

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

**CHILD TRAFFICKING FROM THE GURAGE  
ZONE TO ADDIS ABABA: THE CASE OF  
GUMER WOREDA**

**BY**

**DANIEL FEKADU**



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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF  
THE REQUIRMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF  
ARTS IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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## Acronyms

AA	Addis Ababa
ACPF	African Child Policy Forum
ASI	Anti-Slavery International
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Central Statistics Agency
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSCE	Forum on Street Children Ethiopia
GWAB	Gumer Woreda Administrative Bureau
GPSDO	Gurage People's Self-help Development Organization
GWARDO	Gumer Woreda Agriculture and RURAL Development Bureau
GWCRPUO	Gumer Woreda Child Rights Protection Unit Office
GWEB	Gumer Woreda Education Bureau
GWFEb	Gumer Woreda Finance and Economic Bureau
GWHB	Gumer Woreda Health Bureau
GWICB	Gumer Woreda Information and Cultural Bureau
GWWAB	Gumer Woreda Women's Affair Bureau
GWYSB	Gumer Woreda Youth and Sport Bureau
GZARDO	Gurage Zone Agriculture and Rural Development Office
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO-IPEC	International Labour Organizations and International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MOLSA	Ministry Of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PA	Peasant Association
SNNPR	Southern Nations Nationalities Peoples Region
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States

## Glossary

Arefa	Annual Festival for Muslims
Ato	A title used before the first name of a man which is equivalent to Mr. in English
Autobus-Tera	Addis Ababa Cross-Country Bus Terminal
Asat/Enset	Scientifically Known as Enset Ventricosum
Fano	Migrant
Gomen	A local term to Cabbage
Gurages	The People of Gurage Zone
Kebele	Smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia
Kocho	Locally called Wusa which is Pancake bread
Meskel	The Annual Festivity based on the Christian tradition of the finding of True Cross
Teff	A grain original to Ethiopia from which Injera is made
Woreda	An administrative unit in Ethiopia that is below Zone and above Kebele
Zone	An administrative unit in Ethiopia that is below region and above woreda

## Abstract

The SNNP is considered to be the most vulnerable region in terms of the high prevalence of trafficked children from the region to different towns of the country. The Gurage Zone is located in the SNNP region which takes the lion's share of the high magnitude of child trafficking. It is a place where trafficking children is considered as a workable traditional shortcut for the survival or success of a family. Nevertheless, very few researches have been conducted on the issue in spite of the fact that some researches pointed out the set back involving the causes and consequences of child trafficking in some parts of the Gurage Zone. The Gumer Woreda is part of the Gurage Zone which is the major focus area of this study. In this district of the Gurage Zone children are highly vulnerable to trafficking which in most cases puts their lives at risk. A comprehensive study of the problem in Gumer Woreda is not yet carried out. This study aims at bridging the perception gap on child trafficking issues involving the Gumer Woreda.

To collect the necessary data a small town, Arekit and a PA named Zizencho and Teredo were selected from the Gumer Woreda. On the other hand Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keranyo sub-cities in Addis Ababa were purposely chose to physically observe the on goings concerning trafficked children in the city. Combined qualitative methods of data gathering have been employed including key informants interview, observation, focus group discussions, case studies and photography. Various secondary sources have been consulted including figures, facts, maps and published and unpublished reports.

The study reveals that several factors contribute to the vulnerability of children to trafficking. These factors are majorly viewed in two categories as push and pull factors. The ones identified as push factors include: poverty, shortage of social services and infrastructure, lack of vocational and economic opportunities, societal and cultural violence on girls, family dysfunctions such as child maltreatment, parental divorce and death. The pull factors are high demand for cheap labor, socio-cultural factors associated with pull factors include: perception of a life better elsewhere and poor information about risks, migratory mentality of children, extended social networks and family ties and 'Meskel' and 'Arefa' holidays. The research has concluded that the push factors mostly fuel child trafficking.

This study also focuses on presenting facts related to the forms and process of child trafficking, especially in Gumer Woreda. These include recruitment of children, actors involved, transportation, cost and the purposes of trafficking in children, gender issues etc. The research also integrated various forms of effects posed on children and the local community. Some of the impacts on children identified in this research are psychological, emotional, physical, health and social.

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background of the study

The problem of trafficking in person is not a new phenomenon- it is in many ways a modern day of slavery, which has persisted into the twenty-first century. Over the past decades, trafficking in human beings has reached epidemic proportions and no region and no country is immune. The search for work has been fuelled by poverty, economic disparity, high unemployment and the disruption of traditional livelihoods in developing world where the majority of people barely get sufficient means of existence; human trafficking has the law of supply and demand (UNODC, 2005).

Combating human trafficking is high on the contemporary international humanitarian agenda because it violates the basic human rights to life and liberty of a significant proportion of the world's population, most of whom are socially and economically vulnerable (US Department of State, 2003).

Weak law enforcement and little international networking by law enforcement agencies enables child trafficking to flourish in Africa. As in the rest of Africa trafficking and practices similar to slavery have persisted in Ethiopia until today (Mesfin, 2003). A large number of women and children suffer from different types of inhuman abuses and exploitations as a result of trafficking within Ethiopia. Existing studies indicate that trafficking in women and children from rural to urban areas is a prevalent and steadily increasing practice in the country. However reliable and comprehensive data on the emergence, magnitude and development of trafficking in women and children who have fallen victim to in-country trafficking in the country are not available. Victims of trafficking remain inaccessible and invincible in their communities (IOM, 2006).

A substantial number of children are brought from rural and poor towns to urban centers being deceived and/or forced by traffickers. Trafficking of these vulnerable sections of the society within Ethiopia kept on growing. A considerable number of children are working as prostitutes.

domestic workers, street beggars, weavers as well as other labor exploitations and victims of trafficking (Mesfin, 2003).

Addis Ababa stands out as the principal destination point for trafficked victims. A large number of children from all corners of the country brought to Addis Ababa having been told of a better life in the city. However, they end up being subjected to exploitation and abuse (FSCE, 2003). Child trafficking is increasing in recent years, masked by growing rural-urban migration and seasonal movement of labour migrants (IOM, 2004). Studies indicate that most children who are trafficked receive nothing in the way of payment or education, and little in the way of care (IOM, 2004; ASI, 2006). In-country and external trafficking of children, often place children in situations of the same kind to slavery. Those who work in situations of child labor are always put in similarly unsafe positions, working long hours, often in dangerous circumstances, for low levels of pay. In the developing countries including Ethiopia trafficked children are extremely vulnerable and at grave risks (US Department, 2008).

Victims of trafficking are subject to exploitation and abuses, and ultimately, they survive a painful life. Child labour is the state where children are physically, economically and socially exploited and abused. The challenge faced by each society in protecting children from trafficking and the problem it results is immense. Nevertheless the increasing awareness of the international community in relation to child trafficking and the recognition given to it are one step ahead for a concerted and solid national and international effort.

Victims of child trafficking in particular are highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation because of their low level of physical and intellectual development. Hence, they deserve as much social protection and support as possible. It is from the above perspective; I have taken the initiative of undertaking a study on child trafficking in selected parts of the Gurage Zone. The finding of this study will possibly lay down the corner stone and pave the way for future interventions.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

A growing problem in Ethiopia, child trafficking is a serious human right abuse that destroys childhood. Many children in different rural settings of Ethiopia are likely to have been trafficked and child trafficking become an important socio-economic and humanitarian issue as large numbers of children in Ethiopia are

exposed into the labor exploitation, forced marriage, illegally adopted, street beggars and commercial sex by traffickers who take advantage of children's vulnerabilities (UNICEF, 2005; IOM, 2006).

Children trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation and prostitution suffer from physical and emotional trauma, lack educational opportunities, and are likely to end up at the bottom rungs of society for the rest of their lives (Agrinet, 2004(b)). It is therefore, crucial that trafficking of children in Ethiopia should be curbed. Although the contributions made by the individual researchers, NGOs and the government as well in addressing the severity of the issue, practically speaking, there is still inadequate information in identifying the factors contributing to the vulnerability of children to trafficking and its outcomes. In the understanding of child trafficking, it is important to identify the relative prevalence of the problem in different parts of the country, the causes, forms, processes of trafficking in children that results child labor exploitation, sexual abuse, and neglect which deserve much attention.

IOM (2006) and Asham (2007) indicated that SNNPR is one of the most exposed regions to child trafficking in the country. It is obvious that child trafficking across the Gurage Zone is also a major social problem. It is also proven that most children under the age of eighteen are victims of trafficking which makes the issue more serious. Mean while, these areas of child trafficking have been overlooked by researchers so far which more or less fueled the child trafficking practices, especially in Gumer *Woreda* in Gurage Zone.

Moreover, child trafficking is one of the least investigated components in the area of children in especially difficult circumstances. Moreover, the involvement of local communities in child trafficking needs to be studied. Without such investigations little can be done in solving the problem. Hence, this study aims at contributing as a means of strengthening the perception on work addressing child trafficking issues. Child trafficking is a very complicated circular social problem. Thus, the circulation of several factors aggravated the problem in that it worsened the prevalence of child trafficking in the Gumer *Woreda*. Hence, a significant number of children have been vulnerable to trafficking due to these circumstances. This micro-level study basically attempts to fill in the pertaining knowledge gap by putting forward the necessary information for researchers working on the subject, policy makers, concerned NGOs and the government at large.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This thesis has the following general and specific objectives.

#### **1.3.1 General Objectives**

The general objectives of this study are to investigate the situation of child trafficking from the Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa with respect to the factors that aggravate the problems and effects of child trafficking.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The study has the following specific objectives:-

1. To identify the factors contributing to the vulnerability of children to trafficking from Gumer *Woreda* to Addis Ababa
2. To identify the forms and process of child trafficking
3. To provide an ethnographic account on trafficked children's urban livelihood
4. To identify and analyze the effects of child trafficking on trafficked children and the local community as well as determining their degree of seriousness

### **1.4 Choice and Rationale of the Study**

#### **1.4.1 Why Children?**

I believe that advocacy on behalf of children is a vital means in changing public perceptions towards children; in revealing hidden problems, in initiating and sustaining a movement for action, in providing support and creating a society and environment that supports and sustains a culture of rights and benefits for children. The sheer number of disadvantaged trafficked children commands attention. More importantly the rights of children are at stake and by ignoring the problem; the nation permits the destruction of its promising manpower resources instead of cultivating them.

Since we don't find a good number of anthropological studies carried out on children and internal child trafficking, I believe this research will contribute its small part in raising the general awareness of the public on the situation apart from serving as a basis for investigating further

more detailed studies on such children. Moreover, since child trafficking is very illegal and hidden in its nature, the problems becomes more complicated there by demanding an empirical study to at least uncover the causes, forms, process and impacts of child trafficking. The Gurage's children in particular have been known for their high mobility and urban orientation. However, the implications of this long established characteristics of child trafficking from the Gurage have not received due attention. I therefore, aspire to contribute to the effort to make 'Ethiopia fit for children'. I pursue these objectives by carrying out an ethnographic research on problems facing victims of trafficking and the recommendation options to deal with them.

#### **1.4.2 Research Site: Selection and Justifications**

The research was conducted in rural as well as urban settings. In the rural area, to make the study manageable, one PA and one administrative town have been selected among eighteen PAs found in Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone. These are, Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit town.

The choice Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone is based on my familiarity with the general socio-economic, linguistic, and cultural situation in the area, since I have been there in different times such as for holidays. Moreover, both my father and mother are native Gurage from Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone. In this regard, a perceived better opportunity for making contact to a number of people from different PAs in Gumer *Woreda* and knowing these rural settings better than other rural areas were among other reasons for choosing Gumer-Gurage as a research site.

I chose the two sites of Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit town for two separate reasons. The former site was chosen because of the fact that there has been a wide rural-urban migration between it and Addis Ababa as stated in couple of literature (Worku, 2006). The later was chosen because of its being administrative, educational and business center of the entire *woreda*. This has been confirmed by the various officials from government organizations both in Arekit town and Wolkite town, administrative center of the Gurage Zone. In the urban setting, because of time and resource constraints, as well as the manageability purpose, I did not plan to deal with all urban destinations of Gumer-Gurage children. Therefore, I selected Addis Ababa as the main focus of the research as an urban center.

Addis Ababa is the largest city with close geographical proximity to Gurage land and it characterized the largest source of attraction for the Gurage community and children in particular from the beginning to the present (Worku, 2006). Moreover, in Gumer-Gurage most parents consider their children as source of income; they send their children to the urban centers especially to Addis Ababa based on the supposed perception of the community to be engaged in different works.

Since the researcher resides in Addis Ababa and has contact with the Gumer-Gurage community, he has been able to check and counter check information by interviewing trafficked children, their employers and other concerned bodies in Addis Ababa. In Addis Ababa, the researcher did not try to assess all sub-cities and *kebele*'s instead he chose Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keranyo sub-cities due to the reason that there is high concentration of migrant and trafficked children from Gumer-Gurage and its community based on the researcher's prior information.

## **1.5 Research Method**

### **1.5.1 Research Methodology**

This study employed qualitative research methodology. Such methodology is flexible than quantitative methodology (Guest, et. al, 2005). Qualitative research methodology is developed in the social sciences to enable researchers to study social and cultural phenomena and it is designed to help researchers understand people and the socio-cultural context within which they live. It also allows the researchers to view events, actions, norms, values, etc, from the perspective of the people who are being studied (Flick, 2002). This study emphasizes on the social, economic and cultural issues of the people under study, thus, the researcher employed a combination of qualitative methods to gather the ethnographic data to the study.

#### **1.5.1.1 Research Design**

From the five major designs or approaches (Creswell, 2003) of qualitative research, namely, Phenomenological, Ethnography, Grounded theory, Case study and Narrative/Biography, this research mainly employed ethnographic and case study methods to meet the objectives of this study. As Patton (2002) describes, ethnographic approach is concerned with the discovery and description of the culture of a group of people. It also assists the researcher in getting rich and

holistic description of the cross-cultural experience of the group under study. According to Flick (2002), one of the problems of ethnographic research is strangeness, the question of gaining access to the research site, data sources and creating a good rapport with the community under study. However, since the Gumer Gurage has hosted many visitors and the researcher personally has visited this community earlier, so that strangeness and unfamiliarity was not a problem in building rapport and ultimately conducting this research.

### 1.5.1.2 Selection of Research Participants

The following major groups of people were participants in this study to make the ethnographic data more visible and truthful. These were:

- Trafficked children from Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa
- Reintegrated children
- Parents whose children are either trafficked or are not trafficked
- Actors, like traffickers, employers and family members, involved in the trafficking process of vulnerable children
- Religious and community leaders/elders in the rural study area
- Concerned government servants working in Gurage Zone and in Addis Ababa
- Non-governmental organizations working on the protection of children rights and child trafficking related issues

Accordingly, the researcher had selected the aforementioned groups of participants to generate the necessary ethnographic data and information required to the study. The participants of this study mentioned above have varieties in age, sex and educational and socio-economic background.

Almost all of the trafficked children who were participants in this study range from the age 10-18. They are also comprised of both male and female gender. They have a very low education level in that most of them never pursued their education any better than primary school. In terms of their socio-economic reality, most of them come from very impoverished families. After being trafficked most boys are engaged in labor work and the girls also take occupations such as one as a house maid.

Reintegrated children appear to be a bit older ranging to the maximum of 29 years of age. The sex composition indicates that they are of both types. With regard to their schooling, most of them return to school and resume their formal education. In this research, most parents whose children are trafficked proved to be living under poverty which is stated in the study as the major factor to child trafficking. They are of both sexes in their parenthood status. They have been targeted to obtain reliable data from emic point of view and to find exact facts concerning child trafficking in the study area. Other external sources have been consulted including teachers, civil servants, NGOs employees and various personalities. These people were interviewed and contacted to gather suitable data for this study.

### **1.5.1.3 Sources of Data**

The data for this study was drawn from both primary and secondary sources. However, the study mainly depended on the primary sources of data.

#### **A) Secondary Sources**

The researcher reviewed many secondary sources. The secondary data for this study were gathered from books, documents, journals, annual reports, magazines, papers, internet sources and other related literature to have some conceptual backing. To analyze and better understand the issue under study, relevant literature such as international conventions/protocols/agreements, regional charters, national constitution/legal documents/policies and legal provisions were also reviewed. In addition, facts, figures and maps were collected from relevant published and unpublished sources to write the description of the study area.

#### **B) Primary Sources**

The researcher employed a combination of qualitative methods to gather the ethnographic data to the study. The primary data collection instruments are discussed below.

Observation and interview are the main instruments of data generation in ethnographic research (Patton, 2002; Sarantakos, 2005). On the other hand, according to Sarantakos (2005), focus group discussion is also used in many qualitative researches because it offers valuable information about group process, spontaneous feelings, reasons and explanations for the attitude and behavior

as adequately as any other method. In addition to these data collection instruments, photographs, films, and videos are increasingly used as genuine forms and sources of data. Photography, in particular, has a long tradition in anthropological and ethnographic studies (Flick, 2002).

Thus, in this study Observation, interview of key informants, FGD, Case Study and Photography have been employed as instruments of data collection. Except photography, all data collection instruments were supported by guidelines (See Appendixes). These guidelines served as focus points and gave direction on aspects that kept the research approaches as designed, but relevant new information which were gathered during data generation process were also treated.

## **Observation**

Systematic observation has been used both in the place of origin and destination of trafficked children. The researcher has observed the daily activities of the Gumer-Gurage community. Besides, the researcher has observed the children carrying out various duties both in the household and out in the community. Furthermore, farming and trading activities among the Gumer-Gurage community in the local setting have been observed. According to Guest et.al (2005), Participant observation is useful for gaining and understanding the physical, social, cultural and economic contexts in which study participants live. Thus, observation was employed in this study because it assisted the researcher in having informal conversation and interaction with members of the Gumer-Gurage community. The researcher took notes and photos in the field so as to append information gathered through interviews and FGDs.

Moreover, the researcher visited three governmental schools in Gumer *Woreda* namely, 'Zizencho Primary School', 'Arekit Primary School' and 'Arekit Secondary and Preparatory School'. In addition, an NGO called the Zizencho Catholic Mission, which provides both education and health service to the Gumer-Gurage community has been observed.

In the urban research site, the researcher has made formal and informal appearances to do systematic observation in Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keranyo sub-cities where the majority of the trafficked children live and work. The places include market areas like 'Merkato', 'Mesalemiya' 'Kolfe', 'Atena-tera', other places such as metal works, wood works, *Tej-bet*, restaurants, cafe's, schools, streets and the like. In addition, the researcher has done his level best to observe the

living and working conditions of house maid children particularly girls in the above mentioned sub-cities. In these places where trafficked children are employed, the researcher was a mere observer. Even though, the researcher wanted to participate in activities in which trafficked children have been engaged, in order to realize their work load and pain, he believed it would create some inconvenience between the researcher and the children's employer. For this reason the researcher preferred to generate data through non-participant observation as well.

The researcher prepared observation checklist that was constantly revised to suit the conformity of the data with the objective of the study.

### **Interview of Key Informants**

In qualitative research, which applies ethnographic approach, semi-structured interview (guided interview) is the most common type of interview (Flick, 2002; Sarantakos, 2005). Accordingly the interview type for this study was semi-structured as it would give some way to focus and as it would allow the researcher to incorporate issues, which might arise during the interview.

This research has incorporated 40 key informants. The researcher selected these key informants based on the criteria that these groups of informants should directly or indirectly be related to the issue of child trafficking in the study areas. However, the main focuses of the study were those who were directly related to the objectives of the study. Moreover, the in-depth interview employed with 18 key informants to elicit a vivid picture on the causes, forms, process and impacts of child trafficking and other related issues relevant to the study. In addition, the researcher has made informal communications with different groups of people in both the rural and urban settings to generate supplementary data and it helped him, in some cases, to select his key informants.

The group of informants with whom the researcher held in-depth interviews' in the rural settings were reintegrated children and parents whose children are trafficked whom he met at Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit town. Another group of informants the researcher held in-depth interviews with were parents whose children were trafficked. The trafficked children here in Addis Ababa were also the major groups of informants with whom the researcher has made in-depth interviews.

To support and triangulate the primary data collected from various groups of informants, the researcher has carried out key informant interviews with parents whose children are trafficked, teachers and principals in selected schools from the rural research sites, community and religious leaders, government officials and NGOs workers in both rural and urban settings. In Addis Ababa, the researcher has also done key informant interviews with trafficked children. The researcher met these trafficked children first through consultation with various people. He was also able to build good rapport with the children through his informal contacts with members of the Gumer-Gurage community. The researcher interviewed employers of the trafficked children and traffickers, to figure out why the employers and traffickers are in this business or practice. Consequently, these groups of informants were interviewed to assert their knowledge about the causes, forms, processes and effects of child trafficking.

Except the discussions the researcher had with some people informally, all interviews took place in interviewee's respective places. Although, Amharic was the major language that many of the interviewee's wanted to use, the interviews were also conducted in *Guragigna*. So as to maintain the original meaning of some expressions, *Guragigna* phrases were quoted.

### **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**

FGD was used for this study as it is very important to understand issues related with harmony and variation on the issue of child trafficking among members of the discussion, and to obtain group attitudes and perceptions by initiating members for active discussion. According to Guest et al. (2005), FGD should be conducted in a location affording a maximum degree of privacy to participants. He also argued that there should be some one who is familiar with the local area and cultural context who should decide where the FGD should be conducted.

The researcher has conducted FGDs with the major groups of participants including trafficked children, reintegrated children, parents whose children are either trafficked or are not trafficked, community and religious leaders and teachers. Each FGD group was consisted of 6-9 people and all the FGD's constructed with the groups were based on the FGD guidelines (See Appendix). In the mean time the researcher allowed the participants of all FGD's to use either their own language (*Guragigna*) or Amharic and to express their feelings freely. Furthermore, all the FGD's were conducted in conducive environments which were mainly facilitated by the

researcher and his assistant or guidance. To sum up, all the FGD's were conducted to cross check all the information gathered on the course of the study.

### **Case studies**

A case study is an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context and it relies on multiple source of evidence, with data needing to coverage in a triangulating fashion, and as another result benefits from the prior development of theoretical propositions to guide data collection and analysis (Yin, 2002). In this research the case studies have included four trafficked children (two boys and two girls) and two reintegrated children (one boy and one girl). All these children were selected based on age, sex, and their ability to narrate their life experience. The children were required to narrate their life histories in accordance with the guiding questions prepared by the researcher. The study has also included the case studies of two parents (two women's) whose children have been trafficked. The researcher gained a crucial knowledge from the life history narratives of these children and parents in strengthening the study. The whole process of narration was recoded, transcribed and translated into English to describe the findings. The researcher has also applied backward and forward translation approaches not to deviate from the original meaning and message of the data.

#### **1.5.1.4 Methods of Data Analysis**

The researcher has employed the above qualitative methods to raise the validity and truthfulness of the research. Among the qualitative methods key-informant interviews, in-depth interviews, personal observation, focus group discussions and case studies have been supplemented by photography, and tape recoding. Moreover, field notes have been taken in all the methods. Hence, all the data gathered using the methods have been transcribed, triangulated, and translated into English. In addition, the whole presentation of the findings has followed a logical flow in line with the research objectives. Furthermore, both the analysis of the data and presentation of the findings have been in agreement with the various models and concepts of the causes, forms, processes and impacts of child trafficking mentioned in the literature. Thus, I sought to ensure the validity of my analysis through both methodological and conceptual rigor. The reader can envision all the aspects of the research process, and especially how it relates to the objectives of the study and to the theoretical perspectives this study adopted.

### 1.5.2 Fieldwork Experience

This research was conducted in both rural and urban settings. The rural setting was Gumer *Woreda* in Gurage Zone of the SNNPR while the urban setting was Addis Ababa. Before the research was conducted, I had prior knowledge about the study areas. That was through going to Gumer-Gurage for holidays and other occasions while the other setting Addis Ababa, is by being a resident in the city. This ethnographic research has been done in two rounds of journeys to Gumer *Woreda*. I started doing the research well before the approval of the research title, but it was after the approval of the title that I got fully started with conducting the research.

At the beginning of the research, I tried to gather information here in Addis Ababa about human trafficking in general and in-country child trafficking in particular from a couple of governmental organizations and NGOs. Therefore, I learned particularly from the IOM staff that there is movement of people from Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa both in the form of migration and trafficking.

Before I went to the rural setting research site of this study I got the chance to meet many urban dwellers who had originally come from the Gumer-Gurage area. Some of them are my own blood relatives. Consequently, I could meet a considerable number of Gumer-Gurage children who are engaged in different work activities in various places of Addis Ababa. As this study focused on the two purposely selected sub-cities, Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keranyo, I used to travel to the various Kebele's which are found within these sub cities. I mostly visited the market places in these sub-cities where the majority of the Gumer-Gurage children are engaged in the informal economic sectors. I also visited some living houses, restaurants, café's and other places where I could get the migrant or trafficked children.

Through time I could develop a good rapport with almost all the groups of people I have met. These groups of people were mainly the children's employer and the children themselves. Here, it should be obvious that I was permitted by most of the children's employer. Accordingly, I was also able to select key informants among the children based on the research objectives. After which I was given an appointment so that I could meet the selected children. So, I went to the work places of these children on the appointed date and interviewed the trafficked children of different types and backgrounds. I continued interviewing only some trafficked children which

went on for a few more days. Next to this, I met my research advisor and explained about the research progress and received constructive comments.

Then after I did six weeks of ethnographic field work at purposefully selected PA and small town in Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone. This was the first round of field work that took place between January 13 to Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Different activities were involved in the research site among which the major are the following:

The first activity was getting permission from the Gumer *Woreda* administration officer who wrote me a letter according to which I was allowed to get started. So the first organization I went to was the Gumer *Woreda* Police Station where I gathered information on the prevalence and forms of child trafficking and what it looks like in the area. The police officers told me that there is child trafficking in Gurage Zone and Gumer *Woreda* in particular. According to the officer, there are no organizations working to study about child trafficking in the area but there was one NGO before named GPSDO though it is very inactive now. And finally the officer recommended the other organizations that could help me carry out this research. These organizations were Child Rights Protection Unit Office, Women's Affairs Bureau, and Youth and Sports Bureau to mention some. Following this, I visited the different bureaus in Gumer *Woreda*. I visited the Gumer *Woreda* Finance and Economic Bureau and Gumer *Woreda* Information and culture bureau to gather information about the demographic, physical, cultural, social and economic setting of the *woreda*; I have also gathered information about the population figure, map and other relevant information from different government offices.

In the course of selecting ethnographic research site various governmental offices and personalities in Wolkite town have been consulted. Some of these include Police Departments, Courts, Child Right Protection Units, Women's Affairs, Health and Education Bureaus of the Gurage Zone and their respective branches in Gumer *Woreda*. According to the facts gathered from these concerned bodies the research was proposed to be conducted in Arekit- a small town and Zizencho and Teredo PA both in Gumer *Woreda*. Afterwards I have traveled to the research sites using the letter of permit to operate throughout the research site. The distance between Arekit and Zizencho is about 5 kilo meters, and I have walked the distance throughout the work of data gathering. Fortunately I have stayed at family houses in both Zizencho Kebele and Arekit

town which somehow made the study simpler. There are disparities in infrastructural development which actually opened the door for a comparative study. For example, there is provision of electric power and running water in Arekit town, where as both does not exist in Zizencho except for few minor water sources around the PA.

In my entire stay in the rural setting I have contacted several individuals for an interview and also carried out various FGDs. In both places I have observed physical appearance and activities of schools. I had the opportunity to meet teachers, staff and other people at the education bureau. I have also consulted documents related to educational matters. I have seen schools such as 'Zizencho Primary School', 'Zizencho Catholic Mission School', 'Arekit Primary School', and 'Arekit Secondary and Preparatory School'.

During my stay in the rural research site, I have visited all the necessary offices and people to grasp relevant knowledge to internalize the issue of child trafficking. I have observed and participated in daily activities such as religious and social gatherings. I have also frequently attended several social occasions including traditional Gurage coffee ceremonies to gather more facts about their socio-economic and cultural contexts, ideas, thoughts, practices in general and on the subjects of the research in particular. I have been to various households and play grounds to meet children in their actual setting to know the on goings in their daily lives. As I speak the local language 'Guragigna', it was not very strange for me as well as the people I have contacted for this study.

I was fascinated with the hospitality of people in the Gumer *Woreda* which helped to easily gather relevant data. Although child trafficking is a delicate issue in the society people did not ask any benefits to provide information. My first round stay in Gumer *Woreda* lasted for 45 days, and then I was back to Addis Ababa to develop the research topics and conduct some formal and informal discussion with trafficked children, actors involved in the trafficking processes, employers of the trafficked children and respective government and NGO offices. I also identified the trafficked children through contacts with Gumer-Gurage urban and rural dwellers from different backgrounds and my own prior knowledge. In Addis Ababa, In line with the various interviews held with key informants of the study, I employed in-depth interview with some selected trafficked children. I also appeared in the work and living places of trafficked

children to do a systematic observation. During and after these activities, I have contacted my thesis advisor and discussed on the research progress I did so far.

My second trip to Gumer *Woreda* was in mid March and stayed until March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to facilitate the final steps of the data gathering. The second phase of the field work started after the first progressive report was submitted to the thesis advisor. The last visit helped me a lot as I could fill in all the possible gaps of the data collection. I have contacted a few more local officials from Wolkite and Arekit towns who provided more relevant information to strengthen the concepts of the study.

Generally speaking, despite the fact that the study went successfully, there were also some difficulties encountered by the researcher in this study. For example, in the rural setting, the absence of electricity, problems of transportation and communication made the work difficult. On the other hand since this research conducted during 2010 (2002 E.C), the Ethiopian National Election, some government officials and other participants of the study appeared suspicious to provide enough information. The most serious problems were encountered in Addis Ababa while interviewing the trafficked children, some children were not willing to have their pictures taken and some of them were also not voluntary to be interviewed either due to their work condition or other suspicious reasons. The employers of trafficked children and some identified trafficker were also difficulties during personal contacts for data gathering through interviews.

While studying the occupations trafficked children are engaged in, it was very difficult to find out the reality because of concerned exploiters disguising the situation. As trafficked children are also victims of different challenges and problems including sexual abuse, labor exploitation and neglect, it was difficult to closely obtain their response.

### **1.5.3 Ethical Considerations**

My approach to ethical concerns was in order to ensure that the study participants were well-informed about my study and understood the way in which their participation would contribute to the purpose of the study. For instance, in the interview and FGD invitations to the potential study participants, I described in detail about the purpose and objectives of the study and the procedures I would apply to achieve those objectives. I stress the complete confidentiality and

anonymity of the study, as well as the fact that participation was voluntary. In this study the actual names of most informants have been changed referring to the problems that are likely to be caused in case of publicly exposing them. Pseudonyms are used to disguise their identity. Only with voluntary participants of the study, I had taken some pictures on the spots. Importantly, I also stressed my great appreciation for their participation and their contribution to the study.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The ethnographic data for this study has been collected from Gurage Zone- Gumer *Woreda* and two sub-cities in Addis Ababa. These were Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keranyo sub-cities. The focuses of this study were trafficked children from Gumer *Woreda* to Addis Ababa. In the rural setting, this study was basically conducted in Zizencho and Teredo PA and a small administrative town-Arekit which were both selected by the researcher own criteria of past experience and current child trafficking rate and personal consultations.

As far as the study issue is concerned the research bases its findings on: identifying and describing the push and pull factors contributing to the vulnerability of children to trafficking, going through the forms and process of child trafficking, considering gender issues, identifying, describing and analyzing the effects of child trafficking on children, their families and the local community at large.

## **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

This study proved that a lot more investigation needs to be conducted to come up with concrete findings of child trafficking issues. The study did not include the entire situation of child trafficking in Gurage Zone, but its findings specifically concentrated the on-goings in Gumer *Woreda*. Even though the various sub groups of the Gurage Zone might have their own socio-economic and cultural disparity child trafficking is an existing reality. However, the study could cover only an overview of the Gumer *Woreda* child trafficking issues.

The research could not reach respondents who were necessary to be involved such as Gumer-Gurage women and girls who are involved in commercial sex or prostitution in Addis Ababa. It was particularly attempted by the researcher but found to be difficult to contact them. This more

or less made the data collection insufficient. So, the study focused on data gathered from labour workers. Moreover, the result of this study does not fully represent trafficked children of the Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone and Addis Ababa due to financial and time constraints.

### **1.8 Significance of the Study**

This study pioneered the issue of child trafficking in Gumer *Woreda*-Gurage Zone which could be considered as a mile stone for further studies regarding the matter specifically for this segment of the Gurage Zone. Based on the findings of the study it is aimed at contributing positively to concerned governmental bodies by pointing out several aspects that need to be consulted to fill in the gaps of legitimacy and policy making process. The research also shows the problem areas which will make the work simpler in tackling those set backs. It also helps to create intervention strategies which will facilitate the process of combating child trafficking issues from the area by impacting the community and presenting suitable resolutions.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2. Literature Review

#### 2.1 Literature Review

##### 2.1.1 Working Definition and Framework of Trafficking

Defining what represents 'trafficking' is one of the major problems faced by researchers, policy makers and legislators in fighting the problem. This primarily arises from the overlap and similarities the term 'trafficking' has with voluntary migration and human smuggling. After a survey of prostitution and domestic work in four countries, one research team concluded that in the vast majority of cases 'trafficking' is a corrupted mode of migration, which transforms very specific migratory projects (of willing migrants) into nightmares (IOM: 2006).

Though trafficking in human beings is an age-old phenomenon, it was not until 2000 that the international community reached a consensus on a common normative definition on trafficking in human beings, in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (hereafter called the Palermo Protocol) (UNICEF; 2005). For purposes of this research the definition of trafficking in the Palermo Protocol remains a core reference: thus, Trafficking in persons: According to Article 3 of the Optional Palermo Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in Persons, especially in Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Trans-National Organized Crime (2000): reads as follows:

*Trafficking in person shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.*

According to the US Department (2005) this definition is long and not very user friendly as it is loaded with several concepts that may need some clarification:

- **“Use or threat of force”**: this includes taking away someone’s freedom of movement and their personal choice. This is the most powerful and obvious method to control and exploit trafficking victims.
- **“Deception”**: is another method used by traffickers to recruit and then entrap the victims. The tactics of fraud or deception traffickers use to initially recruit persons typically involve giving false promises of better lives, employment, education or marriage. The promises are false, and the children end up exploited.
- **“Slave-like conditions”**: abusive and coercive working conditions in which people work without their consent. The work may consist of domestic or other services, even those that are not recognized as work or legitimate activities. The work is undefined (tasks) and unlimited (time).
- **“Coercion”**: involves the use of threats of serious harm, physical restraint of any person, any scheme, plan or pattern intended to create the belief that a person will have restraint used against them and the abuse of the legal process.

### 2.1.2 Global overview of human trafficking

Trafficking in men, women, and children occurs in all directions on the globe. Presently women and children are trafficked in all directions of the world; within countries, between neighboring countries and across continents. This is a global web where countries/places of origin, countries/places of transit and countries/places of destinies are intertwined and overlaps in a complex pattern (Kvinnoforum, 2002).

Worldwide, men, women and children are trafficked within and from their country for the purpose of performing forced labor of all types, including, domestic service, construction work, agriculture and other informal activities, in addition to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. It should be pointed out that this is not an ethnic specific problem. Anyone’s sister, brother, daughter or son can be trafficked from all corners of the globe (US Department, 2003).

Taking into consideration that trafficking is an underground and illegal activity, accurate estimates of the problem are subtle and exact numbers are difficult to determine. The IOM

estimates that between 700,000 and two million women and children are trafficked across international borders annually (IOM, 2001). Within its annual trafficking report, the U.S Department of state estimates that, between 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders every year (US Department, 2005). Some international and NGOs estimates a much higher number and this number do not reflect the number of person trafficked within countries each year. Around the world, human trafficking has become a \$ 12 billion a year global industry (UNODC, 2005).

In 2005, approximately 80% of the internationally trafficked victims were female, and that 70% of these victims were trafficked for the commercial sex industry. Furthermore, it is estimated that over one million children are exploited in the sex trade each year. It is also important to note that this figure does not reflect the uncertain number of people trafficked within countries (US Department, 2005).

The phenomena seem to hit every continent and every nation in the world. Studies indicated that trafficking in Asia accounts for a large share of the global volume. Trafficking of women and children has been part of the tradition in this region. The purposes include sexual exploitation, adoption, begging and other forms of labor exploitation. South Asia is considered as the most vulnerable region for trafficking because of its large population size, large scale rural-urban migration, large populations living in conditions of chronic poverty, and recurrent natural disasters (Kviinoforum, 2002).

Tens of thousands of Latin American and Caribbean women and children are believed to be trafficked for sexual exploitation each year. Impoverished children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for prostitution. Victims from Latin America and the Caribbean are trafficked to Western Europe and the United States (US Department, 2005).

Poverty, sexism and lack of security in Africa have led to an epidemic of trafficking throughout the continent. The devastation of poverty is a primary push factors for trafficking in person. Poverty leads people into accepting unsafe situations and persuades parents to sell their children in to slavery. However, poverty is not the only cause. Societal discrimination against women leads to their increased vulnerability, as social and cultural factors and the prevalence of gender violence present additional challenges to their effective protection from trafficking. Women and

children are left economically vulnerable as a result of family dysfunction such as child maltreatment, parental divorce and death, often are forced to migrate in search of wage labor where they must accept substandard employment in order to survive (UNICEF, 2003).

It is estimated that up to 200,000 children are trafficked annually in west and central Africa (UNICEF, 2002). Trafficking in East Africa occurs on two levels. Firstly, there is the internal trafficking of children and young women from rural to urban areas for domestic work and prostitution. Secondly, on an international level, there is trafficking of women to other African countries, the Middle East and Europe for prostitution, and to the Middle East predominantly for domestic labor. There is wide range of trafficking of women especially from Ethiopia to the Gulf- in Lebanon alone, there are an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Ethiopian domestic workers, and a significant number of them are trafficked (Pearson, 2003).

The IOM (2001), US Department report (2005), UNICEF (2005) and many other studies identified the major push and pull factors connected with migration and provide incentives for trafficking of humans. They examine the factors both qualitatively and quantitatively. Factors that push people away from their home village toward another have consisted of: escaping war or persecution, violence, poverty, shortage of social services, environmental disaster and human rights violations. The pull factors bringing people toward certain places often in the urban areas are related to demand for cheap labor in a variety of informal economic sectors like domestic service and sex industry. Population growth, urbanization and globalization are also interrelated. Traffickers can easily sell their human “cargo” because of the demand and supply factors. Human trafficking is the third largest illegal trade, preceded by drugs and firearms.

### **2.1.2.1 The Anthropology of Children and the Concept of Child Trafficking**

Anthropology, science of man, encompasses all beliefs, customs, traditions, art, morals, practices, knowledge, etc which man acquired as a member of the society. The ultimate goal of anthropological studies is to make society a better place to live in, a society which is free from any kind of problems and with this aim in mind the present study explores the problem of child trafficking from anthropological perspective, by elaborating the findings of the study for combating child trafficking.

Anthropological research on children is a very recent incident. Past anthropological studies not only neglected women but also children. The reason for the limited interest in women and children, who were less in focus than men, was the perceived conception of women and children as 'muted groups' of the society. The 'muteness' of women and children has been explained as being the result of not having been exposed to public spheres since they never learned to speak (Poluha et.al, 2000 cited in Nardos, 2006).

Although children in the past were given little concern and thus they were neglected, the 20<sup>th</sup> century has implied a great change for the study of children. The 1950s and 1960s interpretative perspectives like symbolic interactionism and social phenomenology promoted an interest in children in social actors themselves and not only as passive recipients of adults. On the later decades children tend to reproduce much of the ideology, norms and discourses that prevail in their society makes them important to be studied on an equal basis with adults (Poluha, 2004).

There is, relatively speaking, very little information about child trafficking from the anthropological perspectives and where such information exists, it is often not distinguished from migration. This lack of information stems from the fact that most of the literatures on trafficking are general, not specific and also that the issue itself is just starting to filter in through the international organizations. However, this does not mean that trafficking is not a serious problem globally and it does not mean that the need to conduct anthropological study on the issue is not to a large extent.

The Palermo Protocol (2000) includes a specific definition of trafficking in children: "*Trafficking in children shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs*".

The provision stresses that the trafficking of a child for exploitative purposes, whatever means are used, should be considered a crime. Although its primary focus is the criminal prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking, the Protocol also addresses the rights and needs of children who fall victim to traffickers. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness, States that ratify the Protocol need to review national laws and ensure compliance through a national legislative process, using

the Protocol as a model. States that are not ratifying the protocol has to ratify for national action to be effective (UNICEF, 2003).

To ensure the prevention of trafficking and the effective protection of child victims, the Palermo Protocol definition needs to be considered in light of other critically important international legal instruments. Foremost among these is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols. In the first place, the CRC definition of a child ensures that our attention focus on all persons under 18 years of age. The CRC (1989) also informs the definition of child trafficking, in particular through article 35. This provision indicates the need for States to ensure the prevention of child trafficking “for any purpose or in any form”, thus widening the level of protection children are entitled to and covering such situations as the illicit inter country adoption, where fraudulent means are used to pursue a legal aim. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is, in turn, reinforced by its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (UNICEF, 2005). However, the adoption of the Palermo Protocol and other relevant international instruments does not mark the end of the process of elaborating the elements of trafficking or the steady commitment of the international community to combat this practice.

However, difficulties arise in relation to the lack of clear definitions about the circumstances that can be classified as ‘child trafficking’, especially in view of the fact that key concepts such as, “coercion”, and “vulnerability” have been left undefined (Anderson and O’Connell, 2002). Many have also pointed out the additional constraints inherent in the Protocol which are related to the fact that it is essentially a crime prevention instrument, rather than a human rights instrument (Chapkis, 2003).

#### **2.1.2.2 Causes of Child Trafficking**

Child trafficking occurs for many reasons, but, according to the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC, 2003) it is overwhelmingly a demand-supply driven phenomenon. It occurs predominantly because there is a market for children in labour and in the sex trade, and this is matched by an abundant supply of children, mostly from poor families, who are easy prey for those who seek to make a profit by exploiting their vulnerability.

The causes of child trafficking can also be described according to the 'push' factors that lead the child leaving one place and the 'pull' factors that decide the place to which the trafficking victims move or are moved. Push factors typically include deepening poverty, family break up, child rights deprivation, low educational levels, gender based discrimination, high unemployment, conflicts and hopelessness, fostered the environment for child trafficking to flourish (UNICEF, 2005; ATI, 2006). Pull factors include economic differentials that make even relatively poor neighboring towns, cities, regions or countries seem a likely source of livelihood, unmet demand for cheap labor, demand for sexual services (UNICEF, 2001(a)).

It is encouraging to note the growing recognition of the close connections between human trafficking and economic migration. Most victims of trafficking are first and foremost economic migrant workers who have fallen into the hands of traffickers (Chapkis, 2003).

The root causes of trafficking in Africa are many and varied. Underlying many of these causes is Africa's poverty trap which involves a range of mutually reinforcing economic and social ills. People become part of the human trafficking chain because of various reasons that are either push or pull factors or both together with the poor law enforcement. Pull factors include, economic differentials that make even relatively poor neighboring towns, regions or countries more attractive, conflicts which generate a demand for soldiers and also labour exploitation, domestic and sexual services, the adoption trade, and extended social networks. Push factors mainly include poverty, deteriorating living conditions, human deprivation, low economic opportunity and unemployment, gender based discrimination, lack of health care and education, poor infrastructures in rural settings, harmful socio-cultural practices and lack of legislative and policy frameworks. Women and children tend to be the most vulnerable to human trafficking as they often carry the burden of poverty (UNICEF, 2006). In many Sub Saharan African countries including in Ethiopia, poverty is a major factor forcing young children into work. Street children as beggars who simply work on the streets but are without families or homes are increasing in number in regions major cities. Addis Ababa, Dakar, Lagos, and Nairobi are examples in this regard (Moore, 1994).

### **2.1.2.3 Forms and Process of Child Trafficking**

Trafficking of children takes many different forms and it can be considered as a process. Recent studies have begun to identify the regional patterns of trafficking. Different categories of traffickers and exploiters take on different roles along the journey from vulnerability to exploitation. In some regions, for example, children are recruited in to the trafficking process by members of their own community who act as 'suppliers' of children to those who exploit them. In other regions, recruitment is largely through employment agencies, or through advertisement in local news papers. Children may also be forcibly abducted or persuaded to relocate by adults (UNICEF, 2001(b))

Most forms of trafficking take place in Africa are for labour exploitation and domestic work; women and children are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation (as prostitutes); young girls are sold as child brides; children are trafficked to be used for various activities as child soldiers and are also trafficked for use in ritual sacrifice. These patterns of trafficking take place both within and across countries. Trafficked children are more vulnerable to suffer: in some cases they have to be withdrawn from school (Salah, 2004).

According to UNICEF (2003) Child Trafficking as a process involves three key actors' vulnerable children to trafficking, the traffickers, and the users. Recruitment of children for trafficking can take different forms in terms of the person or persons involved and the methods used to lure the potential victims. In most cases, the recruiter is known to the potential victim. In developing world where more and more people than ever, are living in absolute poverty and without adequate access to food, clothing, shelter, education and health care, the struggle to pay more attention to the needs of vulnerable children becomes more complex and protracted (UNICEF, 2002).

### **2.1.2.4 Effects of Child Trafficking**

The inherent vulnerability of children can mean that the effects of trafficking are even greater than on adults- not only they highly dependent on their traffickers or employers, regardless of purpose, but the evidence also show serious implications on a child's survival, health and

developments including; physical abuse and neglect during and after the journey, physical and health problems, psycho-social harm and so on (IOM, 2001).

ILO found some examples of coercive practices employed against trafficked children involve: use of violence or threats of violence towards them particularly with girls, debt bondage, social isolation, physical and health impact, verbal assault and so on. These can be experienced along with other elements of labour exploitation, for example working long hours without breaks, particularly in domestic service. Trafficked children are also forced to work in potentially hazardous situations, including abusive and neglectful conditions. Victims of trafficking are also often held in isolation (ILO-IPEC, 2003).

### **2.1.3 Internal Child Trafficking Profile of Ethiopia**

#### **2.1.3.1 Magnitude of the Problem**

In country trafficking of children from rural areas to urban centers in Ethiopia is widespread. The psychological and social legacy of the slave trade that was widely practiced in the country until 1930s along with the institution of prostitution, which has a long history and strong presence in the Ethiopian society, have created a psycho-social environment that tolerates and even promotes the practice of trafficking in children and women (IOM, 2006).

Trafficking in East Africa and particularly in Ethiopia is less analyzed and understood than trafficking in other regions of the world. Relatively little is known about who the victims are, who the traffickers are, the routes and circumstances of in-country trafficking, and how trafficking in Ethiopia may or may not differ from trafficking in other countries of the world (Pearson, 2003).

As studies show the regional as well as Ethiopian national situation in relation to trafficking related initiatives is still lagging behind that of other countries but is slowly improving. Several reports mention trafficking in children, for the purpose of labour exploitation in the informal sectors, domestic work, sexual purpose, and street vending, as well as the trafficking in women for sexual purposes in major regional towns and the capital, Addis Ababa (ASI, 2006). In this regard, Addis Ababa stands out as a principal destination for the trafficked women and children in Ethiopia (FSCE, 2004).

Although every part of the country is affected by child trafficking, some parts are identified as the most vulnerable to the practice of child trafficking. A study conducted by FSCE (2004) revealed that SNNPR is the prime victim of in-country trafficking. Similarly IOM (2006) indicates that Chench Woreda in Gamo Gofa Zone and Wolkite town in Gurage Zone of the SNNPR as the most exposed region to child trafficking. The pattern of transportation in trafficking of children from various Woreda's in the Gurage Zone of SNNPR to Addis Ababa is through the town of Wolkite and other Woreda towns with connecting roads to the capital. Children from Woreda's of Gurage Zone are recruited and transported to Addis Ababa using the same route. In some cases, parents in the Woreda's of the Gurage Zone send their children, to Addis Ababa with the hope that they could generate money in the informal sector and support family members at home village (IOM, 2006; Asham, 2007).

### **2.1.3.2 Causes of Child Trafficking**

Many of the documents report consistent push and pull factors associated with labour and sex trafficking in Ethiopia that are more or less similar to vulnerability factors associated with trafficking in other developing countries of the world. The most commonly cited factors that place individual children at risk in Ethiopia include poverty, lack of economic alternatives, minimal education and illiteracy, limited access to social services such as education and health care in rural areas, scarcity of land, large family size, death and divorce of parents, gender based violence, child maltreatment and homelessness. External factors contributing to trafficking include, ease of migration, increased demand for cheap labour exploitation and domestic service, prevalence of prostitution in urban areas especially in Addis Ababa, and poor enforcement of policies act as major Pull factors (Agrinet, 2001(a); IOM, 2006; FSCE, 2009).

### **2.1.3.3 Child Trafficking as a Process and Actors Involved**

Identifying groups of children that are particularly vulnerable of trafficking is a difficult task. The difficulty is compounded by the problems involved in distinguishing between voluntary migrations and trafficking which are often times overlapping in terms of modes and routes of travel. In many cases, what stated as voluntary migration may take the characteristics of trafficking at a later stage (IOM: 2006). In terms of the socio-economic background of victims of

trafficking, most of them are children and come from poor families, even though poverty is not the only factor of vulnerability to trafficking. The educational background of internally trafficked children is generally low. Most of the trafficked children have barely started or finished their primary education, which may not allow them to make informed decisions about migration and trafficking (Agrinet; 2001(a)).

In terms of the actors involved in the child trafficking process in Ethiopia, many of the children trafficked are brought to the cities by relatives as well as friends and neighbors of families who promise their parents employment and better educational opportunities for their children. However, the children usually end up working as domestic servants, prostitutes, street beggars, etc without the promised education. Traffickers directly, or ultimately, benefit from the process of child trafficking. The intermediaries initiating migration are also mostly persons very well known by the child including relatives, neighbors, friends of the family and sometimes parents/guardians. Widespread poverty and the lack of opportunities for young people provide strong incentives to seek opportunities else where-facts that the traffickers are quick to exploit the children (IOM, 2006).

Parents arrange for their own children to be trafficked. Parents who send their children away may be motivated by concern for their wellbeing or with the hope of receiving remittances from the children or direct payment by the traffickers or employers. Some parents are even badly intentioned, and they actually want to commercialize their children and some think that in letting their children go to urban centers they are doing something good for their children. It is therefore, this common interest of parents to ensure a better life for their children is one of the major reasons why trafficking is so prevalent in Africa (ACPF, 2006). In another context, children are deceived into consenting to migrate without the permission of their parents or are even abducted by traffickers (IOM: 2006).

Another mode of recruitment involves brokers who recruit in rural communities in which they are well known. These are usually people who have previously migrated from the same areas and use versions of their own success stories, may be other people success stories to attract potential victims. The mode of recruitment for domestic labour exploitation can generally be characterized as individual and non organized activity (Agrinet, 2001(a)).

The most commonly cited recruitment strategy is deception/false promises of employment. Other forms of recruitment include marriage fraud, peer-influenced recruitment, and adoption recruitment strategies. The literature contains varying accounts regarding the prevalence of recruitment by family members (IOM, 2006). In-country trafficking reports in Ethiopia also indicate that the methods recurrently used to persuade the trafficked respondents to migrate to towns include job offers, promise of education/training, and promise of foster parent arrangement (Agrinet, 2001(a); IOM, 2006).

The process of in-country trafficking of children is not, for the most part, an organized activity involving actors exclusively and recurrently involved in trafficking. A typical case of trafficking involves a person traveling to a rural area for holidays or other purposes not directly associated with trafficking and incidentally recruiting and transporting a relative or acquaintance to a town in which he/she lives (IOM: 2006).

#### **2.1.3.4 Effects of Child Trafficking**

With so few reports and comprehensive studies of victims of trafficking, there is little information about the short- and long-term conditions and effects of child trafficking and related exploitation in Ethiopia. However, a few organizations and studies have begun to explore areas such as the health of trafficked victims thus; physical, psychological, social and economic consequences were identified as the harmful impacts of trafficking on children (UNICEF, 2003; FSCE, 2004; IOM; 2006).

Most of the victims of trafficking face extensive exploitation, abuse and neglects during the different stages of the trafficking process. Furthermore, trafficked children do not have control of their money. Some children receive just a portion of their salary that employer's pay to the traffickers or brokers. The situation leads to dependence on traffickers for money, food, clothes and other necessities (Agrinet (2001) (a)). A study conducted by ILO estimated that about two-fifth of children working as domestic servants in Addis Ababa do not receive any fixed monetary consideration (ILO-IPEC, 2002). Victims of trafficking engaged as domestic workers and weavers are all routinely subject to economic exploitation in terms of the low levels of payment and/or denial of payment (IOM, 2006).

This study attempts at over filling in the literature review conducted by related studies and hopes to contribute positively in the subject.

### **2.1.4 Child Trafficking from Legal Point of View**

According to the UN report (2005), the lack of specific and adequate legislation on trafficking at the national level has been recognized as one of the major obstacles in the fight against trafficking. There is an urgent need to complement legal definitions, procedures and cooperation at the national and regional levels in accordance with international standards. The development of an appropriate legal framework that is consistent with relevant international instruments and standards will also play an influential role in combating child trafficking and related abuse and neglect.

#### **2.1.4.1 Legislative Framework**

The UN-CRC (1989) Article (1) states that “A child means every human being below the age of 18 years”. Moreover, Ethiopia has ratified most of the general conventions which are concerned with human rights in general and particularly with children. The following international instruments are some of the important international instruments adopted by Ethiopia to combat the problem of child trafficking.

- UN Convention for the Supervision of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of others in 1949
- Anti-Slavery Convention, Political Participation Convention in 1956
- The ILO Convention N<sup>o</sup> 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1989
- UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989)

According to Article 9(4) of the 1995 constitution of the FDRE, all international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are considered, as part of the law of the land.

The UN convention stipulates that child labour exploitation and any accompanying trafficking in persons for sexual purposes are considered as a form of slavery (UN convention, 1949). Despite its prevalence, relevant international treaties do not explicitly address this form of trafficking.

The CRC (1989) makes a provision to protect children from child labour and, indeed all forms of trafficking of children. Trafficking of children is a violation of the fundamental rights of a child as stated in the convention on the rights of the child (UN, 1989). The International Labor Organization ILO (1989) also included the commercial sex work, child pornography and child trafficking for sexual purposes in its list of the worst forms of child labor in the ILO worst forms of child labor convention 182 (ECPAT, 2001).

The legal system of the country has its own contribution for the widespread of trafficking in children as a result of weak enforcement mechanisms, have not been effective. Even if the constitution and broad international laws prohibits child trafficking there are some gaps in the specific laws.

#### **2.1.4.2 The African Charter on Human and People's Rights**

The African charter on human and people's rights was adopted in 1981 and came into force in 1986, and has been ratified by more than 40 African states, including Ethiopia. All forms of exploitation and degradation particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment and treatment are prohibited. Child trafficking is therefore, considered as one form of inhumane and cruel act. Thus, it is possible to argue that children are protected under this charter from any form of inhumane treatment (Salah; 2004).

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which Ethiopia accepts stipulates about trafficking under Article 29 as follows: "*State parties to the present charter shall take appropriate measures to prevent: (a) the abduction, the sale of, or traffic of children for any purpose or in any form, by any person including parents or legal guardians of the child*" (Ministry of Justice, 2005).

#### **2.1.4.3 Domestic Legislations and Standards**

According to the US Department (2006), annual report of trafficking in person, contain the comprehensive world wide report on the efforts of governments to combat sever forms of trafficking in persons particularly trafficking in children classifies Ethiopia in the level that does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking: however it is making significant efforts to combat trafficking.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Constitution addresses the rights of children separately under article 36. The provision states that the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children undertaken by public and private welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies (Article 36/2 of the FDRE Constitution). More specific to the exploitation of a child in Article 36 number 1(d) under the headings Rights of Children as: "Every child has the right not to be subject to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his/her education, health or well-being (Constitution of FDRE, 1995).

In East Africa, there is a lack of anti-trafficking law. There is no specific criminal provision dealing with trafficking in these Eastern countries. The only provision that can be used to prosecute traffickers is under the Penal Codes in these countries (UNICEF, 2003).

In recent years, there has been mounting evidence of trafficking for forced labour, particularly domestic work. Until 2005, Ethiopia's Criminal Code defined trafficking as forcing women or children to engage in Prostitution, and did not cover trafficking for forced labour. A revision of the penal code was passed in parliament in early 2005, and new provisions, covering also trafficking for forced labour, became law in May 2005. Some of the efforts that were made in order to fight against trafficking at the national level are shown in the newly revised Ethiopian Criminal Code (2005) that replaced the penal code of the Empire of Ethiopia (1957). In terms of penalties as it describes trafficking and puts the punishments for labour exploitation under Article 597 and for the purpose of commercial sex work under Article 635.

**Article 597 (1)** *Whoever by violence, threat, deceit, fraud, kidnapping or by giving of money or other advantage to the person having control over a woman or a child recruits, receives, hides, transport, exports or imports a woman or a minor for the purpose of forced labor is punishable with rigors imprisonment from five years to twenty years, and fine not exceeding fifty thousand birr (pp.348).*

**Article 635** *Whoever, for gain, or to gratify the passions of another (a) traffics in women or minors whether by sending them, by enticing them, or by procuring them otherwise including them to engage in prostitution even with their consent; (b) keeps such a person in a brothel to let him out for prostitution, is punishable with rigors imprisonment not exceeding ten thousand birr subject to application of more severe provisions especially where there is concurrent illegal restraint (pp.370).*

## 2.2 Perspectives on child trafficking

### 2.2.1 Trafficking as a migration issue

Many theories and models of migration are developed by different writers as found in literature. Most of these theories and models emphasize on the causes and motives of migration. Considering that a migrant can be a slave, refugee, or job-seeker, or have some other reason for moving, no single theory can provide a comprehensive explanation for the migration process. Human trafficking is an aspect of migration. Thus, two migration theories have been used for this study to better understand the relationship and difference between migration and trafficking. The Lee (1970) and Todaro and Smith (2003) migration models are highlighted below.

Evertt S. Lee (1970) has developed a theoretical framework for analyzing the volume and characteristics of migration. He identifies the factors of migration as push and pull factors, while the push factors are the socio economic factors at the area of origin that force people to move but the pull factors are the socio-economic opportunities available in other localities or destination. With respect to the volume of migration he argued that both the rate and volume of migration vary with the state of progress in a country and tend to increase overtime. Lee's conceptual framework focuses on migration decision making. The decision whether to move or not implies weighing the positive (pull) and negative (pull) factors. That is, factors tending to force migrants to leave their places of origin and attracting migrants to destination areas. Lee (1970) further pointed out that the migration process is selective because differentials such as age, gender, and social class affect how persons respond to push-pull factors, and these conditions also shape their ability to overcome intervening obstacles. Furthermore, personal factors such as a person's education, knowledge of a potential receiver population, family ties, and the like can facilitate or retard migration.

Todaro & Smith (2003), standing their theories on empirical findings indifferent places of Africa, these writers have magnified that rural-urban migration can exist, despite less job opportunity in the major towns. However, the prevailing high fertility rate and overflowing rural-urban migration towards cities is resulting in unemployment, and other social problems. According to this theory people reach on decision to migrate hoping employment in the destination areas through their current income in place of origin is higher than in place of destination.

### **2.2.2 Trafficking as a labor issue**

The ILO explains that 'child labour' is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development (ILO-IPEC, 2003). Another approach to child trafficking looks in to the purpose or destination factors, i.e. the "purpose of exploitation". This is, for example, apparent in an ILO-IPEC (2002), which looked particularly at labor exploitation issues when identifying trafficking among migrant children. The same study indicate that migrant children are considered to have been trafficked when they were forced to work long hours, were under paid or not paid, were not allowed to leave the working place, were forced to work in hazardous work conditions, or had experiencing shouting, hitting or sexual abuse. However, it remains vague whether these migrant laborers were recruited by deceptive or coercive means for the purpose of exploitation (as the UN protocol (2000) definition of trafficking sets out) or whether they ended up working under difficult conditions.

### **2.2.3 Trafficking as a criminal problem**

The fact that the UN Trafficking Protocol (2000) is a supplementary protocol to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime indicates that trafficking is now commonly considered to be a criminal problem. The association between trafficking and transnational organized crime points to the global scope as well as the organized nature of the phenomenon. Yet, while there may be evidence indicating the involvement of organized crime in some parts of the world, this cannot be generalized to trafficking globally. For example, in the Ethiopia child trafficking resembles more migration based rather than organized crime (Agrinet, 2001(a); IOM, 2006). While some studies reflect the involvement of "organized trafficking networks" to enslave the children not all research seems to support this view. Research reports also point to the involvement of family members, parents, neighbors or friends (IOM, 2004). What most studies seem to agree upon, however, is the lack of or imperfection in law enforcement in the combat against trafficking.

### **2.2.4 Trafficking and human rights**

Human rights are an important principle in practically all trafficking approaches. A human rights approach to trafficking assumes the perspective of those who have had their human rights

violated, be they children, women, migrants or laborers. Violations of human rights are considered to be both a cause and a consequence of trafficking. Accordingly, trafficking is analyzed along with other forms of “violence against children” or “labor or sexual exploitation of children”. While this approach has merits for taking into account a broader perspective on violations of children’s especially girl’s rights, it contains the risk of conceptually linking issues like rape and trafficking that are not necessarily related in empirical reality (ACPF, 2006).

Children are an integral part of the society. Therefore, they deserve the childhood rights as it is their in-born human right. UN Convention (1989) on the Rights of the Child has ensured that every child in the world has right to survival, development, protection and participation. This ensures the right to protection from every sort of exploitation and harm. The conditions of forced labour and sexual exploitation are what constitute violations of the civil and human rights of so many trafficking victims. Regardless of how they are recruited and transported, most children trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation are denied at some point the right to liberty, the right not to be held in slavery or involuntary servitude, the right to be free from cruel and inhumane treatment, the right to be free from violence, and the right to health (IOM, 2006).

### **2.2.5 Gender Perspective**

Feminist theory is an effort to bring insights for the movement and the various female experiences together with research and data gathering in order to produce new perspectives that helps to identify and end female operation. Moreover, it provides a basis for understanding every area of lives, and a feminist perspective that affect the world politically, culturally, socially, economically and spiritually (Kolmar & Bartkowski, 2005).

Based on the anthropological-sociological approach, unequal power and control relationships, lead to unequal division of labor, unequal gender role expectations, and gender based discrimination (Kelly, 2003; Long, 2004). These in turn create social conditions in which women have limited control over their own lives, perceive themselves as powerless, and are thus rendered very vulnerable to trafficking (Long, 2004). He further elaborates that the most trafficking victims come from societies promoting patriarchal cultural practices that do not value the individual women’s welfare and that encourage and rationalize the sex trafficking of young women, especially during times of instability and dislocation. Similarly Kelly (2003) explains the

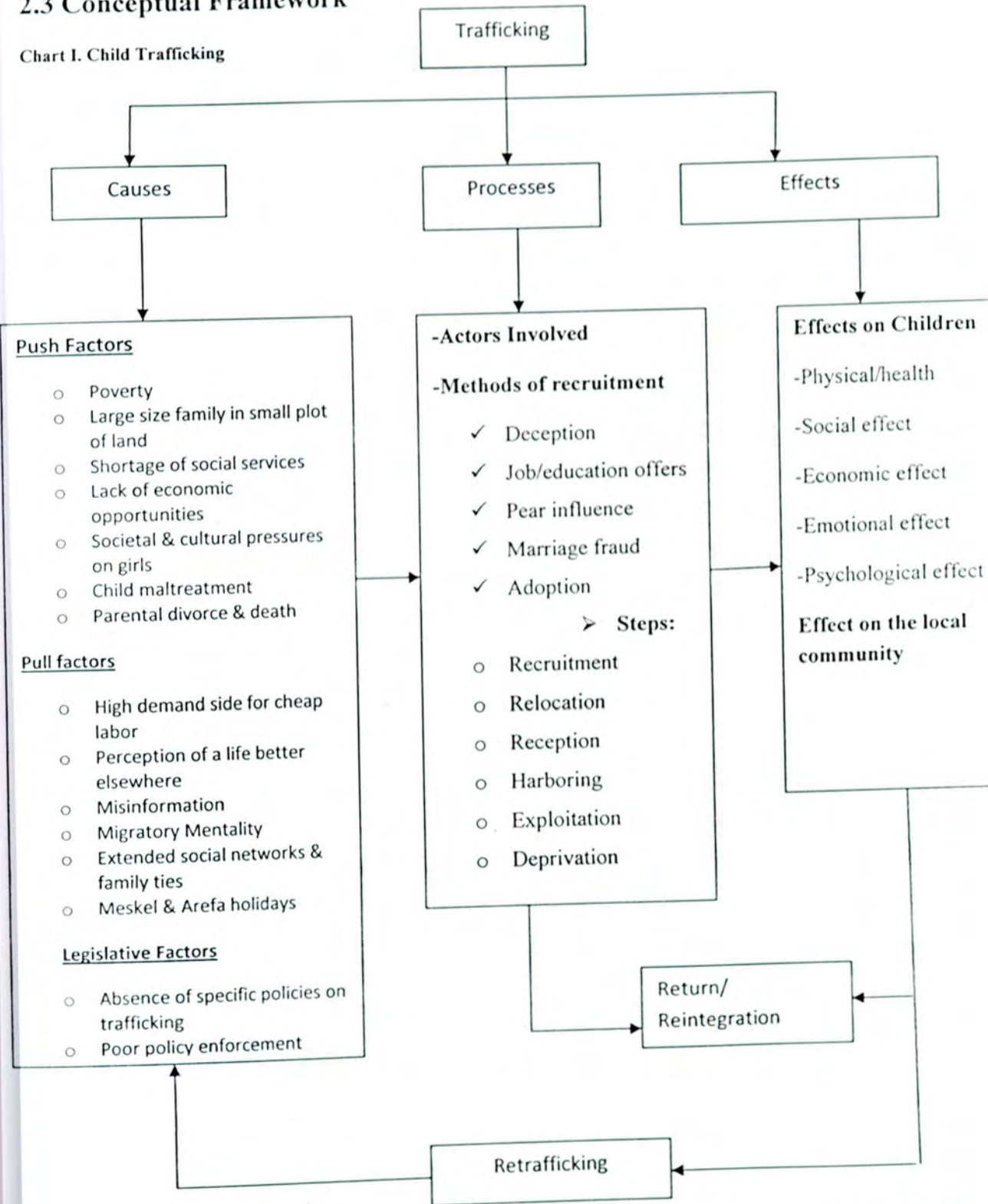
vulnerability of young poor girls to trafficking from the perspective of deep-rooted structural inequalities. The shaping of female children vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking originates in structural operations expressed in deepening gender inequality, which maximizes the limitation of females options and “space of actions” implying the extent to which they have the power to make choices and decisions.

Long (2004) further stress that the lack of options resulting from structural inequalities affects the women’s perceptions of themselves, which are often defined by a lack of self confidence and assertiveness, and which can have a crucial role in the process of making a decision to accept someone’s offer a job outside their home village and later during exploitation.

In short, the arguments discussed above, define and address child trafficking essentially as a gender phenomenon involving the exploitation of women and girls. The above mentioned perspectives were needed to bridge the literature review and conceptual framework in terms of building up the scrutiny on the topic for this research. The perspectives have been utilized to enrich the analysis of the study. In general the research analysis is carried out based on these particular perspectives.

## 2.3 Conceptual Framework

Chart I. Child Trafficking



Source: A model developed by the researcher based on the reviewed literature such as Palermo Protocol (2000), IOM (2006) Asham (2007), Kaleb (2008) and fieldwork experience.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3. Description of the Study Areas

#### 3.1 The Gurage Zone

Gurage is an ethnic group in Ethiopia. According to the 2007 national census, they number 1,867,377 people (or 2.53% of the total population of Ethiopia), of whom 792,659 are urban dwellers. This is 2.53% of the total population of Ethiopia, or 7.52% of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNPR) (CSA, 2007).

##### 3.1.1 Geographical setting and the climate

Gurage land is situated in the Southern region to the Southwest of Addis Ababa and is bounded by the River Awash in the North, Lake Zeway in the East, and the Gibe River in the West. The Gurage are surrounded by the Oromo to the North, East and West, by the Hadiya to the South, and the Yem to the Southwest (Shack, 1966).

The Gurageland is situated between  $37^{\circ} 30'$  and  $38^{\circ} 50'$  E and  $7^{\circ} 46'$  and  $8^{\circ} 48'$  N. the Gurageland is a part of what is now the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP). The administration centre of the Gurage Zone is Wolkite, a town 155 kilometers southwest of Addis Ababa (Muluneh, 1993, cited in Worku, 2006). The physical landscape of the Gurageland as in most parts of Ethiopia is quite diversified. The area lies in the southwestern part the *Shewan* plateau whose altitude is about 2200 meters above sea level. Apart from shaping the physical landscape, the geological process and the resulting landscape have affected the way of life of the Gurage people, which is manifested in the in the economic activities, settlement pattern and material culture of the people (Mesfin, 1972).

In terms of climate, as large parts of Ethiopian highlands, most of the rainfall in Gurageland occurs from March through October (Muluneh, 1993, cited in Worku, 2006). The main rainy season usually called *Zer*, the wet season begins in early June and extends up to the mid September. The remaining part of the year is dominated by *Abar*, the dry season. Even during the rainy season, there is a regional variation depending on the altitudinal changes. Thus, the annual

rainfall ranges from 600 mm to 1000 mm in *Kolla* and from 1000 mm to 1,400 mm in *Dega* and *Woinadega* respectively (Daniel, 1977).

In spite of the slight variation both agronomic zones (*dega* and *woinadega*) receive more rainfall when compared with *Kolla*. This particularly, holds true of the districts of Gumer, Where the study sites are found. As a result, seasonality in rainfall has dictated the agricultural practices in the area. Because of the study areas in *dega* (temperate) and *woinadega* (subtropical) Zone, the types of vegetation dominating most parts of the Gurageland are common to most highlands. In support of this, Ipcar (1970) stated the sparse distribution of such species as *Acacia (Grar)*, *Juniper procera (Tid)*, *Podocarpus gracilor (Zigba)*. In Gumer-Gurage area as the researcher observed, *Eucalyptus* and *Tid* are the most frequently occurring types of vegetation types.

The Sebat-bet area in general and Gumer *Woreda* in particular, is known for its high population density (Haris, 1844, cited in Worku, 2006). The Gurage region as a whole is known to be one of the most densely populated regions in the country. High population pressure has been one of the major factors, which brought about changes in local Gurage land-use and natural vegetation pattern (Getnet, 1992, cited in Worku, 2006).

### **3.1.2 Socio-cultural setting of the Gurage people**

According to Worku (2006), although there are some few studies on Gurage people, we don't have many studies concerning Gurage history and the socio-economic as well as cultural aspects of the Gurage life. The only major work on the Gurage is William Shack's, "*The Gurage: A People of the Enset Culture*" (1966), which provides a social anthropological description of the Gurage and their Culture. William A. Shack, who devoted more than thirty years of his life to research into Gurage social life and culture, presents interesting details enlightening the Gurage people and their land.

The Gurage social, economic as well as religious organizations are based on the principle of a patrilineal lineage system (Shack, 1976, cited in Worku, 2006). The extended family and lineal kin provide the basis for communal labor for agricultural and domestic activities, and for the organization of such tasks. Marriage is usually patrilocal and even among the Orthodox Christian Gurage, polygamous marriage is practiced (Worku, 2006).

As regards religion, the Gurage have passed through a complex and varied history, whereby Christianity, Islam and traditional beliefs and practices have been co-existing (Shack, 1966, Worku, 1990). The history of the Gurage shows that in the years before the spread of Islam in the “East” the Gurage were believers of traditional beliefs. Christianity had also taken its root among the Aymalel and Mehur. Thus, Christianity, Islam and traditional beliefs have been practiced in the area (Tadesse, 1972). In Gurageland, there are different religious beliefs and practices which are carried out in association both with the traditional beliefs, such belief were based on three cults: the sky-god *Waq’*, the Thunder-god *Bozhe*, and the Fertility-goddess, *Demuamwit* and with modern religions such as Christianity and Islam (Shack, 1966; Worku, 1990). During the twentieth century Orthodox Christianity and Islam have become dominant, and whole sections of Gurage groups adhere to one of these religions. More recently Catholic and Protestant churches have also gained significant followers in some parts including in Gumer *Woreda*.

The most celebrated annual festivities, during which the villages are flooded with the visiting fanos, are those of *Meskel* for Christians and *Arafa* for Muslims. Most migrants visit their villages at the time of these two festivities, not only because they constitute the two largest and most elaborate ceremonies among the Gurage, but also because during these festivals, significant social and cultural events such as wedding are held. This holds true of the district of Gumer (Worku, 2006).

The cultural boundaries of the Gurage are with the Oromo in the North, West and East; and two Cushitic speaking groups of Yem across the Gibe and Hadiya in the West and South respectively. Concerning their political structure, the Gurage are one of many acephalous ethnic groups in Ethiopia, without a formal political structure. They have been traditionally administered by local political institutions such as the *Yajoka* (council of elders), which is a pan-Gurage judicial and administrative assembly (Shack, 1966; Worku, 1990).

The Gurage form a cluster of loosely-knit peoples, sharing a common *semetic* linguistic background and cultural heritage. The *Sebat-Bet* Gurage, is a confederation of seven ‘houses’, inhabiting the western part of the Gurageland (Shack, 1966). The Gurage speak a semetic language often called ‘*Guragigna*’, which is classified under the South Ethno-Semetic group of languages (Leslau, 1992). Based on linguistic evidences, linguists date the split between North

Ethno-Semitic and South Ethno-Semitic before 300 B.C and suggest that the diversification within the South Ethno-Semitic might have occurred sometimes between 300 B.C and 100 A.D (Tadesse, 1977).

Comprising different dialects, the Gurage language is subdivided into North, Western and Eastern Gurage (Cohen, 1931 cited in Shack, 1966; Leslau, 1992). There is no general agreement on how many languages or dialects there are, in particular within the West Gurage grouping. The Western Group which include the Gurage of Aklil, Cheha, Enamor, Endegagne, Eza, Geto, Gumer, Gogot (Meskan) and Mehur, of which most are followers of Christianity though there are good number of Muslims as well. The Northern Group includes the Sodo Gurage, which have been referred to as “Kistane” which means Christians and inhabit the northern region known as Sodo Woreda. This dialectical classification partly reflects the geographical zone where the dialects are frequented. In addition the name of the dialect signifies the tribes that speak the language (Shack, 1966).

The dialectical classifications within the Gurage language indicate the people in the study areas, notably of Gumer Gurage, speak a dialect belonging to the Western group. Worku (1984) described the phrase “*Sebat-bet*” as a name given to the tribal confederation formed by the seven tribes of Gurage long before Menelik’s incorporation of the entire Gurage into the Empire. The seven members listed by Worku are Cheha, Endegagne, Enor-Ener, Geto (Geta), Gumer, Maqorqor, and Muhur Aklil. According to Shack (1966) and Worku (1990) though they lack a formal political structure, the Gurage have been traditionally administered by a council of elders called *Yejoka*, a Pan Gurage judicial and administrative assembly (Worku, 2006).

### **3.1.3 Economic setting of the Gurage people**

According to the GZARDO (2010) the Gurage live a sedentary life based on agriculture, involving a complex system of crop rotation and transplanting. Enset is their main staple crop, but other cash crops are grown, in some parts of the Gurageland which include coffee and *chat*. Animal husbandry is practiced, but mainly for milk supply and dung. Other foods consumed include green cabbage, cheese, butter, and roasted grains, with meat consumption being very limited.

The economy of the Gurageland largely constitutes farming and livestock raising. The Gurage are known for their extensive cultivation of the Enset *Ventricosum* or false banana plant known as *asat*, although this is a practice the Gurage share with other Southern and Southwestern Ethiopians (Shack, 1966). Of all crops cultivated the Gurage depend on the cultivation of Enset locally called *asat*. It mostly grows in agro climatic zone with altitude ranging from 1250 to 3000 meter above sea level (FAO, 1984, cited in Worku, 2006). The crop is known for being a stable and secure source of food and therefore, Enset is generally noted for its capacity of withstanding drought. Hence, it has been a staple food of the Gurage (Shack, 1966; Ipcar, 1970). As a result; Shack (1966) described the Gurage as “A people of Enset Culture”.

The multiple use of enset for food, fiber, house construction, household utensils, fuel, medicinal purpose etc. is another important attribute of the crop. Therefore, the socio-economic and cultural life of the Gurage is predominantly based on the cultivation of *asat* to the extent that there has emerged an *enset* culture, unique in the Ethiopian landscape (Shack, 1966).

In addition to Enset, cereals mainly barely and wheat; pulses mainly peas and beans; legumes and vegetables grow in most parts of the Gurageland. In some parts of the Gurageland cash crops like chat and coffee (Cheha *Woreda* for example) are cultivated. Other crops such as *teff*, sorghum and maize and horticulture such as pepper, tomatoes, potatoes, apple and onions etc, grow in some parts of the Gurageland. But this is not true of the district of Gumer, the particular focus area of this study. In support of the diversified harvesting system in Gurageland, raising of livestock, fishery and apiculture are practiced in the Gurage land. Thus, land is an essential aspect of these agricultural practices and the basis of the local Gurage economy as a whole. There is also a petite trading activities in all districts of the Gurageland (Worku, 2006; GZARDO, 2010).

The Gurageland is considered as densely populated, and many Gurage migrate to urban areas for work. The migrants, who are engaged in trading, or other work in Addis Ababa and other urban areas are also the source of income to most families in Gurage. However, the migratory experiences of the Gurage have likewise not yet received much attention by researchers (Worku, 2006).

## 3.2 Gumer Woreda

Based on the information obtained from Gurage Zone Administrative Bureau the former Gumer *Woreda* is now divided into Gumer *Woreda* and Geto *Woreda* so that the available sources which indicated the previous population census data and the political administration map are not enough to show the current condition of the Gumer *Woreda*. The former Gumer, which had also traditionally known as *anget-Cheha*, i.e., upper Cheha? As part of the Western Gurage, Gumer constitutes a sub-district called Gumer *Woreda*, which includes the people and area of Geto, Alichu-Wiriwo, Azernet Berber, and Gumer itself (Worku, 2006).

### 3.2.1 The People and Means of Subsistence

Gumer woreda is one of the most densely populated areas in Gurage Zone (Worku, 2006). Based on the recent population census statistics (2007), the total population of the Gumer *Woreda* reaches 114,979 which comprises of 56,301 males and 58,678 females. According to Worku (2006), the major economic practice of the Gumer Gurage, like those of others rural Gurage farming is the main means of subsistence followed by livestock keeping. The GWARDO (2008/2009) report also indicates that the large proportion of the area's economy is derived from farming and livestock. According to Worku (2006), '*Asat*' (Enset) is the staple food in the woreda. Similar to the other Enset growing parts of the Gurage Zone, the altitudinal location of the localities in Gumer *Woreda* have allowed conducive environment for cultivation of Enset. The researcher has also observed that a significant portion of each household farming land in Gumer *Woreda* is given to Enset production. Additional cereals serving as a means of subsistence in Gumer *Woreda* include as observed by the researcher: wheat, barely, bean, pulses, potatoes and vegetables such as Gurage gomen.

Raising livestock is the other main economic activity in the Gumer *Woreda*. For example, the people in Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit town raise different types of cattle among which are mainly cows and oxen. In addition they raise sheep and hens. As for domestic animals the predominant in Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit are cows, oxen and horses which among others used in farming. In some parts, they have poultry and bee farming in both Zizencho and Teredo and Arekit area. All these animal rearing activities are mostly carried out to supplement the staple diet and some times generate income to a limited extent.

### **3.2.2 Social Services and Infrastructure**

Comprehensively, the level of social service and infrastructure in Gumer *Woreda* is very poor. This is seen in the poor educational, health care services and it is also difficult to quantify them. According to the statistics of GWEB (2009), educational coverage has been 89.8%. (GWHB, 2009), indicates the health coverage, 56%. Statistical figures could not be found for other forms of services.

As for infrastructure, it is very poor as seen in the shortage of roads or electricity, which is only found in Arekit town. The same is true about the clean water 21.6%, the coverage is very low. So the people mostly use wall water. Generally, the infrastructure of the *woreda* is at a very low level. Furthermore, the shortage of social services and infrastructure will be dealt with in the analysis section.

### **3.2.3 Childhood among the Gumer-Gurage Community**

Childhood is understood only socially based on the social context of the area and it might not have a biological perspective from which the local community takes childhood as to what it means. According to the narratives obtained from parents, community and religious leaders in FGDs, a person in Gumer-Gurage is taken as a child whatever old he/she could be until he/she gets married. This shows that among the Gumer-Gurage community, the biological developments of a person, from childhood, to adolescence and adulthood, is given little attention and only a person social stand and achievement in the community as chiefly explained by marriage is taken into consideration for labeling a certain person as a child or an adult.

Among the Gumer-Gurage community the belief is that children are considered as property or asset as emphasized by the community elders. This is further explained by the fact that a person is expected to be supportive and always on the side of his or her parents throughout his life as he/she is always expected to perform social duties in support of his or her family. Furthermore, as particular community males have performance in all areas as the linkage system is totally paternal. This male predominance could be seen in marriage or property inheritance.

Most parents in Gumer-Gurage culture traditionally have the desire to have as many children as possible and prefer to have more number of male children than female children. This is because

of the belief that boys are stronger and more supportive toward the family than girls as boys actively involve in the farming activities of the father and other business activities which drive livelihood for the family. The girls' role in the community is underestimated by their nature of their activities which are domestic.

### 3.3 Research sites

#### 3.3.1 Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit Town

Based on the information obtained from GWAB (2010), currently in Gumer *Woreda* there are 18 PAs and one administrative town. Zizencho and Teredo PA is one of them. The PAs are organized in three administrative sections. They are Zizencho, Bole and Jemboro. The Zizencho administrative section includes: Zizencho and Teredo PA, Bad and Yegor PA, Yesherels and Tatar PA, Amua PA, Essen and Adengezzo PA, Abeke PA and Arekit Sheleko PA where Arekit town is located.

The Bole administrative section includes Aselecha PA, Dirbo and Segen PA, Enjefo PA, Amdo PA, Wusho PA, Fetazer PA, Wulbarag and Tirtiro PA, Bunda and Dember PA and Abeseja PA. The Jamboro administrative section includes Jamboro PA, and Bercher and Mocheya PA. The two research sites of Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit town have been selected from the above mentioned 18 PAs in Gumer *Woreda*.

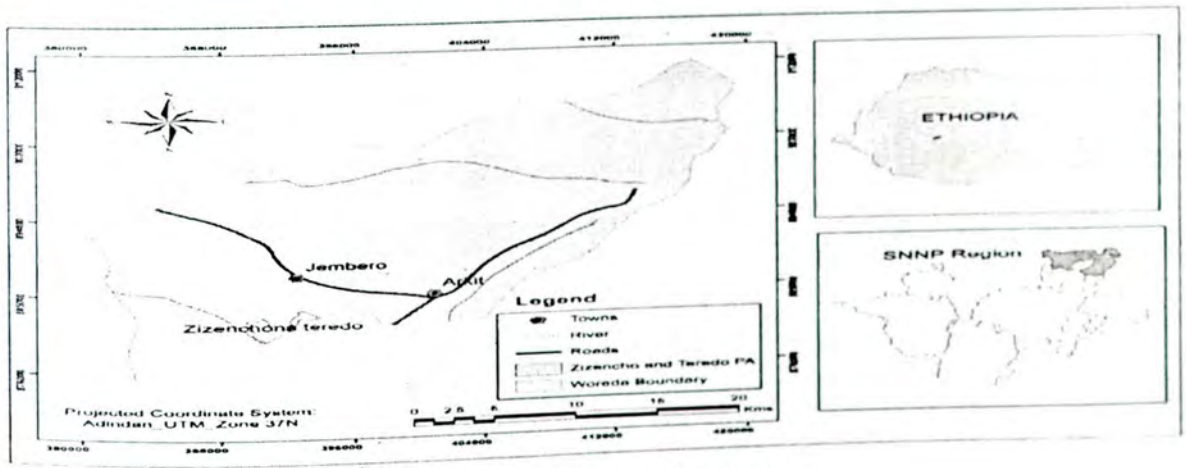
According to the GWPSB (2008), population census data the total population in Zizencho and Teredo PA is estimated to be 7,767 and that of Arekit Sheleko PA in which Arekit town is to be found estimated to be 9, 432. Zizencho is a village situated an hour's walk, or 5 kilometers, west of Arekit, the Administrative center of Gumer *Woreda*. Teredo is a neighboring village located south of Zizencho. Zizencho is a big village divided in to three small settlements. These are called *Nan-Zizencho*, *Gebit-Zizencho*, and *Tat-Zizencho*. These prefixes, *Nan*, *Gebit* and *Tat* in Guragegna mean upper, middle and lower respectively (Worku, 2006). Most of the characteristics of the Gumer-Gurage discussed above hold true to Zizencho and Teredo and Arekit areas.

According to the narratives gathered from the local community of the Gumer *Woreda* and as oral studies show the people of the Gumer *Woreda* were settlers from such places as Alaba, Siltie, Hadiya as well as from other parts of the Gurageland. The dialect of Guragegna spoken in Gumer

*Woreda* is one of the many dialects spoken in the Zone. Oral traditions tell that most of the names of the PAs mentioned above and clans were mostly derived from the names of famous, local people of the areas and from many other meaningful things and natural phenomena. For example the name of the *Woreda* (Gumer) itself means ‘*Dega*’ in Amharic and this is reflecting the temperate climate of the area. *Zizencho Kebele* got its name from a popular man, as oral history tells, who lived in the area. Another PA named *Budage* got its name from the Amharic word for people with powerful evil eyes (*Buda*). The *Woreda* administrative town, *Arekit* was named so after the war between Emperor Menelik the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Gurage people, in that battle the Gurage force defeated the Emperor Menelik’s forces after which Emperor Menelik said “*Yalekit Wotadere Aleke*” which means loss of too many soldiers. Hence the name *Arekit* was taken from “*Yalekit*”.

According to the narratives obtained from the community elders in Gumer *Woreda*, the PA system was introduced in the area during the *Dergue* regime (1974-1991), for instance, *Zizencho* and *Teredo* PA was the name of one “*Hibret Behibret Zemecha*” in the area. It was a campaign aimed to development based joint force during the *Dergue* regime. The clans in the Gumer *Woreda* were also mainly named after famous individuals. In the *Woreda* there are many clans but the main ones include: *Yegebere-Atim*, *Mezahur*, *Yinfash Atim*, *Yirastib*, *Enequamt*, *Yekotertib*, *Yekotib*. But many of the people in the *Zizencho* and *Teredo* PA belong to *Mezahur*, *Yegebere-Atim* and *Enequamt*.

Map- 1. Location of Research sites in Gumer *Woreda*



Source: Constructed by a GIS professional (AAU April, 2010)

### 3.3.2 Addis Ababa

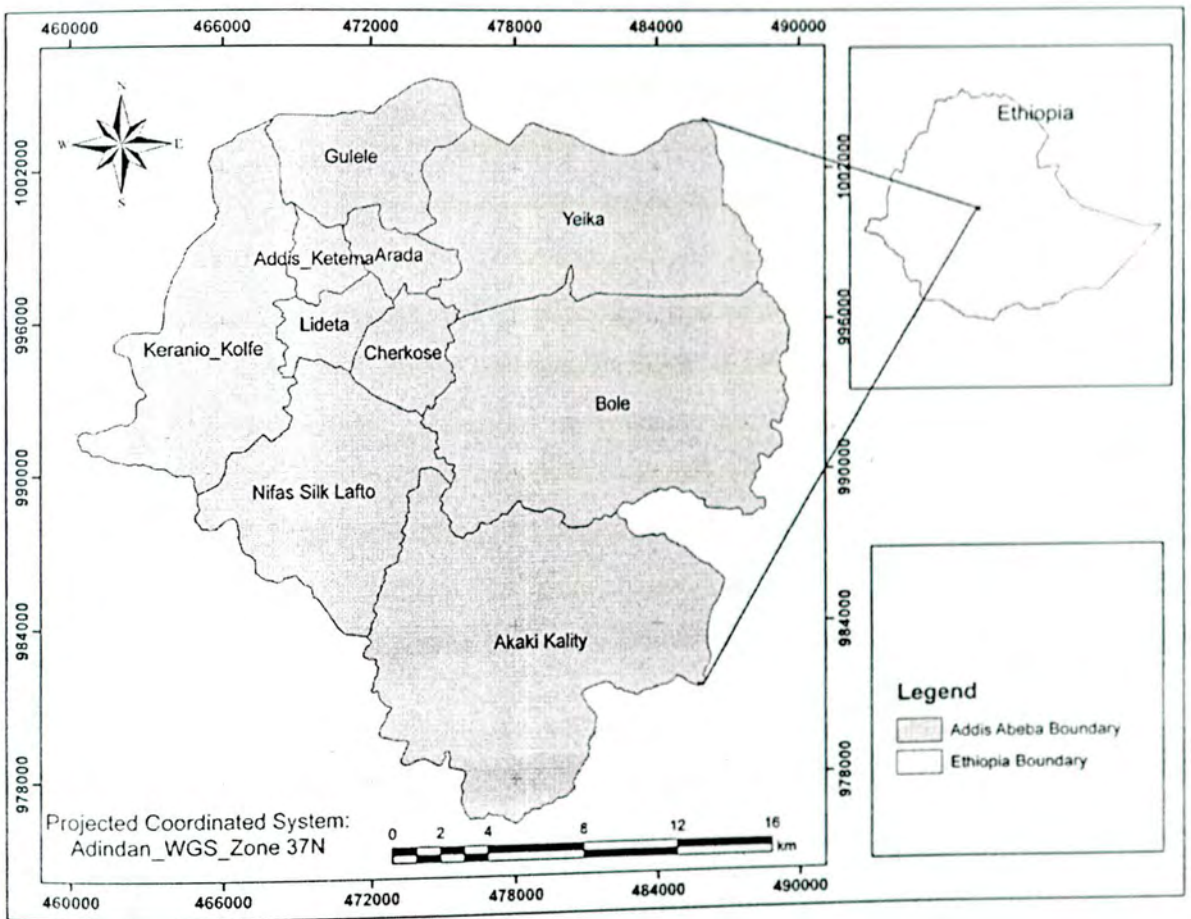
Addis Ababa, the capital of the country is one research site for this study. Addis Ababa is located at the center of Ethiopia and is surrounded by Oromia regional state on all sides. It is a city at 2500m above sea level. As a capital and most important economic and cultural center of the country, it is also the most popular city in the country. It had a population of 2.3 million people (CSA, 1994). The ethnic mixture in the city is so high that people of almost all the different ethnicities live there. Amhara, Oromo and Gurage are the three majority ethnicities in the city with 41.3%, 26.2%, and 17.5% respectively. The remaining 15% are Tigre, who represents 7.6% of the population and other ethnic groups constitute 7.4 (CSA, 1994).

According to the 2007 population and house census, the total population of the city has reached 2, 738, 248 which constitutes 47.64% male and 52.36% female (CSA, 2007). The increase in the city population can be attributed to high birth rate and rural to urban migration. In the rural to urban migration, people come to Addis Ababa from the different corners of Ethiopia for different objective looking for employment and better educational opportunities not to mention the relative better development of Addis Ababa compared with rural areas. From the people involvement in rural to urban migration to Addis Ababa the Gurage are among the main migrants.

As Worku (2006), stated the characteristics of the Gurage migration to Addis Ababa significantly affected by 3 major historical and socio-economic events. The first was the conquest of the Gurage and their land in 1888 into the wider Ethiopian state by Emperor Menelik, and his force at the battle of Jebdu Meda after the end of fourteen years of resistance and the resulting start of *Neftegna-Gebar* system relationship became a turning point in the history of the migration of the Gurage to Addis Ababa. The second historical reason for the migration of the Gurage to Addis Ababa was the Italian occupation. In connection with the Italian occupation, a lot of infrastructural development was seen in Gurage land. The infrastructural development (especially roads), therefore, motivated the third wave of migration for economic interest from Gurageland to Addis Ababa. Through all the different factors mentioned above the migration of the Gurage to Addis Ababa has been intensified over a long period of time. But the migration process did also include hidden trafficking particularly in children.

Addis Ababa is divided into 10 administrative sub cities. From Among these sub cities, Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keranyo sub-cities have been selected for this study. According to CSA (2007) population and housing census, there are 255,092 people in Addis Ketema sub-city which constitute 124,741 males and 130,351 females. The total area of this sub-city is 8.89 square k.m and its population density is 28,407/sq. km. The other sub-city, Kolfe Keranyo has a total population of 428,654 which constitutes 207,506 males and 221,148 females. It has a total area of 5471,31 hectare and it is the largest among the sub-cities.

**Map 2. Map of Addis Ababa**



Source: Constructed by a GIS professional (AAU April, 2010)

## CHAPTER FOUR

### **Factors Contributing to the Vulnerability of Children to Trafficking in Gumer Woreda**

Reports emphasize that in recent years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of children being trafficked from rural parts of Ethiopia into Addis Ababa and other urban areas of the country (FSCE, 2004; IOM, 2006). The causes of trafficking and the factors leading to this apparent increases in recent years and are multiple and complicated. These factors are embedded within the socio-economic structure of the country and require an in-depth analysis.

Based on the findings of this study several factors include: economic, educational, socio-cultural and legal that promote child labour and affect trafficking patterns in the source or origin places. However, for the present study purpose, the factors fueling to the vulnerability of children to trafficking in Gumer Woreda of Gurage Zone have been categorized into two groups. The first group, the 'push' factors, includes the conditions which are responsible for trafficking of children from the two research sites in Gumer Woreda namely, Zizencho PA and Arekit town. The second group refers to the set of 'pull' factors that support the demand for trafficked victims. The supply and demand equation is typically described in terms of 'push' and 'pull' factors. These factors have a global resonance, but vary in local nature, magnitude and forms of the problem. Children are more susceptible to fall into trafficking as a result of the push-pull factors in Gumer Woreda, and the quest for a means of survival that is the engine driving to trafficking in children. These factors will be discussed further below.

The push/pull factors-two sides of the same coin-that make children vulnerable to trafficking. It is important to remember that these explanatory factors can be mutually reinforcing and that some of the causes can also be the consequences of others. Thus, more research is therefore required into the mechanics of these causes.

## 4.1 Causes of Child Trafficking: Push Factors

### 4.1.1 Poverty

Poverty intensifies children's vulnerability to traffickers. One of the most obvious ways material poverty leads to exploitation and abuse is through child labour. Poverty frequently forces vulnerable children to turn to hazardous work. Trafficking in children usually occurs in the poorest shanty towns or the most underprivileged rural areas, where grinding poverty can heighten children's vulnerability to protection abuses (UNICEF; 2005).

According to the narratives the researcher gathered from most of the major participants of this study and the researcher observations, the major causes of poverty in Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone are two fold despite the fact that other minor reasons contribute to the problems. The first one is land scarcity. Most families in Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone are forced to possess very limited farming land which also restricts the farming possibilities to feed the family or produce crops for sale. Another one is the fact that farmers do not produce cash crops to gain income for the family. Consequently, they are entirely engaged in cultivating few crops such as barley, beans, peas, etc. In Gumer *Woreda*, the people also grow potatoes and 'Enset'- the false banana which are generally used for household consumption. In some parts of the Gurage Zone (Cheha *Woreda*, for example) it is obvious that farmers produce cash crops such as teff, wheat, corn and they also grow plants like coffee, chat including fruits and vegetables (Asham, 2007). Apparently, poverty is at stake even for these societies in other corners of the Gurage Zone but in these places comparatively families generate income to look after their household and children.

In Gumer-Gurage the reality that the farmers do not cultivate these cash crops, puts the family at a disadvantage that they won't be able to eat three meals a day. As a result, children take the fate of being trafficked. As studies show, Among the Gumer-Gurage community, migration is a significant livelihood strategy for the poor (Worku, 2006). Thus, rural-urban migration among the Gumer-Gurage community is considered necessary to sustain poor families.

In addition to personal observation I conducted an interview with the officer in the *Woreda* Rural Infrastructure Development and the Capacity Building Bureaus. In the course of my interview one officer has confirmed that the aforementioned reasons, land scarcity and constraints related to

cash crop production worsen the problems of society in Gumer-Gurage. According to the officer, in the institutions, economic problems lead farmer's lives from bad to worse as each farmer has very limited plot of land which bounds their farming only efficient for household harvest of crops including the Potatoes and 'Enset' plants that are entirely consumed in the household. The officer strongly believes that this particular problem is linked to the other fact that farmers are unable to produce cash crops due to the land scarcity, soil infertility and the climate as well. Moreover, shortage of rainfall or water in general makes the difficulties severe by disallowing farming totally, especially for cash crops. In a personal interview with the head of GWARDO it is mentioned that another reason for poor farming outcomes in the area; fertilizer dependence of the farming land. The officer considers the farming land is intensively reliant on various fertilizers which at times are unaffordable by the impoverished farmers. The usage of farming land in Gumer *Woreda* is illustrated below in the following table.

**Table 1: The Usage of Land in Gumer *Woreda* Detailed Information**

1	Land used for crop production	15339.137 hectare
2	Land used for annual crop production	11678.887 hectare
3	Land used for perennial crops (greater than or equal to 3 years) existence	3660.25 hectare
4	Land used for grazing	1981.2371 hectare
5	Land covered by forest	1821.224 hectare
6	Land covered by natural forest	23.5 hectare
7	Land area of association owned forests	35.85 hectare
8	Land area of government owned forest	-----
9	Land area of private owned forest	1756.874 hectare

**Source:** Gumer *Woreda* Agricultural and Rural Development Office (2009)

According to the information obtained from GWPSB the land of person ratio accounts very low compared to the total amount needed to ensure farming opportunities for a certain land holder.

**Table 2: Farmers Land Holding in Gumer Woreda**

1	Farmers who have only 0.5 or below 0.5 hectares	3952 farmers
2	Farmers who have farming land ranging between 0.5 and 1 hectare	5203 farmers
3	Farmers who have farming land ranging between 1 and one 1.5 hectare	2848 farmers
4	Farmers who have farming land ranging between 1.5 and 2 hectare	1273 farmers
5	Farmers who have farming land of 2 hectares and above	702 farmers
	Total	13978 farmers

**Source:** Gumer Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development Office (2009).

The above table briefly illustrates that 65.5% of the farmers in the Gumer Woreda possess only below one hectare of farming land. Farmers who hold farming land of between one and two hectares account for 29.5% of the total number of farmers in the woreda. Farmers who own a farming land of two or more than two hectors are only 5%. According to these statistics other observations and interviews it is proved that land scarcity problems contribute to the fact that farmers do not produce cash crops to sell in the market. Hence, the farming land is also dependent on fertilizers and chemicals which are too costly for most farmers. These farming constraints worsen the poverty in individual households in particular and in the whole woreda in general.

In most cases among the Gumer-Gurage society, parents are tempted to dispatch their children to towns to make out a living as well as supporting their poor family back home. Theses reasons fuel and aggravate child trafficking as families believe that could be the only way out of their impoverished reality. The economic problems that arise from rural poverty related causes force parents to think of alternatives to make up their farming difficulties and in turn make a living to feed their families. Some other family economic problems that severely trigger the household problems in Gumer-Gurage could also be broken down into several types include: large family size and poor livestock production.

#### 4.1.2 Large Family Size

Most parents have four to eight children according to complete in-depth interviews conducted during the study period. This problem was aggravated due to lack of the implementation of contraceptive methods including any awareness creating sessions. In these circumstances the *woreda* health bureau did not serve any related functions like family planning until recent times.

The above fact has been confirmed by the Gumer-*Woreda* Health Secretarial Human Resources and Administration Officer' Ato Abdo. He reported that family planning or contraceptive methods to help families limit the number of children they have, at least until the introduction of recent BPR by government offices. In his opinion, this has aggravated the poverty in Gumer-*Woreda* households as families are composed of several children; as a result children suffer from malnutrition related diseases. He also stated that in Gumer *Woreda* most parents are unable to take their children to health centers for medical treatments. Thus, parents think of desperate resolutions for all these poverty driven anguish. The researcher has learned that child trafficking is majorly practiced as a solution to get rid of these immediate troubles as the trafficked children forcibly try to deliver some money to their parents for the house keeping. According to the above particular source, some parents entirely depend on the remittance from their trafficked children, especially living in the capital Addis Ababa.

#### 4.1.3 Poor Livestock production

Although almost all families in Gumer *Woreda* have a herd of cattle in their household, they do not intensively implement the necessary procedures to benefit from their livestock production, but instead their dairy products, for instance are fully consumed by their families, except for the very little items taken to the local neighborhood markets once in a long time. This kind of small amount marketing of the livestock produce does cover a portion of the house keeping just for immediate needs.

The above mentioned land scarcity problem directly contributes to the poor livestock production in the Gumer *Woreda* as most of the farming land is vulnerable to overgrazing and all related consequences. In general the above mentioned poverty dimensions contribute to the suffering of

family heads as observed by the researcher especially in the research sites, Zizencho and Teredo PA and Arekit town, by searching for alternatives to alleviate the household set back.

In most cases these family heads-usually parents prefer to get one or more of their children to be trafficked to different towns and often to Addis Ababa. These children most often shoulder the responsibility of delivering income for their family. A case study conducted while carrying out an in-depth interview with a parent whose children have been trafficked to Addis Ababa consolidates the above crisis relating the issue.

### *Case*

The women aged 45, lost her husband six years ago. Her husband, who looked after all the family needs used to be a farmer on his very small plot of land. Things started to go wrong in the family when the man passed away as they had no one else to take care of their immediate needs. "I have six children who share my agony, and I had to send two of my daughters with my son to Addis Ababa either to let them help themselves or in case my family, too". The women desperately tells that in spite of the fact that her children left for Addis to make a living, she still leads on impoverished life with her other three children. Out of these three one is staying with a family that has a relatively better income. The other two children currently stay at home with her. As she stated one of the three trafficked children lives with relatives in Addis Ababa where as the other two do small jobs like working as a house maid and waiter in a local bar, 'Tej-bet'. "I had to sell part of the farming land after the death of my husband because I knew I was unable to resume the farming activities on my own, and I couldn't afford the 10-20 birr labor cost on daily basis to perform the farming. So, presently I grow 'Enset'- the false banana and very few potatoes for my family's consumption". The woman also stated that she had a trauma when her children were forced to drop out of school because she couldn't cover their school expenses. She was also unable to cover their health and clothing expenses. "The only choice I had was sending my children to Addis Ababa to try looking for an alternative to support my family". By then she got the children trafficked through her younger sister who is the children aunt. Despite the fact that her immigrant children try their best to support their family at least once or twice a year, she expresses the poverty she faced with her three children are going through she says her life never escapes from the poverty trap, she is living in. "I don't really have a positive future because my first son left for Addis about four years ago, but my life never changed even a bit. Currently I can't even feed my three children, so, for me, sending my children away to make a living did not benefit my family at all".

As the above case illustrates, all the above mentioned causes of poverty in the Gumer *Woreda* worsen the child trafficking by forcing families to think of their children as a dependable shortcut

out of their impoverished reality. There is also a belief that “problems could be solved through children” or in their local saying ‘*Jiguare be-tike yefuaje*’.

According to details obtained in FGDs with parents whose children are trafficked and parents whose children are not trafficked, parents strongly believe that they could step out of the poverty line by sending their children to towns in order to have them earn a living and help the family. In most cases children, although going through a very traumatic experience, support their families misleading other parents to think of trafficking their children looking for a similar benefit from the youngsters.

But poverty alone does not explain the prevalence of child trafficking in all parts of the Gumer *Woreda*. Indeed, some of those most heavily involved in child trafficking do not necessarily have the worst social indicators, nor possess the worst cases of poverty. So, I need to come to grip with the fact that there are other factors – indeed a very diverse and complex list of factors – that contribute to and fuel the practice of child trafficking in Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone. Let me briefly discuss just a few.

#### **4.1.4 Shortage of Social Services**

The Gurage Zone can be considered as a disadvantaged portion of the SNNPR with very limited social services and infrastructure. The problems are cited to the poor governance in that existed in the previous regimes. Due to these development constraints the zone could not move forward in terms of its infrastructural advancement which also hindered growth of social services. In particular, the Gumer *Woreda* in Gurage Zone remained underprivileged in the use of social services as health services, electricity and pumped water services run below demands. The Gumer *Woreda* incorporates an administrative body, a small town called Arekit and 18 PAs. In the researcher investigation through interviewing several government officials in the *woreda* the insufficient social services contribute to child trafficking as people normally migrate or trafficked from one place to another in search of a better life.

#### 4.1.4.1 Shortage of Health Care

The Gumer *Woreda* has deficiency in provision of health care according to the special observation made by the researcher in the rural setting research sites and information gathered for this research. Employees of the Gumer *Woreda* Health Bureau expressed similar opinions on the fact. Ato Bahru, Health and Health Related Diseases Control Officer stated that the health service coverage in Gumer *Woreda* in the year 2008 was 56%. According to him in the same year the manpower coverage accounted for 52%. Apparently, these provisions improved a little bit with the supervision and special concern by the central government. He mentioned that there are a couple of health centers in the *Woreda* in addition to a clinic launched by a Catholic Mission (NGO) in the *Zizencho Kebele*. He also said that they will be opening a new health center which is about to start its operation shortly. In the existing 18 PAs, There are about 16 health extensions each has two sub groups and in Arekit town, the Gumer *Woreda* administration there is a health station.

According to the facts given above the health services coverage is never adequate in guaranteeing the welfare of the society. This in turn impacts the everyday lives of the people by forcing them to send their children to towns regardless of the possible risks that could affect the children. The poor health services including few number of medical professionals which is assumed to be only 80 individuals and 26 supportive workers.

In general the GWHO (2008/2009) figure regarding the health sector realities of the Gumer *Woreda* reveal that the children are severally affected by three major diseases. They are Pneumonia, Parasitic Worms and Skin infections. Pneumonia which has 49.25% coverage; this disease affects many children and even leads to death. This problem forces families to make a decision of sending their children to towns, especially into Addis Ababa for a better medical treatment. The other disease is caused by parasitic worms which accounts for 10.5%, taking a second place in affecting children around the Gumer *Woreda*. This includes typhus, typhoid, *jardia*, etc, that occur because of water pollution. It severely impacts several children in the *Woreda*. The other finding of the health bureau includes Skin infections which could be cited to failures in sanitation. This also accounts for 6.2%. The rest is caused by the flu, tonsils, diarrhea and epidemics related to climate change.

The children who are transported to towns to provided them a medical treatment opportunities either decide to stay in the urban venue they are staying in or they become trafficked by some one who believes favoring their family by doing so. An in-depth interview with a trafficked child into Addis Ababa strengthens the above points.

### Case

Abraham is 17 years old, who recalls his arrival seeking for a medical treatment while he was ill after diagnosed for typhoid. "I couldn't think of getting a medical treatment in my village as the professionals themselves advised me to come here and follow-up my medication instead." He then started working in a local bar 'Tej-bet' as soon as he recovered from his health problem. He tries to help his family by carrying some things every time he makes it to Gumer. He concludes "I don't even know when I am going back home to see my family because things are really getting tough here."

Abraham is one of the many children who are trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* into Addis Ababa with a reason to get a better medical treatment which should have been provided in their birth place. Such children have the trouble of getting back to their village as they encounter problems that need to be addressed throughout their lives, including supporting their family which is mostly dependent on their income.

#### 4.1.4.2 Insufficient and/or Inaccessible Educational Opportunities

It is obvious that education is the livelihood for children although it doesn't bring them immediate income. It favors children by engaging them in life skills and knowledge which at least covers a third of their life time. When education is denied in their lives, they become free to be abused for purposes that adults need to perform for his own sake. In addition to that the children won't have the chance to choose what they want to do since there are autonomous parents or guardians who decide how to use the children. The motive for moving children from the protective envelope of the family can also be the search for education rather than the search for work. Traditional practices of placement and child movement within the extended family circle for educational purposes contribute to this factor.

In Gumer *Woreda*, some children either go to school at the age of seven or eight or they may not totally go to school for several reasons. There are very few schools in the area that many children have to travel long distance to attend their education, or they find it impossible to pursue their education due to the same reason. Mostly families also may not have the ability to cover their schooling expenses such as stationeries, school uniform and all related equipments.

The above mentioned factors force families to think of using their children to earn a living instead of spending money on their education, which in fact needs tolerance for a long period of time. As a matter of fact it is quite rare for the children to earn income by working in their surrounding, so trafficking is at stake. Most parents believe it is a life time shortcut to send their children especially to Addis Ababa. In this case the children come to the capital or any other town which makes their lives so hectic that they can never think of furthering their education. This paved the way to high level of illiteracy that exists in the *woreda* and the region in general is aggravated. These children become uneducated not of their desire but just for their family's sake. The well-being of their families is guaranteed, if it happens, on their reality revealed in these circumstances is that they never become able to escape from either the trafficking or the illiteracy.

The Gumer *Woreda* Educational Data Collection and Dissemination Officer Ato Mubarek revealed the schooling coverage in terms of quantity and quality. He also stated figures and facts regarding students' distribution in the existing schools in Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone.

**Table 3: Number of Schools in Gumer *Woreda* Complying with the Grade Levels**

Grades	Number of schools	Number of students
1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	7	12,645
1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> (5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> )	18	9,253
9 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	1	2,657
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	1	5,755
Total number of students in the <i>woreda</i>		25,130

Source: Gumer *Woreda* Education Bureau Secretariat Office, 2009/2010.

In addition to the details on Gumer *Woreda* educational coverage and also the schools observed in the course of this study were Arekit Senior Secondary School and Arekit Second Cycle Primary School' in Arekit town. There are also two schools in Zizencho Kebele, one is Zizencho Primary School from grade 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and another one is a Zizencho Catholic Mission Academy that has the first cycle from 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade. According to these figures the educational coverage appears to be inadequate.

On the other hand the low quality of education severely affects the schooling operations. There are various reasons that could be mentioned including poor management, shortage of skilled manpower, like teachers, scarcity of pedagogical materials, etc. This shows that there is a very tough limitation on educational sector, and as a result children are victims of illiteracy.

There are also very frequent school drop-out cases in the aforementioned schools due to the existing poverty as well as inconvenience surrounding children's schooling career. School drop-out cases in Gumer *Woreda* in the first semester of 2009/2010 Academic year is shown in the table below:

**Table 4: Number of Students Who Dropped-out of Schools in Gumer Woreda**

Grades	Number of students who dropped out			Total
	Male	Female	Age	
1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	58	72	Between 7&14	130
5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	92	99	Between 12&17	191
9 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	11	8	Between 15&23	19
11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	3	5	Between 16&25	8

Source: The Gumer Woreda Educational Bureau (2010)

Several reasons are related to the high number of school dropouts in all schools around the research sites in Gumer *Woreda*. According to the narratives the researcher collected from the FGDs with teachers and principals from the selected schools in Gumer Woreda and a personal interview with Ato Mubarek, the Educational Data Collection and Dissemination Officer of

Gumer Woreda, the causes for school drop out include: poverty or family economic problems, problems in schools, child migration/trafficking, domestic abuse and neglect, gender based violence, early marriages, epidemics, lack of social services such as poor health care and pumped water, distance to school, and so on.

In terms of providing education in a biased manner regardless of gender stereotypes circumstances used to be difficult for females to be educated. Based on the findings of this study, in Gumer-Gurage community in some cases girls are expected to look after the household duties. They would most likely need to handle loads in the house and usually don't get the chance to go to school. According to the narration I gathered from the teachers and the officers from Gumer Woreda Educational Bureau, the situation seems to get better from time to time, as the local voluntary task force labors over restoring these disadvantaged female students to school.

The researcher has learned that despite the effort made by the aforementioned group, in some cases the girls are not provided with equal opportunity with boys to pursue their education. Students are also vulnerable to trafficking by people who promise them that they will provide them with educational opportunities in their destination. This twists their mind in persuading them to give in to the trafficking despite the chance of being forced without their willingness.

In line with the ideas stated by the teachers and facts obtained from the focus group discussion in every schools there is a committee set up to work on returning or bringing students back in school. This process does not often work and the committees do not function on the plan due to several problems related to the social set backs.

### *Case*

The director of 'Arekit Primary & Second Cycle School' Ato Worku, stated a related case of a 14 year old girl who dropped out of school being forced by her mother to stay at home to look after her small sister and do the housework. According to Ato Worku, the mother mentioned several problems that also forced her to prohibit her daughter's education. When she was contacted by members of the student restoration committee of the school she replied that she could not afford the high school related expenses needed and she also said she demanded her daughter's household assistance. Apparently, she said "anyone who could cover all her expenses can take the responsibility, and I have no problem with that, or she won't go to school again putting me back in trouble." Later on the committee discovered that the 14 year old girl was trafficked to Addis Ababa to work at a certain house as a maid.

The family income and educational levels of parents and children affect the vulnerability of children to trafficking. Most parents in Gumer-Gurage have typically low incomes where parents are predominantly employed in agriculture and unskilled labour. This study found that the educational levels of parents as well as that of children themselves among the Gumer-Gurage community are low. Illiteracy and financial difficulties among parents or guardians often lead to children dropping out of schools. This is coupled with poor quality education and lack or remoteness of schools. In the course of the FGD held in Zizencho village with parents whose Children have been trafficked I got to speak with a mother who is 40. She has five children, among which three go to the nearby school.

#### Case

Zermechi, said that she did not send the other two children to school until the age of nine. She then received a commitment from her brother-in-law to take them both to Addis Ababa for schooling. After their arrival in Addis, things started to go wrong when the man suddenly passed away. His wife could not host the children for longer than a couple of months, and agreed with their mother to find them jobs. One started working in a local bar 'Tej bet' and the other one as a dish washer in a restaurant both in the capital Addis. "My children are going through such a miserable experience, they made it home only once in three years during the past 'Eid Al-Adaha'. I am really traumatized thinking of them day and night. Probably that's my fate..." she touchingly stated. As poverty does not give choice for the sufferers, these two children also go through troubles neither supporting themselves nor their family. Zermechi regrets everything, as she herself lives under devastating poverty with the other three children.

Even though, the *woreda* education bureau states that educational coverage accounts for 89% in 2009/2010 in the *woreda* not very few children stay at home without a schooling opportunity either for the scarcity constraints or family problems which trap them at home. According to the facts and figures stated above not very few number of school drop outs are also recorded worsening the situation. For instance, according to Ato Birhanu, deputy director of 'Zizencho Primary and Second Cycle School, in 2008/09 academic year about 6% of the school children in 'Zizencho Primary and Second Cycle School drooped out due to several pretexts that make children vulnerable to trafficking.

This circumstance of school dropout cases and child trafficking are also geared by failure in National Exams after the completion of high school. In Gumer *Woreda* there is only one vocational and training school. The aforementioned problems expose children for further

suffering in their trafficking destinations. Furthermore, the low literacy level of the society in general and families in particular in addition to rare women education opportunities aggravate the problems.

#### **4.1.4.3 Poor Infrastructure Aggravating the Vulnerability of Children to Trafficking**

It is obvious that infrastructure ensures the development in a certain place. When this necessary development factor is not guaranteed, people live under severe poverty for they cannot perform their daily activities with ease. In Gumer *Woreda* the infrastructure constraints range from water shortage to absence of electric power until very recently.

The shortage of water in the *woreda* is a very tough problem especially for the children who have to carry the jerrycans to fetch water for the family. Almost every child takes the usual duty of fetching water for the whole family's consumption. This threatens the children in a way by forcing them to walk away from their troubles going to another town.

The *woreda* did not have electric power except in 'Arekit' town until very recently. That also worsened the poverty in the area. Children grow up in an atmosphere where they don't enjoy the benefits of electricity. They long for the day they enjoy electric power in towns which puts them in extreme obsession for trafficking. Roads and communication are also existing problems in the *woreda*. People do not have the access for the use of any kind of transpiration. Some people who own a horse use that to travel long distance.

The *Woreda's* communication and technology coverage is also very inadequate based on the information obtained from the Gumer *Woreda* Telecommunication Office. Among the estimated 114,979 people only 213 people are registered for the fixed phone line. Although the ETC Arekit town district region declared that about 600 lines could be used. There are only two fax lines, of which one is in the *woreda* administration secretariat office and the other one is found in the technical and vocational training school in Arekit. There is no internet network coverage including the broadband internet system. Apparently, there are about 17 CDMA services. There is not any telegram service in the *woreda*. There is also one postal office agent in the *woreda*.

#### 4.1.5 Lack of Vocational and Economic Opportunities for the Youth

Families seeing no economic opportunities at home village will often place children with families or friends in areas where they believe the prospects for gainful employment may be greater. Children in these communities become easy prey for traffickers who promise trade and work opportunities (Salah, 2004).

Ethiopia has obviously an agricultural led economy in spite of the fact that the industrial sector also contributes its share in avoiding the existing poverty by creating job opportunities and also marketing chances for people who have local produce. In Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone especially in Arekit and Zizencho and Teredo PA areas there aren't any industries apart from few (finger counted) metal and wood workshops in Arekit.

According to the narratives gathered from officials in a couple of government organizations in Gumer *Woreda* and particularly officers in Trade and Industry Bureau and Income Decisions and Tax Authority, 'Ato' Miftah and 'Ato' Feysel respectively, urged that the fact that there are not industries in the *Woreda* which aggravated problems such as unemployment and poor infrastructure. Hence, in terms of business activities the Gumer *Woreda* has a very inefficient business endeavors as there are only three open markets, named 'Baad', 'Bole' and the very small 'Arekit' markets which entertain very little money transaction opportunities hampering trade relations among the society. According to the Gumer *Woreda* Income Decisions and Tax Authority office there are 345 merchants in the *woreda* based on studies in 2008. Out of these 301 were male merchants and 44 were females. From these merchants 121 are engaged in small scale kiosk trades. The rest operate small hotels and others have very small businesses.

According to the narratives gathered from parents whose children have been trafficked and members of the surrounding community and the researcher personal observation in the study areas, trafficking victims often come from poor families and lack economic opportunities. Children who have minimal education, lack vocational skills or have few prospects for job opportunities are most at risk. These factors, when compounded by gender discrimination, or insecurity caused by poor policy enforcement and other related issues, create the ideal environment for trafficking networks to thrive. Unless these underlying causes are addressed, the more direct measures to stop trafficking will have limited success. Some of the main areas in

which governmental and nongovernmental organizations working on the stated problem can take action are described in this research.

A significant number of informants for this study pointed out that in Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone, due to increasing landlessness, inadequate investment in rural industrialization, and poor business activities, low access to get higher education and the like, the scope for employment opportunities and skill development, particularly for children and women, is low. Children among the Gumer-Gurage have traditionally worked as unpaid family laborers' in the society. Employment opportunities, access to land, and credit facilities have traditionally been limited for young boys and girls. However, in recent years, there have been increasing demands on the labor of children in the urban informal sector, as domestic servants and other jobs, and as a result a growing number of children are involved in the workforce in the cities especially in Addis Ababa. The lack of alternative ways of earning a living, and the absence of economic stability in Gumer *Woreda*, drives children to migrate and look for other opportunities.

Thus, low employment opportunity for children in both rural setting research sites, Zizencho PA and Arekit town in Gumer *Woreda* and the growing demand for workforce in the informal sector in the urban areas especially in Addis Ababa lead children to migrate from their rural homeland to urban areas or become more susceptible to be trafficked. The trend of migration creates vulnerable conditions for children and provides opportunities to traffickers to exploit children.

#### **4.1.6 Societal and Cultural Pressures on Girls**

##### **4.1.6.1 Gender based social vulnerability of female children**

Asham (2007), Hiwot (2008), and Kaleb (2009) have looked at women's subordinate position in different rural societies of Ethiopia from a feminist anthropological perspective. They observed that patriarchy with all its ideological manifestations plays a crucial role in creating a vulnerable situation for women in a changing socioeconomic setting. Patriarchy defines an unbalanced role and relationship for men and women in the society, which has been termed as gender class by the feminists.

In the course of this study on the gender dimension among the Gumer-Gurage society the researcher interviewed the Women's Affairs Officer of the Gumer *Woreda*, W/t Jemila, and she stated the position of women's in the Gumer-Gurage community as follows:

*In Gumer-Gurage community, men are considered economic providers and women their dependents whose role is related to biological reproduction. This creates specific gender roles with strong values and norms attached to each. On this again is built the ideology of sexuality whereby women's sexuality has to be controlled by men. Again this notion of control and of protection of women leads to vulnerable exploitative situation for women in which the slightest sexual deviation or social dislocation makes them 'polluted' and object of social degradation. The socialization process in the family among the Gumer-Gurage determines the role of a girl child as a future mother and wife. The girls grow up with a mentality of dependency in a male-dominant environment where their contributions toward the family are unrecognized as they perform the role of unpaid family help. Participation of girl children in household chores, in Gumer rural setup, is seen as a process of preparing them for marriage by teaching them of becoming efficient 'house wives'. The girls are exposed to the risks of being victimized even at the family. Sometimes the girls' living places cause threats to their safety.*

#### **4.1.6.2 Gender based economic vulnerability of female children**

According to the narratives obtained in a FGD held with community and religious leaders, in Gumer-Gurage community, women get the smallest share of resources. When resources are stretched thin, it is women; the most marginalized in the first place, who suffer first and most. The Gumer-Gurage community attitude for women and female children in both the agricultural and business sectors has resulted in strong polarization of classes. The good example in this regard can be the possession of women in business sectors in Gumer *Woreda*, information obtained from Gumer *Woreda* Trade and Investment Bureau (2009), from 345 merchants in Gumer *Woreda* men's possess 87.2% and women's possess only 12.8%.

The general gender inequality in the Gumer-Gurage community necessitated women to work for survival. Thus, they entered into highly competitive labour market where they are forced to compete with the dominant male labour force. In the process, they are left with little choice but to take up extremely low paid, exploitative work as domestic servants for relatively self sufficient households in the rural setup.

A significant number of informant's for this study particularly trafficked victims in Addis Ababa confirmed that sometimes the parents forcefully engaged their female children to migrate to Addis Ababa to work as house maid or even in odd jobs due to extreme economic hardship in

rural areas. This study found that the girls who earn in the rural areas of the Gumer-Gurage are given 'higher value' as prospective brides, although they had little or no role in the process of deciding about their future.

This study also found that among the Gumer-Gurage community, children especially girls are vulnerable to trafficking, because they are often less educated than boys and thus have less opportunities in their home villages. The girls' social value as described by W/T Jemila, a junior expert in Gumer Woreda Women's Affairs Bureau is often lower than that of boys. In recent years there is a growing demand for women and girls to traffic them in to Middle East countries to work as maid. Those girls who are recruited by traffickers from Gumer *Woreda* to go to the Middle East countries to work as maid first they are taken into Addis Ababa and have trained to work as house maid or other jobs until their process get completed. In most cases the trafficked girls brought to these Middle East countries through illegal ways.

#### 4.1.6.3 Early Marriage

The socio-cultural pressure on children especially in girls in Gumer *Woreda* is also a reality that makes children growth tough. In some cases families believe they will get benefit from exposing their young daughter to early marriage. In fact, recent figures obtained from various sources show that it is becoming rare compared to a couple of decades ago.

School drop-out cases in 'Arekit Senior Secondary and Preparatory School', there are still several cases of female students quitting school due to early marriage which forces them to take on family responsibilities instead of pursuing their education.

Early marriage has various impacts on children in Gumer *Woreda* as well like children in other regions of the country. Prior to all the difficulties they shoulder, they have to give up their school, shoulder extended family responsibilities, such as child rearing and looking after the household. Moreover, they are exposed to fistula problems or any kind of maternal illness due to their immature physique. Marital rape is also a traumatizing encounter which leads them to unwanted teenage pregnancy. Generally speaking, despite the fact that the situation decreases in its frequency of occurrence, it still affects a number of girls in the *woreda*. The following case illustrates how early marriage enhance the magnitude of child trafficking.

## Case

Fozia is 20 years old at the moment. She works as a shop keeper in her husband's store in 'Merkato'. She expresses regret on the occasion that brought her 9<sup>th</sup> grade level school to a closure. "I was unbearably forced to get married at the age of 17. It was a nightmare for me, by then. But I helplessly accepted everything". Fozia recalls her good scores in school that she desperately wanted to pursue her education. Nevertheless, she could resume her school from 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Addis Ababa. "It's a bit too late for me to do anything about my education, but fortunately I could at least complete my 10<sup>th</sup> grade last year in 'Addis Ketema Senior Secondary School'.

Fozia had originally come from Arekit town, Gumer *Woreda* and her situation shows that such cases exist in the Gumer *Woreda* disadvantaging women.

### 4.1.7 Family Dysfunction

Sometimes parents cannot cope with the stress in their lives and physically, emotionally or sexually abusive. Divorce and remarriage can also place a strain on family relationships, as can children with unresolved conflicts of identity. When families become homeless, or are forced to move place to place, parents' abilities to care for and protect their children are so severely limited. Sometimes children run away, other times, they are left to fend for themselves. This is a situation where families become unable to look after their children or give them the right care and attention that the children need. There are forms of family dysfunction as far as the target study group is concerned such include:

- Low level of family care and maltreatment of children
- Parental divorce
- Parental death

#### Low Level of Family Care and Maltreatment of Children

In Gumer *Woreda* there is an office for Women Affairs and Child Rights Units that is concerned about prevention of child abuse and violation of women's and children rights. An official of the firm stated that the children in the *woreda* suffer from a number of problems caused by their own parents. Most girls are not allowed to go to school and they are required to handle loads of housework. According to an official in, in Gumer *Woreda* children are expected to work around

the house regardless of the time they need to pursue their school. They are severely abused by their parents as they do things sometimes beyond their capacity. However, most parents neglect the immediate needs of the children. This has been confirmed by a Coordinator of Social Affairs at 'Zizencho Catholic Mission', parents either mistreat their children or do not provide them with the necessary needs. This obviously aggravates the child trafficking problems in the area.

### Parental Divorce

Divorce is an intensely stressful experience for almost all children, regardless of age, sex or developmental level; many children are inadequately prepared for the impending divorce by their parents. The pain experienced by children at the beginning of a divorce is composed of: a sense of vulnerability as the family disintegrates, a grief reaction to the loss of the intact family and strong feelings of powerlessness (Eleoff, 2003).

Although parental divorce is not a major family problem in the Gumer *Woreda* according to sources from the *woreda* court, it appears as one form of family dysfunction putting children at a disadvantage in terms of the well being of children. A case obtained in the course of this research proves the fact that children pay the price of a divorce in their family.

### Case

*Tigistu 14, lives around 'kolfe' in 'Kolfe KeranYo' sub-city. Presently he works in his uncle's juice store. He recalls the agony he went through staying with his step mother after his parents got divorced a few years ago. "My parents had divorced when I was 9. My father married another woman who became my step mother. I have always missed my mom, and worst of all, my step mother was such a horrible woman. I really don't know why she hated me like that. At one time I even wanted to kill myself because she treated me badly. With her children she was good mom, but she was so cruel to me. Every time, she used to shout at me all kinds of abuses, especially I remember her verbal assault as she said "are you going to sleep like a prince until noon", if I ever slept over". His mother had to go back to her family because she had no place to stay. "When my uncle was going back to Addis after the 'Meskel' holiday just two years ago, I begged him to take me with him to Addis Ababa, and fortunately he agreed". Tigistu never thinks of going back home.*

This particular case of the trafficked child and many other related situations of children show that parental divorce seriously harms children and make them vulnerable to trafficking. This Unlike sadness or other stressful events, it is almost unique to divorcing families that as children

experience the onset of this life change, usual and customary support systems tend to dissolve, though the ignorance or unwillingness of adults to actively seek out this support for children.

### **Parental Deaths**

It is stated above that the poor health care in the *Gumer Woreda* disfavors families as people do not have chance to get immediate medical treatment while falling ill. According to the information obtained from Gumer *Woreda* Health Bureau, most parents die of diseases related to sanitation problems. An alarming number of them also die of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. The death of parents obviously leaves children orphaned. This also worsens the poverty situation of families, and children mostly have no one to look after their basic needs when parents die.

For such children, especially for those who lost both their parents (double orphans) it is obvious that they will be trafficked in order to survive. In some cases children who are trafficked to towns because of the death of their parents are victims of child labor exploitation and abuse besides putting their live in trouble.

### **Case**

A 14 year old boy, named Alemu struggles for life in Addis Ababa as observed in this research. He lost his father about seven years ago followed by another disaster which was the death of his mother after two years. He had to stay with his aunt for a while with his younger sister as well. He also has a brother living in Addis Ababa and another one in Hawassa. He then made it to Addis through his elder brother who is currently working in a store in 'Merkato' area. "I am making a living here although I have loads to do. I used to regret the fact that I dropped out of school after the death of my parents, but thanks to my brother I recently got enrolled in 4<sup>th</sup> grade to resume my education. At least that's good for me."

Alemu, is one of the children, perhaps the luckiest, affected by paternal death. Hence, many orphaned children go through endless troubles due to the death of one or both of their parents. This also fuels the existing situation of child trafficking.

## 4.2 Causes of Child Trafficking: Pull Factors

### 4.2.1 High demand side for cheap and submissive child labour in the informal sector in Addis Ababa

Trafficking in women and children from rural settings to urban areas of Ethiopia for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation is the most commonly documented form of exploitation (ILO, 2003; IOM, 2004). Based on the researcher systemic observation in the origin places of trafficked children, Zizencho PA, and Arekit town and other parts of the Gumer *Woreda*, and information assembled from interviews held at Wolkite and Arekit towns with officers of Women's Affair and Child Rights Units of the Gurage Zone Administration Bureau, it is recognized that children are particularly vulnerable because of the shortage of social services mainly due to extreme poverty of the household, lack of education, lack of health care, poor infrastructures and low economic opportunities in their rural setup. The attitude that children particularly girls are inferior or weaker has contributed to a large extent to the practice of recruiting them, either by force or deception. It is also quite common to find parents or relatives among the Gumer-Gurage involved in the process of trafficking in children.

Children provide cheap labour and submit to abusive and exploitative situations. They are often unaware of their rights or are powerless to seek assistance. Their vulnerability and eagerness make them attractive targets for the ruthless and greed driven pull factors. In fact most children are trafficked from the region being pledged that they would be offered better job opportunities, education, and family support etc.,. It is clear that children could be tempted to take the chances while consulted for trafficking. On the other hand people who are related to the children force them to go to the cities where they reside in order to exploit and abuse their labor.

Based on the information gathered from personal interviews and observations for this study, most children who work with their relatives are not paid but in stead they are abused or never given the chance to change their occupation. Employers and traffickers who were approached for this study admit the above mentioned degraded life situation of the trafficked children but they even think that they are doing them a favor only for providing them with their immediate survival needs. The researcher also proved the fact that these disadvantaged children work very long hours without any salary or very little money is paid to them. In the systematic observation conducted

for this study it is confirmed that the children rather face a number of difficulties as they keep being abused by their own relatives who bring them to their social circle mostly for child labour exploitation.

#### **4.2.2 Traditions and Socio-cultural Values Associated with Pull factors for Child Trafficking**

Trafficking of children among the Gumer-Gurage community intersects the traditional role of extended families as caregivers and an early integration of children into the labour force. The 'traditional placements' of children in families of distant relatives or friends have mutated into a system motivated by economic objectives. Child trafficking among the Gumer-Gurage traditions and socio-cultural values could be associated with the following pull factors:

- Perception of a life better elsewhere and poor information about risks
- Migratory mentality of children
- Extended social networks and family ties
- 'Meskel' and 'Arefa' holidays

##### **4.2.2.1 Perception of a life better elsewhere and poor information about risks**

Among the Gumer-Gurage community children often have a perception that they can have a better life especially if they are exposed to people with a fortunate life elsewhere. They can easily be grabbed by the fancy things they observe on home-comers ('Fanos') on various occasions such as 'Meskel' and 'Arefa' holidays. People also deceive the children by telling them only the good things about life in urban areas. The reality reveals as life being so tough on them up on their arrival. The following fact taken from a key informant illustrates the issue discussed above.

##### *Case*

*Cheru, 22 has been reintegrated with his family a year ago. He used to work in a metal workshop in Addis Ababa. He had such a tough experience working long hours. His eyes hurt and he had skin allergy caused due to the nature of his work. "I was brought to Addis Ababa by my aunt after she consulted and agreed with my father to bring me to the city. I stayed for four years in Addis Ababa. I worked different types of work there. In Addis Ababa I never got a chance to attain school. I had little payment made to my services. Despite the troubles and hardship in my job, I always told*

*children the good things when I went back home. Right now I feel guilty, even though there are also several children who would benefit as an immigrant”.*

A significant number of trafficked children contacted for this study confirmed that the reality should not be disguised from the children who have the tendency for migration dreaming a better life standard.

#### **4.2.2.2 Migratory Mentality of Children**

In a focus group discussion with community and religious leaders it is confirmed that migration of people for work and life in towns is very traditional in the entire Gurage zone. In Gumer woreda as well children grow up in a community where migration is considered as a significant turning point of someone's life or even destiny. Every child believes that they should go to a certain town to work, prosper and support their family. It is also viewed by most children as the easiest way to earn a living. As a matter of fact, some children become successful in business involving the informal sector, but there are also many children who suffer from straining social and economic problems.

#### **4.2.2.3 Extended Social Networks and Family Ties**

The finding of this research reveals that among the Gumer-Gurage community social networks and relatives living in Addis Ababa, in some cases facilitate child trafficking from the abovementioned origins. Based on the facts obtained from most respondents families have very intimate ties that they form a lengthy chain of related people among those who live away in cities and at home. The ones who live in Addis Ababa pave the way for children to come to Addis Ababa to work and live there. They easily persuade their parents or guardians to send them to Addis or other urban setup.

It is mentioned above that migration is a cultural reality for the Gumer-Gurage community. Employers who are from the Gurage Zone search for labour mostly through the vast social network in the city of their work. They often have to consult someone from their home village to look for a dependable worker. In this case certain numbers of children are trafficked being set up for a new career by someone who is consulted by an employer.

#### 4.2.2.4 “Meskel” and “Arefa” Holidays

‘*Meskel*’-Finding of the True Holy Cross, and ‘*Arefa*’ or ‘Eid Al Adeha’ are holidays that are warmly celebrated by people in the Gurage Zone. As stated above, many people live in cities away from their families and return home for the celebration of these holidays. They obviously resemble a city dweller in their dressing and behavioral changes as they are staying in cities. That is one thing which easily catches the attention of children living at home. The returnees seem to be very comfortable with their lives; hence they tell children the same thing. Mostly returnees stay with their families influencing their siblings and relatives about the better life situation in towns. In a FGD held with community and religious leaders it is confirmed that migration is strongly related to these couple of religious holidays. Not only returnees contributing to trafficking but also traffickers slip into the woreda to recruit targeted children on these very influential occasions.

In FGDs with trafficked children the above-mentioned facts have also been confirmed a related issue. The following reality magnifies the issues discussed above.

#### Case

Tariku is 18 years old. He is currently working as a waiter in a local café around the city bus station, ‘Autobis-Ttera’. He recalls the holiday he was lobbied by a youngster from the neighbor to migrate to Addis Ababa for a better life. “By then I was a student and this guy from my neighbor told me that I could make a lot of money a month rather than commenting from home to school every day walking that unbearable distance. After agreeing with my parents, a man brought me to Addis Ababa about two years ago...” He says that his life did not change as such but he is at least able to go home on ‘Meskel’ holiday.

This research has various implications. Since it is conducted to investigate the situation of child trafficking from Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone to A.A, it would be nice if the study show many more factors that contribute to child trafficking in the study area. However, that could not be done. The researcher beliefs that it will be useful to provide empirical findings about the social, cultural, economic and legislative factors that aggravate the problem of child trafficking and the resulting harms on children and their immediate community. It is from this perspective that this research was designed to pin point the aforementioned factors as causes of child trafficking in Gumer *Woreda* of the Gurage Zone.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. Child Trafficking as a Process and Its Effects

Studying child trafficking in Gumer *Woreda* was conducted with numerous challenges according to the view of the researcher as there aren't several governmental organizations and NGOs operating in the issue. Issues relating to child abuse, violation of children's right and child labor exploitation are unnoticed making data collection difficult. The few concerned bodies do not have either the understanding or capacity to put the child trafficking circumstances under control mainly because it is carried out under the scene of ordinary migration.

#### 5.1 Child Trafficking as a Circular Process

Child trafficking is considered a process in this study as it follows a series of steps. There are the traffickers who play a major role in setting the entire scene up for a certain child to be trafficked. This may include persuading the child's family for the trafficking then the child. Then follow the work of taking the child to his/her destination at a certain town. Then the child is placed in a place where he/she was trafficked to. We can clearly see that there are actors involved in trafficking children to a certain destination. On the other hand there are also people who operate in reintegration committees. Consequently, the process goes through a number of steps under various circumstances. Child trafficking is therefore, can be viewed as a very intriguing process which harms the children.

Child trafficking also follows very complicated steps that seem surprisingly well arranged. According to the narratives obtained in FGDs held with trafficked children in Addis Ababa and re-integrated children and parents, it is stated that most traffickers are home comers usually return to their respective village on holidays and other occasions. This can be considered as the stage of recruitment by which the children are also manipulated to persuade them and their parents for the trafficking.

Based on the narratives obtained from various groups of participants in this study, the following steps were identified. The act of transporting vulnerable children to the intended destiny, in the course of moving the children from their home village to destinies, the cost of transportation

could be covered by the traffickers in themselves in rare cases. But, mostly the children parents or guardians are supposed to handle the transportation expenses. They either have to take loans or give anything they have which comes through hardship.

The other major stage of trafficking is the act of placing the children for a particular livelihood. This livelihood could be interpreted as a form of abuse, exploitation and neglect in most cases. In fact, very few succeed without facing any of these. Trafficked children in some cases stay with the traffickers for a while or they are directly allotted to their intended position. Beside the children who are given local jobs, some are sent abroad to Middle-East countries for unidentifiable jobs. This sort of placement often does not consult the needs of the children but only the traffickers or employers or parents. Job mobility among the trafficked children is also a revealing fact that children switch jobs searching for a better settlement for a living. The other stage reverses the situation as some trafficked children return home after going through the whole lot of process. When they come back home they might appear as 'second generation' traffickers manipulating the society in their surrounding. They may also decide to stay in their village due to several reasons. Nevertheless, they may go back to towns or get re trafficked once again due to the migratory tendency and town life influence they acquire.

### **5.1.1 Who are the traffickers?**

In this study the researcher learned that it is a bit too difficult to identify the actors involved in the trafficking of children as children could be victims of trafficking by people with variety of relations to them and that the children are trafficked for many reasons.

According to the data obtained from FGDs with trafficked children, traffickers use a variety of techniques to approach parents or guardians to make them agree with the intended trafficking. Some traffickers also claim that the migrant children can stay with them and go to school for a better future. In most cases these traffickers have relation with parents or guardians. Others consult parents or guardians as their children could go with them to a certain town to work, earn a living and support them. Moreover, others deceive the children themselves to go with them in order to abuse and exploit their labor without any or very little benefit for the children. All in all we can learn that the traffickers, although slightly distinguished, are strongly backed by the children's parents and guardians.

It is also important to remember that many different actors were involved in the trafficking of those children at different stages of the trafficking process. This study found that several different people with varying relationships to the child or his parents were involved in the trafficking of the child at different times. According to the narratives gathered from child victims interviewed for this study, in most cases more than one person was involved in the trafficking of a particular child. Accordingly, traffickers played different roles in the process, including planting the idea of trafficking or migrating to Addis Ababa for work and education; providing financial resources to cover the cost of the trafficking operation; transporting the child from rural village to his destination in Addis Ababa, arranging "employment" mostly exploiting and physically and emotionally abusing the child. In the course of this study, there were also few cases where a single person would be involved in every phase of the trafficking process: from making the decision to traffic the child from Gumer *Woreda* into Addis Ababa or other towns of the country to exploiting and abusing the child.

Most trafficked children who were participants in this study revealed that they were trafficked by their relatives such as uncles, aunts, cousins, family friends, brothers, sisters and sometimes by 'strangers' etc.,. Here, based on the data received from trafficked children, most of the traffickers are males. And very recently brokers are also getting involved in trafficking children, especially female children, to send them to Arab countries or even towns in the country. A related case witnesses the situation.

### *Case*

Aster is 19. She had completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade when a broker contacted her through a relative from Addis Ababa. She has been told that she could go to the Middle East-Beirut if she could afford the expenses. "I was also given the alternative that I could work in Addis for some time to save money for my travel expenses, but that didn't come to an end, as I wasn't able to save the thousands of birr I was expected to come up with" she recalls. She said that she has heard a lot about the goings on in those Middle East countries, and how Ethiopian women suffer from the cruel employers and labor exploitation. "I was aware of all the consequences but still thought it was workable."

### **5.1.2 Family involvement in the trafficking process**

Family involvement in child trafficking should not be underestimated. These smaller operations based on kinship or friendship ties may, of course, be part of larger criminal networks. As a matter of fact, family involvement plays a major role in trafficking children. Children are not always

voluntary to be trafficked to urban areas so; they are highly manipulated and provoked by their parents either to develop the interest for migration or forcibly convince them to go in quest for a better life no matter what. Families in this research, particularly in this context can be viewed as parents or relatives who have access to affect children for trafficking. These members of families many participate in the form of permitting traffickers to move the children, facilitating the process and directly acting in the course of trafficking the children.

In this study, the researcher has learned that families involve directly and indirectly in the trafficking process. The research has also gathered responses from a number of employers and traffickers, and confirmed that these people have been supported by one or more members of trafficked children. All the above facts consolidate the reality that family involvement contributes majorly to child trafficking in Gumer *Woreda*.

According to the findings of this study, there is implicit, and at many times, explicit family support to trafficking of children among the Gumer-Gurage community. Children in Gumer *Woreda* are often lured by family members or trusted relatives with promises of well paying jobs in Addis Ababa. In some cases, children may go voluntarily, with parental consent. For families to accept the trafficking in their children does not mean that traffickers expect to be paid a proportion of whatever the child earned and instead, they specifically look for children suitable for work placement in Addis Ababa. In this study, there were evidently few cases that proved some parents in Gumer-Gurage who compensated traffickers to take their children into Addis and to make further arrangement for the children work or employment, hoping they will find work and send remittances; once there, the children become subject to coercive arrangements that constitute involuntary servitude.

As many families in the Gumer *Woreda* face economic hardship, decision to traffic a child mostly becomes a family enterprise to which family members at both ends of the migration pole contribute to ensure the success of the strategy and the attainment of its two related goals; survival and the accumulation of human capital. A potential migrant child makes the decision to migrate in consultation with family members who, in some cases, bear part, if not all of the financial cost of migration. Urban-based family members and acquaintances in receiving areas assist new migrants to adapt to life in cities.

### 5.1.3 Methods of Recruitment, Transportation and Costs

Based on the findings of this study, in most cases, traffickers recruit children from families with lower income because they believe that their parents will desperately salivate over the false promises they are pledged to take their children for work in towns. Families strongly believe they can make better their life through the remittance they would receive from their children. This illusion leads parents and guardians to agree with the trafficking. On the other hand, children are also tempted with the false promises they are offered which do not hold truth mostly.

The researcher has learned that the traffickers also have a belief that those children from poorer families get on with the adversities better than those from families with a dependable income. The pledges given to these innocent children do not actually exist, but they tend to put up with the troubles either anticipating any changes to happen as time goes by or just not to return home empty handed if that is even a possibility.

According to the narratives gathered from children who have been trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* to Addis Ababa, the circumstances involving the transportation of trafficked children is the other step which could be considered depressing and full of anxiety for them as most of them do not possess the experience of traveling away from home. The journey from Gumer to other towns mostly follows the main route to the capital Addis Ababa which has a distance of about 220 kilometers.

In the course of the journey, the children usually take a lunch break in the chaotic slum of Wolkite, a town about 62 kilometers away from Gumer-Arekit town. This small town could be both exciting and depressing for the children, especially in the case of first time encounter. Upon their arrival to Addis Ababa, they are first directed to a temporary staying venue which could be the traffickers' house or employer's place or in extended families. It's after a while that they are placed in their permanent destination or prearranged occupation.

According to many informants of this study, the cost of transportation is mostly covered by parents or guardians of the trafficked children. It can be very surprising that the entire cost ought to be covered by these families, and they often have to borrow the expense from someone in the

neighborhood hoping that the trafficked children would repay shortly. They actually take lots of troubles to come up with the money, such as selling their cattle or other assets.

### Case

Temesgen 17 has the experience of working in 'Shakiso' 'Shashemene', and 'Hawassa' towns prior to his arrival to Addis Ababa. He worked as a shoe shiner, waiter and so on previously. He says, "My father sold a cow to give me the required 800 birr to cover my preliminary expenses. But, I needed way beyond that amount to stay before I found my first job in Shakiso". Temesgen, like most trafficked children arrived at Addis Ababa, and stayed with the trafficker for a while before being dispatched to his first destination. Basically Temesgen experienced more than four occupations so far, but he apparently never sufficed his expenses, let alone supporting his family. He has been taken advantage of his employers who exploited and abused him. He was also neglected of his immediate needs such as food and education deprivation. He was also harassed verbally as well as physically. "I have terribly deceived and deprived of my dignity by brokers several times". He sees nothing into his future.

#### 5.1.4 For what purposes are children being trafficked?

While women, and sometimes men are trafficked, from Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa and to other urban areas of Ethiopia, this research focuses on the trafficking in children specific to the age between 10 and 18.

According to the data obtained from the Gumer *Woreda* police station, the age ranges of children mostly being trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* are between 8 and 18. These children are both male and female. However, boys account more than girls in the major sub-target of this study-Addis Ababa. Although, this research did not conduct any census to come up with the right figure of male and female children, it was able to conclude that more boys could be reached as they work outside, like shoe shining, *tej-bet*, conductor in taxi, manual labor.

The purpose of trafficking in both boys and girls are mostly labor exploitation. However in rare cases adoption, forced marriage and street begging might be some forms of child trafficking. The children who are brought for these purposes might be abused for prostitution, even though there weren't any children found in the course of this particular research. Begging is also relatively uncommon. Apparently, there might be children being exploited for begging purposes.

#### 5.1.4.1 Child Trafficking for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation

This part of the paper will explore child trafficking for labour exploitation, specifically in the context of trafficking and labour migration. The focus will be explicitly on trafficking as a form of labour exploitation, as this area is often given less emphasis in the general discourse around child trafficking.

Trafficking in children for informal labor sectors is happening among the Gumer-Gurage community, though it is difficult to determine the magnitude of the problem. Based on the researcher observation on the spot and information gathered from interviews with the Police Officer in Gumer *Woreda*, Arekit it is identified that vulnerable children from Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone have been trafficked to Addis Ababa through different recruitment process. Once a child trafficked for labor force by and large the child is then made to work long hours and perform hard work under dangerous conditions. In this study there are cases where the young boys trafficked from Zizencho Kebele and Arekit town who have been made to work in metal works daily with dangerous working conditions.

Children from Gumer-Gurage mostly engage in very customary kind of labor which relatively demands more effort and struggle compared to other jobs. Trafficked children often engage in occupations such as shoe shining, waiter/waitress, in cafés and restaurants, *tej-bet*, washing other people's cars, carrying goods, working as a shop assistant, conductors in minibus taxis, manual labor including work in small workshops, selling chat and cigarettes etc. the trafficked girls mostly work as a maid in people's houses or hotels. The above mentioned types were identified by the researcher as having links to children trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* to Addis Ababa for labor exploitation.

Based on the investigative observation for this study the researcher has learned that the children are exploited too much by their manipulative employers. The researcher has also had FGDs with parents whose children are trafficked whereby he learned the fact that most parents don't even know what jobs their children do as a livelihood.

A coordinator from the IOM confirmed these realities of labor exploitation on children from the Gurage Zone. According to Ato Tagel, IOM project Coordinator on In-country trafficking in

women and children, his firm has conducted a research on child trafficking which revealed that the reasons for child migration may differ from region to region. For example, children are often trafficked from the Northern parts of Ethiopia for prostitution and domestic work. On the other hand children from the SNNP region and from the Gurage Zone in particular are trafficked mainly for the purpose of labor exploitation in the informal sector. He says that both emerge from the selfish tendency of traffickers which puts children's lives at risk. All other concerned bodies at the research center Gumer *Woreda* confirmed that the social network and family ties pull children to the trafficking circle.

It is important to recognize child trafficking as a complex protection issue including the removal of a child from his or her family environment, the child's transportation, illegal reception or sale, and placement into an exploitative context. This study reveals a widespread perception of child trafficking solely as a child labour phenomenon. But trafficking violates the rights of children long before their actual labour begins. First, there is the separation of a child from his or her home. Then there is the time spent in the so-called 'care' of the traffickers while the child is transported to the eventual workplace – a process that presents its own dangers and abuses. Then, there is the illegal reception or sale of the child and, ultimately, the child's final destination in a hazardous working condition in Addis Ababa.

This study revealed that trafficking is often associated with underground migration, but the merging of these two issues can have serious consequences, with trafficked children seen as young offenders rather than victims in need of special protection measures. As a result, they often come into various forms of exploitations and abuses and may even be deprived of their liberty. Whether child trafficking is regarded as a child labour issue, an illegal migration issue, or an injustice issue, there is, in every case, a tendency to overlook the underlying economic and cultural factors behind trafficking, thereby placing the trafficked child somewhere in a vast pool of 'social deviance'. There is little perception that trafficking is, first and foremost, a violation of human rights- particularly the right of the child to be protected from any form of economic exploitation, to preserve family relations and to grow up in a nurturing family environment.

## **Hazardous Working Conditions and Lack of Health Care**

It is obvious that safety at work is related to the working conditions involved in the workers' daily activities. In most cases, children who do out door jobs suffer from the hardship of street life. One can simply imagine how much trouble a shoe shiner goes through because of the hazardous working condition. Children do not have the chance to make choices of better working condition and place. A number of respondent reported that, they sleep in their working place and the housing quality is said to be poor. As a matter of fact, they are exposed to various kinds of diseases caused by poor sanitation, adverse weather and so on. On one hand, they do not have enough access to medical sectors quickly when they are ill; and on the other hand they can not afford the medical service expenses even if they have the desire to get medical help. The following reality illustrates the problem.

### **Case**

Wolde is 17 years old. He had just completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade with poor results. He works as a welder in metal work-shop in a place better known as 'Kara Kore', Kolfe-Keranyo sub-city of Addis Ababa. He states that the nature of his job is originally hazardous for his health. "I am the eldest of six children, I have decided to engage I any work. This is partly to help my family who live in Zizencho village and also to make a living to myself. I have been working this job for a year long. I have a chronic eye problem. They started to hurt ever since I started this job. I also have skin infections and I fortunately went to a dermatologist, but I have been told that it is caused by the terrible poisonous smoke during metal welding" he mentioned.

It is clear that such self-reliant children have to earn a living to survive but the worst part is that their well-being is never guaranteed.

### **Allocating Time between Work and School**

Based on interviews and FGDs with trafficked children it is observed that trafficked children have difficulties pursuing their education. Mostly children engage themselves in jobs that are very hectic throughout the week. Consequently, allotting time for their school is very tough. Those who start soon quit either being forced by their employers to give more attention for their business or other related problems. For some children, education may not be affordable despite the fact that they have a desire to go to school.

## **Gender Issues: The increasing burden on trafficked girls**

Many girls involved in child labour- including a large proportion of those who are trafficked- work as domestic servants. Around 90 per cent of domestic workers in Sub-Saharan Africa are girls (ACPF, 2006). In addition to being denied an education, domestic workers face high levels of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. More than two-thirds of domestic workers interviewed by the ILO for a small study in Ethiopia had experienced physical violence often within the course of their work. It is also common for girls in domestic service to be sexually abused (ILO-IPEC, 2002).

Many of the challenges and problems faced by the victims of trafficking who are engaged in domestic work and other survival strategies discussed above imply significant extra burdens, in terms of girls working both harder and for longer hours. The burden of extra work is usually unevenly burdened amongst domestic servants, and the impact on housemaid girls has often been even more serious than it has been on boys.

The growing demand for cheap domestic servants particularly to work as housemaid in Addis Ababa has tended to involve more trafficked girls than trafficked boys from Gumer Woreda of Gurage Zone. The researcher has learned that if a trafficked girl was not self employed or working for her own, or engaged in informal sectors out side home, and then she usually worked full time on domestic duties with little or no payment. Thus, duties which have always involved looking in household burdens, cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, and looking after children, the elderly, and the sick.

According to the narratives gathered from informants and the observation made by the researcher in different households several cases have come to light involving victims of trafficking being exploited as domestic servants in Addis Ababa by their employers. A significant number of domestic servants claim that they found themselves in situations akin to slavery or bonded servitude. the key informant of the researcher Leila; aged 16, in this regard confirmed that her employers burdened her with household duties, required dusk to dawn labor for little or sometimes no pay, and forbid her from leaving the house or making contact with other domestic workers, her urban based relatives.

## Case

An illiterate girl from Zizencho Village of Gumer Woreda Leila, 16 was brought to Addis Ababa four years ago by a cousin to work as a maid. According to Leila, she was made to work thirty days a month seven days a week and nearly fourteen hours a day, isolated from others particularly from her urban based relatives, and physically abused. Though promised 150 birr a month plus education, she received less than 100 birr a month and not allowed to schooling. "To be frank, I do not bother about the issue of salary, but my very problem is long working hours and workloads I have". Leila feels that her employers do not treat her as a human being. "They don't care if I get sick. Every day early in the morning the woman for whom I am working come to my bedroom and wake me up to prepare breakfast for the family...I also looks after the woman's father, who needs daily assistance due to his illness. I am as lonely as I am not allowed to see my relatives here in Addis. I cannot see them unless it is my day off once in a long time".

As Leila's case illustrates, the problem of getting their payment have clearly worsened for many housemaids; again, any extra time or energy expended will usually be a domestic servant. A significant number of trafficked girls interviewed for this study cannot succeed, and evidence worldwide shows that in these circumstances it is usually trafficked girls rather than trafficked boys who take the household burden. If household budgets preclude or discourage visits to clinics, then any extra burden of caring for the sick falls on housemaids.

Based on the findings of this study, the trafficked children, the gender stereotype on the pursuit of education is worse on girls for most of them take a job as a housemaid or related engagement which does not allow them to go to school. On the other hand trafficked boys have a better chance to start or to continue their education because they often take a post that more or less allows them to learn. In some cases however, both girls and boys could be vulnerable if income is insufficient to survive; the most vulnerable are those who need weaning foods. Trafficked housemaid girls from Gumer *Woreda* also face sexual harassment by their employers, usually by men's. This is the context in which so many have had to take on informal sector work outside home. In addition, trafficked girls experience both verbal and physical assault by their employers. It must be clear that not all respondents complained about personal relationships with their employers, which in some cases appeared to be quite hospitable.

### 5.1.5 Who employs trafficked children?

It is actually hard to tell who hires the trafficked children. Nevertheless, according to the narratives gathered from trafficked children, most children are hired, in general by people who have the tendency of child labor exploitation. Some traffickers hire the children themselves if they have any demand of labor force as they obviously see that employing them could have been beneficiary. Hence, the children are given away to other employers when the traffickers do not take advantage of the privilege. These children are most wanted by any employer for any kind of career as they are anticipated to exert a lot of effort on their job.

Employers can also sometimes be relatives of the children's family. Some children rarely stay self employed working as a shoe shiner, kiosk trading, or selling any kind of goods in streets. However, most children have at least one experience of being employed by some one with a certain duty.

#### *Case*

Degife is an already integrated boy who is currently living and working in Zizencho Kebele-Gumer Woreda. He said that he was recruited for a military service when he first came to Addis Ababa. Then after he left the army and worked in his uncle store. After that he also worked in a local bar, Tej bet' for some time. "I had to look for a better job because working as a waiter in my relative's local bar got me very little money" he recalls. "That was even tough sooner. I am glad I was able to reconnect with my family".

From this case of Degife we learn that whoever the employer is, children go through certain extent of labour slavery.

### 5.1.6 Child Trafficking for Other Exploitation Purposes

It is very rare that children directly come from Gumer-Gurage to Addis Ababa or other towns to live in the streets or work as a prostitute in bars, but the existing labour slavery could force them to lead such a degraded social life. Some are also victims of rape and teenage pregnancy. Most children cannot stand the hardship and agony at their work, so at times they prefer to try adventures like Streetism, begging or prostitution which totally ruin their future.

This study found that in some cases trafficked children from Gurage Zone are forced to employ begging as a means of survival. Children are being exploited in such spheres; particularly when their physical strength is unable to carry out bodily works, in fact they could engage in other relatively plain activities or find themselves ensnared in selling small items such as cigarettes, bubble gums, newspapers, chat etc, in streets. The increased vulnerability and exploitation of these children in these situations predictably results in many cases in severe physical and psychosocial harm. In some cases, actual physical violence was inflicted on children, so that they would have a disability, increasing the returns they would get from begging.

In the urban research sites of this study particularly in Addis Ketema Sub-City the researcher observed many street beggars due to the location of the 'Anwar' holy mosque and Saint Raguel church in 'Merkato', and the main bus station in Autobis Tera being the main triangular communication point and travel center for both the traffickers and the victim children, the concentration of children engaged in this practice has primarily been within the circle of these three spots. However, there are also increasing numbers of children seen on the streets of other parts of Addis Ababa selling small items as well as asking for money. Not few numbers of trafficked children also come from the Gurage Zone to engage in the trade of small goods then might have the possibilities to change into begging or street children or prostitution.

### **5.1.7 Return and Reintegration of Trafficked Children**

In this research, return and reintegration of trafficked children are viewed as a process in child trafficking. They are often very difficult to accomplish both for the reintegration committees operating in the *woreda* and the children themselves. The trafficked children avoid reintegrating with their families, even though they go through lots of troubles. According to the narratives gathered from trafficked children, some believe that they are considered as children with bad town practices such as prostitution and drug abuse among their local society. Others are frustrated over the fact that they will go back home empty handed, and they have a hard time to imagine their future after taking all those troubles in their lives. They also fear the reality that they won't have any job opportunity to support their families and themselves. Some children also come up with more problems such as HIV/AIDS. Most children also have the trauma that they won't be able to cover their family's holiday expenses which they fear would embarrass their parents.

Those children who return home even complying with all the above mentioned troubles are vulnerable to re-trafficking for circumstances put the under pressure to think of other means of income generation to support themselves and their families. As it is discussed in the above, reintegration is very complicated for most trafficked children.

According to the narratives gathered from trafficked children, in spite of its complication many trafficked children actually want to return home if they have the chance; in this view I speak about voluntary return. According to some respondents they were sent into Addis Ababa against their wishes, for instance after they have been quarreled with their parents or guardian or because of the extreme poverty their family have had in the rural settings. Whether they go back voluntarily or not, trafficked children usually need support when they return to their family, community or rural villages.

As discussed in the above, return and reintegration form a difficult process, in which the returnees may face psychological, family-related, health and financial problems. It is often difficult for them to settle comfortably back into living in their families and communities, for these aforementioned reasons.

Among the researcher key informants in this study, Girma, 17, stated his feeling of thinking back home in the following words:

#### *Case*

Girma, 17, works as a shoe shiner in Kolfe area of Addis Ababa. He also has a small outdoor kiosk. He was brought to Addis by his father to support his family back in Zizencho Kebele- Gumer Woreda. "Before my new occupation presently I worked as a minivan taxi conductor and couldn't stand the nagging minibus drivers. I cannot say that my job gets me enough money but I get on with it because I should at least be able to look after my family's holiday needs". He says, he looks sick and tired of the traumatizing life condition he is going through. "I feel ashamed to return home without having earned a lot of money to support my families there, since that was the reason for me for going away in the first place. I feel unsuccessful, as if I have 'failed' myself and my families in this way".

The above brief case shows the feelings of many children who were trafficked based on the prior perceived attitude of their parents that often seemed to let them work any job and make some money that would help for the well being of the family left at home. The family may also have

such feelings towards the returnee. Moreover, such cases obtained in FGDs and personal interviews show that children suffer from the pull and push forces that put children under very difficult circumstances to make decisions on where to reside and work.

### **5.1.8 The Effects of Child Trafficking**

Child trafficking has both positive and negative impacts. It is obvious that Addis Ababa is a second home for people from Gurage roots as most of them trade, do business and prosper. It is also proved in this research that there are lots of people from Gurage Zone in general and Gumer-Gurage in particular who lead a remarkably glamorous life. These people are also those previously trafficked/migrant for certain reasons. Meanwhile, this study basically focuses on the negative effects of child trafficking and they will be shown into two forms such as: impacts of trafficking on children and impacts of child trafficking on the local community.

It is observable that Trafficking in children deny a child's right to a healthy childhood and a productive, rewarding, dignified life. This study also found some cases in that child trafficking victims are subjugated and physically abused by the traffickers, employers, and 'customers'. Trafficked children are often beaten and abused, and the violence occurs at all stages of the trafficking cycle. Trafficking of migrant children has unquestionably affected individual children and their communities in various immediate and long term ways. It sometimes endangers the children's lives. The obvious impacts of child trafficking often mentioned are on deteriorating their education, physical and mental development.

Moreover, the trafficked migrant children are disempowered in many ways. They are transported and sold or deceived as bonded labour, treated like property, and work under the slavery-like conditions as discussed in the previous parts of the paper. Whenever the trafficked children feel depressed, or suffering, or face difficulties, or are tortured, commonly they have no one they can turn to as they tend to live in isolated milieu. Even if they have a chance to seek help, they often do not know where to go or what to do or whom to consult because they are victims of trafficking and survive under the control of traffickers or their employers and are afraid of them. In various circumstances, they encounter challenges and problems from general people among whom mostly by their own employers.

Child trafficking has very adverse impact on trafficked children as most victims' children in this research revealed. Even though some children might benefit from migrating from their home village to other towns, a large number of them suffer from their daily lives, full of troubles. Trafficked children who are contacted for this study stated that had it been for their choice, they would have gone back home to their family. Several negative impacts can be mentioned. However, according to the narratives gathered from trafficked children the following effects are common.

### **Physical and Health Effect**

Trafficked children are a bit too sensitive to hardship including labor exploitation. Thus, they can be easily affected by labor work. Most trafficked children interviewed for this study express that they have hectic days working long hours which has a short term effect as they get ill or become weak. The long term effect is that they have improper physical growth due to malnutrition and the nature of their work (hard work). This study found that most shoe shiners children and children who work in metal work-shops are mainly exposed to infections such as tonsils and skin allergy. Others like children who carry goods suffer from physical pain. Trafficked children suffer from various physical pains due to the nature of daily tasks they handle. Most of them work very long hours without any interrupt and they are vulnerable to hunger. According to shoe shiners contacted for this study, they often get to eat only once or fortunately twice a day. In such a way they develop a chronic stomachache due to the sever hunger. They also experience tiredness and irritation because of working too many hours complying with their physical and mental capacity. They usually reveal the irritation through antisocial, destructive or uncommunicative behaviors.

Based on the findings of this research most trafficked children are victims of neglect. They are deprived of their immediate needs such as food, health care and education. In fact they are not provided with the required clothing as well. According to an officer from FSCE, the agony children go through is quite severing. Most of them are physically spanked for their actions that are judged wrong. This physically beating may even cause them serious health impairments. Rape is also another trouble for some trafficked girls. All the above forms of neglect are realities surrounding trafficked children, as majorly stated in some related studies. Children especially

girls trafficked into the domestic labour are susceptible to sexual abuse by their employers and are vulnerable to contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Domestic workers, street children, child labourers are all vulnerable to rape and sexual exploitation, and are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. The following fact taken from a key informant magnifies the problem discussed above.

### *Case*

Worknesh, 18, trafficked from Arekit town three years ago. She currently works in a restaurant. She used to be badly abused in a hotel for some time and then she started working in the restaurant. She says, "I have been raped by a man who was my co-worker, and I was then attempted for another attack by my own employer". For such children, the risk of getting any transmittable diseases exists.

Worknesh is probably one of the few women who dare publicize a physical and sexual attack against them. Such physical and health impacts are intertwined with consequences affecting the local community as well. There were few cases found in this study, former trafficked women go back home with epidemics like HIV/AIDS, and it seriously affect their families and the surrounding society in general.

### **Social and Economic Effect**

According to the narratives gathered from children who are trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* into Addis Ababa, victims of trafficking typically suffer adverse effects to their social and educational development. Many have no family life and are forced to work at young ages. Without access to school or family support, and cut off from normal social activities, they fail to develop their potential. Based on the findings of this study these trafficked children are also under constant restriction, they have little contact with the outside world and often do not have the possibility to seek help. When they are victims of physical and emotional violence and abuse, the effects may be life-threatening and long term.

Victims of trafficking included in this research are between the age of 10 and 18. They grow up in an environment where they are not given parental care and attention. A number of respondents reported that they miss their family terribly because of the physical distance between Addis Ababa where the children live and work and the Gumer *Woreda*, some 220 km far from the

## Emotional Effect

Trafficked children often get into emotional stress due to their degraded social life. In some cases children go to towns to live and work with people whom they never met before. Sometimes they might know the people around them including their employer but they feel homesick because they don't have their families around. They also have very little income which affects their emotional strength to work and better their life in the future.

In the course of this study the researcher employed in-depth interviews with key informants and FGDs with children who have been trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* to Addis Ababa. A significant number of respondents have stated feelings of shame, guilt and low sense of worth and are frequently stigmatized. They often feel deceived, especially if the trafficker was someone they had trusted. These factors as well as the experience itself can cause nightmares, sleeplessness, and feelings of hopelessness, weakness, and sadness among victims of trafficking. Based on the researcher observation on the working compounds of victims of trafficking and interviews with some employers of trafficked children, it was confirmed that some children who have been trafficked from Gumer-Gurage turn to substance abuse to stop thinking about their psychic pain, and some have suicidal thoughts.

One respondent of this study expressed her emotional effect for she was trafficked to Addis Ababa and had been a worker in a small restaurant for sometime.

## Case

Zahra is 21 years old. She was a former trafficked young woman from Arekit town to Addis Ababa but, now reintegrated with her family. She expressed her emotion or feeling as follow: "I feel inferior; I'm afraid my friends will suspect me a prostitute for I was working in a hotel in Addis Ababa. We can't be as close as before. I'm different from them. I quit school, I'm not a student, and I'm no longer a virgin. I'm afraid their parents would talk about me behind my back. They might think I'm trying to lead their daughters off target." Zahra asserted that she has a low self-esteem as she thought the social exclusion on her is getting tough.

## Psychological Impact

Based on facts obtained from trafficked children the researcher has learned that they are victims of various psychological impacts. These traumatizing experiences are directly observed from

their narration and acts. Some of the psychological effects the researcher observed and obtained from the children narratives in the course of this study include: identity crisis, social isolation, depression, dependency and low self esteem, loss of trust and so on.

**Identity crisis:** Most children are trafficked at the early stage of their lives and are often unable to sustain their cultural values and norms in that they encounter problems categorizing themselves to an intimate group. This has been practically observed by the researcher.

**Social Isolation:** The children feel isolated for they do not have very intimate family members. The labour exploitation and abuse also traumatize the children. Mostly they handle occupation with very low dignity, and that worsens their intimacy with their family members and other people around them. **Depression** is also another reality of the victims of trafficking children that forces the children to be isolated. Most of them do very tiring jobs which are worthless; hence they feel dejected about the fact that they are unable to come up with life.

**Dependency and low self esteem:** Most trafficked children who were participants in this study feel very dependent on their employers. They are shaped to feel inconsiderate of their abilities to independently work and prosper. They prefer to go through troubles in the hands of their exploiters instead of determining their own destiny.

**Loss of trust:** Trafficked children feel that they have been directed towards their traumatizing life by people or close relatives. Thus, they lose the trust that they have on anyone.

#### 5.1.8.2 The Effects of Child Trafficking on the Local Community

Child trafficking is a very complex concept as a problem in a community in particular and society in general. Especially in community/society where migration is considered as a shortcut to better life opportunities, the problems are deep rooted. It is very difficult to identify the short comings related with child trafficking, but still one can point out the ups and downs children go through under the circumstances. Thus, their parents and their immediate community could be affected directly or indirectly.

Trafficking can be looked at from different points of view. The researcher had personal interviews with selected government officials from the *woreda* administration bureaus. A key informant, an official who represented the Gumer *Woreda* District Child Rights Protection Unit Office, asserted his observation on trafficking in the following words:

*Trafficking in Gurage Zone in general and among the Gumer-Gurage community in particular is about a violation in trust. Trafficking takes place, because an individual who has trust with either an individual, or family makes false promises of a better future to another individual and that is believable and offers them to say, I, as an individual, may decide to go or may allow a family member to go to Addis Ababa. It really comes down to that misconception whether it is trafficking or migration. A trafficker lies, provokes, offers false promises, offers exaggerated education or employment opportunities, and says there is a better future for you. Not far from now but immediately your future will suddenly get better and you will have the chance to support your family too. That is what trafficking is all about. In our locality the people including those concerned bodies are not well aware of the issue. This results many problem not only on the children who have been trafficked to urban areas but also on the local community. Trafficked children could be abused, exploited and neglected their rights. It has also many effects on their parents and the local community as well. Therefore, trafficking as a human and social problem has yet to be internalized in the same manner as murder, rape, and other socially immoral acts. Unless this happens, it may not be possible to organize concerted resistance by civil society and also to take appropriate steps to combat trafficking by the government bodies, NGOs, and the international community.*

This research carried out a series of FGDs with members of the local community in the rural study sites. One fact is that child trafficking encourages dependency of families on the remittance sent by the trafficked children if that truly happens. Another could be the fact that the Gumer *Woreda* does not have the chance to exploit the skilled man power from the children. Families who are engaged in farming and cattle breeding or livestock production have also encounter problems in handling every task on their own after the children's departure. These trafficked children come back to their families while being reintegrated or being unsuccessful. However, the worst thing is that it is often too late for them properly resume their education. They leave gaps in their life that could not be easily filled with the corrective measures they take.

A community leader in Zizencho and Teredo PA, Ato Yilma aged 56, who currently resides in Zizencho village, magnifies the issue expressing his own perspective. He stated that parents among the Gumer-Gurage community cannot get support from their children as they are trafficked to various towns. According to Ato Yilma, farming is definitely a team work which

mostly needs a large amount of labour force that need to be exerted from family members. He also expresses the fact that some trafficked town dwellers come back home with sever epidemics like HIV/AIDS. Now a days it is more or less becoming common that children are abused in terms of both their labour and welfare. After all this anguish, the remittance and dignity obtained from the children is not satisfactory for the endless needs in their families' household. A minor problem regarding families, especially parents is missing their children and worrying about their wellness. As far as the observation for this study is concerned there aren't several youngsters working in private or government workers' associations. That, in turn aggravates joblessness situations.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

#### Conclusion

Child trafficking as a social process used to be entirely overlooked by researchers and very rarely grabbed the attention of organizations engaged in related sectors. The global overview of child trafficking indicates that it has been given very little attention by governments and other stakeholders in terms of discovering, analyzing and overcoming the social problems. Since the year 2000, many international, governmental and non-governmental organizations began to be engaged in studies concerning the issue. The UN Optional Protocol (2000) in particular gave rise to several researches on child trafficking, and several firms emerged with the idea of compiling remarkable researches on trafficking. In spite of the involvement of these concerned bodies very little has been done so far in combating the problem.

According to studies Africa takes the second largest portion of the impact of child trafficking. The continent is severely affected by both internal and external trafficking next to Asia. Most of the problems, meaning push and pull factors and the consequences of human trafficking and trafficking in children in particular are aggravated due to governments' lenient attitude on children's issues and governments' poor law enforcement. In-country trafficking as studied in this research is very complicated that it is not very easily resolved by the currently made efforts.

Based on in-country profiles, child trafficking has become a major social problem in Ethiopia as well. The various studies conducted in Ethiopia, show that the Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Republic, especially the Gurage Zone and the Gamo Zone take the lion's share of children trafficked for many reasons. In the general context of internal trafficking in the country, it is observed that very few organizations pay attention to the on goings relating child trafficking as for reversing the situation to reduce the risks.

This study focuses on Gurage Zone from where Gumer *Woreda* was the main focus area; hence the researcher studied various aspects of the physical, socio-economic cultural and political

settings of Gumer *Woreda* area to find out factual information involving children. Consequently, the research incorporates through observational information about trafficked children, their families and the negative effects on the local community. It has been viewed that almost all governmental and non-governmental bodies give very little attention to the problems. But, it is believed that all stakeholders, such as the Police Office, Women's Affairs Bureau and the Child Rights Protection Unit and other concerned bodies need to have the awareness to be able to resolve matters relating to child trafficking in Gumer *Woreda*.

Based on the findings in this research both the push and pull factors fuel the seriousness of child trafficking problems. Even though, the push factors stated above in the summary speed up child trafficking, in general by chasing children away from their home village or town due to their impoverished lives. Traffickers use several methods to traffic children, and families and/or relatives also backup these wrong doers by assisting the departure of children. As trafficking is also seasonally practiced, holidays especially 'Meskel' and 'Arefa' mostly open the door for child trafficking through returnees for the occasions. The summer season is also another occasion for child trafficking, when children travel to their family or relatives living in Addis Ababa or other towns.

The above mentioned internal trafficking at times changes its form into external trafficking exposing women and girls to travels abroad as immigrants mainly to the Middle East. Men, women and children are also trafficked to South Africa and other countries.

In most cases children are vulnerable to trafficking in the various occasions mentioned above. Both boys and girls are affected by child trafficking, but the vulnerability is more severe on girls. It is normally obvious that girls are more vulnerable to social problems being disadvantaged socially as well as economically. In their trafficking destiny as well they go through traumatizing experience in which they hardly escape from. In general the negative impacts of child trafficking seriously affect girls as they also become victims of unwanted teenage pregnancy that completely twists their impoverished reality. All human beings should be able to live a life in freedom and if they are above the minimum working age - have decent jobs with decent pay. Children in particular should be in school to prepare for meaningful work of their choice.

Basically, child trafficking severely affects the children directly; it also negatively impacts their parents or family or their community in general. In this research, it is understood that the sending community also has lots of things to lose for letting children go out of their active social environment. The overall impact of these influences may also have a negative factor on the development of the country.

Although child trafficking is a problem of both developed and developing countries, it is manifested in different forms and patterns. Similarly the magnitude and severity of child trafficking may vary from one culture to another and from one country to another. Any sustainable program or project which aims at combating a social problem should be based on a sufficiently accurate understanding of the dimensions and degree of the problem. This research has contributed a little compared to the magnitude of vast child trafficking problems, especially witnessed in Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone in the course of data gathering for this study. As this study pioneered the whole child trafficking issue, at this particular area, it is very necessary that more studies are conducted to point out the sever setbacks involving child trafficking in Gurage Zone or the country in general. Governmental and non-governmental policy makers, beyond complimenting researches, need to start acting on the issue.

Coordinated efforts are needed to stop and prevent child trafficking. Government organizations and NGOs dealing with child trafficking in particular and child rights protection and child well-being in general are key players in bridging political, governmental and social concerns, and in uniting many partners in a common reason. Through specific steps to advance public policy, awareness and response, it is possible to end the irritation of child trafficking, to hold traffickers of crimes of trafficking of children accountable, and to build a protective environment to keep children safe from harm.

## Recommendations

The few recommendations forwarded by this research are not in any way generalizations on the prevailing situation of child trafficking; but they are framed based on the findings of the study. It is obvious that child trafficking has various fo and complication based on the anthropological nature of a certain society. So, this study tries to recommend its own perspectives on how the

problems can be alleviated at least to influence respective bodies to be considerate of the present circumstances.

- The UN Protocol (2000), to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person especially Women and Children is a convention that is signed by many countries, but not Ethiopia. Such international conventions fill in the gap of child right protection duties of the local government and non government organizations. It would be significantly beneficiary for Ethiopia to ratify the convention to get a complementary service on the sector.
- Stakeholders need to set up awareness creating programs to impact especially in Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone where child trafficking is increasing at an alarming rate for it is considered as a shortcut for the whole families well being. Such responsible bodies need to go beyond creating awareness by acting upon eradicating the problems involving trafficking to benefit the community.
- In Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone child trafficking is conducted under the pretext of migration which should be discouraged. These two 'social ills' must be clearly made aware to this particular community that people have to know the risks that come along. In line with this, Child Rights Protection Units, Women's Affairs Bureau, Youth and Sport Centers and other responsible organizations in Gumer *Woreda* need to be made aware of the problems and they should also be financed to tackle the troubles relating victims of trafficking.
- There are factors connected with fueling child trafficking identifying them could make the job simpler in terms of taking actions. Poverty and lack of social services are among the major factors which aggravate the problems. These causes need to be abolished to dry child trafficking from the source. Poverty reductions activities need to be facilitated which will in turn improve availability of social services. Thus, children and parents in Gumer *Woreda*, Gurage Zone will not be impacted by traffickers since they have enough provision of their needs in their surrounding including job opportunities.
- In this research it has been viewed that the national policies designed to prevent or reduce child trafficking, to prosecute traffickers and to protect the victims are not strong enough in terms of their effectiveness. Concerned governmental and non-governmental organs need to draft comprehensive policy on alerting the current domestic child trafficking rate. These responsible bodies need to work hand-in-hand to reduce or even eradicate child trafficking Gumer *Woreda* specifically and the whole country in general. In relation to this idea, government and non

government stakeholders need to identify traffickers and they should discourage these wrong doers. They also need to alleviate problems related to victim's children and their community. Since there is a lack of relevant and comprehensive data on the problem of internal child trafficking, there is a need of conducting further research in order to conduct complementary studies on factors that contribute to trafficking in children and the impacts of trafficking on the victims, their family and the country at large.

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## APPENDICES

### Introduction

#### Good morning/ good afternoon

My name is Daniel Fekadu. I am a post graduate student in AAU in the department of Social Anthropology. Currently I am conducting my thesis research entitled "Child Trafficking form the Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa: the Case of Gumer *Woreda*".

The purpose of the study is to identify the major factors contributing to the vulnerability of children to trafficking from Gumer *Woreda* to Addis Ababa, to identify the forms and process of child trafficking and its effects on children and the local community and suggest possible problem solving recommendations on the basis of the research findings. The results of the study will be used to effective programs and strategies to curb the problem.

Before we start the interview /FGD I would like to thank you in advance for participating in this study. I would also like to state that all your responses to the question will remain strictly confidential, as some of the questions are too personal. If there are any questions that are unclear please let me know and I can clarify further. If you do not feel comfortable answering please feel free to let me know and we will move to the next question. I will not take much of your time.

Would you agree freely to participate in this interview?

- A) Yes, I agree freely                      B) No, I don't agree

If yes, I would like to begin the interview

If no, thank you

## Interview check list

### 1) Guiding Questions

#### D) Guiding questions to children trafficked from Gumer *Woreda* of Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa

##### A) To obtain personal and Family background information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Interview \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Current living address \_\_\_\_\_ Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever attend formal education before you left your birth place?
  - If your answer to the above question is yes, what grade level did you complete?
  - If your answer to the above question is no, why didn't you attend at all?
2. Are your father and mother alive?
3. How old is your parent/guardian?
4. Are your father and mother living together? Or Separated? Or Divorced?
  - If they are separated or divorced, did you know the cause? And how do you feel about that?
5. Do your father and mother have a source of income?
  - If they have, what is their source of income?

##### B) To investigate the factors that contributes to the vulnerability of children to trafficking

1. How did you come to Addis Ababa?
2. What factors pushed and pulled you to leave your birth place and to come to Addis Ababa?

3. Did you have any information about Addis Ababa before you left your birth place?
4. What was your expectation about Addis Ababa when you left your birth place?
5. Did you have relative(s) in Addis Ababa when you left your birth place?
6. When did you leave your birthplace and arrive at Addis Ababa?

**C) To assess the actors involved, process of recruitment and transportation of child trafficking**

7. With whom did you come to Addis Ababa?
8. What was the means of transportation that you used to come to Addis Ababa?
9. How much time and cost did it take you to reach to Addis Ababa? And who covered that cost?
6. If your answer to the above question is other person? Answer the following questions.
10. What kinds of relationship did exist between you and that person? How did he/she threat you on the process?
11. Did you consult other people (like your parents) to decide to come to Addis Ababa? If yes, what advice did you get?
12. Were there any problems that you have faced on the way? If your answer to this question is yes, could you explain those problems?
13. At what particular season did you come to Addis Ababa and why was this specific time preferred?
14. At what specific place in Addis Ababa did you first stop and at what time was it? With whom did you pass the early days/weeks/months or years after you arrived to Addis Ababa? Have you ever known that person/people before?
15. With whom do you live now? With whom did you pass the early days/weeks/months or years after you arrived to Addis Ababa? Where and with whom do you live now?
16. How did you spend the early days/weeks/ months/years in Addis Ababa?

**D. To investigate the challenges and effects of trafficking on children**

17. Have you faced any problem since you come to Addis Ababa? If yes, could you mention and explain those problems? What measures have you taken to overcome those problems?
18. What is your current means of survival? How do you explain your current economic status? How much you earn in a month? Did you engage in other work before?

19. Are you working for other person? If you are working for other person,  
\* How many hours do you work per day? How much are you paid for the work?  
\* How are you treated by your employer? How do you feel the relationship between you and your employer?

**II) Guiding Questions to parents/guardian/community leaders whose children are trafficked**

Name of the parent/guardian/community leader \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Current occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

**A) Causes of child trafficking**

1. What are the factors contributing to children's vulnerability to trafficking in your locality?
2. what pushes and attracts children to leave their birth place to Addis Ababa
3. Why is your child trafficked to Addis Ababa?
4. Did your child consult you when he/she had decided to leave his/her locality to Addis Ababa? If your child has consulted you, what was your response and why did you say so?
5. At what age and specific period did your child leave to Addis Ababa?

**B) Processes of recruitment and Transportation of Children**

6. How was your child trafficked to Addis Ababa?
7. With whom your child decided to start the journey to Addis Ababa?
8. Did you remember for what reason your child went to Addis Ababa?
9. How long does it take you to meet with your child?
10. What information do you have about your child? Who let you know the information about your child?

**C) Problems and Challenges of Trafficking in children**

11. What kind of relationships do you have with your child after he/she is trafficked to Addis Ababa?
12. Are you happy with the condition of your child? If yes, why? If not, why not?
13. How do you feel the challenges faced by your child in adopting the urban life and his/her survival strategies?
14. How do you describe the effect of trafficking on the lives of trafficked children, their parents and their community at large?

**D) Possible Suggestions to mitigate the practice of Child Trafficking**

15. What measures do you suggest to be taken to combat the problem of child trafficking?
16. What measures do you suggest to curb the trafficking of children in Gumer Woreda, Gurage Zone?
20. Do you have any point to add?

IV. Guiding Questions to NGO workers and civil servants to investigate the Causes, Recruitment and transportation process, magnitude and effects of child trafficking.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ details: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of completion: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Is child trafficking recognized by the Ethiopian Government (e.g. by establishing a national body, adopting a national action plan or other policy on child trafficking or in public political statement)? If so in what ways?

1. Is there a centralized national registration system for victims of trafficking in human beings in general and children's in particular in Ethiopia? If so, where is it allocated?
2. If yes to Q.2, is data disaggregated by age and gender of identified victims?
3. If yes to Q.2, which forms of exploitation of victims of trafficking are included in the centralized national data collection system? Please tick.

- Sexual exploitation \_\_\_\_\_
- Labor exploitation \_\_\_\_\_
- Slavery/servitude \_\_\_\_\_
- Begging \_\_\_\_\_
- Criminal activities \_\_\_\_\_
- Illegal adoptions \_\_\_\_\_
- Forced marriages \_\_\_\_\_
- Exploitation in armed forces \_\_\_\_\_

Others, pleas specify \_\_\_\_\_

Comments and sources: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Could you explain the reason for children's vulnerability to trafficking from the Gumer, Gurage Zone to Addis Ababa? Is it for economic, social, cultural, political, or any other reasons?
5. Who are the main actors involved in the recruitment process of child trafficking? How and why do they operate?
6. How are children from the Gumer, Gurage Zone trafficked to Addis Ababa?

7. What is the fate of children trafficked to Addis Ababa? Do they enjoy any opportunity or face any problem?
8. Could you explain the kind of problems that the trafficked children face? Is that social, economic, cultural, psychological, health or any other?
9. What are the challenges of trafficking on the lives of children and their community?
10. What are the impacts of child trafficking in trafficked children parents, their community and the country at large?
11. What efforts by whom and which organization have so far exerted to deal with the issue of child trafficking in Gumer woreda, Gurage Zone?
12. Do you have any point to add?

➤ **Questions to Child Protection Units, youth and sport center, Women's Affairs Officers, the Police and Courts**

Name of the organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative of the organization \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of interview: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the local legal considerations of child trafficking?
2. What are the roles of courts and police as far as the issue of child trafficking is concerned?
3. Are there any legal and policy gaps as far as the issue of child trafficking in Gumer Gurage zone is concerned? If your answer to this question is yes, what are those legislative and policy gaps that contribute to the prevalence of child trafficking in the study area?
4. Do you have any point to add?

**2) Guiding Questions for Focus Group Discussions**

D). **Guiding Questions for Focus Group discussions with trafficked children to investigate the causes, forms, recruitment, transportation, process and challenges of the practice on children. This guiding question can also be to reintegrated children with some modifications.**

**1. General Information**

Specific site/place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the facilitator (moderator) \_\_\_\_\_ Time: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Assistant Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants	Age	Sex	Marital status	Occupation/ experiences	Contribution

**1. General Points of Discussion**

- 7. Social, economic, cultural, demographic characteristics of children vulnerability to trafficking in the study area
- 8. Reasons of children for leaving their birth-place to Addis Ababa
- 9. Factors contributing to trafficking in the study area (if any, social, cultural, economic, demographic)
- 10. Methods of recruitment: How are most children trafficked from the Gumer Gurage zone? What is your experience as far as this issue is concerned?
- 11. The magnitude of child trafficking in the study area
- 12. The challenges and problems of trafficking on children
- 13. The impact (positive/negative) of trafficking on parents/local community
- 14. The physical, health, emotional, psychological, social and economic state of trafficked children

15. Adoption of child related policies and laws vis-à-vis child trafficking

**2. Specific question to be asked to investigate**

**A. Causes of child trafficking**

- Why and how do you come to Addis Ababa?
- How (if any, with whom) did you come to Addis Ababa?
- Do you know that why are children trafficked from their original place?
- Could you tell any information about the person, if any, who are engaged in recruiting children from Gumer Gurage areas and then, transporting them to Addis Ababa?

**B. Process of recruitment and transportation of children**

- What are the techniques employed by the person to recruit children and transport them to Addis Ababa
- Could you describe the situation (method by which children are trafficked to Addis Ababa, with whom and for what purpose are children trafficked to Addis Ababa, and the problems children face on transit and destination) of the trafficking process?
- Where or with whom did you first meet when you arrive at Addis Ababa?

**C. Challenge and problems of the Practice on Children**

- How the natures of work are most trafficked children work?
- Do you attend school? How? And When?
- What are the problems that you have faced during and after the journey?
- What solutions do you suggest to mitigate child trafficking?
- Do you have any point to add?

**II). Guiding Questions for Focus Group Discussions with Community leaders and/or elders and religious leaders to investigate the causes, recruitment and transportation processes and challenges of the practice on children**

**1. General Information**

Specific site/place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the facilitator (moderator) \_\_\_\_\_ Time: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Assistant Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_





VI) **Guiding Questions for Focus Group Discussions with teachers and school administrators to investigate the causes, recruitment and transportation processes and challenges of the practice on children**

16. Social, economic, cultural, demographic characteristics of children vulnerability to trafficking in the study area
17. Factors contributing to children vulnerability to trafficking
18. Factors contributing to children school dropout in the study area (if any, social, cultural, economic? Differences based on gender?
19. Methods of recruitment: Why are children trafficked from Gumer Woreda? What is your experience as far as this issue is concerned? (any case)
20. The magnitude of child trafficking in the study area
21. The challenges and problems of trafficking on children
22. The impact (positive/negative) of trafficking on parents/local community
23. The physical, health, emotional, psychological, social and economic state of reintegrated children and their school performance?
24. Adoption of child related policies and laws vis-à-vis child trafficking

## Observation Checklists

### 3. Guiding Questions for observation to investigate:

#### ➤ Physical setting of the study area

- What are the dominant plant species grow in the study area, Gumer Gurage zone?
- What are the major crops grow in the area?
- What are the domestic animals reared in the area?
- What is the nature of land use in the area?
- How much hectare of land, on average, is owned by farmers in the area?
- What are the major landforms of the study area?
- What is the nature of climate/environment of the study area?
- How does the Gumer Gurage society construct houses?

#### ➤ The people and means of subsistence

- What is the means of subsistence in Gumer Woreda?
- How is the economic activity look like?
- How is the cultural norms, beliefs and attitudes among the Gumer-Gurage

#### ➤ Infrastructure

- Dose the research site have enough health care center, schools, and colleges?
- What are the qualities and quantities of health care services and schools?
- Does the research site have electric power, water supply and telephone service?
- What are other social services available in the research site?

#### ➤ Tasks of children in Research Sites in Gumer Woreda, Gurage Zone

- What are the major tasks of children at home and outside?
- What is the nature of works children perform at home? Do the works not harm the physical well-being of the children?
- Is there any gender difference in the allocation of tasks/duties?
- Do the children get regular salary/payment in exchange of their work?
- Do all children attend school? If not what do they do at home?
- How do the reintegrated children live and interact with their parents/communities?


➤ **Living and working conditions of Trafficked children in Addis Ababa**

- Where do the trafficked children live and work?
- What is the quality of the houses they live in?
- With whom do they live?
- What are the major tasks of children?
- What is the nature of those tasks? Do the tasks match with their physical strength and endurance?
- How is the nature of work and working conditions for trafficked children
- What does the physical appearance of children looks like?
- What do children usually eat, drink, and dress? Where do children sleep (get rest)?
- How do children interact with their employers and other people?
- What do children do when they get-off work?
- Where do children pass most of their time?
- How is the link between trafficked children and their parents/community in the rural area?
- What are the challenges, problems and impacts of trafficking on children?

## Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work, has not been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources of material used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Name DANIEL FEKADU

Signature 

Place and date of submission: Addis Ababa University

July 2010

Advisor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_