

Running Head: DEPORTATION EXPERIENCE OF ETHIOPIAN WOMEN

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**EXPERIENCE OF EIGHT DEPORTED WOMEN ETHIOPIANS WHO RETURNED  
FROM KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS IN  
SOCIAL WORK (MSW)**

**BY**

**YEMISRACH FERAW**

**JULY, 2015**

**ADDIS ABABA**

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### Acronyms

<b>CCRDA</b>	Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>GMG</b>	Global Migration Group
<b>ICMPD</b>	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO-</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM-</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>KSA-</b>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<b>RMMS</b>	Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat
<b>SUARAM</b>	Suara Rakyat Malaysia

**Abstract**

*This study was done with the purpose of understanding deportation experience of deported women from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The participants of this research were eight deported women from KSA. Findings of this research indicate that poor working condition, low pay, religious conflict, lack of access to health services, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, denial of salary, suffering from deprivation of food and restricted from movement are the main experience of the deported returnees in the destination country. The finding points out that the deported women returned to their country by surrender to the police, the employers handed them over to the police and the police forceful detained them. Deported women returnees experienced lack of enough food, lack of proper sleep condition, lack of rest room, lack of medication, and overcrowding, sexual and emotional harassment in the deportation process. From the implications of the finding, it can be concluded that the school of social work should incorporate the migration as one subject and the course should be given starting from the undergraduate class, the school of social work need to enforce students (undergraduate up to PhD level ) to articulate the diversified aspect of migration and migrants life. The FDRE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has to establish a strong diplomatic relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia government and should work in collaboration during deportations. All governmental and non-governmental organizations should be involved in assisting deported returnees during the deportation process. They, for instance, can play a vital role in offering trainings. Apart from pointing out the reasons for the deportation of legal migrants, the consequences of deportation on both destination and receiving countries should be well-investigated. The concept of deportation and deportation centers facility is the other area that needs further investigation.*

**Key words:** *Deported returnees, re-migration, return migration, irregular migration*

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## **Chapter One: Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another within a country, or from one country to another for different reasons (ILO, 2011). In the 21st century migration is becoming one of the global phenomena and migration has its own impact on society and it is directly related to the trend of globalization (Kainth, 2009). Ethiopia has experienced migratory flows throughout its history. The past Ethiopian migration flows were mainly generated by political instability, poverty, famine, economic hardship and limited opportunities and also the current migration patterns in Ethiopia are driven by the same factors (Fransen & Kuschminder, 2009).

Migrants used the services of both illegal and legal employment agents for the process of migration and the majority of Ethiopian migrants prefer the informal migration channels to the legal migration process thus, 60 per cent used illegal agents, 20 per cent used legal agents, and 20 per cent did not know the status of the agents they used (ICMPD, 2008). The risks of migration therefore, are greatly increased when people move on an irregular basis and many migrants, particularly those who migrate through irregular channels, find themselves in vulnerable positions before, during and after their journey (DFID, 2007).

In response to irregular migration destination countries have used different migration policy. Thus, deportation is one of the migration management and it became increasingly used and normalized as one of the practices in many migration destinations and transit countries. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been one of the most active countries in the Middle East implementing policies to restrict migration. At the end of 2013 and early 2014, Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia carried out massive deportations of irregular migrants, including some 160,000 Ethiopians (RMMS, 2014).

Migrants who fled abusive employers and thus lost their legal status have been arrested and summarily deported without the opportunity to press claims through the government's labor grievance process (Human rights watch, 2004). Deported migrants are very vulnerable and have a high risk of being stranded and face huge challenges in re-establishing their lives in their countries of origin (Kleist & Milliar, 2013). Ethiopians died in a crowded Saudi center for deporting illegal immigrants and in Jeddah, thousands have been arrested and sent to deportation centers (Human Right Watch, 2015).

Despite numerous reports of abuse of Ethiopian migrants in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Ethiopians have continued to migrate to the Gulf States in large numbers in recent years (RMMS, 2014). According to the Labour Market Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2010 as cited in Mekserem Mulatu, 2011) in the year 2008/2009 alone, 21,256 Ethiopians migrated to Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E, and other Gulf State countries

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

The main motivating factors for me to focus in this topic are presented below. To begin with I have observed many returnees who are deported by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

government in the end of 2013 and early 2014 and there was a high crowd in the Ethiopian airlines because the deported returnee number was increasing from time to time. And also I noticed our School of Social Work has participated to give assistance for the returnees and the students who voluntarily participated told us different heart breaking and sad stories about the situation of the deported. On the contrary, I also heard about the interest of different returnees to return back to different Middle East countries. All of these factors motivated me to know about the life situation of the deported women and to know how they experienced deportation. Furthermore, I developed a keen interest to know about how they experience the process of deportation and how they explain the support of the government in the deportation process.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Ethiopians have continued to migrate to the Gulf States in large numbers in recent years. Even with the current returnee crisis and so many Ethiopians returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without any savings and with stories of abuse, it is questionable whether this will impact the intention to migrate (RMMS, 2014). According to ILO report despite their past experience, among the Somali and Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia not less than 50% have a plan to re-migrate again (CCRDA, 2014).

Various writers in social and behavioral sciences have outlined findings in their study regarding different aspect of migrations. Meskerem Mulatu (2011) conducted a research on psychosocial and economic experiences of Gulf States returnee in the case of Ethiopian women domestic workers. The finding indicated that the major push factors behind the migration of the domestic workers are economic demands. Due to this, the number of women domestic workers who experience mental depression or stress is becoming very high. Similarly, Abebaw Minaye (2013) examined the experience of trafficked Ethiopian domestic worker who returned from the

Gulf States. His study found that Ethiopian women migrated to the Middle East being pushed by economic challenges but returned with more complicated problems such as health crises (often mental illness but also kidney infection, gastritis and HIV), social problems (difficulty of adjustment after return with family and the community, lowered possibility of marriage associated with the culture, and more pressure to migrate again) and economic problems (inability to repay the debt they used to migrate).

Emebet Kebede (2002) conducted a study on the international labor migration situation specific to the case of female labor migrants and reported that because of limited job opportunities within the country, large number of women migrated to the Gulf States and Lebanon to be employed as housemaids. Similarly, de Regt (2007) in her study entitled “Ethiopian women in the Middle East; the case of migrant domestic workers in Yemen”, concluded that most migrant domestic workers came to Yemen with the idea to earn money and the trend of migration to Gulf States will increase.

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

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

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

The existing literatures I have reviewed despite their strengths in informing the push pull factors and the prevalence of migration, they do not adequately incorporate the lived experience of deported returnees. Literatures on the push and pull factors of migration have been conducted and access to such materials was not difficult. However, the literatures do not adequately consider the life experience of migrants those who returned to their home country by deportation and the deportation process. Thus, this study attempted to give clear explanation on the cause that contributed to the migration of the women, the life experience of deported returnees at the destination and on the deportation process, the challenges and opportunities of life after their return, the opinion of deported returnees on re migration, the returnees explanation about the support of the government and different stakeholders in the deportation process.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

#### **General objective**

The general objective of the study is to explore how Ethiopians deported women experienced the deportation process with particular emphasis on those who returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study are listed as follows:-

1. To identify major contributing factors for women's migration.

2. To describe the experience of deported women returnees regarding their life of migration.
3. To describe the life experience of the deported women returnees in the deportation process.
4. To investigate the challenge and opportunities of the deported women's life after their return.
5. To investigate the opinion of the deported women on intention to re-migration.
6. To describe how deported women returnees evaluate the support they get from stakeholders during the deportation process and after their return.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

This study attempt to address the following research questions

1. What are the major factors which influence women to migrate?
2. How did the deported women experience life in the destination country?
3. How did the deported women explain their experiences in the deportation process?
4. How did the deported women explain the challenges and opportunities in the life after their return?
5. What are their views on re-migration?
6. How did the deported returnee women explain the support of the government and different stakeholders during the deportation process and after they return?

#### **1.5 Definitions of Concepts and Terms**

##### **1.5.1 Operational Definitions:**

*Irregular migration:* Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. From the perspective of destination countries it is illegal entry, stay or work in a country, meaning that the migrant does not have the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations to enter, reside or work in a given country

(IOM, 2004). In this study I use irregular migration to refer to the women who reside in the KSA without necessary authorization or documents required to enter, reside or work there.

*Return migrants:* are persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short term or long-term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least a year (Dumon & Spielvogel, 2007). In this study I have used the phrase to refer to the women who returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the end of 2013 and early 2014 to their country of origin.

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

*Re-migration:* the movement of a person who, after having returned to his/her country of departure, again emigrates (IOM, 2004). In this study, the phrase re-migration refers to the women who were deported from the KSA to their place of origin (Ethiopia) and those who considered to emigrate for a second time to the Middle East.

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

This study will give better understanding on the idea of deportation by giving a clear understanding on the life experience of deported returnees, what life seems like in being deported and being returned, life in the deportation process and the opinion of deported returnees about re-migration.

The finding will serve as an input for different stakeholders concerning the issue of deported returnee by identifying the major gaps and intervention areas. It will give insight what does it mean deportation from the perspective of the deportees and this will have a significant



contribution for those concerning stakeholders by giving a direction what they are supposed to do to fill the existing gaps. Plus, the result of the study will be used as an input for policy makers.

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

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

This study mainly focused on return migrants; among the return migrants the scope of this study is limited to those who returned from the KSA in the end of 2013 and early 2014 by deportation. The participants of this study were women selected from those currently residing in Addis Ababa. To investigate the life experience of deported women returnees; the study incorporated information starting from the cause of migration, life in the destination country, in the deportation and after return

## **Chapter Two: Relevant Literature Review**

### **2.1 Introduction**

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

### **2.2 Causes of Migration**

International migration is a growing phenomenon, both in scope and in complexity, affecting almost all countries in the world (IOM and UNDESA, 2012). Migrations have occurred throughout the past, beginning with the movements of the first human groups from their origins in East Africa to their current homes throughout the world and it occurs in a variety of ways: Migration can occur between continents, within a continent, or within a single country. Migration can even occur when people move out of the city and into the country (Human Migration Guide, 2005).

Migration is the result of numerous factors; many migrate in search of greater opportunities to earn a better living, to live in a more agreeable environment or to join family or friends abroad (world migration report, 2011). Migration represents both an opportunity and a challenge. While well-managed migration may foster progress and welfare in origin as well as destination countries, its mismanagement may put social cohesion, security and national sovereignty at risk (Boubakri, 2013).

Migration in Ethiopia is and has historically been characterized by complex flows arising from a combination of root causes. These root causes have included poverty, drought, political repression, forced repatriation, and forced resettlement. Migration is a livelihood strategy for many people within Ethiopia, and international migration is a desirable option for both skilled and unskilled individuals in search of better opportunities (Fransen & Kuschminder, 2009).

Globally, women who migrate through illegal employment agencies as temporary labor migrants are most exposed to different problems. The issue of legality or illegality of work migration is often unclear in Ethiopia, for instance, legal employment agencies may undertake migration illegally driven by the motives to earn a lot of money, and illegal employment agencies may become legal under pressure from the government (Mesfin Dessiye, 2011).

Women who migrate from Ethiopia use both the legal and illegal ways to enter into the Gulf States. Legal way of migration is regularly processed by agents located within Ethiopia that has branch offices in the country of destination. Women who would like to process their employment through legal way need to be registered in Ethiopia, the copy of their employment contract shall also be documented at MoLSA. Whereas, illegal migration is facilitated by individual brokers or business people who are making money out of the employment of the domestic workers. Once they have got the commission for their service (i.e. mediation between the employee and employer) most of the time they withdraw themselves out of the issue or change their address (Mekserem Mulatu, 2011).

The reasons for migrating are complex and vary from area to area. Migration may be prompted by major economic, demographic and social disparities, as well as by conflicts, environmental degradation or natural disasters and migration currently embraces every

category of people both skilled and unskilled, family and refugee, legal and illegal, permanent and temporary(Villarreal & Osorio, 2008).

The major factors driving Ethiopian migrants over the years were economic, political, and environmental, factors that were all heavily interlinked and intertwined with regional issues (Fransen & Kuschminder, 2009). Asefch Haileselassie Reda (2012) examined that lack of opportunities and limited income are the common reasons to migrate. Moreover, the false promises by brokers which draws an attractive image of life in the destination countries was a driving factor that exposed women to trafficking. In addition, family members, friends and relatives had played a significant role in the decision making process. At the same venue Adamnesh Atnafu (2006) report implies that many Ethiopians desire to migrate mainly due to scarce job opportunity and low salary and the unavailability of living facilities and poor education system. These are also some of the factors that are considered as push factors.

Mesfin Dessiye (2011) argues that the main reason for Ethiopian women's work migration to the Arab World is to improve their living standard and sustain their families. Migration is caused not only by economic factor but many others like social, political, cultural, environmental, health, education etc. (Kainth, 2009).

Today, there are approximately 232 million international migrants, according to the 2013 UN estimate of global migrant stocks (measuring the number of migrants at a particular point in time). Around 12 per cent of international migrants (roughly one out of eight) are youth (defined here as those between 15 and 24 years of age). Young people's motivations are often linked to the search for sustainable livelihoods, due to lack of employment and or under-employment, absence of decent working conditions, and poor economic prospects in countries of origin. Risks faced by migrants are exacerbated in the case of youth, especially those under

18 years of age, particularly when they are in irregular situations and face threats of exploitation, trafficking, exclusion, detection, detention and deportation (Global Migration Group, 2012).

### **2.3 Defining Deportation**

Deportation is a process of enforced departure from the destination and prevents the deportee from returning to the destination country unless and until the order is revoked and deportation or removal/expulsion of a noncitizen from the destination country and People who can be deported include noncitizens (including green card holders) with past criminal convictions; visa overstays; refugee/asylum seekers; and those who entered without inspection (for example, by crossing the border unlawfully). Once removed, a noncitizen faces legal bars that prevent his or her return or sometimes they are permanently barred and detention basically jail (Paoletti, 2010). Quinn (2007) defines deportation as the act of a state in the exercise of its sovereignty in removing an alien from its territory to a certain place after refusal of admission or termination of leave to remain and a deportation order is signed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Its consequences are serious. It allows the deportee to be forcibly removed from the state and it requires the deportee to remain outside the State for ever, irrespective of the circumstances giving rise to its making.

The term deportation as described by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) refers to “the act of a State in removing a non-citizen from its territory after refusal of admission or termination of permission to remain (IOM, 2009). According to this definition the ‘act’ of deportation is referred to as ‘removal’ and as such it refers to the view of the State rather than the impact on those being deported. Migrant workers return home either forced or voluntarily. Forced return occurs when contracts are illegally terminated; housemaids are

abused or abandoned by their employers, or when the employees' visas can't be renewed.

Involuntary return can be considered one way of deportation, either in mass or individually, when migrant maids are reported as illegal or undocumented (Mesfin Dessiye, 2011).

Deportation constitutes another form of involuntary return. Deportation and detention have become increasingly used and normalized as practices in many migration destination and transit countries and the various agreements to readmit rejected migrants and asylum-seekers are indications of the growing prominence of deportation as a so-called migration management tool. Deportations including mass deportations are also taking place from countries in the global South. There are several reports of overland mass deportations from North African countries, for instance, from Libya or Morocco, where migrants are dumped and left to their own devices without any support (Kleist & Milliar, 2013). Deportation has long been a power claimed and exercised by states. Indeed, it is at least as old as border control itself, and its antecedents in the practice of exile stretch back even further (Gibney & Hansen, 2003).

Deportation, in comparison to other types of involuntary migrant return, is distinguished by its mandatory and state sponsored character, or the explicit involvement of the receiving society government in directing and organizing the return of the migrant. Generally speaking, the deportation of migrants takes place following the determination by receiving country government officials of the migrants' undocumented presence in the country. Deported migrant workers are likely to derive less benefit from the migration episode in comparison to other returnees. For one thing, those experiencing deportation are more likely to be among the more socioeconomically disadvantaged sectors of the migrant worker stream (Kibria, 2004). In addition to the socio economic effect of deportation, Inter-American Human Rights Court (2013) report implied the nature of detention, compounded by the uncertainty of its length, is

regarded as a major contributing factor to mental deterioration, despondency, suicide, anger, and frustration.

## **2.4 Cause of Deportation and its Process**

All non-citizens, if convicted of a crime, are potential subjects for deportation. Administrative deportation is, however, far more common and targets individuals who are residing in another countries territory without permission. Such individuals are directly targeted by the removals branch of the Home Office. Under the normal deportation process, individuals receive a standard letter advising the individual that she/he has no right to remain; this letter might be followed by further correspondence and a formal deportation order. Once the latter has been served, the deportee has 14 days to appeal. If the individual does not leave voluntarily, the police and security services may be involved in the deportation (Pereira, 2011).

According to Human Rights Watch (2014) report Saudi labor authorities in 2011 passed new Nitaqat regulations, a program that aims to boost employment for Saudi citizens.

The campaign of detentions and expulsions of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia that began on November 4, 2013, followed the announcement in April 2013 of amendments by the Saudi cabinet to the 2007 labor law. The amendment empowered police and labor authorities to enforce labor code provisions against undocumented workers, including detention and deportation for those found to be working for a non-sponsor (Human Right Watch, 2015).

Pereira (2011) stated that the Saudi government has legitimate authority to deport undocumented migrants. But it must comply with international law, which requires treating migrants with dignity at all times and not returning anyone who would face a real risk of serious abuse on return Saudi authorities announced a new round of detentions and deportations of undocumented foreigners during the first quarter of 2015, and said on March 23 that Saudi

Arabia had deported 300,000 people over the previous five months, an average of nearly 2,000 a day.

The official deportation process has failed to safeguard the rights of migrant workers who have labor-related grievances against their employers, most notably unpaid wages. Migrants who fled abusive employers and thus lost their legal status have been arrested and summarily deported without the opportunity to press claims through the government's labor grievance process. Another problem is that 'runaways' sometimes have been arrested on fabricated charges that employers lodge with the police (Human Rights Watch, 2004).

The phenomenon of deportation is likely to continue into the predictable future as non-citizen populations of Pacific Islanders (Pereira, 2011).

Under international law, the treatment of migrant workers detained in the destination country territory pending deportation should be guided by the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. These rules outline basic standards of treatment with respect to accommodations, personal hygiene, clothing and bedding, food, exercise and sport, and medical services. The authorities are responsible for poor conditions in deportation facilities and the physical abuse of detainees should take immediate action to bring these facilities into compliance with minimal international standards (Human Rights Watch, 2004)

Security forces frequently send migrants whom they pick up near the border to a deportation center. Smugglers and aid workers reported about the terrible conditions in the deportation center (Human Rights Watch, 2004)

## **2.5 Condition of Deportation Center**

The overcrowding of the depots and the inadequacy of the facilities provided has consequences on the hygiene of the sanitary facilities in the cells and also a tension between



detainees of different nationalities is high. People are hungry in the depots and many of them suffer from malnutrition. Migrants detailed serious abuses during detention, including inadequate food and sanitation, beatings by guard, verbally abuse, shouting insults and treating them as inferior. A number of ex-detainees either personally experienced or witnessed physical abuse (SUARAM, 2008 & Human Right Watch, 2015).

Due to overcrowding and the absence of a proper ventilation system, people complained of suffocation. There were no beds or mattresses in the cell, and detainees slept on a bare floor .It appeared that everyone, especially the children, suffered physically from these detention conditions. The detainees were obliged to drink water from the toilets and there was insufficient room for all the detainees to lie down and sleep at the same time. Because of the overcrowding, there was a lack of sufficient ventilation and the cells were unbearably hot and the general sanitary and other facilities were dirty (Collewet, 2012).

According to Collewet (2012) most deported returnees complained of inadequate detention conditions during the deportation process. Complaints ranged from lack of food or receiving food of bad quality to overcrowding, lack of access to health care and physical abuse. And the direct participation of the security force in some of the abuses and failed to protect other workers attacked by men who appeared to be Saudi citizens.

According to human right watch (2015) following deportation, many migrants returned to their home countries destitute and with no means to buy food or pay for transportation to their home areas due at times of deportation authorities refuse to allow to take their personal property.

The detention and deportation campaign precipitated a wave of unrest in urban areas Populated by undocumented workers, triggering violent attacks on migrants by police and citizens (Human Right Watch, 2015).

## 2.6 The Impact of Deportation

Migrants' sudden difficulties getting into and staying in the destination territory may have led fewer migrants to embark on the journey from their country of origin. But trafficking and smuggling of migrants still takes place across the border of different countries ((Human Right Watch, 2015).

In November of 2013, the government of Saudi Arabia began expelling large numbers of foreign nationals, including some 550,000 Yemenis, 180,000 Ethiopians, and 36,000 Somalis. While there has been little international attention or condemnation of these deportations, the returning individuals and their countries of origin have suffered many logistical, economic, and social ramifications due to this decision and the decision to deport non-citizens has far reaching implications that not only affect the individual but families and entire communities. The deportation experience makes an impact at the local, national and the international level demonstrating that deportation is not the end of a problem, but the start of a new and on-going dilemma for individuals, families and the wider community. So deportation experience is often traumatic, for both the deportee and those family members left behind (Georges, 2014).

Many returnees arrive home having undergone emotional trauma before they were deported, in addition to the extortion and physical abuse suffered en route. Furthermore, many of the returnees face a great deal of shame once home, where relatives might view the return home as a failure to provide. Despite these experiences, many returnees say they fully intend to re-migrate to either Saudi Arabia or other common destinations in the region even if doing so will expose them to further abuse, abduction, or arrest. And the social and economic impact of the expulsions on receiving countries has not yet been fully assessed, but threatens to be highly

damaging. These nations including Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen are amongst the poorest in the world, and they have received limited support from the international community in their efforts to cope with the sudden wave of deportees (Georges, 2014; Human Right Watch, 2015).

Ill health, unemployment and a lack of income may therefore be more difficult issues for deportees to deal with if faced with limited social support networks. Recidivism is a greater risk where this support is lacking, as alternatives for survival are limited. The strongest social support networks for deportees were religious organizations, relatives, friends other deportees. Hence the further development of community based support mechanisms, including strong participation from deportees, is likely to be an effective strategy. At the national level, better data sharing between Governments (both the departing Governments and receiving Governments) would be of use in providing a better understanding of the deportation experience (Pereira, 2011).

Migrants, especially irregular migrants who lack legal status and migrants who are victims of smuggling and trafficking, are particularly vulnerable to detention, restriction on their freedom of movement or deprivation of their liberty, usually through enforced confinement, either in the receiving country or during transit by land or sea. The poor conditions of certain detention centers lead to serious deterioration in the living standards of foreign nationals, including inadequate access to medical treatment and other services, poor hygienic conditions, the absence of separated space for men and women, and adults from minors etc. Furthermore, freedom of movement is limited within the detention facility. Migrants are often not informed of their rights to appeal and of the status of their situation. If detention centers do not provide for judicial review of administrative detention of migrants, the

lack of awareness of the right to appeal and the lack of access to free legal counsel may prevent migrants from exercising their rights in practice (Global Migration Group, 2008).

## **2.7 Challenges of Returnees**

Not all of the returnee migrant maids were able to achieve their aims through work migration. Mesfin Dessiye (2011) study indicated that only five out of twelve women succeeded in improving their living standard when they returned home and the unsuccessful returnee women faced rejection by their families and the community as they failed to meet expectations to return with adequate material wealth and moreover, the returnees experienced shame, felt unproductive and faced outright rejection by their own kin and the local people. Also, they had no access to the formal labor market as they lacked high literacy levels or skills-related training. Among the unsuccessful returnees, some had mental health problems and HIV/AIDS infection, but they had limited access to free medical services, social and economic support.

The returnees of yesterday have ended up as victims of trafficking today because they have no job opportunities upon their return. Today's returnees will be tomorrow's victim of trafficking if the problem of unemployment persists. If returnees are not assisted to get training and find jobs upon their return, they will become a burden on their families and, once again, seek employment abroad (Emebet Kebede, 2002). Re-integration of returning migrants in all aspects including work environment and social life can be challenging (Adamnesh Atnafu, 2006).

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

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

## **2.8 Ethiopian Government Initiative for Returnees**

The government of Ethiopia cooperates with international agencies in the field of migration and has offices for the UNHCR and the International Migration Organization (IOM) in Addis Ababa that implement several projects and operations. Currently, the IOM runs several projects related to the movement, emergency and post-crisis migration management, regulating and facilitating migration, and migration and development (Solomon, 2012).

The government works with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and local NGOs in the reintegration of migrant women. However, the provision of services is limited to addressing the needs of the returnee women. As a result, most of the returnees are not self-employed, nor can they access the local labor market (MesfinDessiye,2011).And the Ethiopian returnees feel that their Government has not accorded them enough protection compared to the Governments of other migrant workers (Emebet Kebede, 2002).

The government is taking initiatives to encourage returnees to involve in development endeavors of the country and the Ethiopians abroad to return back. Though these initiatives are

appreciable, the obstacles should be eased in order to make them able to transfer capital and in effect contribute to the country's development (Adamnesh Atnafu, 2006).

As Waganesh Zeleke & Abebaw Minaye (2015) mentioned the returnees evaluated the support provided by sending agencies and Ethiopian embassies in the destination were poor.

## **2.9 Theories of International Migration**

There are different migration theories; Neoclassical theory of migration; according to this theory, migration is driven by geographic differences in labor supply and demand and the resulting differentials in wages between labor-rich versus capital-rich countries. The central argument of the neoclassical approach thus concentrates on wages (Kurekova, 2011).

New economic theory of migration; this theory states that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors but typically by families or households. Further, the decisions of migrants are influenced by a comprehensive set of factors which are shaped by conditions in the home country.

World systems theory; the world system theory links the determinants of migration to structural change in world markets and views migration as a function of globalization, the increased interdependence of economies and the emergence of new forms of production

Dual labor market theory; dual labor market theory, like world system theory, links migration to structural changes in the economy but explains migration dynamics with the demand side. And network concepts perpetuation of migration; migrant networks which often evolve into institutional frameworks help to explain why migration continues even when wage differentials or recruitment policies cease to exist. The existence of a Diaspora or networks is likely to influence the decisions of migrants when they choose their destinations (Kurekova,

2011). In general, the above migration theory focus on the different factors that lead migration but it doesn't indicate why migrants return back to their country.

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

Materials written on the factors of migration can be easily accessed, but materials related with returnees specifically about deported returnees are limited. The literature indicates that theory related with migration are written from economical perspective and only focused on the underlying factors behind migrations but the theories don't show the fact behind the returnees.

Paoletti (2010) & Quinn (2007) discussed deportation as removal of a noncitizen from the territory of the destination country or returning of the migrants to their country origin.

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

Concerning condition of deported returnees; returnees exposed to serious abuses during detention, including inadequate food and sanitation, beatings by guard, verbally abuse, shouting insults and in human treatment thus, the detainees experienced or witnessed abuse (SUARAM, 2008 & Human Right Watch, 2015).Migrants especially illegal migrants are exposed to detention, restriction on their freedom of movement or deprivation from liberty (Global migration group, 2008).

Mesfin Dessiye (2011) & Emebet Kebede (2002) stated that returnees who lack employment opportunity and other service will migrate again. Waganesh Zeleke & Abebaw Minaye (2015), Emebet Kebede (2002) and Adamnesh Atnafu, (2006) in their study identified the returnees' evaluation about the support provided by sending agencies and Ethiopian

embassies in the destination. Finally, I presented the data from participants in line with the above literatures in the discussion section.



## Chapter Three: Method

### 3.1 Research Design

The researcher used qualitative research method and it's important to develop concepts that enhance the understanding of social phenomena in natural settings, with due emphasis on the meanings, experiences and views of all participants (Neergaard & Parm, 2007). It also allows associations that occur in people's thinking or acting and the meaning these have for people to be identified (Ritchie & Lewis, 2003).

Qualitative research is concerned with life as it is lived, things as they happen, and situations as they are constructed in the day-to-day, moment-to-moment course of events. Qualitative researchers seek lived experiences in real situations. Therefore, the qualitative researcher seeks to discover the meanings that participants attach to their behavior, how they interpret situations and what their perspectives are on particular issues (Woods, 2006).

This research employed qualitative techniques to understand and interpret the life experience of the deported women returnees by investigating their experience, perspectives and histories from their viewpoint. The research had exploratory nature. Because, previous research have not addressed the lived experience of deported returnees. Thus, these research explain the lived experience of deported returnees, experience in the deportation process and the challenges and opportunities after their return. Moreover, the study used a cross-sectional method since it is a study at one point in time.

Among the qualitative research method phenomenology is employed in this research. Phenomenology is both a philosophy and a family of research methods concerned with exploring and understanding human experience (Langdrige, 2007). There are two types of phenomenological approach, among the two phenomenological techniques, this research used

interpretative Phenomenology. Interpretative Phenomenology is an approach to qualitative research concerned with exploring and understanding the lived experience of a specified phenomenon (Smith, 2004). Interpretative Phenomenology is therefore connected to the core principles of phenomenology through paying respectful attention to a person's direct experience, and by encouraging research participants to tell their own story in their own words (Smith, Flowers and Larkin 2009). Thus, phenomenological research paradigm is important to describe, translate and explain and interpret deportation process from the perspectives of the deported women returnees who are the subject of the research.

Generally, qualitative research method is important to investigate new phenomena in depth and the method gives a great opportunity to look things from the perspective of the person who experiences that phenomena.

### **3.2 Selection of Research Participants**

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

This study used non probability sampling technique as a major sampling method and purposive sampling technique is employed to select participants of the study because there were a number of returnees who returned to their home land because of different reasons but

this study interested to know the deported returnees experience thus, this study used the following inclusion criteria :-

1. Deported women returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).
2. Who have been deported between the year end of 2013 and early 2014.
3. Who are currently living in Addis Ababa.
4. Who are willing to express the life experience of their deportation?
5. Who can speak and understand Amharic.

From the non- probability sampling Snowball Sampling (friend of friend recruitment) was employed to get the study participants and this method was applied by initially contacting a few potential respondents and then by asking them whether they know of anybody with the same characteristics(Elmusharaf,2012). In order to get deported women returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I have used Snowball Sampling since the aim was to get all possible participants that fit the inclusion criteria. First, I contacted the Addis Ababa Labour & Social Affairs office to get in touch with two deported returnees from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and thus contacted the two women, refereed here in a pseudonym as Alem and Sofiya. I discussed the purpose of the study, thus winning the willingness of the participants to openly express and share their experiences of deportation. Then I asked them to help me identify other participants who might be willing to take part in the study. Thus, Alem and Sofiya contacted me with their friends (Fenote and Foziya) who had the same experience with them then the selection process continued until sufficient units have identified. The initial respondent helped me to identify additional units that will make up the sample. In this way, eight deported women returnees from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia were interviewed. Hence, the total number of deported women is decided based on the data saturation (the point in data collection when new data no longer bring

additional insights to the research questions (Kreuger & Neuman, 2006; Andrade, 2009; Reswell, n.d; Creswell, 2007). According to Ray (2008 as cited in Abebaw Minaye, 2013) sample size is one major issue of dialogue about research, particularly qualitative research. Appropriate sample size is not clearly discussed in the literature on qualitative research methodologies.

I assessed dissertations and theses on migration, I identified five qualitative dissertations and their samples ranged from 5-25 (5 in Asefah Haileselassie Reda, 2012 and 25 in Abebaw Minaye, 2013).

### **3.3 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection**

#### **3.3.1 Data Collection Tools**

Individuals or groups allow the researcher to attain rich, personalized information. The researcher develops an interview guide. This guide identifies appropriate open ended questions that the researcher asks each interviewee. These questions are designed to allow the researcher to gain insights into the study's fundamental research questions (Elmusharaf, 2012). For the purpose of data collection, I have used two tools or instruments (in-depth interview guide, see (Appendix II) and observation checklist (Appendix III). In this study, interview guide is prepared for the deported women returnees in line with the basic research question of the study and the major contents of the tool were:

- Personal background (socio demographic information of the participant)
- The reason for migration and living & working condition in the destination
- The reason for deportation, life experience in the deportation, how they are deported, how they reacted to the situation and the major challenges in the deportation process
- The opportunities and challenges after return.

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

- Physical characteristic of the deported women returnees.
- Emotional characteristics of the deported women returnees.

### **3.3.2 Data Collection Techniques**

Data collection techniques allow us to systematically collect information about our objects of study (people, objects, phenomena) and about the settings in which they occur. In the collection of data we have to be systematic. If data are collected haphazardly, it will be difficult to answer our research questions in a conclusive way (Elmusharaf, 2012). In qualitative research data are obtained from a relatively small group of respondents and are not analyzed with statistical techniques. It involves detailed, verbal descriptions of characteristics, cases, and settings, and it uses observation and interviewing as source of data. It differs from traditional quantitative research through its use of less structured data-gathering instruments and its use of open-ended questioning (Creswell, 2007). In this study, In-depth interview and observation techniques have been used.

#### **3.3.2.1 In-depth interview**

In this study in- depth interview were held based on the arranged interview guide. Initially, I contacted the research participants by telephone and met them. In the first meeting, the participants were briefed about the purpose of the study; and based on mutual consensus

arrangements were made to meet up for the actual interview. Following confirmation of the participants to share their life experiences of deportation, interviews were held in place respondents felt comfortable and safe. To put it clearly, the interviews were conducted in each participant's house, in the church, in participants working places and in hotels. The interview sessions with the deported women returnees ranged from forty minutes to one and half an hour, and each interviewee was recorded on a tape recorder.

The voice of the interviewee is central in all interviews, nonverbal communication also can be important for attaining a deeper shared meaning and with nonverbal communication (e.g., facial expression, hand gesture) clarifying the meaning of words spoken, and words clarifying the meaning of nonverbal communication (Onwuegbuzie, Leech & Collins,2010). Thus, observation has been found critical to include the non-verbal communication of the deported women returnees. In fact, the observations particularly focused on the physical and emotional situation of the deported women returnees during the interview. Hence, I used field notes during the interview to support the information obtained from the in-depth interview.

### **3.4 Data Analysis Techniques**

This study analyzed the data obtained from the study participants through qualitative data analysis methods. Data collection and analysis strategies are similar across qualitative methods but the way the findings are reported is diverse and it address the importance of creating a data display and suggest that narrative text has been the most frequent form of display for qualitative data. Therefore, the results are presented in descriptive narrative form (Krueger & Nueman, 2006).

According to Karval (cited in Asefach Haileselassie Reda, 2012) qualitative methods of analysis focus on the stories told during the interview and works out their structures and their plots which contain a temporal sequence, patterning of happenings.

In this study the data collected from in-depth interview and observation were analyzed.

The data collected from the in-depth interview and observation were transcribed and translated. First the data was transcribed (12 – 17 pages per interview). The transcribed data was carefully read a number of times. After the translation was finished, every data related to the research questions was coded (the code was 60). Next, codes that appeared more related to one another were placed, thus creating themes and cluster. These codes were presented under the 19 themes, and the themes were organized in six clusters in the finding section of this paper.

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

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

### 3.6 Ethical Considerations

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

Cognizant of ethical issues of a research, in line with research ethics I carried out the data collection process by first giving adequate information and explanation about the research, its objectives, and methodologies to all participants. The process clarifies the risks and advantages of engaging in academic researches. The protection of participants' identity and the confidentiality of information gathered from them were included in the letter of consent. Therefore the real name of each interviewee is replaced with pseudo names for the sake of protecting the participants' identity. Before starting recording the voices of the participants, their consent for one was requested, and one of the research participants refused to be interviewed on-the-record. Thus, the researcher had but to respect the interest of the participant and made another arrangement instead of her. To put it differently, participants exercised their rights as autonomous persons to voluntarily accept or decline to participate in the study.

All participants were informed that they had the right not to take part or withdraw from the research at any stage without any implied deprivation or penalty for their rejection; In relation to this, two deported women returnees at first agreed to give interview, but later they declined after arrangement was set.



## **Chapter Four: Findings**

This part of the thesis presents the findings of the study obtained from in-depth interviews and direct observation which were discussed in the method section. I developed themes to present the data collected from the participants of the study. The themes are 19, containing 60 codes. These themes are organized under six clusters which are the major research questions of this study. The clusters are: reasons for migration, experiences of deported returnees in the destination country, experiences of women in the deportation process, challenges and opportunities after return, the deportee's opinion to re- migration, and deported women returnee's evaluation of the support of the government and different stakeholders in the deportation process and after their return.

Finally detailed descriptions' of participants' views are presented under the major clusters identified. In order to illustrate some points, direct quotations from the transcribed data are presented. The first section of this chapter deals with the background information of the participants of study and subsequently, the 19 themes of these findings are presented afterwards based on six clusters. This constitutes the remaining section of the chapter.

### **4.1 Description of Participants of the Study**

The research participants were between the ages 24 to 37years. Thus the group was diverse in terms of age. In terms of religion, two of the eight participants I interviewed are Muslims, Sofia and Fozeya. The remaining six are Orthodox Christian. However, two of these six Christians, Mahlet and Meseret, were converted to Islam in the process of migration. In terms of year of residence in Saudi Arabia, the deported returnee women's stay ranged from one to ten years.

The following table shows the socio-demographic variables of the deported returnees women.

Table 1. Socio-demographic information of deported returnees women.

<b>Returned women (pseudonym)</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Year of stay in Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>Alem</b>	27	Married	Orthodox	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 years
<b>Fenot</b>	25	Single	Orthodox	First year university student	1 years
<b>Emnet</b>	24	Single	Orthodox	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 years
<b>Mahder</b>	30	Married	Orthodox	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 years
<b>Sofia</b>	37	Married	Muslim	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	1 year and 9 months
<b>Fozia</b>	35	Married	Muslim	12 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 year and 6 months
<b>Mahlet</b>	32	Married	Orthodox	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 years
<b>Meseret</b>	24	Single	Orthodox	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 year and 6 months

## 4.2 Reasons for Migration

In this cluster the data collected through in-depth interview and observation are discussed based on their themes. This cluster includes three themes: economic problems, quest for independence, and presence of family or peer network in the destination country. These themes were repeatedly identified by the deported returnees as causal factors for their migration to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### 4.2.1 Economic problems

Under this theme the research participants mentioned the following reasons for their migration: inadequate income, dropping out from school, death of parent and responsibility to take care of family members. These were the reasons frequently mentioned by the participants.

Related to inadequate income, Alem says:

Before I went to Saudi, I lived in the countryside. When my father passed away, I dropped out of school at grade 6 because my mom alone could not feed and send to school the whole family. So, I migrated to Addis Ababa to support my poor family and I worked as a housemaid with a very low salary and I send what meager money I earn as a house maid, to my mother and the family. When I was thinking of my life, it did not make sense and it can't change from time to time. Then, I decided to migrate. To process my journey, I contacted the brokers who send people to Saudi Arabia. The broker I met said that I had to stay in Yemen for a few months and that he will send me to Saudi Arabia afterwards. When I reached Yemen, the broker kept all of us in a single small room. They [the brokers in Yemen] beat us and took all of our property. The broker sent some women to Saudi Arabia, those who can pay money. Then, I called to my boyfriend and I asked him to send me 10 thousand Birr, and I warned him that, otherwise, the broker in Yemen will kill me immediately. He sent me the money and I moved to Saudi Arabia. But when I arrived in Saudi, the police caught me and sent me to the jail and then they deported me to Yemen. After a few months, I went to back Saudi Arabia again. Though I migrated to Saudi Arabia time and again for a better income, I was deported to my country empty-handed.

After discussing her experience read above, she looked at the ground and remained silent for about a minute.

In like manner, Emnet, another of my interviewees, indicated that inadequate income was her reason for migration. Her results in the national exam at grade 10 did not enable her proceed with her studies. However, she had scored a grade point enabling her to join vocational school. Yet, unable to pay for her vocational education, she lived with her mother and her mother expected the help of her children especially that of Emnet as she is the eldest of her children. Emnet then decided to work in Arab countries to share the burden of her mother and save the life of her brothers and sisters.

Sofia also mentioned that it was lack of adequate income that prompted her to migrate. She says: *“I had four children before I went to Saudi and my husband’s income couldn’t match the expense of the family. When my children grew up, we began to fail to provide the basic needs, and then I left my country after I brought up four children.”*

Mahder migrated because her father died when she was still a child and he was the bread winner of the family. Then, she was supposed to work as a daily laborer, forced that she is to drop out from her school. Then she got married to a daily laborer and bore a child. After that, she was employed in a small factory as a store keeper. Their income was meager. When her child was two years old, she decided to leave the country and her husband took the responsibility to care for their child.

#### **4.2.2 Quest for Independence**

Reasons to migration under this theme are; feeling of being dependent on the family (I can’t be successful in my education and I simply sit ideal in my family’s home) and the wish to succeed in abroad (USA and other European country) and failure to do so.

Related with feeling of being dependent Fenot expressed her opinion as follows:

I quit my university education because the class was hard to perform and having dropped out of university, I returned to my parents back home. My family did what they could because they wish to see my success in education, but I could not bring their dream true. So when I returned back to my family, I was feeling being dependent. This was the first reason to make me leave my country. The second reason for my exodus was my work experience after leaving school in an agency that sent domestic workers to Arab countries. Working in the agency gave me the chance to know the details of how to migrate to the Arab countries.

Meseret added the following:

I completed grade 10 with a good score but I did not want to continue my education because I didn't see the importance of education to solve economic problems and I was not interested in learning. After I completed grade 10, I sat at home and I started to wish to live abroad (America or another European country) but I can't get the chance to migrate to these countries. I was feeling being idle and I decided to migrate to Saudi Arabia.

#### **4.2.3 Presence of Family or Peer Network in the Destination Country**

This is also a theme which appears under the reason for migration.

Fozia expressed her experience as follows:

My husband was in Yemen and I lived here with my two children and my mom, supported by my husband. The money I get from my husband was not enough; then my husband proposed the idea to work with him in Yemen and I agreed. In Yemen, my husband secured my employment as a housemaid but we couldn't change our life and

also there was war and the employers got rid of us from work and the government enforced us to leave their country; then I went to Saudi as an illegal migrant.

Mahlet stated her reason for migration as follows:

I had a childhood friend in Saudi and she told me about her life and the money she earns. Listening to her success, I wished to go there and pleaded with her to take me out of this country. Finally, she sent me some money and I went to Saudi.

In line with the reasons for migration, the research participants expressed that economic problems, quest for independence and presence of family and peer network in the destination country were the main reasons for migration. Obviously, a number of other factors contributed to the migrants' decisions besides the reasons discussed here.

### **4.3 The Experience of Deported Returnees in the Destination Country**

Five themes are included under this cluster. Poor working condition, low pay, religious conflict, food situation, lack of access to health services, sexual, emotional and physical abuse are expressed by the research participants as points of experience.

#### **4.3.1 Poor Working and Living Conditions**

Issues raised by the research participants under this theme are: overloaded work, restriction of movement and deduction and denial of salary. The research participants described such experience as follows:

Sofia described her working place condition and salary:

I went to Saudi with a legal agent but the employer was not good for me. I worked there without a break. Even after I finished my employer's house chores, I had supposed to work for their cousins and relatives. Still, I was happy to go work in the cousins and relatives houses because they gave me food which I do not get in my employer's house.

The relatives I work for no pay understood the character of my employer. Then I appealed to my agent to return me back to my country. But he told me that I have to stay and he promised to talk to my employer so that things will be changed soon. And he contacted her and after my agent contacted her things became worse and she blew my ears and I became sick because of her voice and she slams the door. Surprisingly, her children liked me. Because I took care of them, they show me love...yet she was not happy and she told me not to forget that the children are hers and not mine.

In addition to this, Sofia described that despite working for nine months day and night without rest and without enough food, they were not willing to pay her her salary. She says:...then one day I escaped from that house but I didn't know what I was supposed to do and I wept and a Bangladesh guy came to me, he asked me what I wanted to do but I can't respond to his question because, when I stayed nine month in Saudi, my employer did not allow me to talk to anyone else so, other than a little listening. Thus I could not speak Arabic language. The Bangladesh guy took my phone and I sat in the ground and I cried... then one Ethiopian guy saw me and he took me to his relatives and they gave me help and got me employed to another household.

Based on the observation by the researcher, the participant was emotionally disturbed while discussing her unfortunate experience and she remained silent for some time.

Regarding the Working and Living Conditions, Fenot said;

I lived and worked in Saudi for a year and I was overloaded with work because I had to work in my employer's relatives also. I slept only for four hours in a day and sometimes I can't even sleep because my employer has a habit of staying long in the night and I had to do whatever they ordered me at any time...they didn't consider that I am a

human being fatigued and exhausted. You know what my employers did? They deduct my salary every month.

Similarly, we can look at what Emnet said regarding working and living conditions:

In Saudi I stayed for two years and my employers have so many children and I was the only housemaid in the house... so, I was supposed to do every chore. And to be honest, I had no rest except when I slept for about two to four hours, depending on the situation. But my employer slept the whole day and when she was awake, it was to eat and take shower. I sometimes wished to sleep the whole day like her but it was just a dream. I became stressed and I grew to be forgetful of what they ordered me to do...so, I was always worried that my employers might not understand that I needed rest and enough food as any human being. But my employers took me for a machine. When I asked them about my salary they replied that they put my money with them and will give me when I return back to my country. But I couldn't trust them...finally they had me deported to my country empty-handed.

Another participant, Meseret stated that:

The working condition was so bad that I stayed in Saudi two years and six months. In my stay I passed a scary life and I prefer not to tell you about my terrible experience. I worked without rest but I didn't get any reward. On the reverse, they blame me for every fault that happened to that family... you know that I don't know what my mistake was.

The researcher's observation testifies that, when Meseret expressed her experience, she was emotionally in a very sad situation.



In relation to working condition and salary, Mahlet speaks:

I went to Saudi by converting my religion (from Orthodox Christian to Islam) for the purpose of migration... so I moved out in the name of religious pilgrimage by Hajj and I have been in Saudi for 10 years. Having rented a house with my relatives, I was employed as a housemaid. There is no rest working as a maid. However, as a religious pilgrim, I had the privilege to go to my place and take rest. No one imposed on me to work in that house. If I went there by agency, contract or visa, however, you can't move from that house whether they are good or bad... when I was there my second employer was so abusive; she doesn't want to give any piece of money and food. When I asked her to give me my salary, she just ignored me. My employers knew that I could not accuse them of denying my salary because I was regarded as an illegal migrant and could be deported if arrested. For such compelling reasons I lost the money which I had earned.

Mahder stated her working conditions:

I was in Saudi for two years. When I went to Saudi, I used legal agent and the agency got me employed in one household but the employer's family size was large. In the first day, after I finished my task, I slept almost six hours but my employer came to my bedroom and shouted on me that I get up from my sleep startled... then she gave me a clock and told me that I have to sleep not more than four hours and I was supposed to wake up early in the morning. Then I stayed like this for four months without payment ...then, with another maid in the house, a Bangladesh woman, I escaped from the employer's house... then thanks to God, I began to work as a housemaid, renting a house with other Habashas.

Mahder expressed the situation with emotional gesticulations:

Fozia mentioned her work condition as follows:

When I was in Saudi for two years and six months, I helped out my family. But when I was in Yemen I suffered a lot. Because first when I went from my country...I migrated to Yemen and then I moved to Saudi by means of brokers. The journey continued on foot without food and water and I remember that one day, one of my friends drunk her urine and all of us cried and thanks to Allah he gave us rain and we drunk the rain-water with mire...after 28 days we reached Saudi, a place called Gizan. Then ... I couldn't move with them and all of my friends left me alone and I wept in the jungle the whole night and ... I saw a woman. I beg her for food because I was hungry and thirsty. I told her that I was in the jungle the whole night and she was so nice and she said 'why don't you come tonight' and ... then she brought me to her home and she treated me very well. The next day she asked me if I wanted to have a job and I said yes and that I can do any kind of job. She said that they have cattle's and camels and my task will be herding and feeding the cattle and camels... she said that they will give me 200 Saudi Riyad or 1000ETB. At that moment I swear to the name of Allah, I was happy and I told her that I would be happy to work for her for the price of food and water. This is because I saw so many troubles. After working there for a while, I moved to Mecca.

When Fozia remembered the situation she described, she wept and the interview had to be suspended for a while. It resumed after Fozia got some relief.

In conclusion, the research participants pointed out the experience of their migration in the destination country related to work condition and salary. Most of the research participants

except (Fozia) expressed the denial of salary, overwork, lack of rest, shortage of enough time to sleep and horrible work-place situation. And the research participants expressed that they migrated legally but they end up illegal because of their employers' harsh treatment. In addition to these, the research participants (Mahder, and Sofia, Fozia and Mahlet) mentioned working as a freelance housemaid is more advantageous than working by contract or visa. And when the migrants get employed as a freelance maid, they had freedom to move out if the employer house is not comfortable.

#### **4.3.2 Food situation**

Regarding to food situation, the entire research participants expressed in one way or another that they were suffering from deprivation of food. For instance, Mahder and Sofia replied that when they were working under the legal agents, they suffered a lot to get food in their employers' houses but while they escaped from the house in which they were legally employed, they can buy and eat whatever they want. The rest of the participants in the research pointed out that they experienced hunger in the destination country in different ways. In relation to these Sofia said:

I stayed without food for three days because my employer locked all the food and the juice and I drank too much water, if it could tolerate my hunger and...my employer's relatives knew about her greed ...then when I came to their house for work they gave me food. Additionally, I reported the situation to my agent and the agency contacted her... then she shouted on me.

Similarly, Alem discussed:

when I reached Saudi, I was hungry, because I moved out from Yemen to Saudi by car without enough food and when my broker got employed me as a housemaid

...immediately my employer gave me a task ... I didn't see any food in my first day... I grew weaker and weaker ... then, after one more day, I got food... I can't express now how I ate that food ...

In relation to the food situation, Mahder says: *'When I was working legally in my first employer's house, ... most of the time the family ate in the restaurant ... and my employer gave me some rice with a loaf of bread ... and it couldn't satisfy my hunger (ከአንጅጅጅ ጠብ አይልም)'*.

The researcher observes that when Maheder talked about her hunger she remained silent for a few moments and her facial expression implied her deep sorrow at her past.

Concerning the food situation Emnet expressed: *"I prepared all types of foodstuff for that family ... I saw different types of food forbidden in my culture ... I can't eat that ... I always ate tomato salad ... sometimes I can't get tomato and ... because of the workload I slept without food."*

### **4.3.3 Freedom of movement**

The research participants were asked about their freedom of movement in the destination country. Fenot expressed that the only way she could get out of the house was if she went with her employers to another household for work. Otherwise no one permitted her to go out from that home boundary.

In relation to this, Emnet says: *"I came to Saudi Arabia; I didn't communicate with any one ... I missed my countrymen and women"*. The other research participants (Mahder and Sofia) reported that while they were employed legally, they didn't move anywhere and they worked day and night within closed doors.

In sum, restriction from movement and confinement in the houses of their employers was one of the challenges the women experienced during their stay in the destination country.

#### 4.3.4 Religious conflict

The participants of the research experienced religious conflict with their employers. The major challenges they were experiencing are disrespect, enforcement to change their religion and insult.

Fenot speaks:

when I went to Saudi I didn't change my name and when they saw me I am a Christian...all of the family members shouted on me and the mother of the house told me with anger : 'you have to change your religion' ...then I thought I have to be wise...then when they ask me to change my religion I said: 'okay, teach me about your religion and am ready to convert to Islam' ...I said to myself that I know my God knows everything and I believe Him in my heart.

Emnet, for her part, relates her experience as:

My employer forced me to call the name of Allah when something happens and her husband intentionally gave me camel's meat... he did that because he knows camel's meat is forbidden in our Christian religion. In addition to that, my female employer saw my neck inside of my cloth to prove whether I have a cross or not...then she cut out my cross (the cord) from my neck.

Mahlet and Meseret reported that they converted their Christian religion to Islam for the purpose of their migration and they went to Saudi as religious pilgrims.

The other two of my research participants (Alem & Mahder) expressed that Arabs do not like Christians and they want their domestic servants to follow Islam; otherwise they consider them a devil or some other alien animal.

Two of my research participants, Sofia and Fozia, say that in relation to religion, they didn't face any difficulty because they wore Muslims' clothes and they believe they were in a blessed Islamic country. In addition to this Fozia expressed that she had the chance to visit Mecca and that she feels happy whenever she thinks of that moment.

In sum, In relation to religion the women faced difficulties if they are not Muslims and the employer wants to control even the spiritual life of their domestic workers. And the other issue is that the migrant women purposefully change their religion without really looking for the faith but only for the purpose of migration.

#### **4.3.5 Health service**

The research participants experienced health-related problems in their work place and working condition. Lack of medication, delaying of treatment, stress and hearing problem are the main problems expressed by the research participants.

Asked about the health situation, Alem said:

I was sick... and I couldn't pick anything I want ...my employer didn't give me any medication until six days but, my employer's son came to his family for a vacation and when he saw me, he gave me a drug...I don't know what it was...but thanks to my lord I got relief.

In relation to health condition Fenot said;

In the time of Ramadan, when I was working, I got burnt by warm water and my leg and my hand were injured. Then I cried and I shouted to get help but my employer didn't give me any help and they left me alone... then my brother was in Saudi. I called to him after about an hour and he took me to the hospital...then I stayed in his house till I got cured but my employer didn't ask me about my health situation.

Fenot showed the researcher her physical scar on her legs and she talked the response of her employer with a sob and the interview stopped because she was emotionally disturbed and she kept weeping for a long while. The researcher had to console her in order to bring her to a normal emotional mood. And the interview stopped for a few hours and continued after four hours.

Similarly, Mahder said that she was seriously ill and that she stopped working for one month ...during that time, she stayed with her friend (her compatriot) who rented a house. Here, friends gave her traditional Ethiopian medicine. She describes the result: *“finally thanks to my lord and my friend, I was cured”*.

Emnet described her health condition in the following way:

My employer took me to a medical center...but I was not sick and I was surprised...then she told the doctor that I have evil spirit so that he would teach me about Muslim religion... but one Habesha told me that they want to kill me...then I started to pretend like a crazy woman because I want them to send me back to my country...then when the doctor tried to inject me I fought her and she couldn't inject me...then the doctor got convinced that I am crazy ...then she gave me a tablet.

Ement expressed her experience with an emotionally disturbed situation caused by yearning for her country.

Concerning health situation Sofia said:

I had pain in my head and ears...then my employer took me to a medical center...the doctor told me that I was stressed and my ears got injured and told me that I have to get rest...you know what, my employer shouted on me and she slumped on the

door...that's why I have a pain in my ear until today...and I got disturbed easily and my mind is not normal.

The researcher observed that Sofia has a hearing problem and she talked like a deaf person; she talks with a very low voice and could not hear what is spoken normally, unless the speaker says the words aloud.

Meseret expressed the way she gave birth to her child: *“I bore my child in my rented home without any medical treatment ...after I gave birth, I had over blooded; then my friend took me to the hospital”*.

In sum, the research participants experienced different health problems and the Arab employers didn't want to take their house maids to medical centers and they don't care about the life of the human beings working in their own houses. The domestic workers used indigenous mechanisms of medication. In line with this, Mahder was cured from her disease by Ethiopian traditional medicine and they tried to help each other when the problem happened to one of them.

#### **4.3.6 Sexual, emotional and physical abuse**

Under this theme the research participants experienced rape, beating, insult, sexual harassment and physical harassment. Most women reported that they were beaten, insulted and experienced sexual harassment by employers or family members and friends of the employers. Emnet describes her experience:

My male employer was always following me...one day I was tired and I slept in the kitchen ...then he came to the kitchen in the middle of the night ...he raped me...then after that night he came to my room when his wife is not in the house...you know that I hate myself...I fell as a useless and helpless person.



Similarly, Alem expressed the sexual abuse she experienced as follows:

I got raped two times during the journey by the broker because first my broker took me in Yemen...then after we arrived in Yemen ...the broker took me in a waiting place ...then I stayed in that house with other Ethiopian women...in that small house the brokers look for new comers among the group of women in order to rape them. I was one of the victims and when I was in Saudi I experienced the same violence...I was raped by my employer's brother and I didn't tell to any one; I only wept and kept quiet. I preferred to live in my country with poverty.

The researcher's observation implied that Alem was in a disturbed and confused situation when she talked about this experience.

Similarly, Meseret said:

My employer's son was living out of his family. He occasionally came to visit his family. I don't feel comfortable when he came to that house. He looks at me in a different way. One day he came to my room. I asked him what he wanted and he said 'I like you'...then I stood to defend myself but I couldn't be a match to him...then he raped me ...that was my first incidence to have sex so, I lost my dignity (virginity)...then you know what he did? He told his mother without any sense of shame. And his mother got angry at what he did with 'such a dirty woman'. Then he continued having sex with me...then I found out that I am pregnant... You can imagine what I felt...I don't know what I was supposed to do, I didn't tell to anyone about my pregnancy ...simply I cried and from day to day my pregnancy grew bigger and visible my female employer found out that I am pregnant...she tried to kill me...then I escaped from my employer's house before she reported to the police and forced me to return to

my country...I preferred I could die rather than return to my country in that situation.

Imagine, I was pregnant and I didn't have any money in my pocket...the situation made me stressed and emotionally unstable...finally I met an Ethiopian and she took me to her and her friend's house...Thanks to my lord, I gave birth with the help of my friend.

Meseret relates the sexual harassment she experienced; she was felt deeply sad and she couldn't control her tears.

Related to sexual harassment, Sofia expressed her experience as follows:

My woman employer was good and she treated me as any other human being. But her husband was rude. He frequently bothered me by saying: 'I like you and I want to marry you because I don't like my wife; she is so obese and I don't like to have sex with her' However, no matter what he said, I refused to have sex with him and left that house after one month.

Regarding to abuse, Fenote explained that she was beaten by the daughter of her employer and she got work injury but her employer didn't care about her pain. In addition to this, Mahder expressed the emotional abuse she encountered as follows:

My employer said: 'you Habesha came to Saudi because there is no food in your country'...then I said that we have food but we came here for a better income. She laughed and said: 'you came here with small amount and we employed you with small amount of salary compared with other country citizens like Indonesians'...then I said 'your country money have high value in our country' ...then she didn't stop talking with insult...but I got tired and, to get matters at ease, I said that she was right.

Generally, most of the research participants' experiences indicate that sexual harassment and rape are among the common problems they encountered. Most domestic workers (Emnet, Alem

and Meseret) were exposed to sexual harassment by their employers or the employers' friends and relatives. Additionally, the domestic workers suffered at host one type of harassment like sexual, emotional or physical in the destination country or during the journey. The women struggled with the situation without any support. Whenever they are asked to reminisce their experiences of abuse, they invariably feel deeply troubled and irritated.

#### **4.4 The Experience of Women throughout the Deportation Process**

Themes under this cluster include: Causes for deportation, deportees responses to the situation, methods of deportation, food and sleeping conditions, hygiene and health in the detention centers, sexual, physical or emotional harassment in the deportation process and the right to own properties by the deportee are discussed.

##### **4.4.1 Causes of Deportation**

Under this theme the research participants discussed that being illegal migrant, lack of *Iqama* (resident license and work permit), animosity towards non-Saudi citizens, fear of foreign citizens, apprehension at a growing number of expatriates particularly Ethiopian migrants were among the reasons for deportation.

Lack of *Iqama* (resident license and work permit) are the major reasons expressed by the research participants. It seems, according to the interviewees, that the Saudi government does not want to see those who have no *Iqama* (resident license and work permit).

Asked about the cause of her deportation, Alem replied: *“After I moved from my country illegally, i.e., by brokers, I worked in Saudi as freelancer. I had no any legal ground. And suddenly, the Saudi government deported me to my country in 2006 EC.”*

In relation to the causes of deportation, Emnet said:

I had a passport in my employer's house. But my woman employer hates me, yet, she couldn't change me for another employee unless I end up my contract. Then when the Saudi government started to remove illegal migrants, she hid my passport and she handed me over to the police. I said nothing.

Concerning the cause of deportation, Mahder discusses: "*In my first employer's house, I had my passport and I was legal. After I escaped from that house, however, I became illegal...then the Saudi police detained me*".

Mahlet says that the fear that the government of Saudi had for foreign citizens was the cause of deportation and she adds:

The Saudi government suspected that foreign citizens do not like the government of Saudi because the Saudi citizens and the government abuse foreign workers. They disrespect the foreign citizens. So they knew if the government wages war with other countries, they knew the foreigners would stand on the side of their adversaries.

Fozia, on her part, relates her view concerning causes of deportation:

I think in Saudi the number of Habesha is larger than other citizens and at the same time there is a large number of Ethiopians who have no *Iqama* (resident license and work permit). I was deported because the Saudi government announced that those who have no resident license and work permit must leave the country. Finally I returned to my home country through deportation.

The research participants discussed that being illegal and lack of access to have *Iqama* (work and resident permit) was the cause of their deportation. In sum, all the eight women in the study pointed out that they were deported because they have no *Iqama*.

#### 4.4.2 Deportees' Feelings and Responses to the Situation

In this theme, fear, hiding, seeking help, stress and being happy were points discussed by the research participants regarding their experiences.

Concerning the situation, Alem said:

First I had some informal information about the deportation plan of the Saudi Arabian government. And when the government declared to repatriate illegal migrants, I was shocked and I decided to work in my employer's house without rest. However, my employer didn't want me to stay in their home because the government announced that the citizens will also be punished if they retained any illegal migrant workers in their houses. Then my employer banished me from their house and I went to my rented house in Saudi. I stayed within closed doors for a week. No one can understand how much I was stressed.

When Alem was asked about what was the warning before the deportation, she said: *"for illegal migrants they said there is imprisonment punishment for two years and for those who employed illegal migrants the government announced they will be fined with up to 30,000 Riyal."*

Related to feelings of fear and seeking help, Fenot expressed her experience as follows:

I thought that one day, the Saudi government will repatriate all non-citizens of Saudi Arabia and there was a rumor about the deportation but when the rumor comes real, I got confused and then I contacted my brother who lives in Saudi Arabia. He had *Iqama* (resident license and work permit). He made efforts by contacting brokers to get legal residence permit for me, but the broker took my brother's money and they couldn't do anything. All our efforts to stay in Saudi being useless, I was strangely happy inside at

the thought of returning home. This is because I had no passport. If you have no passport, the police put you in the jail; and if you are lucky, you will return back to your country or else your life will end up in jail. On the other hand I was scared because I lost my energy, time and returned to my home empty-handed.

Similarly Mahder shared the following: *“I was informed that the deportation started in Riyadh; I was in Jeddah at that time. Then after a few days the deportation continued in Jeddah ...I was confused...but I said maybe it’s a good chance to leave peacefully from this country without imprisonment.”*

Related to feeling and responses to the deportation, Emnet expressed her experience as follows:

You know what, I don’t know what was going on there but when the police caught me from my employer’s house...then I met other Ethiopians in the deportation center then I understood from them what was going on...then, I cried a lot...you know why, I cried, I missed my family I didn’t hear their voices for two years ...so, that was a great chance for me because I have no way to move out from my employer’s house...but I returned to my home without a penny.

Related to feeling and act of the deportation, Sofia discussed:

My employer took me to the TV room and she said that I had to listen to what was being broadcast. Then I watched the TV ...the TV talked about the deportation notice of the Saudi Arabian government. It was an announcement for illegal migrants to leave the country and the warning for the illegal migrants and the Saudi employers. Immediately, my employer told me that I have to stop working in the house and that I have to return to my country...then they gave me 200 Riyad...then, with lots of fear and tension I

went to my rented house. You don't know how much I was tensioned because most of my friends who shared that house were deported.

Sofia was also asked about the warning and she said that if the illegal migrants don't leave the country immediately, the government would jail them for two years and if any illegal migrants are found in the houses of Saudi citizens, the owner of the house or the employer could be fined.

Similarly, Fozia expressed her experience in relation to the feeling of fear:

I was in Mecca in the time of deportation and I had a little information about the Saudi Arabian government's deportation plan...but there was nothing new in Mecca...then my husband was in Saudi Arabia, he said that his employer fired him from his work...and I asked him why, he said the employers are scared because of the warning by the government.

Regarding to feeling of the deportation, Mahlet said; *"I knew about the news of deportation from Ethiopian television; then I called to my friend and tensioned, I shared the information with my friends."*

Similarly, Related to feeling and responses to the deportation Meseret said:

I was in a terrible situation. I had a 10 month old child and I was living in the rented house with the help of my Ethiopian friends. I was raped, I gave birth and I had no job. In addition to these the government announced to deport illegal migrants. For a few weeks, I hid myself in my rented house. Then finally I was deported to my country.

#### 4.4.3 Deportation Procedures

Research participants discussed in this theme about the deportation procedures during the deportation process. In relation to the deportation procedures, Alem expressed her experience as follows:

In the time of deportation, I was in my house and I didn't move out of my closed door because if the police saw me, I knew they would detain me. I was frightened. Then the police broke my door and beat me; then they took me to the detention center by bus. I remained in there for 15 days.

Regarding the deportation procedure, Fenot said: *"I surrendered to the police and the police took me by bus to the detention center...then I remained in the detention center for 8 days."*

In relation to the deportation procedure Emnet discussed her experience as follows:

The police caught me when I was doing my chore in my employer's house...my employer called the police because she wanted to remove me without my salary. Then I arrived at the detention center where I met many Ethiopians. After I discussed with them, I understood what was going on...I stayed for 18 days in the detention center.

Similarly Mahder expressed the deportation procedure in the following way: *"I surrendered to the police and the police took me to the detention center ...I stayed for 20 days in the detention center."*

Similarly Mahlet expressed: *"I stayed in the detention center 23 days after I surrendered to the police."*

Concerning the deportation procedure Sofia expressed her experience and she said:

when the Saudi Arabian government gave a declaration about the deportation, my employer was good...they gave me 200 Riyad and sent me out from their house...then I



went to the house I had rented ...but all of my friends were detained by police...then I surrendered to the police...in the detention center I remained there for 14 days.

Similarly, Fozia discussed her experience in relation to the deportation procedure. She said:

My husband was fired from his work...when I saw my husband suffer, my mind was disturbed and thought that it would be better to give up our hands to the police rather than suffer in here. And we decided to come back to Ethiopia. Then we went to police ...then the police took us to a deportation center. We stayed 21 days in the detention center...the detention center was an empty ground.

Concerning the deportation procedure, Meseret said that *“the police broke up my closed door and they beat me ...finally they took me with my 10 months-old infant...then I remained there for 23 days in the detention center.”*

In sum, the deported returnees came to their home land in different ways: by surrendering to the police, by means of the employers calling the police and by forceful detainment by the police themselves. But most of the deported returnees surrendered to the police before the police caught them. And the research participants expressed that they remained in the detention center from eight up to twenty three days.

#### **4.4.4 Food and Sleeping Conditions**

In this theme, the research participants discussed lack of enough food and lack of proper sleeping condition.

##### **4.4.4.1 Food**

In relation to food situation Alem expressed: *“The food we received in the detention center was not bad...they gave us rice three times a day with water...but I stayed for 15 days...I ate small piece of rice without any substitute food.”*

Concerning the food situation Emnet said; *“Sometimes we couldn’t get the rice properly but they tried to give us twice a day.”*

Fenot said in her part; *“I had no appetite to take that food in that suffocation... I bought some juice with my little money... If you had money with you, you could ask the police through the window to help you to buy food. But most people didn’t have money ...because you can’t take out much money.”*

Concerning the food situation Meseret said:

I can’t express that moment well. My baby was with me in the detention center for twenty three days...he cried continuously because I didn’t find enough food to my baby and I tried to suckle him I did not have enough milk. Imagine you couldn’t do anything when your kid cried because of hunger...that was so horrible.

When Meseret talked about the food situation, she looked at the eyes of her baby and she wept.

Regarding the food situation, Sofia discussed her experience as follows:

In the detention center we get small amount of rice three times a day...but when we went from the detention center to the airport, there was a big crowd...and I stayed in the bus for three days to get exit visa...at that time the police threw juice and cookies. Only the strongest could catch some.

Concerning to the food situation Fozia said:

The food was good in the detention center...we eat three times a day...but when we went by bus to take exist visa...the food they gave us was not enough to the number of people in there. I became weaker because of hunger.

In conclusion, the deported returnees experienced lack of enough food in the detention center and during the time of exit from the detention center to the airport. And more strikingly,

there is absolutely no special care for infants and suckling women in the detention center. One of the participants in this research expressed that her infant experienced hunger and malnutrition.

#### **4.4.4.2 Sleeping Conditions**

In this theme, the research participants discussed their experience as follows. Meseret said: *“People just slept on the floor, wearing what they have. I passed twenty three days without proper sleep because I was had to care for my kid.”*

Fenot said: *“You can’t get rest in that crowd and you are supposed to sleep without changing your clothes. You remain dressed the same cloth day and night.”*

In similar vein, Mahder, Emnet and Mahlet expressed that there was no bed in the detention center; everybody was supposed to sleep on the floor.

#### **4.4.5 Health Situation in the Detention Center**

Under this theme, the research participants experienced lack of rest room, lack of medication, illness and overcrowding.

The research participants’ experiences showed that people died in the deportation center because of the crowd and lack of medicinal treatment in the center. The deportation center had no sufficient rest rooms separately for men and women. The people experienced hygiene-related problems like diarrhea and anemia.

In relation to health situation Meseret discussed her experience as follows:

There were no separate rooms for women and children...my kid suffered a lot because of the suffocation. I couldn’t wash him properly because of lack of enough water in the detention center...I couldn’t get the toilet the time I went there because of the number of crowd and also access to hygiene pad was so hard.

Concerning health situation, Mahlet said: *“I fainted because of the crowded but I didn’t get medical treatment.”*

Mahder said: *“The detention center looks like a restroom because all of the deportees remained day and night in that room...and also there were no enough restrooms in the detention center.”*

Similarly, Emnet said: *“You can see many people in the center who suffered from different diseases like diarrhea, anemia and other hygiene-related diseases. I was frequently vomiting in the detention center but I didn’t get any medical help.”*

#### **4.4.6 Sexual, Physical and Emotional Harassment or Abuse in the Deportation Process**

This theme discusses the sexual, physical and emotional experiences of the deportees.

##### **4.4.6.1 Sexual Abuse**

Related to sexual abuse during the deportation process, Alem said:

The police broke into my house and three policemen came to me...then they ordered me to take off my cloth and stand naked and they forcefully had sex with me one after the other...then I passed out...when I woke up, I found myself at the detention center.

Alem keeps weeping while she talked about the sexual abuse she experienced.

Another research participant, Mahder expressed her experience in relation to sexual abuse as follows:

In our detention center there was protest against delay in the processing of the deportation procedures...then in the night, the police separated us and moved us to another deportation center...then they put the women in a separate room...the room was dark...then one guy seized me, I couldn’t shout...then he had sex with me.

Similarly, Meseret discussed the experience of sexual abuse as follows:

I was hiding myself and my child indoors the house I rented. But the police forcefully broke in to my door. Stressed, I hugged my child. But one of the policemen ordered me to put my child on the floor. My child was crying. The two police man forced me to have sex with them...then they took me to the detention center with my child.

Meseret was in an emotional difficulty when she expressed the sexual abuse she experienced to the point that she stood up from where she was sitting.

#### **4.4.6.2 Physical and emotional harassment**

Regarding physical and emotional harassment Alem said; *“I witnessed that the men detainees were beaten by cables and belt and the policemen shouted on us and they called us dirty...you know what they did, they covered the detainees’ mouse with gloves when they came to drop food to us.”*

Concerning the physical and emotional harassment Emnet mentioned her observation as follows: *“All of the detainees were tired and they started to protest against the situation by shouting... then the police shoot and killed one guy...then the situation becomes the worst...then the police shoot smoking gas”*

Regarding the physical and emotional harassment Sofia mentioned; *“There were a number of people out of the compound because of crowd...and I observed one Habesha girl, who wear a trouser and a t-shirt ...then the police hit her by car intentionally ...I couldn’t express how much shocked I was . I remember the situation till now.”* Additionally, Sofia expressed that, *“I had pain in my leg because I didn’t seat for three days on the bus when they moved us to give finger thumb and exit visa.”*

When Sofia talked about this experience, the researcher observes that her eyes were weeping.

Similarly, Fozia expressed the physical and emotional harassment as follows; I witnessed the Arab killed the deportees by car and you know what they said, *“you are dirty...have bad smell.”*

In conclusion, the research participants experienced types of harassment ranging from beating up to sexual harassment. The police were the ones who abused the deportees and no one holds them responsible for their actions, they did whatever they wanted and the security forces were directly participating in abusing the detainees.

#### **4.4.7 Properties of the Deportee**

In this theme the research participants expressed their experience as follows:

Alem discussed her experience in the following way: *“I came to my home empty-handed. Before the police caught me, I was preparing my bags... all of a sudden the police took me from my home”*

Concerning the property Fenot said; *“When I surrendered to the police, I had some money in my pocket and also had a mobile phone but I finished up all the money for food in the detention center. I only brought one small bag”*

Related to property Emnet said: *“I came home empty-handed...it was so shameful for me...I was afraid to look the eyes of my family...imagine I went to get money but I returned with nothing even a piece of cloth.”*

Similarly, Mahder mentioned her experience related to property:

I had one bag when I gave up my hand to the police...then when I get the exit visa, the security force took my bag and they said we will send you this...but they took my cell

phone and they damp on the basket...thanks to God I got my bag after I arrived Ethiopian airport.

Concerning property Sofia said:

I came without anything...imagine without any piece of money (ያለ ቤሳ ቤስቲን)...I brought one bag but after I arrived in Ethiopian airport...my bag was stolen by theft '*to put an injury to a scar*' በእንቅርት ላይ ጆሮ ደግፍ...imagine I had four children but I didn't bring anything for them...

Regarding the property Fozia said:

I was very tired...I couldn't protect my bag. I dropped it in the floor but my husband took care of my property...but I couldn't get them when I arrived at Bole airport...then I tried to wait till it comes but I couldn't get it to the end.

Concerning property Meseret expressed her experience as follows; "*I went from my country to get money but I returned to my country with my 'bastard' (ከነዲ ቃላዩ)...imagine, I had nothing...but thanks to God, all things have gone.*"

Meseret expressed the situation in a depressed emotion.

#### **4.5 The Challenges and Opportunities in the Life after Return**

Here, the research participants discussed the challenges and the opportunities they faced after return

##### **4.5.1 Challenges**

Under this theme unemployment, lack of support from the government, low monthly income, discrimination of the family and poor health status were mentioned by the research participants as a challenge.

Related to unemployment Fenot said; *“After I return from Saudi Arabia, I thought designing but I couldn’t get working place and I request the kebele to cooperate with me but till now I didn’t get any response.”* In addition to this Fenot expressed that; *“now I am thinking that my family hate me because, instead of helping them I am a burden to them, they are right...all people loves you, if you have money (ሁሉም ሲኖርሽ ነው የሚወድሽ)...but I can’t do anything.”*

The researcher observed that Fenot was in feeling of loneliness.

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

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

#### **4.5.2 Opportunities**

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



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

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

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

In sum, the deported returnees faced both challenges and opportunities after their return. However, all of the research participants indicated that they are challenged by life after they return. But, they mentioned living with the family and the chance to work in cooperation in their country as an opportunity.

#### **4.6 The deportee's opinion to re migration**

Some of the deported returnees whom I have interviewed expressed their opinion about re-migration to Arab countries and still prefer the migration over other options. Mahder, Fenot, Meseret and Mahlet have a plan to re-migrate. In relation to these, Mahder said; *“When you are working here, you lose your energy without any asset...but, if it's in Arab countries you got the money, that compensate the loss of your energy...but here, there is no any hope of change.”*

In addition to this Meseret said; *“Instead of dying in poverty...I prefer to go there and choose to die by the hands of the Arabs.”*

Similarly, Mahelet said, *“If I can get the chance to go in a legal way, I am ready to go”* and in relation to this Fenot said: *“Here, I expect help from the hands of my family...so I prefer to go instead of expecting the hand of my family.”*

In relation to re- migration some of the research participants (Alem, Emnet, Sofia and Fozia) have no plan to re-migration. In relation to this Alem said; *“I wish I could die with poverty in my country, instead of migrating...I experienced it, I know how bitter it is”*.

Similarly, Emnet said: *“Whether it is bitter or sweet, I prefer to live in my home land...you know what, even I can get the chance to go to USA I don’t think I will go.”*

In addition Fozia said; *“I couldn’t attempt to go because I wasted my time in exile. But tell me: what did I get? Yet, sometimes, I wish to go there, when I test the bitterness of my life.”*

Similarly, Sofia exclaimed: *“I will never think to go to abroad!”*

Generally, some research participants (Mahder, Fenot, Meseret and Mahlet) have the intention to migrate again despite the fact that they experienced its bitterness and they thought that, working in here doesn’t make any positive change in life and have no benefit other than spending time and energy. The rest of the research participants expressed that, in the rest of their life they prefer to live in their country and have no plan to migrate again.

#### **4.7 The Returnee’s Assessment of the Support of the Government and Different**

##### **Stakeholders**

In this cluster, the deported returnees explained the support of the government and other stake holders.

In relation to these, Alem said:

The Ethiopian government’s reception was good when we arrived at the Bole airport.

After we arrived we got food and water...then they take us to temporary resting center...I

was happy by the reception because that makes me to feel that the government gives attention to us ...then I stayed in the temporary center for three days. Then the government gave us 900 ETB for transport. However, beyond the reception the government didn't give any help and that was not enough for us. We are citizens of Ethiopia, the government was supposed to help us when we were deported.

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

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

I would like to thank our government only for the reception and the 900 birr support. However, the government didn't understand us; simply talking in the media doesn't solve any of our problems. We went from our country for a change but the Arabs sent us to our home like a material but in our country we give freedom and respect for the foreigners including the 'devil' Arabs. Thus, the government should protect the rights of Ethiopian maid servants in the Arab countries. Yet, our government kept silent when we were killed, suffered by hunger and lost our property in detention centers. I don't understand why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs didn't do any diplomatic effort to regulate that situation. The government gave a military support to neighboring countries but when we were in crisis it didn't give us a piece of bread. I requested the kebele to give me a work place but they ignored my question and they gave plenty of land for investors but I requested them for survival, you see , this is the reality of our country.

In relation to support Meseret said:

Except the 900 birr transportation fee, the government didn't give any help for me and my child, when I was in a horrible situation in that detention center. When I was in Arab

nobody care about me, then after I returned to my country the government didn't give me any help but the government was supposed to do a lot because I am a citizen of Ethiopia.

If our government didn't feel responsible for these acts what will be next.

Regarding the support Sofia discussed that:

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

Similarly Fozia explained the support as follows:

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

Related to the support Mahelet said:

The government didn't take any action when we were in frantic situation in Saudi Arabia deportation center. I don't know why our government didn't interfere in the deportation process and why our government couldn't return us by negotiating with the Saudi Government. However, when, we reached Bole airport, the government welcomed us and the government arranged a temporary shelter. And in addition to this I got the chance to work in Micro and Small Enterprises but the enterprise is found in bankruptcy.

In sum, the research participants explained that the government didn't give any help when they are in the detention center. In addition they explained that the government gives support for other countries but it didn't give any help for its citizens. Thus the research

participants mentioned that the government should protect the right of its citizens in Arab countries at least at the time of crisis. In addition the deportees explained the government had welcomed them and some of the returnees (Sofia, Fozia and Mahelet) had got the chance to work under a Small and Micro Finance Enterprise the rest of the research participants explained they didn't saw any help other than the welcoming ceremony and the government's press conferences.

#### **4.8 New Finding in This Study**

As far as my exploration related to the life experience of deported returnees is concerned, I found some finding similar with previous researches and some new findings. Thus, this study has the following new finding.

The first new finding of this study is the deported returnees feeling afraid to look the eyes of their family because of this they broke up their relationship with their family. The returnee's family live in poverty and the children migrated to Arab countries to save the life of their family. The families expect money from the deported women returnees but returnees came back empty hand, thus returnees prefer to hide themselves from the family and they live apart from them till they will get the chance to migrate another Arab country and will have money. The finding indicated that the wrong expectation of the returnee family created stress on the returnees and these may lead the returnees to re- migrate again.

The second new finding is the deported returnees experienced sexual, physical and emotional harassment during the destination and the deportation process. As the finding shows all of the deported returnees are exposed to one or more harassment either in the destination or in the deportation process.

The third new finding is that; the security forces in Saudi Arabia were engaged in the action of abuse in the deportation process. The deportee women were sexually harassed by the

security forces in the detention centers and also the deportee men had suffered several abuses in the deportation center.

The fourth new finding is the returnees deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without formal warning letter and the police forceful detained them in abusive manner. The police took the returnees by breaking in to their house.

The fifth new finding is that returnees used the deportation as a chance to return to their country. Most of the returnees were illegal in Saudi and they had no exit visa from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Even if the deportees come with empty hand, the returnees used the deportation as a chance to get back to their country. In KSA, when illegal migrants want to return their country, they are supposed to remain in prison or their life may end up in prison.

## Chapter Five: Discussions

This section of the paper includes three sub-sections namely limitation of the research, challenges and problems in the research process, and discussion of the findings.

### 5.1 Limitation of the Research

The limitations the researcher has faced in conducting this study are discussed below:

This study used a qualitative research design, which allows the respondents to share information in their own words, thus enabling the researcher to investigate new phenomena in depth. Thus this method gives a great opportunity to look things from the perspective of the person who experiences the deportation life. In qualitative research, however, sample of the research participants is selected purposively; the sample is small; and it does not represent a large group of people. As a result, it is not possible to make generalization based on small sample size.

This study has a methodological limitation because, based on the findings of this study, we cannot make generalization and the findings of the study mainly represent the life experience of deported women returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(KSA), particularly of those who participated in this study.

The research is phenomenological, and hence, the data is gathered from only the women who experienced the deportation .The researcher could not collect data from key informants or any other secondary informants. The source of information in this study is one group of people. For this reason, the researcher could not triangulate the data obtained from the research participants.

The other limitation of this study is that the researcher might bias the data during the coding process, for there was no one who cross checked the coding process. But in order to minimize the bias, the researcher tried to reflect on the data obtained from all participants.

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

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

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

## **5.3 Discussion of the Findings**

This section discussed the finding of the study based on the research questions and previous research findings. Therefore the major points discussed are: the experiences of deported women returnees in the deportation process; causes of deportation, deportees' feelings and responses to the Situation , deportation procedure, food and sleeping condition, health situation in the detention center, sexual, physical and emotional harassment or abuse in the deportation process and properties of the deportee are discussed regarding the research question of how the deported women explain their experiences in the deportation process.



### 5.3.1 Causes of Deportation

The research participants experience in this study indicated that being illegal migrant or lack of *Iqama* (resident license and work permit), is the major cause that contributed to their deportation. Most of the research participants lived and worked in KSA without any legal certificate. The research participants mentioned they are deported because they migrated to the KSA in illegal way by brokers and by their own networking system and these illegal migrants had not any legal assurance to live in the KSA. This was the main reason for their deportation. Similarly Mesfin Dessiye (2011) in his study reported that housemaid migrants were deported when they are reported as illegal or undocumented. Pereira (2011) stated that KSA government has legitimate authority to deport undocumented migrants.

In addition to being illegal migrant, other factors contributed to the deportation of migrants including animosity towards non-Saudi citizens, fear of foreign citizens and apprehension at a growing number of expatriates particularly Ethiopian migrants were among the reasons for deportation. The research participants reported that they are deported because the KSA citizens do not have a good attitude to citizens of other countries. They hate others without any justification and the government of the KSA was skeptical about foreign citizens. Hence, if something wrong happened in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia like war with neighboring countries, the government knew that foreigners would attack the KSA by collaborating with the enemies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But I could not get any literature that supports this view point.

Global migration group (2012) & Pereira (2011) stated that migrant when they are in the illegal situation face deportation and deportation is more common and it targets individuals who are residing in ones country without permission. Besides finding out same result, I found out that

the legal migrants were deported from the KSA without any prosecution of the migrant status. My research finding indicated that legal migrants escaped from the legal employers' houses because of their employers' abusive behavior. Moreover, the government detained them without any prosecution, considering them illegal.

### **5.3.2 Deportees' Feelings and Responses to the Situation**

The concept of deportation by itself creates feeling of panic and unhappiness in the mind of the research participants. The deportees felt scared because they had no money in their hands at the time of deportation. Even though they had worked a number of years in the Kingdom, losing their energy and time, they had to return without anything possession. Thus, the deportees felt stressed and tensioned about their lives in the after return. This emotional crisis creates feeling of shame and burden. Similar to this finding, the Inter-American Human Rights Court (2013) report implies that the nature of detention is a major contributing factor to mental deterioration and trauma, despondency, suicide, anger, and frustration.

Deportation experience is traumatic, and many returnees arrived home with emotional trauma before they were deported (Georges, 2014&Human Right Watch, 2015). The current study uncovers that the deportees were happy about the government's plan of deportation because the research participants pointed out that when they thought to return to their country, they thought lifelong imprisonment sentence in the KSA and they are scared but, when they knew about the determination of the Saudi government's plan of returning illegal immigrants to their home country they got relief.

The study pointed out that deported returnees tried to regulate their feeling them by hiding themselves in the houses they rented and by looking for legal certificates through brokers. Nevertheless, none of their actions was successful and could save them from

deportation. The returnees' reactions to the deportation have not been widely studied, and further research needs to be conducted on such issues.

### **5.3.3 Deportation Procedure**

As the finding indicates most of the research participants when they knew about the KSA announcement of removing illegal migrants, they immediately surrender to the police before the police caught them and were taken to detention centers and the research participants remained 8 up to 23 days in the detention center. And some of the research participants were forcefully deported by the police in abusive condition. This finding clearly indicates the abusive deportation procedure of the Saudi security force. In contrast to my finding in regard to the deportation procedure in the literature it states that in the normal deportation process individuals receive a standard letter advising the individual that they have no right to remain there. Once the letter has been given, the deportees have 14 days to appeal. In addition to this, if the individual does not leave voluntarily, the police and security services may be involved in the deportation (Pereira, 2011).

### **5.3.4 Food and Sleeping Condition**

In this study, I found out that deported returnees had been in terrible conditions in the detention centers. Most of the research participants faced problem of food; and to reduce their hunger, they used their small amount of money for buying food. In the detention centers, they got food three or two times a day depending on the situation. Bringing a small amount of food usually caused fights among the deportees in their competition to get one. The finding indicates that the sleeping condition in the detention center was the worst, and the detainees were forced to sleep on the bare and dirty floor without any blanket. Sometimes, they could not get enough space on the floor to sleep, so they slept one over another. Similar to this, the literature

(SUARAM, 2008 & Human Right Watch, 2015) states that people are hungry in the depots; many of them suffer from malnutrition and abusive condition. There was insufficient room for all the detainees to lie down and sleep at the same time. Because of the overcrowding, there was a lack of sufficient ventilation and the cells were unbearably hot (Collewet, 2012).

### **5.3.5 Health Situation in the Detention Center**

As the finding indicates, a number of deportees overcrowded the deportation centers; and many people were sick and died. The research participants stated that they were sick, there was not any medical treatment, and they witnessed so many people suffering from diarrhea, anemia, and other hygiene related diseases. There was imbalance between the number of deportees and the service given in the detention center. Related to these, they were infected by different diseases, and some of them witnessed people died as a result of that situation.

The research participants mentioned that in the detention center there was not enough water and rest room. Because of this, access to rest room was difficult. In addition to this access to hygiene pad was hard. This makes me to understand that the situation of women was harder because of their nature.

In regard to Health situation in the detention center Global migration group (2008) stated that the poor conditions of certain detention centers lead to serious deterioration in the living standards of foreign nationals, including inadequate access to medical treatment and other services, poor hygienic conditions, the absence of separated space for men and women, and adults. Collewet (2012) stated that due to overcrowding and the absence of a proper ventilation system, people complained of the suffocation and the cells were unbearably hot and the general sanitary and other facilities were dirty.

### **5.3.6 Sexual, Physical and Emotional Harassment or Abuse in the Deportation Process**

This study points out that the research participants faced sexual, physical, and emotional abuse in the detention center. In line with abuse, some of the research participants had experienced sexual abuse when the police detained them in the detention center. Security forces also had hands in committing sexual assaults on the deportees. This study indicates that deportees from the KSA had experienced physical and emotional harassment from beating to rape during the deportation period. Similar to these findings, SUARAM (2008) & Human Right Watch (2015) stated the number of ex-detainees from the KSA either personally experienced or witnessed physical abuse. Human Right Watch (2015) report indicated that the KSA security forces were directly participating in some of the abusive acts in the deportation time and failed to protect other workers attacked by men who appeared to be Saudi citizens.

### **5.3.7 Properties of the Deportee**

Kleist & Milliar (2013) said that, having lost their savings and belongings abroad and never having acquired an opportunity to earn and save money, deportees and emergency returnees often return empty-handed. A similar result has been obtained in this study. In addition to this, some of the deportees had access to some bags, but some of them got their property when they reached their country. There were still some others who failed to get their property. According to Human Right Watch (2015) following deportation, many migrants returned to their home countries destitute and with no means to buy food or pay for transportation to their home areas due at times to Saudi Arabia's arbitrary confiscation of their personal property, which authorities refused to allow them to take. I found the same.

In line with migration theory, none of the migration theories explains deportation. All of the migration theories reviewed focus on the pushing and pulling factors of migration and its

consequences. As far as my exploration goes, studies, literatures, and theories on the issue of deported migrants have not been well documented. This suggests an integrated theory that ties out migration and returnees should be developed and particularly the deportation experience.

## Chapter Six: Conclusion and Implications

### 6.1 Conclusion

This study is conducted with a major objective of investigating experience of deported Ethiopians who returned from Saudi Arabia. Accordingly six research questions were proposed and addressed. Which are: 1. What major factors influence for women migration? 2. How the deported women experience life in the destination country? 3. How the deported women explain their experiences in the deportation process? 4. How the deported women explain the challenges and opportunities in the life after their return? 5. What are their views on re migration? 6. How deported returnees women explain the support of the government and different stakeholders? In line with the above questions and the findings, the life experiences of the research participants are addressed.

In response to the first research question, what major factors influence for women migration; I found out economical problem, quest for independence, presence of family or peer network in the destination country were the main reasons for migration. Each reason incorporates a number of factors that intensify the migration tendency. Obviously, the factors are so interconnected that one factor leads to the other—thus leading to migration in the end.

In regard to the second research question, how the deported women experience life in the destination country; in the destination country many challenging experience were reported. To mention them; poor working condition, low pay, religious conflict, lack of access to health services, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, denial of salary, suffering from deprivation of food, restricted from movement and forced to remain confined in the houses of their employers were reported.

Related to the third research question, how the deported women explain their experiences in the deportation process, it was found that in the deportation process many challenging experiences were faced. These include: fear, hiding, seeking help, stress, being happy, some deportees had surrendered to the police, employers handed over their house maids to the police and the police forcefully detained the returnees, lack of enough food, lack of proper sleep condition, lack of rest room, lack of medication, illness, overcrowded, sexual, physical and emotional harassment and return with empty hand.

Answering the fourth research question of how the deported women explain the challenges and opportunities in the life after their return, I found out unemployment, lack of support from the government, low monthly income, discrimination of the family and poor health status as a major challenges and as an opportunity the informants discussed living with the family and the chance to work in cooperation with other are mentioned by the research participants.

Concerning the fifth research question of what are the returnees' views on re-migration, the finding report indicated that some research participants would have an intention to migrate again after they experienced all those problems. They thought that working in here does not make change in life, rather than spending time and energy. Some of the research participants said they would prefer to live the rest of their life in their country and had no plan to migrate again.

In regard to the last research question, how deported returnees women explain the support of the government and different stakeholders; the research participants reported that the government did not give any help when they were in the detention center. In addition, they explained that the government gave support for other countries citizen, but it did not give help



to its citizens. Some appreciated that the government welcomed them when they were deported. Some research participants reported that they had the chance to work under cooperation. The rest of the research participants, on the other hand, explained they did not see any help other than the welcome ceremony and the government's press conference.

## **6.2 Implications to Social Work**

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

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

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

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

### **6.2.2 Implications for Policy**

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

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

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

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

In line with this research finding I suggested the following intervention plans.

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

In the first instance, all governmental and non-governmental organizations should be involved in assisting deported returnees during the deportation process. In addition, the social workers need to offer counseling services focusing on the psychological strength of the deported returnees.

Training should be given on the risk of illegal migration and its consequence for potential migrants. Also, Communities and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to participate in creating awareness on illegal migration. Social Workers supposed to link the training giving agencies with the trainees. It may reduce the number of illegal migrants.

The other implication concerning intervention is raising awareness program on the possibility of deportation for both legal and illegal migrant. The migrant should get training on the factors behind deportation and what should they do when they face such kind of situation. The role of Social Workers here is giving awareness training for migrants in collaboration with different stakeholders.

The deported returnees have to get empowerment training. This training helps the deportees to build their capacity by empowering themselves and enables them to think about change. Different capacity building and awareness creation programs help the returnee migrants to work on their country. To implement this intervention plan the social workers have to give empowerment training by focusing the strength of the returnees.

All governmental and non-governmental organizations should provide financial and psychological support to the returnees, and facilitate the chance of employment to the latter. From the result of this research, it is inferred that some of the deported returnees have the inclination to re-migrate, citing lack of employment opportunity in their country as the pushing factor. If the government and other non-governmental organizations employ the deported returnees based on the capacity of the latter, the number of potential migrants may be reduced.

#### **6.2.4 Implication for Future Research**

Out of the finding the researcher identified the following points to be addressed by future researchers. 1) Why legal migrants are deported? Here future researchers should examine the issue. 2) The consequence of deportation on both destination and receiving countries? In order to address this question and understand their attitude further I suggest large scale survey to be conducted 3) The concept of deportation and deportation centers facility should be further investigated.

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## **Appendices I**

### **Addis Ababa University**

#### **Graduate School of Social Work**

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

##### **Introduction**

My name is Yemisrach Feraw who is second year Social Work masters student at Addis Ababa University; I am expected to work on a thesis as partial fulfillment of Master's Degree in Social Work. To this end, I have chosen to study the experience deported women returnees. I strongly believe that your story is so important to understand the issue of deported women returnees.

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

##### **Procedures:**

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

**Risks of participation**

Be aware that there might be moments in which you feel embarrassed or feel pain during interview because we are talking an issue that may be painful that is deportation. Well the study is not meant to hurt you or embarrass or create pain up on you. But the experience you have may have such nature and you may feel the pain again. I want you to freely express the pain or emotion you felt, I am not here to judge you, I am here to get the story right.

**Rights of the informant**

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

**Confidentiality and anonymity:**

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

Cell phone: +251 913 322 040

Postal address: 1176 (AAU)

E-mail:- misirfre@gmail.com

**Informant:**

Name -----

Signature -----

Date -----

**Researcher**

Name -----

Signature -----

Date -----

## Appendix II

### Addis Ababa University

#### School of social work

## IN DEPTH INTERVIEW GUID FOR DEPORTEDWOMENRETURENESE FROM KSA

This Interview is intended to gather data on the experiences of women who are deported Returnee from the KSA. I am a graduate student in the School of Social at AAU. I am doing this research as a fulfillment for Master's Degree in Social Work. The collected data was used for the purpose of this research only. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

### Part I. Background information

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

1. What is your age now? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your educational level? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Religion \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you had a job before you leave? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you currently employed? If so what is your current occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Your marital status now? With whom are you living with now? \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Parental background

1. Parental situation? Parents family size? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Parents' occupation (father, mother)? Parents' income (average monthly income in Birr)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Tell me how you were treated by or brought up by your family \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II. Your life experience beginning from your thought to migrate to the Saudi Arabia till the deportation.**

1. What were the reasons for your work migration to the KSA? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which ways did you use to organize your work migration? (Probe- Public employment services, legal/illegal private employment agencies, or other?) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tell me about the general work condition (probe- kind of work, salary, working hours, freedom to move, food situation and permission to communicate with friends)\_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you in detail tell me all your experiences when you stayed in this country? Have you faced illness there? If so were you getting medical treatment? How did you get that? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do you compare your living status before and after you left Ethiopia? (Probe-you may see it in terms of economic, social, and psychological satisfactions? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Can you describe the similarities and differences between Ethiopia and your host country in terms of culture? What are the challenges and opportunities you faced in terms of culture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Have you faced any sexual, physical or emotional harassment or abuse? If so who are the perpetrators?\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does it mean to you to have all these experiences? How do you understand all that happened to you? How has that affected your life in general positively or negatively? How do you feel about all these experience? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How long did you work there? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III. Life after return**

1. When did you return? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tell me about the deportation? (Cause, the rumor) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was there warning? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they do exactly? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How you were deported? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the effort of the individual and the organization? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How you reacted to the situation? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was your experience in the deportation process? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What does it mean deportation for you? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are the major challenges you faced in the deportation process? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Have you faced any sexual, physical or emotional harassment or abuse in the deportation period? Can you tell me about this in detail? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What legal, social and economic support have you got in the destination or after return?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. How do you evaluate the support of the brokers, agents, embassies, and police and law enforcement bodies in the deportation? \_\_\_\_\_
14. After all that experience, how do you feel now? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How are you adjusting to family and life in Ethiopia after your return? Have you faced discrimination? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What are the opportunities and challenges you faced after you return? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Tell me if there is any intention of re migration to Arab world? \_\_\_\_\_



18. How do you see the initiative of the Ethiopian government in the deportation process and action towards returnees? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Tell me about the support of the different stakeholders to address your problems (probe government, NGOs or others) \_\_\_\_\_

20. Is there anything you would like to add? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you in again for your cooperation

### **Appendix III**

#### **Observation Checklist**

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix IV

Amharic Version of In-depth Interview Guide for deported women returnees from KSA

በአዲስአበባዩኒቨርሲቲ

የሶሻልወርክትምህርትቤት

ከሳውዲ አረቢያ በግዳጅ ወደ ሀገራቸው ለተመለሱ ኢትዮጵያውያን ሴቶች የቀረቡ ጥያቄዎች

ይህ መጠይቅ ኢትዮጵያውያን ሴቶች ከሳውዲ አረቢያ በግዳጅ ተይዘው ወደ ሀገራቸው በሚመለሱበት ወቅት ያጋጠሟቸውን ልምዶች መዳሰስ ያለመ ነው። እኔ የዚህ ጥናት አጥኝ በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶሻል ወርክ ት/ቤት የሁለተኛ ዲግሪ (MA) ተማሪነኝ። የተሰበሰበው መረጃ ለዚህ ጥናት አላማ ብቻ ይውላል። ለጥናቱ አስፈላጊውን መረጃ በግልጽነትና በታማኝነት እንድትሰጩኝ እጠይቃለሁ።

ክፍል አንድ ፤ ጥቅል የግል መረጃ

የግል መረጃ

1. የትውልድ ቀንሽን ልትነግሪኝ ትችያለሽ? \_\_\_\_\_
2. የትምህርት ደረጃሽ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. ሀይማኖትሽ? \_\_\_\_\_
4. ከመሄድሽ በፊት ሥራ ነበረሽ? \_\_\_\_\_
5. አሁን ስራ ይዘሻል? ከያሽ ምንድን ነው የምሰራው? \_\_\_\_\_
6. የጋብቻ ሁኔታ አሁን ከማን ጋር ነው እየኖርሽ ያለሽው? \_\_\_\_\_

የቤተሠብ ሁኔታ

1. ቤተሰቦችሽ (እናትና አባትሽ) አብረው ነው የሚኖሩት? ከሆነ አብራራልኝ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. የቤተሰብ የስራ ሁኔታ (አባት/እናት)? የቤተሰብ ወርሃዊ አማካይ ገቢ በብር?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. ቤተሰብ እንዴት እንዳሳደገሽ ወይም ስለአያያዛቸው ልትነግሪኝ ትችያለሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ክፍል ሁለት፤ ወደ ሳኦት-ዲ አረቢያ ለመሄድ ካሰብሽበት ጊዜ አንስቶ ከሳኦት-ዲ ተይዘሽ አስክትመለሻ ድረስ ያለሽ የህይወት ልምድ በአጭሩ**

1. ለምን ወደ ሳኦት-ዲ አረቢያ እንደተሰደድሽ ብትነግሪኝ? \_\_\_\_\_

2. ከሀገር ስጥወጪ በምን ነበር የወጣሽው (እንዴት ሄድሽ)? አውጣጪ ጥያቄ - በመንግስት ሰራተኛና አሰሪ በኩል? በህጋዊ የግል ሰራተኛና አሰሪ አገናኝ? በሀገወጥ የግል ሰራተኛና አሰሪ አገናኝ ወይስ በሌላ? \_\_\_\_\_

3. አጠቃላይ የነበረውን የሥራ ሁኔታ ብትገልጭልኝ? አውጣጭኝ ጥያቄ - ስለ ደመወዝ ክፍያ፣ ስለምግብ ሁኔታው ብትገልጭልኝ? ከቦታ ወደ ቦታ የመንቀሳቀስ መብትሽ? የምግብ ሁኔታው እና ከጓደኞቻሽ ጋር ለመገናኘት የነበረው ፍቃድ ብትገልጭልኝ? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. በጠቅላላው በቆየሽበት ሀገር የነበረሽን ጠቅላላ ልምድ እና ገጠመኝ ልትገልጭልኝ ትችያለሽ? ህመም አጋጥሞሽ ነበር? ከነበረ ህክምና አገኝሽ? ከሆነ እንዴት አገኝሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. የኑሮ ሁኔታሽ ከመሄድሽ በፊትና አሁን ከተመለሽ በኋላ እንዴት ታወዳደሪዋለሽ? አውጣጭ ጥያቄ- በገንዘብ፣ በማህበራዊ ሁኔታሽ እና ከስነ ልቦናዊ እርካታሽ አንጻር ልታይው ትችያለሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

6. በሃገርሽና በነበርሽበት ሃገር መካከል ያለውን የባህል ልዩነትና ዝምድና ልትገልጭልኝ ትችያለሽ? ከባህል አንፃር የገጠመሽን መልካም አጋጣሚና ፈታኝ ሁኔታ ልትገልጭልኝ ትችያለሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

7. የወሲብ፣ የአካል ወይም የስሜት ጥቃት ደርሶብሻል? ከሆነ በማን? በደላላ፣ በአሠሪ፣ በአሠሪቤተሰብ፣ በአገናኝ ድርጅቶች :: ይህን ብታብራራልኝ? \_\_\_\_\_

8. ይህ ሁሉ ገጠመኝ በጠቅላላው ላንቺ የሚሰጥሽ ትርጉም ምንድን ነው? ህይወትሽን በአውንታዊም ሆነ በአሉታዊ መልኩ ቀይሮታል የምትይው ነገር አለ? እነዚህን ገጠመኞችሽን በሙሉ ስታሰቢ ምን ይሰማሻል? \_\_\_\_\_

9. በነበርሽበት ሀገር ለምን ያህል ጊዜ ሰራሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

**ክፍል ሦስት፡ ወደ ሀገር ቤት በግዳጅ በምትመለሺበት ወቅትና ከተመለሽ በኋላ ያለው ህይወት**

1. መቼ ነበር የተመለሽው? \_\_\_\_\_

2. አጠቃላይ በግዳጅ ተይዘሽ ስትወጭ የነበረውን ሁኔታ ብታብራራልኝ? መነሻ ምክንያቱን፣ የነበረውን ጭምጭምታ \_\_\_\_\_

3. ማስጠንቀቂያቸው እንዴት ነበር? \_\_\_\_\_

4. በትክክል ምን ነበር ያደረጉት? \_\_\_\_\_

5. እንዴት ነበር ተይዘሽ የመጣሽው? \_\_\_\_\_

6. የግለሰቦችና የተቋማት (የድርጅቶች ጥረት ምን ይመስል ነበር? \_\_\_\_\_

7. አንቺ በወቅቱ ምን ነበር ያደረግሽው ምን ተሰማሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

8. በግዳጅ ተይዘሽ በምትመለሽበት ወቅት የነበረው የህይወት ልምድሽ ምን ይመስል ነበር? \_\_\_\_\_

9. በግዳጅ ተይዞ መመለስ ላንቺ ምን ትርጉም ነው የሚሰጥሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

10. በግዳጅ ተይዘሽ በምትመጭበት ወቅት በዋናነት የገጠሙሽ ችግሮች ምን ምን ናቸው? \_\_\_\_\_

11. በግዳጅ ተይዘሽ በምትመለሽበት ወቅት የወሲብ፣ የአካል ወይም የስሜት ጥቃት ደርሶብሻል? ከሆነ በማን? ይህን ብታብራራላች? \_\_\_\_\_

12. በሄድሽበት ቦታ ወይም ከተመለሽ ምን አይነት የህግ፣ የማህበራዊና የኢኮኖሚያዊ ድጋፍ ተደርጎልሻል? \_\_\_\_\_

13. በጠቅላላው የደላሎችን፣ የአገናኝ ድርጅቶችን፣ የኤምባሲዎችን፣ የፖሊስና የህግ አስፈጻሚዎችን እገዛ እንዴት ትገመግሟልሽ? \_\_\_\_\_

14. ይህ ሁሉ አልፎ አሁን እዚህ ላይ ደርሰሻል ምን ይሠማሻል? \_\_\_\_\_

15. ከተመለሽ በኋላ ከቤተሰብ ጋር እና ከህይወት ጋር እንዴት እየለመድሽ ነው? \_\_\_\_\_

16. አሁን ከተመለሽ በኋላ የገጠሙሽን መልካም አጋጣሚዎችና ፈታኝ ሁኔታዎች ምንድን ናቸው? \_\_\_\_\_

17. ወደ አረብ ሀገር ተመልሶ ስለመሰደድ ያለሽ አመለካከት ምን ይመስላል? \_\_\_\_\_

18. በግዳጅ ተይዘሽ በምትለሽበት ወቅትና ወደ ሀገር ከገባሽ በኋላ የኢትዮጵያን መንግስት ጥረት እንዴት አየሽው? \_\_\_\_\_

19.የተለያዩ ባለድርሻ አካላት ማለትም የመንግስት፣መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶችንና ሌሎች አካላት ስላደረጉት ድጋፍ ብታብራራሪልኝ? \_\_\_\_\_

20.መጨመር የምትፈልገው ካለ? \_\_\_\_\_

ስለትብብርሽ በድጋሚ በጣም አመስግናለሁ