



## **WOLKITE UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES**

SENIOR ESSAY ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ETHNIC  
FEDERALISM IN HANDLING OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY: THE CASE OF  
SODO WOREDA IN GURAG ZONE

A SENIOR ESSAY SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE  
AND HUMANITIES WOLKITE UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CIVICS AND  
ETHICAL STUDIES

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**DECLARATION**

I, undersigned, declare that this senior thesis essay is my original work that has not been presented by any institution or by any individual and that all of its sources are dually acknowledged.

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## ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this study was to assess the challenges and opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in case of sodo woreda in gurage zone . The objectives were to assess the implementation of ethnic federalism in managing ethnic diversity , to identify the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in sodo woreda, to examine the opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity. The target populations of this study was sodo woreda administration office. In this study the researcher used descriptive research design. This study used both primary and secondary data source . in case of primary data sources key informants interview used to collect data and various literature related to an assessing the challenges and opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity were examined together secondary data source . Systematic sampling technique was employed to select respondents for key informants interview .for interview 6 respondents were taken as sample from sodo woreda administration employees.the finding was analyzed by qualitative research techniques.the major findings of this research showed that the challenges of federalism in handling ethnic diversity were;low level of awareness of ethnic federalism and,lack of democratic principles in practical and,political instability.and the opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity were it encourages the minority ethnic group,it gives the right to self determination to promote ones own culture ,language,custom and beliefs .on the basis of this finding reached the recommendations were forwarded by looking the remedial solution to the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity such as the government officials should create awareness to the people ,the employees should focus on equalizing and stabilization*

## **ACRONYMS**

**ART**=Article

**CSA**=Central Statistical Agency

**EPRDF**= Ethiopia People Democratic front

**FDRE**= Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**TGE**= Transitional Government of Ethiopia

**SNNPR**= South Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region

## Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	I
ABSTRACT.....	II
ACRONYMS.....	III
Table of Contents .....	IV
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
<b>1.1. Background of the study</b> .....	1
<b>1.2 Statement of the problem</b> .....	2
<b>1.3 Objective of the study</b> .....	3
<b>1.3.1 General objective</b> .....	3
<b>1.3.2 Specific objective</b> .....	3
<b>1.4 Research questions</b> .....	3
<b>1.5 Significance of the study</b> .....	4
<b>1.6. Scope of the study</b> .....	4
<b>1.7. Limitation of the study</b> .....	4
<b>1.8. Organization of the study</b> .....	4
CHAPTER TWO .....	6
2 RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW .....	6
<b>2.1 Definition of federalism and its historical development.</b> .....	6
<b>2.1. 1. Definition of the term federalism.</b> .....	6
<b>2.1.2 Historical Development of Federalism</b> .....	7
<b>2.2 Common Features of Federalism</b> .....	7
<b>2.3 Ways (Process) of establishing federalism</b> .....	8
<b>2.3.1 Coming together Federalism</b> .....	8
<b>2.3.2 Holding together Federalism</b> .....	8
<b>2.4 Theories of Federalism</b> .....	8
<b>2.4.1. Dual Federalism (Layer cake Federalism)</b> .....	9
<b>2.4.2 Cooperative Federalism (Marble cake mode)</b> .....	9
<b>2.5 Basic rationales of Federalism</b> .....	10
<b>2.6 Typologies of Federalism</b> .....	10
<b>2.6.1 Aggregation vs. Devolution Federalism</b> .....	10

<b>2.6.2 Territorial vs. Ethnic Federalism</b> .....	11
<b>2.7 Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopian experience</b> .....	11
<b>2.8. Challenges of ethnic Federalism</b> .....	13
CHAPTER THREE .....	15
3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	15
<b>3.1 Description of the study area</b> .....	15
<b>3.2. Research approach</b> .....	15
<b>3.3 Research design</b> .....	15
<b>3.4 Source of Data</b> .....	16
<b>3.5 Tools of Data Gathering</b> .....	16
<b>3.5.1 key informant Interview</b> .....	16
<b>3.6. Sampling techniques</b> .....	16
<b>3.7. Sampling Size</b> .....	16
<b>3.8. Target population</b> .....	16
<b>3.9. Data Analysis and Interpretation</b> .....	16
<b>3.10 .Ethical Consideration</b> .....	17
CHAPTER FOUR.....	18
4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.....	18
<b>4.1 The implementation of ethnic federalism in managing ethnic diversity</b> .....	18
<b>4.2. Challenges of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity</b> .....	19
<b>4.3 Opportunities of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity</b> .....	20
<b>4.4 The designing policies and strategic position of government</b> .....	20
<b>4.5 The possible solutions for the challenges of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity</b> .....	21
CHAPTER FIVE .....	22
5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION .....	22
<b>5.1. CONCLUSION</b> .....	22
<b>5.2 RECOMMENDATION</b> .....	22
REFERENCE LIST .....	24
Appendixes .....	27

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the study

Federalism is the system of the government characterized by the presence and balance of shares power and self-rules. The notions of self-rules in federalism will be related to self-determination or the right of group to maintain and develop their peculiar identity (Young, 1994). It is certain characteristics and principles are common to all successful federal system. A written constitution or basic law stipulating the distribution of powers: diffusion of powers among the constitute Elements which are as substantially self-sustain and territorial division to ensure neutrality and equality in the representation of the group and interest(Baste, 2000:14).

Federalism as political philosophy is essentially an organizing principle. Deeply rooted in the Latin term feuds, federalism refers to the coming together of human as equals to all reaffirm their fundamental equality and retain in their basic right ( Assefa, 2009:110).

The federalism institutions reduce likelihood of armed conflict by providing sub-national challengers with institutional channels for voicing their demands. According to Assefa, 2007 federalism as an organizing principle advocates a multi-user government combining elements of shared-rule through common institutions for some purpose and regional self-rule for constituent units for some other purposes, there by accommodating unity and diversity within larger political union (Kimeyi 1998:79).

Today federalism is increasingly suggested and applied as a political constitution mechanism to accommodate ethnic pluralism, contrary to the one nation state model that favored the assimilation and homogeneity of culture in the modern period, since the end of cold war era, there is the tendency of accommodating diversity in the state system. There are countries replacing their former centralized unitary state structures with decentralized multinational or ethnic federal state systems. This process of building can be related to two factors: First, it is a response to the growing demands from national minorities in multinational or muti-ethnic states for autonomy and self-governance. Second, it is a difficult of managing countries political, social and economic activities from the center. (Beken V.C 2012).

Federalism is political system that binds group of states into larger non centralized superior state while allowing them to maintain their own political identities (Baku's, et, al. 1989; 11).

In Africa federalism is associated with the colonial experiences of divided and rule(Assefa 2007:10). This means that in different things depending on the cultural and historical connotation during colonialism colonial in Africa followed unitary system of Government African colonies. The British had tried to introduce federalism in some of their colonies in Africa. However, African nationalist and anti-colonial leader strongly resisted the British attempt perceiving it is as

the continuation of divided rule in another form. It was on this ground nationalist leader such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana campaign against federalism. After independence, the new African rules opted for the unitary system of government (Agbu, 2004.30). A series of constitutional changes have emphasized the need for recognizing ethnic differences and for creating a political economic space to accommodate this diversity with the view to maintaining the country unity (Ayoade, 1986).

In Ethiopia, there are more than 80 ethnics groups with district cultures and languages. The 1995 constitution divided Ethiopia in to nine regional states. They are the state of: Tigre, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Harer Gambella, Benishangul-gumuz, and SNNPRS, including two city administrations of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa (FDRE constitution .Art .47).

Among the nine regional states of Ethiopia, SNNP regional state stands as wide variations in terms of with different ethnic group. The federal institution reduce the likelihood of harmed conflict by providing sub-national challenges with institutional channels for voicing their demands, example, institutions like public institution, administrative offices and cultural (Kiment,1998:9) however there are some failures or challenges that the region or SNNPR in particular and the country in general has been struggling with.for example the rise of inter ethnic conflicts in malti ethnic regions like SNNPR and mult-iethnic zonal administration like gurage zone. Therefore, this study identifies the challenges and opportunities of of implementing ethnic federalism as away of handling diversity in sodo woreda there by indicating the gaps implementation.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

The federal system with its overriding features focusing on the right of nationalities and particular emphasis on self-ruled has generated an intense scholastic intense, The first group of scholars consider ethnic ‘federation as a sign of the first mark disintegration’ (Bekele, 2002; 7).

In Africa, nation and state building strategies aimed at weakening ethnic affinities in favor of a national identity prevail (Ibid). They are based on the hope that, in this way, the attachment to the ethnic group will transform into an affinity for the state. However, many conflicts show that these strategies have not been successful in the slightest in erasing the ethnic identity of African citizens and guaranteeing the stability of the African state. The main source of instability is related to the concentration of power and sources by some sections of ruling elite that aimed at forcefully assimilating others in to narrowly defined value of state that is incompatible with plural societies. (Assefa, 2009).

According to Yohannes,(2009)Currently there are so many challenges is observed related to ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity. Furthermore, inefficient experience in managing federalism and wide gab in administrative and institutional capacity in the woreda are serious challenges to the success of ethic Federalism policy. Regarding to these some researcher studied about the problems of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity. According to Mamire ,(2003) the problems or challenges of federal system include the lack of appropriate institution ,and democratic culture or tradition ,political will to work with in adverse atmosphere ,unfavorable political culture with in political elite and protection of minorities with in the regions. Similarly Abera, (2007), conducted his study on the challenges of ethnic Federalism with particular emphasis on Ambo town. More over the study of Yohannes, (2009) assessed on ethnic federalism and authoritarian survival in Ethiopia to broadly conceptualize ethnic federalism and its nexus with the government type. However the above researches mainly focused on the role of federalism did not intended to scrutinize the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity with particular emphasis on this study area. There for the researcher aimed to assess the challenges and also opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in Sodo woreda by filling the above studies gaps

### **1.3 Objective of the study**

#### **1.3.1 General objective**

The general objective of the study is to assess the challenges and opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling of ethnic diversity in sodo woreda Gurage zone.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objective**

The following are the specific objective of the study

- 1 To asses the implementation of ethnic federalism in managing ethnic diversity in sodo woreda
2. To identify the challenges of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity in study area.
3. To explore the opportunities of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity in the study area.

### **1.4 Research questions**

The research was addressed the following major question:

- 1 How ethnic federalism is implementing in managing ethnic diversity in sodo woreda?

2. What are the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in the study area?
3. What are the opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in the study area?

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

The study would be helping to conduct in challenges and opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity, it hope that helpful for later use as well as contribute practitioners of the awareness of ethnic right in sodo woreda. It related in providing directions on how to promote the practice federalism. Additionally, the study would be help to find the contribute in enabling to arrive at same concluding remarks and suggestions that may help in recognized the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling of ethnic diversity in Ethiopia, the case of the study area and creating awareness among the society.

### **1.6. Scope of the study**

This study delimited to Garage zone particularly in Sodo woreda administration. The reason to select this study area was in which there is multi ethnic group or ethnic diversity with in sodo woreda. There for based on those reason the researcher delimited his research in the study area.

### **1.7. Limitation of the study**

The researcher had faced in lack of sufficient time in order to obtain new information by the case of Corona virus. The researcher had also faced in problem of shortage of references materials and others.

### **1.8. Organization of the study**

This study comprises five chapters with specific topics and sub-topics in each chapter. The first chapter is instruction part of the study which deals about background of study statement the problem, objective of the study having general specific objective, research question and significance of the study, scope of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter concerns on literature review which touches theoretical and empirical literature as well as conceptual clarification. Third chapter deals with research methodology of the study which includes research design, data source, data instrument tools, method of sample techniques and size method of data analyzing. The fourth chapter contains

data presentation and analyses and interpretation. The last chapter incorporates conclusion and recommendation.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2 RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **2.1 Definition of federalism and its historical development.**

##### **2.1. 1. Definition of the term federalism.**

The idea of federalism is a democratic idea. It implies the respect for people's identity and their political choice and freely expressed and has to start from that premise (Ali, 2006:27).

Federalism is a political concept and federation in the form of institution seems to provide the closest institutional solutions and self-rules for other purpose of regional interest in the world today. The reason is simple that there are double pressure calling on hand for large political organizations due to rapid development in transportation, social communication, technology and other shared values and due to growing awareness of the world wide interdependence ( Duchecik 1977:4-13).

Federalism is a political concept in which a group of members are bound together by component with a governing representative head of the term, federalism is also used to describe as a system of government in which sovereignty and constituent political units ( such as state or provinces ). Federalism is a system of government characterized by presence and balance of shared power and self-rules. The nation of self-rules in federalism could be related to self-determination or the right of group to maintain and develop their peculiar identity (Crawford, 1994:14).

Federalism is a political system that binds a group of states into a large non centralized superior state while allowing them to maintain their own political identities. It is a certain characteristic and principle are common to all successful federal system, a written constitutions or basic law stipulating the distributions of power, diffusion of power among the constitutions element, which are substantially self-sustaining; and territorial division to ensure neutrality equality in the representation of various groups interest (Ibid).

Federalism is system of government which has created, by written agreement, a central and national government to which it has distributed specified legislative(law making) government or some time called province or state government to which is distributes other, specified legislative power (Peter,2007:5).

### **2.1.2 Historical Development of Federalism**

The first document of federalism comes in to being among the ancient Israel tribe over 3200 year ago. The present day Greece and Asia Minor then Hellenistic city states were established league to faster trade and defense (Watts, 2008:9). In the 20th century and 21 first centuries, a remarkable number of countries have become federal starts; numerous failed states attempt federalism as solution for their problem. In this period political leaders leading elites even some journalist refer federalism as liberating and positive form political (Ibid). The two world wars greatly strengthened some welfare state and the development of communication industry and transportation technology, which shrunk the distance and shape of political consciousness of the communities within state (Anderson, 2008:41).

After the two world wars, federalism shaped by democratic patience's federalism generally is conducive for countries having large populations and territories or highly diverse populations that are regionally concentrated. It is also suited to countries for democracy that they transformed from undemocratic posts to democracy. Hence currently more than 28 worlds countries and 40% of world's population are under federal state structure(ibid). Popular revolution of 1974 ,however maintained the co centralist nature of the state in spite of some changes of political ideology and forms of state in to socialist system dominated by military regime. After the military regime in 1991. The new Ethiopian leaders of EPRDF declared the commitment to cleanable are with the post and the establishment of a new society based on equality, rule of law, and the right of self-determination (ibid).

According to Mehari.(2006). to govern the notions of 80 million in habitants, one of the most divers and conflict prone in the world, EPRDF introduced multi-ethnic federalism. Which was constitutionally enshrined in 1995.

### **2.2 Common Features of Federalism**

Every federal state structure has their own unique features in the sense that the relationship between federal government and regional government are determined not just by constitutional rules, but also by a complete political, historical, geographical, cultural and social circumstance. Two relatively autonomies level of governments in a particular federation. These should be these at least two order of governments one of the whole

country and the other for the region. Each level of government has sovereign power guaranteed by the constitution and neither of them encroaches in the affairs of others. The existence of a written constitution in the federal system the power and responsibility of each level of government defined in conditioned of written constitution. Federal government alone not amends some party of written constitution. Major amendment of affecting the constitution units commonly require the substantial consent from them as well as from central government is superior and supreme over regional governments in conducting key issues and activities of the country(Ibid).

### **2.3 Ways (Process) of establishing federalism**

With regarding to the formation and establishment two of a federation usually two types defined. I.e. coming together and holding together.

#### **2.3.1 Coming together Federalism**

In this case federations are created when a previously independent and separate entities agreed to come together to form a federal state for some common purpose. Coming together federation are prevent form over riding a sub unit. The union formed through the free consent of the constituent members (Assefa, 2006:132).

#### **2.3.2 Holding together Federalism**

In this case polities may establish a federation from a previously single central power (unitary state). In contrast to coming together federation develop from unitary state, as government response to tackle spelling threats of secession by territorially cluttered minorities to deliver, language and culture rights. In addition, sometime holding together federation also called federation any dis-agreement (Ibid).

### **2.4 Theories of Federalism**

Only hand full states have the same map centuries ago each countries has its own story regarding its orgies and its territorial and political evolution i.e. war treaties and peace full process of country formation (Anderson,2008:7).

Federalism refers to the combination of elements of self-rule for some purposes and shared-rule for others with the aim of accommodating distinct identities within a larger political union on some constitutionally entrenched basis. As a normative concept, federalism represents an organizing principle that prescribes the adoption of institutional arrangements that we generally

refer to as federal political systems, a descriptive term that encompasses arrange of possible political organizations that reflect the principle of federalism in, certain kinds of unions, federacies associated states, languages and a cross-border functional authorities(Watts,1994:8).

Post-colonial federations like India, Pakistan and Nigeria collapsed communities. Soviet union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Spain and Belgium develop power to their autonomous regimes, South Africa, Ethiopia Sudan and Congo adept different form of federalism from USA (Anderson, 2008:10).

Federalism can manifest in different kinds of organizational forms in so far as the organization in question reflects the combination of self-rules and shared rule (Watts, 2000:164).In fact, the term federal political systems may come to represent other types of political formations that we have not yet come across.

#### **2.4.1. Dual Federalism (Layer cake Federalism)**

Dual form federalism holds the idea that the federalism and distinct spheres of authority, this is the federal government and state government are co-equal each sovereign. The concept of dual federalism sums up theory about the proper relation between the national government and the states, the theory has four essential parts: - First, the national governed rules by enumerated power only. Second, the national governments have a limited set of constitutional purpose. Third, each government unit, the federal and regional state is sovereign it's in spheres. Fourth, the relationship between national and state best characterized by tension rather than corporation (Herman, 1989:12-17).

Dual federalism portrays states as power full components of the federal system, in some ways, the equality of national government under dual federalism, the function and responsibilities of the national and state government are theoretically different and practically separate from each other of primary important in dual federalism are states 'rights(Ibid).

#### **2.4.2 Cooperative Federalism (Marble cake mode)**

The concept of the cooperative of the federalism demarcation between the function of federal and state level governments. It is a different theory of the relationship between national and state governments than dual federalism. It acknowledges the increasing overlap between states and

national functions and rejects the idea of shares or layer for the state and national government (George, 2008).

Cooperative federalism includes three elements: - First, national and state agencies typically undertake government function jointly rather than exclusively. Second, national government and state routinely share power. Third, power is not concentrated level or any agency: the fragmentation of responsibilities gives people and groups access to many center of influence (Ibid).

According to researchers, cooperative federalism lines are blurred that two governments work together and share costs, administration and even blame for programs that work together to solve problems.

## **2.5 Basic rationales of Federalism**

Federation can promote economic prosperity by removing international barrier to trade or by giving international comparative large economic community. It is also protect individuals against political authority by constraining state power, protecting minorities' human rights sub-units authorities. Federal arrangement may enhance the political influence affirmably sovereign government both by giving the sub-units power even vita. It increases the opportunities for citizen participation in public decision making through declaration to the sub-unit and to the center (Ibid).

## **2.6 Typologies of Federalism**

### **2.6.1 Aggregation vs. Devolution Federalism**

Aggregation federalism is a type of federalism where a number of independent autonomous units are agree to merge in order to form a single autonomous units(central government) while at the same time maintain their regional autonomy. In other words this is also known as coming together federalism. It can be emerged when sovereign regional state for security proposes of governmental efficiency decides voluntary to form a federal system. In this case regional governments agree to surrender some of their independent regional government on matters they reserve for themselves. However, Devolution (holding together federalism) is formed by the disintegration of single (unitary) government and make new independent regions and correspondingly developing power to them (Stephan 1999).

## **2.6.2 Territorial vs. Ethnic Federalism**

### **I. Territorial (administrative) Federalism**

Which is often described as territorial or administrative federalism advocates the drawing of boundary lines according to geographical or administrative convenience. The territorial unities are fixed with "rural and compass". The state decline to reflect its ethnic diversity in the territorial division of the federation. The state functions on the premise that the various communities form a common society (Stephan; 1999).

### **II. Ethnic Federalism**

The other major approach takes ethnicity as the basis for the organization of the state and draws the internal boundary of a state along ethnic lines. This approach is famously referred to as the "ethnic "model of federalism. In this form of territorial division, ethno-regional communities are considered as most appropriately represented through their spatial compartmentalization (states, cantons, provinces, communities) predicated on the belief that ethno-regional national communities should receive due territorial recognition. The process of state reorganization along ethnic lines, which started in 1956 with 15 states, resulted in a federation that currently has 28, by and large, linguistically defined states. Some suggest that approach is appropriate "in contents of where the divisions among communities are especially deep and intractable, where secessionist is intense, or where divide and conquer approaches are either logistically unfeasible or rejected by one or more communities "(Stephan, 1999).

On the other hand ethnic federalism is emerged based on ethnicity and language as criteria for its formation. In this types federalism, Ethiopia is a good example, since its constituent regions are divided based on ethnic groups. In this case ethnic groups/ethnicity/is a group of peoples whose member's identity with each other through common heritage, conceive of a common language, a common culture often including a shared religion and traditions of common ancestry (Ibid).

## **2.7 Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopian experience**

Ethnic federalism in Ethiopia has get further than only other country in using ethnicity as a fundamental organizing principle of federal system of government. It has been largely ignore in growing literature on democratization state and ethnicity in Africa and on the accommodation of

ethnic diversity in democratic states. It brings a much need comparative dimension in Ethiopia. (Tortor, 2002:9).

Ethiopia adopted a federal system defector since 1991 and *de jure* since 1995 with a view to decentralizing power and resource from the center and to accommodate the diverse ethnolinguistic groups that exist in the country. As constitutionally entrenched division of power between federal and state governments is at the bed rock federalism and as the division of power often is far from clear, it is inherent in any federal system that there must be an organ for the adjudication of constitutional issues and for the settlement of disputes concerning the competence of the two level of governments (Assefa 2009).

Ethnic federalism closely examines aspects of the Ethiopian case and asks why the use of territorial decentralism to accommodation ethnic differences has been generally unpopular in Africa, while it is growing in popularity in the west (David; 1978:211-213).

The coming to the power of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1930 and the subsequent issuance of the 1931 constitution, the first written constitution in the history of our country, marks a new epoch. It heralded the end of the role of the duality that existed for countries. Provincialism and/or the autonomous kingdoms, the traditional check against the power of kings, were completely absorbed into the centralized administration. Haile Selassie in conformity with his policy of centralization refused to confer the title of kings, the by disappointing expectations at the time of his coronation. This is particularly clear from the nature of the two houses established under the 1931 constitution. The emperor made sure that all potential contenders for power were members of this champers that in effect had only an advisory role (Ibid).

The attempt is to forge multicultural federation whose ambition is to ensure self-rule to the different nationalities and divide power and resource among the different group and adopt an accommodative language policy. Consequence of which is that unlike many constitutions, the Ethiopian constitutions commences by saying "we the nations, nationalities and people of Ethiopia and under Article 8 the nationalities are declared sovereign and under Article 39 they are granted with the right to self-determination that among others include to equitable representation at federal institutions and finally and if the need a rises, to secede after compiling with the some procedures (Admassu, 2013).

## 2.8. Challenges of ethnic Federalism

Multiethnic societies can survive only if all respective groups within the polity feel themselves as winners. One of the most contested issues in the public discourse of Ethiopian politics remains the difficulty one gets in interpreting state failure in 20th century. While is a general consensus about the fact that both the Imperial (1930-1974) and the military regimes (1974-1991) failed to address among other things central political and economic issues, there is less consensus on the cause of state failure and in interpreting the conflict. While some illustrate the cause of the conflict as resulting from "Biherawi chicane "or "national oppression "others contend that the conflict is merely political, not ethnic, as the bone of contention is state power. In each explains a certain degree the character of the Ethiopians state in the 20th century and hence urges for a broader comprehension of the issues. In a nut shell, however, it could be stated that the failure could be analyzed in terms of failing to build a multi-cultural state (touches all spheres of the state, political power, resources, identity and language issues) from all the diversities that the modern state has brought together during the second half 19th century and the relevance of federalism as an idea for forging unity out of diversity spring from this (Assefa, 2009:72-73).

Federalism in Ethiopia has already become a point of national consensus. His is to say that, at this stage, virtually all sheds of opinion are agreed that the federal option is only viable and reasonable alternative for Ethiopia. At initial stage, there had anxiety in same quarters as to possible consequences of the reform introduced by way of addressing the historical grievance of the different Ethnic group. Now it seems clear that event of the last one and half decades have shown that the country would not fall apart because of the freedom of the different ethnic group to portray their sub-nation identities, cultures and values with in federal Ethiopia (Assefa, 2009). The federal system with its overriding features focusing on the right of nationalities and particular emphasis on self-ruled has generated an intense scholastic intense. The first group of scholars consider 'ethnic' federation as a sign of the first mark disintegration (Bekele, 2002:7).

Some analysts have warned that the dual loyalty requisite I federation is not kept in balance. As a result, they contend that the whole arrangement is a treaty of alliance among near sovereign ethnic group and conclude that since the adoption ethnic based states, Ethiopia federation is virtually extinct. It is states that regional based ethnicity may be in force the demands of some ethnic group for more and more states and finally for secession (Cohen, 1995:168).

The ethnic federation gives ethnic group too much power placing the integrity of the federation at risk. Overall, they underline the emphasis the politics of different and subsequent threat of fragmentation. That the ethnic federation tends to shared and institutionalized previous different and differences and carries with it the danger of fragmentation, although with some validity (Ehrlich, 1999:62).

The central problem that any multi-cultural federal system be it Ethiopia carries with it two existential problem, however successful it may be. There is always may be the problem of integration in any country with minorities and more so in multi-cultural federation .They are bound to exist two solitudes or hard and open ethnic identities. (Elazar, 2007:1).

The Ethiopia multicultural and religious context, the present federal system is the only panacea to countries age-old political crisis as it provides a decisive remedy for Ethiopians ‘long standing problem of the nationalities question. The supporter of the new federal system have hailed the process as an aspect of democratization of state and society and as ‘stroke of genius’ that will reduce tension and conflict in the country. (Abraham, 2001:107).n

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Description of the study area

Sodo woreda is one of the 16 woredas in Garage zone in the southern nation, nationalities and people's region of Ethiopia. It is locating at a distance of 100 km to the south of Addis Ababa, and 23km far from butajera town. Part of Garage zone Sodo is bordered on the south by the Meskan Mareko and the west; north and east by the Oromia region (Municipality of Sodo woreda; 2010). Based on figures published by the central statistical agency (CSA, 2005) of Ethiopia this woreda has an estimated total population of 155,055 of whom 77,627 are male and 77,428 are females; 11, 332 or 7.35% of its population are urban dwellers.

The vast majority of Sodo Garage people follow Orthodox Christian religion. Ethiopian orthodox Christianity was practiced by 96.74% of the population, and the rest has practiced by Muslim and other religion followers. The three largest ethnic groups that live in Sodo woreda are the Sodo Garage (85.25%), the Oromo (11.58) and the Amhara (1.47%); all other ethnic groups made up 1.7% of the population. Sodo Garage (kistangna) is spoken as a first language by largest dweller and also people speak oromiffa, Amharic and others (MSW; 2010).

#### 3.2. Research approach

To manage this study effectively and together adequate and reliable information the researcher would have used qualitative method of approach. Because qualitative method of approach is very important for the researcher to clarify and would have got brief information about challenges and opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity And due to non-numerical figures in the study related to the interviews to key informants.

#### 3.3 Research design

The researcher conducted descriptive research design .because this type research designed to obtain pertinent and precise information. Additionally the researchers was conduct qualitative types of research to undertake in depth study through explore attitude behaviors and experiences using methods or data collection instrument ask information on our topic on the research generally data collected, description verbal, and design. The study was use qualitative types of

research. It was chosen due to subject nature of data which helped together respondents' opinion and experiences through key informant interview.

### **3.4 Source of Data**

The researcher used both primary and secondary source of data, the two sources of data would be help to collect accurate data for the study. Primary source of data only key informant interview secondary source of data such as published and unpublished material such as magazines, newspaper, and internet web.

### **3.5 Tools of Data Gathering**

#### **3.5.1 key informant Interview**

The researcher used semi structured key informant interview prepared by Amharic language to ask questions those target bodies bout the challenges and opportunities of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity.

### **3.6. Sampling techniques**

The researcher have employed non probability sampling techniques. From non-probability sampling technique systematic sampling technique have employed because the number of population are selected by the judgment of the researcher those who have better knowledge, experience, awareness and attitude about the topic.

### **3.7. Sampling Size**

The researcher selected 6 respondents for key informant interview from officials or employees concerned from the research topic, because to get detailed information about the challenges and opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in sodo woreda administration.

### **3.8. Target population**

The study was targeted sodo woreda administration employee. Because officials of sodo woreda administration employees have more knowledge about the challenges and opportunities ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity.

### **3.9. Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The collected data was interpreted using qualitative data analysis and interpretation techniques. Qualitatively, the obtained data were compared and analyzed by concept of elaboration idea and

description by the researcher .And also the qualitative analysis would applied the elaborated data collected through key informants interview and secondary sources

### **3.10 .Ethical Consideration**

This study gave emphasis to ethical consideration which means the participation of respondents was voluntary based on informed agreed consent; the information gather is kept confidentiality of the respondents and use only for academic purpose to protect the participant's privacy and security, the information gathered from other writers was acknowledged properly to avoid plagiarism and fabrication of data was considered as an academic crime by the researchers.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This part deals with data analysis presentation and interpretation of collected data on the challenges and opportunities of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity. The section comprises of the main findings that are obtained from the focus area of the study and the data analyzed through only qualitative method. The result of the discussion was mainly based on the key informants interview of the sodo woreda and different books and articles which is related to the issue of challenges and opportunities of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity. The researcher selected the respondents by using systematic sampling techniques. Which means the key informants selected based on their capacity, knowledge, and experience.

#### 4.1 The implementation of ethnic federalism in managing ethnic diversity

It is believed that federations capacity to manage ethnic diversity varies across its functions and distinct features. It is argued that more a formal federal system operates in practice as unitary system, the less is systems capacity to accommodate ethnic and territorial cleavage. (Kohli, 2004). Management of ethnic diversity has remained problematic in Ethiopia due to the existence of variation in interests.

Based on the data from the key informant interview (KII), There are three largest ethnic groups that live in Sodo woreda are the Sodo Garage, the Oromo and the Amhara; all other ethnic groups make up of the population. Sodo Garage (Kistangna) is spoken as a first language by largest dweller and also people speak Oromiffa, Amharic and others. From the key informants Sodo woreda public service head said that 'in Sodo woreda there was clear ethnic diversity, to manage those diverse group ethnic federalism play a great role, but in the implementation different obstacles are there. Because for different ethnic groups have different interests.

The general trend in the implementation of the ethnic federalism after its establishment shows that 'Ethiopia remains mired in ethnic strife' and contrary to the very problem it was intended to resolve ethnic federalism in Ethiopia seems to have contributed more problems than it set to solve (Gudina, 2007; Haile, 1996; Maru, 2010). Based on these facts one can conclude that the implementation of ethnic federalism in Ethiopia is remained problematic and ineffective

(Maru,2010).and it seems' a fragile and perilous experiment ' that puts a big challenge on management of diversity in the country.

#### **4.2. Challenges of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity**

According to(Elazar,2007) the central problem that any multicultural federal system be it carries with it two existential problem, however successful it may be. There is always may be the problem of integration in any country with minorities and more so in multicultural federation .They are bound to exist two solitude s or hard and open ethnic "Ethnic conflict prevailing in Ethiopia may be caused by technically problems and ethnic federal arrangement in Ethiopia needs an urgent reconsideration before the cause moves to the worst."(Bekalu, 2011) the indivisibility of the Ethiopian nation which has been the result of thousands of years. The interaction has been eroded and the stable ethnic composition has been disrupted by the introduction of ethnic Federalism. So ethnic which is driven by the politicization of tribal identity has the tendency to cause the problems (Abbink,2006).

In Ethiopia federalism emphasizes and promotes diversity with out balancing with unity and this potentially threatens national unity and leads to tension ,conflict and may lead to disintegration .so far Ethiopia has failed to properly deal with issues of diversity ,but is striving to address by maintain g a delicate balance between unity and diversity .it is difficult to realize such an effort unless the current government halts politicizing ethnicity including emphasizing ethnicity at the risk of citizenship and national unity ,and manipulating and manipulating historical inter ethnic grievances to evoke resentment ,fear and haltered toward the other.(Abebaw Y. Adamu ,2013)

The key informant Interview with Getachew Geremu(expert in security and justice office),December 22,2013 said that the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in sodo woreda are;there is less awareness creation on ethnic federalism ,political instability are the main challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity in sodo woreda. . According to Hailemariam, 2017 the inherently undemocratic culture and submissive behavior of the people inherited from past autocratic regimes are the major challenges of ethnic federalism.

### **4.3 Opportunities of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity**

According to Legesse,(2015) the opportunities and challenges of ethnic Federalism in Ethiopia as the Ethiopian ethnic federal experiment which is new in its kind in the political discourse of the African continent has offered different opportunities to the transformation of ethnic tension in to cooperation "ethnic federalism play role by it created conditions to ethnic and regional autonomy in language and culture and in administrative fiscal judicial and police decentralization"(Dereje, 2018). Also explained he opportunities of ethnic Federalism in controlling resolving issues of ethnic diversity, giving right to self-determination and etc..

According to Hailemariam (2017), the Ethiopian federalism has special advantage that is more unique to the phrase or article 39 right to self-determination up to secession serves as brake on any form of attempts of Unitarian regime towards the tyrannical discriminatory treatment of nationalities. It is aimed at making sure that no government will be able to create one ethnic domination over others as before.

In addition to the challenges based on the data obtained from the key informants (KI, 3) said that the opportunities of ethnic Federalism In sodo woreda are; It encourages the minority ethnic group, it gives the right to self-determination by promoting their own culture, language, custom and beliefs, it delegates the decision making power to grass root level, it creates equal distribution of service delivery, it minimize mismanagement and corruption by enhancing democratization structure.In generally the researcher understand from the collected data, in sodo woreda the opportunities of ethnic federalism is high. Because the majority respondents in interview, and focus group discussion expressed in this study as ethnic Federalism has its own opportunities..

### **4.4 The designing policies and strategic position of government**

The key informants response were ethnic Federalism is nothing more than accepting of different and learning from each other. More ever it is instrument of love ethnic groups in which there is no hegemony and inferior, one of characteristics of Federalism Democratic means through rule of people by promoting equality at very level. Democratic principle reduce conflict. Legally, it has the role of because through the senses of Federalism ethnic group have represent themselves at house of federation in order to promote diversity and elected representative at house of people representative for unity. It also, the government give the ethnic group the right of self-

determination and they are ruled under unity in diversity and degree of conflict decreased. From this, it is fair to say the ethnic Federalism has controlling conflict of ethnic diversity by gave the right of self-determination, and the ruled society under unity.

The key informants (KI 1,2,3) responses that, much government institution such as some civil society institution encourage the coming together of different ethnic diversity and cooperation and tolerance. It is guarantying the respective right in court without discrimination of sex, nation and religion. Generally the researcher understands in sodo wordeda the government policy is satisfactory in implementing ethnic federalism based on the key informants response.

#### **4.5 The possible solutions for the challenges of ethnic Federalism in handling ethnic diversity**

As the key informants (K1 K2 ,K3 K4 K5 K6) said that ‘’ suggests that for the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity as the political parties ,officials and academicians should openly debate on media regarding the disadvantage and advantages of the current federal system by taking lessons from other federal states so they could be able to correct short comings and deepen good practices. In addition to this he suggest that extensive train's on the conduct and behavior of federal system should be offered to higher and middle officials so that they can rightly commit to implement it. Because officials lacking the knowledge of federalism’.

Based on key informant interview obtained data the respondents look the solution for the challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity as the government officials should create awareness among the society ,also the public institutions and government officials should follow the democratic principles like rule of law, transparency, accountability and etc..

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1. CONCLUSION

In general, ethnic federalism has its own challenges and opportunities based on the data gathered from primary source and secondary source. The major challenges of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity are ; the inherently undemocratic culture and submissive behavior of the people inherited from past autocratic regimes, less awareness within the people and political instability are the main challenges.

The opportunities of ethnic federalism in handling ethnic diversity as the data obtained are ;it encourages the minority ethnic group ,it gives the right to self determination by promoting their own culture ,language ,custom and beliefs,it delegates the decision making power to grass root level ,it creates equal distribution of service delivery ,it minimize mismanagement and corruption. Instability related to the concentration of powers and resources, lack of appropriate institution and less protection of minority right are series challenges of ethnic federalism in Ethiopia .Ethnic federalism in handling of ethnic diversity in Ethiopia and the town has not been found effective in fighting against the ethnic group conflict and in a manner that in which public institution.

#### 5.2 RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Inters of the main tenets of the Ethiopian federal systems, federalism and accommodation of diversity, the framers choice of multicultural federalism is a measure in the right direction to the extent that it attempts to integrate historically marginalized groups and establishes constituent units whose boundaries coincide with at list some of the major nationalities. Such a measure has not only ensured, at least so far, the survival of the Ethiopian state but it has many challenges.

➤ **The researcher recommend the following points:**

- ✓ The woreda administrators and educated peoples should create awareness of ethnic federalism.

- ✓ The concerned body, especially the government has to facilitate favorable ground and advocacy for the establishment to the ethnic diversity grounds that live in sodo woreda
- ✓ The researchers recommend the sodo woreda administrators that there should focus on equalizing and stabilization that the administration mechanism and procedures.
- ✓ It had been better to minimize and protect the problematic factors of ethnic federalism in the worth of demographic, socioeconomic and political realities of the people.
- ✓ The mission and vision of the sodo woreda administration are to be ethnic diversity and to avoid the difference among societies.
- ✓ The administration should aim towards bringing stable and effective ethnic federalism system so as create ongoing federalism system. In order to strengthen ethnic federalism, the administration system should recruit and employ efficient and skill full civil servants, develop good governance, follow up and regulate resources, and it's also have better to distribute resources fairly and use properly.
- ✓ The main issue for the sodo woreda administration strengthened the unity of the ethnic groups and the facilitates the condition how to lived together and how to cooperation together for future.

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## Appendixes

### ወልቂጤዩኒቨርሲቲ

### ማህበራዊሳይንስናስነሰብኮሌጅ

### ስነዘጋናስነምግባርትምህርትክፍል

እነዚህ የቃለ መጠየቅና የወይይት ጥቁቃዎች የተዘጋጀው በተማሪ ይሳህቅ ይርዳው ስሆን የጥያቄዎች ዓለማዊ ስራ ወረዳ የብሄር ልዩነትን በመቆጣጠር ርገድ የብሄር ፈደራሊዝም ችግሮችንና ዕድሎችን ለመገምገም ነው። የምትሰጡት መረጃ ለትምህርታዊ ዓለማዊ ብቻ ስለሆነ እዉነተኛ እና ግልፅ መረጃዎችን በነፃ የመስጠት ሀላፊነት አለባቸው።

1.በሶዶ ወረዳ የብሔር ልዩነትን በመቆጣጠር ርገድ የብሄር ፈደራሊዝም ችግሮች ምንድን ናቸው?

2.በሶዶ ወረዳ የብሔር ልዩነትን በመቆጣጠር ርገድ የብሔር ፈደራሊዝም ዕድሎች ምንድን ናቸው?

3.የብሄር ፈደራሊዝምን ከመተግበር አንጻር የመንግስት ፖሊሲ ምን ይመስላል?

4.በሶዶ ወረዳ የብሔር ልዩነትን በመቆጣጠር ርገድ ብሄር ፈደራሊዝም ችግሮች መፍትሄ ምን ብለው ያስባሉ?

5.በአጠቃላይ በብሄር ፈደራሊዝም ዙርያ ምን አስተያየት አሉት?

