

**Full Length Research**

# The Programs of Government and Non-Government Organizations to Combat Family Violence against Children in Debre Markos Town

**Edemealem Mekuriyaw**

Debre Markos University, Debre Markos, Ethiopia. Email: [edmexlibanon@gmail.com](mailto:edmexlibanon@gmail.com)

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The study focused on assessing the programs of different government and non-government organizations to combat family violence against children in Debre Markos town. The study employed qualitative research methodology. It used both primary and secondary data sources. The primary data were collected through unstructured interview. The participants of interview were selected through purposive sampling. The secondary data were collected from different books, journal articles, and report papers. According to the findings of the study, there was family violence against children in Debre Markos town. As a result, there were various programs which were designed and carried out by various government and non-government organizations. The programs were: awareness creation programs, psycho-social support, and economic support, promoting research and advocacy, and capacity building training for concerned bodies. In the future, other researchers might conduct study on the roles of professionals (social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists) in reducing violence against children.

**Keywords:** Children, Family, Family Violence, Programs, Protection, Government Organizations, Non-Government Organizations

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## INTRODUCTION

Child protection is a system or mechanisms that are used to combat neglect, exploitation, physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence against children. The cooperation of various government and non-government organizations is essential to effectively protect children from violence. The activities of different concerned bodies should be coordinated to improve the well-being of children (Save the Children cited in Tsegaye, 2012).

According to Willow, (2010):

Child protection means the activities performed by individuals or organizations to ensure that children live, grow up, have access to development of good attitudes, knowledge and abilities, receive protection of rights and interests, and are able to efficiently participate in social activities (Willow, 2010: p.30).

When family violence against children is occurred, all the

concerned bodies should involve on the case. The victim children should gain counseling and health treatment; the social workers or psychologists should work with the family to solve the problem; police arrest the offender if it is serious crime, and attorneys prosecute the case (Hammond, et al., 2001). The causes of child abuse has led to multi-level program strategies that focus on changing the personal characteristics of both parent and child, as well as improving parenting and family interactions, the family's relationship to the community and society at large, and encouraging communities to accept some responsibility for child abuse prevention (Cicchetti, cited in Donnelly, Fitz, & Pryo, 1997). The Programs may deal with individual characteristics; with family interactions; with connecting families to social support networks of employment, training, with other neighborhood resources; or with cultural components (Donnelly, Fitz, Pryo, 1997).

There are programs which are carried out by government and non-government organizations to combat family violence such as empowering the family in Debre Markos town (Debre Markos Women, Children and Youth's Affairs Office, 2014). A stable family is one of the most important factors in protecting children from violence. Families can also empower children. However, the home may also be a dangerous place for children (UNICEF, 2007). Migbaru pointed out that there is an intensive family violence against children. There are different cases which are being brought to the court. The court is trying to see different cases of children based on the criminal, civil laws and the constitution of the country. The court in collaboration with police, Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office, and with various non-government organizations, has been trying to protect children from family violence. He stated that there is child-friendly justice system in the Debre Markos Town Court (interview). According to Tsegaye, "child friendly justice refers to justice systems which guarantee effective implementation of all children's rights at the highest attainable level, bearing in mind the principles in the UNCRC and all other related international and regional instruments" (Tsegaye, 2012, p.7). Debre Markos town Women, Children and Youth's Affairs Office (2014), stated that various programs are carried out to combat family violence in Debre Markos town. The programs bring some changes in the society.

The study focused on assessing the programs/projects which are run by different government and non-governmental organizations to combat family violence against children; assessing the effectiveness of the programs; and the challenges and prospects. The aforementioned literatures show that the prevalence of the problem in Ethiopia in general, and in Debre Markos town in particular. However, they did not adequately show the main programs to combat the problem and their effectiveness, and challenges and prospects in Debre

Markos town. In Debre Markos town, the programs which are executed by the government and non-government organizations should be identified and the effectiveness of the programs in protecting children should be assessed. Therefore, by considering the aforementioned problem, the study may contribute in filling the existing literature gap on the subject.

### **Enforcing Policies and International Conventions on Child Protection**

Strong social policy or law is essential for supporting families and children. Relevant policies include support for employment, minimum wages, rural livelihoods, equitable land reform, women's income generation, and equitable access to facilities such as water supplies, roads and paths, transport systems, drainage, and sanitation. Family violence against children can be reduced significantly by the implementation of laws, policies and programs which strengthen and support families. Implementing the policies of the country is one of the best strategies to prevent violence against children in the home and family. The program may include parenting training in accordance with the policies of the country (Hammond et al., 2001).

Enforcement of the law refers to the investigation of cases and deciding over the case with tangible evidences. The laws can be used as guidelines how the rights of children are protected and advance the well-being of children. Thus, proper implementation of the existing laws secures the protection of the rights of children (ibid). UNICEF (2014) stated that to properly protect children, there should be strong laws and policies; strong services and service delivery mechanisms; effective human and fiscal resources and management; good communication and advocacy activities; collaboration and coordination; and strong evidence and data for decision-making. Implementing laws and policies are essential to eliminate or reduce family violence and to protect children. Those who involve in violence against children should be punished.

According to Willow, (2010):

Respect for children's rights cannot be perceived as an option, as a question of favor or kindness to children, or as an expression of charity. Children's rights generate obligations and responsibilities that must be honored. They need to be perceived as an expression of solidarity and partnership, empowering children to participate actively in the improvement of their situation and in the broader process of social change (Willow, 2010, p.32).

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. The convention deals with economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of children. All children should have the rights regardless of differences. States shall preserve the rights of children within their jurisdiction irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status (UN, 1989).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is ratified by all UN member states. Ethiopia ratified the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Children in 1991 and it was domesticated into national law in 1992. As the signatory state and as a state which ratifies the convention, she has been trying to implement the conventions in different levels with the cooperation of different government and non-government organizations (Willow, 2010). Tariku and Migbaru pointed out that the Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office, Police, and Debre Markos Town Court are working together to execute the convention (interview). Effective implementation of the laws and conventions enables to protect the rights of children. It may help to eliminate or reduce violence against children. It ensures the equal status of children with others and improves the dignity, physical integrity and self-esteem of children (Willow, 2010).

Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1989) articulates:

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement (UN, 1989, p.5).

The 1995 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian constitution has provision regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of children. Similarly, the Revised Family Law (2000) deals with the responsibility of parents and guardians to preserve and fulfill the health, the social contacts and education and residence needs of the

children. Moreover, the Revised Penal Code (2004) articulated that abuse of children such as infanticide, sexual violence, abduction, maltreatment, neglect and negligent treatment, sexual exploitation of children, as well as trafficking and female genital mutilation are crimes against children (cited in Tsegaye, 2012). The existing laws and policies are poorly implemented (Tsegaye, 2012).

Tariku, Yilma, Kifle, Taye, Migbaru and Zewdie articulated that their organizations are trying to implement the existing laws and policies of the country. There might be gap in the laws and policies of the country regarding the protection of children. However, with the integration of different stakeholders, the concerned bodies try to enforce the laws and policies of the country. The Ethiopian government tries to eliminate child labor exploitation through designing and ratifying laws and treaties and by implementing them though the presence of different problems (Mahari, 2009). Article 89(2) of the Labour Proclamation No.377/2003 rule out the employment of persons under 14 years of age. In addition, Article 89 (3) prohibits the employment of young workers. Workers between 14 and 18 years of age should be employed in accordance with Article 89(1) of the Labor Proclamation i.e. the nature of the work or the circumstances under which it is carried out should not be harmful to the life or health of the young worker (FDRE, 2003).

Article 36 of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution focuses on the rights of children. It states that every child has the right to life, name and nationality, and the right to not be subjected to exploitative labor practices, and to be free from corporal punishment or cruel or inhuman treatment (FDRE, 1995). In addition, the Revised Family Code Proclamation No.213/2000 provides priority to the protection, well-being and upbringing of children in accordance with the Constitution and international instruments which Ethiopia has ratified (ibid).

Migbaru pointed out that the Debre Markos town court usually tries to ensure that child victims of family violence are not re-victimized during the justice process. Child victims are treated in a caring and sensitive manner throughout the justice process, taking into account their personal situation and immediate needs, age, gender, disability and level of maturity, and fully respecting their physical, mental and moral integrity. The court attempts to ascertain that investigations, law enforcement, prosecution and judicial processes take into account the special needs of the child. The child's identity and privacy is protected; confidentiality is respected; and the child is not subjected to excessive interviews, statements, hearings and unnecessary contact with the judicial process. He further articulated that the special court to the children takes into consideration the child's level of maturity and understanding. The court tries to make the

justice system more accessible, age appropriate, and speedy with the best interest of children. "The justice system is conducted in accordance with the rights of children. A separate room has been established with different attractive playing materials such as toy. The room is linked to another room through a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system. Child victims give their evidence to the social worker in a separate room and the judges can follow the proceedings in the court room. The children give their witness without facing with the alleged perpetrator" (interview).

The judges will decide over civil and criminal cases by looking it from different contexts. There is social worker. The social worker does an assessment on the children who are victims of family violence. After the assessment is done by the social worker, the judges will look the case and decide over the issue. The decisions will be made in the benefit of the children. They might be victimized in different situations like physical, sexual, labor exploitation and others. Children might not tell all the problems imposed over them due the intimidation from the family or other reasons. Thus, to obtain appropriate information on what happened on them, children are treated to be free from any influence or imposition (interview).

The Criminal Code of Ethiopia articulates that enslavement, trafficking children, and labor exploitation are crimes committed against children. The provisions of the code particularly Article 525, 596, 597, and 626 deal with the crimes against children i.e. the production and trafficking of drugs, enslavement, trafficking in children for compulsory labour and trafficking in minors for prostitution respectively. The use of children for the production and trafficking of drugs, trafficking in children for compulsory labor and trafficking in children for prostitution are crimes punishable by imprisonment and fine (FDRE, 2004).

### **Awareness Creation Programs**

Awareness creation programs are essential to change the attitudes and practices of parents towards their children. It helps to create an understanding in the community, parents and children regarding the rights of children and for the promotion of positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing or treatment (Marcus, 2014). UNICEF (2014) pointed out that to protect children from violence; there should be changes in attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination. Those attitudes and social norms which hide violence must be changed. It is one of the important ways of combating violence.

As Tariku, the Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office with the collaboration with schools, and NGOs creates awareness about the provisions of different proclamations regarding the children's right. "One of the

strategies of the Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office is designing awareness creation programs in schools and in the community. Children Rights Clubs are established in all elementary schools in Debre Markos to create awareness among children about their rights and obligations. There is an improvement in terms of their understanding." They are trying to protect their rights from family and community violence with the cooperation of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Office, Schools, police, court and NGOs. This enables to reduce the intensity of family violence though family violence is not completely eliminated. As Zewdie, Bezawit and Tariku, there is Children's Rights Club in Ede Tibebe primary school, Debre Markos town. This club has big contribution in creating awareness among children regarding their rights and duties (interview).

Awareness creation programs such as trainings should be given not only for children and parents but also for different concerned bodies such as judges, police, officers and others. Trainings should be given on how to investigate and prosecute child abuse cases. The training may enable to develop the skills needed for implementing child protection activities properly. The training should include the ways to investigate child abuse cases and to decide over the cases based on the existing evidences (Tsegaye, 2012). Kifle articulated that the program works with *Idirs* (a traditional burial service), *kebeles* (the least tier of government in Ethiopia), Associations (*Mahiberat*), and town administration to create an awareness about child care mechanisms and to protect children from family violence. "The program provides trainings for the community in *Idirs*, *Mahibers*, and *Kebeles*. This helps parents to discuss about the issue and to share experiences each other" (interview).

Tariku stated that government organizations such as Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office, Court and Police try to create strong bondage between parents and their children, and increasing understanding of the physical, psychological, sexual, and cognitive development of children and community in the context of social and cultural factors; expanding child-rearing and parenting skills for fathers and mothers, including promoting non-violent relationships and non-violent forms of discipline, problem-solving skills, and the management of family conflicts; addressing gender stereotypes in family life (interview).

### **Parental Education**

UNICEF, (2014) stated that educating families, caregivers and parents are essential to improve the early development of children. Parental education brings change in the attitude of parents and children. Education may influence parents to fulfill the basic needs of children, and to use positive disciplining methods. This

enables to reduce or eliminate family violence against children. Teaching children various skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur. Kifle, Taye, Tariku, and Yilma pointed out that there are different combating mechanisms to protect children. The projects provide child care trainings and creating awareness in the family about child policies of the country. Parent or caregiver education can improve the existing poor parent-child relationships. In addition, the parent education creates an understanding on non-violent methods of discipline. The child care trainings and awareness creation programs are focusing on creating awareness in proper family management, problem solving, and parenting practices. This is effective in reducing home and family violence against children and negative child health and development outcomes (interview).

Parenting trainings are essential to create awareness on parents about child development, attachment, and methods to manage family conflict. Family is the first and proper place for the development of children. So, providing them appropriate knowledge means improving the wellbeing of children (World Health Organization, 2002). Kifle and Yilma pointed out that the awareness creation programs also include children. This helps children to recognize and avoid risky situations. This type of intervention usually teaches children about appropriate and inappropriate activities (interview).

### **Home Visitation**

Frequent home visitation is important to know the status and changes of the family. Family visitation involves regular visits from a social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist, nurse or others to the homes of families which need special support associated with childcare. The home visitation may include counseling, training and referrals to specialists or other agencies (World Health Organization, 2002). Home visitation programs have various benefits. Home visitors may reach in isolated parents and children who are unlikely have an access for services in the programs of concerned bodies. Home visitors can model appropriate parenting skills directly at home and to clearly observe the problems in different households. This can enable service providers to easily provide education for different parents and to understand the ideas of parents and victim children (Donnelly, Fitz, & Pryo, 1997).

Kifle, Tariku, and Yilma articulated that there is home visitation program with the collaboration of other concerned bodies which involves social workers or trained volunteers in the assessment of children's needs and their parents' capacity to meet those needs. The home visits aim to provide emotional support and training

to promote positive parental knowledge, skills and behavior, and to a certain extent to assess the family. According to Women, Children and Youth's Affairs Office (2014) pointed out that home visitation gives social and emotional supports such as local social networks, and counseling for parents and children. This helps to improve behavioral development and school achievement, higher levels of employment, lower teenage pregnancy rates, higher socio-economic status, and decreased criminal behavior (interview).

### **Psycho-Social Support**

The term psycho-social shows the strong relationship between psychology and social capital. Psychology deals with cognitive i.e. perception and memory as a basis for thoughts and learning; emotions; and behavioral issues. Social aspect concerns about the relationships of family, community networks, cultural traditions and etc. Therefore, psycho-social refers to those biological, emotional, spiritual, cultural, social, mental and material aspects. The psycho-social wellbeing is all about securing the basic needs together with a safe and supportive environment. Psycho-social intervention can enable concerned people to solve the children's problem (UNICEF, 2009).

The psycho-social support refers to helping children, families and communities to improve their psychosocial wellbeing; promoting everyday consistent care and support in the family and community; and strengthening the capacity of caregivers, friends, and teachers to provide everyday psychosocial care and support to all children. The primary focus of the psycho-social interventions is on supporting children and their families to recover from trauma and violence. The psycho-social interventions focus on bringing positive changes in the children and families in terms of skills, knowledge, emotion, spiritual, and social wellbeing (ibid). Governments should promote the integrity of family and discourage separation of parents for the sake of the children. Family violence has serious impact on a child's emotional health and development. Thus, psycho-social support is crucial. The most effective mental health interventions employ behavioral and cognitive techniques, and work with both the child and the family. It is important to identify and to develop anxiety management and problem-solving skills. Psycho-social interventions are effective in reducing anxiety, depression, and sexual concerns (Robinson, 2013). Trained professionals are needed for interpretation of injuries, forensic examinations and forensic interviewing of children. Professionals such as health workers, social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, judges etc have a responsibility to prioritize the child's physical and psychological health. Psycho-social support services and

social welfare are important to produce creative and productive children (UNICEF, 2014).

Taye, Tariku, Kifle, and Yilma pointed out that victim children and their parents are being given psycho-social support though not enough. Victim children are supported to gain psychological support and access to education and health. The psycho-social support given to victim children has its own important outcome in recovering victim children from trauma. The social workers or psychologists are assigned to do an assessment on victim children and to provide psycho-social support for children. The social supports such as education and health are made with the cooperation of different concerned bodies such as the community, schools, and health institutions (interview). Amelework Tenaw, Belay Tasio, and Selam Kebede stated that the social, psychological and economic support of the NGOs helped them to be stable, sociable and self-assertive (interview).

### **Increase Economic and Social Status of Family**

The government and non-government organizations provide social and economic support for the children of poor families. The poor families are not able to fulfill the basic needs of their children. Kifle, Tariku, and Yilma pointed out that education, housing, health services, employment, and social policies etc are important to increase the economic and social status of the family and to reduce the vulnerability of children for different problems. It also enhances the capacity of families to care for and protect their children from becoming vulnerable and responding to children who face multiple risks. As them, professionals are dedicated to identify the needs and assets of the poor families and their children. Thus, in accordance with their needs and assets the government and non-government organizations help poor families to increase their income. Similarly, children are supported to obtain an access for education and health with the collaboration with different stakeholders (interview).

Kifle, Tariku, and Yilma stated that the program provides financial support for the poor families to manipulate their asset and run their own business. Poor families are encouraged to save per week, and cooperate themselves for works such as cattle rearing, transport service (buying cart), cafes, and so on with the cooperation of the town administration and credit and saving institutions such as Amhara Credit and Saving Institution. In addition, with the collaboration of the town administration and different kebele administrations in the town, shelters are constructed for poor families. This program is indirectly useful to help children in the poor families (interview).

There are also direct supports by government and non-government organizations for children. The supports

include cloth, book, exercise books, pen, pencil, rubber, bag and so on. Amelework, Belay, and Selam are among the beneficiaries in the socio-economic supports of government and non-organizations. They pointed out that their parents are poor. Their parents were unable to cover all costs of their children. This was clearly identified by the NGOs with the cooperation of kebele administrations. Amelework and Belay are being supported by Organization for Social Services and Aids, and Selam is being supported by Health Development and Anti Malaria Association. Amelework is thirteen years old. She is a grade seven student. Belay is a grade six student. He is twelve years old. Selam is a grade five student. She is eleven years old. They stated that due to the social and economic support of NGOs theirs and their parents' life is improved. The parents of Amelework and Belay have been also gaining economic support from Organization of Social Services and Aids. According to Amelework and Belay, their parents are starting their own business by the financial support of Organization for Social Services and Aids with the cooperation of the town administration. Belay's parents are rearing sheep whereas Amelework's parents open mini-shop (interview).

### **Capacity Building Training for Concerned Bodies**

Governments must ensure that professionals and non-professionals who work with and around children and their families receive adequate training and ongoing capacity building which includes basic information on children rights and the law, violence against children, its prevention, early detection and response, non-violent conflict management, and children rights. In addition, workers must have a clear understanding of the physical, sexual, emotional and cognitive development of children and young people, and the links between gender and violence. Specific skills in communicating with and involving children in the decisions affecting them should also be promoted (UNICEF, 2006).

Tariku, Kifle, Taye, and Yosef pointed out that capacity building training are essential to eliminate violence against children. It is given by government and non-government organizations in Debre Makos town. Capacity building training is given for the NGOs, courts, police, teachers, community etc to abolish all kinds of violence against children including family violence (interview). The Women, Children and Youth's Affaires Office has organized different capacity building trainings for the concerned bodies. This has its own contribution in coordinating the activities of different concerned bodies to combat family violence against children (Women, Children and Youth's Affaires Office, 2014).

## Promoting Research and Advocacy

Research is essential to obtain essential and reliable data regarding family violence against children. It is important to design appropriate programs to combat family violence. It is useful for policy makers to make crucial laws to protect children (Fantuzzo & Wanda, 1999). In order to combat family violence against children, there should be critical studies which may clearly identify the problems and forward solutions. Tariku, Kifle, Yilma, and Taye pointed out that research is one of the important instruments to combat family violence. Thus, the programs encourage researches in addition to other measures. Though there are no comprehensive studies, the programs take it as one of the strategies to combat children. Family violence against children should be brought into the public sphere to discuss the issues and to find solutions. For this end, conducting participatory research in family violence against children is essential method to eliminate or reduce family violence against children. They stated that their organizations have been encouraging research because researches are the main instruments to dig out the main problems and to find out critical solutions (interview). According to UNICEF, "knowing about violence where it occurs, in what forms, and which age groups and communities of children are most affected is essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, and setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence" (UNICEF, 2014, p.12).

Tariku and Kifle articulated that there are advocacy works to prevent children. The advocacy includes various stakeholders such as policy-makers, parents, children and community. "Advocacy works about the children's rights; harmful consequences of corporal punishment and the need for parents to develop positive, non-violent relationships with their children; and harmful traditional practices" (interview).

## CONCLUSION AND SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS

### CONCLUSIONS

Family violence has various negative impacts on children. It has physical, psychological, emotional, economic, social etc impacts on children in Debre Markos town. As a result, different programs are held by several concerned bodies to reduce and eliminate family violence in Debre Markos town. The concerned bodies such as Debre Markos town Women, Children and Youths' Affairs Office, Debre Markos town Court, NGOs (Tesfa Social and Development Association, Organization of Social Services and Aids, Health Development and Anti-Malaria Association), schools (Ede-Tibeb Primary School), police have been carrying out different activities to protect

children. Various strategies are being implemented in Debre Markos town by government and non-government organizations to eliminate family violence and to establish strong relationship between parents and children. The strategies aim in awareness creation, psycho-social support, economic support, capacity building training, promote change in social and cultural norms, research and advocacy, removal of the child from violent parents as last resort etc. Government and non government organizations have initiated and supported awareness campaigns that promote non-violent relationships and communication between parents and children.

There are some changes in parent-child relationship as result of the programs executed in Debre Markos town. The awareness of parents and children about the rights of children and the policies of the country is increasing. Parents are enabled to understand about child care and the needs of children through the concerned bodies.

### SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS

There are various social work implications in the findings of this study.

The Social Work field of study believes that family is the best place for children and for their proper bio-psycho-social development. Family-based solutions are generally preferable to institutional placements. It focuses on the establishment of strong bondages between parents and their children. Children are the base for the future generation and to sustain the legacies of the past generation. So, the finding of the study implies that combating family violence against children may enable to establish strong child-parent relationship in Debre Markos town. The finding of the study implies that removal of child from parents is the last alternative compare to other mechanisms to eliminate family violence against children and to establish strong or positive attachment between parents and children. The concerned bodies mainly focus on awareness creation programs, capacity building, research and advocacy and other alternatives than removing child from parents to stop family violence in Debre Markos town. The social workers may involve in awareness creation programs. They can create awareness in the community regarding good child care skills, the role of family in the psycho-social development of children, regarding the significance of good parent-child relations, and regarding the rights of children.

Social work field of study believes that social policies are essential to abolish different problems in the community. Social policies are the main instruments to protect the rights of the community and to achieve community development. The finding of the study implies that social policies are important to protect children by abolishing family violence in Debre Markos town. One

country must make laws or policies and effectively implement the laws or policies to protect children. Hence, Ethiopia has made various laws and ratified international treaties to protect the rights of children. The concerned bodies are working to implement the laws of the state to protect children by avoiding family violence. Social workers may engage in advocacy programs. They may influence the government and non-government organizations to effectively implement the social policies of Ethiopia and international conventions that deal with rights of children. They may instill pressure on the concerned bodies to request those who involve in violence and to give justice for the victim children. They may also influence the government to make new laws to protect children if necessary.

Social work employs asset based and need based approaches to solve different problems in the target groups. It believes that every individual or community has assets and needs. Every program should take into account the assets of the community to solve the problem for long run by attaining the temporary needs of the community. The finding of the study shows that there are various causes of family violence against children in Debre Markos town. As a result, the concerned bodies involve in empowering children and parents in different aspects. For instance, poor parents have been provided educational and financial supports to run their own business to solve the problems and to avoid family violence against children for long run. The concerned bodies also provide temporary support for poor parents, victim children and children from poor family to address their basic needs such as food, shelter, bags, books, exercise books, pen, health services etc. The social workers may engage in assessing the needs and assets of target groups. They can make detail assessment on needs and assets of the target groups and provide the findings of their assessment for the concerned bodies. This may help the concerned bodies to design appropriate intervention mechanisms.

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**APPENDICS****KEY INFORMANTS AND CHILD PARTICIPANTS****CHILD PARTICIPANTS**

No.	NAME OF CHILD PARTICIPANT	INSTITUTION	POSITION	TIME AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW
1.	Abebe Habtamu	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	26 May 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
2.	Almaze Biyazen	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	26 May 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
3.	Bekele Kebede	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	26 May 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
4.	Meron Awoke	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	26 May 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
5.	Mikias Abere	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	01 June 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
6.	Senayit Belay	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	01 June 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
7.	Solomon Wondweson	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Student	01 June 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
8.	Amelework Tenaw	Ede Tibeb Primary School	NGO Supported Student	04 June 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
9.	Belay Tasje	Ede Tibeb Primary School	NGO Supported Student	04 June 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
10.	Selam Kebede	Ede Tibeb Primary School	NGO Supported Student	04 June 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
11.	Aster Mintesnot		Street Child	9 September 2015, Nigus Tekle Haimanot Square
12.	Bereket Bedilu		Street Child	9 September 2015, Nigus Tekle Haimanot Square
13.	Miskir Sebsibe		Street Child	9 September 2015, Nigus Tekle Haimanot Square

## KEY INFORMANTS

No.	NAME OF KEY INFORMANT	INSTITUTION	POSITION	TIME AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW
1.	Alemu Mekonen	Debre Markos town Women, Children and Youths' Affairs Office	Children and Gender Affairs Expert	02 April 2015, Debre Markos town Women, Children and Youths' Affairs Office
2.	Getnet Tamiru	Debre Markos town Court	Judge	03 April 2015, Debre Markos town court
3.	Temesgen Adam	Debre Markos University	Lecturer	5 October 2015, Debre Markos University
4.	Amid Ahmed	Debre Markos University	Lecturer	28 September 2015, Debre Markos University
5.	Yihun Asrat	Tesfa Social and Development Association	Monitoring Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Officer	17 July 2015, Tesfa Social and Development Association Office
6.	Baye Temesgen	Organization for Social Services, Debre Markos branch	Program manager	26 June 2015, Organization for Social Services, Debre Markos branch Office
7.	Muluken Abera	Health Development and Anti-Malaria Association	Project Officer	Health Development and Anti-Malaria Office
8.	Zewdie Alemneh	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Teacher	23 May 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
9.	Bezawit Feleke	Ede Tibeb Primary School	Teacher	23 May 2015, Ede Tibeb Primary School
10.	Wondeweson Tegegn		Parent	30 June 2015, at home
11.	Biyazen Tefera		Parent	25 June 2015, at home

**Note:** the name of key informants and child participants is changed for the sake of privacy and confidentiality.