

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM

**OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS OF DOMESTIC ADOPTION AND
ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE SERVICES: THE CASE OF KIBEBE
TSEHAY ORPHANAGE CENTER, ADDIS ABABA.**

BY
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AUGUST, 2021
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY IN
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DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY**

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AUGUST, 2021

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has neither been presented in any other University nor was published before and that all sources of material used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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June, 2021

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Approval

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Thomas Lemma Legesse entitled: **Opportunities and Prospects of Domestic Adoption and Alternative Child Care Services: The case of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center**; submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology complies with regulation of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to the originality and quality.

Approved By Boards of Examiners and Thesis Advisor

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Acronyms

AAWCA:	Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office
AcPf:	African child Policy forum
AfAA:	Americans for African Adoptions
CRPF:	Child Research and Practice Forum
ECD:	Community-Based Early Childhood Development
FGD:	Focus group discussion
HIV/AIDS:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICA:	Inter-Country Adoption
KII:	Key informant interview
K.T:	Kibebe Tsehay
NGO:	None Governmental Organization
OVC:	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
UNICEF:	The United Nations Children's Fund
US:	United States

Glossary of Local Terms

Guddifachaa: Traditional indigenous activity of adoption originated in Oromiya region.

Harmahodhaa: A term used when the demand for adoption comes from the biological parents or caretaker of the child.

Wereda: It is the third level of governmental division which is lower than city and sub-city, it was subdivided in to more than six kebele but at this time it is sub divided in to more than 50 blocks.

Idir: It is a traditional organization, the community gather based in villages or neighbors who contribute money it can be every month to support one of the member in times of emergencies, such as death.

Abstract

Ethiopia was one of the leading countries in terms of sending children for adoption abroad next to China. However, the country banned inter-country adoption by formulating the new child adoption proclamation since February 2018. This research aims to examine opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption and alternative child care services taking Kibebbe Tsehay Orphanage Center as a case. The study used qualitative research methods of in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussion and analyzed the data thematically.

The results showed that compared to inter-country adoption, domestic adoption has a number of advantages which includes better psychological well-being of adopted children, they are also safe from identity crisis, children are secured from any danger because in domestic adoption there are sociologists and social workers who constantly visit children's condition after they are given for adoption. On the other hand, the government is playing an active role to promote domestic adoption by encouraging high-profile government officials including Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and Ambassador Fitsum Arega to adopt children from Kibebbe Tsehay Orphanage Center. Alternative child care services are also playing a role in putting children; whereas, in inter-country adoption, children were sold like "commodities". The study also disclosed that domestic adoption has different challenges, one is adoptive parents are so selective of children's age and gender. The other major challenge is that OVC with health problems cannot get adoptive parents in domestic adoption. Finally, this study suggests that to improve the practice of domestic adoption the media can play a role in promoting the practice of domestic adoption as a blessing activity and social responsibility.

Key words: domestic adoption, OVC, inter-country adoption, adoptive parents

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Adoption is a way of taking all responsibilities from biological parents to adoptive parents. It gives the right to adoptive parents to decide on behalf of the child, and also all rights and responsibilities, along with filiations, from the biological parent or to adoptive parents (Ben-Nun, 2016). The prospect of adopting a child can give adoptive parents a mixed feeling which they can be extremely happy about it or worry about the new experience. In order to adopt a child adoptive parents have different alternatives. Options for adoption will depend on the needs and interests of an adoptable child or youth as well as what is important to adopter's family (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2015).

From other alternative child care services, adoption is one of the preferable options for children particularly children who are in foster care and cannot be returned to their biological parents. Adoption gives a child a permanent family (Conley, 2018). However, Inter-country adoption (ICA) is not free from problems and challenges including corruption and exploitative practices, de-motivating the wider reform of care systems (EveryChild, 2012). ICA has never been free from controversy at any point in its history, from its roots as a relatively simple, legally created filiations tie to its perception as a humanitarian act (African child policy forum, 2012).

Previously, the Ethiopian Children's Policy described the ICA as one alternative child care option; even though, it does not fully compensate the love and care the children have missed in their natural homes. Furthermore, there was a downside of children in inter-country adoption in which they experience identity crisis and other problems that affect them

psychologically and socially. Nonetheless, following the controversy and the negative impact of inter-country adoption on children, currently, the government has started supporting orphan and vulnerable children only through domestic alternative care options instead of pursuing the option of inter-country adoption (Ethiopian Children's Policy, 2017).

Ethiopia was one of the leading countries sending children for adoption to abroad next to China. For example in 2009, 2,269 children were sent to abroad from Ethiopia, while China sent 3,001 children to abroad (United States [US] Annual Report on Inter-country Adoptions, 2009). Gradually the government of Ethiopia dramatically reduced the number of children who were sent to abroad and a good example could be, in 2015 in which Ethiopia sent only 335 children while China sent 2,354 (US Annual Report on Inter-country Adoption, 2015). In 2016 only 183 children were sent to abroad from Ethiopia for adoption (US Annual Report on Inter-country Adoption, 2016).

One of the reasons for gradual reduction in the number of children in ICA was that, the government of Ethiopia has a desire to see the number of inter-country adoptions declining by strengthening the country's social welfare system to preserve families and by encouraging domestic adoption (US Annual Report on Inter-country Adoption, 2014). Alternative childcare options is to place children in need in community-based care (sponsorship and kinship care); foster care (emergency, short-term, long-term, and fostering to adopt); reunification and reintegration; local adoption; and, as a last resort, institutional care (Cunningham, Azeb, Martinez, & Rayment, 2018).

In addition, Chinwe et al., (2019) have explained that comparing children living in institutions with other alternative care, children living in institutions often lack individual

care and are cut-off from their communities and cultural identity, such children also do not experience care in a family environment, hence the need for family-based alternatives like domestic adoption.

This study examines the opportunities and prospects of moving from inter-country to domestic adoption and alternative child care services, focusing on Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. Emphasis is given to how banning inter country adoption created opportunities, prospects and also challenges in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center which is the main provider of domestic adoption for (Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office [AAWC Affairs Office]).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Generally, adoption can be divided into domestic and inter-country adoptions. Ethiopia used to be the main source of ICA. From 2003 to 2010, Ethiopia sent over 22,000 children for adoption (Selman, 2012). The children who were sent to ICA were gone through an illegal process; the practice was corrupted by the agencies in the country. For example, Petersen (2013) put Ethiopia as one of the leading countries that exercise illicit practices in ICA.

Beside, the corrupted activities in Ethiopia, ICA adoption also put children in danger because one adopted child's cultural identity could be lost which result identity crisis. Wenke (2015) crystallized the idea that in ICA children are sold for the purpose of exploitation, for instance for sexual exploitation or labor. Having that in mind, banning ICA in Ethiopia could create opportunities, prospects and also challenges in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center and AAWC Affairs Office.

The issue of adoption has been studied at country level. The following studies were carried out after the formulation of the new child adoption proclamation which banned inter-country adoption. Abebayehu and Dejene (2019) conducted a research on indigenous practice of adoption in Oromiya region which is called *harmahodhaa* (literally, breast-sucking), this study revealed that *harmahodhaa* creates culturally defined voluntary parent-child relations and it also establishes kinship ties between the families on the adopted and adoptive sides. In *harmahodhaa*, the demand for adoption comes from the biological parents. .

Furthermore, Helen (2019) has conducted a research on the effect of the ban of Inter-country adoption in Ethiopia. In this study she identified that the ban of inter-country adoption has affected Shamida Orphanage Center in different instance like the financial capacity, service and medical care. Melat (2018) explained that banning of ICA in Ethiopian context goes against the best interest of OVC which has to be determined on case-by-case basis, indicating, that the country lacks a helpful environment to support its OVCs.

Institutional problems also investigated in the previous studies, for instance Assaye in his study (2018) also attempted to show that mental distress and associated factors among orphan children in children's care and rehabilitation center, and he found out that children are more susceptible to mental disorder in orphanage centers. Genanew in his study (2019) explained challenges of facilitating child adoption in Bahir Dar City administration such as: low understanding and shortage of human power.

However, previous researchers did not address the opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. Therefore, in this study the researcher aims to examine opportunities and prospects of moving from inter-country to domestic adoption and

alternative child care services, focusing on Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center. In this study, the focus is on examining opportunities and prospects that are taking place in Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center just after the formulation of the new child adoption proclamation in Ethiopia which is under implementation since 14th February, 2018. The previous proclamation in Article 193 (1&2) allowed foreigners to adopt children from Ethiopia after fulfilling certain criteria and getting court approval, however, the current adoption proclamation does not allow foreign nationals to adopt children from Ethiopia (Ethiopia Revised Family Code, 2018).

Therefore, this study is intended to examine opportunities and prospects resulting from the implementation of the new proclamation which does not permit foreign nationals to adopt children from Ethiopia. Because of this it can be argued that banning inter country adoption in Ethiopia will bring opportunities and prospects for orphaned children like those supported by Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center. Because, the criteria used in identifying local adoptive families are not similar with international adoptive families at least in some cases. Lastly, it is believed that this study would bring new findings that are related to the objective of this particular study.

1.3. Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate opportunities, prospects and challenges of domestic adoption and alternative child care services in Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center.

The specific objectives are:

- ❖ To investigate the opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption in Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center;

- ❖ To examine measures taken by AAWC Affairs Office to promote domestic adoption after banning inter-country adoption;
- ❖ To investigate the role of community and family-based alternative child-care services in promoting domestic adoption;
- ❖ To examine the challenges resulting from banning of inter-country adoption.

1.4. Conceptual Definition of Terms

Adoption: refers to a procedure by which people legally assume the role of parents in respect of a person who is not their biological child. It is a legal procedure that gives the adoptive parent the right and responsibility towards the child (Ibraheem, 2013).

Child: refers to anyone below the age of 18 (Ethiopian Children’s Policy, 2017).

Domestic adoption: refers to an adoption that involves adoptive parents and a child in the same country of residence and usually, but not necessarily, of the same nationality (EveryChild, 2012).

Foster Care: is one of the alternate child cares services in the domestic environment of a family, volunteer individuals who taking care of the child other than the child’s biological family (Model Guidelines for Foster Care, 2015).

Inter-country adoption (ICA): regarded as adopting a child from different country or the citizens of other country, the child will earn the citizen of adoptive family (Australian Health Care Associates, 2017).

Orphan: refers to categorizing parent’s status, single orphan a child who lost one of his parent and double orphan a child who lost both parents as a result of different reasons (Tatek, 2009).

1.5. Significances of the Study

The study will be supportive or supplementary input to those who are interested to explore more about in the particular area of domestic adoption, on the other hand the study is important to know more about the role of alternative child care services after the Ethiopian government ban inter-country adoption. Because those are the only option to handle vulnerable children in the country, furthermore the findings of this study can be used as way to promote domestic adoption and alternative child care services considering the fact that after the ban of inter-country adoption the government give much emphasis for domestic adoption and alternative child care services.

1.6. Delimitations of the Study

The scope of the study was limited which particularly focused on examining opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption and alternative child care service in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. Whereas, there were a number of orphanage centers in Ethiopia and also in Addis Ababa, the result could be different if it was conducted in large number of orphanage centers, because of the demographic, socio-cultural context, and economical background, therefore, results cannot represent other orphanage centers. Attempts were made to include the opinions of the adoptive parents. However, because of their unwillingness to take part in the study for various reasons such as, confidentiality (not to be known as adoptive parent) and also they don't want the adopted children to be visited by a stranger. Therefore, it became impossible to incorporate their perspective. As a result, the study tried to include their opinion by secondary resources from AAWC Affairs Office.

1.7. Limitations of the study

While undertaking the study the researcher faced the following challenges. The first one is, finishing the interview on time was difficult because participants who work in AAWC

Affairs Office were so busy; apparently there is lack of officers who cover their work. As a result of that, sometimes the interviews were frequently interrupted by clients. I was also forced to rearrange the interview repeatedly which the FGD took me more than a week.

Some interviewees were suspicious about the objective of the study, they told me that still there are agencies who are not happy about the ban of inter-country adoption and try to magnify the dark side of banning inter country adoption, to do that they sometimes hire researchers to influence the government, as a result I was expected to persuade that I was not one of them.

The other challenge was some of interviewees were not willing to participate and to be recorded, one even was not willing to have face to face interview because of shyness, but willing to write all the detail information based on the interview guide.

1.8. Organization of the Paper

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter introduces: background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives (general and specific), conceptual definition of terms, significances of the study and delimitations of the study. Chapter two reviews related literatures that are related to adoption and alternative child care services. Chapter three deals with research methods which consists of description of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center, why the center was selected for this study, study approach, research design, methods of data collection, and methods of data processing and analysis. Qualitative data were analyzed and discussed under chapter four. Finally, chapter five presents discussion, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTR TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter reviews related literatures on the practice of domestic adoption and alternative child care services. This chapter tries to see the general issues which are related with domestic adoption and inter-country adoption by addressing issues related to: definitions of adoption, types of adoption, factors affecting the practice of domestic adoption principle of best interest of the child, types of alternative child care, concept of orphan and the two arguments on supporting and against inter-country adoption, and also Ethiopia's experience before banning inter-country adoption, at the end, main causes that led Ethiopia to ban inter-country adoption are discussed.

2.1. Understanding Adoption

AcPf (2012) defined adoption as an activity people all over the world have developed to let a child who is unable to live with his/her parents for whatever reason to be brought up in a secure family based environment. It is also defined by different authors for instance, (Adoption of Children Acts of Georgetown, 2012; Naaz and Meenai, 2019; Save the Children, 2013) defined adoption as a permanent appointment of a child into a family which the privileges and obligations of the birth parents (or legal guardians) are legally transferred to the adoptive parent(s).

The United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF, 2014] defined adoption as a complete separation of the legal affiliation between a child and his/her biological parent(s) and birth family. Weaver (2018) defined adoption in terms of legality, that is authorized by the court system and informal adoption is an arrangement typically between family members or kin and is not legally approved.

2.2. Types of Adoption

There are different types of adoption in a way where and how it is conducted: inter country adoption, domestic adoption, open adoption, and close adoption which all has different characteristics.

2.2.1. Inter Country Adoption

EveryChild (2012) defined inter-country adoptions, adoptions that embrace a total change in the child's habitual country of origin, whatever the nationality of the adopting parents. Generally the child will acquire the nationality of the country he/she is moving to. Davies (2011) has identified inter-country adoption is a well-established practice, especially in the (United States of America [USA]) and European countries such as Italy, Spain, Sweden and Norway.

Hilferty and Katz (2016) elaborated that, inter-country adoption occurs when the adoptive parents are "habitually resident" in a country other than that of the child and intended transferring the child to that country. By contrast to other countries the US is the world's leading recipient of internationally adopted children. Also, Norway and Spain are among the top recipients (Choy, 2018). Cantwell (2017) explained that inter-country adoption is a complex issue driven by a range of ever-changing social, cultural and economic forces in both receiving and sending countries.

2.2.2. Domestic Adoption

Cantwell (2017) elaborated domestic adoption as one which is carried out between adoptive parents and a child who are "habitually resident" in a given country, even if they are of different nationalities. Domestic adoption is a national solution, a permanent placement, and in addition, offers a family environment; put it ahead of many other alternatives. AcPf (2012)

prioritized domestic adoption as a critical component of any child-protection system and a core part of the range of alternative care options.

Compared to inter-country adoption, domestic adoption can offer children, especially children who cannot be placed in other family-based alternative care options a permanent family, this is especially relevant care option for children who are abandoned, have no parents or extended family, or for children who should not remain under the care of their parents due to abuse or exploitation (Bunkers, 2014).

2.2.3. Open Adoption

Open adoption can be demonstrated as an arrangement that allows the child's connection to both the birth family and the adoptive family by supporting interaction among the birth parent (West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, 2017). It is private domestic adoptions which is more likely to be open, there is some degree of continuing communication between adoptive and birth family members (Raleigh, 2016).

Convery (2016) explained that most of the time adoption could be open when biological family put their children willingly in adoption homes in this condition the adoption activity has a possibility to be open. Grotevant (2019) claimed that open adoptions vary quite widely, contact between adoptive and birth family members can involve the direct exchange of information (through letters, photos, gifts, personal visits).

It is important to remember that the practice of open adoption at the beginning was not favored by a lot of people but currently it become more open and information has become far more accessible (Caughren and Lovett, 2014).

2.2.4. Closed Adoption

The act of adoption sometimes could be closed adoption in which identifying information about the birth parents and adoptive parents is considered confidential and is not made available as a result of state law and/or court order (West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, 2017). There are different reasons that close adoption is implemented it is not only there is very little contact or identifying information available to the child, but the adoptive parents are ill-equipped to deal with adoption openly (Convery, 2016).

2.3. Factors Affecting the Practice of Domestic Adoption

Domestic adoption is affected by different factors; Greta (2020) conducted a research on cultural factors that influence domestic adoption in South Africa, some of the factors are: infertility, the stigma surrounding infertility which continues to impact adoption, even in this modern age. Furthermore, a qualitative study conducted by Nachinab, Donkor and Naab (2019) on perceived barriers of child adoption among women with infertility in Northern Ghana. They have concluded that child adoption is an indication of approval of defeat which adoptive parents will not have biological children. In addition to that, there is discrimination against the adopted child, and the family not allowing the adopted child to inherit property.

Holly (2018) studied the knowledge, attitudes and practices about domestic adoption and foster care services among Commercial Bank of Ethiopia employees in Addis Ababa. And reach the conclusion that participants in the study area have the awareness towards domestic adoption, however, hardly involved in the practice of domestic adoption and also foster care service. They have also a negative attitude towards domestic adoption and foster care service.

2.4. Principle of Best Interest of the Child

There is worldwide agreement, surrounded in international human rights law, the best interest of the child should be a crucial concern in any decisions that could be made about the future of any child (Cantwell, 2014). Selman (2014) claimed that before considering adoption there is a need for careful monitoring by central authorities and greater discipline on the part of adoption agencies. Pretorius (2012) agreed with the idea of Selman that best interest of the child should be given great consideration particularly the case with inter-country adoptions, it is also important that an intensive assessment is vital to ensure that the adoption is done in the best interests of the child and not in the best interests of the adoptive parents.

Children Care and Adoption Act (2015) documented that “A person who is involved in the making of a decision with respect to the adoption of a child, shall have regard, as far as practicable or appropriate, to the following principles:

- (a) Before any adoption has taken place the best interests of the child must be kept, both in childhood and later in life, must be the paramount consideration;*
- (b) Adoption is not to be regarded as a service for adoptive parents, it must regard as the service of the child;*
- (c) A person does not have the right to adopt a child;*
- (d) If a child is able to form his or her own views on a matter concerning his or her adoption, the opportunity must be given for a child to express his feeling with the consideration of his age, maturity, developmental capacity of the child and the circumstances. (p. 55).*

2.5. Types of Alternative Child Care

Stuckenbruck (2013) stated that, in recent years, the international child protection community has devoted significant efforts to developing standards and guidelines to promote family-based alternative care for children deprived of their family environment.

Expanding domestic adoption, foster care and community-based programs so that orphan and vulnerable children grow up getting the necessary family love, care, support and protection and their basic needs fulfilled, supporting orphan and vulnerable children by expanding domestic alternative care options only by scaling up indigenous practices and values and strengthening them through necessary frameworks. (Ethiopian Children's Policy, 2017, p. 20).

Chirwa (2016) argued that countries have a responsibility to provide alternative care for children who lack parental care, and everything should be done to ensure that such children grow up in a family environment where they feel loved and can grow to realize their full potential.

2.5.1. Community-Based Care

Community-based care is another solution to the challenges presented by children classified as vulnerable; it is quasi-institutional model that has emerged in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa (Lombe, Mabikke, Enelamah & Chu, 2019).

Furthermore, community-based care serves as a link between the formal and informal systems of care. It often comprises community-based groups that provide support directly to the extended family or children considered vulnerable, the traditional systems of care, including the extended family and communities, have been and still are the primary line of protection for children in the absence of biological parents (Lombe et al., 2019).

2.5.2. Kinship Care

Kinship care is also sub-divided into formal and informal kinship care based on the legality and other characteristics which are elaborated below:

Informal kinship Care: The informal care is a private arrangement within the family environment whereby the child is looked after on a temporary or long-term basis by his/her extended family without being ordered by judicial authority (UNICEF, 2014).

Formal Kinship Care: The formal kinship care is different from the informal one because it is arranged or ordered by an external administrative or judicial authority, whereby the child is taken care of for a short period of time or for a long period of time by his/her relatives (UNICEF, 2014).

2.5.3. A guardian

Naaz and Meenai (2019) described guardianship as a lawfully appointed adult representative for a child. The guardian's role is to make sure that a child's rights are upheld, and the child's best interests are protected. In addition to representing a child it may entail full parental responsibility, it could also be someone recognized by the community or traditional authorities as having the liability to care for a child (Save the Children, 2013).

2.5.4. Kafalah

UNICEF (2014) acknowledged *Kafaalah* as one type of alternative child care service which refers to the Islamic mode of alternative child care in which someone voluntarily commits himself/herself to give support and care for an orphan or any other child who is in need of family care. The approach of *kafala* is considered and performed varies greatly from one country to another or from society to society, ranging from anonymous financial support, to a

child being placed in a residential care facility, to a form of informal adoption (Save the Children, 2013).

Assim and Nielsen (2014) claimed that to support a society in a particular way there must be a consideration of the society's cultural and religious practice, without giving any attention to the culture it could be hard to support and benefit the society because of this reason in a society which is dominated by Islamic religion Kafalah could be a best alternative child care service.

2.5.5. Foster Care

Nigudkar (2017) described foster care as one of alternative child care which is a placement of a child, by the committee for the purpose of alternate care in the domestic environment of a family. It is intended to be temporary care for children and youth unable to live with their parents because of neglect, abuse, parent incarceration, or other issues (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2012). According to (UNICEF & the Government of Kenya, 2014):

Foster care is applicable when the child is:

- *A double orphan*
- *Abandoned*
- *When the child is incapable to live with extended family*
- *Affected by physical or mental disability and at risk of being placed in institutional care because the family is unable to care for him/her due to the parents' disability*
- *Not able to stay with his/her biological parents or if they are incapable of taking care of a child.*
- *The victim of physical, sexual or other form of abuse within the family*

- *Cannot be facilitated with enough care and safeguard in his/her present environment*
- *has no place to stay and his/her family could not be found or in rehabilitation center*
- *Where the child's parents are untraceable or certified to be terminally ill or mentally incapacitated, and the child is unable to live with extended family.*

Fostering is suggested as a preferable comparing to institutionalization wherever possible if it located in foster care, home visits and monitoring is required to ensure that the child does not suffer neglect or is used for child labor (Wijemanne, 2017). It is also easy for adoptive parents if fostering turn to adoption because familiar with the child's personality, family and medical history, education plan of his or her life (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2012).

2.5.6. Institutional Care

Browne (2017) defined institutional care where a large number of children are provided care and support by people who are paid because parents or relatives are incapable of taking care of them. Many millions of children around the world live in residential institutions where they lack individual care and a suitable environment in which to fulfill their full potential (Kane & Lubis, 2016). Giraldi (2014) described the institutional care which display the characteristics typical of institutional culture (depersonalization, rigidity of routine, block treatment, social distance, dependence, lack of accountability, etc.).

There are different reasons that force children to join institution some of the core are lack of community based services to assist families and children in need, especially children with disabilities from the families with poor economic conditions (UNICEF, 2017). Currently most governments and nongovernment organizations have determined to improve the quality

of care provided by institutions and others to minimize the use of institutions and promote family residential care alternatives (Mccall & Groark, 2014).

Acknowledging the severe consequence of children institutionalization the government of Rwanda has engaged in an ambitious practice that all orphans in institutional care will return to their extended families or be placed with foster parents in order to be given the opportunity to grow up within a Rwandan family environment (Kuehr, 2015).

2.6. Concept of Orphan

Pillay (2018) identified that it is crucial to explore the psycho-educational and social experiences of OVC in order to secure best outcomes for equality and improved living standards for them.

Children are the most vulnerable individuals getting the badly effects of crisis and conflicts happening around the world. Child population makes up 2.2 billion of 7 billion world populations. And 143 to 210 million of child population are orphaned. The regions where most orphans living are Asia, Africa Latin America and the Middle East. (Kavak ,2014,p2).

The very concept of OVC illustrates the tension that exists between targeting specific groups of children orphans for support, and addressing child vulnerability in general (Child Research and Practice Forum [CRPF], 2012). It is believed that orphan children are more vulnerable, comparing to other children orphan children are easily fell to the hands of illegal human traffickers, will be forced to work as a prostitute, at the worst condition their organ might be stolen (Kavak, 2014).

Africa was well known for generations by relying on informal alternative care mechanisms such as the community and the extended family system for support children. However, there

is now an increasing disintegration of the informal alternative care systems, at the result of which many children are put up for adoption across the world (AcPf, 2012).

2.7. General Overview of Orphanage Centers

Stuckenbruck in his research (2013) on advancing the rights of children deprived of parental care domestic adoption of children in Kenya clarified that several violations of the rights of children living in residential care and indicated that child care institutions must be better regulated and monitored by the Kenyan government.

Workye (2015) conducted research in order to compare the psychological wellbeing among institutional and non-institutional orphan children in Gulele Sub City of Addis Ababa. The results revealed that institutional orphan children are relatively not psychologically well compared to non-institutional children.

Furthermore, Meskerem (2015) conducted research on the role of orphanages in seeking other childcare alternatives. Findings emerged from this study are three. The first finding indicated orphanages have a responsibility in seeking other child care alternatives, orphanages should be independent of adoption agencies, and inter-country adoption has an adverse effect on the best interest of the child. The issue of orphan and vulnerable children has also been addressed by Aselefech (2013) which showed that there are various challenges affecting the quality of services provided to OVCs and their guardians. This includes lack of collaboration between and among the service-providing orphanage centers.

2.8. Arguments on Inter-Country Adoption

There are two types of arguments concerning inter-country adoption, one which supports inter-country adoption declaring that it is best for children who could not get suitable parents

in the country of origin to place them in other country, the other argument against inter-country adoption claiming that children must grow up in the origin of their country.

2.8.1. Arguments Supporting Inter-Country Adoption

Fronek and Cuthbert (2013) claimed that inter-country adoption is preferable practice for many countries when children cannot get a family or relatives in the countries of origin. It is preferable not because it provides all necessities for children but it could save children from staying in institutional care.

Inter-country adoption is one of the unique social reform activities that is mostly monitored by private organization and supported financially by individuals who are prospective adoptive parents, particularly from poor country to developed countries. It is also considered that it saves such governments significant resources by removing children who otherwise would have to be supported and who would grow up to become a major cost to society (Bartholet, 2014).

It is argued that, un-parented children have a right to be placed in ICA if that is where true families are available or if that protect the best interest of child (Muluneh, 2017). In addition some parents prefer inter-country adoption because it is perceived to be quicker than domestic adoptions and more likely to be closed in nature and thereby offering a greater sense of permanence and security (Hilferty and Katz, 2016).

Dwyer (2013) insisted that it is time to start a new conversation about international adoption putting aside the special children focused conventions and beginning instead with general human rights that children share with adults most promisingly, the “right to leave any country.”

2.8.2. Arguments against Inter-Country Adoption

King (2019) associated inter-country adoption with socio economic factors, by explaining that the story of inter-country adoption is a complex story of local, national, and international politics, culture, economics, and individual personal stories. Presently, inter-country adoption has permanently changed our definitions of family, identity, and home. It has created new families across the globe, but it has also been accompanied by and continues to generate controversy (Choy, 2018).

ICA had an impact in Africa particularly in the East African context it has created a child care system that separates children from their families rather than strengthening the capacities of families to care for their children, the systems claim to serve “vulnerable children,” yet often do more harm than good (Bunkers,Bradford, & Rotabi, 2018). These faulty foundations often violate children’s rights, weaken family and community structures, and create long-lasting scenarios that traditions of care and protection of children are eroded, overlooked, and in the worst cases, intentionally manipulated (Bunkers,Bradford, & Rotabi, 2018).

There is often mistaken attention, particularly in emergencies, in creating residential facilities to care for separated children or in thinking that inter-country adoption should be the first response, Save the Children recommends that inter-country adoption should never be considered the first alternative (Save the Children, 2012). Among many arguments one of the arguments against inter-country adoptions, and one that has particular significance with many African countries, is that an adopted child’s cultural identity could be lost. (Isanga, 2012).

AcPf came up with interesting point that, despite being an option that has been promoted by a number of external factors as the most advantageous for the protection and best interests of the child, the fundamental question remains: to what extent is inter-country adoption necessary and appropriate for Africa’s children today? (AcPf, 2012). Currently many

countries in Africa remain suspicious of inter-country adoption, instead preferring domestic solutions. As a result, restrictions are imposed on the use of inter-country adoption as an alternative care option for children deprived of parental care (Chirwa, 2016).

2.9. Ethiopia's Experience before Banning Inter-Country Adoption

It is most likely to find the name of Ethiopia in recent literatures that is associated with inter-country adoption, due to the fact that the country had aggressively participated and sent large number of children to different corner of the world.

AcPf (2012) discovered that Inter-country adoption has a shorter history as a significant phenomenon in Africa than elsewhere in the world, it was only in 1986, for example, that Americans for African Adoptions (AfAA) was set up and became the first licensed US adoption agency to be approved by the government of Ethiopia.

Much of the rise is attributable to Ethiopia, where the number of children sent rose from 620 in 2000 to 1,527 in 2004 and 4,565 in 2009 (when Ethiopia accounted for over 70 percent of children sent from Africa). In 2009 and 2010, Ethiopia replaced Russia as the second largest sending country, after China, and the most important source of children adopted by citizens in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. (Selman, 2012,p.11).

Ethiopia did not sign The Hague Convention that includes the concept of subsidiary, a principle that requires signatory nations to seek out local options for children's care before resorting to inter-country adoption. This means that the country of origin first strives to place the child within his or her extended family or kinship group (Gibbons, 2016).

Surprisingly, from 2003 to 2010, Ethiopia sent over 22,000 children for adoption, as a result of that the number of children sent from Ethiopia fell slightly in 2010, and in 2011, the

Ministry of Women's Affairs announced that it would drastically reduce the number of inter-country adoptions being processed after March 10, 2011. While the number of children adopted from Ethiopia has in fact rebounded to that of former years, the process is under additional scrutiny, after the needed training and hiring of new staff (Selman, 2012).

The culture Ethiopia has could give the country a chance to construct a stronger legal framework by acknowledging traditions of indigenous care practices and their inherent value like kinship care and *guddifachaa* are to be continued (Gibbons and Rotabi, 2012).

2.10. Major factors contributing to Ethiopia's ban on Inter-Country Adoption

There were different factors which triggered the government of Ethiopia to ban inter-country adoption one of which was is that the illicit practices which refers to acts that violate the rights of the child and/ or contravene recognized international safeguards, this kinds of practices may occur at any stage of the adoption (Cantwell, 2017).

Petersen (2013) identified leading countries that exercising illicit practices some of them are: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Cambodia, Romania and Vietnam are examples indicating ICA numbers are decreasing and some are closing the program, it does not mean that there are no children who can be benefited from inter-country adoption but people who involve in the practice corrupt it and they commodify children.

It was not only Ethiopia but also receiving countries found out the illicit practices that is going on in the country, for example Australia and Switzerland halted the program of adopting children from Ethiopia because of the fraudulent practices by actors involved in child protection, linked to the absence of consent on the part of biological parents and the falsification of documents (Cantwell, 2017).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

In this chapter, background information on the study institution, types of children who get service from the institution and justification for the choice of the institution for this study are described. Then, the study approach, research design, method of data collection instruments, and methods of data processing and analysis are presented.

3.1. Description of the Study Area

In order to explore opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption and alternative child care services, organization which is actively participating in promoting domestic adoption has been identified and selected. Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center is chosen because of its uniqueness compared to other orphanage centers: when a child found abandoned the only place the police give a child is to Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center then this makes it the place where large number of infant children found that adoptive parents prefer to adopt. Compared to other orphanage centers Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center provides large number of children for adoption.

Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center is one of the four orphanage centers which are under the administration of AAWC Affairs Office; the other three centers are: the first one Ketchene Girls Orphanage Center where girls stay from age of eight to eighteen, the second one Kolfe Boys Orphanage Center where boys stay from age of eight to eighteen and the third one is Lideta Sub-City Administration Remand and Rehabilitation Center of Addis Ababa, it is a correctional center for children who involve in criminal activity. Therefore, Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center is unique from other orphanage centers because children stay from age of birth to eight which most parents prefer to adopt children in this age group.

Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center was founded in 1956 by the wife of the legendary novelist Dr. Haddis Alemayehu, for which, the orphanage center was named after her. The main objective of the orphanage center is rendering service for children who are abandoned, children whose parents are not capable of taking care of their child. The center provides care and support for children until they get better alternative child care for example adoption and foster care (Rediet, 2019).

Kibebe Tsehay is located in Gulele sub city Wereda 4 at the back side of Addis Ababa University main campus on the place called as Afincho Berr. There are 128 staff members in Kibebe Tsehay orphanage center, 101 of them are employed by the government and 27 of them are employed by NGO. Among them: there is one manager, one councilor team leader, under him one councilor, two social workers, and two case managers. Currently the center has 115 children but the number fluctuates every day because some find adoptive parents and depart the institution, at the same time others loss parents or guardian to take care of them and join the institution this makes the number inconsistent.

To adopt a child from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center one has to go through AAWC Affairs Office. The office has two directorates: one works on children's right which has eight staff members and the other with child care and support service which also has eight staff members. Domestic adoption falls mainly under the responsibility of child care and support service but children's right staff members also involve in insuring whether the right of the adopted children is kept safe after the adoption has taken place.

Lastly, there is one team in AAWC Affairs Office which has five members from that works mainly, with Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center by handling domestic adoption process, the specific task of this team is allocating children to parents who want to adopt children from Kibebe Tsehay orphanage center, and also it follows up the pre and post adoption process.

3.1.1. Why the center was selected for this study

Adoption is one of the controversial issues in Africa particularly in Ethiopia; after Ethiopia decided to ban inter-country adoption the government has shifted the attention from inter-country adoption to domestic adoption and other alternative child care services which can replace inter-country adoption practice. This dramatic change can bring opportunities and prospects for Women and Children's Affairs Office and orphanage centers in the country.

After banning inter-country adoption, one main focus of the government's is to encourage local people to adopt children from the institution and encourage foster care. Currently the government has begun subsidizing foster care, for people who want to foster a child who are financially weak in order to reduce the number of children in institutional care.

In addition to the care and love that I have for children, I have been working for almost four years in Women and Children's Affairs Office in *Wereda* level which gives me access to observe the change closely which triggered me to select this issue. As far as the selection of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center for this study is concerned, the Orphanage Center is well known in providing orphan children for inter-country adoption before the banning, and domestic adoption following the ban of inter-country adoption. Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center is monitored by AAWC Affairs Office which also monitors the office I work in. This has given me the opportunity to access information easily from both the office and the institution.

3.2. Study Approach

To address the research objectives qualitative research approach is employed. As Tiffany and Wayne (2019) explained qualitative research can be viewed as an umbrella term that encompasses a family of approaches based on inductive reasoning, achieving an in-depth

understanding of participants' point of view. This means that voice is given to the participants to narrate their thoughts and experiences in the situation they want.

Qualitative research also enables researchers to develop a loose list of issues they want to discuss with respondents or to have ready in case what they want to discuss does not surface during the discussions. This guiding list of questions will guide the interviewer to focus on the research objective (Kumar, 2011).

The researcher expected that qualitative research methods could allow participants who work in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center and AAWC Affairs Office in the field of domestic adoption and child care services to explain the situation in a detailed manner to address the research objective.

3.3. Research Design

This study implemented exploratory research design approach since, studies related to domestic adoption particularly after the ban of inter-country adoption has not been addressed and additionally, previous studies did not cover the issue which is related to opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption.

To gather data about this newly introduced proclamation which bans inter-country adoption, the study employed exploratory qualitative research design approach which provides a better result to the objective of the study. In terms of time span, the researcher employed a cross-sectional research design. Therefore, the researcher collected the data at a particular time.

3.4. Methods of Data Collection

The study applied qualitative methods to generate data to investigate opportunities and prospects of the shift from inter-country adoption to domestic adoption and alternative child care services, which gave the opportunity for participants to share their experience. In addition to that the researcher used secondary data sources.

Considering primary data collection, qualitative research methods are used, which include: in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussion to obtain first-hand information from Kibebbe Tsehay Orphanage Center staff and AAWC Affairs Office staff. It is considered that the selected place and participants could generate the information looked-for to attain the study objective. Participants were assigned in particular tool based on experience and position, participants who are well experienced and in decision making position assigned to KIIs, participants who are less experienced were assigned in IDI and the FGD was conducted with three children's right officers and three child care and support officers to discuss about argumentative issues.

3.4.1. In-depth Interview

In-depth interviews are used in this research, because it was believed that it would be practical to use in-depth interviews when one wants comprehensive information about a person's thoughts, behaviors and wants to examine new issues.

In-depth interview was conducted with eight purposely selected participants. Accordingly, five participants From Kibebbe Tsehay Orphanage Center: a councilor, two social workers and two case managers. The interview with a councilor and social workers was conducted in councilor's office, the interview with case managers took place one in a garden and the other one is in a human resources office. Whereas, from AAWC Affairs Office three participants were selected especially those who are working in child care and support services; the interview was conducted in AAWC Affairs Office. In-depth interviews discussion was on the role of community and family-based alternative child-care services in promoting domestic adoption and challenges which are resulting from banning of inter-country adoption.

3.4.2. Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion as elaborated by Kumar (2011) is a type of data gathering instrument in qualitative research in which attitudes, opinions or perceptions towards an issue, which explore through free and open discussion where participants can ask one another or invited by the researcher.

It is believed that by using focus group discussion new information would be extracted which may not be raised in face to face or in-depth interviews. Accordingly, one focus group discussion with six participants was implemented, from AAWC Affairs Office, three from child care and support and three children's right officers the interview was conducted in AAWC Affairs Office. The discussion was on measures taken by the AAWC Affairs Office to promote domestic adoption after banning inter-country adoption and challenges which are resulting from banning of inter-country adoption therefore, it is expected that information which could not be generated in in-depth interviews could be obtained through focus group discussion.

3.4.3. Key Informant Interview

Key informant interviews (KII) were also used to get other information which directly answered by particular individuals because of the experience and knowledge they have about domestic adoption and alternative child care services.

KIIs were held with eight participants; two from Kibebe Tsehay orphanage center: the manager of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center, the interview was conducted in manager's office and counselor team leader, the interview was conducted in a garden, and six from AAWC Affairs Office: one the team leader of child care and support and the other five participants from AAWC Affairs Office, though they work in AAWC Affairs Office their main task is selecting children from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center and allocating them for suitable parents who want to adopt and they are responsible to follow the process of pre

and post adoption the interview was conducted in AAWC Affairs Office. Using key informants interview method, information was gathered related to the opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center and challenges which are resulting from banning of inter-country adoption.

3.4.4. Secondary Sources

The study also compiled various published and unpublished documents: books, journals, empirical studies which are related to inter-country adoption, domestic adoption and alternative child care services.

Table 3.1: Research table showing objectives of the study and the Tools used to address each objective

Specific objectives	Tools	Study participants
To investigate the opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center	KII	Kibebe Tsehay manager & Councilor team leader. AAWC Affairs Office: child care and support team leader & five officers work on child allocation in adoption
To examine measures taken by the AAWC Affairs Office to promote domestic adoption after banning inter-country adoption.	FGD	Three children’s right officers & three child care and support officers
To investigate the role of community and family-based alternative child-care services in promoting domestic adoption	IDI	Kibebe Tsehay Two social workers, two case managers & one Counselor. AAWC Affairs Office Three child care and support officers
To examine the challenges resulting from banning of inter-country adoption	All Tools are used	All the above participants were asked the challenges resulting from banning of inter-country adoption

3.5. Qualitative Sampling

As Creswell (2014) explained qualitative research is different because the researcher can purposefully select the place of the research and people who participate in the research, which can help the researcher, better understand the objective of the research.

The researcher selected participants in the study area considering that participants are the good source of information to attain the research objective, this principle considered as purposive sampling. The researcher's reason to choose this technique is that because it is important to select people who are experienced in the field of domestic adoption and select people who work in the site where the process of pre and post domestic adoption takes place.

3.6. Methods of Data Analysis

After collecting the data by using in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions, data were analyzed and presented thematically. For instance Creswell (2014) identified that in qualitative research analyzing and interpreting will go together with other parts of developing the qualitative research, for example, the data collection and the write-up of findings.

Using the three tools data were collected; the large number of collected data which are resulted from note taking and audio records was written in Amharic then translated in to English. And the next procedure was being familiar with the data collected by reading and re-reading the original transcripts. After identifying meaningful and rich quotes from transcripts by deciding what belongs where according to the research objectives was done. Moreover, sentence coding was done to categorize themes.

3.7. Ethical Consideration

In this study, the researcher started gathering the data, after obtaining formal letter from Addis Ababa University, department of Sociology, additionally, Informed consent was obtained with signatures of all staff members who participate and work in the institution before data collection. Participants were informed that the data would serve only for academic purpose and would have no negative consequence on them. Ideas and assumptions which are taken from other books, journals and researches are appropriately cited and acknowledged.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the data collected by utilizing qualitative instruments which are: in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussion. The collected data are related to the outcome of banning inter-country adoption in terms of creating opportunities, prospects and challenges in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. First, background characteristics of participants; second, opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center, as well as measures taken by the AAWC Affairs Office to promote domestic adoption after banning inter-country adoption and finally, challenges which are resulting from banning inter-country adoption are presented in that order. The study findings were discussed aligned with the specific objectives of the study.

4.1. Background Information of Participants

In this study, a total of twenty two (22) participants were participated. Specifically from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center seven (7) and from AAWC Affairs Office fifteen (15) were included. As Table 4.1 depicts, 13 male and 9 female participants are involved in this study. Regarding the age of participants, 22-55 years old took part in the study. Participants' work experience is between 3 to 20 years. Regarding education level, 6 of them are MA holders, 15 BA/BSC holders and only one participant is a diploma holder. To this end, all interviews were conducted at different offices of Kibebe Tsehay and AAWC Affairs Office. Detailed information related to demographic characteristics of participants is presented in Appendix 2.

4.2. Opportunities and Prospects of Domestic Adoption in Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center

The following section discusses opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption in Kibebé Tsehay Orphanage Center, points associated with the criteria of domestic adoption for adoptive parents, opportunities of domestic adoption that are associated with psychological well-being of adopted children, opportunities of domestic adoption for adopted children's security, opportunities of domestic adoption for adoptive parents, ideas related to favorable conditions of domestic adoption, prospects of positive change, and lastly, prospects of domestic adoption regarding institutional changes.

4.2.1. Criteria to be fulfilled by Adoptive Parents in Domestic Adoption

The government has set different criteria for prospective adoptive parents so that children can be put in a safe home environment. The following are the criteria to be fulfilled by prospective adoptive parents.

Accordingly, the following are identified as criteria to be fulfilled by adoptive parents:

- The age of adoptive parents must be between the age of 25 to 60 and the age of either the husband or the wife of an adoptive parent must reach at the age of 25 and should bring the evidence from government or known institution, identification card, passport and birth certificate.
- They must bring evidence from the concerned body that they have sufficient income to raise the child up, the evidences which they can bring also includes: car licence (car ownership evidence document), and house map or house rent contract or bank book.

- They must be able to bring medical evidence from concerned government institutions that they are free from incurable disease such as Hepatitis B and HIV AIDS: and they must be free from mental problem.
- They must be able to bring evidence from the government institution that they are free from any criminal activity.
- They must bring evidence which shows the agreement between the married couples to adopt a child, including the date they have signed to adopt a child which includes the day, the month and the place of agreement, and also their choice (age and sex) of the child they want to adopt. They also have to bring the evidence to Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office.
- They must be able to bring marriage certificate evidence, from the government institution.
- They must be able to bring comments or support letter from *Idir* or religious institution about adoptive parent's behavior.
- If adoptive parents are single and fulfill all the criteria, the service will be given first to a single woman.
- Expertise home study report (Expertise visit the adoptive home, to be sure the home is comfortable to raise the child).
- They should bring two passport size photographs.

Source: a leaflet prepared by the AAWC Affairs Office of use by prospective adoptive parents (2001).

In addition to the above criteria, prospective adoptive parents have to be ready psychologically, as explained by a 32 years-old AAWC Affairs officer, once the officer has ascertained that the above criteria have been met, officers will visit the home of prospective parent to be sure if it is comfortable to raise a child. The officers also ask different questions

about how much the person is ready psychologically and also how other family members feel about the adoption.

Similarly, a 44 year-old male child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office said:

To adopt a child there must be psychological readiness, because adopting a child should not be an emotional decision it is not a one month or a year task it is a long-lasting activity and needs commitment. Considering that, when adoptive parents come to adopt a child I always ask them why they want to adopt a child whether they have a biological child or not, after I get answers for such questions I could realize how much they are ready psychologically to adopt a child. And also I will elaborate to them that raising up a child is not an easy task after that there are criteria that they need to fulfill, after fulfilling the criteria there is training on how they can raise up the child like a parent. Finally, after the child is given for adoptive parents we will follow up and visit the child condition till 18 years old.

The above criteria and participants clearly show that before children given to prospective adoptive parents, all the criteria must be fulfilled including material and psychological readiness, expertise also visits the home of adoptive parents to make sure the child is in a comfortable place.

To sum up, based on the above results, the criteria are important to be sure the child is in good hands. One of the opportunities of domestic adoption for children is that the concerned body will hand over the child to adoptive parents after being sure about the child's safety. This shows that domestic adoption bring the opportunity to evaluate the condition of adoptive parents before children are given which was impossible in ICA.

4.2.2. Opportunities of Domestic Adoption that are Associated with Psychological well-being of Adopted Children

Comparing domestic adoption to ICA, in domestic adoption adopted children presumed to be safe from different dangers; such as psychological stress, sexual and labor exploitation. .

This was explained by a 32 years-old male human resource officer of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center:

In inter-country adoption, children face different problems because when they grow up they will realize that they are different from the community, I know one case a child adopted from Ethiopia, he was prejudiced by the community he was posting his stress and depression on social media caused by the identity crisis, at the end he committed suicide; therefore when we see this domestic adoption is better.

The above participant clearly clarified how inter-country adoption creates psychological problem on adopted children psychological well-being, he also explained the situation with a typical example how the adopted child committed suicide because of identity crisis, which indicate that children are better off growing up with the community they know.

A 39 year-old woman who works as a child care and support officer also shared her view in the following way:

Domestic adoption has many opportunities: children will grow up in the community they know and also safe children from the question of who they are. In inter-country adoption, it was difficult to get children's profiles after they were adopted. For instance, there is a typical example in our office, a child came from Canada he was adopted when he was a child, but when he grew up he started asking questions about himself about his biological parents, like who he is? Because he was different from

the community, eventually, he was not able to learn, he was a good footballer but he gave up playing because of the above reasons. Fortunately, his adoptive parents were willing to bring him here, it was difficult to express his feeling when he came to our office, he was so emotional and eager to find his biological parents, and after a long and tiresome searching finally, he was able to find his mother.

The benefits of domestic adoption are explained by the 50 year-old male who works as counselor, with 20 years of experience:

In domestic adoption children will grow up without losing their culture, norm, value, and identity. Children who lost their parents will grow up in their own country. Orphan children will be kept from any danger, children need to grow up in a society they know the culture, norms, and values. The practice of inter-country adoption has created identity crises and children become vulnerable to sexual and labor exploitation.

The participants above clarified that children in inter-country adoption were exposed to identity crisis; their psychological well-being was not kept, however, in domestic adoption children will grow up without losing their identity.

From the results, it is clear that domestic adoption plays a fundamental role, creating opportunity for children that can save children from identity crises. To build someone personality one of the crucial thing is that knowing one's background, children in ICA were not given the opportunity to know who they rely are. It is obvious when adopted children look at other families that they do not look similar to their family members like many other children it will create confusion in their mind which they will face identity crises. One of the opportunity in domestic adoption it resolved such kinds of problem.

4.2.3. Opportunities of Domestic Adoption for Adopted Children Security

In the practice of adoption, the first priority must be given for children's security, unlike inter-country adoption domestic adoption is secured for children.

A 44 year-old male child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office said:

In inter-country adoption children were facing different problems some end up with abusive parents others were killed. In inter-counter adoption, children were sold like 'commodities' some agencies work with brokers to bring children to the agencies. Those brokers go to even the remote part of the country and persuade parents to give their child for inter-country adoption, then the police report by falsifying as if the child has no family. For example, in Hawassa within one year more than 3000 children who were not orphans sent abroad for ICA by deceiving their parents which can be considered as they were sold, which was inhuman and cruel activity. After children are given to inter-country adoption it was impossible to get the report, which we couldn't know where they really are without a report.

Similarly, another key informant who works as a manager of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center explained the situation in the following way:

The major reason for our country to ban inter-country adoption is one it was difficult to keep children's security after they are taken because it was hard to get the real report, those agencies who work in inter-country adoption started selling children like 'commodities' and the court system was also corrupted. Agencies prepared two types of reports one for the government and one for the agency. For instance, the case of two sisters can show how the illegality was flourished in the practice of inter-country adoption, the two sisters were taken from the institution as if one adoptive parent

would take them both, however, after they took those sisters they gave them to different adoptive parents, after a long period of time one of the girls came and asked about her sister that we couldn't find because the report says both of them were taken by the family who took her, she was so sad and upset. This shows how the police and the court were involved in the illegal activity of inter-country adoption.

The above discussion revealed that children are secured in domestic adoption; the practice of inter-country adoption was surrounded by illegal activities which children security was ignored by agencies who conducted inter-country adoption, however, this is not the concern in domestic adoption.

As explained by a 44 years-old male child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office:

One of the opportunity in domestic adoption, there are officers who follow up the condition of the child after an adoption has taken place if the child is not taking care of well the adoptive parents will deprive the child and the child will return to the institution which was impossible in inter-country adoption.

The above informant also discussed the issue further; he argued that one of the major reasons that led Ethiopia to ban inter-country adoption was it destroyed the image of the country. It was not only sending children that destroyed the image of the country but also there was no effective follow up, it was difficult to follow up children's condition. The government sent officers abroad to follow up children's condition, but they did not come back themselves this let children to be abused by adoptive parents in ICA; it was also a bankruptcy for the government when the officers did not come back.

As it is explained above, children were not protected from any danger in inter country adoption. By the time of interview, some of the participants were even emotional, when they were explaining children's condition and how biological parents were tricked by the agencies and brokers who used to work for the agencies, those children were exposed to different exploitation and they were not given any other domestic alternative child care service.

Because of lack of communications, rules, and regulations to dictate ICA process, adopted children were exposed to child trafficking and abuse. However, in domestic adoption if children face any problem it will be easy to save the children.

4.2.4. Opportunities of Domestic Adoption for Adoptive parents

After the government bans inter-country adoption, different activities have been made, one of which is making domestic adoption accessible for prospective adoptive parents.

The key informant who works as a manager of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center clarified the access prospective adoptive parents have in the following way:

In domestic adoption, all information will be provided to the prospective adoptive parents including the child medical condition. If the child was sick when he/she was in the institution prospective adoptive parents will be informed about the disease, also how many vaccinations the child has taken, and how many left. Even the food currently the child is taking will be told to the adoptive parents to familiarize themselves with all condition of the child they are going to adopt.

Another informant (39 years-old female) also explained the practice as follows:

In domestic adoption, prospective adoptive parents will be given all the information about the child, including: police reports which explain where the child is found. Concerning child's medical condition, the prospective adoptive parents will be given

the information and when they decide to take a child they also can take a child to any hospital they want and examine the medical condition, which they can take the report to the court after translating. If the child is sick with an incurable disease we can change the child.

Participants mentioned the benefits of domestic adoption regarding adoptive parents, as it is explained prospective adoptive parents are well informed about the adopted child, the information includes where the child is found and medical condition of the child.

Hence, based on the results discussed above, one can argue that domestic adoption gives adoptive parents the opportunity to know each and every detail of information about the child. Adoptive parents can treat the adopted child based on the information provided especially knowing children medical history like vaccination will help adoptive parents to treat a child in healthy manner.

4.2.5. Favorable Conditions of Domestic Adoption

The practice of domestic adoption has different favorable conditions, after the ban of inter-country adoption, the government has started cultivating those favorable conditions and also formalizing the activity of domestic adoption to the community.

Favorable conditions of domestic adoption are explained by a 50 year-old male counselor with 20 years of experience:

One of the opportunities of domestic adoption is we are not new to the practice, in our culture for example, in Oromiya region, people practice adoption in a traditional way and also most people have the experience of rising other people's children, currently, the government has started shaping and legalizing the practice.

The above informant also added that domestic adoption gives the opportunity for people who want to adopt a child legally. Previously only inter-country adoption went through the court process but in domestic adoption when children found abandoned anyone who is willing to adopt a child could take the child without legal recognition, however, currently adopted children will grow up having all legal rights.

Similarly, a 38 year-old male team leader working in the AAWC Affairs office further strengthened the above idea as follows:

Most adoptive parents in domestic adoption are well educated and financially secured thus children are in good hands. Adoptive parents are not only financially secure but also have a good understanding because adopting a child by itself needs some better attitude, I have the access to see children after post-adoption in home assessment and most children are in good hands.

Another informant (32 years-old male) also explained the favorable condition of domestic adoption for adopted children:

Children are in better condition some adoptive parents take a child to abroad for better medical treatment, I have the access to see many homes in post-adoption and most of them are in attractive and favorable condition.

Participants in the above discussion explained that one of the opportunities in domestic adoption is the community is not new for the practice of adoption. Similarly, Gibbons and Rotabi (2012) clearly explained that the culture Ethiopia has, could give the country an opportunity to build up a favorable legal structure by granting traditions of native child care practices and their inherent value like kinship care and *guddifachaa* to be used in the future.

It can be concluded that domestic adoption has a favorable conditions for children’s wellbeing, because, there is a tendency in our community that orphan children can be raised by relatives or any willing person in the community. If the practice introduced well it would be possible to benefit orphan children through domestic adoption what is expected is intensively promoting the practice to the community.

4.2.6. Prospects of positive Change towards Domestic Adoption

Table 4.1: The number of children adopted from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center from 2007 to 2013 (Ethiopian Calendar)

No	Year	No of adopted children
1	2007	9
2	2008	5
3	2009	160
4	2010	96
5	2011	143
6	2012	172
7	2013	213

Source: AAWC Affairs Offices, 2013

As Table .4.1 above depicted, the number of children who are adopted in domestic adoption growing, especially after the government has banned inter-country adoption 784 children benefited from domestic adoption from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. The table is self explanatory that the practice of domestic adoption is growing significantly, based on this positive change it is possible to predict that the future of domestic adoption practice will grow much better than this and more children will be benefited from it.

Participants raised issues related to prospects of domestic adoption; some of the points are discussed as follows: A 32 years-old male key informant working as institution follow up and support officer in the AAWC Affairs office explained the situation by comparing the past and the current practice of adoption:

After the ban of ICA we have created awareness to the society about the practice of domestic adoption because most people don't have the information about domestic adoption they only think that there was only ICA. Nowadays most people have the awareness about the practice of domestic adoption, currently, we see results of awareness creation, especially the last two years there is a big change in the practice of domestic adoption, and more than 300 children are given to adoption, it is an indicator that in the future many children will be benefited from domestic adoption. From children who are given to adoptive parents in domestic adoption, only two or three children were taken away from adoptive parents because they were not treated well, which indicates that almost all children who are in the hands of adoptive parents are in the good condition.

A 44 year-old male child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office explained his hope towards the practice of domestic adoption as follows:

The hope that we have is to bring the culture of western societies regarding adoption because when they adopt a child they will inform to all the relatives and family member even with pictures of the adopted child, but in our society adoptive parents do not want the society to know about the adopted child. In the future we hope this will be changed and adopting a child will be considered as a blessing.

Similarly, a 28 year-old male institutions follow up team leader working in the AAWC Affairs office discussed his expectation towards the practice of domestic adoption as follows:

In the future, we expect that the community will consider adopting a child as a social responsibility and also the community will respect adoptive parents by considering that adopting a child is respectful activity. The other expectation we have is on the number of children who are benefited from domestic adoption will increase more than this, because there is a big change, currently, most people are willing to adopt children when we see this there will be a better future regarding the practice of domestic adoption.

The prospects of domestic adoption are elaborated by the 50 year-old male who works as counselor, with 20 years of experience:

In domestic adoption, some adoptive parents become willing to adopt children with health problems then give all the necessary medical care for the adopted child. For example, one adoptive parent found out that the child has a medical problem before adopting the child; however, the parent was willing to adopt that child and determined to give all the necessary medical treatments to make the adopted child healthy.

The above discussion and the table can show that there is the attitudinal change in the community because some people even become willing to adopt children who have a health problem, even though, the number is low it is a good indicator that in domestic adoption children with a health problem will be benefited in the future.

In general, based on results discussed above, one can conclude that the practice of domestic adoption has a bright future because the prospects of domestic adoption are not groundless; it is growing rapidly which indicate that children can be benefited by using the human resource we have without seeking international adoption practice. Which we can solve our social problem by ourselves.

4.2.7. Prospects of Domestic Adoption Regarding Institutional Changes

After banning inter-country adoption, institutions and orphanage centers are expected to give better service to orphans and prospective adoptive parents.

The key informant who works as a manager of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center clarified the situation as:

One of the prospects of domestic adoption is to reduce the process by providing all services in one place; if we are able to do this in the future children will not stay in the institution for a long period of time. Making the process as short as possible will have a direct effect on children not staying in institutional care. To reduce the tiresome process for adoptive parents we are working to provide all services in one particular place. We are trying to bring similar service which is provided in Gandhi Hospital when girls raped all services provided in one place.

According to the FGD participants, added that not only a plan AAWC Affairs Office go further which proposed to the higher office to open one-stop center which makes the adoptive parents get all services like forensic, medical, and Vital Event Agency in one place.

Another informant (45 years-old male) also explained the plan in the following way:

By avoiding this tiresome process adoptive parents face we are planning to make the institution a transitional center where children will not stay more than one or two weeks in the institution. We have different prospects of domestic adoption one is to make the number of children in the institution zero, when we see the current practice there is a bright hope that we will make the number of children in the institutional care zero.

As it is indicated in the discussion above, the government has a lion's share of bringing institutional change; participants explained their expectation of change in the institution because only changing people's attitude does not make the practice of domestic adoption practical, when people come and seek the service there must be smooth service.

It can be generalized that, the prospected changes are vital because making the process effective has a direct impact on children staying in institutional care. If there is an effective activity in the process of domestic adoption, children will get adoptive parent quickly, the reverse is also true, and if adoptive parents cannot get the service effectively children will be forced to stay in the institutional care for a long period of time therefore, it is a mandatory to change the old trends in the institution.

4.3. Measures Taken by AAWC Affairs Office to Promote Domestic Adoption after Banning Inter-Country Adoption

This sub-section of the chapter is dedicated to reflect participant's opinions about measures taken by AAWC Affairs Office to promote domestic adoption and also alternative child care services, especially after banning inter-country adoption.

4.3.1. The Role of AAWC Affairs Office in Making the Process of Domestic Adoption Effective

After banning inter-country adoption AAWC Affairs Office has played different roles, to make the practice of domestic adoption as effective as possible.

A 44 year-old male child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office explained the role of the government to make domestic adoption effective:

To make domestic adoption effective we are working with different stakeholders because we couldn't work alone we need their support currently, we held a meeting and inform them to give priority to prospective adoptive parents, in addition to that we give prospective adoptive parents support letter which helps them to get service quickly from all stakeholders we prepare the meeting to inform stakeholders that adoptive parents must be given a priority when they seek service from their institution.

Another informant (45 years-old male) also elaborated the practice in the following way

We reduced the bureaucratic chain, previously when prospective adoptive parents come to our office we let them go back and start the process from Wereda but now they can start the process from our office.

As explained by a 39 years-old female AAWC Affairs officer:

To make the process of domestic adoption effective we have changed the way we serve, previously adoptive parents directly go to Kibeb Tshay Orphanage Center and choose the child they want. At this time adoptive parents do not go to Kibeb Tshay Orphanage Center and choose a child, adoptive parents directly come to the office and put the criteria then we send the list of children to Kibeb Tshay Orphanage Center based on that they send children. Doing this reduces a lot of complaints and rumors about corrupted activities.

Participants in FGD raised the idea of motivating prospective adoptive parents using different methods and they explained that, to motivate adoptive parents the previous trend was changed. Previously when prospective adoptive parents came, it was a must that a child should stay in the institutional care until the decision made by the court. However, currently other alternatives are given like foster care until adoptive parents get approval from the court

they can take a child as a foster care. When the court approves the adoption they can change the foster care to adoption, this benefits the child, because the child will not stay for long period of time in the institutional care and for parents they can get a child early.

The practice which I strongly agree with is that reducing the bureaucratic chain. I have witnessed that in my work experience, one adoptive parent came to adopt a child, and it was hard for her to fulfill all the criteria within a short period of time. For the reason that we asked her some criterion after fulfilling that criteria we sent her to sub city, the sub city also ask some criterion then send her to AAWC Affairs Office. This is a long and tiresome process, but currently, adoptive parents directly can go and apply to AAWC Affairs Office.

4.3.2. The Role of AAWC Affairs Office in Promoting Domestic Adoption and Alternative Child Care Services

One of the measures taken by the AAWC Affairs Office after banning inter-country adoption is introducing the service of alternative child care services to the community mostly domestic adoption.

The key informant who works as a manager of Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center elaborated ways to promote the practice of domestic adoption:

Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office has intensively promoting the service using different slogans like "children can be born from our heart" and different awareness creation programs, like talk shows which create some awareness, due to this currently people start adopting children.

Similarly, a 28 year-old male institutions follow up team leader working in the AAWC Affairs office explained measures taken by the government as follows:

To make domestic adoption effective it is promoted in the media, we have developed the understanding of religious leaders, further that we invited them to visit orphanage centers. We promote domestic adoption by using well-known individuals like Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and Ambassador Fitsum Arega; who each took a child to adopt from Kibebe Tsehay.

Another informant (45 years-old male) also explained ways of creating awareness and promoting alternative child care services:

The first thing that we are doing is creating awareness starting from Wereda level to sub-city we are promoting to different stakeholders, and also we promote the activity in different social Media on Face Book, Telegram, different posters, and billboards, especially billboard plays a pivotal role in the promotion activity.

The idea also crystallized by the FGD participants that AAWC Affairs Office is also facilitating panel discussions, talk shows, and working with different NGOs to solve some of OVC problems. Some of the efforts made by AAWC Affairs Office are: working with women associations, religious leaders, NGOs, and public figures to promote domestic adoption and alternative child care services.

Hence, based on the results discussed above, it can be concluded that the promotion made by AAWC Affairs Office plays a pivotal role, in bringing about positive change in the practice of domestic adoption. Because of the promotion, more children getting access to be adopted in domestic adoption and grow up in the family environment.

4.3.3. Changes in the Institutional Structure and Employment

AAWC Affairs Office has made different changes after the ban of inter-country adoption, to make the service of domestic adoption more effective and accessible.

The structural changes are elaborated a 50 years-old male counselor with 20 years of experience:

There is a change in the institutional structure before the ban of inter-country adoption there was no position called psychologist team leader but now there is the psychologist team leader and previously social workers were employed by NGOs but currently the government started giving much attention and employing psychologists and social workers.

A 39 year-old female child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office explained the situation by comparing the service of inter-country adoption and domestic adoption:

Before the ban of inter-country adoption, most of the service was provided by non-governmental agencies, whereas, after banning inter-country adoption most of the works are performed in our office, we are working hard to use domestic alternative child care services since those are the only option we left after the ban of inter-country adoption.

According to the FGD participants, to strengthen the practice of domestic adoption AAWC Affairs Office has employed workers more than before including directors and officers. Previously there were not officers who particularly work on domestic adoption but currently, there is a sociologist who works on domestic adoption. Previously domestic adoption was monopolized by the government, but currently, some NGOs are allowed to conduct domestic adoption. Previously there was no home assessment after and before domestic adoption has taken place, but at present time officers make a home assessment before the child has given, and after until the child becomes 18 years old, particular officers employed to do this.

One can conclude that employing expertise is important because the services of domestic adoption is growing, particularly after banning inter-country adoption, many people come to get the service, therefore, to give adequate service to prospective adoptive parents, more sociologists, and more social workers are needed.

4.4. The Role of Community and Family-Based Alternative Child-Care Services after banning Inter-Country Adoption

The following sub-section of the study discusses how community and family-based alternative child care services have been playing a role to support orphan children, especially after banning inter country adoption, hence after the ban of inter-country adoption domestic alternative child care services are the only options left to support orphan and vulnerable children in the country.

4.4.1. Types and Roles of Alternative Child Care Services

There are five types of alternative child care services. A 27 year-old male sociologist working in the AAWC Affairs office explained the five alternative child care services as follows:

- Community-based alternative child care, children will be supported with different material while in the community. This alternative child care service is given for children in a different kinds, children can be supported with their parents; the community can find someone who can help the child parent or children with no family will be supported. What makes this service different is mostly orphan children will be benefited by the active participation of the community, the community select orphan children and plan how to support them and then look for who can support them in the community. This alternative child care is preferable because children will grow up in the community they know.

- Reintegration and Reunification, reunification when children depart from their family due to different problems, after some time the child will be reunited with his/her parents this service is given for a child who is under the age of 15 and willing to be reunified, this service is important because children will live with their parent.

Re-integration is when children stay in an institution until the age of 18; they will be supported to integrate with the community. This service is facilitated for children who cannot be reunified with parents and beyond the age of 15, they will be given different support psychological and financial support to start their own life.

- Foster Care is a service provided for children who cannot get back to the family or find another alternative, it is given for a short period of time or for a long period of time. This service is important because children will have family like care and in the future, it will not be hard for them to reunify themselves with the community. Wijemanne (2017) also argued that Fostering is recommended as a better alternative child care service than institutional care but it needs constant monitoring to be sure children are in good hands.
- Adoption this service provided for children to get permanent family. This service gives children to get all the care by adoptive parents and children will grow up in family environment.
- Institutional Care, this service is provided for children who could not be benefited from the above four alternatives, after trying all alternative child care service children will end up in institutional care, this alternative care is not preferable for children because it has a risk on children health and children will not get family love in institutions.

He also further elaborated that, from the community and family-based alternative child-care services, the science put community-based alternative child care service in the first place,

because children are better off with the community they know. He added that adoption is better than all alternative child care services for children; he explained that he visited most children's home after they are adopted and most of them are in better condition they are treated well by adoptive parents.

This can be summarized by the idea of Giraldi (2014) who illustrated the negative impact of institutional care in the following manner: children in institutional care separated from the community culture they grow up developing institutional culture, they also lack a family environment, they are ruled and regulated by the culture of the institution, not by the norms and values of the community, which they will face a problem by the time of re-integration.

The results confirm that domestic adoption is preferable to other alternatives and also playing a better role comparing to other alternative child care services. Using all alternative child care services is important because all children problem cannot be solved by one alternative child care service.

4.4.2. Best Interest of the Child and Alternative Child Care Services

It is believed that domestic adoption and other alternative child care services must be conducted in the best interest of the child principle.

The precondition they use to support orphan and vulnerable children was explained by (22 years-old female) elaborated how they put children in a particular condition:

We put as criterion the condition of the child for example, there are no similar criteria for adoption and foster care, for foster care, there are no strict criteria like adoption medical problem of parents will be tolerated. Some children stay in foster care because their parents are in prison when the parents complete the sentence the

child can be returned at any time but adoption has strict criteria because the child is given permanently.

Similarly, a 39 year-old female child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office further strengthened the above idea as follows:

Most of the time, we give a child for adoption after we receive the second report from police, sometimes, biological parents might be found, in this condition the mother will be arrested and punished by the law, the next step would be asking if the mother wants the child, in most cases, those mothers are not willing to take a child but if they want they can take the child back.

One can argue that applying alternative child care service must consider the best interest of the child, when allocating children it is not because there is access in that alternative child care, that they are allocated but based on the condition they are in, since, one alternative might be appropriate for one child but might not be appropriate for another child.

4.4.3. Motives of adoptive parents to adopt a child

Adoptive parents have different reasons to adopt a child, prospective adoptive parents were asked by the officers, their motive behind to adopt a child in domestic adoption, and some of their reasons are presented by the table below.

Table 4.2: Adoptive parent’s motive to adopt a child

No	Motives of adoptive parents	Measurements	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	They do not have biological child	12	41%
2	Religious reason	4	13%
3	Considering as social responsibility	3	10%
4	Influenced by parents	2	6%
5	Other reason	5	17%
6	By all of the above reasons	4	13%
	Total	30	100%

Source: AAWC Affairs Offices, 2013

As Table .4.2 above depicted, 12 (41%) of parents motive to adopt a child is because they do not have biological child, 4 (13%) of parents motive to adopt a child is because of religious reason, 3 (10%) of parents motive is considering adoption as social responsibility, 2 (6%) of parents adopt a child is because they were influenced by their parents, 5 (17%) of parents motive to adopt a child is because of other reasons, 4 (13%) of parents motivated to adopt a child by all of the above reasons. The above results reviled that majority of adoptive parents motive to adopt a child is because they do not have biological child. This means that the culture of adopting a child is in early stage by people who have biological child.

4.5. Challenges which are resulted from banning Inter-Country Adoption

This sub-section of the study discusses challenges which are resulted from banning inter-country adoption. The practices of domestic adoption and alternative child care services have been facing different challenges; the following are some of the challenges in which domestic adoption and alternative child care services are facing.

4.5.1. Challenges of Community Participation towards Adoption

Adopting a child in the community is in its early stage that the number of adoptive parents is few and people have no positive reflection on adoption, this lets adoptive parents not take the child with full confidence.

The key informant (45 years-old male) also explained the challenges of domestic adoption:

Currently, adoptive parents are under social pressure which they could not take a child freely. Some adoptive parents pretend as if they were pregnant when they take a child to reduce the social pressure. Adoptive parents do not take a child in full confidence they are not bold enough to talk about the adopted child, they still fear and do not tell the truth.

Key informant (28 years-old male) who works as institutions follow up team leader working in the AAWC Affairs office clarified how adoptive parents struggle to reduce the social pressure as follows:

As we have observed, adoptive parents fear the comments of the community about the adopted child, as a result, some of them change the place they live and some others stay out of the community for about two years and pretend as if they give birth to the child.

The challenge also explained by the 39 year-old female who works as child care and support officer, with 12 years of experience:

Adoptive parents are not willing, to tell the truth about their adopted child, they take a child as if they give birth to a child, they are not also willing to tell the child the truth that he/she was adopted.

Participants agreed upon the negative social pressure on adoptive parents as a problem, which significantly influencing adoptive parents in a negative manner. Adoptive parents take different actions not to be known as adoptive parent. Some pretend as if they were pregnant and others even change the permanent place they live.

This result tied well with previous studies of Stuckenbruck (2013) explained that in the practice of domestic adoption it is better to reduce the social stigma towards adopted children. He added that long-established attitudes and practices have too often been used to embarrassment to adoptive children and adoptive parents.

One of the reasons adoptive parents need infant children is because they wanted to be considered as a biological parent rather than adoptive parent, much is expected from the government to reduce the social pressure on adoptive parents. One of the ways is by promoting the practice of domestic adoption as respected and blessed, to bring community change.

4.5.2. Challenges of Domestic Adoption Related with Orphan Children with Health Problem

The other challenge in domestic adoption is children with health problems are not getting the opportunity to be adopted or are not benefited in domestic adoption.

Key informant (39 years-old female) who works as child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office explains the challenge by comparing inter-country adoption and domestic adoption:

One of the challenges caused by the ban of inter-country adoption is special need children, like children with HIV AIDS, mentally disordered and handicapped were benefited by inter-country adoption, now it is impossible for them to get an adoptive parent in domestic adoption, currently there are more than 40 children who have a health problem in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. For example, in ICA there was a child who was not able to walk, they took her in ICA and gave her better treatment and she was able to walk when we see this kind of cases inter-country adoption had also some benefits.

Key informant (44 years-old male) who works as Child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office clarified the challenges by comparing inter-country adoption and domestic adoption.

What I would like to mention is children with special needs are not benefited from domestic adoption. Children who are mentally ill, physically disabled children and children with the incurable disease are not getting adoptive parents in domestic adoption but those children were benefited by the inter-country adoption, banning inter country adoption let those children to stay in the institutional care.

Similarly, the study conducted by Helen (2019) found out that even though inter-country adoption was banned; for the sake of children's best interest it had positive sides particularly for children with a health problems, she recommended that it is better to work with NGOs and society to support orphan children with health problems.

This indicates that there is a low preference for children who have a health problem and those children are highly affected by the ban of inter-country adoption. In domestic adoption adoptive parents are more selective when they adopt, this can be related with financial issue also, because it would be difficult to give the health treatment for children. So it is required to support adoptive parents who are willing to adopt children with health problem.

4.5.3. Challenges of Child Selection Based on Sex and Age

In 2013 AAWC Affairs Office conducted home assessment study on adoptive parents. The home assessment was conducted on post home assessment of 30 adoptive parents who adopted a child, results presented as follows.

Table 4.3: Adopted children’s sex

No	Sex of adopted children	Measurements	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	9	30%
2	Female	21	70%
3	Both	0	0%
	Total	30	100%

Source: AAWC Affairs Offices, 2013

As Table .4.3 above depicted 21 (70%) of adoptive parents adopted female children, on the other hand 9 (30%) of adoptive parents adopted male children. It can be concluded that majority of adoptive parents adopted female children.

Adoptive parents were asked the reasons why they prefer female children. Some of the reasons are: female children have strong family tie and support families in domestic work. However, male children spend most of their time outside home; male children give less

attention for family, while females give much attention for family and have strong social participation.

Table 4.4: Adopted children’s age

No	Age of adopted children	Measurements	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	0 - 6	8	27%
2	6 Month – 1 Year	9	30%
3	1 Year – 2 Year	7	24%
4	2 Year – 4 Year	5	15 %
5	4 Year above	1	3%
	Total	30	100%

Source: AAWC Affairs Offices, 2013

As Table .4.4 above described, 8 (27%) of adoptive parents adopted children between the age of 0 – 6, and 9 (30%) of adoptive parents adopted children between the age of 6 month – 1 year, adoptive parents who adopted children between the age of 2 year – 4 year are 7 (24%), 5 (15 %) of adoptive parents adopted children between the age of 2 year – 4 year and only 1 (3%) of adoptive parent adopted children 4 year above. As it is indicated children’s age affect domestic adoptive parent’s preference, when the age of children exceed four they will have less chance to be adopted, on the other hand infant children have high possibility to be adopted in domestic adoption. This can be concluded that most adoptive parents prefer children under the age of two.

Adoptive parents were asked the reasons why they prefer infant children. Some of the reasons are: to create strong family relationship with adopted children, to share infant children’s emotion and to have children who cannot remember their past history. The other reason some

adoptive parents tell to their family and relatives that they give birth to a child and they do not want to be consider as adoptive parents.

The problems of domestic adoption are explained by the 50 year-old male who works as counselor, with 20 years of experience:

In domestic adoption, there is a high level of age and sex preferences, the majority of prospective adoptive parents in domestic adoption prefer infant children and girls. They prefer infants because they do not want a child to know that he/she is adopted and they need to be considered as a real parent. They put as a reason to prefer a girl; girls are obedient while boys are not.

A 39 year-old woman who works as child care and support officer also shares her view in the following way:

In domestic adoption, adoptive parents are more selective let alone age and sex they want a child to look like them they said I need a child to look like me or my husband. But when we see adoptive parents in inter-country adoption they use to take children with no pre-conditions children who are disabled, with mental disorders, children with incurable disease were also benefited from inter-country adoption.

As it is raised by participants some adoptive parents even try to put criteria more than age and sex, they need the child to look like their husband or themselves, however, these criteria currently is not acceptable and it is not allowed by AAWC Affairs Office, adoptive parents can only choose age and sex.

The study found out that, most adoptive parents prefer children who are infant and girls, these specific criteria create a problem in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center, which increase the number of boys in the orphanage center because adoptive parents are looking for to adopt

only girls and infant children, this creates a problem because when children pass the age of infancy there will be a rare chance for them to be adopted, so it is better to motivate people to adopt children without age and sex preference.

4.5.4. Challenges Related to Stakeholders

AAWC Affairs Office works with different stakeholders to serve prospective adoptive parents, some of the stakeholders which work with the AAWC Affairs Office are police, Vital Events Agency and hospitals are the main ones. Participants mentioned some of the challenges they face with each and every stakeholder.

The police

The problem with the police is explained by the 44 year-old male who works as counselor, with 15 years of experience:

For example, police can play a role to search the criminals (mothers who abandoned their children) quickly, if they are unable to find they must report it immediately, so that we can give the child to the adoptive parents, and the child will not stay in the institution for long.

The problem of the police also raised by the FGD participants they magnified the problem and explained the situation. Whereas, AAWC Affairs Office is working hard to make domestic adoption effective yet the police makes the work harder for the office because it could not give a child for adoption unless it gets a second report from the police, this makes the child stay in institutional care for a long time.

The above participants complained about the lack of clearance in the report from the police, when the child found abandoned the police has the responsibility to report where and when the child has been found.

It can be concluded that the police report can extremely affect the child future, which the child can stay in foster care or will be given for adoption. The AAWC Affairs Office must work with the police hand in hand to get the report from the police on time.

Vital Events Agency

The other stakeholder which works with AAWC Affairs Office is the Vital Events Agency, the agency's work is giving birth certificates for adopted children.

The issue was explained by a 35 years-old female child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office:

We face problems with Vital Events Agency which is not willing to change the name of the adopted child father's name when children adopted from the institution they are called by the name of the institution, most adoptive parents want to change the name in the birth certificate but the agency is not willing to change it.

Similarly, a 39 year-old female child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office further strengthened the above idea as follows:

When children are given for adoption the birth certificate of adopted children father's name is the name of the institution where the child is taken from. If the child sees that it will be hard for adoptive parents to handle things so it is better, to tell the truth.

The above discussion shows that the problem with Vital Events Agency mostly, occurs when adoptive parents are not willing, to tell the truth about the child. AAWC Affairs office must do one of the two things one influencing Vital Events Agency to change the name of the father or educate adoptive parents ways to tell the truth for adopted children.

Hospitals

The other stakeholder which AAWC Affairs Office works with is hospitals; before adoptive parents take the child one of the criterion is to bring a medical report, which shows that they are free from incurable diseases, to fulfill these prospective adoptive parents face a problem.

Key informant (39 years-old female) who works as child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office explained the situation as follows:

There is a tiresome process for prospective adoptive parents particularly the medical process. Some hospitals are not willing to give the medical report; most adoptive parents have a job which they don't have much time to go all the places to fulfill the criteria. To reduce the process it is better to give the service in one particular place.

According to FGD participants, some hospitals are not willing to give the medical result of HIV and Hepatitis B results which makes it difficult to fulfill the required criteria.

The finding tells us that, to make the practice of domestic adoption service effective, all stakeholders who work with AAWC Affairs Office play a role. If they do not work collaboratively, the practice of domestic adoption cannot be achieved. Especially the problem with Vital Events Agency must be resolved; AAWC Affairs Office and Vital Events Agency should work together and sort out the problem not to cripple the practice of domestic adoption.

4.5.5. Challenges related to Subsidiary Foster Care and Reunification

Besides adoption, the government is working on foster care, subsidiary foster care and reunification, to support orphan and vulnerable children. These alternative child care services are also facing different challenges. Two of them are briefly presented below.

Challenges related to Foster Care and Subsidiary Foster Care

A 32 year-old Nurse working in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center explained the problem as follows:

The problem in subsidiary foster care is foster families take a child not because they want to support the child but they want to support themselves. When subsidiary foster parents come to foster a child they will be supported different materials including money.

The problem related to foster care parents explained emotionally by a 35 years-old child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office:

When we see foster care sometimes foster parents return the child to the institution which makes it difficult for the child to familiarize themselves with institutional care because they consider their foster parents as a biological parent.

Hence, based on results discussed above, one can conclude that, regarding foster care, foster parents have lack of understanding, because the objective of foster care is to raise the child in the family environment. It is better to give training and teach foster parents how their practice affect the child in the long run and choose foster parents carefully.

Challenges related to Re-unification

Re-unification is also one of alternative child care which the government is working to support children who are separated from parents and relatives, while implementing these service officers face different challenges.

A 32 year-old Nurse working in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center explained the condition as follows:

To implement alternative child-care services effectively different alternatives must be implemented, for example in child reunification it is better to support families because children return immediately after reunification, and most of their parents have financial problems. In reunification, parents are not willing to take the child back; they even abuse the child after reunification. Sometimes parents are not capable enough to raise up a child, I have witnessed one case in which we tried to reunify the child with his parents around Merkato, when we arrived we understood that, the mother of the child was mentally ill and it was hard to reunify the child and then we brought the child back to the institution because of the mother's condition.

The challenge explained by a 27 years-old male sociologist working in the AAWC Affairs office:

In the reunification service, one of the problem is children come from different regions of the country to Addis Ababa which needs a big budget to reunify all of them.

As discussed by the above participants there is a challenge in reunification, one of the challenges is children will return after the reunification, the other one is that parents can be unwilling to take the child back because of different reasons; it can be financial or health problem.

The study found out that, it is better to look for other alternatives because children can run away from home due to abusive parents, for those children reunification cannot be a solution. It is better to understand children before putting the child in any alternative child care service.

4.6. Approaches to Overcome the Challenges

The following sub-section of the study discusses approaches to overcome the challenges of domestic adoption and alternative child care services. Participants in the study put different ways to overcome problems.

One of the major problems in domestic adoption is that adoptive parent's extensive preference of children based on age, sex, and health condition. A 39 years old informant working in AAWC Affairs Office explained that to reduce the number of children who have a health problem it would be better to work with NGOs to benefit children with special needs or study how those children could be benefited after banning inter-country adoption.

The other key informant who also works in AAWC Affairs Office, institutions follow up and support team leader and 38 years old, added that to minimize the high level of age and sex preference, besides the support of adoptive parents and working with NGOs, there must be work towards people's awareness that they could take children without preference.

The second one is an attitudinal problem, to reduce or avoid the community's negative attitude towards adoption participants suggested different alternatives to overcome the problem.

As explained by the 45 year-old male who works as child care and support team leader, with 15 years of experience:

Attitudinal change must start at the early stage, it is better to include in the education curriculum about adoption and alternative child care which can create a better understanding to the society and also educational institutions must work practically besides studying the practice of adoption.

The third one is the problem of giving effective service to prospective adoptive parents, to resolve the problem of effectiveness; participants mentioned the following issues:

A 35 year-old female child care and support officer working in the AAWC Affairs office explained the issue as follows:

To implement domestic adoption and alternative child-care services effectively people in higher positions should pay much more attention to the quality of work than the number and the report, they should also see the condition of the institution to make it better for children.

Similarly, a 27 year-old male sociologist working in the AAWC Affairs office further strengthened the above idea as follows:

To the effective implementation of community and family-based alternative child-care services, the government has to pay special attention to the activities. Mostly adoption service is given by the Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office; which makes it difficult for people who come from different corner of the country, because they could not get the service, it is better to make the service countrywide, it is also better to have experience sharing with countries which work the alternative child care service in a better way.

The problem of giving quality service for adopted children explained by the 44 year-old male who works as child care and support officer, with 15 years of experience:

At this time the number of adoptive parents dramatically increasing which makes it difficult for officers to have a home assessment effectively before and after adoption, it is better to increase the number of officers to have frequent visits which saves the child before any problem occurs.

The above participants put different ways to overcome challenges related to the practice of domestic adoption. The first one to solve the problem of extensive child selection based on sex, age, and health. To resolve this it is suggested that: one is creating awareness to people to take children with no selection. The second one is an attitudinal problem, to overcome this there must be work from the grassroots like teaching children at school about domestic adoption and alternative child care services, the last one is solving the employment problem in the office to give better service.

According to the above discussions, it can be understood that to give better service related to domestic adoption it is better to work on people's attitude that they can take children with no preference, the other one is resolving lack of officers to have a better home assessment after children are given for adoptive parents.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Discussion of major findings

The main objective of this study is to investigate opportunities, prospects and challenges of domestic adoption and alternative child care services in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center. To address the research objectives qualitative research approach is employed. The collected data are related to the outcome of banning inter-country adoption in terms of creating opportunities, prospects and challenges in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center.

5.1.1. Problems related to inter-country adoption

Study participants explained that in inter-country adoption children were exposed to identity crises. One informant in particular explained how an adopted child committed suicide because of the identity crisis he was facing. This kind of problem occurs when children grow up in a community which is different from the adopted child's norms and values. Moreover, this finding more or less is consistent with Singer (2016) who argued that the problem of ICA escalated especially in trans-racial adoption, where children as young as 2 or 3 would be become increasingly aware of the physical differences between themselves and their adopting family. This may be due to the fact that other people make comments or ask questions about their family that relate to differences in physical appearance.

The study participants also compared the practice of domestic adoption and inter country adoption by clarifying how adopted children can be psychologically benefited from domestic adoption. In this regard, Isanga (2012) argued, that children who are adopted from African countries are exposed to identity crises. In addition to this Rosnay, Luu, and Wright (2016) explained how adopted children in inter-country adoption failed to get information about their biological parents in which they lack information about their history that connects someone's

past, present, and future. It also creates a lot of questions in the minds of adopted children such as where they come from and why they were adopted. Domestic adoption protects adopted children from feeling of loss and creates opportunities for children to grow up in the community they know, without losing their identity.

5.1.2. Opportunities of Domestic Adoption for Adopted Children

Comparing domestic adoption to ICA, in domestic adoption, adopted children presumed to be safe from different dangers; such as psychological stress, sexual and labor exploitation.

One of the opportunities of domestic adoption for children is that the concerned body will hand over the child to adoptive parents after being sure about the child's safety. This shows that domestic adoption bring the opportunity to evaluate the condition of adoptive parents before children were given which was impossible in ICA.

The opportunities of domestic adoption are also explained by study participants, in domestic adoption children will grow up without losing their culture, norm, value, and identity. Children who lost their parents will grow up in their own country. Orphan children will be kept from any danger, and also domestic adoption creates opportunity for them to grow up in a society they know the culture, norms, and values. The practice of inter-country adoption has created identity crises and children become vulnerable to sexual and labor exploitation.

5.1.3. Prospects of Domestic Adoption

The practice of domestic adoption has a bright future, because of two reasons. One, the number of children who are being adopted is increasing dramatically and in addition to that adoptive parents are treating children in a better way. The current situation can be a good indicator that there is positive change in the community. Referring to Table .4.1 a dramatic change in the practice of domestic adoption has been observed in 2007, 9 children and in 2008, 5 children were adopted from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center however, in 2013,

213 children were adopted from Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center which is a dramatic increase.

Study participants are optimistic about domestic adoption practice not only interims of the growing number but also hopeful to bring the culture of western societies regarding adoption. Because, in their culture, when they adopt a child they will inform to all the relatives and family member with considering adopting a child is noble activity. One of the key informant explained that in the future, it is expected that the community will consider adopting a child as a social responsibility and also the community will respect adoptive parents by considering that adopting a child is a respectful activity.

5.1.4. The Role of AAWC Affairs Office in facilitating domestic adoption

When inter-country adoption was banned, the government has to play a role in facilitating domestic adoption and alternative child care services. As a government institution AAWC Affairs Office has played different role to make the practice of domestic adoption effective to adoptive parents.

One of the practices is reducing the bureaucratic chain adoptive parents pass through. Previously adoptive parents would have to start the process of adoption in *Wereda*, then sub city and go to AAWC Affairs Office. This was a long and tiresome process, but currently, adoptive parents directly can go and apply to AAWC Affairs Office and this makes the process of domestic adoption less bureaucratic and more cost effective. The second one is using foster care alternative child care as stepping stone for domestic adoption. Previously adoptive parents were expected to wait until the court approval to take a child, but at this time adoptive parents can take a child as foster parent and when once the court approves it, they can easily change the foster care in to adoption. This is important for the child and for

adoptive parents. For the child, he/she will not stay for a long period of time in institutional care. For adoptive parents, they can get the child quickly than before.

To make the practice of domestic adoption effective AAWC Affairs Office also changed the previous trend, which adoptive parents directly used to go to Kibebé Tsheay Orphanage Center and select a child they wanted. This practice created problems: one, it was open for corruption because adoptive parents would be under pressure to bribe officers to get the child they wanted, and the other issue was it was immoral letting children to be selected. Currently, adoptive parents cannot prefer children's appearance, they can only prefer children's sex and age, this makes the practice effective and reduce complains which come from adoptive parents.

5.1.5. Best Interest of the Child and Alternative Child Care Services

After the ban of inter country adoption, the only option to serve OVC is in domestic alternative child care services. Participants explained that alternative child care services play a pivotal role in putting children based on their condition or circumstances. For example, children with parents will not be given for adoption instead they will be supported with community based alternative child care service, and also when children's biological parent in problem the child can be given for foster care.

Gale, (2016) called the practice of giving service based on children circumstance or condition Gate-keeping it is making an appropriate decision when we put a child in a particular alternative child care service, indirectly keeping the best interest of the child. Contrary to this, before banning inter-country adoption in Ethiopia, children with biological parents used to be given for inter-country adoption. And other alternatives were not considered before inter-country adoption. But when we see the practice of domestic adoption, most of the time

children with biological parents will not be given for adoption rather they will be supported by other alternative child care services.

The above finding contradicts with the findings of Melat (2018) who argued that the decision of banning inter-country adoption in the Ethiopian context goes against the best interest of the child. Because the country is not in a condition to support its OVC, she also argues that the country has no enough domestic alternative child care services to handle OVC.

5.1.6. Challenges which are resulted from banning Inter-Country Adoption

After the ban of inter-country adoption all OVC are supposed to be benefited in domestic alternative child care services. Domestic adoption is not free from challenges. The major challenges are:

- **Community attitude towards adoption:** adoptive parents feel ashamed of telling the truth about the adoption. One of the reasons adoptive parents need infant children is because they wanted to be considered as a biological parent rather than adoptive parent. They also take different action not to be known as adoptive parent. Some change the permanent place they live and others stay out of the community and get back as if they give birth to a child.
- **Challenges of domestic adoption related with orphan children with health problem:** One of the challenges resulted from banning inter-country adoption is children with health problem cannot get adoptive parents in domestic adoption. One of the senior key informant explained that special need children, like children with HIV AIDS, mentally disordered and handicapped were benefited by inter-country adoption. Whereas, now it is impossible for them to get an adoptive family in domestic adoption. Currently, there are more than 40 children who have a health problem in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center.

➤ **Challenges of child selection based on sex and age:** the other challenge in domestic adoption is age and sex preferences. Majority of adoptive parents prefer to adopt children who are infants and female children. Sex and age preference create a problem in Kibebe Tsehay Orphanage Center because male children and children who exceed the age of four have less probability to be adopted. As the evidences collected from home assessment study on adoptive parents, 21 (70%) of adoptive parents have adopted female children. On the other hand, 9 (30%) of adoptive parents adopted male children. The finding implies that most of the adoptive parents prefer to adopt female children than male children. Some of the reasons adoptive parents prefer to adopt female children is: female children have strong family tie and support families in domestic work and females give much attention for family and have strong social participation.

In terms of age preference, as the evidences collected from home assessment study on adoptive parents revealed that, 8 (27%) of adoptive parents adopted children between the age 0 – 6, and 9 (30%) of adoptive parents adopted children between the age of 6 month – 1 year, adoptive parents who adopted children between the age of 2 year – 4 year are 7 (24%), 5 (15 %) of adoptive parents adopted children between the age of 2 year – 4 year and only 1 (3%) of adoptive parent adopted children 4 year above. The finding implies that, infant children are more preferable by adoptive parents than children whose age is above four. Some of the reasons adoptive parents prefer to adopt infant children is: to create strong family relationship with adopted children, to share infant children's emotion and to have children who cannot remember their past history. The other reason some adoptive parents tell to their family and relatives that they give birth to a child and also they do not want to be considered as adoptive parents.

5.2. Conclusion

Ethiopia used to be one of the leading countries in sending children for adoption abroad next to China. However, progressively the government reduced the number of children who were sent for inter-country adoption, finally, the government decided to ban inter-country adoption. It is considered that banning inter country adoption in Ethiopia will bring opportunities and prospects. Therefore, this study intended to examine opportunities and prospects that emerged predominantly after the new proclamation being implemented hence the implementation of domestic adoption takes place differently.

From the study findings, it is possible to draw a conclusion that domestic adoption has brought different opportunities; for example in domestic adoption children are safe from an identity crisis, sexual and labor exploitation. Furthermore, children are secured in domestic adoption; there is a pre and post home assessment by expertise after adoption, to make sure children are in safe hands, domestic adoption also gives the opportunity for adoptive parents because they are fully aware of the adopted child condition which includes the medical and even the food he/she is taking.

However, in inter-country adoption children were not safe from an identity crisis, when children grow up in a community which is different from them; they face identity crises, the problem of identity crisis extended up to committing suicide. In terms of security, children were not safe from any danger they were abused and neglected: because of two reasons, one there was no adequate follow up because officers who were sent abroad to see children's condition did not return themselves, the second one is that inter-country adoption was considered as business because children were sold like "commodities" by the agencies even children with biological parents were sent as orphans, thus domestic adoption has resolved this problem.

After the ban of inter-country adoption, the government is striving by using different ways to support orphan and vulnerable children with domestic adoption and alternative child care services, one of the ways in promoting domestic adoption through different media including social media and inviting well known individuals to adopt children like Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and Ambassador Fitsum Arega, to make them a role model and motivate the community, the other one is working with NGOs who are interested in solving orphan and vulnerable children's problem.

Currently, the government is also working on other alternative child care services, to put orphan and vulnerable children in the family environments by using foster care, subsidiary foster care, and reunification.

Even though, domestic adoption has several opportunities the implementation is not free from challenges: adoptive parents do not adopt a child in full confidence, they pretend as if they were pregnant, the other one is prospective adoptive parents are so selective of children's sex and age, infant children and girls are more preferable by adoptive parents, the other main problem is children with incurable health problems were benefited in inter-country adoption, however, after the ban, no one wants to adopt them therefore their number is increasing in Kibebbe Tsehay Orphanage Center.

5.3. Recommendations

- The practice of domestic adoption is growing dramatically; however, it does not mean that children are getting quality service in pre and post home assessment, because there are not enough officers to inspect all adoptive parents home. To resolve this, the government has to employ additional sociologists, social workers, and psychologists.
- The media has to play a major role in promoting domestic adoption and bringing change in the attitude of the community towards domestic adoption, most of the adoptive parents are ashamed of the adoption which they pretend as if they were pregnant or change the place they live; to resolve this challenge, the media can play a role in promoting the practice of domestic adoption as a blessing activity and social responsibility.
- Adoptive parents are not willing, to tell the truth, that the child is adopted, but children have the right to know the truth, this occurs because adoptive parents do not know how to communicate with the adopted child about his/her parents' situation. This problem can be addressed by giving adequate psychological support for adoptive parents on how they can tell the truth to the adopted children.
- Currently, children with health problems like hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS and handicapped is increasing in the orphanage center. To resolve this problem, there is an urgent need to provide special support for people who want to adopt children with health problems and to partly allow inter-country adoption for only children with chronic health problem because some of the health issues they are facing are beyond the country's means to treat their health condition.
- In subsidiary foster care, it is better to be sure that the parents are capable enough to take care of the child, and give practice for them about the objective of subsidiary foster care, that they should not benefit themselves through children and should not return the child before the child get permanent alternative child care like adoption.

- One of the problem adoptive parents complains about is the birth certificate that they get from Vital Events Agency, it declares that the child is adopted by naming the father's name by Kibebe Tsehay, this problem must be resolved through discussions between AAWC Affairs Office and Vital Events Agency.
- Finally, almost all participants raise the problem of adoptive parents' extensive child selection based on children's age and sex, they prefer children who are infants and girls, and this can be the area that needs further study.

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Appendix: 1 Instruments

Addis Ababa University

College of Social Sciences

Department of Sociology

General Introduction

Dear participant! My name is Thomas Lemma. I am conducting a study entitled as “Opportunities and Prospects of Domestic Adoption and Alternative Child Care Services: The case of Kibebe Tsehay orphanage center” The study is the part of the requirements for degree of Masters of Arts in Sociology at Addis Ababa University. The main aim of this study is exploring opportunities and prospects of domestic adoption and alternative child care services in Kibebe Tsehay orphanage center.

You are invited to participate in this study because the place you work gives you exposure to know much about domestic adoption and alternative child care services. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the success of my study and the improvement of understanding about domestic adoption and alternative child care services.

Consequently, your participation and genuine response to the questions is priceless for the accomplishment of the study. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You can decide not to respond some questions or depart from the interview anytime. The information you will provide to the study will not to be disclosed and you will never be identified. To this end, I would like to thank you for your cooperation and committing your precious time.

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Educational background: _____

Profession: _____ Work experience: _____

Time of interview: ----- place of interview: -----

Annex A: Key informant Interview guide for Kibebbe Tsehay orphanage center.

1. What are the factors children end up in your institution?
2. Is there any change in the institution you work which resulted by the ban of inter-country adoption? What are they?
3. What are the opportunities of domestic adoption? How?
4. How do you describe the prospects of domestic adoption after the ban of inter-country adoption?
5. Is there a way for biological parents to get information about their child after adoption?
6. How do you describe the experience of providing information for parents about the child's educational and social histories before adoption taken place?
7. What reasons do you think led Ethiopia to ban inter-country adoption?
8. What are the challenges caused by the ban of inter country adoption?
9. What do you suggest to resolve or minimize challenges caused by the ban of inter country adoption?
10. Are there age and sex preference of children in domestic adoption? What age and sex are preferable?

Annex B: Key informant Interview guide for Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office.

1. What are the processes of domestic adoption starting from the beginning to the end?
2. How do you describe the practice of your institution to make domestic adoption process as smooth as possible?

3. Is there any change in the institution you work which resulted by the ban of inter-country adoption? What are they?
4. What are the opportunities of domestic adoption? How?
5. How do you describe the prospects of domestic adoption after the ban of inter-country adoption?
6. What changes do you think should be made in the future, to improve the practice of domestic adoption?
7. Is there a way for biological parents to get information about their child after adoption?
8. How do you describe the experience of providing information for parents about the child's educational and social histories before adoption taken place?
9. What reasons do you think led Ethiopia to ban inter-country adoption?
10. What are the challenges caused by the ban of inter country adoption?
11. What do you suggest to resolve or minimize challenges caused by the ban of inter country adoption?

Annex C: Focus Group Discussion Guide for Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs Office

1. What are the measures taken by the government to promote domestic adoption after the ban of inter-country adoption?
2. Do you think the government is playing its role in promoting domestic adoption? How?
3. Can you describe efforts which are used to promote domestic adoption after the ban of inter-country adoption?

4. What are the best plans to promote and achieve the practice of domestic adoption after the ban of inter-country adoption?
5. What are the ways being implemented to promote domestic adoption after the ban of inter-country adoption?
6. What are the challenges you face in the process of promoting domestic adoption?
7. What makes domestic adoption preferable than inter-country adoption?

Annex D: In-depth interview Guide for Kibebe Tsehay orphanage center.

1. Are domestic alternative child care services adequate to address the problems of orphans and vulnerable children after the ban of inter-country adoption? If they are not what must be done?
2. What criteria do you use to put a child in particular alternative care?
3. What are the activities being undertaken in order to encourage community and family-based alternative child-care services after banning inter-country adoption?
4. What possible recommendations do you suggest for effective implementation of community and family-based alternative child-care services?
5. After banning inter-country adoption what challenges considered as barriers to the implementation of community and family-based alternative child-care services?

Annex E: In-depth interview Guide for Addis Ababa Women and Children’s Affairs Office.

1. Could you tell me about the different types of community and family-based alternative child-care services?
2. Are domestic alternatives child care services adequate to address the problems of orphans and vulnerable children after the ban of inter country adoption? If they are not what must be done?
3. From community and family-based alternative child-care services which one is considered preferable for children? Why this alternative considered as preferable?
4. What criteria do you use to put a child in particular alternative care?
5. What are the activities being undertaken in order to encourage community and family-based alternative child-care services after banning inter-country adoption?
6. What possible recommendations do you suggest for effective implementation of community and family-based alternative child-care services?
7. After banning inter-country adoption what challenges considered as barriers to the implementation of community and family-based alternative child-care services?

Appendix:2 Descriptions of Participants Involved in the Study

No	Age	Sex	Profession	Educational background	Work experience	Types of interview	Date of interview
1	23	Male	Counselor (K.T)	Social work	3 years	In-depth	20/07/2013 E.C
2	22	Female	Counselor (K.T)	Social work	4 years	In-depth	20/07/2013 E.C
3	24	Female	Social worker (K.T)	Sociology	3 years	In-depth	20/07/2013 E.C
4	32	Male	H.R (K.T)	H.R diploma	8 years	In-depth	20/07/2013 E.C
5	32	Female	Manager (K.T)	M.A in Public management	14 years	Key informant	21/07/2013 E.C
6	50	Male	Counselor team leader(K.T)	M.A in Social work	20 years	Key informant	21/07/2013 E.C
7	32	Male	Nurse (K.T)	Nursing	6 years	In-depth	21/07/2013 E.C
8	35	Female	Child care and support officer (AAWC)	Management	14 years	In-depth	22/07/2013 E.C
9	27	Male	Sociologist (AAWC)	Sociology	3 years	In-depth	22/07/2013 E.C
10	32	Male	Institutions follow up and support officer (AAWC)	M.A in management	10 years	Key informant	23/07/2013 E.C
11	39	Female	Child care and support officer (AAWC)	Management	12 years	Key informant	23/07/2013 E.C
12	44	Male	Child care and support officer (AAWC)	Psychology	15 years	Key informant	23/07/2013 E.C
13	45	Male	Child care and support officer team leader (AAWC)	M.A in Sociology	15 years	Key informant	23/07/2013 E.C
14	26	Female	Institutions follow up and support officer (AAWC)	Social work	3 years	In-depth	23/07/2013 E.C
15	38	Male	Institutions follow up and support team leader (AAWC)	Psychology	11 years	Key informant	23/07/2013 E.C
16	28	Male	Institutions follow up and support team leader (AAWC)	M.A Social work	9 years	Key informant	24/07/2013 E.C
17	31	Male	Child care and support officer (AAWC)	Social work	7 years	FGD	08/08/2013 E.C
18	30	Female	Institutions follow up and support officer (AAWC)	Management	9 years	"	" "
19	25	Male	Child care and support officer (AAWC)	Social work	6 years	"	" "
20	31	Female	children's right and safety officers(AAWC)	M.A Social work	11 years	"	" "
21	35	Female	children's right and safety team leader (AAWC)	Economics	12 years	"	" "
22	29	Male	children's right and safety officers	Sociology	7 years	"	" "

