

**The Assessment of Protection and Support Services for Sexually Abused  
Female Children: in the case of Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation  
and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) Safe Home**

**A Thesis Submitted to Addis Ababa University School of Social Work in  
Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement of Masters of Social Work**

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**Declaration**

I, Sara Abebe, declared that this research entitled "The Assessment of Protection and Support Services for Sexually Abused Female Children: in the case of Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) Safe Home" is my own original work and all the resources that I used have been indicated and acknowledged on the reference and this work has not been submitted before by any other person at any institutions.

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## **Abstract**

*The study illuminated the assessment of protection and support services for sexually abused female children in the case of Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) Safe Home. This organization is working on female children who are underprivileged since they are either at risk or victims of violence and different forms of physical and sexual abuse. Female Children, in particular, are perceived as one of the greatest at-risk groups within the society because of their susceptibility to a problem like different forms of abuse and since they require protection and support. This study aimed to examine the service provided for particularly sexually abused female children at the safe home. Qualitative research method was used to demonstrate how these vulnerable female children are protected and got the support that they needed to rehabilitate, recover and rejoin family. A total of 10 sexually abused female children from the safe home were interviewed as the target group and six key informants also participated in the study. Thematic data analysis was used. The finding showed the provision of protection and support services for sexually abused female children at the safe home to help them meet their emotional, social and spiritual needs with significant service efficiency. The finding also disclosed challenges of service provisions. The result of this study would offer information and increase knowledge of concern for integrated protection services for abused female children.*

**Key Words:** Abuse, Children, Safe Home, Rehabilitation

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

<b>ACRWC</b>	African Charter on the Rights of the welfare of the Child
<b>ACPF</b>	African Child Policy Forum
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the rights of a child
<b>FDRE</b>	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>MOLSA</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Affair
<b>OPRIFS</b>	Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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## CHAPTER ONE

### *1.1 Introduction*

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Article 1 states “child” as an individual under the age of 18 (UNICEF, 1989). Children are perceived as one of the greatest at-risk groups within the society because of their intellectual and physical incapability which avert them from defending their privileges and interest (Amare, 2017). According to Allen (2017), children are considered among the most vulnerable group in society because they are dependent, unable to care for themselves which makes them susceptible to a problem like abuse and in need of protection and support.

Child sexual abuse is the act of employing, convincing, and bribing a child to take part in any sexual manner or initiating such behavior to produce an optical portrayal of such behavior (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2019). As Jibril (2012), states child sexual abuse is a criminal act committed against children for sexual gratification. He further illustrates that this situation is the least explored form of child abuse in Ethiopia.

UNICEF (2020) review studies report reveals that 12% of the world's children had been sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. A significant proportion of Ethiopian women are exposed to female genital mutilation, early marriage, and domestic violence (UN, 2016). According EDHS (2016), survey 23% of women between the ages 15-49 were abused physically and 10% of them were exposed to sexual violence in Ethiopia.

Getinet et al. (2019) notes that it was just recently, attention has begun to be given to an increasing case of abuse against girls and women. In a third-world country like Ethiopia getting precise data on the magnitude of child sexual abuse is difficult. According to Alemayehu (2013); Amare (2017), the experience of sexual abuse of females has an impact on their future wellbeing

by jeopardizing their self-esteem. Female survivors are at risk of facing depression, anxiety, and stress. It also addresses the importance of delivering protection to female children specifically bio-psychosocial services in different sectors like the school system and integration between the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health to fight against sexual abuse of female children. Hence it can lead to a reasonable society with a more literate and productive population.

Violence, abuse, and exploitation of children in Africa are the common experiences of children. Surveys show that the vast majority of children experience violence among which sexual abuse is one of it. Street children are more vulnerable to sexual abuse among which the girls are believed to be at greater risk in many African countries (HRW, 2003).

Research shows that globally and in Ethiopia female children are more susceptible to sexual abuse than male children. Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (2005), discovered that sexual abuse is one of the communal forms of abuse challenged by children in Ethiopia. It further states a study undertaken in Yekatit 12 Hospital in which sexual abuse constituted 74% of the 214 allegedly abused children enrolled in the study. A study conducted with female students in the Jima zone in Ethiopia states that a high prevalence rate of female sexual abuse in the area (Alemayehu, 2013). Aleme et al. (2015) studied that among 362 female high school students in Arbaminch town, the prevalence of rape among these students was 11%. Erulkar et al. (2010), a study which was conducted in seven regions of Ethiopia shows that a larger proportion of women experienced sexual abuse. It also notes the wider acceptance of violence and abuse against women.

This study illuminated the protection and support services for sexually abused female children with a particular reference to children from Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) safe home. The research enlightened the

psychosocial support and the legal protection provided for these vulnerable female children. The effectiveness of the service and challenges of service provision in the center was examined too.

### ***1.2 Statement of the Problem***

Several studies have been carried out on child sexual abuse and protection ranging from the definition of the terms, types of abuse and causes of sexual abuse to protective services for abused children. Among these, UNICEF (2020) conducted a review update of earlier reports on Action to end Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and explained the term child sexual abuse and exploitation as the various activities of abuse of a child ranging from trading sex for nutrition to virtual sexual abuse. Similarly, Finkelhor & Sedlak (2008), have studied the behavior of child sexual abuse. The study showed that sexual abuse is sexual acts on a child includes inappropriate physical contact or touch, sexual exploitation, and violence.

Wassie and Sebsib (2020) carried out a study on factors contributing to child sexual abuse. The result explained the issue of child sexual abuse as the most striking subject for more than forty years. It further illustrated delay in marriage, cultural standards and excessive alcohol usage as the perpetuating components that instigate the abuse particularly in Bahir Dar from police and delinquent's view. Goel (2009), researched Children's Human Rights in Underdeveloped Countries. The study showed that most children are subjected to different forms of abuse in Ethiopia just like any other developing country.

Child Welfare and Information Gateway (2019), conducted the different types of abuse and neglect. The finding identified physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse as the main mistreatment of children. Abandonment, parental neglect, and human trafficking are also identified as the type of abuse among children too.

UNHCR (2021), conducted a study on measures to protect and support a child in Ethiopia. The finding disclosed works on campaigns against discrimination, sexual abuse and guarantee access to suitable services, and delivers long-term solutions in the child's best interest.

UN (2016), carried out a study on shelters for women and girls survivors of violence. The study illustrated the existence of 12 shelters that offers rehabilitation and reintegration services for women and girl survivors of abuse all over Ethiopia with the majority( 5 out of 12) situated in the capital which doesn't accommodate all sexually abused children. As a result of inadequate resources to support the rehabilitation and recovery of female survivors, their psycho-social needs are frequently unmet.

Ketsela (2020) conducted a study on quality shelter provision for Gender Based Violence (GBV) victims. In her finding, she demonstrated the types and consequences of GBV by comparing and contrasting the Association for Women Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) and the Salesians of Don Bosco center. The result disclosed physical injuries and rapes as the most common types of violence. The study also explained the services provided in both centers which are health care, counseling, and empowerment training programs.

To sum up, different literature explores the cause, forms, and consequences of violence and abuse against women and children in comprehensive sphere. Studies that have been conducted on protection services focus on children and GBV in general which leaves a room that has not been seen from the abused girls' perspective specifically. As far as my reading knowledge is concerned there has not been an exhaustive study to discover protection and support services provided for specifically sexually abused female children in Addis Ababa rehabilitation shelters and responsible government offices. This situation is also frequently changed along with the development of new legislations and socio-economic development. Hence, this study is intended

to fill this gap by emphasizing how these vulnerable children are protected and get the support they need to rehabilitate, recover and rejoin society.

### ***1.3 Research Objective***

#### ***1.3.1 General Objective***

The general objective of this study was to illuminate the protection and support services provided for sexually abused female children at the Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) safe home which is found in Addis Ababa, Nefas Silk Lafto sub-city.

#### ***1.3.2 Specific Objectives***

1. To examine the protection and support services provided for sexually abused female children at OPRIFS safe home in Addis Ababa.
2. To assess the effectiveness of the protection and support services provided for sexually abused female children at OPRIFS safe home in Addis Ababa.
3. To assess challenges of service provision at OPRIFS safe home and among stakeholders in addressing female child sexual abuse.

### ***1.4 Research Questions***

1. What kind of protection and support services are provided for sexually abused female children at OPRIFS safe home in Addis Ababa?
2. What is the effectiveness of the protection and support services provided for sexually abused female children at OPRIFS safe home in Addis Ababa?

3. What are the challenges of service provision at OPRIFS safe home and among stakeholders in addressing female child sexual abuse?

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

Given the fact that the scarcity of research in female child protection services in Ethiopia this study might offer fresh information and new knowledge to those actors who are concerned with this problem. Analyzing the situation first hand from the study area might help to show the problem from female survivors' perspectives and might implicate the seriousness of the issue and provide information for concerned government bodies and policy makers. Examining the service provision, effectiveness, challenges, and synergy between stakeholders in addressing the problems of sexually abused children will suggest possible recommendations from the social work perspectives for improvement of service provision.

### ***1.6 Scope of the Study***

In line with the objectives, this research was conducted at OPRIFS safe home which is found in Addis Ababa Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city mainly by focusing on sexually abused female children. Moreover, the study involved stakeholders working with OPRIFS like the Sub-city police office and Woreda 6 Women and Children Affair Office.

### ***1.7 Limitations of the Study***

The findings of this research will give the general picture of OPRIFS safe home. However, since it was a qualitative study numerical generalization is not possible. Moreover, the study presented the findings based on one safe home; hence, other shelters and safe homes might have different experiences. Therefore, the study findings are limited to OPRIFS safe home.

### ***1.8 Organization of the Study***

This study is structured in six chapters. The first chapter introduces the thesis with various subsections such as introduction, statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions, purpose, and scope of the study. It introduces information about sexual abuse, protection, and support service for abused female children both in the world and Ethiopia. The second chapter presents the literature review by illustrating the experiences of countries and the finding of different authors about child protection services. The third chapter describes the methods that were employed for the study. Chapter four presents key findings. Chapter five presents the discussion and chapter six is dedicated to the conclusion, implication of social work and recommendation of the study.

### ***1.9 Definition of terms***

**Minor:** a person under the age of full legal responsibility (Gale Encyclopedia of American Law, 2011).

**Gender-based Violence:** refers to any form of destructive act that is committed against the willpower of a person based on socially attributed (gender) dissimilarities between men and women (IASC, 2002).

**Rehabilitation:** "a set of measures that assist individuals, who experience or are likely to experience disability, to achieve and maintain optimum functioning in interaction with their environment" (WHO, 2011 p.96)

**Reintegration:** The process of empowering a person to reincorporate into society (IOM, 2015).

**Survivor/Victim:** "A person who has experienced gender-based violence. "Victim" is a term often used in the legitimate and therapeutic sectors. "Survivor" is the term desired for emotional and social support since it infers resilience" (UN, 2017 p.11).

**Violence against Women and Girls:** the act of gender-based violence that led to physical, sexual, or psychological damage to women and girls by denying their rights. (UN Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women).

## CHAPTER TWO

### *2.1 Literature Review*

#### *2.1.1 The concept of child protection*

The term child protection relates to the image of abuse, violence, and exploitation of children. People assumed the term as an activity or program that respond to those particular issues. But child protection is wider than this which consists of protection from abuse, violence, and exploitation before it happens (UNICEF, 2004). Depression, anxiety, and other psychiatric disorders are possible risk factors for children who had experienced childhood ill-treatment (Fuller-Thomson et al., 2016).

Prevention is important since it is less damaging for a child to get involved before a harmful experience happens. Once it happens action must be taken to support and care to alleviate the adverse experience and assistance them recover from it (UNICEF, 2008). According to Rudolph et.al (2018), the article states child sexual abuse prevention is associated mainly with educating the children on how to detect, evade and reveal sexual abuse.

Save the Children (2012) brief the psychosocial services provisions of short-term shelter, counseling, recommendations to health and lawful facilities, and educational support for victims of abuse. Locating family and reunion, family-based care and support for vulnerable children and access to social protection services for families in catastrophic situations are some of the services provided by saving the children for the protection these children.

Save the Children's (2005) publication points out elements of a protective environment for children that reveal their needs. The attitude, tradition, behavior, and practice children live in, the government commitment to protect the right of children, discussion about child protection concerns among the community, adequate legislative framework, the presence of community-

based child protection committee members, awareness of a child and caregivers about the issue, monitoring and report and services for recovery and reintegration are considered as components of the protective environment that help to decrease the risk of childhood abuse by creating a safe environment to live and grow.

### ***2.1.2 Global Trends of Protection and Support for Sexually Abused Female Children***

The state has a responsibility to prove whether a crime occurred or not if a child is abused. The government in the US has a child protective service. The child advocacy centers constitute child protective services, police, prosecutors and social workers, and other service providers that work hand in hand on child sexual abuse cases of males and females (SALI, 2018). The scale of child abuse all over the world is astonishing. Protection of children should not be considered as a duty for the minorities but rather a priority for the community to look beyond survival to improve the quality of life of million (Southall & MacDonald, 2013)

Research that has been done in Sierra Leone demonstrated the advantage of a community-driven bottom-up outlook which is action through community participation, based on their assets, and involve children and young people as change agents in child protection. It also drives the process of linking with stake holders; local people develop ownership and a strong sense of partnership with stakeholders and may help to support vulnerable children (Wessells, 2015).

Wangamati (2018) notes the limited research on response to sexual violence in Sub-Saharan Africa regardless of the high prevalence rate. The research also states a lack of collaboration between health providers and the justice system to offer child protection services to these children and also discloses the existence of the limited rescue shelters exposes them to further abuses.

### ***2.1.3 Protection and Support Services in Ethiopia***

Child protection practice is quite a contemporary experience in the Ethiopian setting. It was only a few decades ago that the practice began to be noticed. The practices of formal child protection services in Ethiopia are linked with the rise of the democratic form of authority in the country. The issues of human rights and democratic rights were not accommodated previously (Save the Children, 2004). To promote the rights of women legal and policy provisions have been included in the Constitution of Ethiopia by FDRE. The ratification of global instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa help in promoting and protecting women's rights.

The establishment of Women, Children and Youth Affairs Offices, the Child and Women Protection Units within the various police units, a Special Bench for VAW cases within the Federal Criminal Court, Child-friendly courts, and Child crime investigations units within the Ministry and Bureaus of Justice are some of the mechanisms that the government has installed at the federal and regional level to fight abuse against women in general and female in particular (UN, 2016).

Ketsela (2020) notes the importance of the existence of rehabilitation centers for survivors to promote protection from future abuse and create awareness to prevent violence in general and abuse in particular against women and female children. It also suggests collaboration with the community and design national standard service provisions to minimize the problem.

According to Nielsen, et.al, 2008 study the establishment of CPUs in the mid-1995 recognized child protection prosecution system which improves the practice of protecting abused children including women through follow-up and support during the procedure. MOLSA (2005) report

notes how Ethiopia executes numerous actions with regards to reinforcing the legal and official structure to guarantee the protection of the rights and well-being of children ever since the endorsement of the CRC in 1991.

#### ***2.1.4 Legal Frameworks for Child Protection in Ethiopia***

Global and provincial human rights implements endorsed by Ethiopia, the FDRE Constitution, and secondary laws and provisions are used as the legal framework for the protection of children in Ethiopia. This section offers an overview of these legal frameworks. The FDRE Constitution emphasized “Fundamental Rights and Freedoms”. This Bill of Rights delivers the fundamental legal outline or base for the protection of human rights in Ethiopia. The constitution trails an all-inclusive approach in dealing with human rights by including civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights in a solitary human rights document. Children profit from all the human rights provisions of the Constitution since they are human beings (Amare, 2017).

Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes protection of a child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It also points out the universal declaration human rights.( UNICEF, 1989)

The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights which was adopted in 1981 in Nairobi provides the African states inclusive and enlightened international human rights tools that identify the rights of people (Winks, 2011). The African Charter acknowledges human rights. In addition to the rights of equality, non-discrimination, and dignity, it also guarantees the right to health, the right to education, and culture (Sisay, 2011).

Besides the FDRE Constitution and the international human rights measures, the Ethiopian child right protection regulations are also complemented by Labor Proclamation No. 377/200313; the Federal Civil Servants Proclamation No. 515/200714; Federal Revised Family Code and

Regional Family Codes, the Criminal Code (Amare, 2017). Article 35 in the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia grants rights to women. It also states the responsibility of the state to insist on protecting the right of women (FDRE Constitution, 1995)

### ***2.1.5 Role of Service Providers***

Government is the chief in charge of the protection of children. Hence they are expected to established and implement a child protection system to ensure equal access to all children under their control along with the international commitments (Birhan, 2015). The ratification of international and regional legislations including CRC and ACRWC by the Ethiopian government to protect the rights of children is a landmark in its journey. The Federal Democratic Republic of the Ethiopian constitution integrates provisions that intend to defend the rights of children. (Amare, 2017).

Alston's (1992) study states that the minute the States define the lowest ages in a decree, it must be in the framework of the basic values within the Convention, specifically the principle of non-discrimination, the principles of best interests of the child, and the right to life and maximum survival and development. Convention on the Rights of the Child specifically indicates the role of states (UNICEF, 1989). Save the Children (2009) report identifies that it is the state's responsibility to provide an integrated and sustainable system to protect children. It also explains the quality of a good system which should consist of laws and policies with a coordinated and effective implementation available to all.

Currently here in Ethiopia, the absence of standardizing child protection instruments for recognizing and monitoring violence against children is a challenge that forces them to be subjected to harmful practices and child labor abuse. Since protection services operate independently with a lack of coordination among service providers, awareness, advocacy, and

cooperation are some of the methods that help to prevent and respond to abuse against children (Save the Children, 2012).

Since almost half of the population of Ethiopia consists of children, strong social service personnel for child protection is essential for the security of this particular group, and the development of the country. The government of Ethiopia along with UNICEF is working to reinforce child protection systems through increasing the quantity and quality of service of social workers, community service workers, and fellow workers and come up with social service staff and structure to influence all children across Ethiopia despite its difficulties to fighting for the rights of the most vulnerable (Mahama, 2020).

Tunca & Ozer (2015) emphasizes the importance of raising awareness mainly among families than children, teachers, and other concerned people through training on child protection services. It also explains that in the case of the prevalence of child abuse, most pre-service teachers don't have adequate knowledge on how to respond.

Wangamati's (2014) research which has been done in Kenya reveals that 50% of reported cases of child abuse are minors but only very few are prosecuted and points out the importance of providing protection and support for those children. The study further explains the importance of awareness creation in service provision to sexually abused children to improve service uptake. The finding suggests the improvement of quality care services, revised law, and policies. The allocation of appropriate human and financial resources is presented as a means to increase service utilization and collaboration among stakeholders is also suggested as the main component in child protection services.

A study that has been done in Australia indicated the importance of cooperation between law and the social work practice in response to child sexual abuse as both a crime and a welfare issue. Social workers have to promote their child welfare practice in regards to the role of assessment, counseling, and their role in legal contexts. This task allows social workers to lend a hand to the ongoing development of the capable socio-legal intervention (Breckenridge et al., 2014). Anderson et al. (2002) publication agrees on the support of social workers while protecting sexually abused children's emotional well-being.

### ***2.1.6 The Role of Rehabilitation Centers***

According to Bick & Nelson (2016), study children who have been abused may face cognitive delays and emotional problems, which can affect their future, including their educational performance and social skill progress. Child Welfare Information Gateway (2019) agrees on this point. It explains how the impact of child abuse on victims can be long-lasting on their well-being. It further states that the bodily wounds may get cure through time and support but there are many enduring costs of experiencing the trauma. With the help, protection, and support of different responsible bodies, these children can develop the ability to cope, strive and overcome their past experiences.

As the ANPPCAN (2011), study states that both local and international non-state players have a substantial role in child protection by supplementing government hard work. An endowment of care and support, legal protection for abused children, offering educational support, and providing aid to abused girls by facilitating a place to stay or shelter and family re-union services are some of the services provided by these organizations. They also conduct advocacy, capacity building, and awareness creation concerning child protection and help countries to make considerable progress concerning child protection. Haggstrom (2003) disagrees on the influence

of NGOs with all the attempts in areas like advocacy, empowerment, and providing alternative support.

### ***2.1.7 Literature Summary***

The review presents different studies conducted by various scholars to understand child protection services for abused female children in Ethiopia. It identifies different stakeholders of child protection provision by identifying their roles. Accordingly, the state is the primary shareholder in service provision but different NGOs play their role in preventive and protective services for children too. The protection services that have been outlined in most of the studies that I have come across mainly focuses on educational and material support for children who are not inclusive and all-rounded.

It also states that the child protection services are a recent service in Ethiopia which works to ensure that protection and assistance services to all children and women affected by violence. I have come across limited academic literature on female child protection services. Most of the available resources are consultancy reports and publications focused on gender-based violence which indicates the need for further study on the issue in Ethiopia.

The literature section shows the importance of a holistic response to child protection that identifies the duties of all in valuing children's rights and works on protection and applies in all circumstances without discrimination. Creating a conducive environment for children where their rights are frequently respected requires guaranteeing that they are brought up in a protective environment where every element of it pays to the safety of children and where every actor contributes his or her share. The need for integration among service providers is the other thing that the review implies to improve the case through cooperation with the government and non-government sectors. It also shows hard work ahead of us.

## CHAPTER THREE

### *3.1 Methods*

#### *3.1.1 Research Design*

The research design applied for this study was qualitative research. The intention was to describe the service given to the survivors. A qualitative study allows a more in-depth understanding and evaluation of questions on services among stakeholders. Qualitative research method allowed to set aside personal beliefs and perspectives to take the participants' views as valuable and unique (Taylor & Bogadan, 1984). This method allows discovering attitudes and experiences. Dawson directed qualitative research as an approach to examining attitudes and experiences using methods like interviews (2002).

According to Yin (1984), a case study is an inquest that examines the existing phenomenon with its real-life context employing. A case study is an in-depth and detailed investigation of the development of the situation over a while. Since a case study helps to explore a complex issue like rehabilitation and reintegration services for abused female children, I used this method to have an insight into the issue. It is appropriate to describe the existing service provision through grasping survivors' and official's responses, opinions, and perceptions about the issue. A case study was selected because it gives an all-rounded outlook of the issue under study (Creswell, 2007).

#### *3.1.2 Study Area*

This research setting was a local nongovernmental organization called Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) in Addis Ababa which was founded under the Ministry of Justice in 2000. OPRIFS aims to recuperate the lives of its target groups, female children, who are underprivileged because they are either at risk or

victims of violence and different forms of physical and sexual abuse. It strives towards protecting the rights of children in Ethiopia. The mission of the organization is to look up the security of women, girls, and children by providing inclusive protection, support, prevention, and empowerment programs (OPRIFS, 2019).

The General assembly and the management boards are decision-making bodies. All stakeholders that are the children, parents, community members participate in the re-evaluation and reflection process for monitoring the services provided in the organization. Moreover, its finance is examined through external auditors annually. OPRIFS daily routines are executed by the secretariat that is composed of the administration and finance unit. The executive director administers and manages the secretariat (OPRIFS, 2019).

OPRIFS plans holistic intervention programs in Arada, Yeka, Kirkos, Addis Ketema, and Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city in Addis Ababa and Amhara Regional State. According to the program manager safe home child care and safety, School-based child care, and safety, Family-based child care and safety, community-based child care and safety program, and prevention of unsafe migration are the main program components of the organization. Currently, Kindernothilfe is the major donor for OPRIFS. The main office is located in Nefas Silk Lafto Sub City Woreda 2. The focus of this study is the safe home that resides in Nefas Silk Lafto Sub City Woreda 6. It operates in collaboration with responsible governmental bodies, NGOs, civil associations, schools, and the community. Currently, there are about 43 physically and sexually abused female children ranging from raped assaulted, harassed, and being forced to have incest concerning trafficked and exploited girls, who are receiving the services at the safe home. It has the capacity of admitting up to 65 girls.

I chose this organization because it has been working in Ethiopia for more than two decades by protecting and supporting vulnerable female children and advance women's social and economic development.

### ***3.1.3 Sampling Technique***

In purposive sampling, the sample units are chosen based on characteristics that enabled a detailed understanding of certain ideas which the researcher wishes to study (Ritcihe & Elam, 2003). Purposive sampling was employed to identify participants from the target groups to get a better understanding of the services at the shelter. A total of 10 sexually abused female children between ages 12-18 under OPRIFS was selected as the target group for this particular study. The high prevalence rate of female child sexual abuse intrigued me to focus particularly only on sexually abused female children who reside at the shelter as a target. The determinant factor for the sample size is the unavailability of more than 10 sexually abused survivors who were able to speak and understand Amharic properly at the shelter. Being a sexually abused girl and willingness to participate in the study were the main criteria for the inclusion. Moreover, I selected sexually abused female children above the age of 12 since these girls can explain the service better than the younger ones. Since it is unethical to make survivors talk about their fresh experience that could trigger the wound, girls who are comparatively better recovered from the wound were selected as a target group.

A total of 6 key informants, 4 from OPRIFS and 2 from government offices were selected as key informants based on their expertise with the intention that they would explain the services delivered at the safe home. The key informants from government offices were the experts from the Nefas Silk Sub-City police office and the experts from Woreda 6 Women and Children Affair Office (see annex 4).

Looking at the provision of the services from survivors, organizations (NGO) and government perspectives might spot a holistic view. Participants were selected using purposive sampling for detailed open-ended interviews in line with the purpose of the research. The study participants take part in the study based on their willingness.

### ***3.1.4 Method of Data Collection***

As it has been stated by Kabir (2016), selecting an appropriate method should be the goal since it is the most important stage in research so that the method fits to answer our question about a situation. To have a deeper thought the study used primary and secondary data collection techniques. For gathering primary data researcher employed observation, in-depth interview, key informant interview, and document review. Secondary data was extracted from different literature including books, journal articles, and web sources on protection and support for sexually abused female children. Data was collected from the month of May to June 2021.

#### **3.1.4.1. In-depth Interview**

I developed an interview guide for participants by revising related studies. It contained open-ended questions and employed in-depth interviews with sexually abused recovered and being recovered female children at OPRIFS safe home to have a profound understanding of the issue from the survivors' perspective. The in-depth interview focused on the vulnerability of the girls, the protections that they got, and their situations before and after they have got the service. In-depth interview questions permit respondents to include more information, including feelings attitudes, and understanding of the subject. As Fribourg and Rosenvinge (2013), state in-depth interview questions show more in-depth information than closed. It involves asking questions, listening to, and recording answers from an individual or group in a structured, semi-structured, or unstructured format in an in-depth manner. The interview with survivors was conducted at the

team leader's office at the shelter without any interruption. During the interview, I used audio recorder and took notes. On average the interview took 10-20 minutes. I used probing inquiries based on the survivors' responses in order to obtain a more specific information. I observed the non-verbal communication by looking at the survivor's facial expression while they were explaining their experiences. They bow down their head and avoid eye contact when they talked about the abuse they experienced which made me understand how bad they felt. In contrast to that I understand their happiness from their facial expression while the children talked about their current status. The sparkle that I saw when the girls talked about their present state showed me the joy they were feeling at the time of the interview. The children were allowed to express their feeling in drawing too.

#### **3.1.4.2. Key Informants Interview**

Professionals from OPRIFS, Nefas Silk Sub-city police office, and Woreda 6 Women and Children Affair Office were used as key informants to cross-check the service provision. The interview with the experts from the OPRIFS safe home was conducted at the team leaders' office and an interview with key informants from Sub-city police and Women and Children Affair Office was held in their respective offices. An interview with the program manager was held at OPRIFS's main office. Interview with key informants can explain the situation better both from the organization and government point of view. Through the interview, I examined the different protection and support services provided for the children to cope with the situation, the effectiveness of the service, and its challenges which addressed the objectives of the study. Each interview took on average 20-30 minutes. During the interview I used recorder and took note. I observed the facial expression of the key informants which helped me understand their feelings. I applied the probing questions based on the key informant's response.

### **3.1.4.3. Observation**

An observation checklist was used to examine the physical setting and situation of the survivors in the safe home. The major elements included in the checklist were the condition of the girls, the physical setting of the safe home and the survivor's interaction among them and with the staff. The goal was to look at the natural setting of the safe home and the girls while playing on their playground without intervention and assesses the situation and document evidence of what is seen and heard. Seeing actions and behaviors within a natural context offer understanding of the situation being studied. As Barkely (1997), noted direct observation is the most authentic way of obtaining ecologically legitimate information on behavior.

### **3.1.4.4. Document Review**

Document files such as brusher, project plan, and annual report from OPRIFS and reports from Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city police Station, Woreda 6 Women and Children Affair Office were reviewed to have a better understanding of the protection and support services given to the children. While reviewing the documents the research addressed the research questions under study. One of my intakes from the document was, I was able to understand the organization profile. From the project plan and reports I was able to look at the activities and the program that they planned, the progress that they made, the challenges that they faced and the strategies that they used to manage challenges and solve it. This helped me to triangulate with the primary data.

### ***3.1.5 Method of Data Analysis***

Qualitative data help to systematically search and arrange the interview transcripts, observation, notes, or other non-textual materials that the researcher accumulates to increase the understanding of the phenomenon. Transcription and coding of the collected information from the participants through audio records and interview notes were carried out to use the data. Then

it was arranged in different themes to attain the objectives of the study which are the protection and support services provided for sexually abused female children, the effectiveness of the service and challenges of service provision at the safe home. In the process, the trustworthiness of the data was checked through the different data collection methods and triangulated. Observation, interview and document review methods supported the first objective of the study that is the services provided at the safe home. The interview and document review supported the other two objectives, the effectiveness of the services and the challenges of services provision. The data which was collected through observation, in-depth interview, key informant interview, and document review were analyzed by thematic analysis with the purpose to identify patterns of meaning across data that provide the answer to the research question being addressed. The data was presented in narrative form.

### ***3.1.6 Quality Assurance***

Qualitative research findings are difficult to measure accurately and are expressed in words from the participants. There is a chance for biases that question the quality of the data. But the researcher made sure that the data was free from personal biases. The study was given due consideration to the issue of integrity by being mindful of personal beliefs and biases that might interfere in obtaining information from qualitative data.

To assure the trustworthiness of qualitative data, I have triangulated the data from various data sources using data collection techniques such as in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, observation, and secondary data review. Triangulation is a technique that facilitates the validation of data through cross verification from other sources which can provide a more holistic and contextual picture of the topic under the study. Feedback from other related research to compare conclusions may address the question of biases, error which are important to

strengthen the credibility and validity of the data. Validity will illustrate how well the collected data covers the actual area of investigation (Ghauri and Gronhaug, 2005).

### ***3.1.7 Ethical Consideration***

Ethical issues are an important component of research where the relationship between the researcher and the respondents needed to be explained. The main ethical issue was informed consent. The purpose, procedures and risks, and benefits of the study were explained by the researcher. The researcher used procedures that could not harm the participants in any way. Assent form for the children and consent for key informants were signed. The nature of the interview questions were child friendly and easy to understand. It is the responsibility of the researcher to design the study which would not jeopardize the right and safety of the interviewees. This is important in advocating, promoting, and protecting their rights (Blumberg et al., 2005). Thus, the information given by participants was confidential. The principle of confidentiality was explained to all respondents. Participation in the research was voluntary. Assent for the children was signed by the team leader. The key informants agreed to participate in the study by signing the consent form. As a precaution I informed the counsellor to be ready to help and she was set to assist in case if a survivor was traumatized during the interview.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### ***4.1 Data Presentation***

A total of 16 individuals have participated in this study. Among these 10 were children who were receiving services from OPRIFS safe home and 6 key informants from OPRIFS and government offices. The data from the interviews, document reviews, and observation were analyzed using thematic analysis. Background information about the participant is attached in the annex (see annex 3 & 4).

Through the interviews, participants shared their views and feeling on three topics. These topics were available protection and support services provided for the sexually abused female children at the safe home, effectiveness of the service at the safe home and challenges of service provision. In this chapter, the major issues identified in this study are presented.

#### ***4.1.1 Available Protection and Support Services***

The protection services being provided to sexually abused girls and the setting are briefly analyzed in the themes below. In this section of the data presentation, I have presented the sub-themes: an overview of the safe home, available accommodations, counseling services, legal services, medical services, basic training, recreational activities, reintegration, reunification, and post follow us. Direct quotes from the participants' own words are used to clarify the issues presented and to let readers make their analyses.

##### **4.1.1.1. Overview of the safe home**

The safe home is a ground plus two building for vulnerable female children. I have observed a small playground where the children were playing around. The ground floor is for offices. On the first and second floors, there were bedrooms; each room has bank beds with a dresser. They had a TV room, a dining hall, and a room where they get an informal education. I have observed that

the safe home was clean and had been told that they have a strict policy about keeping the place clean. However, I have also observed that the building is not disability-friendly.

Survivors and service providers offer information about the protection and support services provided at the safe home. Among the five different programs provided by OPRIFS, the safe home child care, and safety program was one of the services that this study focused on. In this section survivors at the safe home express their views on the available services that are being offered to them. The services at the safe home are categorized as accommodations, counseling, legal, medical, training, recreation, re-integration, reunification, and post-follow-up. I have presented each of the aforementioned available services as follows.

#### **4.1.1.2. Available Accommodations**

The organization provides services including food, clothes, and a safe home for survivors residing at the safe home. These services were very important for the girls since they hadn't had any alternative to get such services if they were not provided by OPRIFS. These girls came from different corners of the country. Participant 5, who was a 14 years-old survivor from Fech town, explained the accommodations being provided by the organization are as follows.

*I am provided with the best safe home that makes me feel safe. I used to sleep in a tiny room which is out of the main house while I was working as a domestic worker. I slept on the floor which is not comfortable and safe. After I was raped by my employer, I escaped and end up on the streets. I was rescued by the police and join this safe home. It is here that I began to feel safe. They gave me my bed which I never had before.*

It seems that the girls at the safe home were comfortable about the type of accommodation they got from OPRIFS. Participant 3, a 15 years-old survivor who came from the Gurage area shared

her view about the shelter as follows. *“The safe home offers a safe house with a clean bedroom which makes me feel safe and protected. Now I feel secured and safe unlike my past when I was sexually abused”.*

The participants were allowed to express their views using pictures. Participant 9, a 15 years-old street survivor who came from Jimma (Southwestern Ethiopia) expressed her view about the service that she gets at the safe home in the picture.



Picture 1 Drew by participant 9 on May 7, 2021

She was asked to explain her picture and this is how she explained the picture:

*The picture I drew for you shows a poor destitute lonely girl while receiving a gift. I was sexually abused by an unknown perpetrator on the streets. I didn't have anything at the beginning but when I was rescued and join the safe home I felt like I have been given a gift and a second chance for life. I eat nutritious food three times a day and am happy with the food they are providing at the safe home. We*

*all eat our breakfast in the morning, lunch at noon, and dinner at night. We eat supper twice a week. Our meal includes a variety of delicious foods.*

The participants of this study also indicated that to come to this safe home was not an easy decision, since they hadn't had any information before some were reluctant. It was the explanation presented by others as the police confirmed them to decide to join the OPRIFS safe home. Participant 7 who was a 14-years-old survivor also explained her experience as follows:

*As I entered the center, the police introduced me to the counselor and told me that I have to stay here at the safe home for the time being. Then the counselor advised me to feel comfortable but I was so scared and refuse to let go of the police but after a long discussion and counseling I felt better. After they fill out a form about my background they told me to take a shower and provided me with a cloth and soap. During holidays we get new clothes and shoes. They offered me night cloth too. Sanitary materials are also provided for us to clean ourselves and protect our health.*

Key informant 2 explained that the criteria for admission at the safe home were based on a referral system of abused, trafficked, and exploited female children between the age of 5-18 from Women and Children Affairs Offices, police child protection units, or one-stop centers. Children are provided with full services including regular meals, day and nightclothes, personal hygiene, and scholastic materials. Clean bed and bed sheets, blankets, pajamas, pants, shirts, dresses, jackets, shoes, comb, bars of soaps, hair oil, and nail cutters are some of the personal materials provided.

When a sexually abused girl comes to the OPRIFS safe home, it is the counselor who welcomes her at the gate and takes a picture of her for two purposes. The first one is to use the picture as a profile in her document and the second reason is to show the change when she leaves the safe home. Then sanitation, which is helping them to clean their body, is the next step. The rehabilitation workers (caregivers) will show her the shower room and then she will clean herself up. Then after they will take the girl to the bedroom and make her feel at home. If she needs medical services, she would get that from Woreda 6, Nefas Silk Sub-city, and health center. After that, she will come to the office to be admitted. Then paperwork will continue by filling out the background information of the girl that needed to be included. After being admitted to the shelter, fulfilling her basic need is a priority and she will be offered food.

Key informant 2 indicated that the rehabilitation workers whom the children consider them as a mother figure, assist the girls showing around the safe home, making sure that the children are taking care of their hygiene, accompany the girls if she has to go to a health center for medical service and when the girls have to go to the court they will take them to make sure that the girl feels safe and protected. According to the girls the rehabilitation workers treat them with love and respect and the girls are happy with their assistance as a whole since they take good care of survivors day and night.

#### **4.1.1.3. Counseling Service**

At OPRIFS there were counselors who were providing counseling services. These services were offered to the survivors individually and in groups. The counseling services were provided according to their age group. These services were found to be very important to the survivors since it helped them to regain their strengths back. Participant 4, a 16-years-old survivor who

was from Raya (Northern Ethiopia) explained the counseling services in her perspective as follows.

*The counseling service begins as soon as I get in the compound. She [the counselor] welcomed me and took me to the office and made me feel relaxed even if it was difficult at the time. The service has been given continuously once a week. They made us draw pictures to express our feelings and made us play games in our session. Whenever I felt bad, scared, and start to think about my experience, I will go to the counselor and tell her how bad I felt at that particular time. Then she will advise, guide, and made me feel secured and good about myself.*

The participants repeatedly mentioned the benefit of the counseling services. They were not expected to wait until their regular session to get the service. If the survivors think that they need the service they can visit their counselors. This arrangement helped the survivors to get immediate counseling service in time of need. Participant 2, a 12-years-old survivor from Wollo (Northern Ethiopia) expressed her view about the counseling services that were provided at the center once a week. She said that *“whenever I feel lonely or lost, I would go and ask for the service from the counselor to relieve from the pain besides the regular counseling session. The program helped me to lessen the stress that I felt from the horrible experience that I have gone through”*.

One of the counselors indicated that the counseling service was given both individually and in the group. The service begins the moment they join the safe home. Every girl had their schedule and they used to get the services accordingly. They were provided with extra care considering the pain they have been through. Most of the abused girls were in traumatized when they first

came and the job of the counselor was to make them feel better. The counselors dealt with the problems based on the type, nature, and magnitude of the psychological and emotional issues. Cognitive and behavioral therapies in the form of drama, music, and art and gestalt therapy in the form of exercise were given. For the smaller kids, most of the time art therapy works well. For the older ones, they often helped them to express their feeling, confront their fear and uplift their spirit so that they would have hope and a positive attitude towards life. They were always welcome to the office for advice at any time.

In addition to the counseling service, having a friend who had the same experience helped them to feel like they are not the only one who has passed through such experiences. Sharing their feeling with their friends made them feel better and therapeutic. The counselor revealed how the code of conduct for the staff helped them to fulfill their responsibility, take care of the girls with extra care and support.

#### **4.1.1.4. Legal Service**

The legal services were provided by the police child protection unit under sub-city. This service starts from the moment the cases are reported and continues until the cases are closed. As most survivor participant pointed out, the legal cases are handled by the police so they are the ones who process the cases. Once the girls are rescued by the police they will be asked about what happened to them and explain where and by whom they were abused. Then the police take the abused girls' word and handle the case on a ward.

A key informant from the Nefas Silk Lafto Sub-city police child protection unit explained that one of the responsibilities of the police is handling the legal process of sexually abused girls. The Sub-city police Station has its unit called the women and child crime protection unit and works with different stakeholders like the Woreda 6 Women and Children Affair Office, Woreda 6

police Station and the community. Victims might come to this unit with the help of family members, neighbors, or strangers who found them on the streets. According to him when a case was first reported, they immediately take her to Gandhi, Paulos, Tikur Anbesa, or Tirunsh Bejing hospitals for a full medical checkup. They will also go to the crime scene and collect evidence so that the perpetrator won't hide the evidence that can prove the case. When the survivors are rescued from the streets it would make the legal case complex because it would be difficult to get a witness.

As the key informant explained:

*Most of the girls that come to our police station were in trauma, some were scared and didn't even want to reveal what happened to them and some even didn't want to disclose the one who committed the crime even if they knew him. They fear the perpetrators because the offenders might warn them not to disclose their names. Some even blame themselves and feel responsible for what happened to them. A few didn't even know whether what happened to them was a crime or wrongdoing because of their age.*

The counselor at the unit in the police station helped girls to collect their feeling so that they stop feeling upset and angry. With the help of the counselor at the police protection unit, such girls will get counseling services to calm down and collect their thoughts so that they give their response to the police. If a victim can express what happened to the police by herself, then the detective will take her word, otherwise, with the help of the counselor, the police will take her word. Furthermore, the key informant from the Sub-city police revealed that,

*Most of the cases reported to the police station were victims below the age of 15, who were migrated from rural areas, who have been working as domestic workers to support their poor families, and sexually abused by their employers. What we usually do is that we take them to the hospital and receive their words when they are ready to do so. Then, we take them to temporary rehabilitation centers. Since our sub-city works very close to OPRIFS we usually take such cases to OPRIFS and they would have to stay there until their legal case is closed. Then our unit will continue to work on finding more evidence and witness. Based on the evidence the perpetrator will get arrested and the prosecutor will examine and follow the case closely.*

The survivors might not report their cases to the police by themselves. Often people who learned the abuse from the girls and schools report such incidents. Most girls don't know what to do when such an incident happened to them. The Sub-city police key informant explained the legal service based on his experience as follow:

*I received an 8-year-old girl who has been sexually abused by her father. It was the school where she was attending her education that reported the case to the Nefas Silk Sub-city police station. Her parents were separated and she used to live with her grandparents. Her mom lives and works in Dubai to take care of her family. The father asks her grandparents' permission to spend a day with his daughter and took her home. It was then that he abused his daughter. When the case was reported to our unit, we then took her to Gandhi for a medical checkup for evidence then we took her to OPRIFS that gives protection services for girls with such problems. Our next step was to find evidence and witness. Then the*

*police accused the offender and finally after a year the perpetrator was found guilty and sentenced to stay 19 years in prison.*

As opposed to the legal expert's view from the Sub-city police, a key informant from OPRIFS has a different opinion on the legal services that have been given to the abused girls. According to her most of the cases would take more than a year. It seems that they forget some of the girls' cases and if the legal case is not resolved, then OPRIFS cannot reunite the girls with their families after rehabilitation. Even if the case is closed OPRIFS has witnessed that most offenders are released out of jail. This is frustrating to the survivors and the employees of OPRIFS. Participant 7 expressed her worry about the legal service. She said that *“I have been at the safe home for quite some time which was longer than I expected. I thought I would go home after a few weeks but the legal process took a long time so I couldn't go back home and be with my family which is frustrating”*. Correspondingly key informants from the Woreda Women and Children Affair Office shared this idea. He said that some cases won't get closed in a short amount of time and even in some cases perpetrators might be free and released. He further shared his recent experience that due to Covid 19 one of the offenders got released from prison without getting convicted of the crime he committed.

#### **4.1.1.5. Medical Service**

Survivors at the safe home get medical services from the Woreda 6 Health Center. As participants from the target groups explained they have got a full medical checkup before they join the safe home. After a victim joins the safe home if a girl needs medical service, she will be taken to the Woreda 6 health center and get treatments. Recently every girl in the safe home took Covid 19 test. The safe home has established a children's committee that controls and teaches sanitation and hygiene together with staff so that the safe home is neat and clean every day. This

committee checks the hygiene of girls continuously. The safe home also teaches how girls keep their hygiene to be protected from any kind of communicable disease. The organization has also ground rules that make sure the health of girls. Children who were residing at the safe home were supposed to act according to the rule and regulations of the safe home.

When sexually abused girls get rescued, the first step was to get a full medical checkup before they join the center. After a victim joins the safe home, if she needs medical service since OPRIFS works closely with Woreda 6 health centers they offered the service and treat the girls. The safe home was so strict concerning sanitation, therefore, had a children committee that protects the health safety of the girls. Their hygiene including their hair, nail body, and cloth was checked continuously.

#### **4.1.1.6. Basic Training**

Informal education is provided at the safe home for the survivors according to their age and educational level by a professional teacher. They are also provided with handicraft and skill training skills too. The available training helped girls to get skills and knowledge in addition to rehabilitation services. Participant 10, a 14-years-old girl survivor originally from Gondor who used to be in grade one explained the informal education being given at the safe home. *“It has been 5 months since I joined the safe home and started education and now I can read and write better. Besides, I can do basic math operations. Now, I am looking forward to going back to my previous formal school and be a good student”*.

The safe home also offers self-reliance training for children. As the survivors stated they get training on how to sew cloth and make bags and mats using sewing machines. According to the key informant, most of the beneficiaries came from rural areas. Even if the girls have been enrolled at school, some don't even know how to write and read. Some girls can't speak Amharic

too. But, after they started informal education here and few of them have shown improvements in their education. OPRIFS aim to support them with the necessary knowledge and skill that they need to stand out when they go back to school. Based on their background and level of performance OPRIFS classify them into three levels like beginners, those who can't read and write and those who try to write and read; second level, who can read, write and do simple arithmetic's; and the third group is advanced independent, enjoy learning and do advanced work like more complex mathematical questions according to their grade level. The safe home provides informal education ranging from identifying letters and numbers to a more advanced level. However, there was a shortage of books.

According to participant 2, the safe home also provides handicraft training which is crucial to the girls so that they can get the necessary knowledge and economic empowerment. When they go back to their family this training with small start up capital that is being provided for self-reliance will help them to start small business/IGAs (income-generating activities).

#### **4.1.1.7. Recreational Activities**

Recreation was one of the services at the safe home that they use to rehabilitate the survivors by refreshing the girls' minds with different activities. Survivors who stayed at the shelter for more than six months explained that they went to recreational places once in a while. One of the survivor girls shares her recent trip to Entoto Park this year. She said that “*we went there and played many games and had a lot of fun*”. Other girls also explained that they enjoy the different kinds of games and competitions they had at the safe home too. They have an indoor game that they play with their friends and outdoor competitions that they enjoy the most. Besides, on each Friday, they have a mini media program that they perform and entertain their friends with a drama, dance, and music.

Correspondingly, one of the key informants explained the recreation program that they have every quarter. In addition to providing basic needs and counseling services, taking the girls on a trip is one of the services components. It helps them to feel relaxed and refreshed. The program includes indoor and outdoor recreational activities. They have a game room where they play different indoor games with their friends. They also have a competition like a football game with each other. They have a TV room where they entertain themselves by watching the kid's programs and movies. Some of the girls entertain themselves by reading books too.

#### **4.1.1.8. Reintegration, Reunification, and Post Follow Up**

Reintegration and post-follow-up is the last stage of the rehabilitation program that the safe home provides. As key informant 2 stated, *“As soon as legal cases of the survivors are closed, the safe home receives a letter from the police, then we start reunification process”*. As the survivors illustrated, after they got the services that help them to rehabilitate and relatively become better, then they would reunite with family or guardian/parents. One of the survivors shared her thought about the reunification. She said *“I am so eager to reunite with my family since I got better and felt confident in myself”*. According to the expert after tracing their family the rehab workers would take them to their family wherever they are. Most of the survivors migrated from the rural part of Ethiopia so the rehab workers will take the girl and reunite with their family in person. However, some survivors cannot go back to their families. Because some are abused by family members and some families don't even want to accept the survivor. As the expert experience indicated it was difficult to reunite a girl who was sexually abused by a close family member. What makes it difficult with those types of children is unable to know their faith or where they will end up. The key informant stated the case of one girl who was sexually abused by her stepfather as follow:

*The survivor's mother doesn't want to accept that it was her husband's fault. She still blamed her daughter for the breakup of the family and refuses to take her daughter back in her life. The perpetrator was one of the prisoners who was excused and released because of Covid 19. Therefore, reuniting the girl is impossible so the girl is forced to stay at the shelter. Currently, she is enrolled in formal school and reached grade 7, and stood 4th.*

According to the key informants, after girls are reunited the organization conducts follow-up. Once a month, experts from the OPRIFS will call and check whether they are doing good and safe. In addition, staff from the main office and safe home conducted the follow-up in person too.

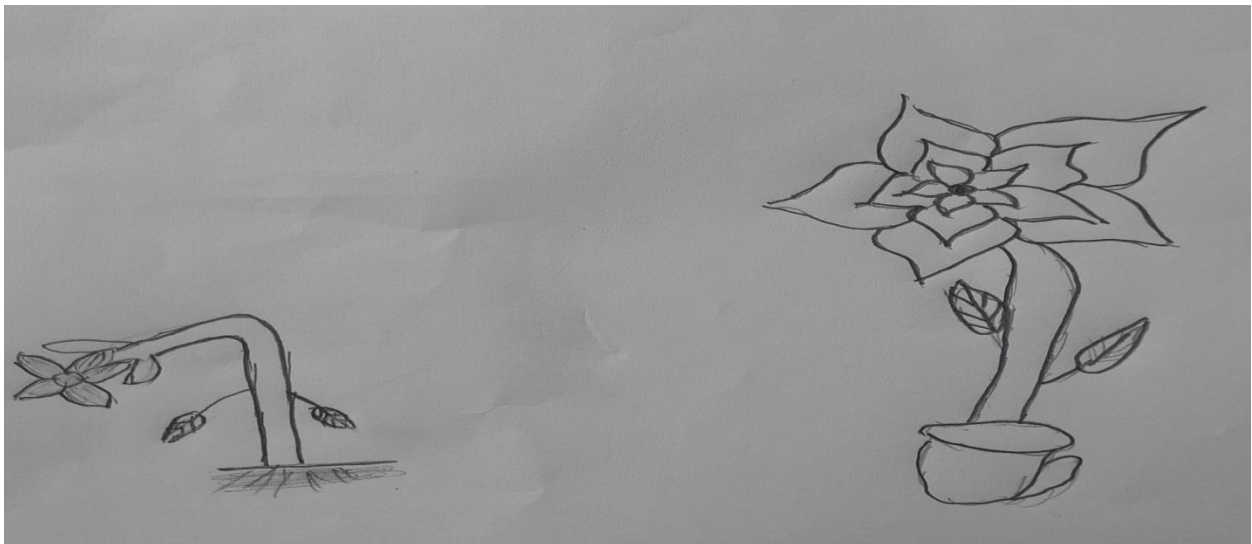
#### ***4.1.2 Effectiveness of the Services***

In this section, the effectiveness of the service that is delivered at the safe home is seen based on the survivor's level of recovery from the abuses they encountered. The aim is not to evaluate OPIRIFS and the services being offered. It is simply to look at the psychological and physical changes that the survivors brought from the moment they joined the safe home until now from the survivors themselves and staff of the organization perspective. It enables them to understand the extent that they are recovered from the trauma they had been through and look at the services in bringing the desired outcome on the lives of the survivors. In this regard, Participant 1 who is a 12-year-old survivor shared her story as follow:

*As soon as I reached the gate of the safe home with the police, I have noticed girls playing and running around. I was so scared to enter the compound. But the counselor invited me in and the police who brought me convinced me that it is safe to stay in. So I entered and got all the services like food, cloth, and shelter. ...*

*I didn't even feel like I was good at my education. Through continuous counseling, advice and follow up I managed to get better and start to feel good about myself. The counseling service helped me to heal from the pain that I experienced and stir hope that I might do well in the future. I have noticed so many changes in my life.*

Participant 6, a 16 years old survivor drew a picture of a wilted and a blooming flower which represented what she was feeling at the time of the abuse and what she was feeling at the time of the interview.



*Picture 2 Drew by participant 6 On May 4, 2021.*

She explained the picture as follow:

*My life used to be bad like a wilted saggy flower since I was sexually abused by my stepfather but now with the help of OPRIFS it blooms like a new beautiful flower. When a flower gets fertile soil and the proper amount of water, it will grow. With the provision of the basic needs and the counseling service, I began to manage my anger and frustration. Now I am happy and became a better person. I*

*used to hate people especially men because of the abuse that I was exposed off. ... I stopped disliking people as I used to. That is why I am sharing my experience with you (the researcher) freely which was not the case in the past. ... With the love and care that they gave me, I grow into a new person and bloom like a flower.*

According to the teacher at the safe home, some of the girls couldn't write and read when they join the safe home but during the data collection period they have shown changes and the basic knowledge that they are getting could help them to cope up after reintegrated with their family. While staying at the safe home, the lesson that they get will help them to increase their level of knowledge and be used as a base for their future. Therefore OPRIFS can say that they brought a change in their education. Most of them began to read and write. I have observed their motivation to learn and know more. They began to develop a positive attitude towards life.

Similarly, the counselor explained the positive changes observed on the girls from both psychological and physical points of view. She said that “*the pictures that we took when they entered the safe home could be a witness for the physical change clearly*”. She further illustrated how they are well taken care of and become healthy as follows:

*It is not as easy as it looks. The situation of the girls was not like what you observe right now. When they reach OPRIFS, they feel like they are the only ones. They isolate themselves, feel depressed and some don't even want to express their feeling. Even if it took lots of persistent hard work and dedication, they manage to meet the goal of the organization which is to improve the livelihood of the girls. With the protection and support of the organization, the girls recover from the trauma they have been through.*

A key informant from the Sub-city police office also shared the same feeling. He has witnessed how the lives of these abused girls have been changed for the best. He said that he is astonished by how happy and how confident they become. He further illustrated the issue that *“the positive changes that are observed are indications of the effectiveness of the legal services even if there are some gaps that need to be filled. Relatively our Sub-city has managed to close cases, caught perpetrators on time, and gets the conviction with a short period. But still, we have to work a lot in solving cases and protect the children”*.

Contrary to this view the experts from the safe home don't agree on the effectiveness of the legal service being offered. They have indicated that the legal process takes more than a year and puts a burden on the kids and the organization. If the case of the girls closed in a short period, then they can be reunited right after they are recovered and the girls can be able to continue their formal education in school and rejoin society as well. Other similar girls will get opportunities to get rehabilitation services at the safe home.

Another expert from Woreda 6 Women and Children Affair Office was stunned with the level of recovery that they observed on their visit to the shelter. He said that *“once in a while we provide clothes to the safe home. During our visit informally we talked to the girls and observed how good they look and develop a positive attitude to life. Last summer with the help of the Woreda police, they managed to admit one girl who has been abused by her sister's husband and she had become confident and happy”*.

OPRIFS has an awareness-raising program that contributes a lot to the effectiveness of the services. The effectiveness of the services could be seen in the increasing level of awareness of the community on sexual abuse and related issues. People are aware of the consequences of sexual abuse and children began to realize how to protect them and if it happened people know

where to go and what to do. Now the community knows that if a girl is abused they immediately take her to the nearest Police Station or Woreda Women and Children Affairs Office so that she would get immediate medical checkup this increasing level of awareness shows a change of attitude which shows the effectiveness of the service.

OPRIFS has a follow-up mechanism. There is a responsible body to follow up on the effectiveness of the service. For instance, the teacher has to plan his work and submit his weekly lesson plan and will be checked whether they are acquiring the necessary knowledge that they should get. Moreover, every morning all the staff and the survivors gather around and have a short meeting where they talked about how they perform and evaluate themselves and if the children are unhappy with the staff, they will be telling them and will use this session as teaching and learning platform so that all can use their potential to work for the girls and make a change. Similarly, the police office visits the shelter once in a while and talks to the girls, and tries to understand the situation of the girls.

#### ***4.1.3 Challenges of Service Provision***

This section focuses on the challenges of service provision among stakeholders in addressing the problems of abused female children both from survivors' and service provider's perspectives.

The following are the major challenges:

##### **4.1.3.1. Absence of Referral Center**

The absence of a referral center for survivors with no family background and those abused by family members is a challenge. As the team leader explained, one of the challenges of service delivery was unable to reunify abandoned survivors with no guardian and survivors who were abused by a family member that puts strain on the services provisions. She shared the experience of a girl who has been fostered by another family as follow:

*She was abandoned by her biological parents on the streets and one day someone took her to his home and offered her the necessary protection services. However, unluckily, he raped her. This girl doesn't know her biological parents. Now she doesn't have a family to rely on. What makes the case even more difficult when they are abused by their own family is, after the survivors recover, their fate is unknown. In addition to all the pain, they have to go through, not knowing where their future holds is even more painful.*

According to the key informants, being unable to trace survivor's families when they are found on the streets or unable to reunite them when they are abused by their family members challenges the service delivery of the organization (OPRIFS). The absence of permanent centers like foster care where these types of girls could be referred to and be taken care of is another challenge.

#### **4.1.3.2. Prolonged Legal Cases**

As it has been repeatedly mentioned by OPRIFS and other participants of the study delay in the legal process are identified as the major challenge. Some survivors were waiting for the legal process to end so that they can return to their families. Participant 3 expressed her hope to return to her family within a short period. She has further explained her interest to be reunified with her family as follows: *"I was told that I would have to stay at the safe home for a short period until the legal cases are over. But that is not what happens. It has been more than one year since I came here and I want to go back to my family and hoping to go back to school again."*

Similarly, a key informant from the safe home expressed her concern about the legal service which is one of the challenges that the organization is facing. She said that being unable to close cases of the girls would put too much pressure on the safe home. Moreover, the longer the

children stayed in the shelter, the bigger the chance that they might forget their words or the thing that happened to them. As I was told by key informant 1, the organization is in the process of hiring its legal expert and additional social workers to minimize the different challenges they are experiencing. If the cases take a long time then witnesses will get bored and might exclude their involvement.

#### **4.1.3.3. Shortage of Resource and Skill Manpower**

The increasing amount of money that they spent on the rent for the safe home was the main challenge of the shelter that is pointed out by the key informants. Unable to have their permanent place for the safe house shelter put lots of pressure on the capacity of the organization. The cutback in funding is also pointed out as one of the challenges of the service. The money that is paid for rent could have been used for the delivery of better quality service for the girls. It has been pointed out from different stakeholders that in addition to lack of resources, limited skilled professionals is challenging for them since it puts too much workload on the staff. Similarly, key informants 6 shared how scarcity of resources affects the service provision. He pointed out that financial constraints also affect the awareness-raising program which was one of the services that the organization is providing.

Key informant 5 from the Nefas Silk Sub-city police indicated one of the challenges that they have experienced recently because of Covid 19 which is the limited capacity of medical services for the sexually abused girls. Mainly at the time of the lockdown, there was limited service provision because of a scarcity of medical experts. Many hospitals were beyond their holding capacity so when we took the abused girls for medical checkups to get the evidence as fast as possible. The professionals were so busy and in some cases were forced to be referred to other hospitals.

The lockdown hampered the service provision processes due to the restriction of movement that didn't allow continuing legal cases and re-integration.

According to participant 4, the language barrier is one of the difficulties that he faced while teaching the girls since they came from different regions. He said that he had to start by identifying Amharic letters and then continue with their pace. In addition, lack of enough books for the girls is another challenge for the service provision.

Key informants 6 explained the other challenge in the process of service delivery. When they take a case of a victim to a police station some are unwilling to fulfill their responsibility which challenges them to accomplish the work on time. Lack of national standard operating procedure of service provision for sexually abused child survivors in the shelter is identified as a challenge by the key informants too. There is no mechanism to evaluate the service that is provided at the safe home.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### *5.1 Discussion*

Ethiopian National Child Policy (2017) aims at providing psycho-social support for children who have been victims of abuse. Similarly, the study findings revealed the psychosocial supports provided at the safe home, basic needs accommodations, counseling, medical, education, and legal assistance for survivors. Likewise, providing rehabilitation, care, and support for children in difficult situations are some of the primary pillars of the Ethiopian child policy that corresponds with the objective of OPRIFS which is providing a safe home, protection, and rehabilitation services.

Minimum standard set for humanitarian action Standard 21 suggests, girls and boys should have access to quality health services protectively. Standard 22 also pointed out that children of both sexes with their caregivers should have access to adequate nutrition and food. Likewise, the psycho-social support provided for the survivors at the shelter corresponds with this standard CPWG (2012), moreover, Standard 24 indicated the benchmark for shelters which is to avoid overcrowding that corresponds with the space or bedrooms at the shelter.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) Article 27 states that all children should have food, clothing, and a safe home. Article 28 states the rights of children to have access to education. Similarly, the shelter provides basic needs and informal education for these vulnerable children as the convention on the rights of the child agreement pointed out. As FDRE Constitution (1995) states all Ethiopians have the right to social services including health care, education, and good nutrition. Moreover increasing access to equitable and quality health, education and social welfare services are one of the focal areas of the social protection policy of Ethiopia (2012) which is offered at the shelter as the finding reveals.

Moreover, the national child policy emphasizes creating a conducive environment for children in difficult circumstances to get quality access to social and economic services which are lined with the objective of the study organization. Besides, providing basic services to children in difficult circumstances helps them grow and become honest and trustworthy. Similarly, Child Welfare Information Gateway (2019), explained that with the help of protection and support of different responsible bodies vulnerable children can develop the ability to cope, strive and overcome their experiences.

One of the components of the service at the shelter is counseling service. The counseling services have been identified as one means that they use to rehabilitate the survivors. Along with this, the national child policy of the government of Ethiopia outlined that indigenous charities and societies should work in creating the constructive circumstance for vulnerable children.

The other services that are provided at OPRIFS safe home are reunification and reintegration of survivors after rehabilitation. As the finding indicated when the legal cases of the survivors are over and recover relatively from the bad experience, they will be reunified with family and rejoin society. Similarly the National Child Policy and Convention on the Rights of the Child state the importance of reunification and reintegration of children separated from their families and communities. Accordingly, OPRIFS has proper documentation for each survivor case with background information and profile pictures which is helpful for family tracing and reunification.

As the study finding disclosed the safe home creates a protective atmosphere for children survivors of sexual abuse by fulfilling their basic needs and protecting their rights. Moreover different government bodies like police and women and children affair also help to create a conducive environment for abused children by assisting to admit the victim children in

rehabilitation shelters. Likewise, Save the Children (2005), states the importance of a protective environment creates an atmosphere where their needs are fulfilled and rights are protected.

According to survivor participant and key informants priority and opportunities should be given to the children to speak and express their ideas freely in the implementation of the project activities and services being delivered to them. For instance, children at the safe home elected representatives by themselves as focal persons to participate in activities that affect their interest. Similarly, this approach is in lined with the national child policy under the section called roles and responsibilities of an organization. It states that organizations should create conducive environments where children participate from the initial stage of program design to its implementation.

Save the Children (2009) report stated the importance of an integrated system to protect children. Similarly, the finding of this study showed that different government bodies like Sub-city police offices; sub-city Woreda Women and Children Affair Office and the Woreda health center offer their services to OPRIFS by cooperating to protect the vulnerable sexually abused girls. Through reviewing the organization report, strengthening partnership with governmental offices and other organizations is stated as a strategy to implement the project as planned.

The overall finding of this study demonstrated that the safe home offers a holistic service to the children which are one of the concerns of Social Workers. The safe home serves the children in need by providing different services and works to address the social problem of sexual abuse which is one core value of social work.

The intention of this research is not to evaluate or rate the quality of the service at the safe home but to explore the effectiveness based on the outcome that the service brought on the survivors.

The finding demonstrated the physical and psychological change that the survivors brought with all the protection and support of the all-inclusive services offered at the OPIFS safe home. Survivors rehabilitated and recovered from the state they were in at the time of admission until reunification. As it has been explained in the analysis the counseling service helped the girls to be relieved from stress, pain, discomfort, and feeling of despair to grow into a new person with a whole lot of hope and optimism that exhibits the effectiveness of the service provided at the safe home.

As the finding reveals, regardless of the challenges, the majority of the survivors were reunified with their families' right after they have recovered from the stress and the pain they were in. This could signify the positive outcome and effectiveness of the services based on the level of recovery of the survivors. If the majority of the girls reunified, then that implied the survivors are rehabilitated relatively and recovered from the abuse and are ready to go back to school, start a small business and become self-reliant. Hence the higher the number of survivors reunified with the society, the greater the chance of achieving its objective which implies the effectiveness of the service based on the positive result it brought on the physical and emotional state of the survivors.

The finding also disclosed the provision of on job training for the staff on gender-based violence. Besides online training was given to some of the staff too. This implies the organization derives to succeed in providing quality service that impacts the effectiveness of the service. The socio-demographic characteristics of the target groups reveal that most of the survivors are from rural areas and had a difficult upbringing. The survivors might be comparing the bed that they have, the cloth that they are wearing, the food that they are getting, the medical services and recreation services that they are getting with what they had before they came in. Although the survivors'

view might be relative to what they had, still the finding revealed that the majority of the survivors (9 out of 10 participants) are satisfied with the services and recovered physically and psychologically from the sexual abuse they experienced.

Covid 19 was one of the issues that were pointed out as a challenge by service providers for the implementation of protection services. It was difficult to admit new survivors, do family tracing and get medical checkups for a survivor at the time of lockdown. Since it is a donor-based project, the finding pointed out limited resources as one challenge of the shelter. Reduction in funding challenges the study organization not to offer protection services in full capacity. Moreover, the price of the safe home rent increment also affects the quantity and quality of services being provided by the organization. In addition, lack of skilled manpower is identified as a challenge for service delivery.

As the finding revealed some of the legal cases might take more than a year and some of the younger children even forget what happened to them and can't remember the first word that they gave about the perpetrators and the whole incident. A witness might get bored which has an impact on the trial. However, the National Child Policy advocates speedy trials in cases involving children which are not the case at the safe home. Breckenridge et al., (2014) indicated the importance of cooperation between law and social work practice in dealing with child sexual abuse. Likewise, Anderson et al. (2002) also agree on the support of social workers while protecting sexually abused children's emotional well-being. The gap in the legal service at the safe home might have been addressed through cooperation of law and social work practice.

According to Birhan (2015) and Save the Children (2009) report, the primary responsibility of the state is to protect the rights of children and the quality of a good system which should consist of laws and policies with coordinated and effective implementation. However, the finding

disclosed a lack of good governance among some law enforcing bodies in fulfilling their responsibilities as a challenge which contradicts with literature.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

#### *6.1 Conclusion*

The findings of this study signify the provision of protection and support services for sexually abused female children at the safe home to help them meet their emotional, social, and spiritual needs with significant service efficiency despite the challenges. All-inclusive psycho-social supports and legal protections at the safe home imply the holistic approach of the center in providing services. The linkage of resources which is from the donors to the beneficiaries to serve the children is an implication of social work practice at the safe home. With the protection and supports provided at the safe home, the finding explored that there are significant physical and psychological changes in the lives of survivors compared to their situation at the time of admission. The level of recovery of sexually abused female children who have been receiving the services at the safe home revealed the effectiveness of the services regardless of the challenges like unable to close cases from law enforcing bodies in a short period and lack of adequate resources and skilled manpower. To sum up, the finding revealed the contribution of OPRIFS safe home in saving the lives of sexually abused female child survivors through protection and support regardless of the challenges.

#### *6.2. Implication for Social Work*

In this section of the paper implication for social work practice, education, policy, and research is presented. OPRIFS provides service to female victims of abuse. This is an area that requires social work intervention. The girls who were participated in the study were all children. They are vulnerable groups of society that require special protection and support. However, because of their age and other factors they were exposed to abuse. Hence, social workers have to collaborate with other stakeholders to protect children from such abuse and to provide appropriate services

after the incidents. The delay in the legal process was one of the challenges where social workers were expected to advocate so that the cases can be handled promptly. The issue of children who were rehabilitated and had no place else to go is another situation that requires the interventions of social workers. Social workers need to utilize their case management skills and work on referral and linking to overcome such challenges.

Ethiopia ratified the United Nations Child Rights Convention and the African Charter. Moreover, the Ethiopian Constitution 36 and the civil codes clearly explained the rights of children and the penalties if those rights were violated. These are important policy documents to handle the right violation among children. Hence, social workers should work along with other stakeholders for the realization of the aforementioned policies.

This study was based on cases at OPRIFS. The experiences of other shelters or safe homes were not addressed by this study. Therefore, there is a need to conduct studies to understand the experiences of other shelters. Moreover, using this study as a foundation other quantitative studies need to be conducted. This paper can be used to teach social work courses in the area of children and abuse.

### ***6.3 Recommendations***

Based on the findings the researcher recommended the following points for the improvement and quality protection service provisions at the safe home (shelter) and other stakeholders.

- Having a minimum standard for shelter quality nationally can increase the quality of the services at the shelter.
- Increasing financial capacity elevates services provision. Granting land from the government for the shelters can address to alleviate the strain on the organization.

- Legal bodies should give priority to sexually abused girls while investigating and give decisions as fast as possible.
- Better coordination, cooperation, and synergy among stakeholders increase the quality of the service to a better stage.
- Strengthening the participatory (bottom-up approach) approach while dealing with the sensitive issue can help to find out the root cause of the problem.
- Hiring skilled professionals who have the expertise, core value, ethics, and principles to help vulnerable children heal emotionally and spiritually.
- Providing up-to-date job training continuously will help the experts to apply their skills to assist the survivors to rehabilitate and rejoin society to be better citizens.
- Focusing on prevention by creating awareness on the rights of children, how to protect the rights of children, and shows them what to do if abuse is happening.

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ጤና ይስጥልኝ

እኔ ሣራ አበበ በአ.አ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶሻል ወርክ ሁለተኛ ዲግሪ ተማሪ ስሆን፤ በአሁኑ ሰዓት የመመረቂያ ፅሁፍ እየሰራሁ ነው። የጥናቴም ርዕስ «የታዊ ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሴት ህፃናት የሚደረግላቸው ጥበቃና ድጋፍ በአፕሪክስ (OPRIFS) መጠለያ» ነው። የጥናቴ ዓላማ በአፕሪክስ መጠለያው ውስጥ ያሉ የታዊ ጥቃት የደረሰባቸውን ሴት ህፃናት እየተሰጣቸው ያለውን አገልግሎት ለመረዳት፣ የአገልግሎቱን ውጤታማነት ለማየት፣ ተግዳሮቶቹን ለመረዳት እና አገልግሎቱ እንዲሻሻል ጥቆማ ለመስጠት ይረዳል።

ይህ ጥናታዊ ፅሁፍ በቃለ መጠይቅ የቀረበ ሲሆን ከ 30-40 ደቂቃ ይወስዳል። በቃለ መጠይቁ ጊዜ ማስታወሻ ይወሰዳል፤ የድምፅ መቅጃ እንጠቀማለን። በማንኛውም ሰዓት ከቃለ መጠይቁ ያለ ምንም ቅድመ ሁኔታ የማቋረጥና ትቶ የመውጣት መብትዎ የተጠበቀ ነው።

በቃለ መጠይቁ ውስጥ በመሳተፎ የሚያገኙት ምንም አይነት ጥቅም ጥቅም አይኖርም፤ ነገር ግን የሚሰጡት መረጃ የታዊ ጥቃት ለደረሰባቸው ሴት ህፃናቶች እየተደረገላቸው ያለውን የጥበቃና ድጋፍ አገልግሎት ለመረዳት፣ የአገልግሎቱን ውጤታማነትና ተግዳሮቶች ለመረዳትና የመፍትሔ ሃሳቦችን ለማስቀመጥ ይረዳል። ስለዚህ ለጥናቴ ቃለ መጠይቁ ተሳታፊ እንዲሆኑ በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ። ለሚደረግልኝ ቀና ትብብር ከወዲሁ አመሰግናለሁ።

የመረጃ ሰጪው ማንነት ጥናቴን ከሚሰራው አካል ውጪ ለሌላ ተላልፎ አይሰጥም። የማንነት ሚስጥርዎ የተጠበቀ ነው። በጥናቴ ላይ ያለዎትን ማንኛውንም ጥያቄ እና አስተያየት ጊዜ ወስደው በማሰብ ለጥናቴ ባለቤት ሣራ አበበ +2519 11170410 ወይም [yesara51@gmail.com](mailto:yesara51@gmail.com) መጠየቅ ይችላሉ።

የፈቃድ መመያ መግለጫውን ተረድቼ በፈቃደኝነት የጥናቴ ተሳታፊ ለመሆን ተስማምቻለሁ።

የጥናቴ ተሳታፊ ስም :- \_\_\_\_\_

ፊርማ:- \_\_\_\_\_ ቀን:- \_\_\_\_\_

ቃለ መጠይቁን ያደረገው ተመራማሪ ሣራ አበበ

ፊርማ:- \_\_\_\_\_ ቀን :- \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex 2: Interview questions**

### **Interview Guiding Questions for sexually abused female children at OPRIFS safe home**

#### **Background Information**

**Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade level** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time at the safe home** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children in the safe home.**

1. Please draw a picture that can reflect what happened to you?

a. Can you explain the picture?

b. How the picture is represents your life?

2. Tell me how you came to the shelter.

a. Who brought you, what was your first impression about the safe home?

3. Tell me about your experiences in the safe home.

a. Who contacted you first, what type of supports (food, clothing, medical, counselling) and legally assistance provided for you, do you feel safe, comfortable?

4. Tell me the treatment you have got so far from the caregivers.

a. What do they do for you, what do you think about them?

5. Would you please tell me the counselling service provided for you?

a. Is it helpful?

6. Tell me what has been changed in you after coming to this safe home.

a. Positive, negative changes and the challenges you faced.

7. What would you like to be improved in the service provisions of OPRIFS safe home?

## **Interview Guiding Questions for the program Manager at OPRIFS.**

### **Background Information**

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Job description \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. What criteria's do you use while recruiting sexually abused female children to be admitted to OPRIFS safe home?
2. Can you tell me the type of services your organization provides for the beneficiaries?
3. What kind of social support do you deliver to your children?
4. What kind of counselling services are provided in the safe home?
5. What kind of legal services are provided at OPRIFS?
6. What kind of health services are provided at OPRIFS?
7. How often do they get the medical service at the safe home?

#### **II. Effectiveness of services provided for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. What types of strategies do you use to improve the service provision in the safe home?
2. What kind of rules and regulations does the organization use to control the safety and security of the children?
3. What kind of methods do you use to follow up and evaluate the legal aid services?
4. What will be the fate of the children after once they go out of the safe home?
5. How do you follow up the progress of the children when they reunite with family or caregiver?

#### **III. Challenges of services provision for sexually abused female children.**

1. What are the challenges and gaps in the course of service delivery?
2. What would you recommend to improve the quality of the service in the safe home?

## **Interview Guiding Questions for the Counsellor**

### **Background Information**

**Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job description** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children in the safe home.**

1. Can you tell me about the counselling unit in OPRIFS safe home?
2. What kind of counselling services are you providing?
3. How often do clients get the counselling service?

#### **II. Effectiveness of the services provided for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. What are the positive changes you observe in their emotional state, self-confidence, and their relationship with others?
2. How do you evaluate your service?

#### **III. Challenges of services provision for sexually abused female children.**

1. What are the challenges to provide quality service in your unit?
2. What kind of support do you recommend to be improved in the future?

## **Interview Guiding Questions for police officer**

### **Background Information**

**Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job description** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children in the safe home.**

1. What kind of legal services do you provide for sexually abused female children?
2. How is your collaboration with different state service providers for sexually abused female children?

**II. Effectiveness of the services provided for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. What kind of methods do you use to follow up and evaluate the legal aid services for children in the safe home?
2. What kind of rules and regulations does the organization use to control the safety and security of the safe home?
3. How would you follow up the case of the children after they rejoin with their family or guardian?

**III. Challenges of services provision for sexually abused female children.**

1. What are the challenges while providing legal aid for abused girls at OPRIFS?
2. What would you recommend to improve the quality of legal aid services in the future?

**Interview Guiding Questions for the teacher who provides informal education and training at the safe home.**

**Background Information**

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Job description \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. How are you assisting your kids in terms of education?
2. What kind of methods do you use to teach the children at the safe home?

**II. Effectiveness of the services provided for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. What kind of methods do you use to follow up the progress of the children in the safe home?
2. What kind of positive changes do you observe among children after they join the safe home in terms of their educational skill?

**III. Challenges of services provision for sexually abused female children.**

1. What are the challenges you faced while teaching the girls?

2. How happy are you with the service provided in the safe home?
3. What would you recommend to improve the quality of the services in the future?

### **Interview Guiding Questions for Rehabilitation worker (Caregivers)**

#### **Background Information**

**Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job description** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. How do you treat your children in the safe home?
2. How do you make them feel safe in the safe home?

#### **II. Effectiveness of the services provided for sexually abused female children at the safe home.**

1. What are the changes you observe among the children after they get your service?

#### **III. Challenges of services provision for sexually abused female children.**

1. What are the challenges you face while caring for the abused girls at OPRIFS?
2. What would you recommend to improve the quality of the services in the future?

### **Interview Guiding Questions for Women and Children Affair**

#### **Background Information**

**Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job description** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Available protection and support service for sexually abused female children at the shelter.**

1. What kind of services do you provide for sexually abused female children the moment the case is reported?
2. How is your collaboration with different stakeholders while providing service for sexually abused female children?

## II. Effectiveness of the services provided for sexually abused female children at the safe house.

1. What positive change does your support brought to the lives of these children?
2. What kind of methods do you use to follow up and evaluate the services for children after they join the safe house?

## III. Challenges of services provision for sexually abused female children.

1. What are the challenges you face in service provision?
2. What would you recommend to improve the quality of service in protecting abused children?

### **Annex 3: Background Information about the target group sexually abused female children at OPRIFS safe home May 2021, A.A**

<b>Name code</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Time at the shelter</b>	<b>Grade level</b>	<b>Place of birth</b>
Participant 1	12	more than 6 months	4th	Addis Ababa
Participant 2	12	4 months	2nd	Wollo
Participant 3	15	more than a year	5th	Gurage
Participant 4	16	7 month	4th	Raya
Participant 5	14	1 week	2nd	Fech
Participant 6	16	9 month	2nd	Fech
Participant 7	14	more than a year	7th	Addis Ababa
Participant 8	14	1 year	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wollo
Participant 9	15	9 months	4th	Jimma
Participant 10	14	5 month	1st	Gondor

***Annex 4: Background Information of Key informants May 2021 A.A***

<b>Name Code</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Key informant 1	F	Program manager( A.A)	OPRIFS
Key informant 2	F	Team leader / counselor	OPRIFS
Key informant 3	F	Rehabilitation worker	OPRIFS
Key informant 4	M	Teacher	OPRIFS
Key informant 5	M	Detective	Sub City Police
Key informant 6	M	women empowerment officer	Woreda WCAO

***Annex5: Observation Checklist***

1. The living condition of the survivors at the safe home.
2. Physical setting.
3. The survivor's interaction with the rehabilitation workers and the staffs.
4. Survivors relation among themselves.