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The Role of Civil Society Organizations on the Public Policy Formulation Process in Ethiopia

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**A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis
Ababa University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Masters in Public Management and Policy**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

**October, 2018
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Addis Ababa University

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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Seyfu Alebachew entitled “The role of Civil Society Organizations on the public policy formulation process in Ethiopia:”, which is submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters in Public Management and Policy (MPMP), complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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October, 2018

Addis Ababa

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Acronyms

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECSA	Ethiopian Charities and Societies Agency
EU	European Union
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GCAP	Global Call to Action against Poverty
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
TPLF	Tigray People Liberation Front
WB	World Bank
WSF	World Social Forum

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the role of Civil Society Organizations in the Public Policy Formulation Process of Ethiopia. Even though, there are a number of researches conducted regarding civil society organizations most of them did not consider the role of civil society organizations from the public policy formulation perspective. In light of this, both primary and secondary data were collected and used. The primary data was collected through questionnaire administered and interview whereas the secondary data was collected via document review. Systematic random sampling design was employed to select the sample respondents from the total population. The collected data has been analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using statements, tables, figures and percentage. The study shows the participation of Ethiopian civil society organizations in the public policy formulation process is weak. As a result the researcher forwards the following recommendations. Some those are: CSOs need to revise their structural arrangement and include public policy formulation as one of their activity, the government need to enhance civil society organizations to provide policy inputs and concerned body should make a strong linkage between civil society organizations and other relevant organizations, like mass media and academic institutions.

Key Words: *civil society organizations, Public policy formulation, Role and Participation*

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Policy formulation is the stage where options that might help resolve issues and problems recognized at the agenda-setting stage are identified, refined, appraised and formalized (Howllet, 2011). During the formulation stage, policy analysts will typically have to confront trade-offs between legitimate public demands for action, and the political, technical and financial capabilities to address them. Policy formulation is the very essence of public policy analysis, which Wildavsky, (1987) characterized as how to understand the relationship between 'manipulable means and obtainable objectives. But who formulates public policies? It is generally recognized that policy formulation is a critically important but relatively inscrutable stage of the policy process Wu (2010), with many different actors interacting, often under intense and focused political pressure from special advisers, lobbyists and interest groups. In a democratic and participatory government Civil Society organizations can serve as the hand of government.

Civil society can further good governance, first, by policy analysis and advocacy; second, by regulation and monitoring of state performance and the action and behavior of public officials; third, by building social capital and enabling citizens to identify and articulate their values, beliefs, civic norms and democratic practices; fourth, by mobilizing particular constituencies, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized sections of masses, to participate more fully in politics and public affairs; and fifth, by development work to improve the wellbeing of their own and other communities (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004).

The EU Commission considers that civil society plays an important role in the development of Community policies. It will continue to encourage the activities of non-governmental organizations, the social partners and civil society in general. The Commission points out that the organizations representing civil society should themselves apply the principles of good governance as a show of their responsibility and openness. The Economic and Social Committee should give its opinions before rather than after proposals have been transmitted to the legislature, in order to contribute more towards shaping policies (CoEC, 2001).

CSOs' influence on shaping global public policy has also emerged over the past two decades. This dynamism is exemplified by successful advocacy campaigns around such issues as banning of land mines, debt cancellation, and environmental protection which have mobilized thousands of supporters around the globe. A recent manifestation of the vibrancy of global civil society has been the World Social Forum (WSF) which has been held annually since 2001 on different continents, and which has brought together tens of thousands CSO activists to discuss global development issues. Another example of the vibrancy and importance of civil society is the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) an international civil society campaign advocating for debt relief and greater aid to poor countries. In 2008, GCAP is estimated to have mobilized more than 116 million citizens to participate in the Stand up against poverty events held in cities throughout the world (WB, 2013).

For the public sector to benefit maximally from civil sector contributions and for the CSOs to substantially impact the policy direction and final solutions, CSOs need to participate from the beginning of the policy making process. That is, CSOs need to be involved from the point when various policy options and instruments are designed and analyzed during the stage of policy formulation. It is then that the participants have the opportunity to bring not only additional information and data, but also to propose alternative solutions to the problem, which allows them to influence the set of options for the final policy decision (Orza, 2014)

In academic and practitioner literature alike, a number of authors have discussed how CSOs can best influence policy-making. Although all authors recognize that a variety of different factors can undermine or enable CSOs' impact on policy-making, some of them give more prominence to 'external' factors, such as the political context (e.g. political culture, legal environment, corruption, etc.), while others give more importance to 'internal' factors such as CSOs' expertise, networks and mobilization capacity (Lorenzo & Volkhart, 2007).

The involvement and policy impact of CSOs is heavily dependent on the political context within which they operate. For instance, the political context might lead to different types of engagement/disengagement between CSOs and political actors. Some of the academic literature on policy influence specifically stresses the role of linkages between CSOs and decision-making institutions and investigates the importance of, among others, policy networks and advocacy coalitions. In terms of 'internal' factors, some observers have focused their attention on issues

such as capacity building, competence, and knowhow and mobilization capacity as key factors affecting CSOs' influence on policy processes. For some, CSOs' policy influence is based on the specific activities undertaken by CSOs and their niche expertise. For others, CSOs' legitimacy and competence are crucial factors to explain CSOs' influence on policy processes (Grugel 1999). Similarly, some have maintained that it is the capacity to generate information, call upon symbols and powerful actors and the moral position vis-à-vis global political power that increases the policy influence of transnational civil society and its watchdog role. Obviously, CSOs' influence on policy and their strategies also depend on the different stages of the policy-making process. Lorenzo & Volkhart (2007) have emphasized how, for instance, steering the political agenda of government requires approaches and skills that are different from those necessary to provide input in the drafting process of a piece of legislation or to monitor the implementation of a specific law.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The economic development of a country depends on the quality of its policy framework, the decisions taken, especially the processes involved in formulating each decision. It is clear also that developing countries throughout the world vary considerably in their ability, and perhaps their willingness to formulate and implement policies that will generate improved development performance (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995). According to Hai (2013) recent years have witnessed a significant upsurge of organized private, non-profit activity in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Long recognized as providers of relief and promoter of human rights, such organizations are now increasingly viewed as critical contributors to economic growth and civic and social infrastructure essential for a minimum quality of life for the people (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004).

The policy formulation in developing countries has characterized by weak institutional capacity and lack of accountability of state actors (Hai, 2013). Where as in countries that have better developed and well equipped institutional arrangements can resolve difficulties by allocating additional resources (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995, p. 1). The policy design in developing countries is often done by state agencies while there is varied in participation of businesses and civil society - consumers, private entrepreneurs, employees and citizens and community groups, CSOs at both form and functions (Hai, 2013). The centralized, top-down approach has usually

confined policy formulation to the narrow elite (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995). For much of the recent history, social and political discourse has been dominated by the ‘two sector model’ that acknowledges the existence of only two actors – the market (for profit private sector) and the state (Salamon, Sokolowski and Associates, 2003). In the absence of organized political opposition, independent trade unions, interest groups, and free media or in a one statement a well organized and active civil society organizations public policy making result could not represent the interest of the majority.

A solid understanding of an advocacy role for CSOs has been slow to evolve in Ethiopia. Neither government officials nor those would-be advocates demonstrated much grasp of the concept in the initial post-1991 period, and the art of effective lobbying on public policy issues did not exist in the country. Polarization of the political process witnessed during the early 1990s did not encourage the emergence of public advocates. Such actors were seen as highly political and, in fact, partisan, if not absolute opponents of the government’s legitimacy. The reality that some, particularly on human rights issues, were in fact quite partisan and shrill in their narrative of political events only served to further skew the perception (Clark, 2000). Simply, CSOs were not influential and even they do not have such a momentous capacity to contribute for the policy process.

Some researchers have conducted a study in this area. Fantahun, (2010) explore the role government and non-governmental actors have played on the Charities and Societies Proclamation No.621/2009 making process. The study identified the major actors or the leading players that exercise the strongest leverage in the CSOs law making process, relevant features and problems in Proclamation making process and key areas of concerns on the Proclamation and reasons behind such concerns, but the researcher did not gave much attention to the role of civil societies. Civil society organizations played an important role on the economical, political and social aspects of people’s life. The research conducted by Giday, (2011) shows that civil society organizations have played an important role in the reduction of poverty, whereas the researcher did not investigate the political and social role of civil society organizations. Even if the economic aspect might have an indirect impact on the political and social life of the community but it did not elaborated on the study. Assefa (2010) studied the Role and Engagement of Civil Society in Ethiopia’s first Cycle African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

Process. The engagement and involvement level in Ethiopia's APRM, the role of CSOs in the review process, the major challenges of civic engagement in the review process, potential prospects of civic engagement in APRM process are the points explored by the researcher. Hence, the researcher did not put the role of civil society organizations from the public policy formulation process perspective. The Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Environmental Protection is a research conducted by Shibabaw, (2016) and the study clearly shows the Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Environmental Protection, the challenges being faced by the organisations and the target community alike while undertaking environmental protection endeavours, the sources of financial resources secured by the CSOs to run the projects under consideration and the effects of the Charities and Societies' Proclamation, No.621/2009, if any on the projects' environmental protection activities. Although, the researcher considers the role of civil society organizations from the environmental protection aspect, yet this research did not touch CSO's role on the public policy formulation process.

Even if the current regime made some amendments to participate and exploit benefits from the participation of civil society organizations. But, consideration of need of the society at large, the country's situation where the country has been and the comparatively better opportunity for their operation, the overall performances of CSOs has not been satisfactory since they are not playing the role they are supposed to play (SDPRP, 2002). According to Giday (2011) the possible reasons could be absence of trust between the CSOs and the Government of Ethiopia (GOE). Other possible reasons are the lack of organizational capacity, financial constraints, government interference and absence of commitment at all levels of the government. However, there are two arguments: on the one hand, there are some peoples who agreed that the policies are participatory. So that, this paper was carried out to investigate the role that civil society organizations played on the public policy formulation process.

1.3. Research Questions

This research was conducted to answer the following questions;

1. Are CSOs the major policy actors in Ethiopia?
2. What are the features of CSOs in Ethiopia?
3. What about the involvement of CSOs on the public policy formulation process?

4. What are the roles of Ethiopian civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process?
5. What are the major obstacles faced by CSOs, to play out their role?

1.4. Objective of the Study

1.4.1. General Objective

The main objective of the study is to assess the role of civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process, by taking Ethiopian societies as an area of study.

1.4.2. Specific Objectives of the Study

- To identify the basic features of CSOs in Ethiopia
- To assess the involvement of CSOs on the public policy formulation process
- To identify the major roles of CSOs on the public policy formulation process
- To assess the major obstacles of CSOs on public policy formulation

1.5. Significance of the Study

The result of this paper initiates other researchers to start investigation and strike discussion on the area. So, the result can be used as a reference and bench mark. This paper was conducted to assess the role of CSOs on the public policy formulation process. Consequently, it helps other researchers to conduct research on the role of CSOs in a different subject. Foremost, the major importance of this study makes CSOs beneficial by providing vital recommendations. It helps them to identify their weakness and strength as well as it helps them to develop a strategy to participate in a public policy process.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The study considered societies that are operated by Ethiopians. Basically, the scope of this study will be delimited based on three categories: Concept, geography and time. Based on concept the study of this paper will be concentrated on the assessment of the role of CSOs on public policy formulation. Public policy has a cyclical feature and a set of interdependent phases but this study does not cover other phases except public policy formulation stage. Geographically the study was limited to CSOs which have office in Addis Ababa. Because of the time and financial difficulty to address all the CSOs that are operated by Ethiopians this study were restricted to

Addis Ababa. It excludes CSOs that have no office in Addis Ababa. Thirdly, this study has been undertaken within the time frame of November to June.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

Since the researcher assessed the role of civil society organizations, the cooperation of the organizations is necessary to complete the study. Although among the total respondents eight organizations were not voluntary and did not return the questionnaire distributed. But the number was insignificant and has no effect on the validity of the data.

1.8. Structure of the Study

The research consists of five chapters. The first chapter the first chapter is the preliminary part of the study and it briefly presents the background of the study, statement of the problem and research questions, objectives of the study, significance, delimitation and limitation of the study. The second chapter discusses about the different literatures, theoretical and empirical, written by different scholars. The theoretical and empirical reviews part talks about the points that have similarity with this study. The third chapter consists of different methods and tools that have been applied in the study. The fourth chapter is part of the study where the plan became practiced. It deals about the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data collected via questionnaire, interview and document review. The final chapter includes the summary of major findings, conclusion and recommendation of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

2. Review of Theoretical and Empirical Literature

2.1. Introduction

In this chapter various materials have been reviewed based on its relationship with the title. The chapter discussed the meaning of civil society organizations, public policy formulation, its different phases and different models, the relationship between state and civil society organizations, the role of civil society organizations based on some countries experience and the impediments of civil society organizations in developing countries. Additionally, the chapter reviews different literatures about the nature of Ethiopian society organizations. The final part of the chapter chat about researches conducted on a similar idea of study.

2.2.The Concept and Meaning of CSOs

The concept of civil society goes back many centuries in Western thinking with its roots in Ancient Greece. Scholars like Dzatkova (2016) agree that the idea of civil society date back to John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and David Hume. The modern idea of civil society emerged in the 18th Century, influenced by political theorists from Thomas Paine to George Hegel, who developed the notion of civil society as a domain parallel to but separate from the states (Carothers & Barndt, 1999). The 90s brought about renewed interest in civil society, as the trend towards democracy opened up space for civil society and the need to cover increasing gaps in social services created by structural adjustment and other reforms in developing countries (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004). The civil society sector is not only emerging as a clear societal actor in many parts of the world, it is also quite varied in its nature and composition. For this reason definition of civil society vary considerably based on differing conceptual paradigms, historic origins, and country context (WB, 2013). Those organizations can be defined as comprising individuals who are not connected with the government, but who are involved in activities of maintaining peace and productivity within the society. It has been said that an effective civil society is one marked by an active, public-spirited citizenry participating in community based voluntary associations and by associated high levels of a social fabric of trust and cooperation or social capital (Alatas, 2003). Much of the discussion on civil society seems to indicate that it is a major instrument of policy advocacy world-wide (Tandon, 2015).

According to CIVICUS (2012) Civil Society Index project, which understand the term civil society to mean the arena, outside of the family, the state and the market, which is created by individual and collective actions, organizations and institutions to advance shared interests. Civil society therefore encompasses civil society organizations (CSOs) and the actions of less formalized groups and individuals. Where the term ‘organized civil society’ is used in this report, it refers to independent, non-state and non-private sector associations and organizations that have some form of structure and formal rules of operating, together with the networks, infrastructure and resources they utilize.

As to the CoEC, (2001) civil society includes groups of trade unions and employers’ organizations (‘social partners’); nongovernmental organizations; professional associations; charities; grass-roots organizations; organizations that involve citizens in local and municipal life with a particular contribution from churches and religious communities. The World Bank has adopted a definition of civil society developed by a number of leading research centers: the term civil society to refer to the wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) therefore refer to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations (WB, 2010).

2.3. Categorization of CSO Work

UNDP (2015) uses the following categories to describe the type of work that CSOs may engage in:

Advocacy: Includes activities such as campaigning, lobbying, direct action, media and awareness-raising work including public education. Advocacy work is often related to policy issues as organizations and individuals strive to change public policy and practice.

Funding: Describes an area of work in which CSOs offer funds to other organizations in support of democratic governance initiatives.

Legal assistance: Includes direct legal assistance to individuals and organizations.

Networking: Includes work related to developing and strengthening communication and exchange systems between organizations and or individuals. Organizations engaged in networking often have a coordinating body that seeks to forge ties across organizations that work within a particular sector or on a particular interest area.

Policy: Includes activities and processes related to the formulation and development of specific policies.

Research: Involves in-depth studies on specific issues as well as publications arising from research.

Technical assistance: Encompasses a broad range of CSO activities including consultancy support and hands-on assistance in the field, knowledge transfer and election monitoring. Technical assistance is often provided within the framework of a specific project.

Training: Includes activities designed to strengthen specific skills and knowledge. Training methods used include workshops, conferences and short courses. These are in a wide range of areas such as voter education, methods to encourage greater participation of women in political processes, as well as training in new technologies.

2.4. Public Policy Formulation

2.4.1. The meaning of Public Policy Formulation

Public policy formulation involves the development of pertinent and acceptable proposed courses of action for dealing with public problems (Juma & Onkware, 2015). Policy formulation involves identifying and crafting a set of policy alternatives to address a problem and narrowing that set of solutions in preparation for the final decision. Policy formulation clearly is a critical phase of the policy process. Certainly designing the alternatives that decision makers will consider directly influences the ultimate policy choice. According to Cochran and Malone 1999, cited in (Sidney, 2007), policy formulation takes up the “what” questions: what is the plan for dealing with a problem? What are the goals and priorities? What options are available to achieve those goals? What are the costs and benefits of each of the options? What externalities, positive or negative, associated with each alternative? Formulating the set of alternatives thus involves identifying a range of broad approaches to a problem, and then identifying and designing the

specific sets of policy tools that constitute each approach. Selecting from among these a smaller set of possible set of solutions from which decision makers actually will choose involves applying some set of criteria to the alternatives, for example judging their feasibility, political acceptability, costs benefits and such.

2.4.2. Phases in Policy Formulation

Joan, Anthony, & Jean (1995) identified the following phases that happened in the public policy formulation process:

1. Identification of the policy issue

It is the starting point for any policy formulation and every policy needs to have a clear definition of the issues to be covered on the formulation process. The power to decide what will or will not be a policy issue has a significant impact on the evolution of the policy process. Identifying an issue, bringing it to attention, and then mounting pressure to have action taken are important political tactics. Equally, keeping attention away from certain issues is as important (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995).

2. Specification of Objectives

Just as the policy path should have a beginning - the issue to be addressed -- it should also have, from the start, at least a general idea of a destination -- the objective to be achieved. It is the stage, where the destination of policy formulation is determined (Atkinson & Coleman, 1992). As soon as the issue to be addressed is identified, it is necessary to agree a statement of the objective. The objective at this stage will be tentative. It may, indeed almost certainly will, be modified in the light of information gathered on the way. But an initial statement of the issue and of the objective will help to determine the nature of the information required and the actors and stakeholders who need to be brought into the process. Moreover, it is essential that there is a clear policy objective at the end of the formulation process, one that can provide a basis for useful monitoring, evaluation and review of policy implementation (Fischer, 2000). Without a clear ex-ante statement of objectives of the policy eventually agreed, no serious ex-post evaluation can be made.

3. Development of Options and Process of Choice

It is the phase, where different alternatives stated and decisions have been taken to choose the most important alternative based on the objectives (Grindle & Thomas, 1991). Choice is at the heart of policy formulation. The Choice between different options with differing resource requirements and differing impact on perceived problems. What might achieve one objective might be of no use, or even be disastrous, for the achievement of other objectives. The role of policy analysis is to help formulate the policy options from which a choice can be made. In theory, each option would be given a different weighting based on its advantages and disadvantages in relation to realizing the objectives of the policy. It would set out, for instance, who would gain and who would lose from each option. Under a linear model of policy formulation, officials set out all the options along with all the advantages and disadvantages of each in terms of the objectives to be achieved (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995).

4. Policy Decision Making

It is common experience in most administrations that the nearer decisions are to the apex of the policy pyramid; the more the process involves confidential discussion (Sidney, 2007).

6. Design of Strategies for Implementation

Most of policy design theorists given that the causal chain is the main cause of policies success or failure because the policy designs contribute to policy outcomes (Hai, 2012). Firstly, the policy design will need to specify the lists of policy instruments, institution-building (Weimer, 1992). Continuously, Fischer (2000) and Rixecker (1994) provided that the innovation and creativity are often raised from attention to the voices that contribute to the policy dialogue.

Promulgation and dissemination of a decision among the actors and stakeholders emerged as a significant element of the policy formulation process though it was not identified explicitly as a stage at the planning workshop. It may be regarded as the bridge between formulation and implementation and is thus treated in this section. The way in which the policy was announced and promulgated was raised explicitly in all the reports as having a significant effect on the implementation of the policy (**ibid**).

2.5.The role of Interest Groups in the Policy Process

The policy process is influenced by a range of interest groups that exert power and authority over policy-making. These influences affect each stage of the process from agenda setting, to the identification of alternatives, weighing up the options, choosing the most favorable and implementing it. Policy practices are not in fact just a rational search. No truths or decisions are unproblematic. A crucial aspect of all policy practice is actually and specifically what and who is included. The style of policy discourses is overwhelmingly to talk as though that were not so; but as though the data were inclusive, the processes rational and the remedy simply knowledge- or research- based (Apthorpe, 1986). Grindle and Thomas, (1991) summarize the wide-ranging debate within political science on interest groups and the exertion of power and influence. They divide the interest groups into society-centered and state-centered.

2.5.1. Society-Centered Models

2.5.1.1.Class Analytic Models

Based in the Marxist approach, these argue that the policy process is influenced by opinions that divide along class lines, with the interests of the bourgeoisie dominating the process and acting against those of other classes (Sutton, 1999). The Marxist approach to policy making agree that public policy process is the instrument of upper classes to manipulate the lower classes. The bourgeoisie uses the state as a tool to execute their own plan.

2.5.1.2. Pluralist Models

This approach presents policy as primarily reflecting the interests of groups within society (Sutton, 1999). In a pluralist form of government there are pressure groups which influence the public policy process. Their major concern is its proposed implementation. Pluralists viewed the diversity of interest as a necessary and positive dimension of social life (Hill, 2005). The role of government is to provide a playing field for the expression of social interests, and to allow these to shape policy. In this model, policy change simply reflects changes in the balance of power between interest groups in society. There are concerns over the applicability of these models, however, to developing countries, where it is harder for groups to co-ordinate their activities and positions than it is in the developed world (Rebecca, 1999). They are also criticized for not reflecting the influence politicians have on the process. There is a general recognition that

images of responsive politicians and compliant bureaucrats need to be amended (Atkinson & Coleman, 1992).

2.5.2. State-centered Models

As a result of the lack of emphasis on actors within the state, there was an effort to bring the state back in. There are two groups of state-centered models. One group is the bureaucratic politics models that focus on conflict and negotiation between actors within the state machinery. The contests are driven by individual career incentives, and ‘turf wars’ between Ministries trying to maintain control over policy arenas. A further important area of conflict is between the bureaucracy and the executive. Grindle & Thomas, (1991) state that players compete over preferred options and use the resources available to them through their positions – hierarchy, control over information, access to key decision makers, for example – to achieve their goals.

A second group is the state-interests approach. This focuses on the specific interests the state has in policy outcomes, such as the interests of regime authorities to remain in power and the maintenance of its own hegemony vis-à-vis societal actors. These interests may or may not correspond to interests of particular classes or groups in society. The state is considerably more than an arena for societal conflict or an instrument of domination employed by the dominant class or class alliance. It is potentially a powerful actor in its own right. The criticism of this model is that in some cases states are weak, and are dominated by societal interests. They would not have the authority to make decisions that reflected their own interests (Rebecca, 1999).

2.5.2.1. Epistemic Communities and Policy Networks

In reality, of course, policy is influenced by a range of the above actors. The concept of a policy network and community provides a framework that allows for this. Both state and society actors cohere around key policy principles in policy communities. This recognition of a coincidence of views helps avoid the state-society dichotomies that beleaguer other political science frameworks (Sutton, 1999).

2.5.2.1.1. Fischer’s Analysis of think tanks as Epistemic Communities

Sutton, (1999) provides an analysis of how think tanks in the USA evolved to become discourse coalitions, playing an important role in policy-making between the 1960’s - 1980’s. He looks at

organizations such as the Brookings Institution, the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy research. Initially acting as objective experts who offered advice to government policy makers, Fischer shows that over this period there was a move towards subjectivity, a ‘politicization of elite think tanks and their experts’. The Heritage Foundation was said to state ‘Unlike other institutions that pretend ideological neutrality, we’re conservatives, no bones about it’.

These experts had a significant impact on the policy process. The expert’s role in defining problems is more than an analytical activity. It is also the ability to bring to political consciousness problems, such as poverty, that would otherwise be accorded little attention by either politicians or the public... the fact that experts tell people a problem exists sets up a social disequilibrium’ which can be translated by politicians into a political demand for compensatory action. In this way, a number of think tanks developed to become epistemic communities, or discourse coalitions, which had a substantial influence over policy-making.

2.6. CSOs as Actors

2.6.1. CSOs as Advocacy of Policy Change

CSOs have contributed to policy-making on critical issues. The most important is the advocacy role of civil society. This includes its role in identifying unaddressed problems and bringing them to public attention, in protecting basic human rights and in giving voice to the wide range of political, environmental, social and community interests and concerns (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004). However, serious weaknesses have been exposed in the sector in terms of accountability, transparency, and ability to address equity concerns. These have resulted in a growing skepticism in the international community regarding their performance and have shifted the previously favorable global opinion of the NGO sector to a more critical one that questions even their legitimacy. Rather than a ‘choice and voice’ for the people, NGOs are now often regarded as primarily supportive of themselves and their agenda, along with that of their donors in many occasions. In the end, they seem to be no more than groups of individuals organized for multiple reasons that include human aspirations and self-interests that prevail over the search for the common good. While they remain key players in the development arena globally, they have lost the favorable view once held uncritically by the international community (Tortajada, 2016).

The main roles of the components of civil society should be to promote popular participation in various activities concerning education, empowerment, advocacy and various levels of family, community and national decision-making (Alatas, 2003, p. 2). Based on the experience derived from around the world CSOs are effective in influencing public opinion and petitioning the government to change an existing policy proposal with direct implications for quality of life (Coston, 1999). On the other hand some writers like (Alatas, 2003) agree that even if countries registered high economic growth did not experiencing similar democratizing process. These countries that experienced positive economic growth did not go through the kind of political change towards democratization. It followed that NGOs and other non-state actors, such as the business community in these countries may not have been as influential as one may have thought, in the decision-making process on several domestic issues.

Network strategies are more appropriate for influencing the policy agenda and while (Coston, 1999) argues bureaucratic structures can eventually reduce participation. NSAs may become influential not only by employing organizational resources, like money, personnel and tactics, but also by employing arguments and persuasion, or by both (Arts, 2003).

As part of the social basis for democracy, civil society represents a fundamental part of the democratic system and highlights issues of importance. It has the ability to express controversial views; represent those without a voice; mobilize citizens into movements; build support across stakeholders; and bring credibility to the political system by promoting transparency and accountability. In terms of policy formulation, civil society is a valuable partner in providing deep subject-matter expertise based on first-hand experience, trialing and scaling up innovations in social services and facilitating citizen engagement (WEF, 2013).

2.7. CSOs in Government Accountability and Citizens' Voice

Empowering poor citizens by increasing their influence in policymaking and aligning their interests, to the extent possible, with those of the non-poor can hold politicians more accountable. Elections, informed voting, and other traditional voice mechanisms should be strengthened, because these processes — and the information they generate— can make political commitments more credible, helping to produce better service outcomes. What role can civil society play in this? CSOs can help to amplify the voices of the poor, coordinate coalitions to

overcome their collective action problems, mediate on their behalf through redress mechanisms, and demand greater service accountability. It needs to be kept in mind that participatory, transparent and accountable governance does not come easy. Nobody wants to open up or relinquish power easily — be it the politicians and bureaucrats at the helm of power or the traditional elites. Social forces must be created that would compel them to countenance sharing of power. An essential part is, therefore, social mobilization whereby consistent though gradual effort is required to establish, organize, strengthen and empower civil society, so that they can, one, increase in number and, two, convert their numerical strength into genuine bargaining power (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004). Furthermore, better information — through public disclosure, citizen-based budget analysis, service benchmarking, and program impact assessments — and an active, independent media can strengthen voice.

What about the contribution of civil society where there are non-democratic governments? At the face value, the experience of the Kenyan NGO community collectively challenging the NGO legislation introduced by the government in 1990 reaffirms the vision of civil society as directly engaged in action to force political change in African countries. As this particular case shows, NGOs were organized, resourceful and conscious actors contributing to political reform movement in Kenya (Ndegwa, 1996). The Kenyan experience underscores what most analysts have argued is the potential of CSOs to contribute to political reforms (Chazan, 1992). To organize, mobilize, and act against state repression and force political /social reforms from within civil society.

2.8. Civil Society and State

Historically, definitions of civil society are closely tied to the nation state as the main player and battleground; with the advent of globalization, this is changing. The CSOs' programs are directly affected by the policies that the government produces (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004). In Europe, enlightenment, secularization, and the rise of trading and financial agents emerged simultaneously with and, over time, produced new, emerging social and functional groups calling for participation/ democratization. These tendencies went hand in hand with the emergence of the modern Westphalia nation state. States were required to be regulators and enforcers of rules for enabling development and social equilibria, for providing public goods like security and basic services, and for setting and enforcing the institutional framework of modern

capitalism. Civil society was the arena for discourse, lobbying, and fighting to shape the rules required by these tasks. The outcome was a clear distinction between “public” and “private” functions and responsibilities, between state and non-state functions respectively. Rational citizens’ activism fulfills the function of shaping, controlling, and legitimizing the state administration. Individuals as social agents had, accordingly, a double nature: they were acting as bourgeois economically and as citizens socially. In this way, their “private” and “public” activities were linked (Segbers, 2009).

According to this concept, state bureaucracies, market segments, regional territorial actors and social groups are competing within democratic nation states for influence and revenues and in order to shape a state’s policies. It follows from this constellation that a “state” should definitely not be perceived as a unitary actor.

A healthy relationship is only conceivable when both parties share common objectives. If the government's commitment to poverty reduction is weak, CSOs/NGOs will find dialogue and collaboration frustrating or even counter-productive. Likewise, repressive governments will be wary of NGOs which represent the poor or victimized. In such situations, CSOs/NGOs will probably prefer to chart their own course, giving all instruments of the state as wide a berth as possible (Clark, 2006). According to the study conducted by (Giday, 2011) the relationship that exists between the Ethiopian government and CSOs is based on distrust. Though both parties work together to the development of the wellbeing of the society, the relationship between them remains to be in doubt. Especially, the government does not trust the activities of CSOs working on both advocacy and service delivery.

Civil society organizations have programs which can go together with government programs. This dictates a close collaboration between government and CSOs in the public policy formulation. In some countries governments provide a more participatory environment in the policy process. In contrast (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004, p. 21) stated that inclusion in political systems long dominated by elites depends, in part, on the institutional strength of policy newcomers — CSOs, and, in part, on the perceived legitimacy of their participation itself.

2.8.1. CSOs in a Decentralized System of Government

The country's power distribution system also affects the level of participation of civil society organizations. Democratic decentralization tends strongly to stimulate more participation at the local level, because local people recognize that decisions about important development projects are now being made very close at hand. They therefore become more active in local affairs in order to influence those decisions. They do so not just as individuals but also in groups, since that may enhance their influence. This persuades them to join existing voluntary associations, and to form new ones. As a result, civil society grows and becomes more vibrant (Manor, 2007). According to the study conducted by (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995) structural change, from centralized to decentralized, allowed a more participatory approach to policy formulation.

2.8.2. CSOs in a Centralized System of Government

Again the study of (Joan, Anthony, & Jean, 1995, p. 15) shows that a single party system with a constitution that established the supremacy of the Party in the national policymaking. The Party had a highly organized structure from the local branch to the national level. It embraced a number of mass organizations which participated in the deliberations at various levels. Some assumed that this was sufficient to provide a genuine basis for consultation with intended beneficiaries.

2.9. Impediments to Growth of Civil Society in Developing Countries

The issue of the small scale of the civil society sector in developing countries, where their potential contribution to the achievement of the required development is high, deserves further attention. If these organizations are to be strengthened, it is important to understand what factors have historically hindered their growth. Variation in the scale and nature of civil society sector in different countries is largely affected by the historical, cultural, social and political environment, a number of impediments to growth of CSOs can be identified as follows: (Salamon & Anheuer, 1997)

1. Authoritarian Political Control

Perhaps the most basic factor accounting for the generally retarded pattern of the third sector development in many developing countries is the long history of authoritarian rule. In Latin

America, for example, the nonprofit sector in Brazil has taken shape in the historical context characterized by a strong state and a weak civil society. As Landim (1988) puts it, “In Brazil, the state has always taken on itself the task of creating society, whether by arranging groups and individuals... or by intervening to destroy autonomy.” Strong state control also figured prominently in the histories of Egypt and Ghana, in Africa. First under the Ottoman Empire and later under British colonial rule, Egypt was ruled by a succession of authoritarian leaders with only limited opportunity for effective democratic involvement. Similarly, in Ghana the pre-colonial societies were organized in traditional tribal form with local chieftains exercising dominant control. In India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan (in South Asia) history is dominated by successive empires that rose, flourished and declined, with a hierarchical social form, with limited social organization outside the control of the state.

Given this pattern of authoritarianism, little room was left for a truly independent third sector in these societies. What charitable institutions emerged therefore had to fit within the prevailing structures of political and social power and avoid posing serious challenge to the dominant political authorities. Passivity and dependence rather than empowerment and autonomy thus became the early watchword of nonprofit sector activity. Authoritarian political control did not end in these countries with independence. Rather, it persisted. The upshot has been a persistent atmosphere of distrust between the nonprofit sector and the State in many of these countries. The State remains highly watchful of its power and too easily interprets the emergence of CSOs as a challenge to its very legitimacy (Salamon & Anheuer, 1997).

In Egypt, for example, this distrust is currently fueled by the antagonism between a strong secular State and Islamic fundamentalist groups that are using civil society institutions as a way to strengthen their links with the urban poor. In Brazil, State distrust is a residue of a recent authoritarian past and a social and economic policy that seeks to build up the private business sector and still views the “citizen sector” as an antagonist. In Thailand and India, a stronger tradition of partnership in emerging, though not without deep-seated reservations about the bonds that have formed between indigenous nonprofit institutions and their foreign supporters. In Pakistan, the new NGO Bill is a reflection of the continued effort by government to “keep a close eye” on the CSOs (ibid).

2. Religion

Religion has a multiple impact on the development of the nonprofit sector. In addition to the basic creed and the support it gives to acts of charity, crucial other facets of religion's impact need to be taken into account – its posture toward individualism, its commitment to institution building, and its relationship with State authorities. Indications are that while religions can share a positive orientation toward philanthropy, they may not generally be supportive of the emergence of CSOs (Salamon & Anheuer, 1997).

For example, the church in Brazil functioned historically to reinforce secular authority and a monolithic system of social and cultural control, thereby sharply reducing the opportunities for developing an independent nonprofit sector. In Pakistan, human right CSOs, particularly working on issues like women's rights, are constantly challenged and sometimes threatened by the dominant religious fundamentalist segments of society which continue to have influence over the state (ibid).

3. Colonialism

Another factor that helps to explain the generally retarded pattern of third sector development in the third world is the recent history of colonial control. Like religion, however, colonialism's impact on third sector development has been multi-dimensional. What is more, it has varied somewhat depending on the national traditions and values of the colonial power. Colonialism has tended to undermine the independence of local social classes that might have provided the rallying point for civil society institutions. This was particularly true of the Spanish and Portuguese colonial traditions, which created especially authoritarian political and social structures in their respective colonies (Salamon & Anheuer, 1997). In much of Latin America, colonialism created a highly inhospitable environment for the emergence of truly autonomous civil society institutions that might have challenged the monopolistic power of the colonial regime and its local allies.

4. Low Income and Constrained Social Development

Perhaps the most important impact of colonialism on some of the countries was the constraint it exercised on social development. One of the principal consequences of the colonial experience,

in fact, was to limit the space that indigenous middle class elements could occupy in the developing world. This was so because the colonial administration handled many governmental and commercial functions that might otherwise have been performed by the indigenous people, thereby restricting middle class professional opportunities. What middle class cadre emerged in these countries thus tended to be tightly bound to the colonial administrations and therefore lacked the independence characteristic of the urban commercial and professional middle class elements that emerged in Western Europe during the dawn of the industrial era (ibid).

This situation persisted because of the general poverty and lack of development in these countries. As growth had gathered momentum in at least some regions, however, this situation is changing. Indeed, the significant upsurge of nonprofit activity in countries like Brazil, Thailand and Egypt over the past two decades can be attributed in part to the emergence of a sizable new urban middle class as a result of recent economic growth.

5. Limited Resources

An important factor hindering the growth of the civil society sector is the scarcity of financial resources. Funding constraints limit the scale and functioning of CSOs, significantly impairing their ability to deliver and maintain services. In case of large NGOs, in particular, heavy reliance is frequently placed on funding from foreign donors. This is making CSOs more reflective of donor interests than those of their communities or designated target groups. Many CSOs have to review their missions or undertake work outside their mandate just to survive. The difficult economic conditions make local fundraising very difficult. Competition for scarce resources is also limiting opportunities for coalition-building, long-term institutional development and other aspects of local capacity building. Their performance in terms of poverty reach and popular participation is also compromised. In some instances they have neglected the landless, and other marginalized people, thereby failing to reach the poorest of the poor (UN-NADAF, 2001). Sometimes only certain regions are serviced by well-equipped CSOs, neglecting other areas more desperately in need.

6. Legal Treatment

A further factor impeding the development of the nonprofit sector in some developing countries has been the legal environment within which nonprofits must operate. Certainly in civil law

countries such as Brazil, Thailand, and Egypt, where no “basic” right to organize is automatically recognized in law, formal law can shape the environment for action rather fundamentally. Reflecting the generally authoritarian politics that have characterized these countries during much of their recent history, the legal structure for civil society activity has been quite restrictive. For example, the Religious Bodies Registration Act of 1981 in Ghana revoked the legal status of all religious CSOs and required them to reapply through a highly restrictive registration procedure. In Brazil, Law 91 of 1935, regulating the public utility status of CSOs, was used as a means of political control and favoritism. In Egypt, Law 32 of 1964 establishes de facto government control of large segments of the civil society sector and in Thailand, the Cremation Welfare Act of 1974 was passed by the military government to preempt feared infiltration by communists. The Act required all existing local cremation and related communal welfare societies to register with the central authorities in Bangkok and to submit to State supervision (Diamond, Linz, & Lipset, 1988).

In other cases, the basic legal provision affecting CSOs in India, Pakistan and Ghana were borrowed from those in force in late 19th and early 20th century England through a system of legal ordinances. The environment for CSOs in these countries therefore appears quite open. To get around these general legal provisions, however, governments have added various restrictions to limit their general thrust and make them more cumbersome. Thus, for example, tax laws and related legislation often establish significant obstacles to the operation of CSOs. What this makes clear is that establishing an enabling legal environment for civil society action is only a first step towards opening a way for a viable civil society sector. A variety of other obstacles can easily frustrate the intent of even the most supportive legal provisions (ibid).

7. The Development Paradigm

One other factor helping to explain the historically constrained pattern of civil society sector development in the third world is the changing fashion in development policy and development ideology. During the 1950s and 1960s, development thinking emphasized the importance of a State as the principal agent of modernizing reforms. As a consequence, considerable effort went into differentiating a sphere of State action outside the pre-modern structures of tribe or community, and into creating modern, secular administrative structures that could effectively operate in this sphere. This development framework included a sphere of business in addition to

that of government, but it downplayed, if not excluded, CSOs which were viewed as only marginal in the frame of affairs (Salamon & Anheuer, 1997).

The shift to “structural adjustment” in the 1980s did not change this fundamentally. To the contrary, the “structural adjustment” paradigm of development merely replaced government with the private business community as the mode of development. In the process, however, it reinforced an essentially two-sector model of society that left little room for a vibrant civil society sector. The lack of civil society growth is thus understandable given that it been historically neglected in the central policy debate.

In short, the development of the third sector seems to have been inhibited by a long history of authoritarianism; by colonial heritage and a history of limited economic growth that restricted the growth of an independent urban middle class; by religious traditions that placed less emphasis on “modularity” and the fostering of independent institutional structures; by legal structures that often placed impediments in the way of civil society formation; and by development policies that stressed the creation of a modernizing State and later the development of private enterprise rather the promotion of independent institutions outside the confines of the market and the State (Diamond, Linz, & Lipset, 1988).

2.10. Civil Society Organizations in Ethiopia

2.10.1. Historical Brief of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations

Somewhat modern civil associations began to emerge in Ethiopia during the 1930s as a factor of urbanization and economic development. A law meant to recognize and codify these groups was passed in 1960. Civil society entities in general, however, were slow to take root under the empire and then severely restricted during the Derg period (1974–91). During the last decade and a half of Emperor Haile Selassie’s reign,⁵ professional groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and National Bar Association formed, played somewhat credible roles, and enjoyed relative autonomy. That autonomy completely evaporated under Mengistu’s long reign of terror, however, and virtually all these organizations effectively became tools of the state or ceased operations entirely. Many of those remaining in existence lost credibility, professionalism, and, ultimately, much claim to legitimacy. NGOs themselves—both national and international—began to appear around 1960, when neither the various self-help groups found in all levels of

Ethiopian society nor the government were able to meet the growing demands of the population. The then current efforts of the emperor to “modernize” the national education system had resulted in a more widespread awareness that his government was failing to provide what people needed for advancement and development. NGOs began in a small way to help fill the perceived void (Clark, 2000, p. 11).

Ethiopia was a pre-modern empire with at least nominal control over a territory much larger than any other kingdom in Africa. As the country modernized in the mid-20th century, the imperial legacy was increasingly becoming a burden to more educated and urbanized groups in Ethiopia. Although the last emperor, Haile Selassie, embarked upon a cautious modernization of his country, his efforts could not keep pace with the social changes going on in society. Ethiopian society became increasingly polarized. The regime was threatened by an attempted coup already in 1960, but lasted until 1974 when a severe drought and ensuing famine became an international embarrassment to Ethiopia and both civil and military forces in opposition to the imperial government decided to take action to remove it (Clark, 2000).

While voluntary associations played an important role in the last few years of the imperial regime, the military government that replaced it - the Derg- was dead set against any autonomous political activity. Drawing eventually on a strict Marxist-Leninist interpretation of history, the new military rulers under Mengistu Haile Mariam's chairmanship centralized power to the state and created its own set of mass organizations to which people had to belong. For example, in the country side every male adult had to belong to a local peasant association. In the urban areas, the equivalence was the kebele, a quasi-civic entity used both for political mobilization and civil administration. Voluntarism was abandoned and civil society lost its meaning (Harbeson, 1988).

The three regime periods discussed briefly above form a convenient way of also dividing up the history of civil society in Ethiopia. They all produced very different outcomes, yet they shared much in common. The last couple of decades of imperial rule produced a number of associations that reflected the growing importance of professional and commercial interests in society. Students and lawyers were among the first to organize, but as international donor interest in agricultural development was incorporated into the Emperor's national development strategy, farmers' cooperatives and local development associations also became increasingly important. A good case in point is the Gurage People's Self-Help Development Organization. The important

thing about these years is that they were characterized by optimism. Associations grew in response to an accelerating dynamic in society (Clark, 2000).

With few exceptions like the Iddirs' and other types of local self-help associations, the years of Marxist-Leninist rule under Mengistu forced any voluntary activity outside the borders of the country. A good number of relief and development associations, connected to the political groups in exile, were established. They were all voluntary in the sense of relying on contributions from individual Ethiopians in exile, but they were quasi-political and so closely tied to the political agenda of specific groups in the diaspora that their autonomy was rather limited. Most were simply 'fronts' for the political organizations. The latter could not receive development aid directly from American and European donors because they were engaged in a military-political struggle to topple the regime in Addis Ababa. The best example is the Relief Society of Tigray, which was linked very closely to the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Another case in point is the Oromo Relief Association, the relief arm of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Rather than becoming involved in strengthening civil society, these associations tied their destiny to the political organizations to which they had been linked since the days in exile (Hyden & Mahlet, 2003).

The past few years have witnessed the growth of a third generation of associations that are cautiously addressing the country's development needs without necessarily challenging the political establishment. Rather than providing hand outs and emergency relief, these organizations are developmental organizations working to bring development in continuous and sustainable manner. The latter has demonstrated a strong commitment to national development, but it has preferred to retain control of the public agenda at the expense of other actors. Nonetheless, there has been a growing space for voluntary initiatives by Ethiopians, in some instances working together with international NGOs. The impetus for action has often been the economic difficulties that people face both in rural and urban areas as well as health problems, notably HIV/AIDS and malaria. Compared to the 1960s, the challenges are much greater today. Although there is some optimism, many of the initiatives come more out of despair than out of the optimism that characterized voluntary action some four decades ago (Hyden & Mahlet, 2003). The main features of each period are summarized below:

Table 2.1. the emergence of associational life in Ethiopia

	1950-74 (Haile Selassie)	1974-91 (Mengistu)	Post 1991 (EPRDF)
Main types of Organization	Professional, Academic, Farmers', Self-help	Relief and development associations formed in exile	Economic and social development associations
Organizational Climate	Optimistic	Militant	Cautious
Nature of organizational structure	Democratic and functioning	Autocratic and Disciplinary	Democratic and tentative

Source: (Giday, 2011)

2.11. Proclamation 621/2009 and its Elements

After the downfall of dergue regime, civil society organizations were administered by different ministries and offices. Since 1991, due to the right given by the charter of the transition government and the FDRE constitution, many Ethiopians organized societies and several foreign charities used the opportunity to carry out their activities (ECSA, 2015). Between the years 1991-1995, ministry of interior affairs had the responsibility to administer civil society organizations. From 1995-2009, they were established under the administration of ministry of justice. According to proclamation 4/1987 and 471/1998 ministry of justice had the responsibility and authority to register and monitor non-profit and religious organizations.

To overcome the problems of proclamation No. 4/1987 and 471/1998 the government conducted a study that covered a period from 1998-2009. Its result discovers that the previous proclamations cannot satisfy the growing need of civil society organizations. Consequently, new law coverage was established by declaring proclamation 621/2009.

Proclamation 621/2009 defines the word “society” as “an association of persons organized on non profit making and voluntary basis for the promotion of the rights and interests of its members and to undertake other similar lawful purposes as well as to coordinate with institutions of similar objectives”. Accordingly, two or more persons can form an association for non-profit making purposes and on a voluntary basis. Here it is important to look in to the word “person” as stated in the definition of the word “society”. Article 2(8) of the Charities and Societies Proclamation defines the word “person” as any physical or juridical person. Therefore, the law

clearly guarantees the rights of juridical persons such as CSOs to come together and form an association. In other words association by association is permitted by the proclamation.

A solid understanding of an advocacy role for CSOs has been slow to evolve in Ethiopia. Neither government officials nor the would-be advocates demonstrated much grasp of the concept in the initial post-1991 period, and the art of effective lobbying on public policy issues did not exist in the country. Several factors contributed to this, including the weakness of the news media and academic institutions, and the absolute dearth of public debate in the Derg years. Further, the polarization of the political process witnessed during the early 1990s did not encourage the emergence of public advocates. Such actors were seen as highly political and, in fact, partisan, if not absolute opponents of the government's legitimacy. The reality that some, particularly on human rights issues, were in fact quite partisan and shrill in their narrative of political events only served to further skew the perception (Clark, 2000).

A review of the first draft proclamation No. 621/2009 shows that CSOs were primarily classified in to two as "Ethiopian Charities or Ethiopian Societies" and "Foreign Charities or Societies" and no article is provided to define "Ethiopian Resident Charities or Societies". Accordingly, proclamation No. 621/2009 article 2(3) defines civil society organizations as;

"Ethiopian Charities or Ethiopian Societies" shall mean those charities and societies that are formed under the laws of Ethiopia and all of whose members are Ethiopians and are funded or controlled by Ethiopians. However, they may be deemed as Ethiopian charities or Ethiopian societies if they receive money from foreign not more than ten percent of their asset.

This definition created a critical question: what CSOs were asking was the issue of 'citizenship' based on the constitutional right to organize; they were asking "how it [CSO] could be treated as "foreign" because Ethiopian organizations solicit their project resources from abroad?" (Fantahun, 2010, p. 67). This question was raised after the first draft legislation is released and distributed to CSOs;

According to the above definition charities and societies established by Ethiopians under Ethiopian law are deemed to be "foreign" institutions solely for receiving more than 10% of their income from external sources (Fantahun, 2010, p. 74).

According to the CSOTFs, this provision:

- Denies Ethiopian nationality to most indigenous CSOs/NGOs that have been making significant contributions to the development and democratization processes in the country by utilizing funds mostly secured from external sources, and violates their constitutional right to organize;
- Doesn't recognize that the source of income of the institutions has no intrinsic link with citizens' constitutional right to organize:
- When read in conjunction with sub-Article 16(6), it forces most indigenous organizations to abandon their important role in development policy advocacy, promotion of human rights, the democratization process, conflict resolution, citizenship and social development, in short advocacy of policy and good governance, and since this is harmful to the democratization and development processes and contrary to the interest of beneficiaries;
- Reverses the direction of development of civil society in Ethiopia (from relief to social service, and from rights-based development to advocacy), and has the negative impact of restricting them to aid and service delivery;
- When read in conjunction with sub-Article 74(1)(e), denies registration and legal personality to most indigenous organizations in Ethiopia that receive over 10% of their income from external sources;
- Denies these local organizations, in accordance with sub-Article 118(3), the right of appeal to court;

2.12. Empirical Review

2.12.1. Role of Civil Society Organizations in Governance

(Ghaus-Pasha, 2004) has carried out a study that is related to this research. Their study was conducted on the role of civil society organizations in governance and CSOs as advocates of policy change. In the course of discussion, they highlight the opportunities, challenges and threats they face, illustrating, wherever possible with examples of good practices. Document review was undertaken. The finding of the study demonstrates that the civil society sector is instrumental in promoting local economic development, alleviating poverty, advocating policy change, contributing to good governance and campaigning for the Millennium Declaration. Their contribution, however, needs to be strengthened.

2.12.2. The role of NGOs and Non-State actors in Malaysia's foreign Policy Formulation

(Alatas, 2003) conducted a research on the area that has similarity with this paper. Their study was concerned about the role of Non-state actors on the foreign policy formulation. To analyze the influence of those actors the researcher performs several interviews with individuals from both the NGOs and government groups. The finding revealed that the interaction between NGOs and the government is consultative in its nature.

2.12.3. The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Poverty Reduction Process of Ethiopia

Giday, (2011) conducted a study that have similarity with this paper. The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of the different programs and projects planned and executed by both Pro Pride and Concern Ethiopia in the wellbeing of the beneficiaries in particular and the contribution they made to the poverty reduction efforts of the country. The study utilized both primary and secondary source of data. Simple random sampling is a technique applied to select the sample. The study result shows that the poverty reduction programs executed by both organizations have brought significant change in the poverty status of the program beneficiaries.

2.12.4. The Role of Civil Society in Development

Bahmani, (2016) conducted a study, which is titled as the role of civil society in development. The researcher used a secondary source of data. The finding shows that Dynamics of the civil society in countries which have civil society and legal support and let the countries and authorities take over the administration temporarily and in its way, laws and executive procedures and do anything out of interests of society or country. Timely response of the civil society includes parties and press-prevent from growing the corruption and improve the country's movement toward all-round development. If the development is not based on national interests or its trend jeopardize the national interests, independent civil society will prevent it by taking actions.

2.12.5. Civil Society and Democracy in Post-Authoritarian and Post-Totalitarian Regimes

Fao (2010) undertake a study to explore how differences in the quality of democratic governance may arise in post-authoritarian and post-totalitarian regimes. To achieve this objective the researcher analyzed the primary and secondary data by using descriptive statistics. The finding elaborates that the pattern of civic life found in many emerging post-totalitarian regimes like Indonesia, Guatemala, and Brazil, with high levels of civic mobilization but only low levels of institutionalization through political parties or elections – is not symptomatic of an underlying problem, as many contemporary transitologists have claimed, but is in fact consistent, both with a high quality of governance, and with the pattern of civic life found in many established democracies, including France, Italy, and the United States.

CHAPTER THREE

3. Methodology of the Study

Introduction

This chapter express about methodology of the study. It briefly and reasonably discussed the way different methods tools are situated. The concepts that are discussed over here comprises the research design, data collection techniques and tools, sampling design and technique, method of data analysis and presentation, reliability and validity measures, and ethical considerations.

3.1. Research Approach

This paper utilized a mixed approach to research. Mixed approach to research integrates the feature of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This type of design helps the researcher to incorporate multiple forms of data in the research. Quantitative approach helps to generalize the result from sample civil society organizations to civil societies that are considered as a population for this study. On the other hand, qualitative research helps to describe what is seen about the role of CSOs on public policy formulation and to know more about CSOs in Ethiopia, and used to understand the experience and perception of CSOs on the public policy.

3.2. Research Design

A research design is used to prescribe a way to use available resources to answer a question. The study adopted descriptive research design that were used primarily to discuss and interpret data gathered through interview, questionnaire and review of different documents. Descriptive research design is used when data collected describes persons, organizations, settings or phenomena. This design is appropriate because the data collected mainly involved descriptions of the different elements in the study. This descriptive research design enabled the research capture the data to provide in depth information.

3.3. Data Source and Instrument

This paper utilized both primary and secondary source of data. Data collection involves the collection of both primary and secondary data as source of information. The data were collected from both primary and secondary source of data. The data from primary source were collected

via interview and questionnaire, while the secondary data were collected through document review.

3.3.1. Questionnaire

Questionnaire is an ideal way of collecting data from primary sources. It is important to collect data from CSOs regarding their opinion on the public policy process of Ethiopia. Survey questionnaire necessitates collecting data to answer questions about the issues which were raised on the previous section. To achieve the research objectives of this study structured questionnaire was an ideal instrument in the data collection process.

3.3.2. Interview

The power to determine the activities and enrolments of civil society organizations is on the hand of Ethiopian charities and societies agency. To show the view of the agency this research carried out personal interview to collect data from the FDRE charities and societies agency (CSA). The interview was conducted with the staff member of public relation and communication directorate. Interview is helpful to conduct this paper by providing the following advantages: the language of the interview can be adopted based on the ability or educational level of the person interviewed and as such misinterpretations concerning questions can be avoided, the interviewer can collect supplementary information about the respondent's personal characteristics and environment which is often of great value in interpreting results, the interviewer may catch the informant off-guard and thus may secure the most spontaneous reactions, the interviewer can usually control which person(s) answer the questions and more information and that too in greater depth can be obtained. In the case of descriptive studies, researchers quite often use the technique of structured interview because of its being more economical, providing a safe basis for generalization and requiring relatively lesser skill on the part of the interviewer (**C.R. Kothari 2004**).

3.3.3. Document Review

Examination of documents is also an important way of collecting secondary data. In most cases, documents are used to provide additional data and to check on the findings deriving from other

sources of data. Using data from secondary sources is important to assist the validity and reliability of primary data.

3.4. Population of the Study

Population of the study is the societies that are established by Ethiopians. Because Ethiopian societies merely can participate in the public policy formulation process. According to the FDRE CSA (2017), the total number of population is 442. The list of all of civil society organizations are found at the agency office. Therefore, the researcher took the list of civil society organizations from the agency.

3.5. Sampling Design and Size

To get the representative sample size this paper will use a formula developed by Yemane (1967: 886). By using the formula below the researcher obtain the following sample size to conduct the study. It has a 95% confidence level and 8% precision.

Where, n is sample size $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$ N is

total population

e = level of precision

Therefore, it is easy to determine the sample size by replacing the alphabets to the relevant

number. $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$

$$n = \frac{442}{1 + 442(0.08)^2}$$

$n = 115$ CSOs

3.6. Sampling Technique

The researcher distributed the questionnaires to the representative of each agency. This paper used a systematic method of sampling. This technique is helpful because list of the population is long and researcher obtained list of population. Hence, the next step becomes conduct a random start and select every K^{th} value of the list.

Where, N = total population size $K^{th} = \frac{N}{n}$

n = Sample size

To calculate the K^{th} value of the population the researcher used $N=442$ which is the total population and $n=115$ (sample size). $K^{th} = 442/115$ then we get $3.84 \sim 4$. The next step becomes selecting the 4th value from the total population and selects the sample within 4 interval until the researcher select the total sample size.

3.7. Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

This paper applied a method of analysis which is suitable for mixed research. Both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis utilized based on the type of data acquired. The quantitative data were analyzed by entering the data collected in to SPSS. Tabulation method, frequency distribution and description of facts based on descriptive statistical analysis were performed to interpret the data. This tool is important because it provides the researcher with whether the data are grouped, treating values high or low, spread about or clustered around a central point. The researcher applied secondary method of analysis to analyze data which previously collected by another researcher, proclamations, Directives and other published materials of the Ethiopian charities and Societies Agency. Document review allows the researcher to explore areas of interest without having to go through the process of collecting data themselves in the field.

3.8. Ethical Considerations

It is compulsory to follow ethical measures for the research as guidelines. The researcher tried to establish good relationships with all the respondents because the selection of potential and appropriate people play important role for the reliability and validity of the data that was generated. The informants that contributed for this research first gave their informed consent to participate in the study. In addition, the questions were made simple and clear to avoid any misunderstanding and avoid ambiguity, as well as sensitivity to the pieces of information the informants would provide to the researcher.

3.9. Techniques of Verification

The validity of the questionnaire was tested by conducting pilot study. Validity of finding tried to be ensured by using variety of data collection approaches in combination i.e. the weakness of one approach is offset by the strength of other. Reliability of the data was tested by using Cronbach's Alpha method of reliability statistics.

Table; 3.1. The result from statistical test of reliability

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.726	42

In the Chrombach's Alpha test the data is reliable if the result is more than 0.70. As presented on the above table the reliability tests result of this study 0.726. Therefore, based on the result the researcher assures that the data is reliable.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Data Analysis, Interpretation and Presentation

4.1. Introduction

This part of the paper presented and analyzed the data collected to seek appropriate answer for the basic questions raised under chapter one of this study. Data have been collected from the representatives of civil society organizations & Ethiopian charities and societies agency. Thus, this section presents the results of the primary data collected via questionnaire and interview. The results are arranged in line with the research question, literatures review & logically constructed questionnaire. The results are presented in tables to show frequency counts, percentage & statistical descriptive such as mean & standard deviation for each question and followed by narrative explanations by supporting the explanation with interview results as well as necessary secondary data triangulation has been made to support the explanation.

4.2. Basics of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations

Article 56 of the proclamation permitted CSOs to have legal personality. Hence, societies shall acquire legal personality upon registration by the Agency. On the other hand, Article 56(2) proclaimed that membership in a Society shall not be transferred or passed to third parties. The organizational structure of the society shall be determined by its rules. The primary structure of the organization should include the general assembly, the necessary officers and an internal auditor.

The general assembly of the society being the supreme and final decision making organ shall:

“Enact and amend the rules of the society; appoint suspend or dismiss the executive committee of the society; appoint or dismiss the auditor of the society and decide on his remuneration based on its rules; decide on policy and strategy matters of the society; decide on all matters concerning the society which do not fall within the powers and functions of other organs of the society; decide on dissolution of the society; and other functions entrusted to it by the rules of the society.”

The following points are the rights and obligations of civil society organizations that are declared by the proclamation:

- Any Society shall be open to a new member that fulfills the requirements of the Society.
- Any Society shall be managed by persons elected through the full participation of members.
- Every member of any Society shall have equal and one vote.
- No Society may admit or dismiss members except as provided by its rules.
- The member of any Society whose membership is terminated shall have the right to be heard by the executive organ before a final decision is made.
- Where the Society has Federal character and nomenclature, its work place and composition of the members shall show the representation of at least five Regional States.
- Ethiopian mass-based organizations may actively participate in the process of strengthening democratization and election, particularly in the process of conducting educational seminars on current affairs, understanding the platforms of candidates, observing the electoral process and cooperating with electoral organs.
- The rules of any Society shall be subject to amendment by the vote of a majority of members.
- Any Society shall, upon its member's request, disclose documents that show its activities.

Achieving the financial stability required to consistently implementing quality projects and activities, and to serve as advocates for the interests of constituents, is the major challenge facing CSOs in Ethiopia. Generally speaking, there is no significant domestic support for the work of CSOs, and it is not realistic to assume that there will be in the near term. The viability and sustainability of the CSOs sector is consequently quite fragile because of the scarcity of resources and the ongoing struggle for operating funds (Clark, 2000, pp. 13-14). Most CSOs were created by voluntary individuals, and did not grow out of popular support.

They lack constituencies, and are viewed as “providers” while the communities where they work are the “recipients.” During the Dergue, farmers, women's, and youth associations, including cooperatives, were formed by imposition, and civil society consisted of *iddrs* (burial societies) and self-help traditional and community-based associations. Under the current government, there is a re-examination of CSOs in general, be they professional, business, ethnic, religious, labor federations, or sectorally-based (health, agriculture, education, etc.). They are seen as “cash cows,” donor focused, and not constituency based. Government considers them “flies in the

ointment.” The sector is young and weak compared to other African countries such as Kenya and South Africa. They have not learned from the international organizations about having strong constituencies in their own countries (Spring, 2004). Public perceptions of CSOs are often based on noting their affluence—seeing directors and employees having good salaries and driving around in nice cars (Horn-Consult, 2003). More critical are donors, government, and international organizations who make distinctions between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ CSOs.

4.3. Rationale of Establishing Societies

There are different reasons for the establishment of civil society organizations. Based on their importance and purpose to the society countries establish civil society organizations. The rationale for civil society organizations is different from country to country. Directive No. 1/2002 stated the objective of establishing civil society organizations.

1. To coordinate the activities of member Charities and Societies
2. By keeping Art 1 of the direction and their vision, they run the following activities:
 - A. Assisting members for the achievement of common goals
 - B. Undertaking idea, information and experience sharing opportunities
 - C. Building the capacity of members
 - D. Carrying activities that help to improve ethics and career of the members
 - E. To achieve their objective member societies overcome problems they face, create conducive environment and communicate with the concerned bodies.
3. An individual society or charity cannot directly participate on any charity activities, except activities that stated on 1 and 2.

The first article of the direction tells that the objective of establishing civil society organizations should be in line with the activities. This shows as the objectives of member societies are similar to each other. It makes their activity and role similar across the society. On the other hand Art 2 includes around five points regarding the rationale towards establishing societies. Assisting members to achieve their common goal will be their prioritized activity. Making their goal real by working with other member societies. It also enhances the level of efficiency and help to utilize comparative advantage among the societies. The next activity will be forming ways to transfer idea, information and experience among societies. Access to information and new idea is

different from one society to the other. Therefore, the primary task of societies should be looking for other societies who do have the information necessary to the established society. The third one is upgrading the capacity of members. Societies must always be alerted towards providing mechanisms to be able to capable of implementing their objectives. The fourth point discusses as societies engage on activities to improve their ethics and career of the members. As the name indicates civil society organizations should work to shape the discipline and vocation of their members.

4.4. Requirements for Renewal of Civil Society Organizations in Ethiopia

The requirements are stated under proclamation No.621/2001 Article 76 and declaration No. 168/2001 Article 14. These are

1. The license will be renewed within two months after the deadline indicated on the certificate
2. The renewal request presented to the agency must have signature of head of the society and confirmation of inclusiveness of the necessary documents and information.
3. There must be a complete document of performance evaluation and audit report of the last three years.
4. When it is assured that the society works in line with the proclamation, directions and regulations, orders given by the agency and the organization's regulation.
5. When the board or chief executive officer of the agency approved activity and budget plan of the society in accordance with directive No. 8 Article 20.
6. Project agreement of the society with the concerned government body.
7. Copy of tax payers receipt from revenue and customs office
8. When they renew they pay service charge (Birr400)
9. Letter of request; if the organization is renewing for the second and more time it is necessary to present the original and copy of the letter written to different organizations to announce the establishment of the society.

4.5. Presentation, Interpretation and Analysis of Survey Result

4.5.1. Response Rate

Table 4.1. Response rate

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Returned	107	93
Not returned	8	7
Total	115	100

The above table shows the response rate of the questionnaires distributed to Ethiopian society organizations. Out of 115 questionnaires that are distributed to the Ethiopian civil society organizations, 107 (93%) were collected and 8 (7%) were not returned because of different circumstances. Therefore, the researcher get this rate enough to analyze the data collected.

4.5.2. Background Information

Table 4.2:- Background Information

Educational Background					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	PhD	22	20.6	20.6	20.6
	MA/MSc	64	59.8	59.8	80.4
	BA/BSc	8	7.5	7.5	87.9
	Diploma	2	1.9	1.9	89.7
	Other	11	10.3	10.3	100.0
	Total	107	100.0	100.0	
What is your position in this organization?					
No				Frequency	Percent
1	General Manager			98	91.6
2	Deputy Manager			5	4.7
3	Other middle level manager			1	.9
4	Other Staff			3	2.8
	Total			107	100.0
Does your organization have an independent Office/committee that deals about public policy?					
		Frequency		Percent	
Yes		8		7.5	
No		99		92.5	
Total		107		100.0	
Do you have Background knowledge of public policy formulation?					
		Frequency		Percent	
Yes		107		100	
No		0		0	
Total		107		100	
How do you evaluate your understanding of the concept of Public Policy formulation?					
		Frequency		Percent	
Very good		103		96.3	
Good		4		3.7	
Total		107		100.0	

Source: Own Survey, March 2018

Educational level of the respondents determines their level of understanding in different perspectives. It also have a direct impact on their response. When we see the educational background of the sample respondents, majority of respondents from the selected CSOs are MA/MSc holders. As indicted in the graph above, from the total of sample Ethiopian society organizations 20.6% are PhD holders, 59.8% are MA/MSc holders, 7.5% are BA/BSc, 1.9% are Diploma and 10.3% are other than the given choices on the questionnaire.

It is obvious that the head of organizations have more knowledge and information regarding the activities of the organization. Most importantly they are familiar with the external activities of the organizations. Their response is also important for the validity and quality of the data collected. Data regarding positions of the sample respondents were also collected as it has an implication on the research objective. The table shows majority of the questionnaires distributed were answered by the general managers of each selected organization. As shown on the table, 91.6% of the respondents are general managers, 4.7% are deputy managers, 0.9% is other middle level manager and 2.8% of them are other staff members. Therefore, the collected data is expected to be accurate, as it was filled by more responsible position holders in the organization.

As per table 4.2, participants were asked if they have public policy centered office or committee in their organization. Having an office/committee shows their interest and commitment to the public policy formulation process. From the total respondents 7.5% of them have an office/committee and 92.5% of the total respondents do not have office/committee. Consequently, the result shows the majority of the respondents do not have an office/committee that independently manages their participation on the public policy formulation process.

According to the 2016 semi annually published magazine of FDRE Charities and Societies Agency, the majority of Ethiopian civil society organizations have no office; they even run their activities in the members' home.

Having know-how regarding public policy determines their involvement and influence on the public policy formulation process but it does not mean as there are no obstacles. According to table 4.1, all of the respondents have background knowledge of public policy formulation. 107(100%) of the respondents have said yes. As a result, civil society organizations have knowledge and awareness of the public policy formulation process.

The above table illustrates the respondent's level of understanding of public policy formulation. The table revealed, that 103(96.3%) of the respondents believe as they have a very good understanding of the public policy making process and 4(3.7%) of them have a good understanding of the public policy formulation. Therefore, all civil society organizations, which have been considered under this study, have very good understanding of the concept of public policy formulation.

4.5.3. The involvement of Ethiopian CSOs on the public policy formulation process

4.5.3.1. Participation of CSOs on the Public Policy Formulation Process

Table; 4.3. Did your organization participate in the public policy formulation process?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Yes	70	65.4
No	37	34.6
Total	107	100.0

Source; own survey, March, 2018

This table presents a data that indicates the participation of CSOs on the public policy formulation process. According to the data shown in table 4.3, the majority of respondent civil society organizations are participants of the public policy formulation process. 65.4% of the respondent civil society organizations are direct participants in the public policy formulation process whereas, 34.6% of the respondent organizations are not direct participants on the public policy formulation process.

4.5.3.2. Degree of Participation of CSOs on the public policy formulation process

Table 4.4:- How do you scale the degree of participation of your organization on the public policy formulation process

	Frequency	Percent
Great	8	7.5
Moderate	42	39.3
Little	20	18.7
Total	70	65.4
Missing System	37	34.6
Total	107	100.0

Source; own survey, March, 2018

The respondents are requested to respond their degree of participation in the public policy formulation process. 8(7.5%) great, 42(39.3%) moderate, 20(18.7%) little and 37(34.6%) of the respondents cannot give response regarding this item because they are not participating on the public policy formulation process. Majority of the respondents rated their participation as little. Therefore, as we have assured on the table there is a low degree of participation of civil society organizations.

4.5.3.3. Interest of CSOs to Participate on the Public Policy Formulation Process

Table 4.5:- How do you rate the interest of your institution to participate on the public policy formulation process?

	Frequency	Percent
Very high	44	41.1
High	44	41.1
Moderate	9	8.4
Low	8	7.5
Very low	2	1.9
Total	107	100.0

Source; own survey, March, 2018

The above table provides information about the interest of civil society organizations to participate in the public policy making process. 44(41.1%) very high, 44(41.1%) high, 9(8.4%) moderate, 8(7.5%) low and 2(1.9%) very low. The majority of the respondents have an interest to participate even if their degree of participation is low.

4.5.3.4. Frequency of participation of CSOs on the public policy formulation process

Table 4.6:- How do you rate the frequency of Participation of your organization on the public policy formulation process?

	Frequency	Percent
Usually	10	9.3
Often	20	18.7
Sometimes	38	35.5
Never	39	36.4
Total	107	100.0

Source; own survey, March, 2018

As indicated in table 4.6, the respondents gave their opinion regarding the regularity of their participation in the public policy formulation process. The study finding illustrated in the above table indicate that in the Likert Scale ranging between 1-5 in which 1 implies “Always” and 5 implies “Never”, the average value of the survey result is Sometimes 38(35.5%), while the result from the rest of the respondents show that Usually 10(9.3%), Often 20(18.7%) and Never 39(36.4%). This shows that the answer of the majority of the respondents is between sometimes and rarely. Therefore, Ethiopian societies where the study conducted are not active participants on the public policy formulation process. The societies that said Never will not be considered in some part of the questionnaire.

4.5.3.5. Achievement of CSOs in the public policy formulation process

Table 4.7:- How do you see your organization achievement in the public policy formulation process?

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Achievement of CSOs on the public policy formulation process	70	2	4	3.07	0.767

Source; own survey, March, 2018

This part shows the previous performance of Ethiopian civil society organizations in the public policy formulation process. As the survey result shows, achievement of civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process was asked. The response indicates that on average (M=3.07, SD=0.767), it means less than average respondents believe that they have less achievement on the public policy formulation process.

On the other hand, a magazine published by the FDRE charities and societies agency describes that civil society organizations is not working as of their expectation. Those organizations are not serving as a bridge between the government and community (ECSA, 2016).

4.5.3.6. Contribution of the Government and Focus of CSOs

The State has various instruments it can use, for good or ill, to influence the health of the CSO sector (Brown, 1990). According to the author cited in above to enhance the sector government policy instrument should deal about: encouraging public debate and consultation, and the right to

organize interest groups; Involving CSOs in the policy-making process; and direct support including grants and contracting and research benefitting the CSOs.

According to John (2009), for individual CSOs the most favorable policy setting is when legal restrictions are minimized, when they have complete freedom to receive funds from whomsoever they choose, to speak out as they wish and to associate freely with whoever they select. In such a setting, the CSO sector is likely to grow most rapidly.

Table 4.8:- How do you see the effort made by the government and the focus of your organization towards public policy formulation process?

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Effort made by the government to improve the participation of CSOs	107	1	5	3.76	.920
The focus of CSOs towards public policy making process	70	2	5	2.96	0.875

Source; own survey, March, 2018

As revealed on the above table the respondents gave their believe regarding the contribution of government to take the best from the participation of civil society organizations. The response has an average value of $M=3.76$ and a standard deviation of $SD=0.920$. The average result lies between neutral and disagree. The majority of the society organizations assured that the government is not working to enhance the participation of civil society organizations. While as, the data from interviewee illustrated that the government is trying to do a lot to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations.

Additionally, Vol. 1 No. 2, 2016 of the FDRE ECSA magazine portrays that enhancing the participation of civil society organizations to the public policy is the responsibility of the government. For instance, justifiable distribution of social accountability fund is one of the mechanisms to strengthen the societies. Because, societies are a key in the democratic system building by protecting rights and benefits of their members

Furthermore, respondents focus towards public policy formulation process has been stated in the above table. The mean value of the survey is $M=2.96$, $SD=0.875$, the average response of respondents lies in moderate. This tells us that civil society organizations do not give much attention to the formulation of public policy. Although, the limiting laws and policies hamper the participation of civil society organizations, they should always struggle to change the government's mind.

4.5.3.7. Political Situation

Table 4.9:- How do you see the political Situation of Ethiopia towards CSOs working on the public policy?

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The political environment of Ethiopia towards CSOs working on the public policy	107	1	3	2.20	.665
N (listwise)	107				

Source; own survey, March, 2018

The survey result indicated in the above table shows the political environment of Ethiopia towards CSOs to work on the public policy area. The average result of the survey data is $M=2.20$ with a $SD=0.665$. The result indicated that the political situation of Ethiopia is not encouraging the participation of civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process. On the other hand, an interview was conducted with representative of charity and societies agency. The agency official tells that the political situation is free and participatory.

4.5.4. The interaction of CSOs with State

A healthy relationship is only conceivable when both parties share common objectives (John, 2009). If the government's commitment to make a participatory and inclusive public policy making process weak, CSOs argue against the policies and plays a weak role on the policies formulation process. Likewise, repressive governments will be mistrustful of CSOs which represent their members. In such situations, CSOS will probably prefer to chart their own course and this creates disintegrated activity on the work of both parties.

Where the government has a positive social, political and economic agenda and where CSOs are effective there is the potential for a strong, collaborative relationship. As Tandon (1991) clarifies,

this does not mean the sub-contracting of CSOs, but a genuine partnership between CSOs and the government to work on a problem facing the country or a region based on mutual respect, acceptance of autonomy, independence, and pluralism of CSOs opinions and positions. But the mutual distrust and deep rooted jealousy (John, 2009) makes the government to fear that CSOs erode their political power and even threaten national security.

Table 4.10:- Respondents answer on the interaction of state to society

Is there a positive interaction between your organization and the government?		
	Frequency	Frequency
Yes	31	29.0
No	76	71.0
Total	107	100.0
Does your organization challenge the government when formulating wrong policies?		
Yes	24	22.4
No	46	43.0
Total	70	65.4
Missing System	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

The above table illustrates the interaction of state to CSO in Ethiopia. The respondents gave their answer and it has an average result of $M=1.71$ and $SD=0,456$. From the result it is easy to understand that the interaction between CSO and government is not positive.

Additionally, the table also illustrates if Ethiopian society organizations challenged the government when doing wrong policies. 24(22.4%) of the civil society organizations that are considered in this study have influenced the government to change the wrong policies formulated while 46(43%) of the respondent civil society organizations have no previous experience of challenging the government when doing wrong policies. Therefore, the result indicates that civil society organizations are not in a position to challenge government policies.

With this respect, (Alatas, 2003, p. 14) researched the role of Malaysian civil society organizations on the formulation of foreign policy. The impact such organizations may have on Malaysian political life is minimal. Very often, these groups are not able to sustain pertinent

issues that could politically transform society. This could be attributed to the narrowing of the lines of communication between the State and these groups.

4.5.5. The Contribution of Ethiopian Society Organizations

Traditional CSO activity has concentrated on the "supply side": delivering services, providing development programs, or assisting official bodies to increase the spread of their own programs. Much of the literature and pioneering work of operational CSOs now concentrates on what could be called the "demand side": helping communities articulate their concerns and preferences, maneuvering into a negotiating position with official bodies in order to amplify that "voice," and mixing technical operational skills with "information age" communication, advocacy and networking skills both to give power to and to enhance the existing power of poor people and influencing the public policy formulation process. The literature which describes this evolution (Tandon 1992, Clark 1991, Hulme and Edwards 1992) talks of CSOs become considered as an important agents of the society. The pillars of the latter greater participation in political decision making, transparency, accountability, freedom of expression, etc. all have their counterparts at the local level in the grassroots mobilization efforts of CSOs.

Table 4.11:- Informing members regarding the public policy formulation process

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	13	12.1
Agree	30	28
Moderate	18	16.8
Disagree	4	3.7
Strongly disagree	5	4.7
Total	70	65.4
Missing System	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

The above table 4.11 indicates that the respondents' response regarding their role of informing and mobilizing citizens. 13 respondents (12.1%) of the respondents answered as they strongly agree, 30(28%) agree, 18(16.8%) moderate, 4(3.7%) disagree and 5(4.7%) strongly disagree. Therefore, the majority of the respondents agreed as informing and mobilizing citizens is their major role in the public policy formulation process.

Table 4.12:- CSOs in Ethiopia search, examine and justify the appropriateness of competing policy options

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	13	12.1
Neutral	17	15.9
Disagree	23	21.5
Strongly disagree	17	15.9
Total	70	65.4
Missing system	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

Civil society organizations can serve as an instrument to provide policy options to the government. The respondents perception if they search, examine and justify the appropriateness of competing policy options. Table 4.12 illustrates the survey result: 13(12.1%) agree, 17(15.9%) neutral, 23(21.5%) disagree and 17(15.9%) strongly disagree. The majority of the respondents reflected that they disagree on this item and they assured as they did not gave much emphasis to this role of civil society organizations.

Similarly the semi annually published magazine of FDRE ECSA expresses that societies, especially professional societies that have a knowledge and skill of policy, should develop their self by providing idea and input to policies and strategies via conducting multi-purpose and problem solving researches. It is difficult to say that societies do those things (ECSA, 2016).

Table 4.13 Help the government to develop active state policies

	Frequency	Percent
Agree	1	.9
Neutral	17	15.9
Disagree	16	15.0
Strongly disagree	36	33.6
Total	70	65.4
Missing system	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

According to the results from the above table 4.13, the majority of the respondents disagreed that they do not actively participate on developing active state policies. As illustrated on the table the result is 1(0.9%) agree, 17(15.9%) neutral, 16(15%) disagree and 36(33.6%) of the total population disagreed.

Table 4.14:- Creating favorable institutional structure for a better policy formulation

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	4	3.7
Agree	13	12.1
Neutral	28	26.2
Disagree	16	15.0
Strongly disagree	9	8.4
Total	70	65.4
Missing system	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

Civil society organizations can design a comprehensive and better institutional structure and bring it to the government to make the policy making process effective. As stated on table 4.14, the greater parts of sampled civil society organizations do not have favorable institutional structure to contribute for a better policy formulation. The table indicates that 4(3.7%) strongly agree as they played their role of public policy formulation by creating favorable institutional structure, 13(12.1%) agree, 28(26.2%) neutral, 16(15%) disagree and 9(8.4%) strongly disagree. Civil society organizations that are considered under this study do not shape their institutional structure on the way that helps them to participate on the public policy formulation process.

The data gained through interview assures that even most of registered civil society organizations have no office. They registered their home as an office of organization and they are not organized. Therefore, creating favorable structure needs an office that is organized and filled by qualified and competent personnel.

Table 4.15:- Provision of training by CSOs

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	17	15.9
Agree	2	1.9
Neutral	18	16.8
Disagree	17	15.9
Strongly disagree	16	15.0
Total	70	65.4
Missing system	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

In some cases civil society organizations engaged in the provision of training (to government officials), regarding public policy formulation process. The above table illustrated if they provide training to the public policy formulating bodies. The answer on the above table shows 17(15.9%) strongly agree, 2(1.9) agree, 18(16.8%) neutral, 17(15.9%) disagree and 16(15%) strongly disagree as they do not provide any training to the concerned bodies. Therefore, the result indicates that most of civil society organizations are not engaged on the provision of training to the public policy formulators.

The interview with the representatives of the agency illustrates that most of the time training is provided by professional societies. Mass based and other societies are not enrolled in the provision of training. So that, provision of training is not the major role that is carried out by civil society organizations.

Table 4.16:- Reflect the idea of their members to be considered in the public policy formulation process

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	26	24.3
Agree	30	28.0
Neutral	14	13.1
Total	70	65.4
Missing system	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

It is clear that civil society organizations are representing some part of the community. Eventually, they present the interest of their members to the policy making process. According to

the above table respondents were asked to scale out their role to reflect the problem of their members. From the total samples 26(24.3%) strongly agree, 30(28%) agree and 14(13.1%) neutral. Consequently, by considering the above result it is easy to understand that civil society organizations reflect the insight of their members.

The data collected via interview reflects that the basic intention of establishing Ethiopian civil society organizations is to protect the right of their members and representing them to in the public policy making process.

Table 4.17:- Minimize policy making delay

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	6	5.6
Agree	26	24.3
Neutral	24	22.4
Disagree	12	11.2
Strongly disagree	2	1.9
Total	70	65.4
Missing system	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

Participants were asked if their participation minimize the policy making delay. Significant number of respondents believes as their participation minimizes the delay that happened in the policy formulation process. 6(5.6%) strongly agree, 26(24.3%) agree, 24(22.4%) neutral (Those who are neutral their position is not clear and can have positive or negative explanation altogether), 12(11.2%) disagree and 2(1.9%) strongly disagreed are the respondents who do not think that their participation minimizes time delay. The interviewee illustrates as the nature of participation of civil society organizations determines the time taken in the process of public policy making. If they are actively participated on the process the time delay will be minimized unless their participation may not affect the time required. It also minimizes the resources that are wasted at the delay.

Table 4.18:- Minimize the human resource gap in the public policy formulation process

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	23	21.5
Agree	31	29.0
Neutral	14	13.1
Disagree	2	1.9
Total	70	65.4
Missing	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

From the above table that summarized the opinion of respondents, who were approached, about the role of civil society organizations to minimize the human resource problem. Hence, significant number of respondents was positive regarding their role of resolving the human resource problem in the public policy formulation process. 23(21.5%) strongly agree, 31(29%) agreed that their participation fills the human resource that are needed to formulate public policy, 14(13.1%) neutral and 2(1.9%) disagree. This shows that the participation of civil society organizations bridge the human resource gap in the public policy formulation process.

Table 4.19:- Empower the voice of disadvantaged

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	34	31.8
Agree	28	26.2
Neutral	8	7.5
Total	70	65.4
Missing	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

In this section the respondents were requested to scale out their role of empowering the voice of the disadvantaged. According to table 4.19, from the total sample 34(31.8%) strongly agree, 28(26.2%) agree and 8(7.5%) in between agree and disagree. This shows that the majority of the respondents strongly believe that empowering the voice of the disadvantaged is one of their roles in the public policy formulation process. The data from interview illustrates that the main objective of establishing civil society organizations is to speak on behalf the disadvantaged and their members. Most civil society organizations are belong to the disadvantaged members of community (John, 2009). Similarly, a research conducted by (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004), described that

the CSOs eventually got together as Zimbabwe Federation of disabled (ZIFOD) with one common voice. The coalition increased their power to persuade the government by combining their skills, labor and resources. Moreover, this created the common understanding of the policy goals and facilitates dialogue with the government. Lobbying was done with government officials, policy makers at formal and informal gatherings so that when the bill was presented to the parliament, every member had been sensitized and informed about the needs of the disabled and hence most of them supported it.

Table 4.20:- Strengthen government accountability

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	23	21.5
Agree	24	22.4
Neutral	21	19.6
Disagree	2	1.9
Total	70	65.4
Missing	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

The participation of different policy stakeholders in the formulation process makes the government accountable. The above table point out survey result of the question “strengthening government accountability role of civil society organizations”. 23(21.5%) strongly agree, 24(22.4%) agree on their role of strengthening government accountability, 21(19.6%) neutral, their role is situational, 2(1.9%) disagree. So that, more than half of the respondents recognized that strengthening government accountability is one of the major roles they have played in the public policy formulation process. In this regard, (Alatas, 2003, p. 14) collected a survey data. His study identifies that CSOs help check abuses of power and manipulation. As components of civil society, CSOs serve as a reservoir of political, economic, cultural and moral resources to check the power of the State.

Table 4.21:- Enhance transparency in the policy making process

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	38	35.5
Agree	23	21.5
Neutral	7	6.5
Disagree	2	1.9
Total	70	65.4
Missing	37	34.6

Source; own survey, March, 2018

In the above table 4.21 the question if civil society organizations make the public policy making process transparent. 38(35.5%) strongly agree, who strongly believes that their participation makes the public policy making process more transparent, 23(21.5%) agree, 7(6.5%) neutral and 2(1.9%) disagree. The majority of the respondents believes that their participation make the public policy formulation process more transparent. According to the interviewee, civil society organizations tell the result of the formulation process to their member societies. This creates some expectation on the mind of the members. It can be considered as the background to make government accountable. Consequently, the data shows that civil society organizations have take part in making the public policy formulation process transparent.

Table 4.22:- Strengthen political activism

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	24	22.4
Agree	17	15.9
Neutral	22	20.6
Disagree	7	6.5
Total	70	65.4
Missing	37	35.4

Source; own survey, March, 2018

According to table 4.22, respondents reflected their attitude towards the role of strengthening political activism. 24(22.4%) strongly agree, who believes that strengthening political activism, 17(15.9%) agree, 22(20.6%) and 7(6.5%) neutral. As a result, most of civil society organizations have an experience of taking an active part in events, in a social and political context. The data collected via interview indicates that the main objective of establishing Ethiopian society organizations should be reflecting rights of the societies in the public policy formulation process.

4.5.6. Challenges of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations

4.5.6.1. Internal Challenges

Table 4.23:- Internal Challenges of Civil Society Organizations

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Lack of interest of your organization	107	2	5	4.24	1.026
Lack of capacity of your organization	107	1	5	2.58	1.206
Poor Institutional arrangement	107	1	4	2.11	.894
Less institutional practice of public policy	107	1	5	1.89	.894
N (listwise)	107				

Source: Own Survey, March, 2018

Besides, table 4.23, illustrated their interest as a challenge to participate on the public policy formulation process. To this end, the study finding indicate that on average ($M=4.24$, $SD=1.026$), respondents are disagreed that their interest cannot affect their role on the public policy formulation process. Consequently, it becomes clear that civil society organizations in Ethiopia have an interest to participate on the public policy process.

Moreover, the respondents are requested to answer if their capacity does affect their participation. The result from this item shows as the average result is $M=2.58$, $SD=1.206$. The average result comes on the midpoint of Neutral and Agree. This indicates that the majority of the respondents believe as their capacity reasonably affects their participation on the public policy formulation process. Therefore, majority of the organizations are not capable enough to participate on the public policy formulation process.

The respondents asked if poor institutional arrangement affect their contribution to the public policy formulation process. According to table 4.23, their response regarding this item indicate that the average $M=2.11$, $SD=0.894$. The average respondents “Agree” that poor institutional arrangement affects their activity on the public policy formulation process.

The other one that is considered as a challenge is less institutional practice of public policy. The respondents are asked to rate their perception if the poor institutional practice is among the challenge or not. Table 4.23 shows that the average result is $M=1.89$, $SD=0.894$, the result

confirms that the answer of majority respondents are in close proximity to alternative “Good”. Therefore, the civil society organizations are affected by this problem.

4.5.6.2. External Challenge

Table 4.24:- External Challenges of Civil Society Organizations

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The limiting policies and regulations of government	107	1	4	1.50	.705
Government interference	107	1	4	1.53	.731
Lack of pressure from the society	107	1	5	2.41	.921
Lack of trust from the society	107	1	5	2.19	.953
Corruption	107	1	5	2.21	1.035
Weakness of academic institutions	107	1	3	1.64	.678
Weak mass media arrangement	107	1	3	1.67	.641
The dearth of public debate	107	1	5	1.67	.762
Willingness of the government to allow the participation CSOs on the public policy formulation process	107	1	3	1.64	.678
Lack of openness of the public policy making process	107	1	3	1.54	.619
N (listwise)	107				

Source: Own Survey, March 2018

The above table demonstrates the different challenges faced by civil society organizations. By any means the above challenges contribute to the underperformance of civil society organizations in the public policy formulation process. The first item concerned with the respondents thinking regarding the limiting policies of the government. In this case the minimum value is “1” and the maximum value is “4”. The value 1 represents “Strongly Agree” whereas value 4 means “Disagree”. According to 4.24, the average value for item one is M=1.50. It indicates the responses of the majority lies between agree and strongly agree which means the majority of the respondents believe as there is a limiting policy and it affects their participation on the public policy formulation process.

Societies loudly speaks that the government law is the most challenging obstacle. For example, the 10/90 policy is among the obstacles that limits the income from foreign sources to 10% of

total income (ECSA, 2017). Society organizations may not need more money capital like charity organizations, because their doings give intense emphasis to protect the rights and benefits of citizens. They can achieve their plan by generating 10% from foreign source and 90% from internal source. Societies can protect members' right by making their source from within the boundary of the country. For this reason, the 10/90 policy cannot be raised as a reason for their failure. The process of this policy considered different sources of income, for instance they can participate on an income generating activities which only belongs to their vision. As long as they do have those sources of income it is not necessary to be in need of external aid. The consistency of societies will be determined by their ability to strengthen their capability (ibid).

According to the data collected regarding the effect of government interference on their participation the majority of the responses lies between agree and strongly agree. In the above Table 4.24 shows, as the average response regarding the second item is $M=1.53$ with a $SD=.731$. So that, the majority of the respondents strongly agree as the government interference have an effect to cooperate on the public policy process.

Additionally, lack of pressure from the society is one of the items in the above table. According to the table, the average value ($M=2.41$, $SD=0.921$) of the respondents indicate that they are agreed up as lack of pressure from the society affects their participation. Accordingly, lack of pressure from the society is considered as among the obstacles to their participation. As well, lack of trust of the society is another item that is considered in the above table. The table shows that the response of respondents rests up on alternative "Agree". Their average response is $M=2.19$ and $SD=0.953$. As a result, the majority of the respondents believe as lack of trust by the society can have an effect on their performance.

Furthermore, corruption is posed as question to the respondents and it is included on the above table. The table illustrates that the average response is $M=2.21$, $SD=1.035$. This indicates that the majority of the response is between "Agree" and "Neutral". This implies that corruption is one of the problems that affect public policy related activities of civil society organizations.

Likewise, the weakness of academic institution is the other item in this table. The survey result indicates that on average ($M=1.64$, $SD=0.678$), respondents are categorized between "Strongly Agree" and "Agree". This mean the weakness of academic institutions both directly and

indirectly affects the work of civil society organizations. When the academic institutions are weak it is going to be difficult to get well qualified employees. In this regard, the data collected via interview with the agency representative exemplify that academic institutions are suffered by their bureaucratic task. In addition, weak mass media arrangement is also the other item of the table. The response of average respondents is $M=1.67$, $SD=0.641$. This tells us that weakness of mass media affects work of civil society organizations. According to the data from interview, civil society organizations presents their insight and idea through mass media, but mass media arrangement do not consider such things and they do not prepare a program that goes with the work of civil society organizations.

Similarly, Clark, (2000) identified the weakness of the news media and academic institutions are the major contributors to the weakness of civil society organizations. Additionally, a study conducted by (Ali, 2015) confirmed that in a developing countries mass media enterprises are operating in circumstances of varying degrees of repressive environment, political turmoil and other challenges related to their profession, knowledge gap and experience in their field. Operating in such circumstances, may hold back them from promoting social cohesion, disseminating and transmitting the voice of the voiceless in the public faces in a sense of helping the needy people.

Besides, the result from the question regarding the effect of absence of public debate is on average ($M=1.67$ $SD=0.762$). The result lies between “Strongly Agree” and “Agree”. These shows that the majority of the respondents believe as the absence of public debate affect their work. Likewise, Clark, (2000) described that the absolute dearth of public debate in the Derg years also triggered the growth of civil society organizations. In addition, the respondents are asked to respond on the willingness of the government to allow the participation CSOs on the public policy formulation process, their average response is $M=1.64$, $SD=0.678$. The other item is lack of openness of the public policy making process. The above table indicates that the average response of respondents is $M=1.54$, $SD=0.619$. The result comes at the midpoint between “Strongly Agree” and “Agree”. According to the interviewee, the public policy making process lacks openness. Civil society organizations are not well informed about the policy and in some cases they may not participate in the process because of lack of information.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Summary of Major Finding, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Major Finding

Basic Features of Ethiopian Societies

Before 1991 burial societies and self-help traditional associations were considered as civil society organizations. The rationale to establish civil society organizations is similar from organization to organization. Membership in a society cannot be transferred to third party. Societies can arrange their organization by using their own rule. The final decision making body of civil society organizations is the general assembly that they have assigned at the time of establishment. Civil society organizations are governed by the FDRE ECSA proclamation No. 621/2009. The proclamation declares the rights and obligations of the society and other activities. Ethiopian society organizations are renewed in every two years.

Involvement of Civil Society Organizations on the Public Policy Formulation process

Some civil society organizations, where this study was held, have an experience of participation on the public policy formulation process. But they have low involvement on the public policy formulation process. Regularity of participation of the civil society organizations is not sufficient. Although, they have an interest to participate, they participate once in a blue moon. Additionally, the weak involvement of civil society organizations is reflected by their deficient experience of challenging the government, when formulating wrong policies. That is because of many reasons, which are indicated on the challenge section of analysis. Additionally, civil societies in Ethiopia a low level of achievement and insignificant focus to the public policy formulation process. Some writers pointed out that the proclamation by itself has a limiting impact on the participation of civil society organizations. This pointed out that Ethiopia provides less opportunity to the participation of civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process.

The Contribution of CSOs in the Public Policy Formulation Process

Civil societies in Ethiopia are playing the role of informing their members regarding the public policy formulated and they reflect the idea of their members to be considered in the public policy formulation process.

The other role of Ethiopian societies organizations is Minimizing policy making delay. A government without the enforcement of other policy making parties may take several times formulate a single policy. Additionally, they minimize the human resource problem on the policy formulation process. As we know different societies have different types of peoples with a different level of knowledge. So that, the participation of civil society organizations with this background relieves some loads from the government.

Furthermore, civil societies in Ethiopia empower the voice of disadvantaged groups. Disadvantaged groups are those peoples who cannot protect their rights and individuals that are not considered in the public policy formulation process. On the other hand, strengthening government accountability and enhancing transparency in the policy making process are the other face of their roles.

Potential Challenges of CSOs

As stated on the analysis part of the study, this study divided the challenges in to two categories. The first category covers, challenges that are raised from within the organization. On the other hand the external challenges are caused from beyond the control of the organization.

Poor institutional arrangement and less institutional practice of public policy related activities are the internally originated problems that hinder civil society organizations from contributing to a better public policy formulation process. Additionally, lack of capacity is another internal obstacle faced by civil society organizations.

Limiting policies of government, especially the 10/90 policy, is the major external obstacle that hold back Ethiopian society organizations from contributing to the public policy formulation. Similarly, government interference and lack of pressure from the community can be considered as an obstacle.

Weakness of academic institutions, mass media, absence of public debate, lack of willingness of the government and lack of openness of the public policy making process also destruct the activity of civil society organizations.

5.2. Conclusion

As discussed on the above sections, the study focused on the role of civil society organizations in the public policy formulation process. For this reason, it has been seen relevant literatures review and documents, and gathered primary data from civil society organizations and Ethiopian charities and societies agency. As a result, the researcher concluded the following points based on the analysis.

The civil society organizations have an experience of weak participation on the public policy formulation process. Accordingly, the organizations registered low achievement on the public policy formulation process.

Eventually, the investigation noticed that the degree and regularity of participation of civil society organizations in Ethiopia is less attractive. There are some reasons that have indicated as an impediment. These obstacles have a momentous effect on the achievement and contribution of civil society organizations to the public policy formulation process.

Furthermore, the findings of the study, as discussed earlier, were in agreement with some roles of civil society organizations and the obstacles, whereas it differs on some points. Civil society organizations are not actively participating on the public policy formulation process. Even if, the participation of civil societies is constitutionally guaranteed, as indicated on the document review section, the government does not enhance the participation of civil society organizations.

In addition, the internal and external challenges hamper the involvement and activity of civil society organizations. Those challenges have impact on the low performance record of civil society organizations. For that matter recommendation is provided to suggest the major improvement areas.

Although the current study is based on small sample participants as well as used a convenience sample for conducting the research, this study makes significant contributions to assist in our understanding of the role of civil society organizations to formulate competent public policy.

5.3. Recommendation

By considering the finding and conclusion part of the study the researcher forwarded the following recommendations, which might improve the participation and contribution of civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process.

- There is a need to revise their structural arrangement and include public policy formulation as one of their activity.
- There is a need to enhance civil society organizations to provide policy inputs.
- The concerned body should make a strong linkage between civil society organizations and other relevant organizations, like mass media and academic institutions.
- The policy making process should incorporate the interest of the community. The quality of policies will be high if different ideas come from different angle and when the community's interest is considered on the policy making process. if the community's interest is reflected on the policy result they will be committed to ensure development of their country and they feel as stakeholder of the policy unless the result will be the reverses. So that, to include the interest of the society participating civil society organizations will be an ideal decision, because they are kin to the majority.
- As indicated on the above sections of the study there are limiting policies that hinder the activities of civil society organizations. Therefore, there is a need to revise the limiting policies that hinder and incapacitate civil society organizations.
- Policy advocacy is one of the reasons for the establishment of Ethiopian society organizations, but the researcher become aware of that they are not considered it as their major role. So, it will be necessary if civil society organizations make it as one of their performance measurement criteria.
- Some societies have the capacity to research community problems and can reflect it on the public policy making process. But as we have seen on the above section the societies are not recognizing part of their activities. So that, societies need to make it part of their activities and it becomes their financial get way.
- In general, the participation of civil society organization is determined by the will of the government. Therefore, the researcher suggests the government to change its attitude towards civil society organizations and get a lot from their participation.

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Appendix A
Addis Ababa University
College of Business and Economics

Department of Public Administration and Development Management

This questionnaire is developed to collect primary data regarding the actors in the public policy making process. The title of the study is “the role of civil society organizations in the public policy formulation process”.

The rationale for this research is to find out the roles that are played by civil society organizations and the challenges they face in their participation. Furthermore, it provides useful recommendations.

For that reason, dear respondent, I kindly request you to complete the questionnaire uncomplainingly and carefully. Your response will be utilized to the academic purpose only and handled confidentially. I want to thank you in advance for your commitment.

Nb:- Use a circle and tick mark

Seyfu Alebachew, March, 2018

1. Educational Background
A. PhD B. MA/MSc C. BA/BSc D. Diploma
2. Position_____
3. Do you have background knowledge regarding public policy formulation?
A. Yes B. No
4. How do you evaluate your understanding towards Public policy formulation in Ethiopia?
A. Very good B. Good C. Moderate D. Poor
5. Is there any independent office, which deals about policy, in your organization?
A. Yes B. No
6. Does your organization directly participate on the public policy formulation process?
A. Yes B. No
7. Do you think the role of CSOs on public policy formulation varies from regime to regime?
A. Yes B. No
8. The Ethiopian government has made lots of efforts to improve the participation of CSOs.
A. Strongly Agree B. Agree C. Neutral C. Disagree D. Strongly disagree
9. Is there any instance that CSOs has challenged the government in the formulation of public policy when the government is doing wrong?
A. Yes B. No

10. Is there a positive state to CSO interaction in Ethiopia?

A. Yes B. No

11. Scale up the following statements (please use a tick mark on your right Response)

No	Item	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	The focus of CSOs towards public policy formulation process					
2	CSOs in Ethiopia search, examine and justify the appropriateness of competing policy options					
3	Evolving active state policies in support of civil society					
4	Creating favorable institutional structures					
5	Provision of training by CSOs, to develop the capacity of policy formulators					
6	Enhance the quality of the policy					
7	Reflect the insight of their members					
8	Minimizing policy making delay					
9	Bridge the human resource gap					
10	Empower the voice of disadvantaged					
11	Strengthen government accountability					
12	Enhance transparency in the policy making process					
13	Strengthening political activism					

12. How do you rate the following statements?

I. The level of achievement of your organization on the public policy formulation

A. Very high B. High C. Moderate D. Low E. Very low

II. Informing and mobilizing citizens

A. Very high B. High C. Moderate D. Low E. Very low

III. Strengthening political activism

A. Very high B. High C. Moderate D. Low E. Very low

13. In what extent does the participation of your organization affect the public policy process?

A. Very highly B. highly C. Moderately D. Slightly E. Never

14. How do you see the environment of Ethiopia towards CSOs working in the public policy formulation?

- A. Encouraging B. Discouraging C. Neither of both

15. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- I. The interest of your institution towards public policy
 A. Very high B. High C. Moderate D. Low E. Very low
- II. The degree of participation of your organization on public policy
 A. Very great B. Great C. Normal D. little E. Very little

16. Scale the following determinants of CSO's participation on the public policy formulation process in Ethiopia? (please answer by examining your organization's experience and tick on the right answer)

		Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
No.	Item					
1	The limiting policies and regulations of government					
2	Government Interference					
3	Lack of interest of your organization					
4	Lack of capacity of your organization					
5	Poor institutional arrangement					
6	Lack of pressure from the society					
7	Lack of trust from the society					
8	Less institutional practice of public policy process					
9	Corruption					
10	Weakness of the academic institutions					
11	Weak mass media arrangement					
12	The absolute dearth of public debate					
13	Willingness of the government to allow CSO's participation on the public policy formulation.					
14	Lack of openness of the public policy making process					

Appendix-B
Addis Ababa University
College of Business and Economics
Department of Public Administration and Development
Management
Masters in Public Management and Policy
Interview Questions for Ethiopian Charities and Societies Agency

I am Seyfu Alebachew, a Masters of Public Management and Policy student at Addis Ababa University. Currently, I am undertaking a research entitled; “the role of Ethiopian civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process” to fulfill the partial requirements to earn my masters degree. Your response is important and valuable to complete the research, so I kindly request you to participate in this study.

The research is conducting with respect of research ethics and your response will be managed confidentially.

1. How do you see the political environment of Ethiopia? Is it creates an open environment to participate on the public policy formulation process?
2. Do you think as the government is enhancing the participation of civil society organizations? Does the government support civil society organizations to strengthen their-selves?
3. What are the different roles of civil society organizations on the public policy formulation process? Are civil society organizations playing important role in the public policy formulation process?
4. What are the challenges that hinder the participation of civil society organizations? The challenges may be either internal or external.

I would like to say thank you for your cooperation!