

RUNNING HEAD: THE PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES OF ADOPTION.....

**The Practices and Challenges of Adoption Disclosure in Selected Local
Adoption Organizations in Addis Ababa.**

By

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DECLARATION

I, Elias Ermias, declare that this thesis is my original work and has never been presented in any university. All resources and materials used in this thesis are duly acknowledged.

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List of Acronyms

- MoWCYA** - Ministry of Women, Children & Youth Affairs
- AAWCA** - Addis Ababa Women and Children Affairs
- UNCRC** - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- MOH** - Ministry of Health
- OVC** - Orphan and Vulnerable Child
- CSA** - Central Statistical Agency
- UNICEF** - United Nations International Children’s Emergency

Fund

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to assess the practices and challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents who are adopting children through adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. The study employed qualitative research method and purposive sampling technique was used. The sample included 8 in-depth interviewees, 8 participants in FGD and 4 key informants. Adoptive parents were selected from Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage, Kidmia Association, and Bethany Christian Services. Moreover, key informants were also drawn from the Ministry of Women, Children & Youth Affairs (MOWCYA), Addis Ababa Women, Children & Youth Affairs Office, Kidmia Association & Bethany Christian Services. Primary data were used for the study. The findings of the study indicated that adoption disclosure is rarely practiced among adoptive parents. Based on the findings, challenges of adoption disclosure include fear of psychological effect on the child, societal stigma, fear of losing attachment after disclosure, desire to simulate biological parenthood, lack of knowledge about how and when to disclose, and lack of support from others on disclosure. The other finding is that adoptive parents employ different coping mechanisms such as spirituality, simulating biological parenthood, avoiding the stressor and networking to cope with the challenges of adoption disclosure. The study suggested designing appropriate guidance and support mechanism for adoptive parents regarding adoption disclosure should be considered. Counseling and training services should be provided to adoptive parents to deal with challenges of adoption disclosure. Moreover, intensive awareness creation should be done on local adoption so that the community easily practices adoption disclosure.

Keywords: Adoption Disclosure, Local adoption, Adoptive parents, Local Adoption Organizations

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CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Adoption of children into a family occurs in all societies around the world (Diana, 2008). Adoption is the formal, permanent transfer of parental rights to a family other than a child's biological parents and the formal assumption by the adopting parent(s) of all parenting duties for the child (Desta, Genet & Woldekidan, 2013, as cited by Tinsae Teferi, 2016).

Adoption has many forms. At one end of a spectrum is the prototypical model wherein an infant is abandoned at birth to infertile couples ethnically similar to the biological mother. The decreased incidence of this form probably reflects the widespread acceptance of contraception, abortion, more relaxed social attitudes toward single mothers, and changing cultural norms. Some adoptions take place after the baby may have spent months or years in orphanages or foster homes. Still, others may occur after the death of one parent and the remarriage of the other, or as a consequence to divorce (Weider, 2012).

Disclosing adoption to children by adoptive parents is critical. Risks and stresses associated with non-disclosure are greater than any that might result from disclosure (Macintyre, 1990). Human rights laws strengthen the family unit by specifying a country's obligations to keep families together and to reunify them when they have become separated (Diana, 2008).

If it is not possible for the family to remain together or it is not in the best interests of the child to remain in the birth family, then the country is obliged to provide an alternative, family-based care options like an adoption (UNCRC, 1989).

Inter-country adoption from Africa had shown a dramatic increase from 5 percent of all intercountry adoptions by 2003 to 22 percent by 2009 and 2010. Ethiopia in the highest extent contributed to the increase by sending a larger number of children. Ethiopia has sent 4,565 children in 2009 which accounted for 70 % of children sent from Africa. Moreover, from 2003 to 2010, over 22,000 children were sent for adoption from Ethiopia (Peter Selman, 2012).

Children below the age of 15 represent 44% of the Ethiopian population. Children, which represent the largest section of the country's population, unquestionably are highly vulnerable to all sorts of problems interrelated with social, economic and physical conditions., with a total population of over 73.9 million, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa, more than half (55.5%) of the population is constituted by children below the age of 18 (CSA, 2007, as cited by the Ministry of Women Affairs (2010). Though the national prevalence of HIV in Ethiopia, estimated to be 2.3%, is considerably lower than rates in other sub-Saharan African countries, the number of people living with HIV and orphans continue to grow. As of 2009, Ethiopia is estimated to have 5,459,139 orphans of whom 855,720 are orphans due to HIV and AIDS (MoH 2007), one of the largest populations of OVC in Africa. Given the context of Ethiopia, all OVC, directly or indirectly are vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and other health, socioeconomic, psychological and legal problems. This vulnerability may be linked to extreme poverty, hunger, armed conflict and child labor practices, among other threats. All of these issues fuel and are fueled by HIV and AIDS.

This study aimed at exploring the practices of adoption disclosure and identifying the challenges as well as coping strategies among adoptive parents in selected local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa.

As a result, this study helped to explore the practices of adoption disclosure and identify the challenges as well as coping strategies employed by adoptive parents in selected local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Adoption is one of the conventional ways of creating a family. Those who are adopted will likely continue to experience instances of stigma and stereotyping. But when adopted children have a narrative of their adoption story and support from their parents, they are more confident in their ability to talk about their adoption with other children. Adopting parents need to help their children manage their adoptive status in social interactions with others and to feel confident in their adoption examines. Making the children believe that their adoptive status contributed to personal strengths like compassion, acceptance, and understanding of others.

Studies show that there are positive gains of parental disclosure of adoption. Disclosure or communicating openly about adoption contributes to the healthy development and psychological well-being of adopted children (Brodzinsky et al., 2006). Non-disclosure of adoption to adopted child have a negative impact. Some of the psychological impacts include identity confusion. Adopted children became high users of mental health services, particularly in adolescence, for emotional disturbance and identity problem (Berry (1993).

Ethiopia is home to one of the largest population of orphans in the world (UNICEF, 1984). Recent estimates claim that there are over 5 million orphans in Ethiopia (CSA, 2005). The

cause for a high number of orphans is due to the loss of the both of parents due to HIV/AIDS, other diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria, high maternal mortality rate extreme poverty, famine, armed conflict child labor practice, and migration.

Almost 16% of the orphan population of Ethiopia is orphaned by HIV AIDS. 18% of Ethiopian household is caring for an orphan (World Bank, 2010). Moreover, a great majority of Ethiopian orphans are placed in one of the nation's numerous orphanages. Several foreign aid organizations have established orphanages in Ethiopia ease these nation's strains.

As a result of the increasing number of orphans in Ethiopia, the country has introduced different childcare services such as the establishment of orphanages, the introduction of local adoption to provide sustained care for the OVCs. The Alternative Childcare Guideline of MoWCYA (2009), indicates that local adoption services, as alternative child care system, should be implemented across the country and the focus of government towards the expansion of local adoption services to benefit children who are abandoned due to various reasons.

While many studies have been conducted on various aspects of adoption, researchers in the social sciences agree that important research in the area of adoption and adoptive families is still lacking (Krusiewicz & Wood, 2001), as cited by Diana (2008). Many studies have been conducted about inter-country adoption in Ethiopia. However, according to the unpublished study by Hiwot Ashenafi (2017), domestic adoption and related issues need detail exploration. One of the issues could be the practice and challenges of parental disclosure of adoption.

Though some studies have been conducted in the area of adoption disclosure such as studies conducted in India, no study has been conducted in Ethiopia regarding the practices and challenges of disclosure of adoption. Many research has been conducted by different people

about local adoption in Ethiopia. Some of the studies include a research conducted by Ayalew Duressa (2002) explored (Guddifachaa) practice in Oromo Society, a study conducted by Hiwot Ashenafi (2017) on the practice of domestic adoption in Ethiopia. However, in-depth exploration of the practice, experiences, and challenges of adoption disclosure has been rarely studied.

Research on the practices, challenges and coping mechanisms of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents is limited. Therefore, the study aimed to explore the issue and add more knowledge to the existing practices and challenges of adoption disclosure in adoption organizations in Addis Ababa.

Objectives

General objective

The general objective of the study is to explore the practices of adoption disclosure and identifying its challenges as well as coping strategies among adoptive parents in selected local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa.

Specific Objectives

1. To explore the practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents.
2. To identify the major challenges that adoptive parents face with regard to disclosing adoption.
3. To examine the coping strategies employed by adoptive parents to cope with the challenges.

The study aims to answer the following questions:

1.3. Research questions

1. What is the practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents?

2. What are the major challenges adoptive parents face with regard to disclosing adoption?
3. What are the coping strategies employed by adoptive parents to cope with the challenges?

1.4. Significance of the study

The study tried to explore the practices of adoption disclosure and identifying the challenges as well as coping strategies among adoptive parents in selected adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. The study aims to add to the knowledge about local adoption in Ethiopia, particularly on current practices and existing challenges of adoption disclosure.

It is believed that the result of the study will help governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in providing local adoption service to understand the practice and challenges of adoption disclosure and develop guidelines which will be used by adoption organizations to support adoptive parents throughout the disclosure process. Moreover, the study will also help policymakers to design and implement policies on adoption disclosure.

Local adoption is one the emerging area of engagement for social workers to facilitate linkage between abandoned children and parents who have a plan to adopt. Moreover, adoption disclosure is one of the areas of intervention by social workers to sustain positive child-parent relationships. Thus, the results of the study will help social workers understand the challenges, gaps, and opportunities to facilitate parental disclosure of adoption among adoptive families.

1.5. Limitations of the Study

The study would have been more productive if all governmental and non-governmental local adoption organizations and orphanages are involved. Since it requires more time, energy and finance, the researcher has selected two non-governmental and one governmental local

adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. As a result, findings with respect to the practice of disclosure of adoption are limited to the selected organizations for this study.

In addition, the researcher has faced serious challenge while selecting participants for data collection because adoptive parents do not want to be interviewed on adoption issues. The reason for refusal is that they are not sure whether the confidentiality of the information they provide is ensured or not. However, these limitations did not seriously affect the study except the researcher challenged to get one participant for the in-depth interview (initially planned to interview 9 adoptive parents but 8 adoptive parents were participated). Moreover, the researcher got consent from all participants that because the research purpose has been well explained to participants and the researcher assured them that the data is used only for researcher purpose and their identity is not needed for the research.

Operational Definitions

Domestic/Local adoption: is an adoption where in the adoptive parents and the adopted child are of the same nationality and have the same country of residence, which is in Ethiopia, in this study.

Adoption Disclosure: is sharing of information for an adopted child that he/she is adopted by his/her adopting parents.

Adoptive parents: are parents (single or married couples) who are adopting a child/children through local adoption organizations through legal process.

Local adoption organizations: are international or local organizations who are providing domestic/local adoption services in the Country, Ethiopia.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses what has been studied about the topic and both international and local research about adoption disclosure is reviewed. Research materials such as articles (published and unpublished), books, journals, etc. have been reviewed. The chapter presents international trends in adoption disclosure practices and challenges as well as related local studies. The first part of the chapter addresses concepts and international trends in adoption. In the second part of the chapter, existing literature on parental disclosure of adoption and related issues are presented. The final and third part presents issues related to domestic adoption and parental disclosure with respect to the Ethiopian context.

2.1. Concepts of Adoption

The term adoption is variably defined in sociological and legal contexts. In most legal literature it is used as a form of contracts between parties to establish a relationship of parent and child. Sociologically, it is defined as ‘institutional practice through which an individual belonging by birth to one kinship group acquires new kinship ties (The International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, as cited in Ayalew, 2002). According to Weider (2012), as a legal or social term, therefore, “adoption” may designate a variety of caretaking relationships which differ sociologically and psychologically from each other. Adoption provides legal status for parents and children who are not biologically connected.

The term adoption can refer to a personal act, a legal process, or a social service. As a personal act, adoption involves three sets of participants collectively known as the adoption triad (the adoptee, the birth family, and the adoptive family) and is now thought of as a lifelong process rather than a single act (Cole & Donely, 1990, as cited by M. Stein, Leslie, 2019). As a legal process, adoption has been defined as “the method provided by law to establish the legal relationship of parent and child between persons who are not so related by birth” M. Stein, Leslie. (2019). Adoption as a social service addresses the needs of adoption triad members through such steps as identifying and legally freeing children to be adopted, selecting and preparing families for adoption, preparing and placing children in adoptive families, and providing postplacement and post-adoptive services.

Adoption is a social and legal protective measure for children. It is a process whereby a child becomes a member of a new family and is a mechanism of providing a new family for children who cannot be brought up by their own parents (ISS, 2004). Adoption is designed as a permanent arrangement. In most cases, the child’s parents (and relatives) relinquish all responsibility for the child. Usually, an adopted child loses all legal ties with their parents, including inheritance rights, and becomes a full member of the new family, commonly taking the family’s name, with all the parental responsibility transferred to the adopters. Adoption is a formal arrangement. There are a set of processes leading to adoption that are governed by law and undertaken by professionals working to agreed standards and codes of ethics. It is the duty of the state to ensure that the laws, procedures, and processes promote decisions that are in the best interests of the child (EveryChild, 2012).

2.2. Types of Adoption

According to EveryChild (2012), adoption is classified into the following types:

- **Domestic adoption:** An adoption that involves adoptive parents and a child in the same country of residence and usually, but not necessarily, of the same nationality.
- **Inter- country adoption:** An adoption that involves a change in the child's habitual country of residence, whatever the nationality of the adopting parents. Usually, the child takes the nationality of the country he/she is moving to.
- **Full adoption:** An adoption which involves irrevocably and completely terminating the relationship between the child and his or her birth parents, and creating in its place an analogous relationship between the child and the adoptive parents.
- **Simple adoption:** When the adoptive parents acquire legal rights without cutting ties with the birth family. This may include the child keeping the birth family name and inheritance rights.
- **Open adoptions:** Cases when it is deemed to be in the child's best interests to maintain some contact with the birth parents.
- **De facto adoptions:** Permanent childcare arrangements decided between families on the death of parents or when a couple is childless. These arrangements are normally not regulated by the state but are often overseen by the extended family, clan, and community.

2.3. Global Trends of Adoption

Overall, adoption is relatively uncommon with an estimated quarter of a million children, or 12 in every 100,000, adopted each year. In most countries, there are far more children in either extended family care, foster care or residential care than are adopted (UNDESA, 2009).

Every year about 120,000 adoptions are certified in the state court systems and currently, 5 million people who live in the United States have been adopted (Gibbs, 2000). Adoptees younger than 18 make up a total of 1.5 million people which represents just over two percent of all American children. From this total two-thirds were placed with biologically unrelated parents and the remainders were adopted by relatives (Nickman, et al, 2005, as cited by Lisa Marie, 2012).

The period from 1998-2010 saw a remarkable rise and fall in the number of children adopted via intercountry adoption each year. In 1998 there were just under 32,000 adoptions; by 2004 this number had risen to over 45,000; by 2009 the world total had fallen to under 30,000 – less than in 1998 – and the decline continued in 2010 (Selman, 2012).

Many countries have been involved in intercountry adoption, and those sending the highest numbers of children have changed over time. Korea has the longest sequence of official statistics available from 1953 up to 2009, with a total of over 170,000 children adopted by 2010. Between 1992 and 2010, more than 125,000 children were adopted from China; from Russia, more than 110,000 (Selman, 2012).

2.3.1. Domestic Adoption

Domestic adoption accounts for almost 85% of all adoptions (UNDESA, 2009). Rates of domestic adoption vary greatly between countries and do not always follow neat regional trends. Many Asian and African countries have extremely low rates of domestic adoption as a percentage of the total child population. Rates within Europe vary greatly, with countries like the UK exhibiting much higher rates of domestic adoption than many Nordic countries (Selman, 2006).

86% of domestic adoptions take place in just 10 countries. Rates are especially high in the United States (US). With over 108,000 domestic adoptions in 2001, America accounted for nearly half of all domestic adoptions worldwide (UNDESA, 2009).

China and the Russian Federation are the next major domestic adopters, 37,200 and 17,331 respectively, followed by the UK, Ukraine, Brazil and Germany with 3-6,000 domestic adoptions annually (UNDESA, 2009). Data tracking adoption trends over time is not always available. In countries like the US and the UK, there was a steady rise in domestic adoptions from World War Two until the 1970s. In the UK in 1974 there were 22,502 adoptions registered, since this time this number has declined to 2,450 (UNDESA, 2009).

2.3.2. Inter-country Adoption

The US accounted for nearly 20,000 inter- country adoptions in 2007 (Selman, 2009). This is by far the most, though inter- country adoption rates as a percentage of the total adoptions are highest in western Europe, with some exceptions, such as the UK and Germany. In France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Switzerland, at least 75% of adoptions are inter- country (UNDESA, 2009). Common countries of origin for inter- country adoption

include China, Russia, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, India, and Vietnam. Though owing to the size of populations in countries like India, rates of inter- country adoptions per 100,000 of the child population are actually quite low (UNDESA, 2009).

From the 1980s the number of inter- country adoptions worldwide increased, most noticeably from 1998 to 2004, when it is estimated there was a 40% rise.

The number of inter- country adoptions peaked in 2004 but has since declined steadily due to a variety of limitations imposed by countries of origin, though the numbers were still higher in 2007 than in 1998 (Selman, 2009).

A key factor in the rise of inter- country adoption in Europe from the 1970s was the reduction in the availability of young babies for domestic adoption (UNDESA, 2009). Inter- country adoption from countries of origin can be very volatile. Ethiopia has seen a particularly dramatic rise in inter- country adoption in recent years (ISS, 2011). Nearly 80% of inter- country adoptions from Ethiopia are for the US, Spain, and Italy. This increase in inter- country adoption from Ethiopia may be attributed to a mix of poverty, institutionalization, doubtful consents, demand and the availability of high adoption fees (ISS, 2011).

2.4. Adoption in Ethiopia

According to Alternative childcare guidelines, 2009, there are two types of adoption: domestic adoption and inter-country or international adoption. Inter-country adoption is an adoption that involves a change in the child's habitual country of residence, whatever the nationality of the adopting parents. It also includes an adoption that involves parents of a nationality other than that of the child, whether or not they reside and continue to reside in the child's habitual country of residence (Alternative childcare guidelines, 2009).

From 1986 and until the end of the 1990s, inter- country adoption was limited to approximately 200 adoptions a year in Ethiopia. This increased to 4,500 inter- country adoptions from Ethiopia in 2010 (UN,2009).

Citing the need to work on quality and focus on more important strategic issues, the government of Ethiopia's Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) has indicated a reduction in the number of adoption cases it processes per day from 50 to a maximum of five, effective 10 March 2011 (US State Department, 2011a, as cited by Hiwot Ashenafi, 2017).

Under Ethiopian adoption procedures, MOWCYA approves every match between prospective adoptive parents and an Ethiopian child before that case can be forwarded for a court hearing (US State Department, 2011a, as cited by Hiwot Ashenafi, 2017). Eight orphanages are also to be closed due to revocation of their licenses to operate by Ethiopian authorities.

2.5. Understanding Adoption Disclosure

Adoption disclosure is defined in broad terms. According to the definition provided by Alaska Center for Resource Families, 2005, *disclosure* is the sharing of information about a child who is in the child welfare system and is moving from foster care into a more permanent placement such as adoption, foster care or relative placement. The information includes overall information about a child's physical, health, education status, etc.

2.6. The importance of adoption disclosure

Disclosure of adoption to the child contributes to safety, success, and stability of the family when implemented timely and systematically. Studies show negative aspects of not-disclosing adoption to the adopted child. Adoption disclosure or communicating openly about adoption to adopted children contribute to their healthy development and psychological well-being (Brodzinsky et al. 1986; MacIntyre 1990; Bai et al. 2006). Adoptive parents who have told their child about adoption perceived less about the loss of the biological parenthood and were more likely to understand the benefits of adoption disclosure to the child (Jayashree Mohanty, 2015).

A child who is adopted will benefit from knowing early on that they were adopted (Nickman, 1985). As they get older and are able to understand more and more, the parents can explain more and more to the child about how the child was adopted. If adopted children are not told about their adoption by adopting parents, at a certain age they may hear it from someone else or identify it from conversations of relatives, or from teasing by neighborhood children. As a result, they may feel different from the family they are living inside and face negative stereotypes about “being different”. Adopted children who have not been told by their adopting parents seem to sense that somehow they are different. This can eventually influence their self-image (Nickman, 1985).

According to Miall (1987), The longer the waiting to tell a child that he/she is adopted, the tougher it will be to debate him/her at an older age. Adopted youngsters who are told later in life often feel shocked, misled, and temporarily isolated or disconnected from their family. When parents tell children they are adopted after a late age there is a high likelihood that it will impact the relationship that the adoptee has with their adoptive family negatively. Often adopted

children told later in life may feel deceived and consider as though everything they once knew was a lie. Some adoptive parents may not tell their adopted children they were adopted because they are afraid of how the children can react. They think that the children can react back angrily or that the children can rebel against the adoptive parents (Jayashree Mohanty, 2015).

The reasons for non-disclosure are further indicated by other researchers. According to Berry (1993), Some adoptive parents refrain from telling the child about adoption because they think they might affect children's feelings. As a result, they think that the children could feel abandoned and unwanted if they found out that they were adopted. While this concern for the child's feelings is certainly noble, most specialists say that it is misguided.

The potential harm of not telling children they were adopted so much outweighs the potential harm of telling the children that they were adopted (Nickman, 1985).

Communicative openness (defined as free expression and discussion) between adoptive parents and adopted children is a key factor in their positive adjustment. Brodzinsky found that open discussion in addressing adoption issues was a stronger predictor of children's positive adjustment than was structural openness (Brodzinsky, 2006). Adopted children experiencing more open adoption communication reported higher self-esteem, and their parents rated them lower in behavioral problems. Among adopted adolescents, those who perceived greater open discussion about adoption in their families reported more trust for their parents, fewer feelings of alienation and better overall family functioning (Kohler, Grotevant, & McRoy, 2002). A study of adopted teens in Israel (about 60% adopted before 6 months of age) found that greater communicative openness about adoption was associated with higher self-concept and fewer symptoms of maladjustment (Levy Shiff, 2001).

Adoption practices have undergone several changes over the years in many Western countries. One of the most significant changes has been the shift from a confidential or closed adoption practice, in which the adoptive and birth parents do not share identifying information with each other, to a more open adoption practice that allows for various levels of direct and indirect contact with birth families (Wrobel et al.1996; Henny et al. 2003). With this change, the importance of communicative openness to the child and beyond the immediate family network has gained primacy in academic research and clinical practice (Brodzinsky 2006). In contrast, the prevalent adoption practice in many Asian countries such as India, Korea, and China has been confidential placement, with parents keeping the child's adoptive status as a secret not only from their external network but also from the child.

2.7. The Rationale of Early disclosure

Most people realize that preschool-age children are unable to master information which, for brevity, may be called painful facts of life. The timing and effect of the disclosure are generally recognized as upsetting to children (Barnes, 1953; Bernard, 1953; Clothier, 1943; Kris, 1956, as cited by Weider 2012). As a result, adopting parents are advised to tell their children about adoption as early as possible.

Waiting till adolescence to disclose a child's adoption to him or she is not recommended. It can be devastating to a child's self-esteem and erodes the faith they had in their parents (Nickman, 1985). Adoption workers advise parents to introduce the word "adoption" as early as possible so that the child learns about adoption early or become familiar with it. Then, it becomes easy for adoptive parents to tell the child his/her adoption history (Berry,1993).

For some parents, telling their child that he/she is adopted is a tough, anxiety-provoking task, and thus they put it off or avoid it. However, at some point adopted youngsters need to be

told about their origins, ideally even before middle childhood. Adoptive parents must determine what and when they will tell their children about their adoption. Many adoption workers advise parents to introduce the word "adoption" as early as possible so that it becomes a comfortable part of a child's vocabulary and to tell a child, between the ages of 2 and 4 that he is adopted. However, some child welfare experts believe that when children are placed for adoption before the age of 2 and are of the same race as the parents, there probably is little to be gained by telling them about their adoption until they are at least 4 or 5 years old. Before that time, they will hear the words but will not understand the concept (Miall, 1987).

According to Weider (2012), the ideal time for telling children about their adoption appears to be between the ages of 6 and 8. By the time children are 6 years old, they usually feel established enough in their family not to feel threatened by learning about adoption. Preschool children still have fears about the loss of their parents and their love and that telling them at that time is too risky. In addition, there is some question about whether a child under 6 years of age can understand the meaning of adoption and be able cognitively to work through the losses implied by learning that he was born into a different family.

Although it is obvious to adults, young children often believe that they are either adopted or born. It is important, when telling them about their adoption, to help them understand that they were born first and that all children, adopted or not, are conceived and born in the same way. The birth came first, then the adoption (Nickman, 1985). Children adopted at birth or within weeks benefit from the same unbroken relationship to their adoptive parents as biological children to their parents. Adopted children's development and relationship to the adoptive mothers were clinically indistinguishable from blood-kin children up to the time they were told of their

adoption. After the disclosure, the children's behavior, thought contents and relationships showed dramatic changes which could then objectively differentiate them from biological children (Wieder, 2012).

2.8. Practices of Adoption Disclosure

Global practices in disclosing adoption to the child differ from context to context. A study conducted by on Indian Adoptive parents illuminated different disclosure patterns among Indian adoptive families. While many of the parents had talked openly about their adoption to their immediate families and told their neighbors and others in the community about their adoptive family status, they were hesitant to disclose the fact to the child. Only a few of the adoptive parents had revealed the adoption to the child, and just one-third were planning to tell.

Adoption talk between the parents and the child often involves the deeply personal and sensitive topics of the adoptive parents and the background of the adopted child and his/her birth parents (Jayashree. M, Jaejin. A, and Srinivasan. C, 2015). A study conducted by Diana L. (2008) on adoptive parents and adopted children revealed that all interviewed adoptive parents have told their child about adoption at an early age. Every child in this study was told of their adoption at a very early age. Thus, each child, in his or her own way, verbalized they have known as far back as they can remember, that they were adopted.

In another study of 200 adopted and non-adopted children, 4-13 years old, Brodzinsky et al. (1986) found most preschool children did not fully comprehend adoption despite the fact that adopted children were labeled "adopted" by their parents. Further, the researchers concluded these children failed to comprehend this label but repeated what their parents had told them.

2.9. Challenges of Parental Disclosure of Adoption

2.9.1. Lack of support from adoption agencies

Support from adoption agencies (during pre-adoption process and post-adoption follow up) as well as informal support from other family members and friends is essential for adoptive parents to gain more knowledge and experience about adoption issues and allow them to be more competent to deal with adoption disclosure process (Jayashree, Jaejin, and Srinivasan, 2015). Agencies have different stances with regard to empowering prospective adoptive parents with regard to issues related to adoption disclosure in the pre-placement process. Adoption agencies have also differences in how much and what kinds of pre-adoption education they offer or require concerning the unique issues and challenges they are involved in (Diana,2008).

2.9.2. The attitude of adoptive parents towards adoption disclosure

Parental attitudes towards disclosure differ from parents to parents. This may relate to telling the child about adoption or not. Current studies have indicated parents' anxiety and uncertainty about familial communication about adoption (Miall 1987 and Alexander et al. 2004) as cited by (Jayashree. M, Jaejin. A, and Srinivasan. C, 2015). Alexander et al. (2004) found that among African American parents, one of the reasons for their discomfort in telling was their fear about the consequence of disclosure, specifically their relationship with their children in terms of loyalty and allegiance.

2.9.3. Stigma towards adoptive families

Whether or not parents will tell a child about adoption is often closely related to pre-existing societal stigmas towards adoption and adoptive families (Miall 1987). For example, in a study of 71 childless women, it was reported that the two reasons for hiding adoption were the perceived negative societal reactions towards it and the lack of a biological tie. Researchers have

also concluded that stigmatizing beliefs by people can make the social construct of adoption a personal identity issue which becomes challenging for adoptees (Grotevant, Dunbar, Kohler, & Esau, 2000) as cited by Diana (2008). According to a study conducted by March (2015) on adoptees' perception of others reactions to their adoptive status, adoption created a sense of stigma, social discrimination, and exclusion based on their lack of biological ties to their families.

2.10. Coping Mechanisms

Adoptive parents experience multiple challenges or stressors. Smalley (2006) says it is vital to understand the significance of these stressors and to build coping and resilience strategies. Talking to adoption social workers when having trouble coping is important.

When adoptive parents are in the middle of trouble with coping, it's important to have somebody who can mirror that progress back to them. Social worker and other adoptive parent are the best choices to do that (Christianson, 2012).

The researcher has tried to review all the current studies regarding coping mechanisms adoptive parents use to cope with the challenges of non-disclosure. However, it was hard for the researcher to find studies related.

2.11. Theoretical Orientation

This study bases the theoretical assumption of Kirk's model of adoptive parenting coping. Kirk (1964) proposed that the likelihood of adoptive parents telling the child about his/her adoptive status depends on whether they reject or acknowledge the differences between adoptive and biological parenthood. When parents adopt 'rejection-of-difference' coping patterns, they tend to pretend that they are biological parents and thus avoid telling children

about their adoptive status. Conversely, parents who acknowledge the difference between adoptive and non-adoptive family life communicate more openly about adoption. Kirk concluded that acknowledging the difference is a more positive choice and may lead to stability and permanence in family relationship.

However, Kirk's theory was developed among American and Canadian families, and until now, no empirical evidence is available on how this theory is relevant to understanding adoptive families in other countries such as Ethiopia. Therefore, in understanding adoption disclosure issues, according to Bhargava (2005), as cited by Jayashree Mohanty (2015), adoption disclosure should be understood in the specific cultural context by taking into account societal reactions to adoption, the support that parents receive from their families and other social networks, and their own attitudes and feelings towards disclosure.

The theory will inform this study with its concepts that if adoptive parents acknowledge the difference between them and the biological parents, they are more likely to communicate adoption to their children. As it was indicated in the literature reviews, parents have different stressors with regard to disclosing about adoption. They have a fear of "consequences" of telling their child about adoption. Adoptive parents have the anxiety that they may face emotional changes in their adopted children after they have disclosed. As a result, they do not acknowledge their adoptive status and thus they want to be considered as biological parents. Kirk says it is more advantageous to acknowledge the difference than not.

Another theory which informs this study is Bronfenbrenner's Ecological approach. The theory focuses on shared relationships among people and their connection with the external environment (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Here, we can relate the approach to adopted children-adoptive parent relationships for mutual benefits. We can discuss the three main structures of the

environment according to Bronfenbrenner. The micro-system is the child's immediate environments such as family, school, neighbourhood, etc. The child has direct contact and immediate relationship with them. The mesosystem shows the connection between the structures of the child's microsystem like the connection between the school and the child's parents. The exosystem is the larger structure which the child has no direct contact. The macro system is the outermost layer in the system which included cultural values, norms, laws, etc. and they affect the interaction of the various layers.

CHAPTER THREE

3. METHODS

This chapter discusses the research methods that are used by the researcher. In the chapter, research design and description of the study area which are identified by the researcher are discussed. Moreover, study participants, data collection, data collection procedures, data analysis, and quality assurance issues are discussed. Last but not least, the ethical considerations of the research are indicated.

3.1. Research Design

Qualitative research aims to develop explanations of social phenomena. It aims to help us realize the world in which we live. It is concerned with the social aspects of our world (Hancock, 1998). We conduct qualitative research because the problem or issue needs to be explored.

Qualitative research is conducted when we need a complex, detailed understanding of the issue (Creswell, 2007).

This study aimed to explore the practices and challenges of parental disclosure of adoption in selected adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. Thus, the researcher used qualitative research design in order to collect, analyse, interpret and present the data. Since the issue selected for the study needs to be explored, the exploratory approach is used. From the 5 qualitative research approaches, the phenomenological approach is selected for the study. As Creswell (2007) stated, phenomenological research is used to know several individuals' shared experience of a phenomenon. The method is used to develop a deeper understanding of a phenomenon. Thus, the study tried to explore the lived experiences of selected adoptive parents from the local adoption organization and also used key informants from a government body as sources of data.

3.2. Description of Study Area

To assess the practice and challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents, the researcher selected adoption organizations in Addis Ababa, namely, *Kidmia Association*, *Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage*, and *Bethany Christian Services*. The researcher has also selected Ministry of Women, Children & Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) and Addis Ababa Women, Children & Youth Bureau, the government body is in charge of leading the orphanages and adoption organizations in the country, for the study.

3.2.1. Kidmia Association

Kidmia Association is a non-profit and child-focused organization that fights against poverty by focusing on OVC and their families through integrated programs that provide sustainable and long-lasting changes in the lives of the most vulnerable groups of the population

and their communities. Founded in 2007, the organization is working on six major areas of interventions, these include temporary and holistic OVC care and support in transition center, child sponsorship and family preservation, local adoption of eligible OVC by loving and caring Ethiopian families, reunification of eligible OVCs into their extended families, economic empowerment of vulnerable OVC families, church and community mobilization and organization for OVC care and support as well as partnership building and networking for wider and greater impacts.

3.2.2. Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage

Kebebe Tsehay orphanage is one of the governmental orphanages operating in Addis Ababa. It is currently one of the three governmental orphanages under the responsibility of Addis Ababa Women and Children Affairs bureau.

Kebebe Tsehay orphanage has placed a large number of children for domestic adoption in the past few years than other governmental and private orphanages operating in Addis Ababa. Domestic adoption is one of the alternative child care services employed by the institution and it has placed around 300 children for domestic adoption since 2001.

3.2.3. Bethany Christian Services

Bethany Christian Services is a global nonprofit organization working to bring and keep families together. The services provided by the organization include local adoption, foster care, and pregnancy counseling. Bethany Christian Services began its work in Ethiopia in 2007. Bethany Christian Services in Ethiopia operates in four primary locations namely Wuchale, Addis Ababa, Adama and Hawassa, through partnerships with local child welfare organizations.

3.3. Study Participants

The study participants were adoptive parents who are living in Addis Ababa city and adopting children by receiving from Kidmia Association, Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage and Bethany Christian Services. The researcher selected adoptive parents whose adopted child or children are 5 years or above. The researcher assumed that spending 5 years with the adopted child or children may show the adoptive parents have stayed long with or without disclosing adoption to their children. Both married and unmarried adoptive parents took part in the study.

With regard to sampling technique, the researcher employed a purposive sampling technique to identify cases which are rich in the information needed. Accordingly, 8 adoptive parents (3 from each of Kebebe Tsehay and Bethany Christian Services as well as 2 from Kidmia Association) took part in the individual in-depth interviews.

Moreover, 8 adoptive parents from Kidmia Association have participated in focus group discussions. In addition, 4 key informants (one from each of MWCYA, AAWCA, Kidmia Association, and Bethany Christian Services) have taken part in key informant interviews.

3.4. Data Collection Procedures

In the beginning, the researcher visited Kidmia and Bethany Christian Services as well as Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) and Addis Ababa Women, Children & Youth Affairs office (AAWCYA) to establish rapport with the leaders and staff. The researcher believes that a good relationship is essential for the success of the data collection. Next, the letter of cooperation was collected from the School of Social Work and submitted to the selected organizations mentioned above. The researcher then explained the purpose of the study and got the willingness of the staff to conduct the study. Then, the researcher explained the

type of participants needed for the study and the organizations facilitated the appointment of adoptive parents for the in-depth interviews as well as FGD.

Before conducting the in-depth interviews KIIs and FGD, the researcher explained the purpose of the study and got consent from all participants. The researcher tried to conduct all data collection at a convenient time and place for the participants. As a result, in-depth information was obtained from the discussions.

3.5. Data Collection Tools

The study employed a qualitative research design. The following are data collection tools were used by the researcher:

3.5.1. In-depth Interviews

The fact that the research problem is very complex and needs to gather the lived experiences of the research subjects, the major data collection tool for this study is an in-depth interview. The researcher aims to get first-hand information from selected adoptive parents from the three adoption organizations. They are the primary subjects to get reliable information about the research problem.

In-depth interviews with adoptive parents would help get rich and detail data about the practices and challenges as well as coping mechanisms with regard to disclosure of adoption. According to Quinn (2002), open-ended questions are used to collect information but the researcher is responsible to probe and get in-depth information from participants. Interview guides will be used to collect information pertaining to the research questions.

3.5.2. Focus Group Discussions

The researcher aimed to supplement the in-depth interview data by conducting FGDs with a group of adoptive parents. Some information may be obtained through group reflections and discussions among adoptive parents can help raise common issues affecting them. Focus group discussion guide was prepared and utilized to gather data about the practices and challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents. One focus group discussion has been conducted with 8 adoptive parents who have adopted child/children through Kidmia Association.

3.5.3. Key Informant Interviews

The researcher believes key informant from the adoption organizations can also help get information about the research problem and hence data can be triangulated from different sources.

The key informants helped to get information on overall practices and challenges of adoption disclosure in their respective agency and also raise issues related to organizational systems and processes as well as policy issues related to the research problem. KII guide was used to collect data from key informants.

3.6. Data analysis

The data analysis for this study is based on a qualitative research approach. Qualitative data analysis basically takes place at the same time with the actual data collection. To analyze the data, all information from in-depth and key informant interviews were recorded carefully. The interview and FGD were conducted in Amharic. The recorded interviews were transcribed to Amharic and then translated in to English. After a repeated reading the raw data and listening to the tape recorder, a code was assigned by the lines and paragraphs of the data and then were

refined and adjusted as the analysis proceeds. After coding, the researcher carefully categorized the data into thematic and sub-thematic areas and in a way it links to the research questions intended to answer. Accordingly, all data from several interviewees were organized and summarized. Based on this complete framework, the researcher interpreted the data and explained the findings. Finally, based on the findings, discussions were made and research implications were indicated.

3.7. Quality Assurance

3.7.1. Trustworthiness

A qualitative research analysis is based on contextual data which is highly vulnerable for subjective interpretation. As a result, the findings are more likely to be questioned. Therefore, it is critical for the researcher to take careful steps to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.

To make sure the interviews are collected and recorded carefully, first, the researcher used a recorder. Moreover, to get the true insights of respondents rather than “convenient” responses, the researcher explained the objectives and outcomes of the study to all participants so that the respondents feel relaxed and articulate their views. The researcher did not add his views or attitudes on the data and hence only data from the selected primary sources were used for analysis. Data generated from different sources are triangulated.

After compiling the analysis, the researcher tried to check some issues with the raw data from notes and tape record. The analysis was also peer-reviewed to check coherence of ideas as well as editorial purposes.

3.8. Ethical Considerations

In social work research, ethical considerations are very essential. Social work researcher requires a direct relationship or contact with people and hence risks related to ethics are high. Thus, the researcher ensured that the study is conducted in accordance with social work ethical standards. The researcher explained the purpose of the research to the participants and that their participation is voluntary. The researcher also made sure that the participants understand the risks and benefits of participating in the research. Moreover, the researcher provided the participants with the written consent form and made them sign before the data collection.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. FINDINGS

4.1. Introduction

The purpose of this research was to explore the practices and challenges of adoption disclosure in selected local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. Based on data obtained from 16 in-depth interview participants and 4 key informants, the study came out with existing practices of adoption disclosure, its major challenges adoptive parents face as well as coping mechanisms employed by adoptive parents. The chapter begins by describing the background information of the participants. It then presents the existing practices of adoption disclosure

among adoptive parents. Then, the major challenges of adoption disclosure and coping mechanisms employed by adoptive parents are presented. The findings of the study are organized and presented in line with the research questions under major and sub-themes.

Participant	Sex	Age	Marital status	Religion	Educational Level	Occupation
Adoptive parent	F	58	Single	Protestant	Diploma	Private business
Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs				Male	Child care and support inspection Head	K1
Addis Ababa Women and Children Affairs				Female	Child care and support expert	K2
Kidmia Association				Male	Executive Director	K3
Bethany Christian Services				Female	Foster to Adopt Program Manager	K4

4.2. Background of participants

Table 4.1. Key informant interview background information

The data presented in this study is obtained from selected adoptive parents from Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage (governmental orphanage), Kidmia Association and Bethany Christian Services (non-governmental adoption organizations).

Moreover, data is also collected from the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) and Addis Ababa Women and Children Affairs (AAWCA). The following tables show the organizations as well as participants involved in the study.

Table 4.2: In-depth interview participants' demographic information

Adoptive parent 2	F	43/50	Married	Protestant	Degree/Diploma	NGO worker/Teacher
Adoptive parent 3	M	67/54	Married	Orthodox	Master's Degree/First Degree	Private business
Adoptive parent 4	F	59	Single	Orthodox	Diploma	Government Office worker
Adoptive parent 5	F	53/58	Married	Catholic	High school/First Degree	Religious institution
Adoptive parent 6	F	47	single	Protestant	Degree	NGO worker
Adoptive parent 7	M	68/56	Married	Orthodox	Secondary school/Certificate	Private business
Adoptive parent 8	F	50/53	Married	Protestant	12 complete	Private business

Table 4.3: FGD participants' background information

Participants	Sex	Age	Marital status	Occupation
Adoptive parent 9	F	47	Married	Private business
Adoptive parent 10	F	55	Married	Government office worker
Adoptive parent 11	F	54	Single	Private business
Adoptive parent 12	M	46	Single	NGO worker
Adoptive parent 13	M	65	Married	Private business
Adoptive parent 14	F	34	Married	KG teacher
Adoptive parent 15	F	37	Single	Private business
Adoptive parent 16	M	39	Single	NGO worker

4.3. The Practice of adoption disclosure

This section deals with the current practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents in Addis Ababa. The item is analyzed based on the data obtained from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with adoptive parents as well as key informant interviews with selected local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. The specific findings are presented using the following sub-themes:

4.3.1. Status of adoption disclosure in local adoption organizations

All four key informants participated in the study indicated that the primary focus of intervention of their respective organization is saving the lives of abandoned children through the implementation of their local adoption programs. Supporting adoptive parents to inform their adopted child/children about adoption is not a current focus for all local adoption organizations participated in this study. This is because they prefer to deal with the disclosure issue after they do well on expansion of local adoption service in the country. Moreover, there is no clear guideline, policy or support mechanism employed by the local adoption organizations to help adoptive parents disclose adoption to their adopted children. As a result, there is rare practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents who adopted children through governmental and non-governmental local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa.

A key informant from MOWCA (K1) elaborated that:

The Ministry's current focus is strengthening local adoption through working with international and local agencies as well as orphanages. Adoption disclosure is a critical aspect of the local adoption process. It is through which we ensure the rights of the child in terms of getting information about his/her adoption. However, the Ministry is not dealing with the issue currently. It is something we'll focus on in the future.

Moreover, A Key informant from AAWCA (K2) also raised similar idea with that of a key informant from MOWCYA. He stated as:

Our office is working on a foster-to-adopt program in Addis Ababa. About 120 people have adopted children through our office. However, I believe that we are far behind to easily implement adoption disclosure. We are not providing the necessary

support for adoptive parents on adoption disclosure. It is not part of our pre-adoption or post-adoption follow up activities.

A Key informant from Kidmia Association (K3) has also explained the status of adoption disclosure in his organization as:

Kidmia, as one of the local adoption organizations in the country, believes disclosure of adoption to adopted children is important. However, we did not bring adoption disclosure into practice as we do not have a clear guideline to support adoptive parents in the process of adoption disclosure. As a result, the majority of the adoptive parents supported under our organization have not disclosed adoption to their adopted child even though some of the adopted children have already reached adolescence. Since most of the adoptive parents who have adopted children through our organization are married couples who don't have biological children, adoption disclosure is a sensitive issue because they want the adoption to be confidential.

However, a key informant from Bethany Christian Services (K4) argued differently that the experience of her organization with respect to adoption disclosure is that they provide training for adoptive parents on disclosure and that they have a guideline on adoption disclosure. But, she did not hide that adoptive parents do not disclose adoption to their adopted child/children even though they were trained.

A key informant (K4) further stated her view as:

Even though adoptive parents are trained about disclosure during pre-adoption training, these adoptive parents, especially those who do not have biological children, are uncertain about whether or not to disclose adoption to their adopted child/children. Those who have biological children can easily disclose to the adopted child and their other

biological children because they do not have societal barriers such as social stigma. Most adoptive parents who have adopted children through our organization did not manage to disclose adoption to their adopted children even though the children are getting older and older. The likelihood of having a complicated relationship and other psychological and social effect on the children is high. A few adoptive parents have told about the adoption to their families, friends, and neighbors but the adopted child/children are yet to be told.

4.3.2. The Practice of adoption disclosure among Adoptive Parents

As the study revealed, the practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents in local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa indicated that vast majority of adoptive parents did not disclose adoption to their child/children and it was also found that they are not prepared to share the information to their child/children anytime soon due to many reasons. Most of the adoptive parents who have participated in the study have adopted children who are between 6-12 years of age but they were not told about the adoption by their adoptive parents.

Adoptive parent 1 stated her view as:

My adopted child is 6 years old. I adopted him when he was six months old. I told him that I gave birth from a foreigner and hence he'll meet his father in the future. I know it is a lie but that is the choice I have. We have a very strong attachment. Telling him

about the adoption is something I don't want to think about it right now. I am very much afraid when I think of telling him that he is adopted.

Adoptive parent 2 also has a similar situation. They don't have biological children. They adopted a girl through Kidmia Association's local adoption program. She is 7 years old currently. Before they adopted her, the child was abandoned in a forest located in Guraghe zone. The adoptive parent explained the difficulty to disclose the situation to their adopted child. She articulated as:

How can I tell this horror story to my adopted child? Can I tell her that she was thrown away by her mother? It is easy to know how she may feel. What she currently knows is that I am her biological mother. Only my husband and relatives know that we adopted the girl child. We didn't tell anything to our friends and neighbors. Our big concern is how our adopted child will react when the information leaks and she knows that we are not her biological parent. We have frequently said to her that we are her biological parents. How can we change now or in the near future and tell her that she is adopted? It is difficult.

Three of the focus group discussants (Adoptive parent 10, 12, 13,) have also similar experiences regarding disclosure. Though they believe disclosing adoption is something they must take care of as their adopted children got older. However, they are challenged to do it. Adoptive parent 12 is a single parent and she had a plan to disclose adoption to her 8 years old adopted child but failed to do it due to some challenges.

She stated her experience as:

I relocated from Holeta to Addis Ababa due to the negative attitude of the community towards adoption and my adopted child. I and my adopted son have a color difference and thus his neighbor peers and classmates frequently insult him by saying "you are black in color but your mom is not, you must look like your father" where is your father? Due to this, he frequently asks me where his father is. But I did not tell him. I planned to tell him about the adoption after I started living in Addis Ababa, but I changed my mind because the challenges are the same here. I care about him. I think if I disclose, it may affect his feelings negatively.

Mentioning the social challenge her adopted child is facing she said:

Moreover, his peers continuously ask him about his father. My child started to behave differently because of these continuous questions from his peers in school and neighborhood. His school friends always tell him that I am not his biological mother and he was brought from "somewhere". This is negatively affecting my adopted child as he started questioning his identity.

One of the focus group discussion participant (Adoptive parent 14) has raised a different view as compared to the rest of adoptive parents. She is married and she has 2 biological children and one 12 years old adopted daughter. She adopted the girl openly and everybody knows that she is adopted, including her adopted child. She explained her experience as:

We openly adopted a child through Bethany Christian Services. We believed that adoption is all about saving the life of a child instead of our satisfaction as adopting parents. During adoption, we invited our relatives, friends, and neighbors in our house and celebrated the adoption of the child. Since the adoption is disclosed to everybody including my daughter, I see there is no problem between my biological children and adopted child and thus we have a happy life. Disclosure is important for the adopted

children as well as the adoptive parents in any sense. Adoptive parents should believe that there are two ways of having a child. “ልጅ በሁለት መንገድ ይወለዳል፤ ከማህጸን እና ከልብ”.

To explore the practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents, Key informants have also been asked. Accordingly, a key informant from AAWCA (K1) stated:

Most local adoptions are practiced in secret manner as adoptive parents do not want their adopting child and other people (except their family members) know about their adoption. Most adoptive parents, during the adoption process, do a simulation of “pregnant woman” as if they gave birth to a child to let others consider that the child is “their biological child”. However, when the child gets older and starting to ask them how he was really born, it becomes hard for these adoptive parents to answer. Some single adoptive parents lie to their adopted child that the adopted child/children will meet their “biological father” in the future, rather than telling them the truth.

Adoptive parents 7 and 8 have adopted a boy and a girl, respectively, from Kebebe Tsehay orphanage under AAWCA. Both of the adoptive parents are married but do not have biological children. They believe disclosing adoption to the child at some point is important. But, they have mentioned that they lack the capacity on how to disclose (how to actually tell the real story) and also mentioned the difficulty to deal with societal barriers as well as the consequence of telling on the psychology of the adopted children. Adoptive parent 7 explained his experience as:

My adopted son is 10 years old and he is in grade 3 now. Social workers from AAWCA visit us every three months. They raise the issue of disclosure during their visits. They tell us it is not good if the adopted child is getting older without disclosing adoption to him. However, it is 3 years now since I decided to disclose to my son but I could not do it.

From 8 adoptive parents who participated in the FGD, none of them have disclosed adoption to their adopted children. One of the FGD discussants said:

During pre-adoption training which was provided by Kidmia, we were told that disclosure of adoption to the child we are adopting is important. But later when I started living with my adopted child, the issue became very bothering. When I see the strong attachment we have, I believed that disclosure may have negative consequences. As a result, I am keeping the secret.

4.4. Challenges of disclosing adoption

Based on the findings of the study, the major challenges of adoption disclosure have been identified. Accordingly, the challenges disclosing adoption are presented in 7 sub-themes as below:

4.4.1. Fear of psychological effect on the child

Adoptive parents have the fear that disclosing adoption to the child may affect the child's emotions. They believe that the consequence may lead to psychological crisis and hence the child's self-image may be affected when he/she know that they were abandoned.

Adoptive parent 1 said:

I think informing him about the adoption would affect him emotionally. We have strong attachment right now and he only knows that I am his biological mother and he has a father whom he will meet in the future. My adopted child sometimes asks me strange questions such as "Where is my father? Why not he come to see us?". I am irritated when he asks such kind of questions. I feel like he will be emotionally broken if he heard about his true story that he was abandoned in the forest.

Most of the FGD participants have also raised a similar challenge for adoption disclosure. They have argued that they could not disclose adoption to their adopted children because they

believe it seriously affects a child's mental health. One of the FGD participant (Adoptive parent 11) said:

I am afraid my adopted son may become mad when he knows that he was abandoned. It is difficult to suddenly tell him that I am not his mother. What if he drops school and feels hopeless? I care about him and unless am sure that it doesn't affect my adopted child, I prefer to wait.

A key informant from Kidmia (K4) also mentioned the idea which is similar to the above.

He stated as:

During the time of adoption, some of the adopted children had a serious health problem due to abandonment and lack of care. Some of the adopted children were abandoned in hospitals. Thus, adoptive parents believe that telling such a bad story to the adopted child would seriously affect the child's emotions.

This challenge has also been mentioned by other adoptive parents participated in the in-depth interview. Adoptive parents 3, 4, 6,7 & 8 have argued that it is psychological damage to the adopted child if the adoption story is disclosed to him/her. They think that they are protecting the child's mental health by avoiding disclosure. Adoptive parent 4 said:

I used to tell him stories about children who were abandoned and how people took them and kept them at their home and raise them as their children. This way, I thought he may understand why children are abandoned and how people show humanity to save the lives of children and raise them as their child. However, my son asks me questions like "mom can you tell me how you gave birth when I was born?" "Why are only you and me in this house?". Because of these sorts of questions, I am afraid to tell him as I think he'll be heartbroken.

Adoptive parent 6 has also shared her view as:

I believe disclosure is important but I also think that the child should grow older to resist the emotional effect of disclosure of adoption. For the time being disclosing to him about adoption would affect his emotions negatively.

4.4.2. Social stigma

Most of the adoptive parents have passed through the experience of social stigma as a challenge for disclosure of adoption. The communities believe that adoptive parents are inferior to biological parents. The social stigmas are mostly attached to infertility. Adoptive parents have indicated social stigmatization on adoption has led them to prefer secret adoption. Most of the adoptive parents have the preference to conceal adoption from the child because of fear of stigmatization.

Adoptive parent 4 states her experience as:

My friends and neighbors believe being infertile is a curse. It is a result of sin or bad practice. Because of this, I am discriminated. I couldn't participate well in societal gatherings. As a result, I relocated to Addis Ababa to hide from the community in which I spent my whole life. How can I cope with the stigmatization if I disclose adoption to the child and it becomes known by my friends and neighbors? It is difficult.

Adoptive parents 2 and 3 have also reported the same challenge as the reason for non-disclosure of adoption to their adopted children.

Adoptive parent 2 shares her experience as:

Keeping the secret is the only option I have. Even those who are education express their pity for not having biological children. Sometimes, people bother about this issue more

than we do. It is nature. We can have children through adoption. Adoption is a modern practice in western countries. But, I don't know why our society stigmatizes us for adopting a child/children. The society's attitude should change before I think of disclosing adoption to the child.

Supportive to the above idea, the key informant from Kidmia (K3) also mentioned the social stigma as the major challenges of adoption disclosure. He said:

Societal stigma on adoption is the current disease which is affecting the implementation of local adoption program in the country. There is in general low awareness of the society on adoption and there is a negative attitude towards adoptive families. People who do not have biological children are not seen equally with those who have.

Unless this situation is changed, it is difficult to advise adoptive parents to disclose adoption to their adopted children.

Similarly, Adoptive parents 1, 6, 7 and 8 have also reported that they live in a community where there is a societal stigma on adoption and adoptive parents. Adoptive parent 1 said:

The reason for my relocation to Addis Ababa from Holeta is negative societal attitude towards local adoption. My son and I have faced several challenges which we could not resist and hence we left our house in Holeta and came to Addis.

7 of the 8 focus group discussion participants have also supported the above idea and mentioned that social stigma is a barrier for adoption disclosure in particular and local adoption in general.

One of the FGD participants said:

Even though I disclose the adoption to the child, families, friends, and neighbors, society is yet to be changed in terms of seeing adopted and biological children equally. The

surprising part of it is my children also sometimes show discriminative acts which I correct them immediately. Thus, adopted children are dishonored and that is why adoptive parents do not want to disclose adoption to their children and others.

4.4.3. Fear of losing attachment after disclosure

Another challenge for adoptive parents to disclose adoption to the child is fear of losing attachment as a consequence of disclosure. 13 of the 16 adoptive parents who participated in this study have expressed that they feel like they have a blood-kin relationship with the adopted child particularly.

As they reported, most of the adoptive parents adopt their children during infant stage and some of the adoptive parents have been breastfeeding their adopted babies. They parent-child attachment is strong. As a result, the majority of adoptive parents responded that disclosure will affect the strong bond they have with their adopted children. In line with this, Adoptive parent 1 shared her view as:

I was breastfeeding my adopted son during his early months. I feel like he is from my womb. I have a special love and care for him. I miss him a lot when he goes to school. He is my life. He is my hope. I am afraid he may hate me or disconnect from me if I tell him about the adoption.

Corresponding to this idea, Adoptive parents 2 and 3 have also mentioned that the strong attachment they have with their adopted children may be affected due to disclosure, especially when the child becomes mature, he/she will start to analyze their situation during adoption and thus will feel unloved by their biological parents as they abandoned them. According to the adoptive parents' response, this will, in turn, affect the adopted children as they may start to hate

their adoptive parents too. As a result, most of the adoptive parents prefer to take risk of hiding adoption from their adopted children.

One of FGD participant (adoptive parent 12), have argued that he doesn't want to lose the love and relationship he has with his adopted child by telling him a story which he doesn't understand. He told his story as:

When he grows up, my adopted child may want to know his true identity and may start to question how he was brought to this world. He may want to know whether I am his father or not and I may face some difficult questions arise from him. However, for the time being, I want to be peaceful with my child and ensure that we have a good relationship.

4.4.4. Lack of knowledge about how to disclose

15 of the 16 adoptive parents who participated in this study often worry about how to tell their child they are adopted. The reported that they are anxious and stressed when thinking of how telling adopted children that they are adopted. Adoptive parent 1 shares her experience as;

When thinking of telling my son about adoption, I pray to God to give me wisdom about how I can share the information without affecting the child's emotions or facing any negative reaction.

We have been told by our social workers about some mechanisms such as "telling a similar story" and seeing how the adopted child reacts first. However, it looks easy but it is difficult to do it. When decided to disclose, I may look for other adoptive parents' experience on how they have disclosed.

Adoptive parents 7 and 8 have also reported a lack of capacity to systematically disclose adoption to their children. Adoptive parent 7 says:

I don't know how I can carefully inform my child. I have no idea whether I should do once or step by step. I am also not prepared to deal with my adopted child's reactions during disclosure. I sometimes think that I should involve my relatives in disclosing to my child but start to feel like it is not correct. I was not given enough information on how to disclose to my child. I need more support.

All of the focus group discussion participants (8) have also mentioned similar challenge. They have reported that disclosure is not something that done easily. It should be in a way that the child should understand as well as accept what happened. One of the FGD participants said:

Once upon a time, I and my adopted child were watching a television program about local adoption. When he heard the story about an abandoned child, he was feeling bad and blaming the biological parents who abandoned the child. Since then, I started to think that disclosing adoption to my adopted child should be done carefully. But I still don't know which strategy is the best based on my context.

A key informant from Kidmia (K3) has been asked about the challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents in his local adoption organization. One of the major challenges of adoption disclosure is lack of knowledge on adoption disclosure by adoptive parents.

The key informant said:

Since there is no awareness creation effort done by our organization on adoption disclosure, adoptive parents have limited knowledge of the strategies and processes of disclosing adoption. Thus, they fear that they could negatively affect the adoptive parent-adopted child relationship if they try to inform the child without knowing how to do it.

4.4.5 Confusion about when to disclose

Most of the adoptive parents also have the challenge in clearly understanding the time of disclosing to their child. 14 of the 16 adoptive parents who participated in the study responded that they are unsure about the appropriate time or age to disclose adoption to their children. As a result, most of the adoptive parents tend to wait until they are aware of when to disclose adoption.

Adoptive parent 1 shared her experience as:

I asked other adoptive parents if they have information about the appropriate age adoption can be told to the adopted child. But, I got different responses from different adoptive parents. As a result, I got confused. Even though my adopted child is growing older, I still could not understand the appropriate stage of disclosing adoption.

Adoptive parents 4, 5 and 6 have also supported this idea in that they look for support and/or training on the appropriate time of adoption disclosure since they are challenged to understand convenient age for their adopted children to be told about the adoption.

Corresponding to this idea, a key informant from Bethany Christian Services (K4) have mentioned that most adoptive parents do not know when to disclose adoption to their adopted children.

She argued:

In theory, age 6 is the appropriate age for adopted children to be told about their adoption. But, this may not work for all adopted children. Age should be considered

context wise and it is difficult to fix the appropriate age for adoption disclosure since the context is different in our country. Because of this, our support and guidance on this regard are limited as we do not usually suggest ages for adoption disclosure. As a result, adoptive parents understanding on this regard is limited.

4.4.6. Desire to pretend biological parenthood

Most of the adoptive parents reject the difference between them and biological parents. As a result, they found no sense of disclosing adoption to their adopted children. Adoptive parent 2 argued:

I feel like we are the biological parents to our adopted child. I feel like I gave birth to her instead of taking her from anywhere. So, I don't mind if I and my husband do not tell her because she doesn't know her biological parents and we feel like she has accepted us as her biological parents.

Adoptive parent 1 also supported the idea of Adoptive parent 2 by saying:

I expect my adopted child to consider me as his biological mother. I used to give him my breast so he is from my blood. If nobody tells him that he is adopted, I think I can be his biological mother.

Adoptive parents 6, 7 and 8 also revealed their desire to be considered as “biological parents” instead of adoptive parents. Adoptive parent 8 says:

I don't want to think about my adopted child's biological parents. I have got legal ownership of the child through adoption and I believe that nobody takes away my child.

As to my belief, adoptive and biological parents are the same.

If I raise my child from her infancy, I should be considered as her biological parent. If

I am her biological mother, there is no need to disclose. “የወለደም ያሳደገም አንድ ነዉ”.

4 of 8 adoptive parents participated in the focus group discussion have the same belief with the above adoptive parents. They argued that there is no clear cut difference between adoptive and biological parenthood. One of the FGD participants said:

How can I disclose to my biological child that he is adopted? It is better to maintain the current “mother-child” relationship between us and keep living together. I don’t know what tomorrow will bring but at the moment we are enjoying love together. Everybody in the neighborhood knows that he is my biological child. We also look alike.

4.4.7. lack of support from others on disclosure

Almost all adoptive parents reported that they rarely get the support they need from the local adoption organizations to deal with adoption disclosure. They have also mentioned that local adoption organizations rarely include the issue of disclosure during pre-adoption training as well as post-placement follow-ups. As a result, the majority of the adoptive parents have not disclosed adoption to their adopted children. Adoptive parent 1 mentioned that:

The support I get from the local adoption agency staff is limited in terms of adoption disclosure. The issue is left for us to deal with. But, it is difficult for us to cope up with the challenges of adoption disclosure. Without support from others, it is difficult to think about disclosure.

Adoptive parents 7 and 8 have also experienced the same challenge. They did not get any support from Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage or AAWCA on disclosure issue. Both adoptive parents have witnessed that the issue of disclosure is not given due attention by the organizations and thus we lack other’s support on this regard. Adoptive parent 4 also expressed her desire to receive familial as well as organizational support on dealing with the issue of disclosure but did not get.

Focus Group Discussion participants were also asked the same question and 6 out of 8 FGD participants have responded that they get minimal support from the local adoption organization through which they adopted children as well as their families and friends on disclosing adoption. One of the discussants said:

I am usually visited by social workers from Kidmia Association every three months. However, the issue of disclosure has not been discussed and hence the support on this regard is none. I could not get any support from my families and friends as I did not tell them that I am adopting a child.

4.5. Coping mechanisms

Based on the findings of this study, adoptive parents use different mechanisms to cope with the challenges of adoption disclosure. The strategies employed by adoptive parents to cope with the emotional consequences of non-disclosure differs from adoptive parents to adoptive parents. 15 of the 16 adoptive parents who participated in in-depth interviews and FGD have reported that although there have mentioned different challenges as barriers for disclosure, they believe that disclosure of adoption has benefits to the adopted child and adoptive parents. 14 of the 16 adoptive parents who were participants of this study have mentioned that personal and societal related challenges are the underlining causes for non-disclosure. To cope with these challenges, adoptive parents employ the following major coping strategies:

4.5.1. Spirituality

Majority of the adoptive parents use prayer as a coping mechanism. They believe prayer as the best solution for every challenges the child may encounter if the adoption is disclosed or not. Two of the parents reported that being spiritual will help them through the challenges of late

disclosure or not disclosing at all. One of the adoptive parents said that prayer has positively influenced her thinking and hence she won't bother about disclosure issue. Adoptive parent 1 said,

It is God who gave me this child. The child could have died but God wanted to save him through adoption. Therefore, I believe God will help me through the issue of disclosure. He knows what I should do.

Adoptive parent 11 also mentioned that she feels relieved when praying to God about what could happen to her adopted daughter. The discussant said,

When I attend spiritual gatherings, I tend to forget everything and thank God for providing me with a child to adopt. Becoming honest, kind, assertive, and caring is what is expected from us and leave all issues unto God.

Adoptive parents 2, 6 and 7 have also mentioned that they go to church with their adopted children for prayer. Adoptive parent 6 says:

I pray to God to give me wisdom on how to raise my adopted child. I present to him the challenges I encounter when raising my child. Through these actions, I and my adopted child are living a happy life.

4.5.2. Simulation of biological parenthood

Another coping mechanism used by adoptive parents to overcome the challenges of adoption is “accepting the child as their biological child” instead of their adopted child/children. Adoptive parent 3 reported that they become relieved of the tension about disclosure when feeling that their adopted child is their biological one instead of adopted and thus there is no need to disclose to the adopted child. Adoptive parent 4 also says:

When I think of the depth of love between us, I feel comforted and forget the challenges of adoption, including the issue of disclosure which worries me every time. When I feel that I am his only mother, the challenges become easy and I feel I can deal with them.

Adoptive parents 7 and 8 have also reported that disclosing adoption is what concerns them every day because it is not an easy task. But, there is a way to forget about it. Adoptive parent 7 says:

It is better to avoid the topic by thinking it the other way. I believed that the child no more gets his biological parents so we are his biological parents.

4.5.3. Avoiding the stressor

The other coping strategy employed by the adoptive parents is staying aside from negative people. Majority of the adoptive parents reported that they tend to get rid of people who remind them about their infertility problems and raise issue such as disclosing adoption.

According to 4 adoptive parents who interviewed and 5 adoptive parents participated in FGD, neighbors, family members and friends (who know the adoption) are the stressors because they have low awareness about adoption. Thus, distancing themselves from such people help them get rid of the emotional challenges related to disclosure.

6 of 8 adoptive parents who were in focus group discussion session have argued that staying aside from some family members and neighbors is one of the best ways to forget their challenges.

Few adoptive parents mentioned that some community members affect them negatively by mentioning that they would tell everybody “the secret”.

One of the FGD discussants said:

I could not easily attend the social gatherings because some people ask me to tell them the truth about my adopted child. I could have easily told them but I believe it negatively affects me and my adopted child as we may be discriminated later after disclosure.

In-depth interview participants (Adoptive parent 2,3 and 4) have also mentioned that they avoid discussing their adoption with friends on different occasions as they feel it is reminding them about the challenges every time. Adoptive parent 3 reported:

I tend to focus on providing love the care to my adopted child instead of talking to other people about any adoption related issues. People tend to affect your emotions by asking you to re-telling the child's adoption story which I don't usually want to remind.

4.5.4. Networking

Most of the adoptive parents reported that they usually communicate with other fellows instead of family members or friends. They believe that through communication and discussion about adoption and disclosure issues, they deal with stressors pertaining to adoption disclosure. The networking relationship they have with adoptive parents who may have similar challenges help them discuss different issues including disclosure.

Adoptive parents 3 argued that:

The discussion we conduct during a few platforms in which we meet helps share experiences among ourselves. I also make phone calls to other adoptive parents whom I am friends with and look for guidance and support on issues related to disclosure. Through such relationships, I deal with the challenges which arise days today.

Moreover, 7 of 8 adoptive parents who participated in the focus group discussion have supported this idea and argued that the connections they made with other adoptive parents helped them deal

with personal and societal stressors for disclosing adoption. One of the discussant's argument can be cited as an example. She said:

If such networking relationships continue, we could learn from each other the techniques and processes of adoption disclosure. Moreover, it is also another way of getting relief from bothering about this issue by releasing your emotions by talking to others.

UNIT FIVE

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. The practice of adoption disclosure

The prevalent adoption practice in many Asian countries such as India, Korea, and China has been confidential placement, with parents keeping the child's adoptive status as a secret not only from their external network but also from the child (Brodzinsky 2006). Disclosing information about adoption to children seems to be a contentious topic for many Indian families. For example, Billimoria (1984), as cited by Jayashree Mohanty (2014), found that among 40 Indian adoptive parents, only 12 (30%) had informed the child about his/her adoptive status. Groza and the Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra Research Team (2003), as cited by Jayashree Mohanty (2014), later revealed similar findings among 113 Indian families, reporting that 80 of the adoptive parents did not tell the child about his/her adoptive status. According to Simegn (2015), adoptive parents are not open about adoption. it is something they want to keep private mainly because of great societal pressure and having own biological children is believed to be paramount in the Ethiopian society.

In line with this, the findings of this study showed that 15 of the 16 adoptive parents who participated in this study have not disclosed adoption to their adopted child/children. Adoptive parents tend to hide the adoption status of their child due to many reasons identified by the current study. According to this study, adoptive parents prefer more of closed-adoption than an open adoption. Even though some of the adoptive parents who participated in the study are familiar with the concept of disclosure, they prefer to hide the actual parent-child relationship to the child himself/herself, their friends and neighbors.

All of the adoptive parents, except one, who participated in the study did not disclose adoption to the child and they are not quite sure whether they will do it anytime soon. The likelihood of hiding adoption from the child and other people is different between parents who have a biological child and who doesn't. Adoptive parents who have biological children often use open-adoption because they do not face societal stigma due to infertility. However, single mothers/fathers and married couples who are unable to give birth due to infertility problem often hide adoption from their adopted child as well as friends and neighbors.

5.2. The Challenges of Adoption Disclosure

According to Nickman (1985), adoptive parents may not tell their adopted children that they were adopted because they are afraid of how the children can react. They think that the children can react back angrily or that their children can rebel against the adoptive parents. Some adoptive parents refrain from telling the child about adoption because they believe that it might affect children's feelings. Adoptive parents have the belief that, as a result of the disclosure, adopted children could feel abandoned and unwanted.

In line with this, this study also revealed that one of the challenges for adoptive parents not to disclose adoption to their adopted children is fear of the psychological effect on the adopted child. They believe the child might feel sad and being traumatized as a result of the disclosure. Adoptive parents have mentioned that the child's self-image may be crippled due to the disclosure. Most of the adoptive parents have revealed that they believe that through not disclosing adoption to their child, they are caring for him/her. They believe that adoption disclosure is an issue which they can deal with it at a later age when the child gets older or when they believe that it is a convenient time.

According to Miall (1987), adoptive parents' refusal of telling adoption to their adopted children is often closely related to pre-existing societal stigmas towards adoption. Research conducted in different parts of the world has shown that adoptive family members do experience stigmatization. For example, in a study of 71 involuntarily childless women, Miall (1987) reported that one of the reasons for not disclosing adoption to the adopted child was the perceived negative societal reactions towards it. According to March (2015) on adoptees' perception of others reactions to their adoptive status, adoption created a sense of stigma, social discrimination, and exclusion based on their lack of biological ties to their families.

In line with this assumption, this study revealed that existing societal stigma as a challenge for disclosing adoption. Adoptive parents are considered inferior to biological parents and adopted children are not considered as valuable as biological children. Adoptive parents chose secret adoption because of the societal stigma which affects both their adopted children and adoptive parents themselves. One adoptive parent reported that she relocated to other places due to the societal stigma of infertility. Even if she adopted a child, she couldn't cope with the challenge due to low awareness of the society on adoption.

Some adoptive parents have told about the adoption to their family members but have informed them to make it secret from others fearing that they may be stigmatized. Infertility is the social stigma attached to Adoptive parents. Society values fertility and considers childbearing to be the principal source of mature femininity (Forbes and Dziegielewski, 2003). Parallel to the above, the findings of this study revealed that adoptive parents are stigmatized because of their infertility. The society believes that infertility is something which may be attached to a curse from God, instead of health problem.

Based on the responses from all of adoptive parents, societal stigma and discrimination of adoptees and adoptive parents have made them stressful when thinking of disclosing adoption to their adopted child in the future.

According to Ali & Sami 2007, as cited by Jayashree Mohanty (2014), lack of formal supports such as receiving support from family and friends on how to deal with disclosure issues as well as pre- and post-adoption supports from adoption agencies which prepare adoptive parents in dealing with adoption disclosure related issues. In line with the above, the findings of the study revealed that there is a lack of support from friends and families as well as adoption organizations on disclosure issue is limited. As a result, adoptive parents lack the information on how to disclose to the child and the capacity to deal with frequent reactions of adopted children to actually know their identity.

According to Simegn (2015), not knowing as to when and how to inform their child worries, adoptive parents. For some adoptive parents, telling their child that he/she is adopted is a tough, anxiety-provoking task, and thus they put it off or avoid it (Nickman, 1985). In line with this, the current study revealed that lack of knowledge on when and how to disclose adoption to the adopted child is one of the major reasons for not telling the child. Most of the adoptive parents are worried that if it is not carefully managed, the outcome of the disclosure may be negative and hence it becomes harmful to the adopted child. Moreover, adoptive parents have also different opinions about when to disclose. Because of the lack of clear guidance on adoption disclosure by families, friends and adoption organizations, adoptive parents have confusion whether the adoption should be told to the adopted child at early ages or later.

5.3. Coping Mechanisms

According to Falkman & Lazarus (1984), as cited by Ebenezer 2015, coping strategies refer to the specific efforts both behavioral and psychological that people employ to master, tolerate or minimize stressful events. Adoptive parents use different mechanisms to cope with the psychosocial challenges they face in terms of disclosing adoption to the adopted child.

Kress, as cited in Baltimore 2008, on his study of women's spirituality related to infertility revealed that spirituality was a part of their lives and helped these women cope up during anxiety, uncertainty, and loneliness because of their infertility. Similar to the above, the majority of the adoptive parents in the current study have reported that they use spirituality as one of the coping mechanisms to overcome the challenges of adoption disclosure.

Furthermore, adoptive parents also indicated that the other strategy they employ to cope up with challenges adoption disclosure is "accepting biological kinship" between them and their adopted children. It is a mechanism by which adoptive parents consider their adopted children as "biological child" and thus avoid the issue of disclosure. Most of the adoptive parents prefer to be considered that they have a blood-kin relationship with their adopted child instead of accepting their adoptive status.

Another strategy employed by adoptive parents to cope with the challenges of adoption disclosure is distancing oneself from negative people. Half of the adoptive parents who participated in the study reported that they distance themselves from family members, friends, and neighbors who have a negative attitude towards adoption. Most of the adoptive parents participated in this study have argued that even family members and friends tend to negatively affect their thought because of their low awareness about adoption. Thus, distancing themselves from such people help them get rid of the negative stressors at least for short-term.

Adoptive parents also use communication with other adoptive parents as a coping strategy to deal with challenges pertaining to adoption disclosure. The networking relationship they have with adoptive parents who may have similar challenges help them discuss disclosure issues. Half of the adoptive parents have reported that they ask other adoptive parents about their experiences of adoption disclosure even though they do not get appropriate guidance and support from them. Most of the adoptive parents reported that they have social gathering twice a year which helps them discuss common problems and share experiences.

CHAPTER SIX

6. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

6.1. Conclusion

This study explored the practices and challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The study tried to uncover the existing practices of adoptive parents in telling their adopted child he/she is adopted and the predominant challenges in disclosing adoption. Moreover, the researcher also tried to identify the coping strategies employed by adoptive parents to deal with the challenges of adoption disclosure. The findings of this study were obtained from 16 adoptive parents and seven key informants who participated in an in-depth interview, FGD and key informant interviews.

The findings of this study revealed that adoption disclosure is a rare practice among adoptive parents in Addis Ababa. Majority of the adoptive parents who participated in this study have not disclosed adoption to their child/children. There is no clear direction or guideline from local adoption organizations which would help adoptive parents to follow a certain procedure or obtain guidance in disclosing adoption to their adopted child/children.

Adoptive parents are challenged to disclose adoption to their child/children due to the fear that it may affect the adopted child's emotions. The study revealed that if adoptive parents disclose adoption to their child/children, it will affect the child's self-image especially when they are told that they were abandoned. Adoptive parents have the belief that through non-disclosure, they are protecting their adopted child/children from a psychological crisis. According to the findings, adoptive parents fear that the psychological effect on the adopted child will lead to attachment problem between adoptive parents and adopted children.

The study also revealed that adoptive parents face social challenges as an obstacle to adoption disclosure. Their psychological challenges are mainly the effect of social problems. Adoptive parents, particularly those who do not have biological children, face stigma and discrimination. The stigma and discrimination are expressed by a negative attitude towards both adoptive parents and adopted children and infertility of adoptive parents. Moreover, the study also revealed that adoptive parents do not want to disclose adoption to their adopted child/children due to the fear that they could lose the strong attachment they have with their adopted child/children.

The study further revealed that adoptive parents lack knowledge about how and when to disclose adoption to their adopted child/children. Except for Bethany Christian services, there is no training or continuous guidance provided for adoptive parents from local adoption organization regarding the mechanisms in which adoptive parents systematically inform their adopted child/children about adoption as well as the relevant stage in which adoption should be disclosed to children.

The findings of this research also revealed that adoptive parents do not want to accept their adoptive status and hence simulate biological parenthood. As a result, they believe disclosing adoption is not necessary because they have already accepted the adopted child/children as their biological child/children. Adoptive parents express the feeling that they gave birth to the adopted child and hence the adopted children should also believe that they are biological children instead of adopted ones.

Adoptive parents in the study reported that there is no formal support system from local adoption organizations, the government as well as informal support from family, friends and the community in terms of disclosing adoption. Adoptive parents who adopted children through Bethany Christian Services, unlike from those who adopted from Kidmia Association and Kebebe Tsehay, reported that the issue of adoption disclosure is discussed during pre-adoption training. However, there is no continuous support and follow up on this regard during actual adoption.

From the findings of this study, it was identified that the majority of adoptive parents use spirituality to cope with their challenges in disclosing adoption. They also comfort themselves by "accepting that they have a biological relationship with their adopted children" instead of considering themselves as adoptive parents. Moreover, most of the adoptive parents in this study reported that by distancing themselves from negative people, they cope with challenges of adoption disclosure. Adoptive parents have also mentioned communication and networking with other adoptive parents as a coping strategy for their challenges.

Adoptive parents suggested major solutions to adoption disclosure such as the need for formal and informal support and guidance in dealing with adoption disclosure. They also stressed the need for intensive awareness creation among the community on adoption. They further suggested the need for training and counseling on adoption disclosure as well as experience sharing and networking among adoptive parents.

From the findings of this study, it is reasonable to conclude that adoption disclosure is rarely practiced among adoptive parents. Moreover, it is also possible to summarize that adoptive parents are facing personal/psychological, social as well as institutional challenges which are hindering them to disclose adoption to their adopted child/children. Therefore, efforts

should be made to alleviate the challenges of adoptive parents in disclosing adoption so that we prevent the negative consequences of non-disclosure or late disclosure on the adopted children and adoptive parents.

6.2. Implications of the study

The findings of this study have implications for researchers, professionals, and organizations in the area of local adoption. Moreover, it has also implications for policy, counseling, training, advocacy, social policy, and networking. This study has the potential to inform mechanisms to improve local adoption services to better meet the needs of adopted children as well as adoptive parents. Local adoption organizations can use the findings of the study to understand the challenges of adoptive parents in dealing with adoption disclosure issues. This awareness will help adoption workers to look for ways to support adoptive families in terms of adoption disclosure.

6.2.1. Counseling and Training

The adoptive parents who participated in this study have a range of psychosocial challenges as reasons for non-disclosure of adoption to their adopted children. Thus, counseling and training services would help to cope and adjust with their challenges and easily practice adoption disclosure. If adoptive parents got the awareness on psychosocial adjustment for their challenges related to adoption disclosure, they gain the capacity to deal with the challenges and hence can handle disclosure issues. Counseling and training should focus on the child-parent interaction importance of adoption disclosure, disclosure techniques, identity crisis, self-esteem, self-confidence, etc. Moreover, comprehensive training materials on adoption disclosure should be prepared by researchers, educators, as well as local adoption agencies and counseling and training, should be given by competent and certified professionals.

6.2.2. Advocacy

This study also has implications for advocacy work. Intensive awareness campaigns are needed to tackle the challenges adoptive parents are facing due to societal stigma and discrimination. First of all, the community should believe that local adoption is another way of having a child for parents regardless of whether they have biological children or not as well as saving the lives of abandoned children as to minimize the existing orphan crisis in the country. The community should change its attitude towards infertility. After the negative attitude of the community towards local adoption is changed, then community ease the social pressure on adoptive parents and can help them deal with their challenges. If the community is changed, adoptive parents can easily follow open adoption and hence both adoptive parents and adopted children could benefit from it. Thus, nationwide advocacy for better awareness of the public on local adoption ought to be done.

6.2.3. Social policy implications

If policies on local adoption are effectively implemented and the awareness of the public on local adoption is changed, it has a significant impact in reducing the stigmatization of adopted children and adoptive parents which is one of the underlining causes of adoption disclosure. Thus, policymakers have the responsibility to devise social policies which address the stigmatization adopted children and adoptive parents and reduce the challenges of adoption disclosure. The policies should also address the need for the provision of support by local adoption organizations for adoptive parents especially in the area of adoption disclosure.

Adoption disclosure is not something which is done haphazardly. Thus, the policies should address the need for developing clear implementation guidelines for disclosure by local

adoption organizations and orphanages. Having an effective policy which addresses issues like adoption disclosure will enhance the expansion of local adoption in the country. Moreover, adoptive parents should take part in local adoption policies formulation, implementation as well as evaluation.

6.2.4. Implications for further research

This study was on practices and challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents in local adoption organization in Addis Ababa. The findings of this study will serve as a base for other studies in the area. Due to time and resource constraints, this study has been conducted only in Addis Ababa. Thus, Research should be done at a larger scale to understand the practice as well as all challenges of adoption disclosure in different contexts. For example, the attitude of adoptive parents towards adoption disclosure can be separately studied. Moreover, other socio-economic factors of adoption disclosure can also be studied and added to the existing knowledge on local adoption.

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8. ANNEXES

Appendix I

INFORMED CONSENT

My name is Elias Ermias, third-year Master of Social Work (MSW) student in the School of Social Work (SSW) Addis Ababa University. Currently, I am working on my MA thesis entitled “Practices and challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents in selected adoption organizations in Addis Ababa. The aim of my research is to explore the existing practices and challenges as well as coping mechanisms of adoption disclosure among adoptive families. If you are willing to participate in the interview and focus group discussion, I assure you that all the information you provide will be kept confidential, and will not be shared with any other organizations. The information you will provide will be used solely for research purpose. Your identity won’t be known for anyone and your participation is totally voluntary. By participating in the interview and providing information, you’ll contribute positively to my study as well as for the success of the research which is a benefit for our country.

If you have understood the foregoing information about the study, kindly put your signature on the space given below:

I consent voluntarily to participate as a participant during this study

Appendix II

In-depth Interview Guide for Adoptive parents

Before we start, I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. I am interested in knowing what you think, feel and know. So please feel free and be frank to share your point of view. It is very important that I hear your opinion.

1. How long is it since you adopted a child?
2. Do you know about adoption disclosure?
 - When did you first hear about adoption disclosure?
 - From where/who did you hear about it?
 - What is it about adoption disclosure?
 - What was your initial impression when you hear about disclosure?
3. Do you think disclosing adoption to a child is important? Please explain.
4. Have you disclosed adoption to your child?

If yes,

 - When?
 - Who was involved?
 - Was it a one-time task or a process?
 - How was it? Please describe what methods you have used to disclose adoption to your child.
 - What was the consequence?

If no,

 - What are the reasons?
5. Based on your experience, what is the practice of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents you know? Do you think most of them have disclosed or are planning to disclose? Share your experience in detail.
 - What do you recommend to your fellow adoptive parents with regard to disclosure?
 - What do you not recommend to your fellow adoptive parents about disclosure?
6. From your experience, what are the challenges related to adoption disclosure?
 - Explain the challenges from your personal perspective
 - Explain the challenges from the adopted child's perspective
 - Explain the challenges from the societal perspectives
 - Explain the challenges from the institutional perspective
7. What are the coping mechanisms you use to cope with issues related to adoption disclosure?
8. What are the solutions would you recommend to promote or practice adoption disclosure?

Appendix III

Focus Group Discussion Guide for Adoptive parents

1. How do you understand adoption disclosure?
2. What are your experiences regarding adoption disclosure?
3. What challenges you have faced when you thought of or while disclosing adoption to your child/children? What are your personal experiences? (if willing to share)
4. What are the stressors and coping strategies you have employed to overcome the stressors when dealing with adoption disclosure?
5. What are the possible solutions you may suggest to implement adoption disclosure?
6. What supports and from whom do you need guidance on disclosing adoption to your child/children?

Appendix IV

Key Informant Interview Guide for Local adoption organizations

I. General Information:

1. Name of the organization/agency: _____
2. Position of the key informant: _____
3. When did the organization start implementing local adoption in Ethiopia?
4. What are the major services provided by the agency?
5. Who are the beneficiaries of the services?
6. How many OVC's are currently locally adopted through your agency?
7. From where do these children are found?
8. What are the preconditions and procedures for local adoption in your agency?

II. The practice of Adoption Disclosure

9. How does your agency understand adoption disclosure?
10. What is the experiences and practices of adoption disclosure among adoptive parents who are adopting children through your agency?
11. Does the agency have any guideline to implement adoption disclosure?
12. What has been done by your agency to implement parental disclosure of adoption among adoptive families?
13. Did the agency provide any information or awareness creation activities to adoptive families about adoption disclosure?
14. Do the organization have any plan in place to implement adoption disclosure?

III. The Challenges of adoption disclosure and coping strategies

15. What do you think are the challenges of adoption disclosure among adoptive families in your organization?
16. What are the advantages and disadvantages of disclosing adoption to adopted children?
17. What are the challenges your organization has encountered in implementing disclosure of adoption among adoptive families?
 - Challenges related to the organization/agency
 - From adoptive parents' perspective
 - Challenges related to adopted children
18. What are the various coping mechanisms employed by adoptive parents with respect to stresses related to disclosure of adoption?
19. In general, what do you think should be done to promote adoption disclosure?

Appendix V

Key informant interview Guide for Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MWCYA)/AAWCA

I. General information:

1. Name of organization: _____
2. Position of the key informant: _____
3. What is the mission of the organization: _____?
4. How many OVC are in the country, in general, and in Addis Ababa, in particular?
5. What is the experience of local adoption in Ethiopia? When did it start?
6. What is the mandate of the Ministry/office with regard to local adoption in the country?
7. How many OVCs are benefiting from local adoption in Addis Ababa?
8. How many governmental and non-governmental local adoption organizations or orphanages are there in the country and in Addis Ababa?
9. What are the guidelines, strategy or policies related to local adoption in Ethiopia?

II. The Practices of parental disclosure of adoption

1. What is the experience of the Ministry with regard to disclosure of adoption?
2. What do you think are benefits of disclosing adoption to children by their adopting parents?
3. What are there in the international and national laws about adoption which state about adoption disclosure?
4. What are the practices of parental disclosure of adoption in non-governmental local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa?
5. Are there policies or guidelines in the Ministry about adoption disclosure?
6. What has been done by the Ministry to implement parental disclosure of adoption in local adoption organizations in Ethiopia?
7. Did the Ministry conduct a discussion with local adoption organizations in Addis Ababa with regard to parental disclosure of adoption?
8. Do the Ministry have any plan in place to implement parental disclosure of adoption?

III. The Challenges and coping strategies of parental disclosure of adoption

1. What are the challenges of parental disclosure of adoption in Ethiopia?
 - What are the challenges in terms of the organizational systems?
 - Challenges related to awareness of the adoptive families on adoption disclosure
 - Challenges related to the adopting parents and adopted children
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of parental disclosure of adoption?
3. What are the challenges you have faced as a Ministry to implement adoption disclosure in the organizations providing local adoption services?
4. What are the various coping mechanisms employed by adoptive parents with respect to stresses related to parental disclosure of adoption?

አዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ

የሶሻል ወርክ ት/ቤት

ለጥናቱ ስምምነት ማጠየቂያ ቅጽ

እኔ ኤልያስ ኤርምያስ እባላለሁ፡፡ በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶስተኛ ዓመት የሶሻል ወርክ ማስተርስ ዲግሪ ፕሮግራም ተማሪ ነኝ፡፡ ትምህርቴንም ለመጨረስ ይረዳኝ ዘንድ በአሁኑ ወቅት የሚጠናቀቁ ጥናት በመስራት ላይ እገኛለሁ፡፡ የጥናቱ ዓላማም በጉዲፈቻ ቤተሰቦች ዘንድ ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ ማወጣት በምን ሁኔታ ላይ እንዳለ እና ተግዳሮቶቹን መዳሰስ ነው፡፡

በዚህ ጥናት ለመሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ ከሆኑ የሚሰጡት መረጃ ማስጠራቂያ እና ለማንም አካል ታልፎ የሚሰጥ አለመሆኑን ላረጋግጥልዎ እወዳለሁ፡፡ በጥናቱ ላይ በሚሰጡት መረጃ ማንነትዎ ወይም ስምዎ በፍጹም አይጠቀስም፡፡ ለጥናቱ የሚሰጡት መረጃ ለጥናት ጉዳይ ብቻ ይወላል፡፡ ተሳትፎዎ በስምምነት ብቻ ነው፡፡ በጥናቱ በማይደርጉት ተሳትፎ በጉዲፈቻ ዙሪያ የተሳካ ጥናት ለማድረግ አልፎም ለአገር እድገት የበኩሉን አስተዋጽኦ ያበረክታሉ፡፡

ከላይ የተገለጸውን ሐሳብ በደንብ ተረድተዉ በጥናቱ መረጃ ለመስጠት የተስማሙከሆነ እባክዎን ከዚህ በታች ፊርማዎን ያኑሩ፡፡

በጥናቱ መረጃ ለመስጠት መስማማቴን በፊርማዎ አረጋግጣለሁ

ለጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች የግል ቃለ መጠይቅ መመሪያ

ይህን ቃለ መጠይቅ ከመጀመራችን በፊት ላሳሰብ የምደልገው ነገር ቢኖር በዚህ ቃለ መጠይቅ ወይም ወይይት እውነት እና ሐሰት የሚባል መልስ የለም፡ ማወቅ የምደልገው ነገር ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ የእርስዎን የወስጥ ስሜት፣ ሃሳብ እና ሚዳት ነው፡ ስለዚህ ምንም ሳይፈሩ በነጻነት የእርስዎን እይታ እና ልምድ እንዲያካፍሉን በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ፡ የእርስዎ ትክክለኛ ስሜት እና ልምድዎን ማጠቃለል ለጥናቱ ከፍተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አለው፡

1. ልጅ/ልጆች በሚደገው ወስደው ማጠቃለያ ክጀሙ ስንት ጊዜ ይደረገዋል?
2. ስለ ጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ያወቃሉ?
 - ጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ማለት ምን ማለት ነው?
 - ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ስለ ጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት የሰሙት መቼ ነው?
 - ከየት እና ከማን ሰሙ?
 - ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ስለ ጉዲፈቻ ሲሰሙ ሰሙት ተሰምዖት ነበር?
3. ለ ጉዲፈቻ ልጆችዎ ስለ ጉዲፈቻ ወይም ይፋ ማወጣት አስፈላጊ ነው ብለው ያምናሉ?
 - አስፈላጊ ነው ብለው ለምን? ይግለጹ
 - አያስፈልግም ብለው ለምን? ምክንያቱን በዝርዝር ያስረዱ
4. እርስዎ ለልጅዎ/ልጆችዎ ስለ ጉዲፈቻ ወይም ይፋ አድርገዋል?
 - አዎ ከሆነ መቼ? እንዴት?
 - እነ ማን ተሳተፉ ወይም ብቻዎትን ነው?
 - በአንድ ጊዜ ነው ወይስ በሂደት?
 - ይፋ ማወጣቱ ከባድ ነበር ወይስ ቀላል? ምን ዓይነት ስልት ነው የተጠቀመው?
 - ይፋ ከማወጣት በሁለት ወቅቶች ምን ነበር? ችግር አጋጥሞታል ወይስ አላጋጠመዎትም?
 - ካልነገሩ ደግሞ ምክንያቱ ምን ድካም ነው? ይዘርዝሩ፡፡
5. ስለ ሌሎች የ ጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች በ ጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ዙሪያ የሚያወቁት ወይም የሰሙት ነገር ካለ ልምድዎን ያካፍሉን፡፡
 - አብዛኛዎቹ የ ጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ስለ ጉዲፈቻ ለልጆቻቸው ይፋ አድርገዋል ወይም ሊያደርጉ አቅደዋል ብለው ያስባሉ?
 - ለ ጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ስለ ይፋ ማወጣት ጉዳይ እንዲያደርጉ እና እንዳያደርጉ የሚመክሩት ነገር አለ?
6. ከ ልምድዎ ወይም ከ እውቀትዎ የ ጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ተግዳሮቶች ምን ድካም ብለው ያስባሉ? ከሚከተሉት አንዳንድ ይከፋፍሉ አቸው/ይግለጹ፡
 - ከ ጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ጋር የተያያዙ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከ ጉዲፈቻ ልጆች ጋር የተያያዙ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከ ማህበረሰቡ ጋር የተያያዙ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ተቋማዊ ተግዳሮቶች
7. እነዚህን ተግዳሮቶች ለመቋቋም የተጠቀሙት መሳሪያዎች ስልቶች ምን ምን ድካም ነው?

8. ጉዳዮቻችን ለልጆቻችን በተገቢው ጊዜና መንገድ በጉዳዮቻችን ወላጆቻቸው አማካይነት ይፋ የማወጣት ሥራ በስፋት እንዲተገበር ምን ምን ሥራዎች መሰራት አለባቸው ብለው ይያምናሉ?

ለጉዳዮቻችን ወላጆቻችን የቡድን ወይይት መመሪያ

- ስለጉዳዮቻችን ለልጆቻችን ይፋ ማወጣት ምን ይረዳሉ?
- ስለጉዳዮቻችን ይፋ ማወጣት ምን ምን ልምድ አለዎ? ልምድዎን ያካፍሉን?
- ጉዳዮቻችን ይፋ ማወጣት ሲያስቡ ወይም ሲተገብሩ ምን ምን ተግዳሮቶች ገጥመዎታል? የግል ገጠመኝዎን ሲያካፍሉን መልካምነት ወ?
- በአጠቃላይ ጉዳዮቻችን ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ ያሉ ችግሮች ምን ምን ድን ሳቸው?
- እነዚህን ተግዳሮቶች ለመቋቋም የተጠቀሙ ችላቸዋቸው ስልቶች ምን ምን ድን ነቸው?
- ጉዳዮቻችን ለልጆቻችን ይፋ ለማወጣት መደረግ ያለባቸውን ተግባራት ይዘርዝሩ
- ጉዳዮቻችን ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ ለደረግላችሁ የምትፈሉትን ድጋፍ ካለ ይግለጹ

ለአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ድርጅት የቃለ መጠይቅ መመሪያ

ሀ. አጠቃላይ መረጃ

1. የድርጅቱ ስም _____
2. የመረጃ ሰጪው የሥራ ድርሻ _____
3. ድርጅቱ የአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ አገልግሎት መስጠት የጀመረበት ጊዜ መቼ ነው?
4. ድርጅቱ የሚሰጠው ዋና ዋና አገልግሎቶች ምን ምን ድን ስናቸው?
5. የአገልግሎቱ ተጠቃሚዎች እነ ማን ስናቸው?
6. በአሁኑ ወቅት ምን ያህል ወላጆቻቸውን ያጡ እና ለችግር የተጋለጡ ህጻናት በአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ታቅፈዋል?
7. እነዚህ ህጻናት ከየት ነው የሚመጡት/የሚገኙት?
8. ለአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ቅድመ-ህኔታዎች እና ቅደም ተከተሎች ምን ምን ድን ስናቸው?

ለ. ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ትግበራ ሁኔታ

9. ድርጅትዎ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ስለማወጣት ምን ልምድ አለዎ? እርስዎና ሌሎች ሠራተኞች ስለጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ምን ይረዳሉ?
10. በድርጅትዎ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ሁኔታ ምን ይመስላል? በድርጅቱ አማካኝነት ልጆች በጉዲፈቻ የወሰዱ የጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ለልጆቻቸው ይፋ አድርገዋል ወይስ አላደረጉም?
11. ድርጅቱ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣትን በተመለከተ ድርጅቱ መመሪያ አለው? አዎ ከሆነ መቼ ተዘጋጀ? እነ ማን ተሳተፉ? ከሌለ ወደግጥሎ ምን አልተዘጋጀም?
12. ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ ድርጅትዎ ምን ምን ሥራዎች ስራ?
13. ድርጅትዎ ከጉዲፈቻ ጋር በተያያዘ ለጉዲፈቻ ቤተሰቦች (የጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች እና ልጆች) የሰራቸው የግንዛቤ ማስጨጨፊያዎች አሉ?
14. ድርጅቱ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ዙሪያ ምን ምን ዕቅዶች አሉት?

ሐ. የጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ተግዳሮቶች እና መቋቋሚያ ስልቶች

15. በአጠቃላይ ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ በአገሪቱ ተጨማሪ ሁኔታ አንጻር ያሉ ተግዳሮቶች ምን ምን ድን ስናቸው ብለው ስባሉ?
16. ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ጥቅሞች እና ጉዳዮች ምን ምን ድን ስናቸው ብለው ስባሉ?
17. ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ የማወጣት ተግዳሮቶች ምን ምን ድን ስናቸው? በድርጅትዎ አማካኝነት ልጆች በጉዲፈቻ ወስደው እያሳደሁ ከሚገኙ ወላጆች አንጻር ይግለጹ: :
 - ከድርጅቱ አሠራር ጋር የተያያዙ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ጋር የተያያዙ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከጉዲፈቻ ልጆች ጋር የተያያዙ ተግዳሮቶች
18. የጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ ላሉባቸው ተግዳሮቶች የሚጠቀሙት የመቋቋሚያ ስልቶች ምን ምን ድን ስናቸው?

19. በአጠቃላይ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት በጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች እንዲተገበር ምን ምን ሥራዎች መሰራት አለባቸው ብለው ያስባሉ?

ለሴቶች ህጻናት እና ወጣቶች ማኒስቴር/ለአዲስ አበባ ሴቶች፣ ህጻናት እና ወጣቶች ቢሮ

የቃለ መጠይቅ መመሪያ

ሀ. አጠቃላይ መረጃ

1. የድርጅቱ ስም: _____
2. የመረጃ ሰጪዎች ሥራ ድርሻ: _____
3. የድርጅቱ ተልዕኮ: _____
4. በአገሪቱ እና በአዲስ አበባ በአጠቃላይ ምን ያህል ወላጆቻቸውን የጡ እና ለጉዳት የተጋለጡ ህጻናት ይገኛሉ?
5. የአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ መቼ ጀመረ? አሁን ያለበት ሁኔታ ምን ይመስላል?
6. የአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻን በተመለከተ የማኒስቴር መሥሪያ ቤቱ ሐላፊነት ምን ድኅ ወ?
7. በአሁኑ ወቅት ምን ያህል ወላጆቻቸውን ያጡ እና ለችግር የተጋለጡ ህጻናት በአዲስ አበባ አገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ታቅፈዋል?
8. በአጠቃላይ በአገሪቱ እና በአዲስ አበባ ብቻ ስንት የጉዲፈቻ እና የህጻናት ማሰደጊያ ተቋማት ይገኛሉ?
9. በአጠቃላይ የአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻን በተመለከተ ምን ምን ፖሊሲዎች፣ መመሪያዎች እና ስትራቴጂዎች አሉ?

ለ. ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ትግበራ ሁኔታ

1. መሰሪያ ቤቱ ከጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር በተያያዘ ምን ልምድ አለው? እርስዎና ሌሎች ሠራተኞች ስለጉዲፈቻ ይፋ ማወጣት ምን ይረዳሉ?
2. ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ የማወጣት ጥቅሞች ምን ምን ድናቸው ብለው ያስባሉ? ጉዳቶችስ አሉት?
3. ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር የተያያዘ በዓለም አቀፍ እና በኢትዮጵያ ደረጃ የወጡ እና በተግባር ላይ ያሉ ህጎች አሉ? ካሉ ምን ምን ድን ናቸው? ከሌሎች ምክንያቶቹ ምን ድናቸው?
4. በአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ተቋማት ወስጥ በወላጆች የሚተገበር ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ጉዳይ በምን ሁኔታ ይገኛል? በጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ሥራ እየተሠራ ነው? አዎ ከሆነ ከመቼ እጅ ምን ያህሉ ይፋ አድርገዋል?
5. በማኒስቴር መሥሪያ ቤቱ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ የወጡ ፖሊሲዎች ወይም መመሪያዎች አሉ? ካሉ ምን ምን ድን ናቸው? ከሌሎች ምክንያቶቹ ምን ድኅ ወ?
6. ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ መሥሪያ ቤቱ ከአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ድርጅቶች ጋር ምን ምን ሥራዎች ሰራ?
7. በጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ዙሪያ መሥሪያ ቤቱ ለአገር ወስጥ ጉዲፈቻ ድርጅቶች የሚሰጠው ድጋፍ አለ?
8. መሥሪያ ቤቱ በጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ዙሪያ ምን ምን ዕቅዶች አሉት?

ሐ. የጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት ተግዳሮቶች እና መቋቋሚያ ስልቶች

1. በአጠቃላይ ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ በአገሪቱ ተጨማሪ ሁኔታ አንጻር ያሉ ተግዳሮቶች ምን ምን ድናቸው ብለው ያስባሉ?
 - ከተቋማዊ አሠራር ጋር የተያያዘ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ጋር የተያያዘ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከጉዲፈቻ ልጆች ጋር የተያያዘ ተግዳሮቶች
 - ከግንባታ ስራ እና ባህላዊ ተግዳሮቶች ጋር የተያያዘ
2. ጉዲፈቻን ለልጆች ይፋ የማወጣት ጥቅሞች እና ጉዳቶች ምን ምን ድናቸው ብለው ያስባሉ?
3. የጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች ይፋ ማወጣት ጋር ተያይዞ ላለባቸው ተግዳሮቶች የጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች የሚጠቀሙባቸው መቋቋሚያ ስልቶች ምን ምን ድን ናቸው?
4. በአጠቃላይ ጉዲፈቻን ይፋ ማወጣት በጉዲፈቻ ወላጆች እንዲተገበር ምን ምን ሥራዎች መሰራት አለባቸው ብለው ያስባሉ?

