም አይነት ጉዳት እንደማያደርስ እና በፈለኩ ጊዜ ከጥናቱ ራሴን ማግለል እንደምችል ተረድቻለሁ።

ፊርማ _____

ቀን _____

አባሪ ሁለት

በሊስትሮ ሰራተኞች የተዘጋጀ የቃለ መጠይቅ መሪ ጥያቄዎች

መነሻ መረጃዎች

ስም _____ ያታ _____ ዕድሜ _____ የትውልድ ቦታ _____ የትምህርት ደረጃ _____ የጋብቻ ሁኔታ _____ የልስትሮ ስራ አይነት _____ ስራ የጀመሩበት አመት _____

I. በሊስትሮ ሥራ ለመሳተፍ ምክንያት የሆኑ ሁኔታዎችን ለማወቅ የተዘጋጀ የቃለ መጠይቅ መሪ ጥያቄዎች

የትውልድ ቦታ ክ/ሀገር ከሆነ

1. ወደ አዲስ አበባ ለመምጣት ምን አነሳሰ?
2. ወደ እዚህ ከተማ መቼ መጣህ?
3. እባክህ በጎደና ላይ የሊስትሮ ስራ እንድትሰሩ የገፋፋህ ዋና ዋና ምክንያቶች ልታብራራልኝ ትችላለህ? (ለሁሉም የምሆን ጥያቄ)

II. በመንገድ ዳር የሊስትሮ ሥራ ላይ የተሰማሩ ወጣቶች ላይ የሚደርሱ ችግሮች ጋር የተያያዙ ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄዎች

1. የሊስትሮ ሥራ ስትጀምር ያጋጠሙህ ችግሮች ምን ምንድን ናቸው?
2. በአዲስ አበባ ከቤት ከምግብና ከሌሎች መሰረታዊ አስፈላጊ የሆኑ ነገሮች ጋር በተያያዘ የሚያጋጥሙ ተግዳሮቶችን እንዴት ታያለህ?
3. ለስራህ የሚሆኑ ንጹህ ውሀ ከየት ታገኛለህ? ለስራህ ከውሃ አቅርቦት ጋር በተያያዘ ችግር አለ? አዎ ካልክ ችግሮቹን ታብራራልኝ?

III. ከዚህ በታች የሚዘረዘሩት ውስንነቶች በስራህ ላይ እንዴት ተጽእኖ ያሳድራሉ?

1. የት/ት እና የክህሎት ውስንነት እና አቅም ማነስ እንዴት የእያንዳንዱን ቀን ሕይወትና በስራ ሁኔታ ተጽእኖ ይፈጥራል?
2. ለፈጠራ ስራ ስልጠና አለመኖር እና አቅም ማነስ እንዴት የእያንዳንዱን ቀን ሕይወትና በስራ ሁኔታ ተጽእኖ ይፈጥራል?
3. ከብድር ሰጪ ተቆማት(ለምሳሌ ከማይክሮ ፈይናንስ ተቆም) የብድር አገልግሎት አለማገኛት በስራ ሁኔታ ተጽእኖ ይፈጥራል ብለህ ታስበለህ?
4. በሊስትሮ ስራ ላይ የመንግስት ድጋፍና እውቅና አለመኖር እንዲሁም ከስራችሁ ጋር በተያያዘ ለደገፍ የሚችል የአሰራርና የህግ ማእቀፍ አለመኖር በስራ ላይ አሉታዊ ተጽእኖ ይፈጥራል ብለህ ታስባለህ? አዎ ካልክ እንዴት?

5. የሥራ ቦታ ማግኘት ጋር የተያያዘ ችግር አለ? አዎ ካልክ ምቹና ለስራ አመቺ ቦታ ያለመኖርን ችግር እንዴት ትገልጻለህ? ይህን የስራ ቦታ እንዴት ልታገኝ ቻልክ?
6. ንፁህ ያልሆነና ለጤና አደጋ የሆኑ ቦታዎች ጤናህን እንዴት ይጎዳሉ? እንዴት ሌሎችም ኢ-መደበኛ የሆኑ የኢኮኖሚ ሥራ ክፍሎችም፣ የሊስትሮ ሰራተኛ የሆኑ ወጣቶችም ማህበራዊ ዋስትና የላቸውም። በአደጋ ጊዜ እንዴት ትቋቋማላችሁ? ወደፊት እንዲኖር ምን አይነት ሀሳብ ትሰጣለህ?
7. ከመንግስታዊ ተቋማት ምን አይነት ድጋፍ ያስፈልጋል ብለህ ታምናለህ?

IV. የኑሮ ዘዴዎች ተሞክሮዎች ጋር የተያያዙ ቃለ መጠይቆች

1. በየቀኑ የምግብ አጠቃቀሞችሁ ምን የመስለል?
2. የምትለብሱትን ልብስ እንዴት ታገኛለችሁ?
3. ኑሮን ለማሸነፍ ከልስትሮ ሌላ ተጨማሪ የምትሰሩ ስራ አላችሁ ምን ምን ትሰረላችሁ?
4. በችግር ጊዜ ማህበራዊ ዋስትና ከየት ታገኛላችሁ?
5. የርስ በርስ ማህበራዊ ትስስሮች አቅም እንዴት ለመተዳደሪያ ዘዴና የተለያዩ በስራ ጊዜ የሚያጋጥሙ ተግዳሮቶችን መቋቋሚያ ዘዴ ሆኖ እንደሚገለግል ታብራራለህ?
6. በመንገድ ዳር የሚሰሩ የሊስትሮ ሰራተኛ ወጣቶች ከሌሎች ሰዎች ጋር ምን አይነት ትስስር አለ?
7. በየቀኑ ምን ያህል ብር ከሥራህ ታገኛለህ? በአመካይ ስንት ብር ወጪ በየቀኑ ታወጣለህ?
8. ገንዘብ ትቆጥባለህ? አዎ ካልክ በምን አይነት ዘዴ ትቆጥባለህ?
9. በመጨረሻ ሌላ በጥናቱ ዙሪያ ተጨማሪ ሀሳብ ከለ ብታብረራልኝ ደስ ይለኛል።