

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**INVESTIGATING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND  
CHALLENGES OF DEPORTED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ADDIS ABABA  
WHO RETURNED FROM KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

*A thesis submitted to Addis Ababa University in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the  
degree of Masters in social work*

**BY**

**HABTAMU DEMIS**

**AUGUST, 2019**

**ADDIS ABABA**

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**WORK  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**AUGUST, 2019**

**ADDIS ABABA**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**MSW EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST, 2019**

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Habtamu Demis Gelaw entitled, “Investigating the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls in Addis Ababa” submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Master of Social Work (MSW) complies with the registration of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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## **Acknowledgment**

As always, my utmost reverence goes to HOLY TRINITY for giving me the strength to undertake this study! I am extremely and sincerely indebted to my thesis advisor Debebe Ero(PhD) for his unreserved, genuine and deep-sighted academic support and guidance for conducting this study. My special thanks go to Firehiwot Alelito(PhD), MSW Program coordinator, for inspired us to conduct this research and to train us more professional researcher. I truly thank for returnees from Kingdom of Saudi Arabian be a resident in Addis Ababa for their willingness and openness in sharing their personal experiences and stories during discussions. My heartfelt gratitude is also due to my family and friends. Without their input, none of this would have been possible. Thank you all!

## Acronyms

AACA	Addis Ababa City Administration
AAU	Addis Ababa University
BoLSA	Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs
DFID	Department for International Development
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GOs	Government organizations
ID Card	Identification card
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MSF	Medicines San Frontiers
NGOs	Non -governmental Organizations
PEAs	Private Employment Agencies
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress symptoms
RMMS	Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
USDS	United States Department of State

## **Abstract**

This study was done with the purpose of investigating the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and now they live in Addis Ababa. The study employed qualitative research approach. The in-depth interview and observation were selected using purposive sampling methods of research. It is also supported by secondary source of data. The participants of this study were 35 deported women and girls. These methods and research approaches are formulated to answer the following research questions. Findings of this research point out that the deported women and girls were opportunities for them to economically sustain themselves and their families in their respective settlements with little support from concerned bodies. Others were not clear about the opportunities available to them, and a minority did not feel optimistic about exploiting the available opportunities in the city. The participants to the interview mentioned several job opportunities available in their respective areas. Such as: trading, urban agriculture, poultry farming, fattening of animals, textiles, sewing, construction, and metal and woodwork. On the other hand in this research explored that poor working condition, low pay, lack of access to health services, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, denial of salary, suffering from deprivation of food and restricted from movement are the main challenges of the deported women and girls after they return back. The findings reveal that after being deported women and girls have a significant social, moral and psychological problems and mostly they are not welcomed by the families and the surrounding community. There is support from Government and NGOs; however it does not reach out to most of the deported returnees. There is also lack of adequate support and a long term coping strategy. The study recommends by highlighting that there is a desperate need for acceptance and

embracement for the women girls for an effective rehabilitation. Moreover, close cooperation between all parties, families, community and Government with the purpose of paving the way for a bright future and good opportunity, and most importantly moral and psychological support are needed for the better rehabilitation of these forced returnees. From the implications of the findings, it can be concluded that the school of social work should incorporate the migration as one subject and the course should be given starting from the undergraduate class, the school of social work need to enforce students (undergraduate up to PhD level ) to articulate the diversified aspect of migration and migrants life. The local government authorities and non-governmental organizations should be involved in assisting deported returnees for sustainable reintegration and job creation.

**Key words: Deported returnees, Reintegration, Rehabilitation**

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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### Background of the study

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another within a country or from one country to another for different reasons (ILO, 2011). The Ethiopian migration flows were mainly generated by political instability, poverty, famine, economic hardship and limited opportunities (MSF, 2019).

In Addis Ababa City Administration (AACA), it has become a common practice to send women and young girls to Arab countries irregularly. It seems that the parents only consider the money their women and young girls send back but they do not consider the problem their women and young girls suffer both during the process of migration and after their arrival. Here the violence on women starts at their mother land by their mother and father and follows by other persons.

Due to trafficking, many women and girls in Ethiopia faced the problem of sexual exploitation, forced labour, trafficking in organs, physical and physiological distress and even to death (MSF, 2019). In addition many Ethiopian women working in domestic service in the Middle East face severe abuses, including physical and sexual assault, denial of salary, sleep deprivation, withholding of passports, confinement and murder. Many are also driven to despair and experience psychological problems, with some committing suicide (USDS, 2012).

Especially since 2013 the KSA have used different migration policy for the response of irregular migration. Among these, deportation is one of the illegal migration management. The campaign

of detention and expulsions of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia that began on 04 November, 2013, after the amendments of 2007 labour law by the Saudi cabinet (Human Right Watch, 2015). The amendment empowered police and labour authorities to enforce labour code provisions against undocumented workers, including detention and deportation for those found to be working for a non-sponsor. At the end of 2013 and early 2014, KSA carried out massive deportations of irregular migrants including some 160,000 Ethiopians for the response of irregular migration in the country (RMMS, 2014). Ethiopians died in a crowded Saudi centre for deporting illegal immigrants and in Jeddah thousands have been arrested and sent to deportation centres.

Deported migrants are very vulnerable and have a high risk of being stranded and face huge challenges in re-establishing in to their countries of origin.

After the deportation of Ethiopians from KSA, the government of Ethiopia temporarily banned the migration of persons to Arab countries. Since October, 2013 it simultaneously promised to arrange different jobs and start-up capital for deported women and girls. This was mainly for the purpose of rehabilitation. Furthermore, the government of Ethiopia also established different councils for the prevention of migration to Arab countries, especially for illegal way of migration. Particularly, the AACAA also established Anti-Human Trafficking Council. However, during the travel banning and after the lifting of travel banning, I have seen and heard many deported women and girls still illegally migrate from Addis Ababa to Arab countries.

By the year 2017, KSA started deporting irregular migrants reside in its territory for the second time. Between May 2017 and March 2019, some 260,000 Ethiopian migrants have been returned

with an average of 10,000 people arriving each month in Bole International airport in Addis Ababa (MSF, 2019). More than 95 percent of the deportees reported having either witnessed or experienced violence, abuse and ill treatment during their journey to KSA, while in detention, and/or during deportation. Many have significant physical and mental health needs as a result of what they experienced.

Migration is now the focus of sensitive debates and growing media attention in a variety of contexts. Based on my exploration in different literature there are abundance literature on the issue of migration. However, the data is presented in general way and it did not give prominence on opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls after their return other than presenting the statistical data of deported returnees. This study aims to give better understanding on the lived Experience of deported Ethiopians who returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and now live in Addis Ababa.

The main motivating factors for me to focus in this topic are presented below. To begin with:

- I have observed many returnees who are deported by the KSA government both in 2013 and 2017.
- And there was a high crowd in the Ethiopian airlines because the deported returnee number was increasing from time to time.
- On the contrary, I also heard about the interest of different returnees to return back.

All of these factors motivated me to know about the opportunities that the deported women and girls gain after they return back to their city. Furthermore, I developed a keen interest to know

about the challenges that they faced and what they need for successful reintegration to the family and the society.

### **Statement of the problem**

Ethiopians returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deported without any savings and with stories of abuse, it is questionable whether this will impact the intention to migrate (RMMS, 2014).

Abebaw Minaye (2013) examined the experience of trafficked Ethiopian domestic worker who returned from the Gulf States. His study found that Ethiopian women migrated to the Middle East being pushed by economic challenges but returned with more complicated problems such as health crises, social problems and economic problems.

Mesfin Dessiye (2011) conducted a case study on the challenges and prospects of Ethiopian female labour migration in the Arab Middle East, the result showed that the returnee women have less employment opportunities. Therefore, as a result of poverty, unemployment and social connections, the prevalence of women's migration for domestic work is high. Similarly, Elias Ashene (2013) examined that trafficking of Ethiopian women and girls to the Middle East and found that poverty, unemployment and gender inequality are the three major causes of trafficking from Ethiopia to the Middle East.

Currently, high illegal youth migration to the KSA is the dominant livelihood strategy of Ethiopian migrants and they are being exposed to severe and complex problems (Gebrehiwot & Faked, 2012). According to IOM (2011) report, 7.5 per cent of all Ethiopian migrants who had

left their country for employment and other purposes were between the ages of 13–17 years at the time of their migration and the report also showed that 87.1 per cent of these migrants were trafficked. Different reports document that cross-border human trafficking is highly prevalent in Ethiopia.

The existing literatures I have reviewed despite their strengths in informing the push pull factors the migrant and deportee figures, and the prevalence of migration; they do not adequately incorporate the opportunities and challenges of deported returnees after return back. A literature on the push and pull factors of migration have been conducted and access to such materials was not difficult. However, the literatures do not adequately consider the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls those who returned to their home country. Thus, this study attempted to give clear explanation on the opportunities that deported women and girls gain, the challenges that they faced after they reach to their home city and the need for successful reintegration to the family and the society. This research investigated to answer the above un-researched question.

### **Objective of the study**

The objective of this study is to investigate the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls after they returned back with particular emphasis on those who returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and now they live in Addis Ababa City Administration.

### **Research questions**

This study attempt to address the following research questions

1. How did the deported women and girls explain the opportunities in the life after their return?
2. What are the challenges encountered by deported women and girls?
3. What are the needs of deported women and girls for sustainable reintegration?

### **Significance of the study**

This study will give better understanding on the idea of deportation by giving a clear understanding on the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls, what life seems like after return back.

The finding will serve as an input for different stakeholders concerning the issue of deported returnee by identifying the major opportunities and challenges. It will give insight what deported women and girls need for successful reintegration and this will have a significant contribution for those concerning stakeholders by giving a direction what they will suppose to do to fill the existing gaps. Plus, the result of the study will be used as an input for policy makers.

The study may contribute to the gaps in the existing literature concerning the issue of deported returnees in the case of Ethiopians life experience in the Middle East. Moreover, the recommendation of the research may help other researchers and professionals to undertake a research on the issue and identify the responsible bodies and their tasks specifically.

## **Organization of the study**

This Study focuses on the opportunities and challenges of deported women and children from KSA, living in Addis Ababa. Beyond the material and monetary loss by this women and girls, this study focused on the social and moral prospects and difficulties they encountered and to search for solutions for the way forward.

Accordingly, the study consisted six Chapters. The First Chapter provided an overview which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, providing general guiding research questions, objective of the study, ethical considerations, Significance and Organization of the study. The Second Chapter observed the research Methodology which includes the method and approaches which have been used to conduct the study, the data collection techniques and procedures. The Third Chapter relates to the study, through observing books, document reviews, Articles and Journals. It was reviewed of related literature. The Fourth Chapter also carried on the study findings, and the Fifth Chapter discussed on the study findings. The Sixth chapter constituted the conclusion of the study and provides proposed recommendations for implementation.

## **Scope of the study**

This study mainly focused on deported returnees; among the return migrants the scope of this study is limited to those who deported from the KSA by the year 2017 and now live in AACA. The participants of this study were women and girls selected from those currently residing at six sub cities in Addis Ababa. To investigate the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls, the study incorporated information after they return back.

### **Limitation of the study**

The researcher planned to interview 40 informants and finally the study conducted only 35 informants due to different reasons. Three of the deported women were re-migrated before the interview period and the other two informants also changed their living place and I couldn't access them to incorporate in the study as planned.

### **Definition of terms**

**Deported returnees:** those who were deported spoke of being apprehended and detained by the police or other authorities while abroad because of their undocumented status (Kabria, 2004). So, the researcher used this phrase to refer to those women who returned from KSA by the government of Saudi Arabia.

**Reintegration:** the action or process of integrating deported returnees back in to family or society.

**Return migrants:** are those Ethiopian migrants returning to their country after having been international migrants at the KSA.

## CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

### Introduction

This chapter presents relevant research findings and other relevant related literatures on deportation. This chapter includes the following sections; the definitions of deportation, the opportunities and challenges of deported returnees and the needs of deported returnees for sustainable reintegration theories discussed in line with different research findings and reports. This helped the researcher to identify the literature gap in relation with previously undertaken researches and it gives information about the facts related with this research topic.

### Definition of Deportation

The term deportation refers to —the act of a State in removing a non-citizen from its territory after refusal of admission or termination of permission to remain (IOM, 2009). According to this definition the act of deportation is referred to as removal and as such it refers to the view of the State rather than the impact on those being deported. Migrant workers return home either forced or voluntarily. Forced return occurs when contracts are illegally terminated; housemaids are abused or abandoned by their employers, or when the employees' visas can't be renewed. Involuntary return can be considered one way of deportation, either in mass or individually, when migrant maids are reported as illegal or undocumented (IOM,2016).

Deportation, in comparison to other types of involuntary migrant return, is distinguished by its mandatory and state sponsored character, or the explicit involvement of the receiving society

government in directing and organizing the return of the migrant. Generally speaking, the deportation of migrants takes place following the determination by receiving country government officials of the migrants' undocumented presence in the country. Deported migrant workers are likely to derive less benefit from the migration episode in comparison to other returnees. For one thing, those experiencing deportation are more likely to be among the more socioeconomically disadvantaged sectors of the migrant worker stream (Kibria, 2004). In addition to the socio economic effect of deportation, Inter-American Human Rights Court (2013) report implied the nature of detention, compounded by the uncertainty of its length, is regarded as a major contributing factor to mental deterioration, despondency, suicide, anger, and frustration.

### **Deported Ethiopians from KSA**

For the past three decades, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a major destination for Ethiopian migrant workers. Many Ethiopian women and girls also travelled to Saudi Arabia with a visa for pilgrimage and remained there.

Apart from those that travel directly using formal channels, Ethiopian women and girls go to Yemen with the hope of reaching Saudi Arabia by crossing the Red Sea via Obock, Djibouti. Hence, no one exactly knows how many Ethiopians are now living illegally in the KSA. The latest MSF (2019) report revealed that KSA hosts that the largest number of international migrants in the world, with estimated 12.2 Million migrants living in the country in 2017. Among these some 500,000 migrants are Ethiopia. Many have suffered greatly. Significant numbers of migrants have lost their lives travelling these illegal routes.

Between May, 2017 and March, 2019 the government of Saudi Arabia were expelling some 265,000 Ethiopian migrants (MSF, 2019). We see PTSD manifested by flashbacks, recurrent thoughts, insomnia, isolation, and deep sorrow. ... Their dignity has been deeply wounded. Many of them do not feel safe and their most basic needs are not being met. They feel uncertain; they don't know when they will be able to go back to Ethiopia, what their life will be like when they go back or how they will be able to return to their place of origin from the capital. Life for sexual violence survivors is especially difficult.

### **The Situation of mass deportation to Ethiopia and its challenge**

In November 2013, the government of Saudi Arabia began expelling large numbers of foreign nationals, including some 550,000 Yemenis, 163,000 Ethiopians, and 36,000 Somalis (Georges, 2014). While there have been little international attention or condemnation of these deportations, the returning individuals and their countries of origin have suffered many logistical, economic, social and moral consequences due to this decision and the decision to deport non-citizens has far reaching implications that not only affect the individual but families and entire communities (George,2014).

The 2013 government crackdown on irregular immigrants in Saudi Arabia gave irregular migrants seven months to gain status or leave the country, and one of the most severely affected migrant groups were Ethiopians. According to ILO, since November 2013, up to one million migrant workers in total have been deported from Saudi Arabia, including around 163,000 Ethiopian Migrants. (ILO, 2017)

In this regard, the mass deportation has left thousands of migrant workers in an extremely unstable situation, having lost most of their belongings, access to their regular income and employment abroad. Once back home, these women and girls need to be able to provide for themselves and their families, and to become a productive part of society. There is a great need to re-integrate these returnees to that, they become a benefit rather than a burden for their country.

In addition, the Inter Press Service News Agency release on November, 2017, regarding the situation of Deported Ethiopian women and girls, explained that the return of 120,000 young undocumented migrant workers from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia has sparked fears that the influx will worsen the country's high youth unemployment and put pressure on access to increasingly scarce land.

The deportation experience makes an impact at the local, national and the international level demonstrating that deportation is not the end of a problem, but the start of a new and on-going dilemma for individuals, families and the wider community. So, deportation experience is often traumatic, for both the deportee and those family members left behind (Georges, 2014).

Many returnees arrive home having undergone emotional trauma before they were deported, in addition to the extortion and physical abuse suffered en route. Furthermore, many of the returnees face a great deal of shame once home, where relatives might view the return home as a failure to provide (Human Right Watch, 2015).

“Financial Tribune”, the first Iranian English Economic Daily states that an estimated 400,000 Ethiopian migrants had been living in Saudi Arabia. It also explains the following:

“Ethiopian government says more than 14,000 of its citizens have been deported since November, 2013 and 70,000 have returned voluntarily, but the International Organization for Migration says the number that has left forcibly or voluntarily since the amnesty period ended in June has reached 96,000. Saudi Arabia ordered all undocumented migrants to leave voluntarily in March, an order later extended until June. The majority of the migrants chose to remain and now face being forcefully deported. Undocumented Ethiopian migrants who are being forcibly deported from Saudi Arabia by the thousands in a new crackdown say they were abused by authorities while detained. In interviews with us upon arrival home, the returnees described beatings, theft and being forced to stay in dirty prison camps”.

Angelica Kokutona Wagwa, a psychologist with Doctors without Border(MSF) in Ethiopia, commented on the psychological state of Ethiopian upon return stating, —Most of the returnees that we are attending are suffering from major depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD), acute stress, generalized anxiety, dissociative and psychotic syndromes (Human Right Watch, 2015).

The returnees of yesterday have ended up as victims of trafficking today because they have no job opportunities upon their return (Emebet Kebede, 2002). Today’s returnees will be tomorrow’s victim of trafficking if the problem of unemployment persists. If returnees are not assisted to get training and jobs upon their return, they will become a burden on their families and once again, seek employment again (Emebet Kebede, 2002).

Only few women succeeded in improving their living standard when they returned home and the unsuccessful returnee women faced rejection by their families and the community as they faced rejection by their families and the community as they failed to meet expectations to return with adequate material wealth. Moreover, the returnees experienced shame, felt unproductive and faced outright rejection by their own kin and the local people. Also, they had no access to the formal labor market as they lacked high literacy levels or skills-related training. Among the unsuccessful returnees, some had mental health problems and HIV/AIDS infection but they had limited access to free medical services, social and economic support. (Mesfin, 2011)

### **The opportunities that deported women and girls gain in their country**

The need to expand social support networks available to women and girls for them to meet their economic and substance needs and to strengthen strategies to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with deported population.

The increasing numbers of deported returnees create remarkable pressures on existing social services and local economies. (Kibria, 2004) claimed that deportation results in a ruptures between culture and nation, where the individual feels excluded from the national citizenship.

### **The Challenges of deported women and girls after return**

Not all of the returnee migrant maids were able to achieve their aims through work migration. Emebet Kebede (2002) study indicated that only five out of twelve women succeeded in improving their living standard when they returned home and the unsuccessful returnee women faced rejection by their families and the community as they failed to meet expectations to return

with adequate material wealth and moreover, the returnees experienced shame, felt unproductive and faced outright rejection by their own kin and the local people. Also, they had no access to the formal labor market as they lacked high literacy levels or skills-related training. Among the unsuccessful returnees, some had mental health problems and HIV/AIDS infection, but they had limited access to free medical services, social and economic support.

Involuntary return can be detrimental for both the returnee and his or her family, mass emergency return or mass deportations may have wider implications for the local community in terms of creating social unrest, reducing purchasing power, and increased competition for employment (Kleist & Milliar, 2013).

Deportees and emergency returnees often return empty handed having lost their savings or belongings abroad or never having acquired an opportunity to earn and save money. Other frequent problems are unemployment and difficulties in establishing a viable livelihood. While some migrants may have acquired valuable skills during their migration, others have suffered skills degradation, cannot use their acquired skills in their countries of origin, and may lack contacts with the labour market. The economic challenges of reintegration are thus severe. The untimely return of a migrant may not only disrupt personal hopes and plans but also those of the migrant's family, especially if migrants or their families have fallen into debt themselves to finance the migration (Pereira, 2011).

## Impact of Deported Migrants

There is also a large body of literature (with different methodological approaches) on the socioeconomic impact of immigrants in host societies, which continues to grow. Nijkamp et al. (2011) sum up the main findings from the vast number of studies, as . . . migrants tend to have a neutral or modest positive effect on local labor markets, regional development, and spatial distribution”. Furthermore, immigrants also have a significant impact on the socioeconomic condition of their country of origin.

For example, the positive impact of remittances on the socioeconomic development of the country of origin is a well-studied subject in migration literature. The evidence indicates that remittances have raised internal consumption, increased local investment, and prolonged education attainment.

Migration can be a self-selected or non-self-selected movement. However, self-selected movement plays a dominant role in migration flows. Therefore, migrants are not evenly distributed across countries, and even inside a host country. From a residential perspective, migrants tend to concentrate more in urban, agglomerated areas, and places where they have already established a strong network (often called ethnic precincts or ethnic enclaves), and, through their network connections, they reduce migration costs. These not only hold for labor migrants; such a clustering effect can also be observed in other types of immigration, such as: business migrants, international students, lifestyle migrants, etc. This leads to the need to measure the socioeconomic impact of immigration at different geographical levels (e.g., local, regional, national, and global).

The impacts can have short-run or long-run effects on the countries of origin and destination. Nijkamp et al. (2011) present a detailed classification of these short-run or long-run impacts, and divide them into two major classes: the micro-effects on the country of origin/destination/both, and the macro-effects on the country of origin/destination/both.

Nowadays, migration has a deeply-rooted impact on both sending and receiving countries. It has not only changed the social and cultural structure of many migrant-receiving societies, but it has also had a significant impact on wider economic activities.

Furthermore, migrants can also act as a bridge of information between their countries of origin and host countries. By observing this effect, one can easily assume that an increase in the number of migrants can incite flows of capital in the form of Foreign Direct Investment, tourist flows, and international trade.

## **Risks of Deportation**

Upon arrival in a country of origin, all forced returnees are at risk of economic and psychosocial harm, including those who opt for assisted return programs due to a lack of legal alternatives. A deported person often becomes stigmatized and may not have family or friends upon arrival. Consequently, secure shelter, access to housing and employment can be challenging. Deportation may also interrupt a person's educational trajectory, professional skills might no longer be of relevance and social security payments in deporting countries may not be retrievable. Depression and even suicide may occur.

After forced returns, people have particular protection needs when requiring specialized medical care or when deported to a country where they have lived only as toddlers, as is the case with former unaccompanied minors. Severe harm to family life is done when deportation tears apart family members. Deported pregnant women face specific health risks before and during delivery, and possibly years of separation from their partner with only meager hopes for family reunification.

Insecurities in the hands of state agents Police officers verify the identity of forced returnees upon arrival at the airport, particularly when travel documents were issued by deporting states. Depending on the respective country of origin, a deported person can be associated with wealth, treason or moral inadequacies. While the risk of monetary extractions, confiscation of luggage, arbitrary detention and criminal prosecution may happen to any returned person, ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual minorities are particularly vulnerable to such practices.

### **The Needs of deportees for a sustainable reintegration**

Most of the returnees arrived in Addis Ababa have been forcibly deported from KSA. Many have significant physical and mental health needs as a result of what they experienced. Some people arrive in a critical condition, requiring urgent medical care. Most lost their source of income or savings when they left to KSA and return with nothing. As Abebaw Minaye (2013) mentioned the returnees evaluated the support provided by sending agencies and Ethiopian embassies in the destination were poor.

Migrants' sudden difficulties getting into and staying in the destination territory may have led

fewer migrants to embark on the journey from their country of origin. But trafficking and smuggling of migrants still takes place across the border of different countries (Human Right Watch, 2015).

Between May 2017 and March 2019, the government of Saudi Arabia began expelling large numbers of foreign nationals (MSF, 2019) including Ethiopians. While there has been little international attention or condemnation of these deportations, the returning individuals and their countries of origin have suffered many logistical, economic, and social ramifications due to this decision and the decision to deport non-citizens has far reaching implications that not only affect the individual but families and entire communities. The deportation experience makes an impact at the local, national and the international level demonstrating that deportation is not the end of a problem, but the start of a new and on-going dilemma for individuals, families and the wider community. So deportation experience is often traumatic, for both the deportee and those family members left behind (MSF, 2019).

## **Theories and Approaches on Migration**

A wide variety of theories and approaches have been developed in the history of economic thinking on why people migrate. The following are the main theoretical reviews:

- **New Economics of Migration Theory**

The new economics of migration theory indicates that migration is a family-based decision, and people migrate not only to maximize their income, but also to minimize their migration risks. Unlike individuals, families are in a position to control the risk inside their households by

diversifying the allocation of household resources. For example, a family will probably send the physically-able members of their family abroad for work, and invest in higher education of the others. If the higher education inside the country does not pay off, they can rely on the remittances from the others who are working abroad. Therefore, families in developing and less developed countries tend to be large, because they are able to manage their risks by having many children. In the new economics of migration theory the returnees are considered a ‘success’ factor, because those who achieved a maximum benefit from his/her migration behavior return home with accumulated savings or knowledge.

**Neoclassical Economics:** These theories have been explaining return migration to a certain extent. Even though these theories and concepts might be different, they are helpful to better understand return migration. Some of the theories pertaining to return migration are discussed as follows:

**The Neo-Classical economics and the new economics of labor:** the new economics of labor migration views return migration as the logical outcome of a calculated strategy, defined at the level of the migrants’ household, and resulting from the successful achievement of goals or target. Moreover, it views return as the natural outcome of a successful experience abroad during which migrants met their goals (higher income and accumulation of savings).

**The structural approach to return migration:** the structural approach to return migration argues that return is not only a personal issue but above all a social and contextual one, affected by situational and structural factors. This approach shows how crucial to the return decision and

the reintegration of the migrant are the financial and economic resources brought back to origin countries. Returnees' success or failure is analyzed by correlating the reality of the home economy and society with the expectations of the returnee. In contrast to the neoclassical economics and the new economics of labor migration theoretical frameworks, the structural approach to return migration focuses on the extent to which returnees may or may not have an impact on their origin societies once return takes place.

**Trans-nationalism and return migration:** this theory helps us to have better understanding of the strong social and economic links between migrants' host and origin countries. According to this approach, return takes place once enough resources, whether financial or informational, have been gathered and when conditions at home are viewed as being favorable enough. In a transnational stance, return has been dealt with while referring to the ways in which returnees are successful in adapting themselves to their home environment, at all levels. Here, returnees are seen as actors who maintain strong linkages with their former places of settlement in other countries, and gather the resources needed to secure and prepare their return to the homeland by mobilizing resources stemming from the communality of attributes (e.g. religion and ethnicity).

**Social Network Theory and return migration:** This theory explains migration in terms of network. Migrant networks are sets of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through ties of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin (IOM, 2009). They increase the likelihood of international movement because they lower the costs and risks of movement and increase the expected net returns to migration (Massey, Arango, Hugo, and Kaououci (1993). The interaction includes information exchange,

financial assistance or helping migrants to find jobs. As the network is complicated and diversified, it gives different opportunities to the migrants.

In the social network theory, return migrants are seen as social actors who gather the resources needed to secure and prepare their return to the homeland by mobilizing resources stemming from the commonality of interests and available at the level of social and economic cross-border networks. The social network theory analyses family/household, friendship and community ties which link sending and receiving countries as key ingredients in international migration.

According to this approach, migrants and their friends and relatives are connected through social relations across time and space. These networks disclose the significance of interpersonal ties in determining mobility, but also for the direction of migration and return. As Mesfin Dessiye (2011) explains, the study of personal networks in migration reveals the importance of social relations in migratory behavior...and provides insight into the origins, composition, direction and persistence of migration flows. Migration studies have confirmed the important role of the family for emigration as well as for arrival and integration in the country of destination and return to the country of origin. For instance, Pre-existing social and financial resources, which are provided by the family, may shape the performance of return migrants. Hence, the successful reintegration of a returnee depends on the social network that individual has.

### **Summary of the Literature Review**

Materials written on the pushing and pulling factors of migration can be easily accessed, but materials related with deported women and girls are limited. The literature indicates that theory related with migration are written from economical perspective and only focused on the

underlying factors behind migrations but the theories don't show the fact behind the deported women and girls.

In relation to deportation Mesfin Dessiye (2011) stated that when migrant maids are reported as illegal or undocumented they return to their country, either in mass or individually thus, deportation considered one way of involuntary return.

The increasing numbers of deported returnees create remarkable pressures on existing social services and local economies. Mesfin Dessiye (2011) claimed that deportation results in a ruptures between culture and nation, where the individual feels excluded from the national citizenship.

On the other side deported returnees exposed to serious abuses during detention, including inadequate food and sanitation, beatings by guard, verbally abuse, shouting insults and in human treatment thus, the detainees experienced or witnessed abuse ( Human Right Watch, 2015).

Mefin Dessiye (2011) stated that returnees who lack employment opportunity and other service will migrate again. Abebaw Minaye (2015) and Adamnesh Atnafu (2006) in their study identified the returnees' evaluation about the support provided by sending agencies and Ethiopian embassies in the destination. Finally, I presented the data from participants in line with the above literatures in the discussion section.

## CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

### Study Design

The research was conducted on deported women and girls from KSA who are now living in six Sub cities of Addis Ababa City Administrations i.e. Addis Ketema, Yeka, Arada, Kirkos, Nifas Silk Lafto and Kolfe Kerne. The researcher used qualitative research method. Qualitative research is concerned with life as it is lived, things as they happen, and situations as they are constructed in the day-to-day, moment-to-moment course of events. It seeks lived experiences in real situations. Therefore, the qualitative researcher seeks to discover the meanings that participants attach to their behaviour, how they interpret situations and what their perspectives are on particular issues (Woods, 2006). This research employed qualitative techniques to understand and interpret the life experience of the deported women and girls by investigating their opportunities and challenges exploring from experience, perspectives and histories as of their viewpoint. The research had exploratory nature because, pervious research have not addressed the lived experience of deported returnees. Thus, this research explains the deported women and girls opportunities and challenges after their return. Among the qualitative research method phenomenology is employed in this research. Phenomenology is both a philosophy and a family of research methods concerned with exploring and understanding human experience (Langdridge, 2007). Among the two phenomenological techniques, this research used interpretative Phenomenology. Interpretative Phenomenology is an approach to qualitative research concerned with exploring and understanding the lived experience of a specified

phenomenon. Interpretative Phenomenology is therefore connected to the core principles of phenomenology through paying respectful attention to a person's direct experience, and by encouraging research participants to tell their own story in their own words (Smith, Flowers and Larkin 2009). Generally, qualitative research method is important to investigate phenomena in depth and the method gives a great opportunity to look things from the perspective of the person who experiences that phenomena.

### **Study participant selection**

In qualitative research, only a sample that is, a subset of a population is selected for any given study. The study's research objectives and the characteristics of the study population such as size and diversity determine which and how many people to select (Krueger & Neuman, 2006). Purposive sampling was employed to draw samples from the study population. Which is a non-probability sampling technique very often employed in qualitative research? Purposive sampling, one of the most common sampling strategies, groups participants according to preselected criteria relevant to a particular research question (Woods & Namey, 2005).

This study used non probability sampling technique as a major sampling method and purposive sampling technique is employed to select participants of the study because there were a number of returnees who returned to their homeland because of different reasons. This study interested to know the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls. Thus, this study used the following inclusion criteria to select the study participants:

- Deported women and girls from the KSA.
- Who have been deported after 2017

- Who are currently living in Addis Ababa
- Who are willing to express the opportunities and challenges after their return back

From the non-probability sampling Snowball Sampling (friend of friend recruitment) was employed to get the study participants and this method was applied by initially contacting a few potential respondents and then by asking them whether they know of anybody with the same characteristics(Elmusharaf,2012). In order to get deported women returnees from the KSA, I have used Snowball Sampling since the aim was to get all possible participants that fit the inclusion criteria. First, I contacted the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and Addis Ababa Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) office to get in touch with deported returnees from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and thus contacted women and girls. I have discussed with them on the purpose of the study, and thus winning the willingness of the participants to openly express and share their experiences of deportation. In this way, 45 deported women and girls were arranged for interview but before stating this study, five of them were leaved from Addis Ababa due to their personal problem. During the interview period, I have searched and tried to communicate them but I couldn't access them. Finally I decided to conduct the study with the 35 informants.

## **Tools and Techniques of Data collection**

### **Data Collection Tools**

Individuals or groups allow the researcher to attain rich, personalized information. The researcher develops an interview guide. This guide identifies appropriate open ended questions that the researcher asks each interviewee. These questions are designed to allow the researcher to gain insights into the study's fundamental research questions (Elmusharaf, 2012). For the

purpose of data collection, I have used two tools or instruments (in-depth interview guide, see [Annex I) and observation checklist (Annex II). In this study, interview guide is prepared for the deported women and girls in line with the basic research question of the study and the major contents of the tool were:

- Personal background (socio demographic information of the participant)
- The opportunities and challenges after return
- The needs for sustainable reintegration

Based on the open-ended interview guide the above major research content was asked for the research participants and the questions were asked by using probes. The interview guide was first developed in English and then translated to Amharic for the purpose of language clarity between the researcher and the research participants. And the observation checklist included the following key categories:

- Physical characteristic of the deported women and girls
- Emotional characteristics of the deported women and girls

### **Data Collection Techniques**

Data collection techniques allow us to systematically collect information about our objects of study (people, objects, phenomena) and about the settings in which they occur. In the collection of data we have to be systematic. If data are collected haphazardly, it will be difficult to answer our research questions in a conclusive way (Elmusharaf, 2012). In qualitative research data are obtained from a relatively small group of respondents and are not analyzed with statistical techniques. It involves detailed, verbal descriptions of characteristics, cases, and settings, and it

uses observation and interviewing as source of data. It differs from traditional quantitative research through its use of less structured data-gathering instruments and its use of open-ended questioning (Creswell, 2007). In this study, In-depth interview and observation techniques have been used.

### **In-depth interview**

In this study in-depth interview were held based on the arranged interview guide. Initially, I have communicated the research participants by telephone and met them. In the first meeting, the participants were briefed about the purpose of the study; and based on mutual consensus arrangements were made to meet up for the actual interview. Following confirmation of the participants to share their life experiences of deportation, interviews were held in place respondents felt comfortable and safe. To put it clearly, the interviews were conducted in Addis Ababa BoLSA office and at the participants working places and at their home. The interview sessions with the deported women and girls ranged from forty minutes to one and half an hour, and each interviewee was recorded on a tape recorder.

The voice of the interviewee is central in all interviews, nonverbal communication also can be important for attaining a deeper shared meaning and with nonverbal communication (e.g., facial expression, hand gesture) clarifying the meaning of words spoken, and words clarifying the meaning of nonverbal communication (Onwuegbuzie, Leech & Collins,2010).

### **Observation**

The researcher tried to observe the situation of deported women and girls from KSA at working place and in their homes. A close study of the livelihood of the returnee migrant women had

been conducted. Also the physical condition, their health status, and the interest towards the occupation observed. Observation has been found critical to include the non-verbal communication of the deported women and girls. In fact, the observations particularly focused on the physical and emotional situation of the deported women and girls during the interview. Hence, I used field notes during the interview to support the information obtained from the in-depth interview. Observation sheet was also prepared for recording or gathering information on the surrounding environment, personal and environmental hygiene and housing conditions of the returnees.

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

This study analysed the data obtained from the study participants through qualitative data analysis methods. Data collection and analysis strategies are similar across qualitative methods but the way the findings are reported is diverse and it address the importance of creating a data display and suggest that narrative text has been the most frequent form of display for qualitative data. Therefore, the results are presented in descriptive narrative form (Krueger & Nueman, 2006). Qualitative methods of analysis focus on the stories told during the interview and works out their structures and their plots which contain a temporal sequence, patterning of happenings.

In this study the data collected from in-depth interview and observation were analysed. First, the data collected from the in-depth interview and observation were transcribed and translated. It was transcribed (12 – 17 pages per interview). The transcribed data was carefully read a number of times. After the translation was finished, every data related to the research questions was coded. Next, codes that appeared more related to one another were placed, thus creating themes and cluster; and the themes were organized in the finding section of this paper.

## **Assuring the Trustworthiness of the Data**

Triangulation is typically a strategy (test) for improving the validity and reliability of research or evaluation of findings. Triangulation strengthens a study by combining methods (Patton, 2002). The advantage of the triangulation of different procedures lies in the fact that the flaws of one are often the strengths of another. By combining procedures, techniques, the researcher can utilize the strengths of each while overcoming their unique deficiencies. The trustworthiness of the information is assured through data triangulation. But this research was phenomenological research type and thus focused on the lived experience of the deported women and girls. The researcher was asking the participants meaning of their stories after their return back rather than searching for other explanations. Thus, this study does not triangulate the data found from the research participants with other sources.

## **Ethical Considerations**

Any research that includes people requires consideration of ethical issues and human subject or participants' protection from harm is imperative in the process (Orlab, Eisenhower and Wynaden, 2001). Kreuger and Neuman (2006), states that the social work researchers should follow proper ethical guideline even when the study participants are negligent or unaware of that.

Cognizant of ethical issues of a research, in line with research ethics I carried out the data collection process by first giving adequate information and explanation about the research, its objectives, and methodologies to all participants. The process clarifies the risks and advantages of engaging in academic researches. The protection of participants' identity and the

confidentiality of information gathered from them were included in the letter of consent. Therefore the real name of each interviewee is replaced with pseudo names for the sake of protecting the participants' identity. Before starting recording the voices of the participants, their consent for one was requested. All participants were informed that they had the right not to take part or withdraw from the research at any stage without any implied deprivation or penalty for their rejection.

## CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS

This part of the thesis presents the findings of the study obtained from in-depth interviews and direct observation which were discussed in the method section. The findings are organized under three sections which are categorized based on the major research questions of this study. These are: the opportunities that deported women and girls gained after return, the challenges that deportees faced and their needs for sustainable reintegration after their return.

The detailed descriptions' of participants' views are presented under the major sections identified. In order to illustrate some points, direct quotations from the transcribed data are presented. The first section deals with the background information of the participants of study and subsequently, the themes of these findings are presented afterwards based on three clusters. This constitutes the remaining section of the chapter.

### **Description of participants of the study**

The research participants were between the ages of 20 to 36 years. Thus, the group was diverse in terms of age. In terms of year of residence in Saudi Arabia, the deported women and girls stay ranged from one to twelve years. In terms of religion, among the 35 participants, 11 of them are orthodox Christians and the rest 24 are Muslims. The Socio-demographic information of deported women and girls are attached in Annex III.

### **The opportunities that Deported women and girls gain after their return**

The study found that approximately half of the deported women and girls believed that there were opportunities for them to economically sustain themselves and their families in their

respective settlements with little support from concerned bodies. Others were not clear about the opportunities available to them, and a minority did not feel optimistic about exploiting the available opportunities in the country.

The research participants mentioned several job opportunities available in their respective areas. These were prevalently small businesses, such as trading, urban agriculture, poultry farming, fattening of animals, textiles, sewing, construction, and metal and woodwork.

As the opportunity the research participants discussed the pleasures of family life and the chance to work in Micro and Small Enterprise. The research participants mentioned that breathing the air of their country without any fear and living with the family by itself is considered a great opportunity.

In regard to this Nema said: *“Now I can share my stress with my family but when I was there, I had no chance to talk for many days and nights...you know, I got relief when I look my four beloved children even if I couldn’t fulfil what they want.”*

Research participants expressed that the chance of working in their homeland by itself as source of relief for them. They go out from their home for work and they didn’t sit in their homes. Concerning this, Lela said that she got the chance of working in her country and that the government supports her to work together by giving her loan and free working space.

In relation to this Nejat said: *“if I didn’t do anything...I think I would die...working by itself gives some satisfaction...you got busy and it helps to forget your stress...you will have hope... you know, you can be able to think that, one day things will be changed.”*

Zebura said:

*When we returned from the KSA, the government welcomed us and I was very happy ... the family also too. Now, I can move without any fear and without identity card. ... Now I can share my stress with my families and friends but when I was there, I had no chance to talk with any person... thanks to God.*

Most of the participants expressed that the chance of working in photocopy services within their town and the government supports them to work together by giving them loan and free working business area were their opportunities.

Seble expressed the conclusion of marriage was her best opportunities after she came to her country. Similarly, Meseret says, *“After I came to my home, I married my lovely boyfriend and got a beautiful child. Both of them were my ever best opportunities... thanks to my Lord.”*

Similarly Ekerem explained the support as follows:

I would like to thank our government for its support after I returned to my country because the government gave me the chance to work in Micro and Small Enterprise even if our government didn't look at us when we were treated like animals in Saudi Arabia.

In general, deported women and girls expressed their best opportunities is the presence of freedom of movement. They mentioned living with the family and the chance to work in cooperation in their country as an opportunity.

## The needs of deported women and girls for sustainable reintegration

Deported migrants are usually on their own—a reflection of how governments view their arrival, welcoming them in nice-looking buildings and registering them as statistics, but failing to recognize their rights, urgent needs, and potential to contribute to society.

The government and the society are the key in providing the basic services migrants often need upon arrival. However, they often lack the capacity to identify the broader protection needs migrants might have and often do not provide or coordinate for longer-term reintegration support with other agencies, said the research participants.

In relation to these, Semira said:

The Ethiopian government's reception was good when we arrived at the Bole airport. After we arrived we got food and water...then they take us to temporary resting centre...I was happy by the reception because that makes me to feel that the government gives attention to us ...then I stayed in the temporary centre for three days. Then the government gave us 900 ETB for transport. However, beyond the reception the government didn't give any help and that was not enough for us. We are citizens of Ethiopia, the government was supposed to help us when we were deported.

In addition, Zeyneba said that — *“the government talked in different media about the support for the deported returnees but I didn't witness it.”*

Asked about the support of the government and different stakeholders, Mehert said:

The government didn't understand us; simply talking in the media doesn't solve any of our problems. We went from our country for a change but the Arabs sent us to our home like a material but in our country we give freedom and respect for the foreigners including the devil' Arabs. Thus, the government should protect the rights of Ethiopian maid servants in the Arab countries. Yet, our government kept silent when we were killed, suffered by hunger and lost our property in detention centres. The government gave a military support to neighbouring countries but when we were in crisis they don't give us a piece of bread. I requested the kebele to give me a work place but they ignored my question and they gave plenty of land for investors but I requested them for survival, you see , this is the reality of our country.

In relation to support Hawlet said:

When I was in KSA, nobody care about me, then after I returned to my country the government didn't give me any help but the government was supposed to do a lot because I am a citizen of Ethiopia. If our government didn't feel responsible for these acts what will be next.

Menetewabe also discussed that:

The government tried to support us starting from the welcome but it's not enough because we need more than this. After I returned from Saudi the kebele organized me with other deported returnees in Micro and Small Enterprise...then the kebele gave us a place for work...but the place was not good for business. Thus the government has to support us by giving supportive work environment for our business.

Zehara said:

The government didn't take any action when we were in frantic situation in Saudi Arabia deportation centre. I don't know why our government didn't interfere in the deportation process and why our government couldn't return us by negotiating with the Saudi Government. However, when, we reached Bole airport, the government welcomed us and the government arranged a temporary shelter.

In sum, the research participants explained that the government didn't give any help when they are in the detention centre. In addition they explained that the government gives support for other countries but it didn't give any help for its citizens. Thus the research participants mentioned that the government should protect the right of its citizens in Arab countries at least at the time of crisis. In addition the deportees explained the government had welcomed them and some of the returnees had got the chance to work under a Small and Micro Finance Enterprise the rest of the research participants explained they didn't saw any help other than the welcoming ceremony and the government's press conferences.

### **The challenges encountered by deportees after their return**

From the overall interview with the deported women and girls, it can be clearly observed that their experience, the challenges differ from one to the other. However generally, they share almost similar situations most of the times. Under this theme unemployment, lack of support from the government, low monthly income, discrimination of the family and poor health status were mentioned by the research participants as a challenge.

Mekedes elaborated the following regarding her situation:

When I came back from Saudi Arabia, it is true that I had a hard feeling and a sense of failure and disappointment. When I could not pass the in 10 kind grade, I have made a decision to travel to KSA hoping that even though I could not pass the examination, graduate and have a job, I will manage to earn a lot of money be working very hard. When I lost my high expectation, it was very difficult. Economically, I had come back with remittances. I have to mention that my family understood me very well and welcomed me with open heart. I did not have a problem with the community around me as well. My main problem is that I was hurt morally when I saw girls my age graduating from private colleges and universities. I say to myself I could have stayed and continued my education. I always get hurt morally when I think about the opportunities I have missed. I could go back to school even now but what I could not overcome is the bad experiences I had in KSA.

Related to unemployment Zebeba said; *“After I return from Saudi Arabia, I thought designing but I couldn’t get working place and I request the kebele to cooperate with me but till now I didn’t get any response.”*

In addition, Tigist expressed that; *“now I am thinking that my family hate me because, instead of helping them I am a burden to them, they are right...all people loves you, if you have money...but I can’t do anything.”*

The researcher observed that Tigist and Zebeba were in feeling of loneliness.

Similarly Amira said —“*now my parent didn't know my address and I have no any relation with them because I am afraid to see them.* Related to this Selwa said; “*now I am working in one private organization as a store keeper but the salary couldn't cover my expenses.*” Similarly, Askale said; “*starting from the time I reached to my country...I went to tsebel*” (holy water) and hospital so, because of my health condition, I sit at home.”

Concerning the challenge Ager discussed that, life is bitter for her because she lives with her child without sustainable income...she imagined life without money and with child as very challenging. Tsehay, Zertihun and Mulunesh have the chance to establish Micro and Small Enterprise but the enterprise couldn't make profit because the working place is not suitable for business purpose. Thus, the cooperative is under bankruptcy.

The main challenge after return was absence of job or being unemployment. Muluwork expressed her experience related to unemployment:

*After I returned from the KSA, the Addis AACCA promised to arrange jobs by providing working place and loan. However, I couldn't get any working place and loan as to they're promising statements .... Due to Un-known reason... only 3 friends of mine got working place. Now, I sit at home without job.*

Similarly, Sofia expressed as follow:

*After I returned from the KSA, the AACCA arranged working place for photocopy service. Without any delay, I was offering photo copy service. However, the income that I got from the photocopy services couldn't cover my daily expenses. In addition, the*

*government imposed a very high tax that was not proportional to my income.*

Tiblet, Fozeya, Ansha, Mermen, Birtukan, Yeshe, Zebura, Kedija, Hayat and Alemete expressed their challenges as follows:

*After we returned from the KSA... the government promised to arrange different types of jobs. Among these providing working place is one of them. Within 2 months, the AACA gave a place of work... then we opened a small cafe ... however, we didn't get any beneficiaries because it is far from the centre of the town and it couldn't suitable for business purpose... after 3 months, we closed the cafe ... now we are out of job.*

Selwa also said,

*When we reached in our country, especially in Addis Ababa at the begging of deportation thousands of deported returnees came and move here and there within the city. Some people insulted us by saying 'they are crazy'. I couldn't express how much I was shocked ... I didn't expect this type of insult from my country's men and women.*

To sum up, the main challenge that was expressed by most of the research participants after their return was unemployment, lack of support from the government, low monthly income, discrimination of the family and poor health status.

### **New finding in this study**

As far as my investigation, related to the challenges and opportunities of deported women and girls from KSA, in Addis Ababa City Administration. The researcher found some finding similar

to previous researches and some new findings. Thus, this study has the following new finding.

➤ **Deported women and girls gain opportunity in the life after their return**

The pleasures of family life and the chance to work in their birth place, breathing the air of their country without any fear and living with the family considered as a great opportunity.

➤ **Deported women and girls faced challenges**

As the research participants indicated that their challenges were many when it compared to their opportunities after came back to their town. The main reason was absence of employment or absence of income since government and its stake holders did not provide sufficient job opportunities.

➤ **Several job opportunities available in their respective areas**

Deported women and girls believed that there were opportunities for them to economically sustain themselves and their families in their respective settlements. Participants mentioned several job opportunities available in their respective areas. These were prevalently small businesses, such as trading, urban agriculture, poultry farming, fattening of animals, textiles, sewing, construction, and metal and woodwork

➤ **Government and its stake holders did not give attention for the rehabilitation of deported returnees**

The last new finding is the government and other stakeholders are convinced that they didn't work for the rehabilitation of deported women and girls. They expressed this research is a bell-ring to them and they will made their intervention areas towards deported returnees.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION**

### **The Challenges and Problems in the Research Process**

First, I found it very challenging to interview the deported women and girls because the issue of deportation has been a major agendum of the country. Initially, when I contacted the participants, they suspected me as a person from the media. In order to solve this problem, I repeatedly clarified the purpose of research. In some cases, I had to show them my student ID card to build trust. This way, I was able to win their willingness to cooperate with me, and thus share their experience.

The second challenge was that it was very stressful to manage the situations of participants who cried and who were emotionally disturbed. When the participants cried and felt depressed, I stopped tape recording; and instead, I engaged in comfort the participants. When the participants talked about their experience of physical and sexual harassment, they were very emotional and looked stressed, a condition difficult and challenging to handle.

### **Discussion of the findings**

In this section, information obtained through in-depth interview and observation is discussed in light of the theoretical issues and research questions raised in the study. Therefore, the major points discussed are the opportunities and the challenges of deported women and girls they faced after return back in their country and the needs for sustainable reintegration.

- **Deported returnees faced many challenges and few opportunities**

The researcher found that more than half of the deported women and girls came to their country empty handed. Kleist and Milliar (2013) researched in Libya and Morocco, deported returnees having lost their savings and belongings a broad one never having acquired an opportunity to earn and save money, deportees and emergency returnees often return empty handed. A similar result has been obtained in this study. As the study pointed out most of the deported women and girls came back to their country empty handed, the challenges will continue in their own country. As the research indicated that most of the participants faced various challenges after they came to their country. Among the challenges unemployment, drug addiction, discrimination from the families and communities, health problems, absence of any support from government and its stakeholders, absence of income, provision of working place that was not suitable for business purpose and increasing tax that was not proportional to their income. The government was supposed to do a lot for deported women and girls. The researcher witnessed, during his interview session, directly or indirectly, he got most of them are out of work and spent their time by chewing chatt in their home or out of their home.

The research also indicated that the opportunities of deported returnees are living with their families, conclusion of marriage, born a child and the presence of freedom of movement. From the whole participants 6 of them got job that benefit to lead their life.

In general, deported returnees faced different challenges after they came to Addis Ababa. The study also revealed that due to the deported women and girls, the returnees' burden on their families; and the government also loses remittance.

- **Most of the deported returnees have the intention to re-migrate**

The research participants of this study indicated that when they faced different challenges after they return, they choose to re-migration. Elmusharf, K (2012) in his research indicates that the main challenges of deported returnees was absence of job, thus they wished to get a better employment with attractive salaries and to achieved their wish they have the interest to re-migrate. The previous research has shown economic problem is the major factor to migrate to Arab countries. The IOM (2016) reported that unemployment is one of the factor that forced migrants to migrate to Arab countries. The same result also has shown in this research due to unemployment problem.

- **The government and its stake holders did not give attention for the rehabilitation of deported returnees**

As the participants stated, they didn't get any support from GOs, NGOs, religious institution, Anti-Trafficking Council and communities as a whole though they promised to give fund and working place during the welcomed ceremony. The absence of any help from government and stakeholders might have the effect of deported returnees to re-migrate. The research participants also mentioned one of the reasons to re-migrate was absence of any help from the government and its stakeholders. However this research is a bell ring for government and its stakeholders to work for the reintegration of deported returnees. As George (2014) indicates in his research the effect of deportation is not only the families but also the governments. Similarly he expressed in his research the returnees should get training and jobs, if not burden on the families and governments. This research also indicates the absence of arrangement of employment by the

government and its stake holders brought deported returnees burden for the families and government. In general to prevent illegal way of migration and to minimize the migration of deported returnees the government and other stakeholders should be arrange job and loan.

## **Theoretical Discussions**

From the responses and discussions with the deported women and girls living in Addis Ababa, considering the opportunities and challenges after deportation, most of them indicated that they are facing and looking forward for a better remittance and standard of life of themselves and their families.

When observing the highly significant number of women and girls travelling to KSA or other Middle East countries and the open access and opportunity regardless of giving high priority to educational background and status, this relates with one of the concepts in the Labour Market Theory. Kibria(2004) introduced the dual labor market theory. This theory argues that it is not the push factors (low wages) that cause people to migrate, but the pull factors that cause internal and international migration.

The situation of deported returnee women and girls is highly dependent on the achievement of their initial goal which is bringing back financial and economic resources back to their country. The structural approach to return migration argues that return is not only a personal issue but above all a social and contextual one, affected by situational and structural factors. This approach shows how crucial to the return decision and the reintegration of the migrant are the financial and economic resources brought back to origin countries. Returnees' success or failure is analyzed by

correlating the reality of the home economy and society with the expectations of the returnee Mesfin (2011). In contrast to the neoclassical economics and the new economics of labor migration theoretical frameworks, the structural approach to return migration focuses on the extent to which returnees may or may not have an impact on their origin societies once return takes place.

In addition, trans-nationalism and return migration: this theory helps us to have better understanding of the strong social and economic links between migrants' host and origin countries. According to this approach, return takes place once enough resources, whether financial or informational, have been gathered and when conditions at home are viewed as being favourable enough. In a transnational stance, return has been dealt with while referring to the ways in which returnees are successful in adapting themselves to their home environment, at all levels. Here, returnees are seen as actors who maintain strong linkages with their former places of settlement in other countries, and gather the resources needed to secure and prepare their return to the homeland by mobilizing resources stemming from the communality of attributes (e.g. religion and ethnicity).

## **CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **Conclusion**

This study is conducted with a major objective of investigating the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls from KSA and now live in Addis Ababa. Accordingly research questions were proposed and addressed; the life experiences of the research participants were assessed.

#### **What are the opportunities that deported women and girls gain after they return back?**

The participants stated that the chance to live with their parents; freedom of movement; the formation of marriage and born a child; and to some extent the arrangement of jobs are the opportunities that deported women and girls gain after they return back.

#### **What are the challenges that deported women and girls faced after they return back?**

Answering the question, the participants indicated that challenges were so wide. To mention them Un employment, discrimination from their communities, insulting, absence of income, low salary, increasing tax that are not proportional to their income, drug addiction, providing working place that was not suitable for business purpose, bankruptcy of business and absence of support from government and its stakeholders.

Most of the participants expressed that they have the intention of re-migrate due to unemployment, absence of income, absence of any support from government and its

stakeholders, discrimination from families and communities, absence of working place, increasing tax. Few of them did not have the intention to re-migrate because they didn't want to see again the terrible life in the KSA, and the formation of marriage and born a child and the presence of income are factors not to re-migrate.

The impacts of deportation on families are burden to family, interruption of income and causes of anxiety for the families of deported returnees. Similarly the impact of deportation on government includes the reduction or interruption of inflow remittance, the increasing number of unemployment and drug addicted within the town.

### **What are the Needs of women and girls for a sustainable reintegration?**

In response to this research question, there were opportunities for deported women and girls to economically sustain themselves and their families in their respective settlements with little support from concerned bodies.

The research participants mentioned several job opportunities available in their respective areas. These were prevalently small businesses, such as trading, urban agriculture, poultry farming, fattening of animals, textiles, sewing, construction, and metal and woodwork.

## **Recommendation**

Based on the major research findings, I suggest the following implications: for education, policy, intervention and future research and in the implications the role of social workers is defined.

### **Implications for Social Work Education**

The first implication for Social Work education is concerning the current curriculum of Social Work education in that it should incorporate migration as one subject matter. The basic role of social workers is helping the disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable group of people to help themselves. Thus, the deported women and girls found in among the vulnerable group and to help this vulnerable group of people, the social workers should have the knowledge about the different aspects of migration including outward and return migration. In order to have detail knowledge about the migration the school of social work should incorporate the migration as one subject and the course should be given starting from the undergraduate class.

The second implication for social work education is the social work professionals should write on the concept of migration from the social work perspectives. In order to have different teaching and learning materials about migration, the school of social work need to enforce students (undergraduate up to PhD level ) to articulate the diversified aspect of migration and migrants life. Thus, the school of social work is supposed to develop different articles, journals and research materials on the issue of migration specifically about deported returnees.

### **Implications for Policy**

The first policy implication is that the Ethiopian government should take an action in the time of deportation to protect the human and democratic rights of its citizen. The action may be

secure returning to their country or protecting them from abuse and harassment that might occur in the destination area. According to the finding, deported women and girls were exposed to physical, sexual, and emotional harassments. It is, therefore, suggested that the FDRE Ministry of Foreign Affairs establish a strong diplomatic relationship with the Saudi government and work in collaboration during deportations of such a type. It is highly recommended that the Ethiopian government take the lion's share from the initial point in the deportation process. The government can achieve this by strengthening its foreign relations on the one hand and by serving transportation facilities, food, cloth, and medical services, all of which enable the government to ensure the of basic human rights of its citizens.

The second policy implication is that; the result also indicates, Arab employers have the assumption that Ethiopian domestic workers move in to Saudi for the mere sake of food. Hence, most Arab employers incline to hire Ethiopian domestic workers at a meagre salary compared to domestic workers originating from other countries. So as to ensure a fair and equal payment system for Ethiopian domestic workers and those of other countries working Saudi Arabia, the government should draw the a new policy that declares a standard payment for Ethiopian domestic workers in different Middle east countries. To assure the practicability of this policy, the government has to present the issue of equal payment for discussion especially with foreign affairs officials in the Middle East. This will obviously open the door for the signing of bilateral agreements between the Ethiopian governments on the one hand and Middle East governments on the other.

The policy implication is that most Arab employers incline to hire Ethiopian domestic workers at a monthly salary of 700 Riyal whereas Indonesians, Indians, Sirlankas' Phillips get hired with

1500 Riyal. So as to ensure a fair and equal payment system, the government should draw the new policy that declares a standard payment for Ethiopian domestic workers in different Arab countries. This will obviously open the door for the signing of bilateral agreements between the Ethiopian government and the government of Arab countries.

The third implication of the finding in this regard is its proposition that the Ethiopian government should amend new policy to control illegal migration in to the Middle East and other unsafe regions. The Ethiopian ministry of labour and social affairs has to close agencies that send domestic workers to different Middle East countries and all domestic workers have to go to the Middle East under the control of the government labour and social Affairs office and the Social Affairs should follow up the situation of migrants in the destination country.

### **Implication for Intervention/practice**

In line with this research finding, the researcher strongly suggests the following intervention plans:

- All governmental and non-governmental organizations should be involved in assisting deported women and girls after the deportation process. They should provide fund, creating employment, providing educational and vocational training, offering psychological support to the returnees and facilitate the chance of employment for sustainable reintegration of returnees. Training should be given on the risk of illegal migration and its consequence for potential migrants. Women and Children Office, Labour and Social Affairs offices, Police Office, Anti-trafficking Council and NGOs who works especially on migration supposed training. In addition, the social workers need to

offer counselling services focusing on the psychological strength of the deportees.

- Raising awareness program on the possibility of deportation. The migrant should get training on the factors behind deportation and what should they do when they face such kind of situation. These empowerment training helps the deported to build their capacity by empowering themselves and enables them to think about change. Different capacity building, awareness creation and behavioural change programs help the returnees' migrants to work on their country. To implement this intervention plan the social workers have to give empowerment training by focusing the strength of the returnees.

### **Implication for Future Research**

Out of the finding the researcher identified the following points to be addressed by future researchers.

- The consequence of deportation on both destination and receiving countries? In order to address this question and understand their attitude further I suggest large scale survey to be conducted
- The concept of deportation and deportation centres facility should be further investigated.

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## ANNEXES

### Annexe I: Interview Guide

#### Addis Ababa University

#### School of social work

This Interview is intended to gather data on the opportunities and challenges of women and girls who are deported from the KSA and now live in Addis Ababa. I am a graduate student in the School of Social at AAU. I am doing this research as a fulfilment for Master's Degree in Social Work. The collected data was used for the purpose of this research only. You are invited to participate in this research because you are the one that face the problem concerns and experienced the problem. Although I kindly request you to participate in this study, please be reminded of the following points.

- Participation in this research is voluntary you are also free to with draw from the research processes any time without any reservations.
- You will not be asked to provide any identifiable information about yourself.
- You can ask any questions about the study at any time.

I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

#### Part I. Background information

##### A. Personal background (Socio -demographic information of research participants)

1. Age \_\_\_\_\_
2. Marital status \_\_\_\_\_
3. Religion \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_
5. Level of education \_\_\_\_\_
6. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

#### **B. Parental background**

1. Tell me about your parental situation and family size?
2. Parents' occupation (father, mother)? Parents' income (average monthly income in ETB)
3. Tell me how you were treated by or brought up by your family

#### **Part II. Life after return**

1. When did you return?
2. What are the major challenges you faced after return?
3. Have you gain any opportunity after return? Can you tell me about this in detail?
4. What legal, social and economic support have you got after return?

5. After all that experience, how do you feel now?
6. How are you adjusting to family and life in Ethiopia after your return?
7. What are the opportunities and challenges you faced after you return?
8. Tell me about the support of different stake holders to address your problem (probe) government, NGOs, religious institution, communities and others)?
9. Is there anything you would like to add?

**Thank you in again for your cooperation**

## *Annex II: Observation Checklist*

This observation checklist is prepared with the idea to support the data collected through in-depth interview. It will further help the researcher to understand the physical and emotional expression of the deported women returnees. This checklist has two parts.

### 1. Physical characteristic of the deported women returnees

- Is the deported women returnees had physical disability or injury?
- Is there any evidence of harm on the body of the deported returnees women?

### 2. Emotional characteristics of the deported women returnees

- Does the deported returnee seem fearful at the time of interview?
- Does the deported returnee woman look free at time of interviewee?
- Does the deported returnee woman show a feeling of angry?
- Does the deported returnee woman cry in the interviewee time?
- Does the deported returnee woman feel confident in the interviewee time?

**Annex III: Socio-Demographic Information of Participants**

<b>Returned women and girls (pseudonym)</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Year of stay in KSA</b>
Semira	29	Single	Muslim	12 <sup>th</sup> completed	12 years
Zeyneba	21	Widow	Muslim	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 yrs & 5 months
Zertihun	28	Single	Muslim	10+2	5 years
Nejat	25	Married	Muslim	No education	2 years
Merema	23	Single	Muslim	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 yrs & 8 months
Zehara	28	Married	Muslim	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 years
Amira	25	Single	Muslim	10 <sup>th</sup> completed	5 years
Alemete	27	Married	Muslim	10 education	2 yrs & 6 months
Mehret	28	Single	Orthodox	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 years
Ekerem	28	Married	Muslim	10 <sup>th</sup> completed	
Muluwork	23	Single	Orthodox	10 <sup>th</sup> completed	2 years
Lela	25	Married	Muslim	10+1	5 yrs & 22 days

Nema	24	Single	Muslim	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	1 yrs & 6 months
Zebeba	28	Married	Muslim	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	1 year
Mentewabe	28	Single	Muslim	No education	2 years
Seble	21	Single	Orthodox	10+3	2 years
Fozeya	28	Single	Muslim	12 <sup>th</sup> completed	1 yrs & 8 months
Teblet	28	Divorced	Orthodox	10 <sup>th</sup> completed	2 years
Yeshe	29	Window	Muslim	No education	5 years
Burtukan	36	Married	Orthodox	12 <sup>th</sup> completed	5 years
Tigist	23	Single	Orthodox	10 <sup>th</sup> completed	2 years
Mulunesh	22	Single	Muslim	No education	6 yrs & 3 months
Selwa	32	Married	Muslim	No education	3 years
Meseret	27	Single	Orthodox	Diploma	4 years
Zebura	26	Single	Muslim	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 yrs & 3 months
Hawlet	28	Window	Muslim	No education	3 years
Sofia	27	Single	Muslim	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 years

Kedija	29	Single	Muslim	Diploma	4 years
Tsehay	28	Single	Orthodox	No education	3 years
Hyat	25	Single	Muslim	No education	1 yrs & 8 months
Mekedes	20	Single	Orthodox	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 yrs & 4 months
Askale	28	Window	Orthodox	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	1 yrs & 10 monts
Ansha	21	Single	Muslim	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	3 yrs & 4 months
Ager	34	Divorced	Orthodox	No education	5 years

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## **Annex IV: Informed Consent for Participation in a Study**

**Addis Ababa University**

**Graduate School of Social Work**

### **Informed consent for Participation in a Study**

#### **Introduction**

My name is Habtamu Demis Gelaw who is second year Social Work masters student at Addis Ababa University; I am expected to work on a thesis as partial fulfilment of Master's Degree in Social Work. To this end, I have chosen to study the opportunities and challenges of deported women and girls after return. I strongly believe that your story is so important to understand the issue of deported women and girls.

I will be gathering information through interviews where participation is voluntary. Once you consent to participate, you can skip questions you do not want to answer, end the interview session or you may withdraw from the study at any time if you are uncomfortable. The interview will take sixty minutes on average; feel free to share what you think is relevant since there is no right or wrong answer.

#### **Procedures:**

Participation in the study involves conducting a face-to-face interview, which will last for approximately one hour. The interviews will be conducted by the researcher himself, audio-taped and later transcribed for the purpose of data analysis. The data which is collected in the local language will later be translated in to English language. The interview will be held in suitable place both for the researcher and the interviewee.

#### **Risks of participation**

Be aware that there might be moments in which you feel embarrassed or feel pain during interview because we are talking an issue that may be painful that is deportation. Well the study is not meant to hurt you or embarrass or create pain up on you. But the experience you have may

have such nature and you may feel the pain again. I want you to freely express the pain or emotion you felt, I am not here to judge you, I am here to get the story right.

### **Rights of the informant**

You have the right not to participate if you are not willing; you have the right to ask any question that is not clear or which you feel uncomfortable any time you liked to ask. You have the right to withdraw when you feel so uncomfortable.

### **Confidentiality and anonymity:**

The researcher will respect your privacy and only collect information for the purpose of the study. If you face any discomfort by your participation in the study you can contact me by telephone or e-mail.

Cell phone: +251 911118754

E-mail: [hbtamudemis4@gmail.com](mailto:hbtamudemis4@gmail.com)

<b>Informant</b>	<b>Researcher</b>
Name: _____	_____
Signature: _____	_____
Date: _____	_____