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Department of Public Administration and Management

Bringing Children's Rights to the Centre of Public Policy: 'Promoting
Policy Advocacy and Partnership for the Children's Wellbeing in the
Multiethnic Region, SNNP'

By: Mebratu Dugda

A Thesis Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Award of
Master Degree in Public Management and Policy Specialized in Public Policy
Studies

Advisor:

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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**A MASTER THESIS FOR PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER DEGREE
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IN PUBLIC POLICY STUDIES**

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'PROMOTING POLICY ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING IN THE MULTIETNIC REGION, SNNP'**

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled as “*Bringing Children`s rights to the Centre of Public Policy: Promoting Policy Advocacy and Partnership for the Children`s Wellbeing in the Multiethnic Region, SNNP*” has been carried out by me under the guidance of Dr. Mulugeta Abebe as part of Master Degree in Public Management and Policy specialized in Public Policy Studies.

I further declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other University or Institution for the award of any degree or diploma and all sources of material used for this thesis have been dully acknowledged.

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Date

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as a University advisor.

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List of Abbreviation

ACPF	African Child Policy Forum
ACRWC	African Children`s Rights and Welfare convention
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CBO	Community Based Organization
CRIN	Children`s Rights Information Network
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EDHS	Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey
INGOs	International Nongovernment Organizations
nef	New Economic Foundation
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
SNNPR	South Nation Nationalities and People Region
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WYCAB	Women, Youth and Children Affairs Bureau

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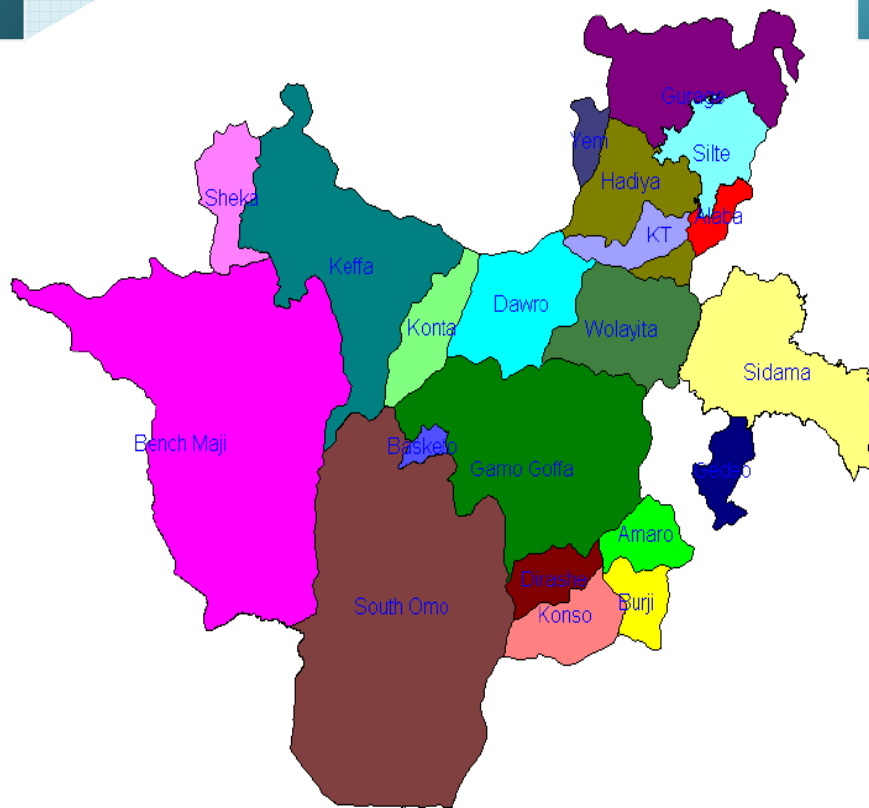
Regional Background

Map of the region

14 zones
8 Special
Woredas

Area = 10% of the country 118, 000 sq. km

22 Urban
Adm.
324Urban
Kebeles



56 Ethnic
groups
3553 Rural
Kebeles

Population= 16,389, 550 (20% of National Population)

Source: SNNPR HAPCO 2002 EFY Annual Performance Report

125
Woredas

Abstract

General treaties on children`s rights came into view only after the carnage and atrocities of the 1930s and 1940s. Over the past decades, however fitful, measurable progress has been made in an effort to create an international rules-based system to protect human rights. The Ethiopian government has also shown interest in this endeavor by adopting different policies and convention on the rights of children. Despite some notable progresses, yet, child fundamental rights have remained a major challenge in Ethiopia and SNNP region. Legislative/policies introduced over the past years have not made significant difference to the lives of the children. Failure of the government to demonstrate its commitment and sensitivity to the concerns of children, gaps and limitations in the information sharing, drafting and implementation of pro-children`s legislatives/policy frameworks and the new civil society law have recognized as major factors for the problems facing children in the region. Therefore, effective advocacy and collaborative engagement for the design, implementation and monitoring of pro-children policies/legislatives have sought to reverse the prevalence of the problems facing children and improve the conditions and enhance their wellbeing in the region. In order for achieving these results, the researcher used purposive sampling in identifying and selecting appropriate organizations and respondents for the study. Nineteen organizations, that is nine regional government bureaus and offices and ten nongovernment organizations (7 local and 3 international nongovernment organizations) were contacted; relevant information/data was collected through Questionnaire and key Informant Interview; data thematically organized and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively based upon logical and descriptive analysis. Moreover, it was also possible to interview four victim children (two boys and two girls) identified with the help of police officer in charge of children`s affairs in the regional police department.

“The true measure of a nation’s standing is how well it attends to its child`s rights—their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are born” _____ UNICEF 2007, Wellbeing report.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

There was no general treaties existed on the children`s rights until the work on international conventions prohibiting human trafficking, slavery, and exploitative labor had proposed to League of Nations in the early part of the twentieth century (Alyson et al, 2005). Over the past decade, however fitful, measurable progress has been made in an effort to create an international rules-based system to protect human rights in general. More international and regional children`s rights standards have been developed in the period since 1945 than ever before in the world history (Andrew, 2009). The literature has shown that it was only after the carnage and atrocities of the 1930s and 1940s that the United Sates and others pushed for mention of human rights in the UN charter (Andrew et al, 2009). In 1924, the League of Nations adopted a Declaration of the Rights of the child which is the first normative instrument for the protection of children`s rights at the international level. In 1954, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a slightly more detailed Declaration of the Rights of the child. In 1989, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) ratified and widely acclaimed as the first truly comprehensive international human rights instruments.

In Africa, at regional level, as the African Union replaced the Organization of African States (1963-2002), one found the African Charter of Human and People`s Rights (Evans, et al, 2008). Regarding children`s rights, in the history of the continent, the African Union adopted African Charter on the Rights of the Child in 2002.

The Ethiopian government has also shown interest in this endeavor among other things by adopting the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991. This policy gesticulation was further reinforced by the ratification of the African Charter on the Rights of the Child under Proclamation No. 283/2002 and putting the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Ethiopia into operation since 2004. All the international and regional conventions

adopted by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) demanded the country to undertake all appropriate administrative, legislative and judicial measures, regardless of its economic circumstances, towards the realization of the rights of the children. Consequently, some principles of the conventions somehow incorporated in the FDRE`s constitution and various other provisions of the country`s legal systems such as Family Law of Ethiopia and the Penal code and Criminal Procedure Law.

Moreover, the other remarkable development, if will have realized, is that the government has vowed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 claiming to be committed to observance of all kinds of children`s rights. This requires mobilization of measurable investments in the most critical areas of children`s rights–health, education, child development and social protection (Mekonnen, 2007).

However, despite this progress, child fundamental rights have remained a major challenge in Ethiopia. According to the 2005 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report, infant mortality is 77 deaths per 1,000 live births, and under-five-mortality is 123 deaths per 1,000 live births. This means one in every thirteen Ethiopian children dies before reaching age one; one out of every eight children does not survive to their fifth birthday. Furthermore, the report indicated that only one in five-children or 20% of all children has been fully vaccinated while over half of all children are chronically malnourished (DHS, 2005). The highest rates of these problems are found in SNNP region (DHS, 2005). On top this, significant number of children don`t get chance to schooling (UNICEF, 2008).

The above particulars were further asserted by the 2008 report of African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) about the wellbeing of children in Africa indicating that the government of Ethiopia ranked 42nd in the Child-friendliness Index, out of the 52 African governments (ACPF, 2008). The same report indicated that over half of the children under the age of 18 in the country are deprived of basic necessities such as food, shelter, health, water and sanitation, education and information and thus, their wellbeing is at jeopardy (ACPF, 2008).

In addition, the rapid population growth and the extent to which the government meet its obligations in respecting the children`s rights goes at contrary. The Ethiopian population based on the estimate of July 2010 was 85,237,338, of which approximately 52% of Ethiopia's population is

below 18 years old (CSA, 2010), whereas the government took very few measures such as enacting fragmented governmental legislation and policy framework for the protection of children (CRIN, 2010). The government ratified only four out of eight international conventions related to Children`s rights protection (ACPF, 2008).

Evidences (For example, the 2008 ACPF`s report) indicate serious gaps and limitations in the legal and policy framework for the protection of children in the country. These include gaps in terms of ratification, harmonization and implementation of international instruments; lack of legislative framework and national policies or guidelines for the protection of children within child centred organizations; and lack of training and public awareness on child protection. On top of this, there is lower commitment in allocating higher share of the national and regional budget to provide for the basic needs of children and enhance their wellbeing (ACPF, 2008). The prevalence of these problems in the country in general and the region in particular kick the researcher off to undertake this study to get insight into ways to reduce the problems.

The rapid population growth and heartbreaking children`s rights violence in the country and the region signaling the need for policy reforms. Children have the right to grow up in a safe environment that protects them from all forms of mistreatment. This study is going to argue that violence against children`s rights should be the focal point of political discourses and the pervasive children`s problems in the region should come into public view and take main concern on the political agenda.

In addition, there must be coordinated response systems aimed at prevention and early intervention, linked to integrated services that extend across sectors such as legal, education, justice, social, health and other services. The other focal point in this study is that the capacity of official and non-official policy makers and their institutions at all levels needs to be strengthened for them to meet fully their obligations related to the fulfillment of children's rights. This includes enhancing capacities related to ensuring accurate information gathering and data analysis for effective decision-making, design and implementation of social and economic policies and legislative measures to improve the conditions and well-being of children in the region.

Therefore, partnerships and/or coalitions need to be built and strengthened to amplify the voices and efforts so that children`s rights are increasingly respected and protected. Children need to have

more opportunities for meaningful participation at all levels of society, particularly in decision-making on issues affecting them. Targeted, evidence-based advocacy on behalf of children will enormously help the regional capacities to achieve consistency between policy priorities and resource allocations for children, and challenge established cultural practices that conflict with the principles of regional and international conventions. Generally, children`s rights need to be treated by both agencies and governments as a cross-cutting issue.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In Ethiopia, children rights abuses of all kind remained rampant throughout the history of the country (McDougall, 2006). Although the FDRE constitution entitled children splendid rights, the promises of the constitution and other legal documents have not been achieved. Therefore, children require advocacy since they are vulnerable and cannot usually speak out for themselves. Children, unlike the adult, they cannot vote; they are not members of trades unions or professional associations or other associations that put forth efforts collaboratively to make their voice heard by the concerned body. Thus, collaborative advocates groups have pivotal role in contributing to improve knowledge of the problems facing children; identify policy options; and strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments to develop and implement effective pro-child policies, since children have little or no access to the media and courts that can influence governments.

Besides, the basis and principles behind advocacy need to comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, other human rights conventions, national legislation and other legal documents. Thus, by analyzing economic, social and legal policies, both state actors and non-state advocate groups can have better understanding of the circumstances and forces that affect the well-being of children and subjects international, regional and national policies to scrutiny against the norms and standards set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (ACPF, 2007).

As noted from the 2007 national census, the total population of the SNNP region was 20.4% of the population of the country, of which about 6,718,480 were children age 18 and under. Several reports on the situation of children in the region make known that children are often overlooked in the policy discourses and their rights are not at the forefront of considerations (UNICEF, 2009, UNPAID, 2010). These reports had identified that over half of children in the region have

deprived of basic necessities and exposed to different ill-treatment by individuals, governmental and nongovernmental institutions. As result, a considerable proportion of children in the region leading despondent and downhearted life.

The problems, therefore, call upon state (federal, regional and local government and their agencies) and non-state child services commissioners and activists (NGOs, CBOs, civil society, donor agencies, private agencies, and the people) to interact and operate in partnership. This is because the problems can hardly be addressed by the government single-handedly; but the coalitions between governmental and nongovernmental policy advocates groups can have profound impacts on children`s physical, mental, emotional and psychological well-being. The soaring of these problems in the region incontestably make a demand for policy advocacy become an essential work of all levels of the regional governments agencies, regional lawmakers, the media, civil society and international organizations on behalf of children.

Promoting policy advocacy and partnership that have received an increasing attention by policy makers and researchers, has a great significance in enhancing children wellbeing activities and lessening their vulnerability. This newly emerging approach involves relationships across multiple actors from multiple sectors of society. Government is required to work collaboratively and create conditions for structuring rule and decision making for other actors to establish common objectives, pool resources, and design joint solution to the problems facing children. In spite of the perceived significance of the partnership approach and advocacy, state and non-state partnership has not yet well developed to mitigate children`s problems. The culture of collective efforts and works methods among different children rights advocate groups need to be developed.

Therefore, this study has assessed the general environment in which politicians, policy makers, officials and different child`s rights advocates groups jointly operating and making efforts to promote policy advocacy and partnership for children`s wellbeing in the multiethnic region of the country, the SNNP.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study shall address the following questions:

- Has the affairs of children`s taken forefront consideration in public policy making in Ethiopia (in general), SNNP in particular? Has the regional government introduced any

legislative or policy that affects children? How has the societal law affected the advocacy and partnership for children`s wellbeing?

- How have Policy dialogues pertaining to children`s wellbeing being made in the region? What contributions so far made by these groups? And under what conditions? What efforts have been made by the child`s rights advocates groups to promote the protection of children against various forms of abuse and exploitation in the region?
- What does the state and non-state child rights advocate groups` relationship look like? Is it one of cooperation and collaboration or of conflicting and misunderstanding? How shall state incorporate non-state advocate groups in the child policy making and implementation?

1.4 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This research has two types of objectives. The first is general objectives, while the second is specific objectives.

1.4.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The cardinal objective of this study is to suggest ways of strengthening regional capacities in enhancing children`s wellbeing through partnership, data driven advocacy, interventions geared at improving system and institutionalizing children participation by gaining insight into the circumstances which allow adopting, designing and implementing effective pro-children policies and programmes in the SNNP region.

1.4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the study include:

- To examine the perception of advocates on the content and impact of legislation/policy on the lives of children; and investigate into the nature and extent of child-focused organizations and sectors` influence on pro-child legislative and policy process in the region;
- To assess the general state of partnership and governing legal `framework in support of children`s rights and monitoring systems;

- To identify key strategies and techniques for exerting decisive influence on the legislative and policy process concerning children and;
- To examine efforts made by the child`s rights advocates groups to promote the protection of children against various forms of abuse and exploitation in the region and make recommendation aiming at filling gaps in the subject under investigation.

The above research questions and objectives have been assessed against the indicators that measure the effectiveness of policy advocacy & partnership annexed at the end (see Appendix-1).

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This study was carried out in the one of the region, SNNP, which formed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. This research employed both quantitative and qualitative research method. The research leaned itself on both primary and secondary data. The researcher, therefore, had considered primary sources to generate data on the state of collaborative engagements for children`s wellbeing in the region by critically assessing the existing advocacy and partnership environment and efforts made by the child`s rights advocates groups to promote the protection of children against various forms of abuse and exploitation in the region. The researcher as well consulted different policy documents and literatures in reviewing the general state of policy advocacy and partnership and its specific situation in the region, SNNP.

1.5.1 SAMPLING DESIGN

The researcher used purposive sampling in identifying and selecting appropriate organizations and individual respondents for the study. Hence, relevant regional government bureaus, offices and active nongovernment organizations were identified in consultation with the Women, Youth and Children Affairs Bureau (WYCAB). Seniority/past experience and exposure to children`s issues were the criteria used in selecting individual respondents.

Accordingly, nineteen organizations: — Nine government bureaus and offices and ten NGOs (7 local NGOs and 3 international NGOs) were contacted and relevant information was collected. The government bureaus and offices contacted were Office of the SNNPR president, the council of SNNP region, Women, Children and Youth Affairs Bureau, Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, Labor and Social Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau, Health Bureau, Supreme Court and Police Commission.

The local nongovernment organizations contacted were Bereket Orphan Children Sponsorship & Development support Organization, Betel Destitute Children and Family Aid Association, Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization, Organization for Gold Age Children Care & Transits House, Shalom Children's Hope, Tikuret Le setochena and Le Hitsanat and Belaya Child and Family Development Association; and the international nongovernment organizations contacted were SOS Children Village, UNICEF and Save the Children-USA.

1.5.2 DATA COLLECTION AND INSTRUMENTATION

Primary data was collected through questionnaires and key informant interviews. Questionnaires were prepared considering the key indicators annexed at the end (see Appendix-1). Thematically, standardized semi-structured questionnaires tailored in three parts were prepared. The first part of the questionnaire assess the extent to which the organizations are involved in the policy advocacy activities in promoting children`s wellbeing in the region; the second part assesses content & impact of legislation/policy on the lives of children and the third part focuses on the general state of collaborative engagement in addressing children`s problems and the extent to which various stakeholders involved in legislative or policy development in the region.

Therefore, the questionnaires were distributed to nine government bureaus/offices and ten NGOs. In total, 76 questionnaires (i.e.44 questionnaires by government bureaus/offices, 19 questionnaires by local NGOs and 13 questionnaires by international NGOs) were filled by the expertise/officers selected based on their exposure to the children`s issues.

The Key Informants Interview (KII) were also conducted with selected individuals their consent was obtained on the first round to provide additional information for the second round of data collection. The Key Informants Interview was conducted to examine the efforts made by the advocates in relation to the protection of children against various forms of abuses, neglects and exploitations. Accordingly, eight key informants were selected from four respondents groups i.e. police officers, NGO actors, religious leaders and community leaders. Moreover, it was also possible to interview four victim children identified with the help of police officer in charge of children`s affairs in the regional police department.

To this end, semi-structured interview protocols or checklists was prepared and used in collecting data from key informants. The interview was conducted by using extensive probing open-ended

questions on a one-to-one basis between the informants and the researcher. The researcher took notes, finally transcribed, and analyzed it.

The key informants' interviews were conducted with two police officers from the regional police department, two NGOs actors one from Tikuret Le setochena & Le Hitsanat and the other from Belaya Child and Family Development Association, two informants from faith based institution i.e. one informant from the Meserete kiristos Church and the other from the Catholic Church of Ethiopia Hawassa Brach and two community leaders. A group of 4 children were also interviewed for this study purpose. The children were identified by the police officer in charge of children affairs in the police department of the region. The researcher believed that the data obtained from these cases will strengthen the data obtained from other instruments.

Relevant issues on the subject were browsed from internet and other printed materials. Relevant books, journals, articles, policy documents, international and regional conventions/standards, children`s rights instruments, guidelines, national and regional legislations and reports were thoroughly reviewed.

1.5.3 DATA ANALYSIS

The data are summarized and organized thematically. Data collected through questionnaires were analyzed quantitatively using simple tables and percentages while data collected through Key Informants Interview was analyzed qualitatively based on descriptive analysis.

Moreover, comparisons were made to address the issues as each theme treated by the respondents to provide practical insight into the issue in the region. By understanding these comparisons, interpretation was made using inductive analysis by making efforts to understand the details and specifics of the findings by means of interrelationships.

Relevant literature encompassing laws, polices, commentaries, and principles related to children`s rights was made to guide the analysis.

1.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Policymaking is the process by which governments translate their political vision into programmes and actions to deliver desired changes in the real world (Modernizing Government White Paper, 1999). The concern of achieving real changes in people's lives is reflected in the Government's

overall strategy for incorporating all stakeholders in the policy making and implementation process (Bessette, 1994).

Governments` role in translating their political vision into programmes and actions to deliver desired changes varies with the kind of systems they are inclined to establish. For example, in a presidential system where an executive branch exists and presides separately from the legislature, the president does not propose bills (Nelson and Dana, 2008). However, the president has the power to veto acts of the legislature and, in turn, a supermajority of legislators may act to override the veto. Hence, the relative active participation of presidents in the legislation process in presidential systems depend upon whether the supporters or opponents have the dominant position therein and is always influenced by the political makeup of the legislature (David, 2008). Whereas, in a parliamentary system in which the ministers of the executive branch are drawn from the legislature and the executive and legislative branches are intertwined and the former is accountable to the later, the head of government is both de facto chief executive and chief legislator (Bates, 1986).

In a semi-presidential system (For example, French system), also known as the presidential-parliamentary system, or premier-presidential system, in which a president and a prime minister are both active participants in the legislation process and day-to-day administration of the state (Dennis, 2003). This system differs from a parliamentary republic in that it has a popularly elected head of state who is more than a purely ceremonial figurehead, and from the presidential system in that the cabinet, although named by the president, is responsible to the legislature, which may force the cabinet to resign through a motion of no confidence (Maurice, 1980).

Moreover, parliamentary systems usually have a clear differentiation between the head of government and the head of state, with the head of government being the prime minister or premier, and the head of state often being a figurehead, often either a president elected either popularly or by the parliament or a hereditary monarch often in a constitutional monarchy (Nousiainen, 2001). Presidential governments make no distinction between the positions of head of state and head of government, both of which are held by the president (Shugart and Carrey, 1992). In some other presidential systems such as Weimar Germany and South Korea, there is an office of prime minister or premier but, unlike in semi-presidential or parliamentary systems, the

premier is responsible to the president rather than to the legislature (Shugart and Carrey, 1992). In South Africa, the president is elected by the people not by the parliament (Kristiadi, 2008). This president is chosen in the same way as a prime minister and is head of both state and government as the premier is both de facto chief executive and chief legislator in the parliamentary system.

A parliamentary system may consist of two styles of Chambers of Parliament one with two chambers or an elected lower house and an upper house or Senate which may be appointed or elected by a different mechanism from the lower house. This style of two houses is called bicameral system. Legislatures with only one house are known as unicameral system.

The Ethiopian parliament was created with the adoption of the Ethiopian Constitution of 1995; the Parliament replaced the Shengo as the legislative branch of the Ethiopian government. The Ethiopia Parliamentary Assembly consists of two chambers: The House of Federation (Upper Chamber) and The House of People's Representatives (Lower Chamber). However, in Ethiopian parliamentary systems, party interests are much more strictly enforced. The parliamentary backbencher don't publicly criticizes the executive or its policies to any significant extent and there is no prospect of losing party's nomination for the premier.

Besides the systems, Governments` overall strategy for incorporating relevant stakeholder, both official and non-official policy makers, in the decision-making has its own opportunities and challenges in translating their political vision into programmes and actions to deliver desired changes in the real world. There are various models of policymaking, whereas this study mainly calls attentions to the deliberative policymaking model.

As Joseph (1980) noted deliberative policymaking model is a system of political decision-making that relies on popular consultation to make policy. He argued that in contrast to the traditional theory of decision making, in which voting is central, deliberative theorists argue that legitimate lawmaking can arise only through public deliberation. According to Cohen (1980), another proponent, some of the conditions that constitute the root principles of the theory of deliberative policymaking are commitment to the respect of a pluralism of values and aims within the polity, recognition and respects for other members' deliberative capacity. In such system, parties to deliberation are required to state reasons for their proposals, and proposals are accepted or rejected based on the reasons given, as the content of the very deliberation-taking place (Joseph, 1980).

According to the proponents, the strength of deliberative policymaking model is that it involves an extensive outreach effort to include marginalized, isolated, ignored groups in decisions making and it tends, more than any other models, to generate conditions of impartiality, rationality and knowledge of the relevant facts (Joseph, 1980, Cohen, 1989, and Nino, 1996). The more these conditions are fulfilled, the greater the likelihood that the decisions reached is morally correct. Nino noted that deliberative policymaking model has an epistemic value: it allows participants to deduce what is morally correct and it attempts to be as neutral and open-ended as possible to create a conversation among people of different philosophies and beliefs (Carlos, 1996).

Therefore, the interest of this study is to take up Carlos, Joseph and Joshua`s points above that decision making be supposed to aim at a rationally motivated consensus and evolve through social and political struggle guided by altruistic values and the search for inclusive social justice and democracy. Promoting such good practice in policymaking is fundamental to the respect of children rights and enhancement of their wellbeing.

1.7 THE SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to the analysis on the practices of collaborative engagement in enhancing children`s wellbeing in the SNNP region.

The limitations of the study presented here, among other things, amount to the major challenges. Some respondents were reluctant and refrained from delivering their genuine views and perspectives because the points addressed in the research are politically sensitive.

Particularly respondents from the NGOs had a fear that their candid responses to the study would have recrimination consequences transferable to all members and the organization they represent including the beneficiaries. Despite the fact that the combined effects of the shortcomings had impacts, the researcher had exerted best of his efforts to keep the objectivity of the study and make the findings complete.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

So far, many studies have been done on the issues of children in the SNNP region and the country as well. However, the researchers have hardly addressed issues related to policy advocacy and collaborative engagement for the promotion of children`s wellbeing in the region. This study, therefore, hopefully provides relevant recommendations and helps all stakeholders and especially the incumbent regional government and its agencies if to re-consider their operations; policies and legislatives related to children. Moreover, this paper can serve as a springboard for other researchers to conduct other studies on this thematic area.

1.9 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The research is organized in to four chapters. The first chapter comprises the introduction parts of the study. The second chapter is the literature review part. In this chapter, reviews of different documents such as relevant books, journals, articles, children`s rights instruments, policy documents and laws were carried out concerning child`s wellbeing, advocacy and partnership, and policymaking. The third chapter, which is the major part of the research, is based on the results of a survey conducted in 9 purposively selected government bureaus/offices and 10 nongovernment organizations and a Key Informants Interview conducted with 12 respondents; eight of them are child`s rights Advocates while four of them are children themselves. Finally, the summary of the findings and recommendation are presented in the fourth chapter.

“Close links between citizens and the institutions of representative democracy were seen as crucial to national success in the next millennium. As the future brings with it greater engagement of citizens in the design of public policy and as citizens demand more responsive institutions, the basic institutions of representative democracy will come under increasing pressure for reform.” _____ Wilson House Conference Report, 1998

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2. DEFINITIONS OF BASIC CONCEPTS

2.1 WHO IS A CHILD?

Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that “a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”. Cornell University defined child as person, not a sub person, and the parent has absolute interest and possession of the child. Other scholars argue that the term "child" does not necessarily mean minor but can include adult children as well as adult nondependent children (Ben-Arieh & Khoury-Kassabri, 2008). According to these scholars, there are no definitions of other terms used to describe young people such as "adolescents", "teenagers," or "youth" in international law, but they recognizes that the way children exercise their rights and the limits imposed on the exercise of their rights can and should vary according to the age of the child.

In many international instruments, 18 used as the age limit for determining when a person loses the right to the special protection to which children are entitled (Atwool, 2006). The various legal documents of Ethiopia also use 18 as defining age to the special protection to which children are entitled. Key international organizations working with children use 18 as the defining age for their work.

Therefore, the definition used in this thesis is one stated in Article one of the CRC that is "A child is any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”

2.2 WHAT IS CHILD RIGHTS?

Children's rights are defined in numerous ways, including a wide spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights (See Table-1 below). Consensus on defining children's rights has become clearer in the last fifty years (Barnes, 2007). A 1973 publication by Hillary Clinton (then an attorney) stated that child's rights were a "slogan in need of a definition" (Daiute, 2008). According to some researchers, the notion of children's rights is still not well defined, with at least one proposing that there is no singularly accepted definition or theory of the rights held by children (Daiute, 2008).

Some scholars defined Children's rights from legal perspective as the point where the law intersects with a child's life (Campbell, 2008). That includes juvenile delinquency, due process for children involved in the criminal justice system, appropriate representation, and effective rehabilitative services; care and protection for children in state care; ensuring education for all children regardless of their origin, race, gender, disabilities, or abilities, and; health care and advocacy.

Others claim that children's rights are the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to the children (Atwool, 2006). Accordingly, these rights include their right to association with biological parents, human identity as well as the basic needs for food, universal state-paid education, health care and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child.

Box-1:- Typologies of Child`s Rights

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) categorizes children's rights into three categories:

- **Provision:** Children have the right to an adequate standard of living, health care, education and services, and to play and recreation. These include a balanced diet, a warm bed to sleep in, and access to schooling.
- **Protection:** Children have the right to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination. This includes the right to safe places for children to play; constructive child rearing behavior, and acknowledgment of the evolving capacities of children.
- **Participation:** Children have the right to participate in communities and have programs and services for themselves. This includes children's involvement in libraries and community programs, youth voice activities, and involving children as decision-makers.

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) categorizes child rights into two groups:

- **Economic, social and cultural rights:** This is related to the conditions necessary to meet basic human needs such as food, shelter, education, health care, and gainful employment. Included are rights to education, adequate housing, food, water, the highest attainable standard of health, the right to work and rights at work, as well as the cultural rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.
- **Environmental, cultural and developmental rights:** Which are sometimes called "third generation rights," and including the right to live in safe and healthy environments and that groups of people have the right to cultural, political, and economic development.

Amnesty International categorizes children's rights into four categories:

- Ending juvenile incarceration without parole,
- Ending the recruitment of military use of children,
- Ending the death penalty for people under 21, and
- Raising awareness of human rights in the classroom

Human Rights Watch: An international advocacy organization, includes child labor, juvenile justice, orphans and abandoned children, refugees, street children and corporal punishment as children's rights.

Scholarly study: This generally focuses children's rights by identifying individual rights. According to several scholarly studies, the following rights allow children to grow up healthy and free.

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of thought
- Freedom from fear
- Freedom of choice and the right to make decisions
- Ownership over one's body
- Other issues affecting children's rights include the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography are also the focus of a wide studies concerning children's wellbeing.

In general, interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children the capacity for autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse, though what constitutes "abuse" is a matter of debate. Other definitions include the rights to care and nurturing. Therefore, children's rights tend to be of two general types: those advocating for children as autonomous persons under the law and those placing a claim on society for protection from harms perpetrated on children because of their dependency. These have been labeled as the right of empowerment and as the right to protection (Barnes, 2007).

2.3 A REDEFINED CONCEPT OF CHILD WELLBEING

Numerous efforts have been made to define (and redefine) the concept of child well-being. Much of this effort is rooted in Western culture in developed countries. However, much of the approaches used to define the concept did not encompass the full spectrum of children's lives.

What they lack was the child's own current perspective and experience, i.e. the effort to conceptualize children's wellbeing in the context of children's rights.

2.3.1 CHILD'S WELLBEING IN THE CONTEXT OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Several studies noted the notion of children's rights, in one sense, has emerged from an international movement based on the belief that children are human beings and as such are entitled to treatment that respects their basic human dignity (Takanishi, 1978; Hart, 1991; Hawes, 1991). Throughout the twentieth century, international law has reflected a growing consensus on the extension of basic human rights, both in the extent of what constitutes rights and which groups are viewed as holders of these rights (Ben-Arieh et al, 2001).

Children became the focus of the international human rights standards following important years of careful drafting, negotiation and declarations on the rights of children particularly when the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. The underlying principle of human rights law—the dignity of the individual—is apparent throughout the CRC. All children are included, “irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status” (Article 2). The convention also clearly provides an integrated approach to children's well-being. One guideline for a redefined concept of child well-being provided by the convention is establishing what it would take children to feel that they are being treated with dignity.

Since children have become treated as one who hold basic rights, the measurement and monitoring of child well-being and child indicators in the field is changing. In particular, the literatures highlight four major shifts: The first shift is from a focus on a child's mere survival to a focus on well-being, i.e. measures that deal mainly with survival and the basic needs of children are inadequate for measuring the state and quality of life of children beyond survival (Pittman and Irby, 1997).

The second shift is from a focus on negative aspects in children's lives to a focus on positive aspects, i.e. developing indicators that hold societies accountable for more than the safe warehousing of children such an issue of sparkle, satisfaction and well-being (Pittman & Irby, 1997).

The third shift is from a focus on well-becoming (attaining eventual well-being) to well-being (attaining sustained well-being), i.e. instrumentalizing children by the forward-looking perspectives in the sense that their "good life" is postponed until adulthood or preparing children to a productive and happy adulthood (Hauser, Brown & Prosser, 1997).

The fourth shift is from a focus on traditional to new domains of children`s well-being, i.e. the ultimate contribution made through the three shifts, or it is a shift towards child-centered and cutting across services such as civic life skills, safety, children activities, and so on (Ben-Arieh, 2005; Brown & Moore, 2001).

2.3.2 CHILDREN`S WELLBEING IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

The measurement and monitoring of children`s wellbeing in the third millennium need to generally be driven by the universal acceptance of the CRC (Moore, Lippman, & Brown, 2004). The overwhelming acceptance of the CRC and its enthusiastic support in developed and developing countries could and should be used to move the study of children`s well-being beyond survival to encompass child development and participation.

Furthermore, the measurement must consider both children`s survival and beyond. In this regard, it seems a geographic difference still exists, with developing countries (appropriately) more focused on survival indicators than are developed countries. However, this focus does not entirely exclude considerations beyond survival. On the other hand, developed countries, driven by the "achievement" of child survival, are shifting their attention beyond mere survival and toward other aspects of children lives.

Much work is also needed to combine a focus on negative aspects of children`s lives with positive aspects to define the positive aspects of children lives and their measurement. Traditionally, child protection meant identifying and preventing risk factors, with its inherent focus on the negative aspects of children`s lives. The shift to including more positive aspects of children`s lives now means that researchers and others must identify and monitor a different, and additional, set of indicators, an example would be positive parenting practices or a broader look at educational performance (Molinari, 2001). In this regard, efforts must be made to measure and monitor children`s well-being starting from the child and move outward. In contrast, past studies of child

well-being often did not directly assess the child. Such studies might have selected the mother or the family as the unit of analysis. This information was absent in traditional studies but is much less neglected today (Hirczy de Miño, 2000).

Moreover, subjective perceptions, including the child must be explored. In the past, most research on children`s lives focused on “objective” description, treating children as passive objects that are acted on by the adult world (McTernan & Godfrey, 2006). Current efforts are more likely to focus on children as active members of society, who themselves influence the adults in their lives and their own peers (Munro & Ward, 2008). Thus, scholars and policy makers are expected to acknowledgment these facts, since obtaining accurate measure and providing meaningful monitoring of children`s well-being encompasses gathering of children`s perceptions of their world and insights into their experiences.

Policymakers also have to included in the process of developing the indicators and discuss the usefulness of various choices, and policy relevant indicators for children`s wellbeing. The shifts undergoing in the four major areas must be correlated with changes in the “philosophy” or approach (such as the incorporation of subjective perceptions and the use of the child as the unit of observation). Incorporating children`s subjective perceptions, therefore, is both a prerequisite and a consequence of the changing field of measuring and monitoring child well-being in the third millennium.

2.4 CONCEPTUALIZING ADVOCACY PRACTICE IN RELATION TO CHILD`S RIGHTS

Understanding the concept of advocacy conforms to realistic, convincing and confident advises. As Andy Boon (1999) puts it, advocacy is “a valuable skill, a transferable skill and a lifelong skill”. Learning a competent job as advocating is as tough as the need to persuade people. Advocacy in a meaningful framework means to understand effectively needs, analyze the extent to which the policy can help to achieve such needs, prepare and present a case through the most favorable technique (Boon, 1999).

Modeling advocacy in relation to children can be described as a process designed to influence positive political, social, economic and cultural change to tackle children`s problem, reduce their vulnerability and promote their wellbeing by moving specific constituencies into action to change the status quo and support key initiatives to tackle children`s problems (Daiute, 2008).

Advocacy in relation to children deals with a two-fold conduct: the case advocacy and the cause advocacy. Case advocacy focuses on individual cases that involve a partisan intervention on behalf of the children or identified vulnerable children`s group. Cause advocacy collective/communal issues by means of social change efforts and improving social policies (Pardeck, 1996). The essence of advocacy is winning cases. Toward this end, advocates take a closer look on the depth of cases and its strength and taking part in the administration of justice as well.

Advocates help children use their rights, articulate other (or own) needs, as they perceive them, or legal decisions they require and or the right to which they are entitled. Advocacy grants children a practical guidance for their being, safeguard the implementation of the child rights system and critically evaluates the outcomes of the implementation. The effectiveness of advocacy reflects an efficient representation of children through increasing their engagement level in education and other rights that enables them to envision themselves as a functional member of the society (Munro & Ward, 2008).

Ross (2007) noted that the qualities of advocacy conforms to a continuous technique acquisition, practice and honing. Its application makes it different from any other specialties as advocacy was observed in public upon the scrutiny and judgment of people. Advocacy also deals with different cases; thus, each case has to be custom-built.

International standards promoting the right to advocacy and right to representation for children states that children must have right to be represented, right of an effective advocacy services and right to have their interests protected and fight against for. The right to representation provides more social empowerment and right to advocacy ensures benefits and legal rights are provided accordingly (Veerman, 1992).

According to Ross (2007), effective children`s rights advocacy requires an effectual advocate those include the following attribute:

*“**Voice:**–quality over volume; **words:**–good command of words and eloquence; **order:**–apparent logical presentations; **courage:**–a civilized warfare that avoids tenacity and belligerence; **presence:**–the sense of being there mentally and physically; **observation:**–intent use of sight; **wit:**–quick-witted and serious;*

emotions:—a good knowledge on-[children]-affairs and of [children] nature; law and evidence:—knowledgeable on the statute law and its application and familiarity on rules of evidences.”, (Ross, 2007)

Therefore, children`s rights advocates should develop policy and legislative in favor of children and institute mechanisms that protect and promotes the rights of children. Local development that aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of lower levels government; and the development of political and social platforms are obliged to ensure the wellbeing of children, as well as the protection of their rights.

Legal reforms, whose principal challenge is to contribute to the development of national legislation, under the child rights umbrella, must promote technical parliamentary capacity to legislate, to monitor and assign funds for children. At the same time, it must look to create processes that support advocacy for the management of public policy, which give priority to relevant themes. Monitoring and evaluation must promote results-based management of public policies in favor of children and drives the development of a national system of monitoring and evaluation for the fulfillment of their rights. Moreover, the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be designed in such way it is compatible with the following typologies of advocacy.

2.4.1 CASE ADVOCACY

Case Advocacy is intervening to address an individual child or family's problem. By being aware of and documenting service-delivery problems, providers can share important information and collect examples that help identify policy issues (Thomas, 2008). The desirable strategies in the case Advocacy include researching the rules or eligibility requirements of a particular program or policy; documenting the problem, its history, and make sure whether others have had similar difficulties; meeting with local agency staff and/or affected family to discuss a problem and filing an appeal if services are denied.

2.4.2 ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY

Administrative Advocacy is all about creating new policies, revising guidelines, and resolving program problems through activities directed at administrative and governmental agencies with authority and discretion to change rules and regulations (Durr, 1993). Many decisions are made informally, so interacting with the managing entity—rather than working through the legislature—

can be the most effective way to make a positive change. The strategies for administrative advocacy includes developing ongoing relationships with advocates and agency staff to influence decision making, participating in forums where decisions are made, and providing reliable information about the impact of policy decisions in your community, agency, or program to build your credibility.

2.4.3 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY:

Legislative Advocacy is working with elected officials to educate them about policies or programs and to inform them of the impact of the program in their home district. Advocates can educate decision-makers and suggest policies that would benefit their community. The key strategy for legislative advocacy activities include lobbying on specific bills or requested funding levels and communicating with legislators and staff through letters, e-mails, phone calls, or personal visits; testifying before relevant legislative committees and working with legislators to compel agency administrators to adopt your proposal. Meeting with staff of the government`s office and the legislature to draw attention to your issue and inviting legislators to visit your program and see how policies affect people in your community are also relevant in this kind of advocacy.

2.4.4 MEDIA ADVOCACY

Media Advocacy is using media to increase public awareness and influence broader public debate about early childhood issues. Keeping your issue in the news creates public recognition and support, thereby increasing its practical and political importance. The key strategies for media advocacy includes expressing key point of view through letters to the editor and call-in opportunities or contacting local reporters when your organization has news to share or contacting local radio and television stations about appearing on local talk shows or public-affairs programs to share your expertise. Meeting with the editorial board of newspapers; identifying families or other influenced organizations and ask them to write letters or make calls as well or sharing pertinent local media coverage with elected officials from your community are also other mechanisms of media advocacy.

2.5 CONCEPTUALIZING PARTNERSHIP IN RELATION TO CHILD`S RIGHTS

The need for partnership between a state and civil society organizations for protection of children`s rights and effective and efficient service delivery does not require much debate. It is well-known fact that service delivery in a fragmented, un-coordinated fashion where various role players go about in the delivery of services in a unilateral manner without them being part of a comprehensive, coherent strategy, would have great difficulty in meaningfully respond to the society`s needs and problems including children.

Partnership, in relation to children`s rights, can be described as a relationship rooted between State and Non-state actors in the acceptance of their shared vision and responsibility for the protection of child`s rights and delivery of basic social services within policy and legislative frameworks governing a country's response to its children` needs and problems (Landrigan, 1995).

It is an acknowledgement that an acceptance and respect by each party of the other is distinct, but mutually complementary and interdependent roles for the attainment of shared goals. Hence, partnership embodies the notion of acceptance by both state and non-state actors that their respective roles are of equal importance in the pursuit of their shared vision and goals, specifically as they related to the protection of children`s rights and delivery of basic social services equitably and justifiably.

Partnership demands both close co-operation between the parties and the co-ordination of roles and functions throughout the entire process of policy development to service delivery. Many literatures note in partnership, parties need to accept that there is strength in unity and that the total is greater than the sum of the individual parts (Thompson, 2009 & Action for Children, 2009). Partnership allows for such levels of consultation and negotiations that would result in the filling of the investment gap in social service provision, i.e. ensuring services are provided in areas not covered or sufficiently covered and ensuring the relevance and appropriateness of services.

Thompson (2009) argues that accountability between the parties must be reciprocal with the parties carrying equal status. The interdependent and interactive nature of the partnership as a working relationship requires openness, transparency and accessibility between the partners. Therefore, a partnership policy, agreement or compact should include the philosophy and principles that underpin the partnership, shared values and goals, roles and responsibilities and commitments to action.

Studies show that unless there is mutual respect for each other`s roles, government and the NGO communities can`t well informed of each other`s roles, and there will not be negotiation or agreement on how the respective parties are going to pursue a shared vision and common goals, and thus, the social services arena turn out to be a chaotic one (nef, 2009). A wide range of literatures documented that one of the obstacles to social development and poverty eradication in the developing world relates to fragmented, scattered, hit-and-run efforts in responding to social needs and that resources are not mustered and harnessed towards integrated and holistic programmes (nef, 2009, Michelson, 2009, OECD, 2005). It is noted that partnership arrangements, especially between government and the social services and development NGO community would go a long way in the development of joint policies and inter-related, comprehensive service programmes directed to the needs of children and the community at large.

It is widely acknowledged that the state alone cannot achieve its goals in addressing social needs and those organs of civil society in a democratic dispensation, firmly rooted in society and with popular participation and voluntary support, are essential for a caring, responsive and effective service delivery network. The degree to which there is a presence and activity of a voluntary welfare initiative and wider NGO life is said to be an indicator of the level of a country's democracy. The flexibility, responsiveness and innovation of the private sector are readily acknowledged and where NGO programmes are supported by Government funding, NGO's contribute extra time, resources and ongoing commitment. Considerable funds are also leveraged from the public, the corporate sector and other donors. The Government that fails to recognize and formally acknowledge the invaluable role the NGO community plays in social development is indeed considered as foolish one. Therefore, recognition and formal acknowledgement needs to be settled with a partnership agreement.

A work by (Michelson, 2009) show that formal partnership arrangement acknowledges and cements the distinct but complimentary and supplementary roles of state and the NGO community into a synergistic strategy to achieve a shared vision and common goal. Moreover, other studies by Axford (2006) show that partnerships are fluid and flexible and that they evolve. The nature of the partnership would also vary significantly according to the unique characteristics, such as structure, culture and objectives of a particular NGO or consortium of NGO's.

Nevertheless, a policy framework within which partnerships are enabled to develop and grow, would form the basic instrument for the Government and NGO's to, in a coordinated fashion, live out their shared vision and attain their distinct, but mutually complimentary and supplementary roles. Examples of such policy documents to govern the development of a relationship between a government and civil society are widespread in the developed world. It is ironic that in the developing world where there is a much more urgent need for the strengthening of capacity through joining hands, such formal partnership arrangements are few and far between.

2.5.1.1 PARTNERSHIP FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

In referring to capacity, it is important to note that a partnership also implies an inter-relatedness and inter-dependence between the respective parties (Barnardos, 2008). A policy acknowledges this inter-relatedness and inter-dependence. It provides for communication structures and processes where values, knowledge and skills are shared, where needs, frustrations and aspirations are communicated and responded to (Thompson, 2008). Mutual influencing takes place in a partnership arrangement and it provides the platform for training and development and as such contributes to the building of capacity. Provision of funding and other forms of support by Government is an important means of strengthening the capacity of the voluntary and community sector and enabling it to contribute effectively to the attainment of government objectives.

Considering the value of vibrant civil society organizations for the welfare of a nation, governments have the responsibility to promote the NGO community and strengthen its capacity, thereby contributing to enable social service NGO's to function and deliver optimally (Wiggins et al, 2008). This responsibility of government and opportunity for NGO's would be greatly enhanced within the context of a partnership policy framework within which roles and responsibilities are negotiated and clarified. In many parts of the developing and even the developed world, a dwindling of the social services NGO community is very evident. This is due mainly to declining government financial support, which in turn seems to be rooted in macro-economic policies, dictated by global economic forces. Moreover, global economic forces do not take kindly to governments' social spending. The irony in developing countries is that the deterioration in capacity of NGO's impacts directly on the Government's ability to achieve its

development, social justice and equality goals, since these are exactly the aspirations of many of the NGO's which are being crippled by lack of Government support.

The ability of the NGO community with its readily accepted anchors in and direct participation and support by civil society to guide and strengthen the capacity of government organs should not be underestimated. It advises government on issues of concern and advocates and campaigns for change as a response to need (UK Children`s Commissioners, 2008). It can guide and significantly contribute to legislative and policy making processes. A partnership implies that NGO's are drawing in by government, in a structured way, to contribute to the legislative and policy-making processes. It accepts that the NGO community with its constituent base and unique character of representation can legitimately guide government policies and practices.

2.5.1.2 GOVERNMENT ROLES IN A PARTNERSHIP

Early child Care Research Network (2000) has identified the roles/responsibilities of state and civil society sector in partnership. According to this Research Network the State has a governing responsibility to ensure that there is the required delivery of services within legislative and policy frameworks. The State therefore must accept primary responsibility for the development of policies and legislation to facilitate and direct the design and implementation of service programmes.

In acknowledging the central role of the voluntary welfare sector in the implementation of services, rooted in policies and legislation, the development of policies and legislation need to be a joint process between the parties with the state driving, facilitating and co-coordinating the process. Moreover, since policies directly impact on the NGO sector and the consumers of their services the state needs to acknowledge the NGO sector as stakeholder with equity in policy and legislative processes. Against this background, the role of the state is to ensure and provide the necessary mechanisms and structures for communication and consultation. Consultative processes should start right at the onset and initiation of deliberations for the development of policies, legislation and implementation strategies.

The Research Network further noted that the state needs to accept responsibility for engaging with the voluntary or NGO sector from fundamental initial stage. In acknowledging its primary responsibility for the welfare of its citizens, state must accept the responsibility for creating and

maintaining an enabling environment for the delivery of such services. Fundamental to the notion of an enabling environment for the delivery of services, the responsibility state should be to adequately fund the instruments (organizations) rendering the services. By virtue of its governing responsibility and its funding the state must accept the role of approving, monitoring, and evaluating the state funded service programmes of welfare organizations.

The state is also required to accept the responsibility to be reciprocally accountable to the welfare sector for its policies and practices. It is also required to engage the voluntary sector in the planning of its own service programmes and on the co-ordination of services between the department and welfare organizations. The Research Network noted that the government is to ensure its accessibility to the voluntary welfare sector. This includes accessibility to information and other resources of the department and communications mechanisms are to provide for timorous and comprehensive information dissemination between the parties.

2.5.1.3 THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR ROLE IN A PARTNERSHIP

Regarding the civil society organizations, the early child Care Research Network (2000) also noted the following sets of responsibilities.

The Research Network pointed out that it is the role of civil society Organizations to deliver services efficiently and effectively within the framework of Government policies, and strategies consulted and negotiated between civil society Organizations' and government; and work in partnership with government to achieve common aims and objectives.

The civil society sector is also believed to be accountable to government for its policies and service programmes, open, transparent and accountable to the public. Further noting, the Network asserted that as an instrument of civil society, the civil society sector must accept the role of watchdog over the policies and practices of government in the interest of the consumers, its services and the wider public. In this role, it must target government in its advocacy, lobbying and negotiating functions when required.

Moreover, the civil society sector is considered to play crucial role to ensure the co-ordination of its own services and to engage government in discussions on the co-ordination of services between the government and civil society Organizations. The civil society sector, through representative

structures should be accessible to the government for purposes of joint planning, information sharing and decision-making and it is found imperative that the respective roles and responsibilities of government and the civil society sectors need to be negotiated, clarified and understood by all. This must be based on a shared vision and common goal, the competencies and mandates of the partners.

2.6 LINKING PUBLIC POLICY MAKING TO CHILDREN`S LIVES

Public policymaking at one end of the continuum viewed as simply whatever governments decide to do while at opposite end, viewed as intertwined relationships of offices, public leaders, and issues, all of which constantly changes (Larry, 2009). From child`s rights perspectives, at a minimum, public policymaking is the combination of basic decisions, commitments, and actions made by those who hold or affect government position to address children`s needs and problems. Typically, such initiatives direct the flow of resources that impact the public at large and children in particular. Public policies often change the status quo by giving benefits to some or taking away benefits from others. But not all policy decisions result in change. Sometimes, public policies may be intentional decisions to do nothing, to reaffirm the status quo. Either way, public policymaking need to reflect the commitment of public assets to address children`s needs and problems.

In constitutional democracy, public policy commitments are made and carried out by people who have been authorized to act by popular consent and in accordance with established norms and procedures (Larry, 2009). In a democracy most public policymakers are elected officials. However, owing to the age limit, children are excluded from providing their consent to people whom they think serve their best interests. But, the legislatures bodies and executives play a major role in directing the policymaking process to take in hand children`s needs and problems while other policymakers, such civil servants, federal and state judges are also considered to play significant roles in the process.

Yet, the nonelected bureaucrats or civil servants that have important roles in policy making process have limited policy authority. Whether elected or not, however, public policymakers ought to be managers of the public trusts who are either directly or indirectly accountable to the public. As such, their actions have to be subject to public scrutiny and judgment, which, in the cases of elected officials, sometimes lead to their replacement to address children`s concerns.

The two way linkage between policymakers and the public is a critical element that distinguishes constitutional democracies from authoritarian regimes. In authoritarian political systems, policymakers conduct their business irrespective of public concerns or involvement; their sheer might or military prowess allows such individual or groups to do almost anything they desire. But in constitutional democracy, the political process is attentive to the expressions of individuals, the children, organized interest groups, the media or even competing centers of power within government. In fact, the health of a democracy depends upon the participation of individuals who are willing to say what is on their minds as well as the ability of leaders to respond to those sentiments.

All public policymaking involves government in some way. Thus, it is distinguished from those many initiatives affecting the general welfare that are undertaken by the portion of the private sector sometimes refer to as civil society. This free exchange between those outside of government and those within it assures that the public policymaking process is fluid, dynamic, and malleable.

Public policies are developed and carried out at all levels of government, as provided for by federal system. Although the issues may vary, the process of resolving them is remarkably similar regardless of where decisions occur. The most sweeping public policies are developed at national level of government, where the actions of national policymakers tend to affect almost everyone. The national government deals with the “big ticket” issues and such issues are solely within the jurisdiction of the national government. Sometimes, at this level, a single branch can bring about public policy but usually such efforts emerge from the cooperation of all three branches with the assistance of members of the bureaucracy.

In many respects, states are considered as the workhorses of the public policymaking. Despite their organizational similarities, most states provide different public policymaking environments for their population. However, no level of the public policymaking process is closer to citizen than the local government. Because, it is close to community, local governments provide the easiest entry for individuals into the workings of politics and policy.

Although public policymaking occurs at all levels of government, its impact often is most visible in communities. The public policy decisions of nation and state directly affects public lives at

local level. The proximity factor in local public policymaking adds a unique dynamic to the relationship between citizens and public policymakers and has chance to see firsthand how they respond to issues directly affecting the public.

Thus, local issues serve as the entry levels for participation in the public policymaking process. Sometimes, different communities will respond to the same public policy issue in decidedly different ways. Empowerment, the idea of ‘owning’ one`s destiny, is an important component of citizen participation, particularly at local level of public policymaking process where the outcomes are readily visible.

2.7 THE PARLIAMENTS AS CHAMPION OF CHILD PROTECTION

Parliaments are the principal representative institution of a State. They are responsible for representing the interests of all sectors of society, articulating these interests into relevant policies and making sure that these policies are implemented efficiently.

Parliaments and their members should be among the key champions of child protection. They have the capacity not only to influence the decisions and actions of government but also to connect with communities and constituencies to influence opinions and actions. Irrespective of their nature and structure, parliaments perform three main functions such as (a) Legislative i.e., they approve, and can initiative, laws that govern society in a structured manner; (b) Oversee government activity i.e., they monitor the government`s performance to ensure that it acts in a responsible and accountable manner for the overall good of society and (c) Allocate financial resources i.e., through the budgetary process, parliaments are responsible for approving the national budget, thereby allocating resources to the government, and monitoring government spending.

As opinion leaders and representatives of the people, parliamentarians also play an important advocacy role, raising awareness on specific societal issues of concern in their constituencies as well as at national and international levels. One of the most important and often more technical roles for parliaments and their members is to ensure that national legislative standards offer the best possible protection for children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Clearly, laws alone are not sufficient to protect the rights of children. Appropriate economic policies, institutional reform, training of professionals, social mobilization and the modification of attitudes and social values

are essential to achieving child protection. Nonetheless, law reform remains fundamental to the broader, coordinated goal of protecting all rights of children, including the right to be protected.

Parliamentarians can promote the consideration of child protection in all aspects of the parliamentary agenda by raising questions. A parliamentarian might ask a question during a debate on a bill relating to military recruitment about the measures that will be put in place to ensure that those under the age of 18 are not recruited. Parliaments and their members should ensure that governments are accountable vis-à-vis their international and national commitments. They should scrutinize government action and should also ask questions that point to ambiguities in responsibility between government departments on child protection; in many countries, responsibilities for child protection fall between different ministries, and where this happens accountability can be lost. Indeed, it is important to be clear about the priority that different government departments or ministries are giving to child protection. Parliamentarians can productively seek answers to where responsibility lies or what key ministries, such as Education, Labor, Justice, Defense or Health, are doing to ensure protection of children. For example, a parliamentarian might insist that the capacity of a national statistical office or bureau be enhanced such that it is equipped to properly monitor record and analyze child protection issues. Parliamentarians might also usefully push for information and action on coordination between different departments and ministries on child protection matters. For example, child labor problems require the combined efforts of Ministries of Labor, Justice and Education.

Parliamentarians could also press for a debate on the resources being made available for child protection. Such a debate, with the goal of a thorough overview of the country's efforts for protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation, could provide a powerful basis for ongoing work.

Parliamentarians can also take the opportunity to visit child protection services in their country, particularly in their constituencies. They can then report to their parliament on such visits. Often, visits are most interesting when they are spontaneous and unannounced. When preparing for visits, contact with organizations working on child protection can provide valuable background, maximizing the effectiveness of the visit. In many countries, individuals and groups are already trying to generate real political and social commitment to creating a protective environment for

children. Again, this might be individuals, NGOs, trade unions or religious groups. By giving public support to such efforts, parliamentarians can greatly strengthen the work of others.

Civil society can be a major force in securing survival, development, protection and participation of children, and in assuring quality and sustainability of social services. It is essential to promote both development of civil society and encourage civil society actions for children, in particular through laws and regulations compatible with international standards and norms. It is recognized that NGOs as significant contributors to social development, and will promote active cooperation and partnership between the NGO community and state structures.

2.8 LINKING ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY MAKING

The concept of advocacy, policymaking and partnership are separate yet intertwining constructs. Advocacy directly purports a representation. Both advocacy and representation are rights to children that seek partnership. The primary goals of advocacy are achieving social justice and child empowerment. In achieving these goals, proactive, responsive and participatory partnerships that generate responsive policy are necessary. The role of the advocate is to speak on behalf of the children and to empower children to speak on their behalf whenever their rights have been denied. The advocacy role is a critical strategy; according to John Pardeck (1996), it expands opportunities by protecting the interests of the children. Pardeck also viewed advocacy as a classic role, which aimed at changing the social environment of children through policy analysis and policy development (John P, 1996).

Applying these three concepts require an understanding of the basics of advocacy, policymaking and coalition as well as acquiring knowledge on what must be fight against for. The evaluation of an effective advocacy role is explicit on the outcomes of interventions as success or failure. The role encompasses from individual to communal to societal or internal to external processes. As such, the broader perspectives of advocacy must mean significant changes in social functioning of the individual and the community in general.

Advocacy necessitates the expertise, skills and attributes that could likely win cases in favor of what is right and just for children. Notably, advocacy efforts underpin a critical role made by the social workers as intermediating mechanisms that enables a proper implementation of rights and justice systems. Building coalitions and rallying various interests groups around specific issues

pertaining to children rights will result in development of pro-child policies, increasingly respected and protected children`s rights and opportunities for meaningful child participation in decision-making.

The support in advocacy campaigns of existing social policies ensures the structure and opportunities for children`s participation in decision-making process with the concern on their rights. The promotion of good governance in public institutions and civil society organization ensures the provisions and principles of participatory rights, which are monitored and at the same time, there is an existence of systematic training for the children and young people. The mobilization of the education and information imposed by the organization will helps the effective development of the participation of children and at the same time, ensuring the safe and protective learning environments. The opportunities for volunteers, including governments and businesses are in a partnership and collaboration for the service on health and social care for children. Strengthening relationships with media is an advantage in implementing the policies/programmes that cares about the children.

Effective advocacy role is evident from data collection to building coalitions. In particular, the advocacy process begins with locating the problem, identifying objectives of intervention, the target system of advocacy intervention, determining levels of authority or sanction for the targeted system, identification of resources available, determining degrees of reception or resistance with regards to the proposed advocacy effort, analysis of the level at which intervention will occur, identification of object of intervention and explanation of probable outcomes of advocacy efforts.

Therefore, child advocates need to collaboratively seek constantly new ways to engage with policy makers, individuals and practitioners alike and the wider international community on the topic of child rights and wellbeing. They have to be established with the conviction that putting children first on the public and political agenda and investing in their wellbeing are fundamental for bringing about lasting social and economic progress, and its integration and participation in the world economy. They must provide a platform for dialogue; contribute to improved knowledge of the problems facing children; identify policy options; and strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments to develop and implement effective pro-child policies and programs.

2.9 SUMMARY

According to Article one of the CRC, A child is any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. According to some researchers, the notion of children`s rights is still not well defined, with at least one proposing that there is no singularly accepted definition or theory of the rights held by children. Despite the above facts, however, several studies noted that children's rights are defined in numerous ways, including a wide spectrum of civil, legal, cultural, economic, social and political rights.

Numerous efforts have been made to define (and redefine) the concept of child well-being. In particular, the literatures highlight four major shifts: The first shift is from a focus on a child`s mere survival to a focus on well-being, the second shift is from a focus on negative aspects in children`s lives to a focus on positive aspects, the third shift is from a focus on well-becoming (attaining eventual well-being) to well-being (attaining sustained well-being) and the fourth shift is from a focus on traditional to new domains of children`s well-being. Thus, scholars and policy makers are expected to acknowledgment these facts, since obtaining accurate measure and providing meaningful monitoring of children`s well-being encompasses gathering of children`s perceptions of their world and insights into their experiences.

Advocacy in relation to children deals with a two-fold conduct: the case advocacy and the cause advocacy. Case advocacy focuses on individual cases that involve a partisan intervention on behalf of the children or identified vulnerable children`s group. Cause advocacy collective/communal issues by means of social change efforts and improving social policies. The essence of advocacy is winning cases. Toward this end, advocates take a closer look on the depth of cases and its strength and taking part in the administration of justice as well. Advocates help children use their rights, articulate other (or own) needs, as they perceive them, or legal decisions they require and or the right to which they are entitled. Advocacy grants children a practical guidance for their being, safeguard the implementation of the child rights system and critically evaluates the outcomes of the implementation. The effectiveness of advocacy reflects an efficient representation of children through increasing their engagement level in education and other rights that enables them to envision themselves as a functional member of the society (Munro & Ward, 2008).

The need for partnership between a state and civil society organizations for protection of children`s rights and effective and efficient service delivery does not require much debate. It is well-known fact that service delivery in a fragmented, un-coordinated fashion where various role players go about in the delivery of services in a unilateral manner without them being part of a comprehensive, coherent strategy, would have great difficulty in meaningfully respond to the society`s needs and problems including children.

According to Early Child Research Network the State has a governing responsibility to ensure that there is the required delivery of services within legislative and policy frameworks. The State therefore must accept primary responsibility for the development of policies and legislation to facilitate and direct the design and implementation of service programmes. The Research Network also pointed out that it is the role of civil society Organizations to deliver services efficiently and effectively within the framework of Government policies, and strategies consulted and negotiated between civil society Organizations' and government; and work in partnership with government to achieve common aims and objectives.

Parliaments are also considered as the principal representative institution of a State. They are responsible for representing the interests of all sectors of society including children, articulating these interests into relevant policies and making sure that these policies are implemented efficiently. Parliaments and their members should be among the key champions of child protection. They have the capacity not only to influence the decisions and actions of government but also to connect with communities and constituencies to influence opinions and actions.

From child`s rights perspectives, at a minimum, public policymaking is the combination of basic decisions, commitments, and actions made by those who hold or affect government position to address children`s needs and problems. In constitutional democracy, public policy commitments are made and carried out by people who have been authorized to act by popular consent and in accordance with established norms and procedures (larry, 2009). All public policymaking involves government in some way. Although public policymaking occurs at all levels of government, its impact often is most visible in communities. The public policy decisions of nation and state directly affects public lives at local level. The proximity factor in local public policymaking adds a unique dynamic to the relationship between citizens and public policymakers and has chance to see firsthand how they respond to issues directly affecting the public.

“History will judge us harshly if we refuse to use our knowledge, our resources and our will to ensure that each new member of the human family arrives into a world that honors and protects the invaluable, irreplaceable years of childhood.”

_____ Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF

CHAPTER THREE

3. DISCUSSIONS, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

3.1 DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The findings of the study are discussed in this chapter. Starting with a presentation of background information of the study samples, description on the involvement of the study organizations in various types of advocacy activities will be presented. Following this a result on the perception of respondents on the content and impact of pro-children`s legislations/policies on the lives of children are presented. Finally, the general state of partnership in protecting children`s rights and the nature and extent of child-focused organizations` influence on pro-child legislative and policy process in the region are discussed.

Before moving to the substantive issues highlighted by this research, it is necessary to note that respondents to this study expressed concern about the risk of repercussions were they to be critical of the government. Respondents stated that the consequences are attached to both them and the organizations they represent. Largely, the researcher considers this to have practical impacts that respondents feared any punitive response to their candour. Despite the consequences, respondents to this study expressed that their organization has interests to consolidate and disseminate their work on children`s rights and influence policymaking processes to serve up the best interests of the children both at local and regional levels;

3.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY SAMPLES

The research sample was comprised of 19 organizations as a whole. Table 1 shows the distribution of the surveyed organizations together with respective respondents.

Nine of the study organizations (47.4%) are government bureaus/offices, seven of the study organizations (38.8%) are local NGOs, and three of the study organizations (15.8%) are

international NGOs. All of them are purposively selected organizations that are directly or indirectly working on children`s issues.

Table 1: Percent Distribution of Study Samples

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Samples study distribution			
	Freq	%	No. of Respondents	%
Government Bureaus/office	9	47.4 %	44	57.9%
Local NGOs	7	36.8 %	19	25 %
International NGOs	3	15.8%	13	17.1%
Total	19	100%	76	100%

Regarding the distribution of respondents in the survey organizations, 44 of the respondents (57.9%) are from the government offices/bureaus; while 32 of the respondents are from the Nongovernment organizations that constitute about 42.1% of the total respondents; i.e. 19 (25%) are from local NGOs and 13 of the respondents (17.1%) are from international NGOs.

3.1.2 A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ADVOCACY PRACTICES IN THE REGION

Table 2 presents the level of advocates` involvement on Advocacy Practices as reported by respondents. Accordingly, about 77.6% (59) of the total respondents reported that their organizations have worked on child`s rights related advocacy activities. Yet, only 48.7% (37) responded their overall tasks/programmes related to children`s rights advocacy. Then again, about 61.3% and 76.9% respondents from government bureaus/offices and local NGOs respectively expressed the extent of their organization`s overall programmes comprising advocacy activities.

According to Table 2, out of the 48.7% respondents that have acknowledged their organization`s overall child`s rights related advocacy activities, only about 13.1% respondents expressed that their utmost level of involvement is 71-80% of the overall programmes.

In this view, local NGOs are the largest group highly involved in child`s rights related advocacy activities but their utmost level of involvement is only (41-50%) with 53.8%.

Table 2: Percent distribution of the level of involvement on Advocacy Practices as responded by the Respondents

Category of Respondents Organization	Level of involvement on Advocacy Practices													
	Has worked on child`s rights advocacy before			Level of involvement on advocacy activities										
		Yes	No	1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	91-100%	Total
Govt Bureaus/ Office	Freq	44	-	3	2	1	2	2	4	3	10	-	-	27
	%	100	-	6.8	4.5	2.3	4.5	4.5	9.2	6.8	22.7	-	-	61.3
Local NGOs	Freq	15	4	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	10
	%	78.9	21.1	23.1	-	-	-	53.8	-	-	-	-	-	76.9
International NGOs	Freq	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	%	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Freq	59	17	6	2	1	2	9	4	3	10	-	-	37
	%	77.6	22.4	7.9	2.6	1.3	2.6	11.8	5.3	3.9	13.1	-	-	48.7

Moreover Table 2 also presents that the government bureaus/offices are the second largest group with 22.7% but their utmost level of involvement is only (71-80%). All respondents from international NGOs reported that they are not at all involved in advocacy activities related to child`s rights. Additionally, 21.1% of respondents from local NGOs also reported that they did not work on children`s rights related advocacy activities.

Table 3: Percent distribution of involvement based on the type of Advocacy Practices as reported by the Respondents

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Involvement in the Advocacy Activities in type							
	(A). Case Advocacy		(B). Admin. Advocacy		(C). Legislative Advocacy		(D). Media Advocacy	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Government Bureaus/office	41	93.2	33	75	3	6.8	17	38.6
Local NGOs	19	100	7	36.8	2	10.5	11	57.9
International NGOs	2	15.4	5	38.5	-	-	13	100
Total	62	81.2	45	59.2	5	6.5	41	53.9

The above Table 3 presents government bureaus, local and international NGOs` involvement in the advocacy practices by types of advocacy. According to the data (Table 3), 81.2% of the total respondents reported that their organizations are involved in the case advocacy; 59.2% of the total respondents reported that their organizations are involved in the administrative advocacy; 53.9% of the total respondents reported that their organizations are involved in the media advocacy and 6.5% of the total respondents reported that their organizations are involved in the legislative advocacy.

Despite the fact that all respondents (100%) of international NGOs responded that they are not involved in the child`s rights advocacy activities in the first question; however it was noted from their responses to the second question that all of them (100%) are involved in the media advocacy especially by planning and organizing message for media coverage to publicize appropriate events related to children`s issues; by contacting local radio and television stations about appearing on local public-affairs programs to share their expertise and by identifying children and families influenced and asking them to write letters or make calls or share pertinent information with local media coverage.

Moreover, considerable number of respondents from international NGOs (38.5%) responded that they are as well involved in the administrative advocacy in helping regional capacities working on children`s rights in revising guidelines and resolving program problems and participating in forums where child focused decisions are made and speak out about problems facing children at different public gathering.

Hence, international NGOs can be considered as the largest group from the organizations involved in the media advocacy while local NGOs and government bureaus took the second and third ranks with 57.9% and 38.6% respectively. Government bureaus/offices took the first rank in involving in the administrative advocacy with 75% while international and local NGOs took the second and third ranks respectively with 38.5% and 36.8%.

Table 3 also shows that all respondents of local NGOs (100%) reported that their organizations are involved in the case advocacy by documenting and sharing important information on problems facing a child, by researching eligibility requirements of particular child focused programs and meeting with local government staff and/or affected children or family to discuss a problem and filing an appeal. About 93.2% of the respondents from the government bureaus/offices are also responded that they are involved in the case advocacy. Thus, local NGOs and government bureaus/offices can be considered as the first and second largest groups respectively involved in the case advocacy.

Despite wide-ranging participation in the case, administrative and media advocacies, the overall results from the Table show that very few respondents (6.5%) expressed their involvement in the legislative advocacy. None of respondents of international NGOs responded that their organization involved in the legislative advocacy. Only 6.8% respondents of the government bureaus/offices and 10.5% respondents of the local NGOs reported their involvement in the legislative advocacy.

Depending on the results of the responses, therefore, it was noted that government bureaus/offices and nongovernment organizations have insignificant involvement in the legislative advocacy activities such as lobbying legislators to place particular children`s issues on the agenda of their council meeting; or working with elected officials to inform them of the impact of particular program/s on children`s lives; or meeting with staff of the government`s office and the legislature

to draw attention to children`s issue and lobbying on specific bills/requested funding levels and communicating with legislators to make the decision in favor of children.

Beside their involvement in the advocacy activities, respondents were also asked whether there are problems/barriers that prevent their organization from doing more on children rights advocacy. Based on their responses, Table 4 below presents the ranking of problems/barriers to child`s rights advocacy activities in the region, No. 1 being the biggest challenge and No. 2 being the next and so on.

Table 4: Percent distribution of the ranking of Barrier to Advocacy Practices as responded by the Respondents

Ranking of Barriers	Category of Respondent`s Organization								
	Government Bureaus/office		Local NGOs		International NGOs		Total		
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Ranking
Economic Problems	27	61.4	14	73.7	4	30.8	45	59.2	3 rd
Political Problems	32	72.7	8	42.1	11	84.6	51	67.1	1 st
Legal Problems	3	6.8	12	63.2	13	100	28	36.8	5 th
Social Problems	40	90.9	8	42.1	1	7.7	49	64.5	2 nd
Religious Problems	2	4.5	1	5.3	1	7.7	4	5.3	6 th
Misconception	16	36.4	4	21.1	6	46.2	26	34.2	4 th

According to the data (Table 4), a significant number (67.1%) of respondents in the surveyed government`s bureaus/offices, local and international nongovernment organizations ranked “political problems” as #1 most challenging problems. About 64.5% of all the respondents ranked

“legal problems” as #2 most challenging problems while about 59.2% of respondents ranked “economic problems” as #3 most challenging problems that prevented their organizations from doing more on child`s rights advocacy activities.

Striking number of respondents from government`s bureaus/offices (90.9%, 72.7% and 61.4% respectively) ranked ‘social problems’ as #1; ‘political problems’ as #2 and ‘economic problem’ as #3 most challenging problems. Likewise significant number of respondents from local NGOs (73.7%, 63.2% and 42.1% respectively) ranked ‘economic problems’ as #1, ‘legal problems’ as #2 and ‘political & social problems’ as #3 most challenging problems while all respondents (100%) from international NGOs ranked ‘legal problems’ as #1 most challenging problems; & ‘political problems’ and ‘misconception’ are ranked as #2 and #3 most challenging problems respectively with 84.6% and 46.2% responses.

Table 5: Percent distribution of respondents’ opinion on organizing awareness on 3Ps built in the Convention on the Rights of Child as responded by the respondents

Category of Respondent’s Organization	Awareness creation events on the 3Ps of the CRC			
		Promotion	Protection	Participation
Government Bureaus/office	Freq	43	32	14
	%	97.7	72.7	31.8
Local NGOs	Freq	-	11	-
	%	-	57.9	-
International NGOs	Freq	-	7	9
	%	-	53.9	69.2
Total	Freq	43	50	23
	%	56.6	65.8	30.3

The CRC is entirely built on the 3Ps principles for overseeing respect for the rights of the child and mainly elaborates the rights of children in the forms of ‘Promotion’, ‘Protection’ and ‘Participation’. The most prominent Articles in the convention that go in line with the promotion

principles includes Article 6 (Life, Survival, and Development), Article 13 (Access to information), Article 18 (Assistance to Parents with child rearing), Article 23 (Care for disable), Article 24 (Access to health services), and Article 27 (Adequate standard of living and Education). The Protection Principle of the convention includes Article 2 (discrimination), Article 16 (privacy), Article 9 (violence), Article 22 (refugee), Article 32 (economic exploitation), Article 34 (sexual abuse) and some of the Participation Principle of the convention are Article 12 (Express a View), Article 13 & 17 (Receipt of information and Freedom of assembly).

Respondents to this study, therefore, were asked whether they organize awareness creation events on the 3Ps considered as pillars of the convention. The overall results of the data (Table 5) reveal that the surveyed organizations made noticeable efforts to organize awareness creation events on the 3Ps of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Of all the respondents, those who have revealed the above facts constitute about 65.8% of the respondents reported that they organized awareness creation events on the protection principles, 56.6% of the respondents reported that they organized awareness creation events on the promotion principle and 30.3% of the respondents reported they organized awareness creation events on the importance of children`s participation on the matters that affects their lives.

Moreover, Table 5 reveals that government bureaus/offices have high involvement in organizing awareness creation events on the promotion principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; yet not negligible number of respondents (31.8%) from the government bureaus/offices also reported that their offices/bureaus are involved in organizing awareness creation events on the participation principles of the CRC; while considerable number of respondents (57.9% & 53.9%) of local NGOs and international NGOs respectively responded that their organizations have high involvement in organizing events on the protection of children`s rights and participation of children`s in the decision that affects their lives.

Table 6 below presents percent distribution of Best Media Outlets used in creating awareness on the children`s rights. From the various typologies of media outlets presented for choice, the overall results from the Table below shows that 67.1% of all respondents reported `radio` is the best channel of conveying messages on three pillars i.e. promotion, protection & participation and 63.2% of the respondents reported `workshop` as the second best channel while 46.1% out of all

the respondents in the surveyed organizations responded ‘newspapers’ as the third best channel of conveying messages on the 3Ps principles of the CRC.

Table 6: Percent distribution of Best Media Outlets used in creating awareness on Children`s Rights as responded by the Respondents

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Media Preference											
	Radio		TV		Newspapers		Poster & Pamphlet		Billboards		Workshop	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Government Bureaus/office	21	70.5	33	75	23	52.3	12	27.2	4	9.1	30	68.18
Local NGOs	17	89.5	-	-	3	15.8	14	73.7	1	5.3	7	36.8
International NGOs	3	23.1	1	7.7	9	69.2	4	30.8	-	-	11	84.6
Total	51	67.1	34	44.7	35	46.1	30	39.5	5	6.6	48	63.2

According to Table 6, majority of respondents (89.5%) from local NGOs responded that ‘Radio’ is the best way; 75% of respondents from government bureaus/offices reported ‘TV’ is the best way and 84.6% of the respondents from international NGOs reported ‘workshop’ is the best way. Workshop is considered as the second best way of conveying message by the government bureaus; while ‘newspaper’ and ‘poster & pamphlet’ respectively are considered as the second best way of conveying messages on the three pillars of the CRC by international NGOs and local NGOs.

3.1.3 ASSESSMENT ON THE DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND IMPACT OF PRO-CHILDREN’S LEGISLATION/POLICY ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

Ethiopia and the SNNP region have multiple conventions and statutory enactments that deal with different aspects of children rights. The country has ratified four out of eight international and regional legal instruments specifically directed towards children; these are United Nation Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of

the Child (ACRWC), ILO convention NO. 182 on worst forms of child labor and ILO convention No.138 on minimum age for employment.

In addition to these international laws, other national and regional legislatives such as the new family law, the revised criminal law and the federal and SNNP region`s constitutions name children as a specific group and specifically identify children as the subjects of rights. Table 7 below presents the extent of the participation of the surveyed organizations in the drafting of pro-children policies and legislatives in the SNNP region.

Table 7: Percent distribution of the participation in the drafting of pro-children policies and legislatives process as responded by the Respondents

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Participation in the drafting of pro-children policies/legislative process									
	Comment on draft legislative		Through campaigns		Through coordination		Financial assistance		Member of drafting committee	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Government Bureaus/office	14	31.8	12	27.3	5	11.4	5	11.4	8	18.1
Local NGOs	17	89.4	1	5.3	-	-	-	-	1	5.3
International NGOs	5	38.5	-	-	-	-	7	53.8	1	7.7
Total	36	47.4	13	17.1	5	6.6	12	15.8	10	13.2

It was noted from the overall results (Table 7) that the surveyed organizations have no good participation status in the drafting processes of pro-children`s legislatives/policies. However, some organizations have demonstrated better participation as the data in the table above reveal a good number of respondents (89.4%) from local NGOs reported that they had given comments on the draft legislative/policy. Few numbers of respondents (38.5% & 31.8% respectively) from

international NGOs and government bureaus also reported that they are commented on the draft of the legislations/policies.

Moreover, insignificant number of respondents from the government bureaus/offices responded that their organizations campaigned (23.7%) and coordinated (11.4%) activities relevant to the drafting policies. Very insignificant number of respondents (13.2%) from all the surveyed organizations reported that their organizations demonstrated active participation in the drafting committees. It was noted that relatively local NGOs (89.4%) and international NGOs (53.8%) have better participation in the drafting process via expertise`s comments on the draft legislations and financial assistance respectively.

Table 8: Percent distribution of Respondent`s Opinion on the regional government commitments and impacts of policies and legislatives on the lives of children

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Impacts of Policies and Legislatives									
	Regional government has shown commitments and sensitivity to the concerns of children				Policies take into account basic principles of international and regional children`s conventions			Policies have made positive difference to the lives of children		
		Yes	No	No. ans.	Yes	No	No. ans.	Yes	No	No. ans.
Government Bureaus/office	Freq	25	2	17	29	7	8	5	21	18
	%	56.8	4.6	38.6	65.9	15.9	18.2	11.4	47.7	40.9
Local NGOs	Freq	1	7	11	14	3	2	-	15	4
	%	5.3	36.8	57.9	73.7	15.8	10.5	-	78.9	21.1
International NGOs	Freq	-	13	-	10	3	-	-	11	2
	%	-	100	-	76.9	23.1	-	-	84.6	15.4
Total	Freq	26	22	28	53	13	10	5	47	24
	%	34.2	29	36.8	69.7	17.1	13.2	6.6	61.8	31.6

Consequently, as the overall results (Table 8 above) show the introduced legislations or policies do not seem to have significant impacts on the lives of the children. As you can see from the overall results presented in the table, a good number of respondents (61.8%) reported that legislative/policies have not made significant difference to the lives of the children. This is in fact not because policies/legislatives have not taken into account the basic principles of international and regional children`s conventions but it seems for the reason that the regional government has not shown commitments and sensitivity to the concerns of children.

All respondents (100%) of the international NGOs and about 36.8% respondents from local NGOs demonstrated the above fact. However, majority of the respondents (56.8%) from government bureaus disagree with the statement that the regional government has not shown commitments and sensitivity to the concerns of children; yet very significant number of the respondents (47.7%) demonstrated that the policies have not made positive difference to the lives of children.

Therefore, assessing the implementation of pro-children policies/legislations were appeared very important in order for arriving at valid conclusion why the legislatives/policies have not made significant differences to the lives of children`s in the region. Accordingly, the overall result of the data (Table 9) shows that there is not effective monitoring mechanism on the implementation of pro-children`s legislatives/policies. All respondents (100%) of the international NGOs, majority respondents (52.3% & 68.4% respectively) from the government bureaus/offices and local NGOs demonstrated the above stated facts.

Moreover, the overall results of the study noted that about 64.5% of all the respondents believe that there is not effective monitoring mechanism on the implementation of legislation and policy affecting children and about 47.4% of the respondents believe that there are not representatives from all concerned advocate groups on the implementation and monitoring body. Moreover, all respondents (100%) from local NGOs and international NGOs reported that there are not representatives from all concerned advocate groups on the implementation and monitoring body while about 65.9% of respondents from the government bureaus/offices responded they did not know whether there are representatives from the concerned advocate groups.

It can be asserted from the foregoing discussions that the reason why legislations/policies have not made significant differences to the lives of the children is generally attributed to the failure of the

regional government to demonstrate its commitment and sensitivity to the concerns of children. This is either the regional government did not provoke active involvements of the nongovernment organizations in the drafting and implementation processes, or the government did not establish effective monitoring mechanism on the implementation of legislation and policy affecting children by drawing representatives from all concerned advocate groups.

Table 9: Percent distribution of Respondent`s Opinion on the implementation of pro-children legislation and policy

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Implementation of pro-children`s legislatives						
		There are effective monitoring mechanisms			There are representatives from all concerned groups on monitoring body		
		Yes	No	No.ans.	Yes	No	No.ans.
Government Bureaus/office	Freq	7	23	14	11	4	29
	%	15.9	52.3	31.8	25	9.1	65.9
Local NGOs	Freq	1	13	5	-	19	-
	%	5.3	68.4	26.3	-	100	-
International NGOs	Freq	-	13	-	-	13	-
	%	-	100	-	-	100	1
Total	Freq	8	49	19	11	36	29
	%		64.5	25	14.5	47.4	38.1

3.1.4 ASSESSING THE PARTNERSHIP, NATURE AND EXTENT OF ADVOCATES` INFLUENCES ON THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PROCESS IN THE REGION

Undertaking critical analysis of law and policy presumes at least a minimum level of technical knowledge but if such analysis is to be done in relation to children`s rights, it is clear that pre-existing assumptions of what amounts to expertise and by whom it may be provided needs to be

re-examined. Moreover, assessments of the difficulties associated with collaborative working environment provide a deep insight of the matter.

In this respect, the following tables (Table 10, 11 & 12) summarize responses obtained from the respondents regarding the extent and nature of advocates` influences on the nature of pro-children`s legislation/policies, the democratic inclination, importance/significance and nature of partnership at different administrative levels in the region. Table 12 presents the summaries of responses on the nature of partnership at different administrative levels in the region. A likert-type three-category attitude scale was used to measure the democratic inclination of partnership and a likert-type five-category attitude scale was used to measure the importance of partnership for the protection of children`s rights. Therefore, the summaries of their responses are presented below respectively in the Table 10 and Table 11. Their responses are shown as followed in the respective tables.

Table 10: Percent distribution of Respondents Opinion`s on the democratic inclination of the partnership among child-focused organizations

Democratic Inclination of Partnership	Category of Respondent`s Organization							
	Government Bureaus/office		Local NGOs		International NGOs		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq	%
Democratic	30	68.2	-	-	-	-	30	39.5
Undemocratic	8	18.2	19	100	13	100	40	52.6
Don`t know	6	13.6	-	-	-	-	6	7.9

Interestingly, the results depicted clear indication. Adding the responses in the undemocratic option, i.e. about 52.5% of all the respondents believed their relationships with other organizations were undemocratic, while only 39.5% of respondents considered their relationship democratic.

Based on the category of the respondents` organizations, the result was that all of the respondents (100%) from local and international NGOs were of the opinion that their relationships with other

organizations were ‘undemocratic’, while majority of respondents (68.2%) from government bureaus/offices considered their relationship with other advocate organizations were democratic. It was also noted 18.2% of the respondents in the government bureaus/offices considered the relationship of their organizations with other advocates organizations were ‘democratic’ while about 13.6% did not know whether their relationship were democratic or undemocratic. However, a clear and qualified explanation of this answer needs a separate study to explore the reasons.

Equally, important discourses have made in the following paragraphs that go in line with the above discussions depending on the responses to the question presented in Table 11. The table presents the significance of collaboration/partnership made by the organizations in protecting children`s rights in the region. To gauge how importance is the collaboration so far made by the organizations on the protection of children`s rights, one question was asked and the responses presented as followed.

Table 11: Percent distribution of Respondents’ Opinion on the Importance of Partnership in the protection of Children`s Rights

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Significance of Partnership									
	Very significant		Fairly significant		Not significant		No collaboration		Don`t Know	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Government Bureaus/office	25	56.8	13	29.5	-	-	-	-	6	13.6
Local NGOs	-	-	14	73.7	-	-	3	3.9	2	10.5
International NGOs	2	15.4	9	69.2	-	-	-	-	2	15.4
Total	27	35.5	36	47.4	-	-	3	3.9	10	13.2

In response to this question—”how important is the collaboration so far made by your organization on the protection of children`s rights? ”— as presented above in Table 11, about 35.5% of respondents replied “very important,” while 47.4% responded “fairly important”. This

can be interpreted as proof that the respondents were somehow conversant with the importance of the collaboration so far made by their organizations for the protection of children`s rights.

In order to assess general nature of the legal environment that positively or negatively influences the contribution of the government bureaus/offices and the nongovernment organizations, two interesting questions, all are open-ended questions, were included in the questionnaire. In this respect, despite the fact that there were problems associated with collaborative accomplishment of the government bureaus/offices and nongovernment organizations, it is also crucial to consider how much easily more outcomes might have been achieved with permissive legal provisions and access to greater resources.

As the response indicates, the respondents both from international and local NGOs believe that the governments of Ethiopia and the SNNP region have long been unfriendly to NGOs. According to the respondents, key provisions of the new Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009 of Ethiopia (Civil Society Law or CSO law) have severely weakening the work of civil society organizations advocating for children`s rights in the region and the country in general. The respondents noted that the impacts of this law are still more ominous. They reported that the government appears to equate their activity with intelligence work, viewing them as subversives rather than allies in the struggle to improve the lives of all population including children.

The respondents from local and international NGOs make known that the new CSO law imposes vague and arbitrary criminal sanctions on those who violate its provisions. They reported that the law makes clear that those who violate its provisions are punishable under the criminal code as well as by administrative sanctions. The respondents also noted that the law is vague with respect to which provisions of the penal code will be applied to determine the level of culpability and punishment individuals could face. According to the respondents, the vagueness of these provisions opens the door to arbitrary criminal prosecutions. Some respondents of the government bureaus/offices also accord with the views expressed by the respondents of local and international NGOs. Therefore, any claim of acknowledging the significance of partnership in protecting children rights and measuring the contributions of the organizations must be viewed in relation to such anxieties attached to all child`s rights advocates and the organizations they represent.

Table 12: Percent distribution of Respondents' Opinion on the nature of Partnership

Category of Respondents Organization	Nature of Partnership										
		Excellent		Good		Poor		Very poor		None	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	No.
Government Bureaus/Offices	✓ At regional level	3	6.8	21	47.7	5	11.4	-	-	15	34.1
	✓ Civil Servant level	-	-	15	34.1	17	36.6	-	-	12	27.3
	✓ At any NGOs level	2	4.5	11	25	23	52.3	-	-	8	18.2
	✓ At local govt level	-	-	11	25	16	36.4	12	27.3	5	11.4
Local NGOs	✓ At regional level	13	68.4	4	21.1	1	5.3	-	-	1	5.3
	✓ Civil Servant level	-	-	6	31.6	11	57.9	-	-	3	15.8
	✓ At any NGOs level	9	47.4	8	42.1	-	-	-	-	2	10.5
	✓ At local govt level	1	5.3	3	15.8	12	63.2	-	-	3	15.8
International NGOs	✓ At regional level	7	53.8	6	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	✓ Civil Servant level	-	-	6	46.2	3	23.1	1	7.7	4	30.8
	✓ At any NGOs level	7	53.8	6	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	✓ At local govt level	2	15.4	3	23.1	3	23.1	3	23.1	2	15.4
Total	✓ At regional level	23	30.3	31	40.8	6	7.9	-	-	16	21.1
	✓ Civil Servant level	-	-	27	35.5	31	40.8	1	1.3	19	25
	✓ At any NGOs level	18	23.7	25	32.9	23	30.3	-	-	10	13.2
	✓ At local govt level	3	3.9	17	22.4	31	40.8	15	19.7	10	13.2

As the weights of the responses summarized in the above Table 12 shows pretty greater numbers of respondents (52.3%) from the government bureaus/offices believe that the nature of their

organization`s relationship with other child rights advocate groups and decision makers is poor at NGOs levels. Table 12 also revealed the fact that the majority of respondents (68.4% of the local NGOs and 53.8% of the international NGOs) believe that they have excellent relationship at regional level. Moreover, about 47.4% and 53.8% respondents from the same organizations respectively responded that they have excellent relationship at any NGOs levels.

The overall result from same table also shows that relatively most of them (30.3% and 40.8% respectively) have excellent and good relationships at the regional level. About 40.8% of the respondents also reported that they have poor relationship at civil servants level, and about 30.3% and 40.8% respectively reported they have poor relationship at NGOs and local government level.

Table 13: Percent distribution of Respondents` Opinion on the nature of information sharing practices

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Nature of information sharing						
		Is there formal consultation forum/s on children`s issues?			Is there case where your idea has included in the programmes?		
			Yes	No	No.ans.	Yes	No
Government Bureaus/office	Freq	36	-	8	12	30	2
	%	81.8	-	18.2	27.3	68.2	4.6
Local NGOs	Freq	2	5	12	-	19	-
	%	10.5	26.3	63.2	-	100	-
International NGOs	Freq	-	13	-	-	13	-
	%	-	100	-	-	100	-
Total	Freq	38	18	20	12	62	2
	%	50	23.7	26.3	15.8	81.6	2.6

According to Table 13, 50% of the total respondents reported that there is regular meetings with the government and nongovernment organizations to consult on children`s issues; however, pretty

significant number of respondents (81.6%) reported that consultations with either the government or nongovernment organizations has not led their ideas to be included in the programmes intended to serve the best interest of children.

On the other hand, all respondents from international organizations reported there is no a formal system for regular meetings with the government organizations to consult on children`s issues while majority respondents (63.2%) from local NGOs reported that they don`t know whether the system is in place or not. Whereas, all respondents (100%) from both organizations responded that their ideas were not included in programmes intended to serve the best interests of the children.

Unlike the other organizations, pretty significant number of respondents (81.8%) from government bureaus/offices reported that there are formal consultation forums on the issues of the children; however none of the respondents answered the other question requiring further explanation if their response to the first question is 'Yes". Nevertheless, their responses to the second question go in line with the views of the other organizations i.e. about 68.2% of the respondents reported that the consultations with the nongovernment organizations has not led the nongovernment organizations` ideas to be included in the programmes intended to serve the best interest of children.

All the same, the opinions of respondents regarding questions presented below in Table 14, reveal the facts that the elected officials of the region were not responsive to the interests of children. This fact can be proved from the weights of responses given to the questions below in Table 14.

Moreover, in assessing whether the NGOs were operating within government policies/regulations, a direct question was asked. As the overall response to the question presented below in Table 14 indicates, majority of the respondents (51.3%) believe the nongovernment organizations were not operating within the government policies/regulations; while about 30.3% of the total respondents asserted that they don`t know whether the NGOs were operating within the government policies.

Pretty greater numbers of respondents (56.8%) of the government bureaus/offices also believe that NGOs were not operate within government policies/regulations; whereas about 57.9% respondents from local NGOs reported the NGOs were working within the government regulations/policies.

Table 14: Percent distribution of Respondents` Opinion on the advocates having a positive influence on legislation or policy or child-focused programmes

Category of Respondent`s Organization	Respondents` opinion on the advocates having a positive influence on child-focused issues										
	Do you think NGOs are operating within government policies?				Who is responsible for violation of the terms of negotiation				Are the elected officials responsive to the interests of children?		
		Yes	No	No ans.	Govt	NGOs	Both	No. ans.	Yes	No	No. ans.
Government Bureaus/office	Freq.	3	25	16	5	19	20	-	10	26	8
	%	6.8	56.8	36.4	11.4	43.2	45.5	-	22.7	59.1	18.2
Local NGOs	Freq.	11	8	-	2	3	14	-	-	13	-
	%	57.9	42.1	-	10.5	15.8	73.7	-	-	68.4	-
International NGOs	Freq.	-	6	7	-	-	13	-	1	8	4
	%	-	46.2	53.8	-	-	100	-	7.7	61.5	30.8
Total	Freq	14	39	23	7	21	47	-	11	47	12
	%	18.4	51.3	30.3	9.2	27.6	61.8	-	14.5	61.8	15.8

The above table also summarizes the responses to the question __ whom does you think is responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation between NGOs and government? The overall result shows that the greater part of the respondents (61.8%) made both the government and the NGOs responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation.

Moreover, all respondents (100%) of the international nongovernment organizations; significant number of respondents (73.7%) from the local nongovernment organizations and about 45.5% respondents from the government bureaus/offices also reported that both the government and the nongovernment organizations are responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation between

them. Whereas, about 43.2% of the respondents from the government bureaus/offices reported that the nongovernment organizations are responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation. The responses to the question __ are the elected officials responsive to the interests of children? __ made known that a greater number of respondents (59.1% from government bureaus/offices, 68.4% from local NGOs and 61.5% from international NGOs) believe that the elected officials were not responsive to the interests of the children.

3.2 ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY`S FINDINGS

Based on the foregoing discussions of the findings, a thoroughly thought analysis are made in this subsection. Accordingly, the involvements of the regional government`s bureaus/offices and local nongovernment organizations in the children`s rights advocacy activities is appreciable; however their overall programmes related to children`s rights and the involvement of the government bureaus/offices, local and international NGOs in the legislative advocacy activities is insignificant. The findings of this study also reveal the facts that the international nongovernment organizations have involvements in child`s rights advocacy activities especially in the media and administrative advocacy activities among other things by participating in the forums where child focused decisions are made, speaking out about problems facing children at different public gathering and planning and organizing message for media coverage to publicize appropriate events related to children`s issues.

The responses to this study noted that efforts were made by the regional government and their agencies to establish child friendly bench. However, the respondents highlight the inaccessibility of such rights to children living in the rural areas of the region. In rural areas of the region, in particular, children have little or no awareness of their rights, or knowledge of sources of advice or funding to launch action against alleged discriminations. Without the active support and involvement of each of these groups, the situation is unlikely to improve, not least because this general failure goes entirely unreported and unchallenged. Therefore, enacting legislation or creating review and enforcement bodies that are inaccessible to children is impossible to reconcile with a commitment to international normative instruments and national and regional social justice and inclusion programmes. Such concerns go to the very heart of human and political rights ostensibly protected by international, regional and national human rights instruments and the region`s constitution.

As was identified earlier, the critical analysis of law and policy in relation to children`s rights make clear that the region does not have established experts in the field and often looks elsewhere for guidance. There are also difficulties associated with collaborative working environment mainly with nongovernment organizations on child`s policy advocacy areas in the region. However, these organizations have made a substantial contribution to the issues under investigation in the region. Largely, nongovernment organizations have shown that collaborative working does produce critical analysis of the regional government proposals and comparatively showed better participation in the drafting process via expertise`s comments on the draft legislations and financial assistance.

Due to the works of nongovernment organizations not only has the provisions of the national and regional constitution, family law and other social policies been considerably reflected the rights of children in the regional government`s policies but their efforts has apparently increased public awareness on lives of children in the region. Moreover, the works of nongovernment organizations have promoted a review of policies and programmes related to the children and contributed to the process of ‘mainstreaming’ vulnerable children in the public policy. However, the study shows that the regional government did not demonstrate commitments and sensitivity to the concerns of the children and the elected officials have seen not responsive to the concerns of the children.

Respondents from both government and nongovernment organizations offered a testimony that the governments of Ethiopia and the SNNP region have long been unfriendly to NGOs, but in recent years, its attitude has hardened. One particularly unhelpful provision of the new CSO law prohibits international NGOs from engaging in activities pertaining to the human rights, women`s rights, children`s rights, disability rights, citizenship rights, conflict resolution or democratic governance. This precarious position of the nongovernment organizations in Ethiopia and in SNNP region has responsibility disagreement that they thought to have role in the overall development of the region and the country, while those in authority through the new CSO law also view them disloyal to the government and constitution. Such responsibility inconsistency is further impacted by the fact that local NGOs have inadequate funding.

Given the lack of fundraising opportunities inside Ethiopia, most local NGOs rely on foreign sources of funding. Therefore, by cutting off the sources of funding for local Ethiopian CSOs, the

Proclamation has resulted in the closing down of many local and prominent organizations or made them drastically alter the scope of their work; particularly those who had been working in the area of human rights and good governance and child`s policy advocacy etc. However, Article 31 of the Constitution of Ethiopia and the SNNP region guarantees; “Every person has the right to freedom of association for any cause or purpose”. It is, therefore, undemocratic or not in favour of public interest to restrict a substantial section of civil society`s activities directed towards most vulnerable population of the region including children.

As a result, with the passage of the new CSO law, it is noted that the government`s relations with international and local NGOs have reached a new low. This is mainly on the account that the new CSO law imposes vague and arbitrary criminal sanctions on those who violate its provisions. The law makes clear that those who violate its provisions are punishable under the criminal code as well as by administrative sanctions.

The law provides that “any person” who violates its provisions be subject to punishment. Thus, punishment is not limited to officers but it could potentially extend to the organization and its members, volunteers and recipients of services. The law is vague with respect to which provisions of the penal code will be applied to determine the level of culpability and punishment individuals could face. In addition to imprisonment and fines, criminal charges can lead to the cancellation of an NGO`s license. Article 92(2e) states that the license of any Charity or Society shall be cancelled where “it commits a crime by violating the provisions of the criminal code or that of this proclamation.” Based upon this language, it is very difficult for the nongovernment organizations to ascertain the potential grounds for cancelation and the specific penal code violations that may lead to such a measure if they directly or indirectly involved in the activities that the provision considers criminal.

Regarding information sharing practices in the region, it is widely noted that relevant information on the reality of children`s live is rarely shared among the NGOs and the regional government agencies or the regional government`s agencies rarely provide helpful information on the protection of children`s rights to the other concerned organizations. It was also observed that although the Internet has certainly widened opportunities but it is not available to most regional government bureaus and their agencies at local levels.

Perhaps, the greatest achievement of the nongovernment organizations engaged in the work of child`s rights areas had been sharing information, advice and opinion on the reality of children`s lives through wide-ranging mechanisms, much of it through various meetings, workshops, newspapers, radio, TVs, trainings and brochures. As the cursory review of that information sharing efforts confirm, the various child`s rights advocates organizations had served across the region in highlighting the impacts of organizing awareness creation activities on the pillars of the CRC and convey important messages on the perception of children`s rights in the region.

Regarding the impacts of policies and legislations on the lives of the children, there are important plugged-in improvements in the region that an opportunity is getting underway for children to be seen as equal and active participating citizens; however great political, legal, economic and social barriers. What is striking is that children are still systematically being denied their rights in the region. The legislations or policies do not seem to have significant impacts on outcomes, and as children in the region suffering from different facets of neglects.

Largely, children participation in their matters is poor in the region; and the study noted that only fitful progresses that accord to the role played mainly by the government bureaus/offices and the international nongovernment organizations. However, either government and nongovernment organizations or agencies together have compelled the creation of some legislation. Consequently, the council of SNNP region has passed some laws, of which the SNNPR`s constitution, the revised criminal law and Family Laws are prominent, that take children`s issues in hand and deal with protections and most others include children`s issues within other types of legislation. The international conventions, national and regional laws are important instruments for the protection of children`s rights in the region. However, it was often identified a reliance on the charity rather than rights and most of the legislations lack clear and detailed enforcement procedures and monitoring mechanisms.

An investigation into the nature and extent of advocates` influence on the legislative and policy process in the region verified that the ongoing efforts of the nongovernment and government organizations` influence on the legislative and policy process is weak primarily for the reason that the politics in the legislative process is not accommodative.

The study further noted that although government and nongovernment organizations did not play decisive roles in the policy processes and the international NGOs are obstructed from participating in the advocacy activities, however the organizations have impacted the policy process through different means such as expertise`s comment on the draft legislation and particularly the international NGOs playing considerable roles largely in the media and administrative advocacy activities regardless of the repercussions attached to their actions.

Despite the foregoing discussion, the study also noted that the government and nongovernment organizations have exerted influence on the policy process in the region. This has been made mainly by researching and policy analysis on children`s problems; contributing to legislative reforms for the implementation of international conventions and respect for national and regional legal instruments; and encouraging concerned partners to participate actively in the movement directed towards influencing key decision makers for effective child`s rights advocacy. One of the issues that came out of the this study is that it was mainly when the nongovernment organizations took the leadership in consultation and influence that children`s issues were largely reflected in different programmes, policies and legislations of the region. This makes clear the needs for further investigation into the nature and extent of influence by nongovernment organizations in the legislative and policy process in the region.

The study also noted that even if the regional government recognize the general status of child`s rights protection is low, the arguments presented by the nongovernment organizations on the children`s issues were not given the credibility they should as coming from experts in the field. Despite the fact that the study noted the importance of partnerships in the protections of children`s rights but the nature of their relationship was undemocratic in the region. The study made clear that it was only when they hold the same political views as government organizations that their expertise is fully recognized and considered.

Nonetheless, the study identified a good or excellent relationship at regional level but that was infrequently maintained with civil servants, NGOs and rarely occurred at local levels. This good relationship was not reflected in how they answered the other questions - they did not feel that they had really been listened to or their views taken properly into account. They all had serious

concerns as to the non-implementation of legislations and government bureaus/offices identified party-political tensions as a barrier.

It was also noted from the study that rather than being forced into gainsaying and conflict, the close collaboration of local NGOs, international NGOs, government bureaus/offices, civil servants and policymakers would enabled informal discussion of problematic areas. Finding and building consensus with all concerned stakeholders by emphasizing on realistic matters of shared concern appear to have essential place in communicating positive policy changes and more importantly, maintaining close proximity appears to make it harder for inflexible positions to be maintained against the views of each other.

The finding of this study also verified the fact that the regional government conditionally commits its resource for allowing international and local NGOs space to contribute to policy and legislative development. None of the organizations have decisive roles in the legislative development and policy advocacy but only fitful progress has been confirmed. In this case, there is also proven difficulties to identify the particular strategies and techniques that have been most successful in influencing policy-development in the region. It was noted in the study that one of the key strategies reported by the respondents is the region has to invest substantially to ensure discussion between relevant regional capacities and policymakers.

The study also noted presence of several effective strategies that have to be in place to foster sound policy development in the region. These strategies are a reflection of and build on those strategies needed at the national level. The study pointed out the that resources and support need to be allocated for all child`s rights advocates groups particularly for nongovernment organizations to seek common ground. This does not mean, nor should it, that there can be a single, unified view, but it does allow for the promotion of compromise solutions that benefit the greatest number, rather than favoring one group at the expense of another. Moreover, the study noted that in order for putting forth decisive influence on the legislative and policy process in the region; a formal process of consultation, including full recognition of the expertise regardless of their political position and active attachment to government advisory/consultative group is found very relevant.

The study further noted that it is essential for the regional lawmakers and policy designers to enter into dialogues with both local and international nongovernment organizations, who rarely treated

as equal participants and contributors in an ongoing policy process in the region. In particular, relationships of trust and respect must be fostered to reduce an element of ‘them’ and us’. The study also noted that positive collaboration and frank dialogue is a hallmark in the process of bringing children`s rights to the centre of public policy.

Additionally, the respondents to this study also suggested that the legislative process and policy objectives need to be accommodative of all relevant partners and required to depend on the respect for children`s rights, non-discrimination and the right to appropriate services and protections for all children in the region. These techniques believed helpful to foster decisive roles of all the concerned organizations to participate in the drafting, enforcement and monitoring mechanisms of pro-children policies. Lastly, based on the responses of the respondent this study highlights the facts that all the mechanisms and legislative implementation require adequate funding.

3.3 ANALYSIS OF KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW

Child neglects and absence of supports they rightfully deserve is serious human rights violation. It violates the fundamental rights of the child for survival and development including rights to health, education, family life and protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. One of the purposes of this study was to assess efforts made by the child`s rights advocates groups to promote protection of children against various forms of abuse and exploitation in the region.

Accordingly, extensive open-ended questions focusing on the respondents work in relation to the wellbeing of children, problems of children in the region and its consequence on children, interventions done to curb the problem, collaboration with other sectors, existing polices, the extent of implementation of the polices, the existence of legal provisions and recommendations to prevent the problems were prepared and presented to eight research participants that were selected from four separate key informants groups i.e. police officers, NGO actors, religious leaders and community leaders. Moreover, it was also possible to interview four victim children identified with the help of police officer in charge of children`s affairs in the regional police department. There were two boys and two girls and the researcher believed that the data obtained from these cases will strengthen the data obtained from other instruments. Details of the interviews are presented in the following subsections.

3.3.1 POLICE OFFICERS

It is believed that police departments play crucial role in protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation and as a result 2 police officers were interviewed for the purpose of this study. The police officers identified child`s abuses as a serious problem in the region. Respondents expressed their views that exploitative working conditions, child trafficking, sexual abuse or child rapes, abduction and early marriages are the most common kind of child`s rights abuses regularly reported. As to the reasons or causes for the prevalence of the problems they stated that lack of awareness on child rights, lack of effective organizations working on children, lack of job opportunities, community limited awareness about child rights, behavioral problems of children, lack of basic needs, not having agencies that strive for the rights of children, family pressure, death of parents and gaps in legal provisions were identified as reasons for the pervasiveness of the problems in the region. In order to minimize the problems, the informants explained that the police departments established child affairs unit in all the Zones and Sp. Woredas up to the Kebele level which is responsible for monitoring different child abuse cases.

3.3.2 COMMUNITY LEADERS AND FAITH BASED INSTITUTIONS

The importance of religious leaders and elders for transformation of best practices and to change people`s attitude is not debatable. A total of 4 respondents two from faith based institution (i.e. one informant from the Meserete kiristos Church and the other from the Catholic Church of Ethiopia Hawassa Brach) and two community leaders were interviewed for the purpose of this study.

All informants reported that there are many problems children facing in the region. According to them deep rooted economic problems are identified as a root causes for the ill-treatment of children. According to the local and religious leaders, the main problems facing children in the region among others are early/forced marriage, child labor exploitations, abduction, corporal and harsh punishment, child prostitution, exchanging children with money and privileges, and harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation.

When asked about child protection issues, the informants raised that we must not only focus only on the protection of children but also on their duties and responsibilities. The informants expressed

all people must also teach duties and responsibilities to their children; because of globalization many children change their behavior and they do not accept what their parents tell them and losing the blessings of their elders; the elders believe that this issue is the result of globalization.

Moreover, the informants (particularly the community leaders) rose the facts that they lack cooperation from legal persons specially Kebele administrators and police officers to take measures on those who committed different kinds of child abuse. If they take persons who create any kinds of maltreatment on children in Kebele or police stations he/she can be released immediately. This make the community demoralized not to report any kind of abuse to the legal officers for the future. Regarding interventions done to protect and curb the problem, the informants explained that there were efforts done by different government and nongovernment organizations to enhance the awareness of the community and schools.

All informants highly recommended child rights education must be given to followers of different religions and the community at large. Particularly, the community leaders expressed working closely with Iddir and Iddir Union is essential to protect children from different kinds of maltreatment and to reach the community at grassroots level. According to this group informants some Iddir unions clearly stated in their administrative manual that if any members of Iddir attempt to any kinds of child maltreat and /or who is cooperated in doing female genital mutilation (FGM), early marriage and other he /She will be penalized from 10 birr till to dismissal from Iddir. Moreover, the informants also reported that for new comers who would like to be a member of Iddir he/she must not have more than one spouse. This idea is found directly helpful for the well being of children`s.

3.3.3 NGO ACTORS

Two representatives, one from Tikuret Le setochena & Le Hitsanat and the other from Belaya Child and Family Development Association were volunteered for the interview. Both respondents agreed child rights abuses exist in the region. According to them, government officials and their institutions, NGOs working on children, the community at large, peers, relatives and parents are among the major abusers of the rights of the children.

The NGO actors indicated absence of clear and detailed guidelines in the child focused organizations is one of the problems to reduce multivariate child rights problems in the country and the region in particular. The informants also expressed that they use the existing government structure for protecting children from different types of abuse and maltreatment. That is government established child protection committee at the Kebele level though it didn't function well. The informants reported that some of people are not willing to actively participate in the committee and persons who lead the committee are not well motivated.

The informants strongly emphasized to work with government and other NGO's to protect children from abuse neglect and exploitation. In order to overcome child problems the NGO actors suggested the community should play crucial roles together with the other groups and establish a steering committee that monitors children issue in all administrative levels in the general.

The informants pointed out the importance of establishing girls club to enhance their participation; however the informants noted that the girls clubs established earlier in some schools in Hawassa city Administration were not functional because of bullying by boys and attempts of abduction. The informants also expressed efforts made to create opportunity and conducive environment for children to express their views through different ways in collaboration with the Women, Youth and Children Affairs Bureaus in 2009. But due to lack of understanding of the new law of charity children councils are not active till to the end of 2010. However after a long way discussion with the speakers of the house of SNNP nationalities council and Women, Youth and Children Affairs Bureau reached in agreement to strength the children councils in different zones and Woredas.

3.3.4 CHILDREN

A group of 4 children were interviewed for this study purpose. The children were identified by the police officer in charge of children affairs in the police department of the region. The researcher believed that the data obtained from these cases will strengthen the data obtained from other instruments. Accordingly, as per the arrangement made with the police officer, the researcher met the victim children in the regional police commission compound and conducted the interview separately. The children were asked about the problem they are faced. In the discussion, efforts were also made to understand the knowledge of children about the protection of their rights. The detail of the interview/discussion also presented below case by case separately as followed.

Case 1

A child aged 17 was arrived to Hawassa six months ago. She came from Arbaminch. Earlier she was in Addis Ababa visiting her relatives. From there brokers send her to Yirgalem for work. Even if they didn't pay her she was a waitress in one pastry for three months. Then she decided to give up and work as a maid in private house. However, she was forced to quit because the person she had been serving frequently terrorized her for sexual purposes. Finally, she went to Hawassa to find a job and now she is working as a waitress in Mereb Bar and Restaurant in Hawassa. The researcher met her while she was appealing for the police department that the person she was serving as a maid is frightening her and will kill her if she refused to go back with him. Her case is still under investigation by the police department for further evidences to arrest the person.

She also added that she started working at the age of 9. She was in grade 5 but dropped out school because her father stopped supporting. Though he was working in his private farms, he was not willing to educate her. She said that, my father and mother was fighting for the reason that I left out home and I also heard that my mother run away from home. My father got married to another woman and my brothers and sisters are in a difficult situation.

For the future, she is thinking that she will work and save some money so that she can help and educate her brothers and sisters. She also added that she will be aware of and take care of herself and desires to get some money.

Case 2

Tsehay was 15 years old girl. She use to live with her parents in Hawassa, however, as the result of the conflict raised between her parents which end up in divorces, she had to live with her mother and step father in Shashemene. Because, Tsehay could not stand the harassments from her step father, she managed to go back to Hawassa as a worker by the broker who was a friend of her step father. In Hawassa, she could not get things going easy she had disputed with her employer. Her aggressive employer struck her on her back with big iron. She reported to the police department and the police arrest the employer. The case is also still under investigation for further evidences.

Case 3

Mujib is in his 13th his father was died and his mother is too old to win bread for the family. This situation caused him to live his home Worabe and went to Dilla to meet his relatives and find a job. However Mujib could not get the job he dreamed and his relatives were also unable to help him. So that he went to Hawassa and had became street boy for a longer time in Hawassa. The researcher met him while he was reporting to Police department that he heard someone kindhearted was there to help about 12 orphanages. He expressed that he will be happy if someone is there to give him a chance to go back to school. He is still leading a life on the street.

Case 4

Mesfin is 16; he said his parents are passed away. He is a friend of Mujib and he was also in the police department appealing for same purpose. He is originally from Woleyita and he went to Hawassa to look for a job. As he could not get the desired job he has to live on the street for longer time, and now he is applying for to win help from the said person to go back to school. If he is very willing and interested to go back to school with the help of this person or other dedicated individual willing to help him. He is still leading a life on the street with his other fellow friends.

From these cases besides recognizing the problems children facing, the study also noted that the knowledge of children about the protection of their rights is not bad. Although they did not differentiate what rules and regulations are in place to protect their rights, however, all of them are conversant that some legal system is already in place but what they lack is coordinated response system while they report some kind of child maltreatment. They noted that government officials did not treat them equally as they treat other people and even some police officers kick them with anger if they found sitting/laying on main streets. They suggested that the concerned government and nongovernment organizations and people must treatment them equally with other people and provide them the necessary assistances/supports and protect them from any kind of maltreatments.

“This grim catalogue of facts asserts the tremendous moral, economic and social case for tackling children`s problems. Moreover, child problems can be overcome and it is a moral imperative that we act and act soon.” Assefa Beqelle , ACPF Director

CHAPTER FOUR

4. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The findings of the study revealed that the surveyed organizations particularly the local NGOs and the government bureaus/office has appreciable involvements in the advocacy activities; however their overall child`s rights related advocacy activities is weak. The local NGOs are found to be the largest group (53.8%) highly involved in child`s rights related advocacy activities but their overall child`s rights related advocacy activities is only 41-50% and the government bureaus/offices are the second largest group (22.7%) with the 71-80% utmost level of involvement in child`s rights related activities.

Despite the fact that all respondents (100%) of international NGOs responded that they are not involved in the child`s rights advocacy activities; however it was noted from their responses to the other question that all of them (100%) are involved in the media and administrative advocacies especially by planning and organizing message for media coverage to publicize appropriate events related to children`s issues and in helping regional capacities working on children`s rights in revising guidelines and resolving program problems and participating in forums where child focused decisions are made and speak out about problems facing children at different public gathering.

Moreover, it was noted that the overall involvement of all the surveyed organizations in the legislative advocacy activity is very weak. Table 3 shows that none of respondents responded their involvement in the legislative advocacy type except only 6.8% respondents of the government bureaus/offices and 10.5% of the local NGOs reported their involvement in the legislative advocacy.

Beside their involvement in the advocacy activities, respondents reported the problems/barriers that prevent their organization from doing more on children rights advocacy. Accordingly, a significant number (67.1%) of respondents ranked “political problems” as #1 most challenging

problems. About 64.5% of the respondents ranked “legal problems” as #2 most challenging problems while about 59.2% of respondents ranked “economic problems” as #3 most challenging problems that prevented their organizations from doing more on child`s rights advocacy activities.

Regarding organizing awareness creation events on the 3Ps built in the Convention on the Rights of Child, the study noted that appreciable efforts were made to organize awareness creation events on the 3Ps of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Table 5 reveals the government bureaus/offices have high involvement (97.7%) in organizing awareness creation events on the promotion principle; the local NGOs have high involvement (57.9%) in organizing events on the protection of children`s rights; and the international NGOs have high involvements (53.9%) in organizing awareness creation events on the participation of children`s in the decision that affects their lives.

Regarding the Best Media Outlets used in creating awareness on the children`s rights, the study noted ‘radio’ as the first best channel (67.1%), ‘workshop’ as the second best channel (63.2%) and newspapers’ as the third best channel (46.1%) of conveying messages on the 3Ps principles of the CRC.

On the subject of participating in the drafting of pro-children policies, the study noted that the surveyed organizations have no good participation status in the drafting processes of pro-children`s legislatives/policies. Very insignificant number of respondents (13.2%) from all the surveyed organizations reported that their organizations demonstrated active participation in the drafting committees. However, relatively local NGOs (89.4%) and international NGOs (53.8%) have demonstrated better participation in the drafting process via expertise`s comments on the draft legislations and financial assistance respectively.

Moreover, concerning the impacts of the policies introduced over the past years on the lives of the children, a good number of respondents (61.8%) reported that legislative/policies have not made significant difference to the lives of the children. The reason why legislations/policies have not made significant differences to the lives of the children is generally attributed to the failure of the regional government to demonstrate its commitment and sensitivity to the concerns of children. This is either the regional government did not provoke active involvements of the nongovernment organizations in the drafting and implementation processes, or the government did not establish

effective monitoring mechanism on the implementation of legislation and policy affecting children by drawing representatives from all concerned advocate groups.

Concerning the democratic inclination of the partnerships, majority of the respondents (52.5%) believed their relationships with other organizations were undemocratic, while only 39.5% of respondents considered their relationship democratic. In response to this question—”how important is the collaboration so far made by your organization on the protection of children`s rights? ”— about 35.5% of the respondents replied “very important,” while 47.4% responded “fairly important”. This can be interpreted as proof that the respondents were somehow conversant with the importance of the collaboration so far made by their organizations for the protection of children`s rights. In this regard, however, the study noted that key provisions of the new Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009 of Ethiopia (Civil Society Law or CSO law) have severely weakening the work of civil society organizations advocating for children`s rights in the region.

Concerning the nature of partnerships at different administrative and organizations levels, the study noted that relatively the surveyed organizations have excellent and good relationships (30.3% and 40.8% respectively) at the regional level. About 40.8% of the respondents also reported that they have poor relationship at civil servants level, and about 30.3% and 40.8% respectively reported they have poor relationship at NGOs and local government level.

On the subject of information sharing practices and advocates having a positive influence on legislation or policy or child-focused programmes, while majority of (50%) of the respondents reported there is regular meetings with the government and nongovernment organizations to consult on children`s issues; however, pretty significant number of respondents (81.6%) reported the consultations has not led their ideas to be included in the programmes intended to serve the best interest of children. The study also noted that the facts that the regional government did not demonstrate commitments and sensitivity to the concerns of the children and the elected officials of the region were not responsive to the interests of children. And also majority of the respondents (51.3%) believe the nongovernment organizations were not operating within the government policies/regulations. The study noted that both government and the NGOs are responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation.

In this regard, all respondents (100%) of the international nongovernment organizations; significant number of respondents (73.7%) from local nongovernment organizations and about 45.5% respondents from the government bureaus/offices reported that both the government and the nongovernment organizations are responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation between them.

In assessing the efforts made by the child`s rights advocates groups to promote protection of children against various forms of abuse and exploitation in the region, the study noted that the main problems facing children in the region among others are early/forced marriage, child labor exploitations, abduction, corporal and harsh punishment, child poverty and malnutrition, child prostitution, exchanging children with money and privileges, and harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation.

Concerning efforts made to curb the problem, the study noted that the police department established child affairs unit in all hierarchies of the region up to Kebele levels which is responsible for monitoring different child abuse cases. However, the consulted community leaders rose the facts that they lack cooperation from legal persons specially Kebele administrators and police officers to take measures on those who committed different kinds of child abuse. It was noted that while the community take persons who create any kinds of maltreatment on children in Kebele or police stations he/she could be released immediately. Working closely with Iddir and Iddir Union is found very essential to protect children from different kinds of maltreatment and to reach the community at grassroots level.

As per the responses of the NGOs actors, government officials and their institutions, NGOs working on children, the community at large, peers, relatives and parents are among the major abusers of the rights of the children. Absence of clear and detailed guidelines in the child focused organizations is also considered as one of the problems to reduce multivariate child rights problems in the country and the region in particular. It was also possible to note that community active participation in the protections of children`s rights, establishment of a steering committee that monitors children issue in the general in all administrative levels, establishment of girls clubs, children councils, and conducive legal environments as intervention points to curb the problems.

Generally, if children do not receive proper care from the outset, the detrimental effects can well be irreversible. If children do not receive a quality education, they are more vulnerable to child labor, exploitation, abuse, trafficking, and likely to remain trapped in a vicious cycle of ill health and poverty that will easily extend to their own children. Therefore, the time to focus on inclusive/deliberative and transformative public policy to improve children`s lives is now.

In summing up, the researcher considers that the research on "*Bringing Children`s Rights to the Centre of Public Policy: Promoting Policy Advocacy and Partnership for Children`s Wellbeing in the Multiethnic Region, SNNP* " offered an appropriate and timely rationale and approach at looking towards the need to create an inclusive society.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All child-focused sectors/organizations/ need to work together and collaborate to provide children issues appropriate place in the public policy process through:
 - Building the capacity of child`s rights advocates in the child`s policy analysis and advocacy; carrying out child`s rights literacy campaigns;
 - Sensitizing government officials on their obligations to children through policy briefs;
 - Engaging the media in child`s policy advocacy and sharing good practices inter-sectorally, inter-agencies and inter-regionally;
 - Ensuring the participation of children or their representatives in the child`s policy setting, monitoring and implementation processes; establishing child-friendly dialogue forums and children`s parliaments and enhancing children participation in the political process;
 - Establishing comprehensive Mass Awareness and Sensitization program on children rights;
 - Promoting dialogues and relationships of trust and respect to reduce an element of 'them' and us' among government and other child-focused organizations;
 - Commitments to international normative instruments and national and regional social justice and inclusion programmes;
 - Accommodating and widening the door for child-focused organizations` active involvements in the legislative and policy process regardless of their political position;

- Developing effective & Inclusive Information Management and Communication System;
 - Generally, ensuring government macroeconomic policy making process is sensitive to the needs of children throughout their life cycle;
2. Finally yet importantly, government should be mindful of its actions of arbitrary criminal prosecutions and anxieties attached to the nongovernment development actors and their organizations. Rather widen the scope of cooperation, publicly support and encourage the active, positive and systematic involvement of INGOs and CRAOs in the promotion of children`s rights and human rights advocacy, and create a safe environment for those advocating for human rights.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix-1: -Study Variables and Indicators

No	Study variable	Indicators
1	ADVOCACY	<p data-bbox="630 338 792 375">✓ Analysis</p> <ul data-bbox="722 386 1438 636" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="722 386 1438 636">• Soliciting accurate information and in-depth understanding of the problem; who are the stakeholders associated with the desired policy change? Who are the advocates and supporters? Who are the opponents? Who are the decision-makers? How are changes in policies made at different levels? <p data-bbox="630 642 792 680">✓ Strategy</p> <ul data-bbox="722 716 1438 966" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="722 716 1438 966">• Develop a strategy and plan activities. Direct, plan, and focus on specific goals and to position; identify your resources and plan to build coalitions and mobilize support. Seek out and work with appropriate partners, coalition advocates, spokespeople, and the media. Identify your competition; <p data-bbox="630 1010 846 1047">✓ Mobilization</p> <ul data-bbox="722 1052 1438 1266" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="722 1052 1438 1266">• Coalition-building strengthens advocacy; design events, activities, messages, and materials with your objectives, audiences, partnerships, and resources clearly in mind; encourage all coalition partners to participate actively. Organize training and practice in advocacy. <p data-bbox="630 1272 764 1310">✓ Action</p> <ul data-bbox="673 1346 1438 1486" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="673 1346 1438 1486">• Establish and measure intermediate and process indicators and evaluate specific events and activities Share results. Publicize successes in a clear and understandable manner to stakeholders. <p data-bbox="630 1530 829 1568">✓ Continuity</p> <ul data-bbox="673 1604 1438 1743" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="673 1604 1438 1743">• Planning for continuity and articulating long-term goals, Keeping functional coalitions together, and keeping data and arguments in tune with changing situations;
	<p data-bbox="253 422 553 672">Public policy advocacy is the effort to influence public policy through various forms of persuasive communication (CCP, 2008).</p>	
	<p data-bbox="253 716 553 1047">Public policy includes statements, policies, or prevailing practices imposed by those in authority to guide or control institutional, community, and sometimes-individual behavior (CCP, 2008).</p>	

Source:

Johns Hopkins University's Center for Communication Programmes: 'A Frame for Policy Advocacy', 2008.

2 **PARTNERSHIP**

Partnerships are not an end in themselves – they are formed to achieve other goals, with the implicit or explicit recognition that by acting together partners can accomplish more than by acting alone.

- ✓ Enhanced reputation, social cohesion and empowerment:
 - Evidence of political will and the push of political expediency; Have all relevant primary players been asked to contribute, as appropriate? Is there support at the highest levels within each partner organization and interest and commitment at the practitioner level? Flexible enough to cope with changing dynamics;
- ✓ Building on existing assets and filling gaps:
- ✓ Understanding time frames and time requirements:
- ✓ Do partnership roles and responsibilities have appropriately divided amongst partners? Is there measurement for changes to job descriptions and reporting requirements?
- ✓ Appreciating and tracking the dynamics of a partnership
- ✓ Allowing for transformation, modification and capacity building.

Source:

Ken Caplan and David Jones Work On “Measuring the Effectiveness of Multi-Sector Approaches to Service Provision, 2002

3 **WELLBEING**

Wellbeing is different for each individual; in general, it incorporates a holistic approach focusing on multiple dimensions that affect quality of life, ultimately leading to a balanced, healthy and happy you (Washington State University).

- ✓ **Objective Wellbeing**
 - Material well-being
 - Health and Safety
 - Educational well-being
 - Family and peer
 - Behaviors and risks
- ✓ **Subjective Wellbeing**
 - Positive feelings
 - Negative feelings
 - Life satisfaction
 - Autonomy
 - Relationships
 - Vitality
 - Resilience
 - Optimism

Source:

“A Guide To Measuring Children`s Well-Being” Prepared By Action For Children Of New Economics Foundation (Nef), 2009

Appendix-2:**KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDELINES**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a graduate student at Addis Ababa University. I am conducting a study titled *“Bringing Children`s Rights to the Centre of Public Policy: Promoting Policy Advocacy and Partnership for Children`s Wellbeing in the Multiethnic Region, SNNP”* as part of the requirement for the successful completion of the Masters Degree in Public Management and Policy specialized in Public Policy Studies. To attain this purpose your honest and genuine participation is very important. I, therefore, highly appreciate you for sparing your time for the interview that will takes 45 minutes to 1 hr.

1. What do you think on the general state of children protection from different types of neglects, exploitations and abuses in the region? Is there an abuse of children rights in the region? What are the most common types of child`s rights abuses so far you or your organization encountered? What do you think the effects of those circumstances/incidents on the lives of the children?
2. What do you think is the contributions of child`s rights advocates` efforts in relations to protecting children from different abuses? Does your organization have effective system to protect children from different types of neglects? What view do you have on the contribution of your organization in relation to children protection? Who is/are the duty bearer? Is there gap that you observed in the implementation process of pro-children policies? Is there collaboration with other groups?
3. What progress have you noticed so far in the region regarding children protection? What do you think are the determinant factors of poor children protection in the region?
4. What do you think on the accessibility of resources and supports children rightfully deserve from the government, community, and other nongovernment organizations?
5. What do you suggest/recommend to curb the problems children facing currently in order for children have trouble-free lives in the region?

Appendix-3

Research Questionnaire for Governmental and Nongovernmental Organizations/Agencies

Name of Organization/Agency:

Organization mandate or objectives related to children rights:

-
-
-

PART I

In relation to Child rights, advocacy can be described as a activity designed to influence positive political, social, economic and cultural change to tackle children`s problem, reduce their vulnerability and promote their wellbeing by moving specific constituencies into action to change the status quo and support key initiatives to tackle children`s problems. Advocates help children use their rights, articulate other (or own) needs, as they perceive them, or legal decisions they require and or the right to which they are entitled.

The following questions are intended to assess extent to which your organization is involved in the following types of advocacy in promoting children`s wellbeing in the region.

Question 1

1.1 Has your organization worked on children`s rights related advocacy work before?

Yes	No

1.2 If ‘yes’, how much of your organization’s work is related to children`s rights advocacy? (Give an estimate by placing an [X] in one of the following boxes.)

None	1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	91-100%

Question 2

In which of the following areas (see the table below) is your organization currently involved primarily? If any of your organization task/s is/are related with the items under bullets lists, please tick all that applies in column ‘A’.

	A
1). Case Advocacy*	
✓ Documenting and sharing important information on problems facing a child;	

✓ Researching rules or eligibility requirements of particular child focused programs;	
✓ Meet with local agency staff and/or affected children or family to discuss a problem and filing an appeal if services are denied;	
2). Administrative Advocacy*	
✓ Develop relationships with advocates and government officials to influence decision making by providing reliable information about the impact of decisions;	
✓ Help regional capacities working on children`s rights in creating new policies, revising guidelines and resolving program problems;	
✓ Participate in forums where child focused decisions are made, and speak out about problems facing children at different public gathering such as school meetings, Edir and/or Equb meetings, kebele meetings etc;	
3) Legislative Advocacy*	
✓ Lobbying appropriate legislators to place particular children`s issues on agenda of their council meeting;	
✓ Lobbying on specific bills/requested funding levels and communicating with legislators to make the decision in favor of children;	
✓ Working with elected officials to inform them of the impact of particular program/s on children`s lives; and meet with staff of the government`s office and the legislature to draw attention to children`s issue;	
✓ Invite legislators to visit program/s and see how policies affect children;	
4) Media Advocacy*	
✓ Plan and organize message for media coverage to publicize appropriate events related to children`s issues;	
✓ Expressing key issues of children through letters to the editor and call-in opportunities or contacting local reporters;	
✓ Contacting local radio and television stations about appearing on local public-affairs programs to share your expertise;	
✓ Identifying children and families influenced and ask them to write letters or make calls or sharing pertinent information with local media coverage;	
If other (please write here):	

NB: The shared part was left black while the instruments where distributed to the respondents

Question 3

1.1 Are there any barriers that currently prevent your organization from doing more on children rights advocacy?

Yes	No	No. answer

1.2 If yes, how would you rank the following barriers or problems that have prevented your organization from doing more on children rights advocacy? (No. 1 being the biggest challenge and No. 2 being the next and so on)

Economic problem	
Political problem	
Legal problem	
Social Problems	
Religious problems	
Misconception	
Other specify	

Question 4

1.1 Please check all that apply on the table under ‘A’ if your organization organize any awareness creation event on the 3Ps built in the United Nation Convention on the Rights a Child?

	A
Provision	
Protection	
Participation	

1.2 Which media were utilized? (Check all that apply on the table under A):

	A
Radio	
Television	
Newspapers	
Billboards	
Posters and pamphlets	
Workshops - meetings – trainings	
Other media (Specify)_____	

PART II

This part of the questionnaires is designed with the intention of assessing the perception of respondents opinion on the drafting & implementation in the pro-children`s legislatives and content & impact of legislation/policy on the lives of children.

Question 5

1.1 In the last years, has the regional government introduced any legislation or policy that affects children?

- a). Yes b). No c). No response

1.2 If your answer is yes to Question #1.1, was your organization involved in drafting the legislation or policy?

- a). Yes b). No c). No responses

1.3 If your answer is yes to Question #1.2, how has your organization become involved?

- a. Campaigning
- b. Coordination
- c. Financial assistance
- d. Member of drafting committee
- e. Comment on drafting of legislation
- f. If any other _____

Question 6

1.1 Do you sense that the goals/strategies of the policies and legislatives are as accommodative as or take into account basic principles of international and regional child rights conventions?

- a). Yes b). No c). No answer

1.2 Do you sense that the regional government has demonstrated its commitment and sensitivity to the concerns of children?

- a). Yes b). No c). No answer

1.3 In your opinion, has legislation or policy introduced in the last years made a positive difference to the lives of children in the region?

- a). Yes b). No c). No Responses

Question 7

1.1 Are there effective monitoring mechanism on the implementation of legislation and policy affecting children?

- a). yes b). No c). No responses

1.2 If 'yes', please provide a short description:

1.3 Are there representatives from all concerned advocate groups on the implementation and monitoring body?

- a). yes b). No c). No responses

1.4 If 'yes', please provide a short description:

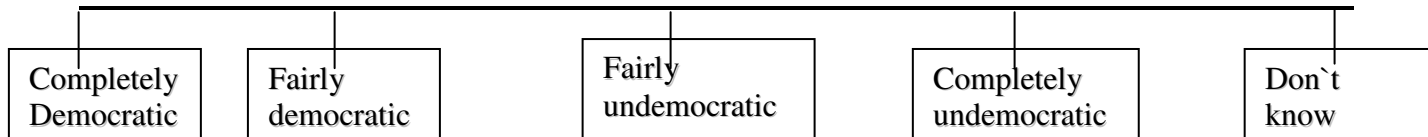
1.5 Do you believe that children have access to judicial review? Please provide a short description:

PART III

In relation to child rights, partnership can be described as coordinated response systems aimed at prevention and early intervention, linked to integrated services that extend across state and no state sectors such as legal, education, justice, social, health and other services to amplify the voices and efforts to ensure that children's rights are increasingly respected and protected. The following questionnaires are designed to assess the general state of partnership between government and nongovernment organizations in protecting children`s rights and the nature and extent of child-focused organizations and sectors` influence on pro-child legislative and policy process in the region. Therefore, a set of questionnaires are also presented below to address the general state of relationship amongst these organizations.

Question 8

1.1 How the relationship between your organization and others democratically inclined?



1.2 How important is the collaboration so far made by your organization on the protection of children`s rights?



1.3 Please describe the legal environment that negatively influences the contribution of your organization/agency activities:

1.4 Please describe the legal environment that positively influences the contribution of your organization/agency activities:

Question 9

How would you describe the nature of your organization`s relationship with other child rights advocate groups and decision makers?

1.1 At regional level

- A). Excellent B). Good C). Poor D). Very poor E). None

1.2 At civil servants level

- A). Excellent B). Good C). Poor D). Very poor E). None

1.3 At any Nongovernment organization level

- A). Excellent B). Good C). Poor D). Very poor E). None

1.4 At local government level

- A). Excellent B). Good C). Poor D). Very poor E). None

Question 10: (NB. Question #10 is to be filled only by NGOs)

1.1 Is there a formal system for regular meetings with the government organizations to consult on children`s issues?

- A). yes B). No C). No responses

1.2 Are there cases where the consultation with government organizations has led your` ideas to be included in the programmes intended to serve the best interest of children?

- A). Yes B). No C). No responses

1.3 If yes, (please provide a brief summary):

Question 11: (NB. Question #11 is to be filled only by GOs)

1.1 Is there a formal system for regular meetings with the Nongovernment organizations to consult on children`s issues?

- A). yes B). No C). No responses

1.2 Are there examples where the consultation with Nongovernment organizations has led their ideas to be included in the programmes intended to serve the best interest of children?

- A). Yes
- B). No
- C). No responses

1.3 If yes, (please provide a brief summary):

Question 12:

1.1 Do you think that the NGOs in the region are operating within the framework of government policies?

- a). Yes
- b). No
- c). No response

1.2 If your answer is 'No' for Question #1.1, whom does you think is responsible for the violation of the terms of negotiation between NGOs and government?

- a). Government
- b). NGOs
- c). Both
- d). No response

1.3 Are the elected officials are responsive to the interests of the children?

- a). Yes
- b). No
- c). No Responses

1.4 If your answer for the question # 1.3 is 'Yes or No', please provide a short description of how:

1.5 What do you recommend for the advocates to have decisive influence on the pro-children policy development and play crucial roles in the child`s rights advocacy activities.-

The next phase of this research will be key informants interview and examining efforts made by different child`s rights advocates groups/organizations on the protection of children from various kinds of maltreatments, exploitations, neglects and abuses in the region.

Are you willing to be contacted to participate in phase II?

- _____ Yes, there are messages I would be glad to provide for the 2nd phase.
- _____ No, there are no messages related to our programs that would meet this purpose.

Thank you for your time.

Please complete and return to Mebratu Dugda

Should you have any questions please telephone: 0912-61-02-50 or

Email: mebratu2006@yahoo.com