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COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANTIES

Department of Sociology

CHILD LABOUR IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR: EXAMINING ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES IN FOCUS IN WOLKETE TOWN

BY: TEBAREK ASSEFA

ADVISOR: DAGNACHEW TEREFE (MA)

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Contents

Acknowledgment.....	i
Abstract.....	ii
Glossary of local terms.....	v
CHAPTER ONE	4
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background of the study	4
1.2 Statement of The problem.....	7
1.3 Objectives of the study.....	9
1.3.1 General Objective.....	9
1.3.2 Specific Objectives of the study.....	9
1.4 Significance of the Study	9
1.5 Scope of the Study.....	10
1.6 Limitation of the Study	10
CHAPTER TWO	11
2. REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE	11
2.1 The concept of Child Labor	11
2.1.2 The Dichotomy between ‘Child labor’ and ‘child work’	12
2.1.3 Perspective from the global south: working children as change Makers.....	13
2.1.4 Child work as a Socialization Strategy	15

2.1.5 Types of child Labor	16
2.1.6 Child Labor and the urban Informal Sector	17
CHAPTER THREE.....	18
3. Method of the study	18
3.1 Data Collection Method	18
3.1.1 in-depth Interview	19
3.2 Instrument of data collection.....	19
3.2.1 Key informant interview	20
3.2.2. Observation	20
3.2.3 Case study	20
3.3 Method of Data Analysis	21
3.4 Selection of Research Area	21
CHAPTER FOUR.....	21
4. Data Presentation and Analysis.....	21
4.1 The Causes of Child Labor	21
4.1.2 Starvation	22
4.1.3 Migration.....	23
4.1.4 Socio cultural factors.....	24
4.1.5 The Education System.....	24
4.1.5 Lose of parents and family disintegration.....	26
4.1.6 Child Trafficking.....	27
4.2 Consequences of child labor	28
CHAPTER FIVE.....	28
5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	28
5.1 The consequences of child labor	29
5.1.2 Physical Abuse	29
5.2 Social impacts of child labor.....	29

5.2.1 School drop out	29
5.2.3 malnutrition, Homelessness and Addiction.....	30
5.3 Response for Structured Interview With Wolkite town police office.....	32
5.4 Response for structured Interview with children’s and women’s Affairs office in Wolkite Town...	33
Recommendation.....	37
REFERENCE.....	

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

This study attempts to examine the causes and consequences of child labor in the informal sector in wolkite town. As various studies reveal child work can be regarded as acquire knowledge and experience “natural” or “beneficial” for children. Harmless child work can sometimes be valuable for children and their growth if it does not affect their school performance adversely. There is also a view that work may give children the change to break the adult control over them. In right circumstances, child work can really help children prepare for productive adult life through skill training and building self-confidence and self-esteem (Burra,2003:83;Anker,2000:257;lieten, 2000; Nieuwenhuys,1994;Fyfe,1989:21). However, santha sinha (2000:152-3) criticizes the differentiation between “child labor” and Child work” as there is nothing to hamper children moving from one category to the other. And “any work done by a child is child labor and...children out of school are, by definition child laborers”.

Many children and adolescents in Europe and North America also work, and the percentages that work may not in some way differ very much from developing countries. However, their reasons for working and their working hours and conditions differ greatly from those of working children in developing countries (Boyden,Ling and Myers, 1998:23).

International Convention of the right of the child and recommendations upon which different definition of child labour are based have been put in place, and many countries have in fact ratified them. Ideally, all

ratifying countries including Ethiopia need to apply these conventions and recommendations as part of their respective national laws, so as to define and deal with child labour (Addisu, 2008:1).

Ethiopia, as a member state of ILO and United Nations Organization, has reified and incorporated these documents as part of the law of the land as clearly enshrined in the FDRE Constitution Article a subarticle 4. And it has also an article in its constitution on the rights of Children, i.e, Article 36, which do not give legal rights and are not responsible to the life, health, social and economic rights to their employees. It is also known by its irregular, interim and labour intensive nature. It is Unlicensed or out of the administration of the government tax system and the gain itself is little. Hiring adult workers is very expensive to the entrepreneurs in this sector. Due to this fact, employers target young children for employment.

In line with the above mentioned facts, young children in the study area face labour abuse and are in difficult living and working conditions. Many of them are working as porters, traders and the like to supplement the meager family income or for their own survival. However, in Ethiopia more intensive and country wide study has not been done and there is lack of information to estimate the exact number of working children in the informal sector. Children constitute a good proportion of the labour force. The working condition or the working place, and the nature of work and the associated risk that affect physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of the working children is open for intensive studies (Addisu, 2008:2).

Earlier works on child labour, especially in Addis Ababa focused on some sectors of child labor. Lomi in her study, entitled 'Child labour in the informal sector in Northern Addis Ababa: the case of weavers around Shiro Meda; Looks at the issue of child labour only from Working Children in the weaving Business. Though there are many activities in the informal sector, she gave emphasis only to child weavers of shiromeda.

Nardos in her part studied domestic child labourers, under the title 'The Experience of Migrant domestic Labours: the case of Arada sub-city. Her focus was very narrow and stressed at the experience of a single group of child workers, i.e domestic child labourers. Therefore, this study; child labour in the informal sector: Examining its causes and consequences in focus, is the first attempt in its kind to see the extent of the problem of child labour in the informal sector particularly in wolkite town. As a result it will focus on different Working Children from different categories in the informal sector. The study will attempt to look at children from different activities of the informal sector such as employed, self employed and children working with their parents are incorporated in this study.

According to the 2001 national child labour survey report, around 18,197,783 of the estimated 55.9 million total population were children between the age of 5 and 7. The Survey result shows that about 85% of the country's children were engaged in some kind of activity, that is, productive activity or housekeeping activity. Overall, 9,483,611 children (52.1% of the total children) were reported to have worked productive activities during the reference period (CCA 2001: Xiii). Ethiopia is currently facing this problem particularly in cities and towns where like in other developing countries. The informal Sector covers a significant share in the total urban economy (Mengesha. 1998:1). For example, in Addis Ababa 65,171 children were engaged in productive activity especially in the informal sector (CSA, 2001:47). According to the 2005 National labour Force Survey, out of the total 222,239 children between the age of 10 and 14 17,769 were employed in the informal sector in Addis Ababa (CSA,2005).

The types of exploitation, in general, include low wages, long working hours, denying the child's right to education, denial of the rights of the child for constructive leisure, (Deyorougn, 1984:51 as cited in Mengesha, 1998). In Many Countries of the world, especially in the poor and developing nations like Ethiopia, children constitute a greater size of the population and they experienced various problems that act as a major constraint for their well-being and future development. Though it varies in degree, the problem of children touches the whole world. Urbanization, natural and Manmade problem and disasters, have created increasing number of or-phans, abandoned children physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped, delinquents and street children (Feven 2004) as cited by Dagnachew (2014).

Since the fact that Ethiopia is one of the least developed nations characterized by poverty and lack of social opportunity, places it in the category of countries whose children are suffering from work related problems. Even though the exact number of children (young people) living in the study area is not known, it can be the youth. Many of the child labourers are participated as Taxi-boys (woyalla), lottery sellers, street venders/porters, peddlers, and shoe shine boys.

The research discussed the issue of child labour in informal sector: Examining its causes and consequences in focus; which is believed to be the main problem of working children in developing countries like Ethiopia. The study was carried out in wolkite town with selected 25 informants who were street venders, taxi boys/woyalla/, lottery sellers, shoes shine boys and peddlers (5 informants from each categories).

The main aim of the study was to better understand of child labour in the informal sector, and to examine the causes and consequences. So, this research attempted to identify the cause of child labour that push them engage in informal sector, the economic impact they encounter and some employers and the child labours

attitude towards child labour Lomi studied child labourers who work as weavers. Those children are supporting their families and didn't go away from their home. She didn't attempt to investigate the causes and consequences of child labour.

Similarly Nardos in her part studied only about domestic child labourers and didn't focus the causes and consequences of these child labourers. Dagnachew (2014) studied the contribution of Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) to child welfare service He attempted to show the attitude of the beneficiary children towards the service rendered by the church. The above mentioned studies focused on child labourers and orphans who have different living condition, than I intend to study. The study mainly focused on the causes and consequences, children's and employers attitudes towards child labour, so the study is different and new from other studies.

However, still the issue of child labour is a wide subject and needs extensive study. Thus, the gap[s and the questions to be raised in the study will open the gate for further anthropological studies on childlabour. The result of the study helps policy makers, NGOs, civic societies and the public at large to design appropriate intervention policies and strategies to curb the problem of child labour in Ethiopia in general and in wolkite town in particular.

1.2 Statement of The problem

The study deals about the problem of child labour in wolkite town under the title of child labour in the informal sector: The causes and consequences in focus; in wolkite town. Child labour is an important aspect of social and economic reality that surrounds us, although it is sometimes un noticed. Many people, Organization and economists all over the world are concerned about child labour. The main concern is basically the kind of work Children are doing, some of which are dangerous and may cause physical and Psychological damages or may even threaten the child's life Children are engaged in child labour for a variety of reason, among which poverty, parental unemployment, migration and HIV/AIDS are some of them. Several studies show that the types of work children engage in are diverse. These works have exploitative nature and are hazardous to the children's lives in many ways (Nardos, 2006: 48; UNICEF, 2001). The situation is too serious with their relatives or families (Lomi, 2002: 60).

At a time when they should be at school and preparing for a productive adult hood, young boys and girls are losing their childhood and, with it ,the promise of a better future (ILI/IPEC, 1999:1). Today, child labour is viewed as a grievous issue throughout the world. Particularly in Africa, Asia and latin America the problem is very serious. It is critical human rights problem because it denies the child's time to take part in activities

that are useful for the ‘normal’ growth of the child like time to go to school and time to play. Many children work in occupations and industries which are plainly precarious and harmful (Mendelievich, 1979:46). Child labour is one of the most prevalent causes and forms of child exploitation and abuse. Its negative effect is observed in the physical, intellectual and social development of the working children (Weston; 2005; Myers, 1991).

Currently, millions of children toil in non-schooling type of work mostly under hardship and hazardous conditions which are detrimental to their health and wellbeing. According to UNICEF (1998:48-49), the majority of out-of-school children are likely to be working. Work prevents many children from going to or benefiting from education. But equally to blame is the state of the education system which fail to take into account the special circumstance of working children. In urban areas of underdeveloped nations like Ethiopia, “where child labour has increased steadily due to rapid urbanization; Working children are mostly found in trade and service and to a lesser extent in the manufacturing sector” (Zerihun, 1996:89). There is evidence showing number of street children in Addis Ababa and other urban centers like wolkite town with an increase numbers in child prostitutes, a large number of them are also working in the informal sector and trade and small businesses. Many young girls are employed as domestic servants; working long hours for little or no pay and have no access to education (Forum on Child labour in Ethiopia, 2000:5). In different types of job and employment relations governing their work vary accordingly. The employment may be full-time. Instead of the large and more mechanized companies, the unregistered and undercapitalized enterprises, operating in competitive and often highly volatile or seasonal markets, are the major places of work for most child workers (Zerihun, 1996:89).

Child labour in the informal sector comprises of (ILO/IPEC, 2002:22; Tirussew, Hayyalu and Ayalew, 1997); low income, basically unproductive nature, typically not Contributing to the accumulation and often described as survival activities of a “lumpen proletariat”. As such it Comprise both legitimate and illegitimate activities (Rodge is and standing, 1981). One may say child labour among the Gurage community is very common and not viewed as ‘bad’. This reflects the socialization process of this people and attitude they have towards child labour. It’ is not hard to find Gurage children in most Urban informal activities, especially in Addis Ababa (Kebebew, 1986:86).

As far as the situation of child labour in the study area is concerned, the researcher has Observed child labour in various activities are more informal and difficult to identify and measure. And identifying the appropriate categories or forms of child labour is crucial to understand the nature, causes, impacts and magnitude of the problem. There are abundant numbers of child laborers in wolkite town who are deprived of their social,

economic and personal /human rights/ as they are considered as lumped proletariat. Many researchers studied the cause of child labor in terms of child labor exploitation, forced child labor working in weaving activities especially in shiro Meda, Addis Ababa, domestic child laborers and welfare service to child laborers orphanage services Lomi for instance, studied about weavers; and Nardos Studied about domestic child laborers; whereas Dagnachew studied about the contribution of Ethiopian Orthodox church to children welfare service. They studied about a single group of child laborers.

So, this research is different from many others for the fact that it attempts to give more attention to child laborers in the informal sector by exploring the causes and consequences in focus; and it also attempts to see problems of various types of child laborers (Peddlers shoe shiners, lottery sellers, taxi-boys and street vendors).

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to explore the causes and consequences of child labour in the informal sector with particular reference to wolkite town.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives of the study

The following are the specific objectives of the study.

- To identify the main causes of child labor, in informal sector
- To identify the economic impact of child labor exploitation
- To explore the social impact of child labor exploitation
- To know children's and employers' perception of child labor exploitation

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study principally attempted to describe and portray about child labour in the informal sector by, examining the causes and consequences in focus in wolkite town. This is due to the fact that a number of investigations undertaken by different scholars are primarily concerned with dominant or minority social groups and other issues, less attention has been given on child labour in the informal sector.

Hence, the study may make its own contribution in as much as it intends to look at the actual socioeconomic condition of child labour in the informal sector. Thus, this study presented to some extent a sufficient material to conceptualize the current socioeconomic condition of child labour by examining the causes and consequences in the town. It may help us to understand the basic reasons and results/impacts of child labour. Moreover it is anticipated that this particular study will set the ground for future investigation of child labour, potential researchers, the government and NGOs would be beneficiaries of the research outcome.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The research deals with a topic of child labour in the informal sector: Examining the causes and Consequences in focus; in wolkite town. Among the informal sectors the study focuses only about five group of children i.e street vendors, peddlers shoe shines, lottery sellers, and taxi boys whose ages are 13 to 17 years old. In order to collect available data from the above children qualitative data collection method is employed.

Interview, case study and observation was used to collect data. Due to time and resource constraints the study did not include other type of child laborers. Assuming that those selected groups of children may not reply written questionnaires due to some circumstances, the above mentioned data collection instruments are used as a primary option. Informants were interviewed about their attitude towards their work, their daily income, way of their life, the cause, and impacts and other useful questions using structured and unstructured interview.

Beside to those subjects of the study, interview was conducted to collect data from concerned bodies, (police office and children's and women's affairs office). Literature review was used as a secondary data to relate with and assure the relevance of the study

The study is arranged in five chapters. i.e chapter one- Introduction, chapter two- Review of relevant literature, chapter three –Method of data collection and Analysis, chapter Four-Data Presentation and Analysis and Chapter Five-Discussion and Recommendation.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

The more likely limitation of this study include the following:

The study did not include all the child labourers in the town, especially those employed at business firms and at various services. Assuming that those selected groups of children may not reply for written questionnaires due to some circumstances, the above mentioned data collection instruments were used as a

primary option. It has been difficult to finish the study as soon as possible due to covid 19. Universities were closed and in fear of the epidemic, transportation was not available to reach to the study area. Interviewing those subjects was not as such easy and it costs me more finance and time than I expect.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

2.1 The concept of Child Labor

One major difficulty with respect to the understanding of “child labor” is its definition (ILO/EAMAT, 1995:75). This is because of the fact that, the concept of child labor is notoriously hard to define and culturally bounded (Pantea, 2007:7). Consequently, it may be understood differently in different cultures (White, 1999 as cited in Pantea, 2007). Generally, the concept is not as easy and direct as it may come into view. Therefore answering the question “what is child labour?” is vital (ILO/EAMAT, 1995:75) not only to explain the issue of “child labour” but also to formulate intervention policies that would mitigate the problem. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 1998a), on one hand, considers child labour to be “simply the single most important source of child exploitation and child abuse in the world today”. On the other hand, Anti-slavery international¹, USDOL (2002:7), and Roger and Swinnerton (2002:4) suggest that some types of work make useful contribution to a child’s development. Work can help children to learn about responsibility and develop particular skills that will benefit them, their families and the rest of the society. This kind of argument is important for the study in order to consider the pros and cons of child labour. So, it will try to see the positive contribution of children’s work and its detrimental impacts on the holistic development of child workers.

The definition of child labour is now becoming controversial and debatable issue. That is why different scholars and organizations define it differently. For instance, the UN (as cited by Nkurlu, 2000:1) defines child labour as “all forms of economic exploitation, any work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”. Furthermore, in its recent global estimates of child labour, the ILO/IPEC (2002:32) defines child labour as consisting of

all children under 15 years of age who economically active excluding (i) those who are under 5 years old and (ii) those between 12-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstance. Added to this are 15-17 years old children in the worst of child labour.

Anti-slavery international¹ and UNICEF (1999:24) claims that child labour is exploitative if it involves any of the following:

- ❖ Full-time work at too early an age;
- ❖ Too many hours spent working;
- ❖ Work that exerts undue physical, social or psychological stress;
- ❖ Work and life on the street in bad conditions;
- ❖ Inadequate pay;
- ❖ Too much responsibility,
- ❖ Work that hampers access to education;
- ❖ Work that undermines children's dignity and self-esteem, such as slavery or bonded labour and sexual exploitation;
- ❖ Work that is detrimental to full social and psychological development,

2.1.2 The Dichotomy between 'Child labor' and 'child work'

There have been simultaneous debates in underdeveloped nations on what make up 'child labour' and 'child work' and how to deal with them. Different frameworks have been proposed for defining child labour. Some literatures define child labour on the basis of the patterns of children's activities. Others define it based on the detrimental effects of work education opportunities (Lieten, 2000; Anker and Melkas, 1996; Fyfe, 1993). Yet the difference between work labour is made in different ways by different agencies (Regional Work group in child Labour, 2001:16).

As the ILO/IPEC (1995:1) points out the phrase "Child work" in itself could comprise performing light domestic tasks and can really have some importance. According to Anker and Melkas (1996:49), child labour includes mostly the issue of a children's work in early age, long working hours, hazardous working conditions and insufficient access, attendance or progress in school.

However, Rehman (2004) in his recent work argues that there is no consistent and an established view on the question “what child labour is and how it should be tackled”. Any clear distinction between children’s work, i.e. “child labour” and “child work” is a subjective process. Several literatures on the topic under discussion (Boyden, Ling and Myers, 1998; Assefa and Boyden, 1988; Rodgers and Standing, 1981) focus on the nature of the work and its negative effect on children.

It is also argued that child labour is considered as “child labour” when it takes place outside the child’s family undertaking and under dangerous circumstances on the basis of payment of wage. Therefore, a task that takes place in family environment is viewed as harmless, i.e., “child work”. However, this idea seems to be misleading because “it hides that fact that children’s work under the protection of family may equally be considered as child labour depending on the nature of the work and children’s lack of access to education” (Rahman, 2004).

As various studies reveal child work can be regarded as useful to acquire knowledge and experience be valuable for children and their growth if it does not affect their school performance adversely. There is also a view that work may give children the chance to break the adult control over them. In right circumstances, child work can really help children prepare for productive adult life through skill training and building self reliance, self-confidence and self-esteem (Burra, 2003:83; Anker, 2000:257; Lietau, 2000; Nieuwenhuys, 1994; Fyfe, 1989:21).

However, Santha Sinha (2000: 152-3) criticizes the differentiation between “child labour” and “child work” as there is nothing to hamper children moving from one category to the other. And “any work done by a child is child labour and ... children out of school are, by definition child labourers”.

2.1.3 Perspective from the global south: working children as change makers

There are different positions one may take with reference to children’s work. From the extreme protectionist discourse considering work as “a pathology of childhood” to a more liberal approach viewing work as a right that cannot be denied of children (Pantae, 2007:0). For example, conventional approach to child labour is premised on a labour market ideology that aims primarily to keep children away from the labour market and confined to school (Karunan, 2005:295).

Many children and adolescents in Europe and North America also work, and the percentages that work may in some cases not differ very much from many developing countries. However, their reasons for working

and their working hours and conditions differ greatly from those of working children in developing countries (Boyden, Ling and Myers, 1998:23).

In the Global North, children have been banned by law from the labour market, and their economic contribution to the society is not accounted for in national budgets the fact that many of them are workers (karunan, 2005:299). The implication is that they are working for pocket money or seeking to learn good work habits. Various literatures note that this perception is wholly responsibilities to fulfill within families and communities (Karunan, 2005:299; Rahman, 2004). From a southern child's perspective, work is learning, where the attitudes, knowledge, skills and behavior relative to living and interacting in society are nurtured and developed, closely tied with the family and community. If work is learning, then it becomes an integral part of the educational and developmental process of the child and of the family's obligation toward child rearing and upbringing (karunan, 2005:299-300).

As Myers (1991:11) put it, it is useful to think about who defines child labour as a problem. For governments and international agencies it may be a problem because it is against the law and contrary to international standards. For parents and children it may be a problem if there is not enough work, or the pay is not good enough. Some children may enjoy work and not see it as a problem at all. For others work is so hard, so dull, and so boring that the whole of their childhood is a problem because of it. As karunan (2005:301) argues, work, in the Global South, is part of the family lifestyle, they are valued for it, and they are initiated at a very early age; work is an important part of many children's self respect- "we are helping our parents' work even though we are young. We are not just another mouth to feed. We are helping the family survive" child workers are very sensitive about being segmented for their work; children value many aspects of school and would like to combine work with school; and faced with new regulations preventing them from working, most groups would defy or evade the law. Since the research has much to do with the perception of working children, this idea seems more relevant to the study.

Policies may aim at abolishing child work. But this may not be the best option. Children often need to work and are proud of their independence and the contribution they make to their own, and their families' upkeep (Myers, 1991:11). Likewise, O'Donnell, van Doorslaer and Rosati (2002:3) point out that if a large ban on child work was to happen, it is likely to have limited effectiveness by virtue of the problem of controlling the informal sector. And it might not be in the best interest of the children from the poor families. Hoehn (2004) also disagrees with the ban on child labour and argued that experiences in other countries have clearly shown that a ban on certain activities made the children resort to even more uncontrollable and more inhuman activities.

Children who work hard, long hours and take a good deal of responsibility are not seen as capable human beings, but pitied because they are not having a 'childhood' (Myers, 1991:11). Generally, according to Crawford (2001:539), conceptualizing children as helpless and dependent on adults in times of crisis is not necessarily the most effective way of supporting children's coping mechanisms and resilience. It is to point out that children are not merely the products of adult beliefs, training, investment and intervention but are social agents in their own rights.

Karunan (2005:310), to reinforce the argument of Crawford, says that a child-centered approach to child labour values the positive contribution of children to their family, community and society, and their resilience and capacity to change. It is no longer tenable to view children as "just innocent, vulnerable and susceptible," but as 'active as social actors who can make a positive contribution as children to social development.' Ethiopia is part parcel of the Global south. The researcher believes that most of the preceded arguments work here in Ethiopia in general and the study area in particular. The study attempted to show the relevance of these arguments with the findings of the study. Issues regarding the perceptions of working children and their parents, and the legal framework of the country, treated in the study.

2.1.4 Child work as a Socialization Strategy

Child labour is a special vehicle of transforming the child and adopting it to the environment, a mechanism of socializing the child (Andvig, 2001:51). The socialization process of children may to some extent differ from culture to culture and from one part of the country to the other (kebebew, 1986:83).

Rodgers and standing (1981:117-118) in their study of the developing world argue that since the age of about three years two main stages can be identified: until the age of six or seven, the roles or tasks of the child are concentrated on the life of the household; and from age seven to sixteen, child activities range over the whole area of the village. In the "household phase" the child takes part both in home-based tasks and more specialized works which are aimed at meeting household subsistence. In other word, the child involves in very work for household consumption which make up the economic life of the child's group. In such activities the child is assisted by adults, whose behavior he or she is expected to imitate.

In this respect, Thorpe(1995:29) said that the attitude that work is beneficial or useful for the child's personality and skill development and the tradition that are expected to follow in their parent's footsteps in particular trade, and to learn and practice that trade at their early is the cause of child labour particularly in developing countries.

Ethiopia is a land of many nations, nationalities and peoples with different cultural and traditional backgrounds. As a result of this and other social and economic reasons, as it might be expected, there may be differences in the process of child socialization and initiation. For example, in relation to child socialization among the Gurage Community of Ethiopia, Kebebew (1986:85-86) had the following to say:

A boy stays with his mother until he is four years old during which he is breast-fed usually after four, the father takes over the instruction of the young boy and assigns him to activities outside of the home that are exclusively the domain of the men. The father particularly teaches the boy to be skillful and thrifty. Hence, a Gurage father expects his sons to assist him in his work and eventually release him for more respectable commercial tasks. Young boys are also expected to provide their father with cash and industrial products through trade.

One may say child labour among the Gurage Community is very common and not viewed as ‘bad’. This reflects the socialization process of this people and the attitude they have towards child labour. It is not hard to find Gurage children in most urban informal activities, especially in Addis Ababa.

Like the Gurage people, the Amhara and oromo children of either sex are trained in the acquisition of skills and attitudes appropriate to a society characterized by inflexible gender-based division of labour (kebebew, 1986:86). Rodgers and standing argue that the early introduction of children into different economic activities is not the outcome of an intentional decision of parents rather it is the consequence of a socialization process adopted to a way of life and to the functioning of other social institutions (Rodgers and Standing, 1981:118-119). So far I know this holds true not only in the Gurage, Amhara and oromo people but also in many other nationalities of Ethiopia. As we have seen from the above-mentioned literatures, child socialization is one of the causes of child labour. Since one of the objectives of this study is identifying the reasons behind the participation of children in the labour force, this subtopic has its own contribution to this research.

2.1.5 Types of child Labor

Identifying the appropriate Categories or forms of child labor is crucial to understand the nature and magnitude of the problem. It would also help governmental and nongovernmental organizations to formulate feasible intervention strategies pertinent to each type of child labor. Though it is difficult to classify the diversified economic activities of children, several literatures on the subject often categorize children’s work into: domestic work-which is the most prevalent form of child labor (Tirussew, Hayyalu and Ayalew, 1997:10). Working children in this category usually perform tasks which are traditionally left for women.

As a result of this, the majority of domestic child workers is female (Nardos, 2006; CSA, 2001:50; Tirussew, Hayyalu and Ayalew, 1997). The other one is nondomestic or unpaid work- which is mainly prevalent in agricultural societies or subsistence economies (Tirussew, Hayyalu and Ayalew, 1997:10).

Tied and bonded labour is another form of child labour where parents lend out their children as labourers so as to take loan or repay a debt (Boyden, Ling and Myers, 1998; Tirussew, Hayyalu and Ayalew, 1997:11). Wage Labour is also an important form of child labour in which children receive payment in cash or in kind (Boyden, Ling and Myers, 1998:26). Moreover, a non-negligible number of children are performing various tasks in the so-called “marginalized economic activities”. According to Tilahun and Tirussew (2000:18), this form of child labour comprises of “activities which are more informal and difficult to identify and measure.”

2.1.6 Child Labor and the urban Informal Sector

Child labor in the informal sector comprises of activities characterized by their irregular and interim nature (ILO/IPEC, 2002:22; Tirussew, Hayyalu and Ayalew, 1997); low income, basically as unproductive nature, typically not contributing to the accumulation and often described as survival activities of a “lumpen proletariat”. As such it comprises both legitimate and illegitimate activities (Rodgers and Standing, 1981). Furthermore, according to CSA’s 2001 child labour survey, a large number of (about 25 percent) of children in the urban centers, including Addis Ababa, were involved in “petty trade, repair of vehicle including repair of personal and household goods” (CSA, 2001:48). In this regard, Mendelievich (1979:31) point out that in big cities there are more opportunities for children to engage in diverse economic activities like service and handicrafts sectors than in small urban areas and, especially, countryside. According to the ILO/IPEC (2004:23), working children everywhere, especially those in developing countries, are concentrated in the informal sector of the economy. Their activities are not “official” and as such, there is no government employment agency or tax authority that knows children are working because they are not officially employed. It further point out that children work for people that are not normally registered as employers.

In spite of the server disagreements regarding the feature of the informal sector, there is a consensus on “operational criteria” for identifying the businesses running in the informal economic activity, globally. It compares various types of work, for example from the simplest services like “washing cars on the streets to manufacturing and transport system” (Tilahun and Tirussew, 2000:18). Amarteifo’s (1991 as cited in Tilahun and Tirussew, 2000:18) lists of the characteristics of the informal sector seem to solve the

controversies on the nature of this sector. According to this author, some of the characteristics of the informal sector are:

- a) Ease of entry and exit,
- b) Reliance on indigenous resources,
- c) Family or one person ownership and /or operation,
- d) Small scale of operation,
- e) Long hours of work,
- f) Bad working conditions,
- g) No records kept,
- h) Skills acquire outside the formal system , and
- i) Labour intensive and adaptive technology.

Hence, the informal sector in Ethiopia in general and in Wolkite town in particular cannot be an exception and it is this conceptualization that was used in this study.

CHAPTER THREE

3. Method of the study

3.1 Data Collection Method

The study was conducted with major objective of exploring the causes and consequences of child labour in the informal sector assessing the socio economic conditions of child laborers in the informal sector. Examining the causes and consequences in focus in wolkite town. To this end a qualitative research approach has been employed. Qualitative data collection methods have been used to answer the study objectives while supplemented with secondary data. Qualitative data collection method was implemented

to obtain the necessary information according to the general and specific objectives of the study. 25 subjects were selected from the total population and 4 key informants were chosen from governmental offices to carry out the study. In order to meet the stated objectives of the study the researcher have employed qualitative research methods. the qualitative method was used in study to describe the present condition of child labourers their daily life situation educational status family background and types of work.

Various aspects in relation to the causes and consequences of child labourers were collected through qualitative research method. The first hand information on the issues was collected using cross sectional information gathering tools through interviews (structured and unstructured), observations and case study.

3.1.1 in-depth Interview

The size of in-depth interview informants was not predetermined. It was directed by theoretical sampling. Theoretical sampling is the principle of grounded theory which dictates continuous process of dealing with the study subjects until the data collected becomes sufficient to respond to the stated research objectives.

3.2 Instrument of data collection

Hence, structured and unstructured interviews was conducted to collect the necessary data from 25 selected subjects which were peddlers, street venders, shoe shine boys, lottery sellers and taxiboys/woyalas (5 subjects from each category) Informants were selected using theoretical sampling technique since the exact number of child labourers in the town is not identified.

Besides, 4 key informants who have responsibility and more concerned about child labourers according to their offices are chosen. These were police officers and children's and women's affairs officials in the town. Both burean officials have much concern to the welfare of children and to safe guard their rights and so on. Structured interview (10 questions) was set to those interviewee regarding the cause and consequences of child labour in the town. i.e 2 from police office and 2 from children's and women's affairs were interviewed with structured interview.

In terms of the interviewee who responded willingly, however some broke in the middle of the interview due to their work, they all told me what I need to know about the cause and consequence of child labour. 10 structured interviews were set to the subjects. Group one (1) includes peddlers, shoeshine boys, lottery sellers and taxi boys. These are classified according to their permanent type of job and income where as in group two (2) they were street venders whose Job/work is not identified as they all work any type of work

with meager money and do not earn fixed amount of money. According to the questions raised to the interviewee, the researcher placed their responses in terms of causes (of child labour) and consequences of child labor to fit with the objectives. And attempted to discuss in the form of descriptive way.

3.2.1 Key informant interview

Also interview of key informant was performed with individuals who have expertise on the issue under study. thus officials expertise were participant of key informant. Responses from key informants [GO and NGO officials, expertise on the area] also described likewise in the above mentioned way. In addition to this, observation and case study findings were supplemented whenever they are essential to discuss about. Some unstructured interviews which were raised or responded by the interviewee are also included in the discussion part. Finally Conclusion is given to help readers get more insight about the study.

3.2.2. Observation

Before the study was started, the researcher has undertaken a careful observation on the daily life of the population under study. Till the development of the final report, observation was undertaken to get more information. The observation implemented during the study was a passive observation without doing anything to disturb the situation.

3.2.3 Case study

Case study was used to generate information on individual experience in the form of narrations from the informants. This was carried out with the aim of supplementing the information obtained from other methods in relation to the issue under consideration. This case study was conducted on a regular basis over a period of time. The purpose of this case study was to reveal more about the little known or poorly understood situation.

3.3 Method of Data Analysis

The qualitative information collected from the field through qualitative data collection methods was analyzed using thematic analysis method depending on the subject/ issue raised in the study; and stated in narration form .

3.4 Selection of Research Area

The study was focused on wolkite town due to its access and nearby to the university (wolkite University). As the town is a center of business and densely populated it holds various types of child labourers,. So that it saves time and budget to undertake the study on the problem.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

This chapter focuses on the presentation analysis, and interpretation of the major findings of the study data obtained through qualitative data collection methods. The chapter is divided into 5 sections; the first chapter refers the following

4.1 The Causes of Child Labor

There are tremendous causes that push child laborers to get into hazardous work and lost in streets living a miserable life. Some of them run away from their home due to poverty, family disintegration, trafficking, migration, lack of educational opportunities and so on.(Addisu: 2008).

4.1.1 Family economic condition

One of my informants said that “May father is a daily labourer in a construction sites, and the icome obtained from this is not sufficient to support the entire family and cover all the expenses my mother is also engaging in selling of vagitables as a[gulite cherchari] to support the family however, they called not relived the family from suffering consequently was forced to get away /live home to support them and my self but could not help them. i my self can not eat twice a day I feel ashamed to return home empty handle(Gebre Entiso personal communication ,22dec 2019).

A number of children leave home for the fact that their parents could not afford their daily meal. The above information obtained from Gebre reveals the case and the child became street vender to fulfill his basic

needs food provision. In the context of Wolkite town, there are different factors that contribute for the involvement of children in child labour. These children perform from simple to hazardous tasks, some of these activities are detrimental to their personality development. According to the information obtained from the the interviews, the major causes of child labour are presented as follows. These are the factors push children to join the labour market particularly in informal sector.

4.1.2 Starvation

Children of the economical handicaps certainly are deprived of educational opportunities, malnutrition and vulnerable to dangerous and hazardous life since they are forced to run away from home and become street vendors. Starvation or lack of food provision at home is a major cause of child labour is often discussed by different scholars (Karunan. 2005; Hoehn, 2004; UNICEF, 1997). As I observed and learned from the interview as well as from case study, lack of food provision is central for the engagement of children in productive activities in the informal sector. Most of my informants came from poor families.

As a result of their parents' terrible economic background, children are forced to perform difficult tasks at their early age to supplement their parents marginal income. The "human capital" theory on child labour as the outcome of poverty or economic slowdown in a nation (Pantea, 2007:25; Ennew, Myers and plateau, 2005:28). In such a situation one may say children should have to work in order to ease life in the house hold to a certain extent. Work is necessary for these children in order to satisfy their basic needs, particularly food. Children should to the nearby street to get food or cash. Their parents are not usually in a position to feed them. So they need food to survival and they surely go out from home to the street where they work manual labour like carrying goods and other activities they get.

The price of many commodities including food items doubled. Some of these items have become beyond the purchasing power of many households. As a result of this, the cost of living in wolkite town is rising alarmingly from day after day. It becomes beyond the reach of not only poor household but also the better-off-families. One of the consequences of this problem is aggravating school dropouts in wolkite town. To strengthen this argument one of my informants, Amsalu a fourteen years old, told me that;

"I have been living in streets since I was 13 years old It happened because my parents are unable to support me I earn money by carrying goods in the market. I usually earn a small amount of money a day which is not sufficient for my daily meal. I sleep in a house/rent bed room/ together with other friends and men which occupies about 15-20 people; on a sheet of mats. But if I do not have money to pay for a bed I pass the night

on the street. To prevent the cold at night I drink local alcohol drinks(Areke). I have never gone to school before”.

As far as the study is concerned the researcher has got the opportunities to assess how much child laborers in the town are suffering due to child labor exploitation. Those vendors are living in a way of human condition which can not be absolute poorness. Besides vendors other groups of my subjects are also striving for a living just only to earn money for a hand to mouth income. They are exposed to malnutrition, homelessness, and lack of the access to education both are experiencing hazardous way of life. These children are exposed to devastating life situation that every body should stand together to help them curb their problem

4.1.3 Migration

Migration takes place in various forms throughout the world such as rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban; and is caused by such factors as natural calamity, Conflict, development, or trade (Adepoju, 1979 shew, 1975 as cited in Nardos, 2006:37). According to Nardos, these forms of migration rural-urban migration is common in Addis Ababa. Also the data obtained from informant showed that migration is one of the major causes of children's engagement in the formal labor market. Besides urban migration of people is taken as the Cause of the problem of child labor in Wolkite town as I affirmed from the information acquired from the interviews.

Migration seems to be one of the main causes of child labour. According to the interview and case study many children came to Wolkite town from different corners of the country to seek of a better life. Both the push and pull factors have contributed a lot for the rural-urban migration of children.(Nardos, 2006:37). One thing that I learned in this respect is that many of the working children that I met were migrants or sons of migrant parents. However, this does not mean that there is no child labourer who is part of the permanent residents of the study area.

‘I am 14 years old. I was a shepherd in my village. One day I lost two of our sheep. I was afraid of my step-father to go home, because he would beat me severely so I told him. So, I run away from my village and came here in Wolkite. Now I am a porter’

There are many things, natural or man-made phenomena in the rural of Ethiopia that push children to urban areas like Wolkite. As most of my subjects argued, rural poverty obliged them to leave their village for

wolkite town. As a result, the main intention for their involvement in child labour in this town is either to subsidize their families agricultural low income or to ensure their own economic independence.

4.1.4 Socio cultural factors

socio-cultural factors in the rural areas of the country like family disintegration that push children to urban areas; for instance, the case of Ayub reinforce my argument. He Came to Wolkite with his mother following the imprisonment of his father.

“We came here a couple of years ago. We had good economic status there (in the rural context). We had everything we needed. But one day my father disputes with one of our neighbors for a plot of land. This conflict got worse as time went on. Finally he killed that man when he returned to his home from market at evening. And then he sent us to the nearby town to hide ourselves. Then he gave his hands up to the police. Later on we heard that the deceased brothers burnt up our house and took all the cattle. This increased our fear and we fled to Wolkite since then we four (two of my elder brothers and sister) are engaged ourselves in a sort of activities to get our livelihood” .

4.1.5 The Education System

As many studies indicate, the education system per se has its own contribution to the prevalence of child labour (Rahman,2004). It is obvious that child education plays a vital role to build up to the personality of a child and the political, social and economic aspects of a nation as a whole. The government, particularly the ministry of Education, is a responsible organ to prepare better educational policy that suits the needs of children of various families. However, sometimes it simply designs and put into practice a policy that does not consider from poor family background. In this regard, Rahman (2004) argues that for any credible solution to child labour problem, there is a need to solve the educational problems of needy children and their families. This relates child labour firmly with educational failure of underprivileged children in developing nations.

The former education system was a shift program. But nowadays the Education Bureau of Wolkite Administration is implementing a full- day schooling program. As most of my subjects claimed they are against this system. They prefer the former shift program to the current full- day program. This is due to the fact that they could have the chance to combine work with education. Otherwise they should prefer work to get something to eat to education for “nothing” as they highlighted. But as I have experienced from

the fieldwork, those working children who work to supplement their parent's income (those who are living with parents) have the opportunity to combine education and work. Those working children who are either orphans or live far away from their parents engage themselves only on work to meet their needs. In this regard one of my informant asserted that.

“Previously it was very simple to attend school either in the morning or in the afternoon shift. As a result of this, I had the time to work in my free time. But these past two years I couldn't attend school. Work is a matter of survival for me since I have no one beside me I do not think of attending school. At the beginning of this system I was trying to combine work with education. But finally I couldn't even get food. Hence, I gave priority to survival and dropped my schooling, now I am working all the day in taxi (as Woyalla)”

According to the labour code of Ethiopia, the working hours of children should not be exceeding seven hours a day. Before the change in the education system, children had the chance to combine work and education and thus they were working for less than seven hours in a day. Due to the introduction of new educational system many children abandoned their schooling. This is due to the fact that both work and education need much of the child's time. To get food and other materials for survival children should spend a lot of time in work or in the street. To get concentration in school they have to secure their survival. To secure work is unquestionably important. Not only work but also adequate time for work is also significant. To get knowledge and skill they should take part in the informal education. To attend education they need to spend from 8:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m in school as per the new full-day system. As a result, the education system could not allow children to share their time to work and education equally.

Therefore, the change in the education system is a contributing factor to the incidence of child labour in the study areas and transforms children from part-time work to full-time laboring. And this program forced working children either to divert to night school program or to abandon it completely and expose them to absolute labour exploitation. In addition to this, many children defy the importance of education to solve their immediate problem, i.e, the question of survival, in the study areas.

Moreover, child labourers who attend school criticize the ill concern of teachers to their problems. According to these children, there are teachers who insult them following their failure to fulfill school duties such as homework or other assignments. Ahmed a 13 years old child labourer, strengthens this view as follows;

“Some teachers couldn't understand my problem. They treat me as equal as other children. Especially my mathematics teacher always bans me from class and beats me. One day, I failed to do my task and, I told

him my entire problem why I didn't do. But he did not understand me. So education for me was becoming boring. He always ordered me to bring my parents. Through time my father became less interested and finally he sacrificed my education. Since then I am helping my family by working shoe shining”.

Thus, the information obtained from the informants showed that teacher based problems also can lead children to dropouts

4.1.5 Lose of parents and family disintegration

To meet their need orphans enter into various productive activities in the informal sector. The spread of HIV/AIDS coupled with other problem likely to have contribution in keeping the incidence of child labour high in Africa (Bhalotra, 2003:13), including Ethiopia. Therefore, HIV/AIDS plays vital role in aggravating the existing incidence of child labour. According to “ social Responsibility” theory, the problem of child labour is conceptualized as a consequence of family disintegration (Ennew, Myers and palateau, 2005:30).the data obtained from the child laborers is in support the above idea.for instance ashenafi a 13 years old child who engage in collecting scarp irons or metals narrated that

“My parents died when I was a child. Now I am living with my aunt. She is a Gulet Vender. To assist her financially I am working different activities like shoe shining; scrap iron collecting and carrying of goods. As my aunt told me I lost both of my parents due to HIV/AIDS. The only responsible person to take care of me is my aunt; she is a widow and has n child. She is helping me to attend my school and I am working in my spare time to supplement her income “

Moreover, there are children who bear the burden of the household following the death or illness of one or both of their parents because of HIV/AIDS pandemic. I met two children from the same family who were working on street peddling. They lost their father and mother eighteen and fifteen months ago respectively. They have three younger siblings below the age of ten. According to these working children, their parents' Idir (Community self-help association for emergency) ignite light to their living. Their parent's Idir provide them five hundred birr in two phases besides other material assistance. A they further told me they have the chance to get loan form the association if necessary. Hence without the help of it they could not have started this business and feed themselves at their early ages. They are now heads and breadwinners of the household.

From this we can understand that the impact of HIV/AIDS and its subsequent effect contribute a lot to the involvement of children to child labour. Children like Hailu (15 years old boy) and Rebiqa (13 years old

girl) shoulder the responsibility of educating, taking care and feeding as well as keeping the welfare of their younger siblings.

4.1.6 Child Trafficking

Trafficking involves transporting people away from the communities in which they live, by the threat or use of violence, deception, or coercion so they can be exploited as force or enslaved workers for sex or labour. When children are trafficked, no violence, deception or coercion needs to be involved; it is merely the act of transporting them into exploitative work which constitutes trafficking.

In this case children are viewed like commodities that can be sold and bought. Some individuals play prominent role in child trafficking. Children are innocent by their very nature and they trust everybody around them so that some nonsense and irresponsible individuals in and outside of Addis Ababa try to make money out of children. There are also recipients in urban areas mainly in Addis Ababa. These unhelpful and irresponsible people exploit the immature stamina of children for their own advantage without taking the interests of children into account.(Addisu, 2008).

As far as child trafficking as a cause of child labour is concerned, it is safe to say that working children particularly in and around Wolkite are victims of this process. It may not be hard to find a trafficked child in the streets of towns. These visible groups of child labourers are runaways from their home area. But many of the trafficked children are exploited in indoor setting and are out of the reach of concerned bodies. Actors in child trafficking in the study areas are mostly adult men brokers and to some extent relatives of the trafficked child. As I learned from the interviews these people deceive children to follow them. Moreover, they use incentive such as sweets, money, etc.(Addisu,2008)

One of my informants said that:-

“I know him (the trafficker) very well: he is a husband of one of my neighbor’s daughter. He met me when he came to visit his wife’s family. In the first day he gave me candy and biscuits while I was looking after cattle and he told me not to tell this to anyone. Next day he promised me taking to Addis Ababa and taught me the skill of weaving. Also he told me he would send me to formal education. I agreed with him and then he sent me to Arba Minch with one person and he came here after a week. Finally he took me to Addis Abeba. I have been living with him and working for him for the last six years. But I hate the job and came to wolkite and work as a peddler”.

Therefore child trafficking is now becoming the major causes of child labor in the study areas.

4.2 Consequences of child labor

Children are exposed to accident and other injuries at work, they should thus be protected to prevent social, economic and physical harm, which persist to affect them during their life time. Such injuries include (CLEASC, 2006)

- General Child injuries and abuses like cuts, burns, fractures, tiredness, fears and nightmare
- sexual abuse particularly sexual exploitation girls by adults, rape, prostitution early and unwanted pregnancy ,abortion sexual transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, drugs and alcoholism
- physical neglect like lack of adequate provision of food, clothing, shelter and medical treatment
- Lack of schooling results in missing educational qualification and higher skills thus perpetuating there life in poverty

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The ultimate goal of this history was to examine the causes and quensequence of child labor in the informal sector with particular reference to wolkite town. To this end the study set out the following specific objective to be investigated.

- To identify the main causes of child labour, in informal sector
- To identify the economic impact of child labor exploitation
- To explore the social impact of child labour exploitation
- To know children's and employers' perception of child labour exploitation

To this effect the study has employed both primary and secondary data. This study has examined the informal sector in wolkite town. The informal sector is known by its irregular, temporary and labor intensive nature. Hiring adult workers is very expensive to employers. Due to this fact, employers target young children for employment. Working children in the informal sector are child laborers and with disadvantaged background involving lack of or minimal access to education due to house hold poverty. Being orphans and are migrated from rural areas or other urban centers. Parents of the working children are engaging in marginal economic activities largely due to lack of appropriate skills and education. As a result of their illiteracy, mostly they develop very little concern for their children's education and thus they send them to the labour market to supplement their meager house hold income. There are also various reasons that push

children to join the labour market. School related punishment or suspension out of school may cause children to drop out and forced them to become child labourers. Some of causes of child labor in the informal sector as the researches collect information / data from informants/ subjects are as follows.

5.1 The consequences of child labor

5.1.2 Physical Abuse

As Forastieri (1997: 20) puts it “children are the most delicate parts of the society with delicate body structures who have to be raised by special care and protection”. In relation to this Assefa and Myers (1995: 9) argued that children are frequently observed performing activities incompatible with their age. These have a serious impact on their overall physical growth. The working environments in most cases are unsafe. They suffer from lack of proper sanitation and proper light. They are exposed to loud noise and excessive heat. Moreover, the duration of the work, the heavy lifting work result in feeling of fatigue and the continuous contact with dust and proximity to dangerous machines are some of the physical abuse.

Child labourers, especially street vendors are usually exposed to physical abuse on streets by people. Those who do not obey employers and /or other gangsters would face different forms of punishments. Sometimes working children may encounter physical abuse without any ground.

One of my informant a 16 years old street vendor said that

I am a 16 years old orphan. I am a street child since my parents died in a car accident. I dropped out my schooling from grade 8. Now I am a porter and sometimes work as a messenger for different business centers like bars, shops and the like. I usually eat leftovers from restaurants. I sleep on the street with my friends. I drink alcohol (Areke) and smoke cigarettes since last year. It is my pleasure if I am back to school. Some street vendors bigger than me usually hit me and take my money forcefully. I cannot refuse anything they ask. They hit us severely.

5.2 Social impacts of child labor

5.2.1 School drop out

Almost all of child labourers run away from their home due to some circumstances. So, that we can guess that the moment they leave their parents/ home they stop going to school. Street vendors, taxi boys and lottery ticket sellers are not supposed to go to school; the former due to his/her lack of interest for schooling and the latter two for the fact that time constraints. However, others (shoe shiners and peddlers) may limit their working time and schooling time, their meager income to afford school uniforms and materials, and

full time school system will not allow them to go to school. Some children started work at their very early age in wolkite town and they used not got to school at all. A 16 years old shoe shiner told me that

I am a shoe-shine boy since I am 16 years old. Now I am already 16 years old. I am living with my mother and father was dead. I am striving to support my mother and my two sisters by polishing shoes. I earn an average of 70 birr per day. But sometimes it is hard to get that much money. I am not exposed to any kind of addictions. I wish to continue my education but the condition of my work does not allowed me to do so, as the school does not have a shifte to work in my spare time.

5.2.3 malnutrition, Homelessness and Addiction

Child labourers in the study area are highly exposed to malnutrition and lack of accommodation. And some of them particularly the street venders and taxi boys are addicted to drugs (cigarettes, khat) and alcoholic drinks.

They cannot afford to pay for their daily meal and for their accommodations. Most of them eat left over's from hotels and they sleep either in slum houses paying money. Others also rent slum houses in groups to live in . So, life for child labourers is so hard that it affects their physical, psychological and their total development. One of my informants, a 14 years old lottery seller informed me that.

I am 14 I am selling lottery for 2 years. We lottery sellers are commissioned from the income. The income I earn is not sufficient to run other business or to lead a better life. Since life is very expensive I usually dine one or two times a day. I live in a small rented house in group of eight friends. We have the same experience and bad fortune in life. Sometimes gangsters forced us to give them our money.

Some of child labourers like peddlers, taxi boy and shoeshine boys are feeling desperation because of their meager income. Life is not as simple as they wish and hope to be.

The perception of working children towards child labour depends highly on the benefit they earn, the working condition and the treatment of their employers or individuals around them. But when they find these phenomenon are not good as they want to be, they certainly feel desperate and stressful; and they become ill-mannered and show behavioral change.

I am 16 years old. I came from the rural area to seek a job for my living. I worked for 2 years as a porter in a bar. But now I earn a small amount of money by contacting a call girl with men. People insult me and others even quarrel with me regarding my job. These days earning money is very difficult because of covid 19. I have intended to do anything as long as I get home. I can't go back home empty handed. I drink alcohol

to get over from my despair and stress. I sleep in low price bed rooms. I have been detained in prison for 3 months when unknowingly I stole money from some ones pocket. I smoke cigarettes and chew khat.

Hence, they come up to be an alcoholic and addicted to cigarettes, khat and other drugs. As a result some join the group of theft, robbery and killers. A peddlers case shows how much he is a desperate boy.

I am 16 years old . I work as a peddler, selling different goods like tissue-paper, gums, cigarettes and so on. But my daily income is not sufficient for my living. I want to continue my education if some people are capable of supporting me. I could not save money to my education or to improve my business. I am hopeless just simply walking here and there without profit.

As far as child labourers are concerned they are seen as lumpens and threaten badly. They usually fired and feel pain after work. Those taxi boys are often tiresome after work

I am 16 years old. I came from a rural village. Then I started to work as a taxi –boy (woyala). It is a boring job, both vocal and body will be weaken after you finished your work. My job is better than my friends in terms of income. But you can't to save money for your future life unless you are lucky to have your driving license; you only remain as a taxi boy. It is very expensive to have a driving license these days. I was a grade 9 student. I do not intend to le

Table1, list of child respondents

No	Sex	Name of respondents	Engagements of the respondent	Age
1	Male	Gabre	Street vender	16
2	Male	Amsalu	Street vender	16
3	Male		porter	14
4	Male	Ayub		15
5	Male	Desalegm	Taxi boy(woyyla)	16
6	Male	Ahmed	Shoe shine	13

7	Male	Ashenafi	Shoeshine, scarp iron collecting	13
8	female	Alem	peddler	15
9	Male		Street vender	16
10	Male	Mifta	shoeshine	16
11	Male	Aklilu	Lottery seller	14
12	Male	Fitsum	porter	16
13	Male	Semir	peddler	13
14	Male	Seltew	Taxi boy(woyalla)	16

The police department and children's and women's Affairs office have their own out look towards child labourers according to their concern and responsibility to safe guard their rights. In that case both office were my informants and forwarded the following general opinion during our interview session;

5.3 Response for Structured Interview With Wolkite town police office

“There are so many young children living in streets. Many of them are those who run away from their home due to their parents economical handicapped. Most of the child laborers are leading a hand-to mouth life. We have informed that some of them are migrated to the town by child trafficking; and we brought some of the traffickers to

justice/court/. Those children who are usually found in bad behavior i.e stealing, robbing and fighting are the street vendors of course, others are also exposed to shoplifting and robbery at nights. For such cases immediate recovery steps has been taken to bring about behavioral change. We have done our best effort to bring back home some street vendors from the well –to-do families. We also took measures to prevent child laborers abuse and exploitation by employers when ever we knew they forced them to work without payment”.

5.4 Response for structured Interview with children’s and women’s Affairs office in Wolkite Town

“We are very much concerned to care the wellbeing of children, especially the homeless ones as they are physically, socially and economically vulnerable. Some of them are exposed to sever abuse at home and outside. Human trafficking is one of the factors that makes children run away from home. We are doing our best to prevent forced labour of employers against child laborers. We have agreed to solve educational and economical problems of the youth with other governmental offices. It is impossible to see the town’s economical growth without the youth’s sustainable development in all types of changes. We have also under taken a sort of program to indentify the street children’s family back ground so as to curb the problem they have with their parents. And reconciliation activity was done to let them back home”.

This study has examined the issue of child labour in the informal sector in focus in wolkite town (SNNPR). In wolkite town a number of underage children are engaged in diversified productive activities of the informal sector. Working children in the informal sector are child labours and with disadvantaged background involving lack of or minimal access to education due to household poverty, being orphans and are migrated from rural areas or other urban centers. The parents of the working children are engaging in meager economic activities largely due to lack of skills and education. As a result of their illiteracy, mostly they develop very little concern for their children’s education and thus send them to the labour market to supplement the meager household income. In this way the child follow not only the footsteps of his/her parents in the labour market but also perpetuate as illiterate member of the society in his/her adulthood and then most likely he/she will also send his/her children to the labour market at their early ages too.

Undoubtedly, parents wish bright future for their children and want to raise them in a decent way. However, due to some reasons like abject poverty they are forced to deny their children’s right to education and cut expenses of basic needs. And sometimes they may give their children for “blood sackers” (employers of children) or indulge them in the labour market to ease household poverty to a certain extent. Poverty as repeatedly mentioned in this study is not the only reason for children’s involvement rather there are also unemployed parents who send their children to the world of work to get something useful.

Wolkite is one of the focal point or the 'best' destination of migrants from different parts of the country. Children migrate to the town alone or together with their parents, relatives or somebody else for several reasons. As a result, migration becomes another reason behind the participation of children in the labour market of wolkite town. There are pull factors like the 'good name' of the town i.e., considering it as a 'place of prosperity', and push factors like rural poverty, absence of sufficient farm land, surplus rural labour force, limited rural job opportunities and other socio-cultural factors have contributed for the migration of children and their parents. After Coming to town they prefer to engage in any work without taking into account the difficulty or its dangerous nature. This is due to the fact that they do not have any option to get their subsistence in a strange town.

Moreover, change in the education system is also another contributing factor for the incidence of child labour in the study areas. So as to improve the quality of education, the federal concerned body together with regional states' education bureaus changed the education system from shift to full-day program. This program has contributed a lot for the withdrawal of children who had combined schooling and working. It also blocked the intention of orphan and migrant children to attend education in one shift program. Because of the introduction of this program they were forced to quit their education and forward them from part-time child labour to the more exploitative full-time work. The main reason for this argument is that earlier times the children had been working very little hours in a day but following the introduction of this program they quit education and engaged in child labour. The central issue when we discuss about work and education is time. Children need to allocate their time equally to work and education. The former one is their only means to survive while the later serve as a tool to achieve their future goal. What would happen when they clash? Which one needs a top priority?

It is obvious that children need special care, love and affection for their healthy personality development. In this respect, family in general and parents in particular play significant role. However, due to HIV/AIDS and family disintegration, these children are forced to lose one or both of their parents. If they do not have capable relatives to take care of them, they would go to the nearby streets and offer themselves for labour exploitation.

Furthermore, this study also dealt with child trafficking as another major factor for the involvement of children in the labour market. Largely, this has happened due to lack of government supervision on the movement of children from one part of the country to the other and lack of awareness about the illegality of child trafficking among the perpetrators. There are different people behind this process. These actors of

child trafficking are either in the rural areas or in towns. Employers in different business centers of the study areas are either traffickers or recipients of trafficked children.

Children are the future human resource of a nation who needs special protection and care like safe environment to upgrade its quality. But unwise use of this resource or before its right time would endanger not only the sustainability of the child but also the country at large. Some individuals try to increase their dividend at the expense of children. They let children to work in completely unsafe environment with little or no pay. However, the living conditions of working children differ from one mode of employment to the other. Some self-employed children are living with their parents or in group in their own rented house while others like porters live either on veranda or by paying some amount of money for a night. Moreover, if they are remunerated it takes place in cash or in kind and is very little compared to the energy they invest and the difficulty of the work they perform. Generally, they are disadvantaged members of the society.

In its real sense ‘work’ is a source of income, social interaction and happiness. Human beings should also work to sustain their life and realize their goals. However, for children it has positive and negative effects. Though most people, including international, regional and nongovernmental organizations, and national governments, argue about the deleterious effect of the involvement of children in the labour market, this study tried its best to deleterious effect of the involvement of children in the labour market, this study tried its best to demonstrate the positive contribution of children’s work too. In fact, the work per se and the working conditions children experience are detrimental to their physical, social and intellectual development. Employers also use different punitive measures to realize the submission and obedience of employed children. All these put their own short or long-term impacts on the child. Orphans and migrant children have no option to meet their basic needs other than work. For this reason they should engage in certain economic activities. Work for these children, therefore, is the question of survival.

Child labour and education are inversely related. Education is an influential factor of child labour. When there is high rate of primary school participation, there will be low incidence of child labor. High participation of children in the labour market would affect primary school enrolment or participation of children. By realizing this, international organizations and our national government target at increasing the school participation of children through “compulsory Education” and “universal primary education”. However, in the context of the study areas “compulsory Education” could not be an option to solve the problem of child labour. In fact, I believe in the role of “compulsory education” or high rate of school participation of children because it has the power to put influence on the involvement of children in the labour market. But priority should be given for the means of survival of poor families in order to achieve the

goals of this police, i.e., “compulsory Education”. Moreover, child labour has its own negative impact in the school performance of those working children who combine work and education.

In the study areas, children are assigned to perform very difficult tasks which are incompatible to their age and physical strength. Because of the arduous nature of their work and the unpleasant working condition they experience, children develop resentment to their work and their living and working conditions. As a result, most of the working children want to liberate themselves from labour exploitation. But, they encounter different obstacles in their endeavor to escape. This study attempted to identify such hindrances on the basis of the point of view of working children in the study areas. Some of these are the prevalence of abject poverty which is coupled with parental unemployment, rising cost of living and lack of other opportunities; threatening mechanisms employed by employers, ‘parents’ or ‘relatives’; language barriers; inability to afford transportation cost; inadaptability and the phobia created by employers about the outside world. All these in part or together tied working children to the labour exploitation.

As this study disclosed, there is a varied perception about child labour among working children, employers and members of the society. The views of these people towards child labour depend on the knowledge they have about the problem; there is limited awareness about child labour as a problem that needs to be addressed through awareness raising campaigns. The attitude of working children towards child labour depends highly on the benefit they earn, the working condition and the treatment of their employers or individuals around them. In the society, there are people who support the involvement of children in the labour market by viewing it as part of the child socialization process and still lack information about child labour. Thus, the perception of members of the society varies in accordance with their level of literacy and awareness about the rights of children. According to employers, children are employed based on their compassion to help them meet their basic needs. But they do it largely to reduce labour costs and benefit more at the expense of working children. In short, there is an information gap among child labourers. Employers and working children about the rights of children and the corresponding legislations that protect children.

Working and getting something to eat and supplement one’s family income is not an easy task for child labourers. To get it they should have to pass through several challenges like doing dangerous work, hazardous or less conducive working conditions and unfair treatments of employers, ‘relatives’ or ‘parents’ and even clients and coworkers. These abusive practices can be grouped as physical, verbal and psychological. All these happened due to lack of adequate legal protection and cruelty of employers and other people whom they work with. These abusive practices in turn have their own impact on the physical, social and psychological well-being of the child. Most of the time the victims of such kinds of abuses are

passive, lack self-confidence, have low self-esteem or self concept. In their later life, adulthood, they would develop aggressive behavior and may isolate themselves from the rest of the society.

According to the FDRE constitution Article 9 (4), all international conventions and agreements signed by Ethiopia are part and parcel of the law of the land. Ethiopia has signed different international conventions regarding the rights of the child and child labour. To safeguard the rights of the child various legislations are incorporated in the constitution, the labour Code, criminal code and other legal documents of the country. Thus, it is safe to conclude that Ethiopia has adequate legislations to protect the rights of children in general and working children in particular.

However, enforcements of child labour laws are weak and they lack good coordination among government agencies and the justice department (law enforcement organ), and the government lack political commitment to deal with child labour. In spite of the presence of several laws in different legal documents dealing with child labour, still the gap between the laws and enforcement is beyond exaggeration. It is undeniable that there are some improvements concerning the enforcement of child labour law especially in the police department of the town and children's and women affairs office. But still they need report either from the victims or the society to bring the perpetrators before justice.

Generally, the rule and the game seem to be two different thing in the same playing ground.

Recommendation

According to the findings of the study, child labor is caused due to various reasons and the consequences are also bad enough to spoil the life of child laborers. So, having had those causes and impacts/consequences in mind, the researcher recommends the following in order to curb the problem of child labor exploitation activities and to make children's future life safe in the town.

- The government and NGOs should implement a financial aid program to the needy children to help them continue their education.
- The local government should arrange a shift schooling system
- The police office/ bureau/ and the children's and women's office should create an advocacy and awareness in the society to safe guard the rights of children by preventing child trafficking, and other crimes against children.

- Schools and teachers should take awareness to understand children's (child labourers) problems patiently to curb their students' dropouts.
- The government and financial institutions should arrange loan program to the poor families to run small business.