

Abstracts
Social Work Thesis Research
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Abebaye Hailu Ergete. (2006). **Role of Faith Based organizations in Combating HIV and AIDS Epidemic in Addis Ababa: Case Study of Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. The emergence of HIV/AIDS epidemic has brought multi faceted challenges among the entire nations across the world. Particularly, it has affecting the developing countries human and material resources with retarded socio economic growth. In Ethiopia millions are infected and affected and suffering with result of huge impacts. This study tries to see the role of Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) played in fighting against HIV/AIDS in Addis Ababa. It focuses on case study of Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC) MEDAN ACTS Addis Ababa HIV/AIDS project in Kirkos sub-city. The study set out objectives and used qualitative methods and selected 25 samples using random sampling technique among 250 beneficiaries. The data sources are interview of beneficiaries, key informants interview of church leaders, Junior Secondary Schools directors, Iddir leaders, project manager and senior project staffs like IGA officer. The thesis examines the involvement of FBOs in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the past decades. Few literatures indicated that major religions organizations have played positive role in fighting HIV/AIDS including EKHC. EKHC has various departments working on different development issues including prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. Under EKHC intervention of HIV/ AIDS program indicate that the church has big share to combat HIV/AIDS. The thesis found that the majority of the respondents faced different challenges such as stigma, shelter problem, shortage of food and lack of medical treatment. Thus, the findings insist to give recommendations to service providers, humanitarian organizations, FBOs, policy makers and other associations working on HIV/AIDS to be involved actively in bringing effective and better performance to fight HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Abebe Assefa Abate. (2006). **Life Skill and its Contribution to Competent Workforce Development: The Case of Sociology and Social Anthropology and Psychology Undergraduate Students in Addis Ababa University.** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. Undertaking major investment in education to achieve rapid economic growth that will enable poor people to be the beneficiary has been taken as one of the means for Ethiopia to relay on. However, the links between policies and practices are not yet harmonized. This is mainly because of the lack of integration of life skill development, which includes value, identity and interpersonal development components with the intellectual development programs in the higher education system. This research therefore assessed the contribution of life skill to competent workforce development using both student survey and employer's key informant interview. The research findings indicate the lack of life skill development survives in the university system on the one hand and the existence of informal services that have been influencing student's life skills in the university on the other hand. Accordingly, the contribution of friends, relatives,

religious leaders and politician to help students learn some of the life skills while attending their study in the university are found to be the four top influential bodies.

Aissetu Barry Ibrahima. **Parents and Children in ‘Empty-Shell’ Families: A Case Study on Selected Families in Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Josh

Abstract. ‘Empty-shell’ family is a family setting where couples have no more sexual and emotional ties while they are still living together under the same roof with their children. This research is a case study that incorporates 15 individuals who are from five families, i.e. five couples who are parents and five children. The research tries to assess the causes that prompt families to be an ‘empty-shell’ and consequences of being in ‘empty-shell’ families on parents and their children. Furthermore, the underlying reasons why parents choose to stay in ‘empty shell’ families are assessed and the implication of social work for ‘empty-shell’ families is identified. This paper has also taken into consideration the ethical and cultural issues.

Andom Gessese Kassahun. **Strengths Approach for Community Livelihood Building Among Poor Women in an Urban Context in Ethiopia: A Study on Female Headed Households in Arada Georgis, Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. It is assumed that human strengths or human capital is significant in building community livelihood in an urban context. However, available information indicates that this strength is unable to be converted into money for better lives rather hidden in poverty. Absence of research specific to strengths in the Ethiopian context is thought to be one cause. The purpose of this study is, therefore, to analysis strengths [skills, capacities...] approach for community livelihood building among female headed households (FHHs) in an urban context and in addition a gap in research would be minimized. To this effect, primary data was collected through in-depth interview of fifteen cases by taking five from each of the following categories: successful; unsuccessful and their adult children. The same was brainstorm and supported by statistical data from skills inventory survey of 100 FHHs. In addition, key informants, direct observation and literature review methods were also used to increase the validity and reliability of the data collection process and its outputs. This study finds that poor FHHs are endowed with a minimum of six indigenous skills and capacities or human capitals. However, some skills mobilized/utilized for enterprise making while others are not. In this regard, due to different reasons, there is a different among successful and unsuccessful cases in utilizing these strengths into income generating activities. The lack in mobilizing, utilizing and transforming these strengths is not limited only to beneficiaries’ rather local development partners and adult children gave less attention in mobilizing and utilizing these human capitals. Existing practice in applying strengths approach for community livelihood building is found limited. However, this research outputs supported this approach has comparative advantages if it is given priority attention as major means and tools to bring change on the life of urban poor in the Ethiopian context. Strengths approach implication on research, policies/strategies, and actions and on social work application has also discussed in detail and some recommendations are forwarded.

Ashenafi Hagos Baynesagn. **Exploratory Study of Homelessness in Ledeta Sub-City of Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. Homelessness is one of the main problems that many countries, including Ethiopia, face. This thesis is an exploratory study of homelessness in Addis Ababa-Ledeta sub city, an urban slum area in the southwestern part of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of this research is two-fold: 1) to develop a questionnaire to assess homelessness in Ethiopia, 2) to find out the history and causes of homelessness, the challenges of living as a homeless person, and the strengths of the homeless in finding a way out from homelessness. The questionnaire was developed in two parts. First, individual narratives with 25 homeless individuals formed the basis for modifying an existing interview used with the homeless in New York City. The instrument was revised and tested with an additional 50 homeless persons. The final version of the Ashenafi Hagos Homeless Questionnaire was fielded with 100 additional homeless persons living on the street in tents and plastic sheeting, in shelters, and the hidden homeless who rent cheap rooms for the night in urban houses. The major findings of the study include: 1) factors which lead individuals to homelessness are rural-urban migration, early childhood experiences, and unemployment; 2) homeless people's sources of income include begging, working as a house-servant, and other secondary jobs; 3) preferable places of living are areas around hospitals, churches, colleges and at the sides of rivers; 4) major challenges faced by the homeless people are shortage of food, health problems, lack of security, discrimination and stigma; 5) single women and children face many challenges than other group of homeless population; 6) homeless individuals who are living in plastic accommodations face more challenges as compared to the other ones; and 7) most of the homeless believe that they can not be housed by themselves. The Ashenafi Hagos Homeless Questionnaire (AHHQ) can be used to understand the background of homeless people, the main causes of homelessness, the challenges they face, their ways of living, and their strengths. Implications for social action include: 1) provision of low cost housing and temporary shelter; 2) provision of training and employment; 3) provision of health facilities, 4) provision of conducive environment to educate homeless children; 5) legal coverage especially for women and children; 6) alcohol and chat recovery services programs; and 7) advocacy in order to gain support from the wider community and to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Amare Worku Degaga. **Empowerment of Youth Club: Experience, Opportunities and Challenges: The Case of 'Sele Tselote Egi' Youth Reproductive Health/HIV/AIDS Club in Oromia and 'Kal' RH/HIV/AIDS Club in Addis Ababa Region—Ethiopia.** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. From perspective of the youth club members, this study explores the empowerment experiences of Sele Tselote Egi (SAL) Youth Reproductive Health/HIV/AIDS club in the rural Oromia region of Ethiopia, and Kal RH/HIV/AIDS (KAL) club in the city of Addis Ababa. Thirty-two (32) participants (18 male and 14 female) who ranged in age from 14-25 years, contributed to the study. These participants represented leaders and members of the two clubs. Data for the two case studies was obtained by running in-depth discussion sessions with club members, as well as observation of the activities of the clubs, a review of club documents and the literature on RH/HIV/AIDS clubs in Ethiopia. Both youth RH/HIV/AIDS clubs are an important avenue for disseminating Reproductive Health/HIV/AIDS information to their members and peers. The major activities in which they are involved include conducting intensive peer-to-peer education sessions and mass edutainment activities such as theatre, drama, music songs, question and answer competitions, and other complementary services such as referral for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Reproductive Health/Family Planning (RH/FP) and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT). Although there are

some differences between the urban and rural clubs, in general, both clubs also mobilize club members for VCT, encourage girls for virginity tests, distribute condom and birth control pills, conduct non-formal education, and engage in community development activities like planting apple trees and dairy husbandry for generating income generation to support the club's initiatives. The major problems/challenges that youth in the two clubs face include: 1) fluctuating participation of club members, 2) lack of support from sponsor organizations, and 3) misconceptions about the role and work of RH/HIV/AIDS clubs by parents, church leaders, and the community. Capacity building measures such as training and material support in managerial and leadership skills, project coordination, strategic plan development, counseling, advocacy, conflict management, proposal writing, financial administration, and communication skills, are needed.

Bisrat Yared Fenta. Skilled Migration of Ethiopians Cause and Impact: The Case of Ethiopians in Washington, DC. Advisor: Dr. Abye Tasse.

Abstract. There are many reasons why people would want to uproot themselves from their established communities. The reasons and motivations for each migration are different. This paper analyzes the issue of skilled migration of Ethiopians by taking the case of migrants residing in Washington D.C. Purposive and snowball sampling method were applied to identify the respondents. The tools applied to collect data are in-depth interview guide and observation. For the compilation of the data, 20 skilled migrants were interviewed. The findings of the study gravitate towards “economic” reason, as the main cause for the departure of migrants to the destination. The study proposes some intervention modalities to address the migration of skilled people.

Dawit Tatek Yaszi. Review and Evaluation of the Care & Support Programs of Mekidim Ethiopia National Association for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and their Family.

Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. The situation of HIV/AIDS is very frightening in Ethiopia. It has brought multifaceted problems to the nation. As AIDS is more pronounced in the adult age group, their death left many children without parents. The civil society, governments and non governmental organizations has been implementing expanded and comprehensive intervention to won the pandemic. Mekidim Ethiopia National Association is one of these organizations. MENA is working in resource constrained settings and it was assumed clients might not be able to get the required services. This review and evaluation study which intended to give the current picture of the services and assess the differences made in the lives of clients, serves the purpose of informing and guiding HIV/AIDS program designers, policy makers, program implementers and researchers in improving interventions. The study used qualitative methods. The study found that the financial constraint in the association hindered to address the socioeconomic needs of clients. However, the other services helped most to live positively with the virus and to see their future with hope. To improve the quality of services MENA, is required to assure beneficiaries participate in the program, increase its financial status and to make timely monitoring and evaluation.

Dechassa Sisay Adugna. Empirical Assessment of Some Household Related Factors Affecting the Wellbeing of Children in Rural Areas: Particular Study of Two *Gandas* of Dawoo and Becho Districts. Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. A number of factors related to the households in which children grow up influences the wellbeing of children in rural areas. Some of the household related factors known to affect the wellbeing of children are the size of the household, children's parental status, education and health of the parent, household livelihood, and access to services. On the other hand, the children's wellbeing is indicated by status of their education, health, dietary condition and sanitation. Likewise, it was found that the households related factors do not uniformly determine these wellbeing indicators of children. Hence, factors that are relevant to education of children may not necessarily be relevant to health or other wellbeing indicators such as diet and sanitation. The directions of the relationship also vary from one variable to the other and are generally complex. Moreover, some of the findings of this research are consistent with previous studies while others are not.

Deribe Abera Hailu. **The Situation of Scavenging Children on the Waste Dumping Sites of Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. This research is conducted on the situation of scavenging children on the biggest waste dumping site of Addis Ababa. Currently there are more than 458 scavenging children with the age range of 4 – 18 years old. While we have such big number of vulnerable children who are scavenging on the waste dump site, waste is dumped by anyone with no control mechanism. So, the researcher has made an attempt to investigate the impact of such uncontrolled waste disposal practice, the psychosocial impact of being scavenging children, their group dynamic, family background, problems and causes of scavenging, risk factors including the possibility of being exposed to hazardous chemicals including lead, and radio active elements, laws and regulation related to children and waste management and the policy gaps, poor waste disposal practice and its adverse effect, on the life of children. As a result of this, it is found that the life of the children is at absolute risk because of higher possibility for exposure to hazardous chemicals and vector of diseases. The policy gaps with reluctant position of governmental institutions are identified. Important and affordable as well as applicable recommendations, policy alternatives, and operational suggestions are given in this research work including laws ratification, institutional strengthening, start up of new projects for psychosocial rehabilitation and preventive intervention on the site are suggested. At the end the implication of the problem to the social work profession is also mentioned.

Dessalegn Negeri Guyo. **Guddifachaa Practice as Child Problem Intervention in Oromo Society: The Case of Ada's Liban District.** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. The practice of adoption as an institution has existed long period in Ethiopian societies where the term guddifachaa used to represent it. It implies adopting a child by satisfying the economic, legal, and social rights. Guddifachaa practices assume different socioeconomic purposes, not studied widely. This paper presents about the guddifachaa practice as community based child problem intervention. It creates just environment for the next generations especially for vulnerable children, when the Cultural knowledge and practices revitalized within the existing social structures. A research attempts to define the social work profession with country's socio cultural context in that the Guddifachaa practice needs less resource, skills, and less expertise in the process. This practice has significant effect with the social work advocacy, lobby and integration to children welfare policies in the country.

Emebet Mulugeta Ayele. Workforce Development; Career Development, Preparation and Readiness of Undergraduate Students to Join the Workforce: The Case of Sociology and Psychology Students in AAU. Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. The central focus of the paper is to review and analyze the existing status of workforce development. Students do not get services that can shape their career future and are not exposed to the work environment to exercise their academic training. Therefore, it is apparent to ask where does one prepare to enter to the workforce: Is it before or after graduating from the university that students learn about the work environment? Both qualitative and quantitative data is collected from undergraduate students, employing agencies and recent graduates who join the workforce. Respondents were randomly selected from the departments of Sociology and Social Anthropology (SoSa) and Psychology by using stratified random sampling technique with fair representation of both sexes. Key informants' interview and group discussion guides were employed to collect information from possible employing organizations and young adults who join the workforce recently while structured questionnaire was used to collect firsthand information from undergraduate students. Different competency models were reviewed and used with some modification to fit the purpose of the research. The finding of the study has clearly revealed the existing gap between supply (university education) and demand (employers' expectation) and lack of career services to guide students in the process of their career development. This in general affects the effort of the university in producing competent workforce. Therefore, it is commendable that the university should give emphasis on the issue and work with the respective departments to meet the demands of employers as well as incorporate learning-for-work in the education system so that students will have a smooth transition from school to work environment. It is also suggested that the university should strengthen and establish career services in all the campuses.

Uthman Hassen Ahmed. A New Frontier in the Inter-Ethnic Relationship in Multi-Ethnic Ethiopia: A Study on the Role of Religion in Promoting Inter-Ethnic Integration in Beni-Shangul. Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. The study has a narrow focus on the religiously endorsed communication networks in promoting inter-ethnic integration between the case communities in Beni-Shangul. It is a modest inquiry to explore the contribution of religion on the ongoing discourses for the effective response to complex questions of ethnicity and their possible indigenous solution(s) through grass-root community perspectives and ideas that might stimulate reciprocated interactions. The study dealt with a brief historical venture into the nation-building period that has its intellectual significance with a precise consideration on the religion concentrating in its capacity of integrative-solidarity that cuts across primordial ethnic identities. The study does not address the metaphysical doctrines or beliefs and derivation from sacred scriptures since those are not the aim of the study. Additionally, it is not the aim, here, to provide religious ethnographic description of either ethnic community. The study is intended to offer a set of (Padgett, 2004:302) 'contextualizing' patterns of interethnic relationships through conducting the exploration 'by portraying the lived experiences' of the Bertha and the Settler communities in the context of social work theory, education, and practices, with general objective of contributing to the understanding, the dilemmas and discourses associated with ethnic diversity. Additionally, a goal is intended to have positive impact on the socio-political and economic development in contemporary Ethiopia. Specifically, therefore, the study addresses the problem by answering the general research question:

Do the collectively institutionalized religious networks and/or practices promote social integration between the Bertha and the Settler communities?

Garedachew Tiruneh Ejigu. **Situational Analysis of Orphan and Vulnerable Children in Bahir Dar Town, Northwest Ethiopia.** Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. The purpose of this study was to analyze and present the current situations of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Bahir Dar town. OVC were the unit of analysis for the study. Exploratory research design was employed. The data was gathered from OVC, caregivers, organizations working with children and community leaders, and FGD and IDIs methods was used to gather data. The findings of the study show the problems OVC becomes a great concern or threat for communities. HIV/AIDS was identified as number one factor for the increasing number of OVC. These children faced problems of food, clothes, access to school, medical care, stigma/neglect, improper inheritance of properties and psychosocial problems. OVC's accessibility for education was considered as their main needs. Community members were aware of the situation of OVC but they view OVC as the responsibility of their families, NGOs or government. Some Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Faith Based Organizations (FBO) were undertaking the support of OVC. More input at community level is needed for the safety nets of OVC. Local government and community leaders need to ensure children are getting their rights to education. Foster families need assistance to learn how to cope with more dependents and how to settle bereaved children through family life skill training. There is an increased need for grass root community action to curb the pandemic. The different players have different roles but currently there is too much reliance on NGOs. The challenge is to find low cost intervention which communities themselves can start. Communities need to advocate against cultural and social practices that are spreading HIV in their community.

Geneti Negassa Ghilu. **Stigma and Discrimination of HIV/AIDS Orphans: The Case of Orphans Supported by CHAD-ET.** Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. The study on stigma discrimination of AIDS orphans the case of orphans supported by CHAD-ET aimed at understanding the main causes, manifestations consequences and coping mechanisms of stigma and discrimination. It also aimed at exploring ways of reducing HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. The study was conducted In Addis Ababa city administration at Addis ketama sub- city, kebele 15 the cause of AIDS orphans supported by indigenous NGO known as Children Aid Ethiopia (CHAD-ET). For better insight and understanding of stigma and discrimination of AIDS orphans, the study was predominantly qualitative involving two focus group discussions (FGD), seven key informant interviews, and ten in-depth interviews. The findings of the research show that almost all who participated in the interviews and FGD have heard of HIV/AIDS and correctly mentioned some of the basic knowledge on transmission and prevention. Some participants exhibited detailed knowledge of HIV/AIDS along with the correct knowledge incorrect information and perception on transmission, prevention and care and support prevail and lead to stigma and discrimination of PLWHA. Consequently, PLWHA are associated with death, suffering, disfigurement of body and opportunistic infections are taken as absolute indicators of HIV infection. The research found that the main causes of stigma and discrimination of AIDS orphans are ignorance, fear, poverty and cultural and religious beliefs about sexually transmitted diseases. In the fight against stigma and discrimination, active and participatory education needs to be enhanced. This would reduce stigma and make care and support services desirable.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS need to be encouraged to lead an active role in society particularly in educating the community on HIV/AIDS. AIDS orphans need legal protection from government bodies and access to livelihood options.

Hailemichael Tesfahun Abreham. Determining Factors that Affect Pregnant Women's PMTCT Utilization of PMTCT Services: The Case of Health Facilities at Nazareth/Adama.

Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (MTCT) has infected a large number of infants in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Ethiopia. However, the risk of MTCT has dropped to as low as 2% in developed countries since the introduction of anti-retroviral drugs. MTCT can occur during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and after birth through breast-feeding. The prevention of MTCT depends on the health care system and community based organizations and structures. The purpose of this qualitative and evaluative study was to find out the factors determining the sero-positive mothers' PMTCT service utilization and know where the gap is. Findings revealed a number of factors for PMTCT service utilization. These center on lack of resource capacity at the health facilities to render necessary services, lack of coordinated care and support, lack of male partners' involvement, lack of home based care, safe-home birth practices, and lack of community involvement in the program. On provision of a range of services, the MTCT should not only focus on saving the child but also on the health and psychosocial well-being of the mother and the family.

Kassaw Asmare Wasie. Creating the Link: Formal and Informal Community Care Giving for AIDS Orphans. Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

The informal community support system has been significantly contributing to the care provisions of vulnerable members of many communities. Its contribution however has not been well recognized. Creating and/or strengthening the link between the formal and informal community support systems could give a new fertile ground in the delivery of services for AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. Creating the link and strengthening it would help to properly utilize resources including community structures and make services easily accessible to those in greatest need. By doing so, it is possible to support resource deficient communities and particularly orphans thereby creating an environment (habitat) that is conducive for their development. For the proper development of children resourceful social and physical environment is not sufficient. Children should also assume roles and statuses (niche) congruent to their age. Through process evaluation and a combination of qualitative data collection methods, and instruments designed to respond to the research objectives, an effort is made to describe the link created between the formal and informal caregiving, the benefit of creating the link and the trends in kinship caregiving. The nature of relationship created between surrogate parents and children is also described. Discussions are made based on the findings, the theoretical frameworks, literatures reviewed and based on the researcher's critical view of specific issue. Finally recommendations are made based on the findings of the research.

Meron Negussie Sime. The Living condition of the Next Generation in Slums in Addis: The Case Study of 10 Girls Living in 'Katanga' (Kebele 20/21 of Kirdos Sub-City). Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. The main objective of this study was to give clear picture of girls living in slum areas of Addis Ababa including their social, environmental and economic problems. Group discussion with key informants was done to discuss major issues which should be included in the checklist and to develop criteria for the selection of respondents. Pretest of checklist was done on two girls who were not included in the study. Ten respondents were identified by members of key informants group. Content analysis method was used to analyze the data. Four major categories were used to organize the information obtained. Exact words of the respondents are used to present primary data of the study. The findings of the study showed that girls living in slums have acute economic and social problems. The girls living in this slum are also exposed to reproductive health problems because of different environmental and socio-economic problems. Reproductive health orientation was very poor by family members and in school which exposed girls to complicated sexual problems. Of nine respondents who started sex in their early ages, eight of them had unintended pregnancy of which six gave live births while two underwent abortion. At the same time, none of these respondents used condom in their first sexual intercourse which could have expose them to sexually transmitted infections especially HIV/AIDS. The other finding in relation to reproductive health was that all the respondents had different experiences of sexual abuse and harassments especially in their neighborhood and in their way to school. Some were also engaged in child prostitution which is referred as children sexual abuse and exploitation as means of income to support their families economically. Finally, the findings showed that the girls' future aspiration is affected due to environmental and socioeconomic factors like lack of role mode, load of work, poor reproductive health orientations and its consequences. In general, the findings of the study showed that girls living in slums like 'Katanga' have complicated problems which made them to live in devastating conditions which later had negative impact on their aspirations.

Mesele Mengsteab Habtu. **Community Theatre as Cultural Intervention: The Case of the Samre Community Theatre Project on Evil-Eye Organized by the Tigray Arts School.**
Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. It seems that the traditional canon of conceptualizing theatre along the line of 'Art for Art's Sake' ends up in this epoch. Instead its practical relationship with the cultural, socio-economic, and political realities of societies is becoming more apparent and persistent. Thus, the need for community-based-theatre also emanates from its pertinent efficacy in bringing changes within a defined community. These types of theatres are developing and are frequently applied for issues akin to the process of community change, in the third world countries. Especially, most community-based theatres echo the very principles of Paulo Freire's (1993) *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, which underscores the importance of community's direct participation and their authentic values in education systems. By the same token, the Theatre Department of the Tigray Arts School (in Tigray) had organized a community-based theatre in 1999 within local community of one rural Woreda, *Samre*. The objective of this community theatre project was meant to specifically deal with the traditions of harmful perceptions particularly related to 'evil-eye' - with a view to bringing attitudinal change amid the cultural context of the whole community and to consequently benefit the target communities in the Woreda. Therefore, this thesis inquires into the efficacy of the Samre Community Theatre Project as a means of cultural intervention made to benefit the direct victims of 'evil-eye' in the given Woreda.

Meseret Daniel Desta. **Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Exposed to Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Outcome Evaluation and Program Analysis. (The Case of Forum on Street Children—Ethiopia).** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. This study assesses the outcomes of the Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration program for children exposed to commercial sexual exploitation which has been run by Forum on Street Children Ethiopia. The assessment is made toward examining the successes, challenges and prospects of the Drop in Center, the Safe Home project and the National Steering Committee against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in facilitating the appropriate conditions to assist children engaged in commercial sex work to bring about psychosocially and vocationally valued changes in their way of life so that they could be able to escape from exploitation. Accordingly, qualitative data collected from program documents, beneficiary children, families, project staff and partner organizations have revealed the considerable outcomes of the projects in promoting the physical well being, personal growth, livelihood development and social integration of children exposed to commercial sexual exploitation. Moreover, the endorsement of the National Plan of Action on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of children in Ethiopia is also distinguished to be a promising move to mitigate the challenges associated with resources, capacity and strategies to address the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in a more systematic and organized manner in the country.

Meseret Kassahun Desta. **Dallocha Women Water Development Association in Managing Community Water Project: Is It Empowering?** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. By taking Dallocha Women Water Development Association (DWWDA) as a subject, this study explores the involvement of rural women in managing community water project as an enabling factor to empowerment. The study is undertaken in Dallocha Wereda, 182 KMs south west of Addis Ababa, Silliti Zone of Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples State. Primary data has been collected by utilizing qualitative data generation techniques such as in-depth interviewing and focus group discussions. Field observations were also employed as a supplementary method. Related research studies, policies, journals, published and unpublished books and report papers have been reviewed and analyzed. Findings indicate that managing the community water project has enabled DWWDA members in increasing their decision-making power at household and within community level relative to their prior experience to their membership. The study highlights the contribution of DWWDA in challenging the beliefs and practices of patriarchal social relationships which expects men to hold decision-making power. Organizing women in association, increasing their awareness on various socio-cultural issues, building their management and leadership skill and availing important resources are found as enabling factors in the empowerment process. The study indicates the need for comprehensive intervention towards achieving empowerment of DWWDA members and to transform the cultural and normative context of the larger community in which DWWDA members participate.

Mesfin Mekonen Derseh. **Police Productivity in Criminal Investigation: An Assessment of the Performance Problem in the Guilele Sub-City Police Department.** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. Crime is among the major social problems that challenges society. It is, therefore, very important for social work practitioners to study just how the criminal

justice system operates. Among the various components of the criminal justice system the police are very crucial to the public demand for justice. This study focuses on the productivity of the police, and whether they deal effectively and efficiently in controlling crime. Because of the complexity of the police tasks, this research thesis limits itself to on the field of criminal investigation, and to the assessment of performance problems observed in one of the sub-cities in the city of Addis Ababa. Is there a standard to measure performance in the criminal investigation? What is the existing practice of measuring performance? Are the complainants satisfied with the performance of the police? How do the police and the prosecutors evaluate the performance level of the criminal investigation section? The study approach includes both survey and non-survey methods. Questionnaires were administered to assess the satisfaction level of complainants. Key informant interviews were conducted with detectives, detectives' supervisors, and prosecutors. Police statistics were also analyzed. The results were analyzed based on a triangulation method. The main findings of the study show that there is an absence of uniform measurement standards in the field of criminal investigation; there is an inadequate level of knowledge and skill on the part of the detective, along with extremely large work loads which cause most cases to be inadequate for prosecution; there is an incompetent leadership, poor motivation, and ethical problems, that decrease police productivity. Lastly the country's police departments have no clear and uniform direction. The study report finally suggests that a uniform application of community-oriented policing is the best strategy to improve police productivity.

Mindahun Gebretsadik Eshetie. **Employment Opportunities and Discrimination Against People with Disabilities: The Case of the Blind and Physically Impaired.** Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. Persons with disabilities do not equally and fully participate in the life of their society. They are denied of equal opportunities in the areas of education and employment. Thus, this research is aimed at studying the employment opportunity and work conditions of persons with disabilities. This research used both secondary and primary methods of gathering information. Various literature and research studies have been reviewed so as to use them as secondary sources of information. Focus group discussion and in-depth interviews were employed in this research. Ten visually impaired and five physically disabled employees in different agencies were interviewed. It has been found through this research that the blind and physically impaired studied had been discriminated during application and competition for jobs. Some had been discriminated on training and promotion. Special tools and needs were not fulfilled and addressed in their workplaces. The cause for the discrimination is mainly lack of awareness and attitudinal problems on the part of employers. This results in adverse psychological, social and economic effects in the lives of the disabled. Therefore, awareness-raising programs, policy and legislative measures, advocacy and other initiatives by associations of persons with disabilities are needed to curb this problem.

Moges Tafesse Wallelu. **Investigating the Impact of Media Advocacy in Framing Accessibility of Antiretroviral Treatment in Ethiopia: A Social Work Perspective.** Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. In Ethiopia poor health care infrastructure, stigma, low collaboration and coordination among agencies, and sustainability issues have endangered accessibility of Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) by PLWHA. Paramount among the stakeholders strategy to address these problems is advocacy using media as a significant tool. This research is a

quantitative and qualitative research based on survey and key-informants interview with ART stakeholders of governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, hospitals, US based universities, PLWHA associations and media agencies to investigate challenges, barriers and best practices of media advocacy to address accessibility of ART synergistically. According to the study, all stakeholders responded that there is a huge information gap of ART among the public. More than 82% of the stakeholders are engaged on advocacy and over 81% of them responded radio and/or TV is the best channel of advocacy tool. Even though 36% of the stakeholders responded that they have produced ART related broadcast messages, none of them are aimed to influence policies and decision makers to advance services of ART. Over 58% of the stakeholders responded that collaboration among themselves and with the media agencies to undertake vigorous media advocacy activities is not satisfactory. This study contrary to the fear appeal approach relies upon person-in-environment concept of social work and systems theory to improve accessibility of ART at various systems level. The study concluded that media advocacy practices by the stakeholders are limited and suggests media advocacy tool and recommendations for future directions.

Mulumebet Goshu Abebe. A Study on Contributing Factors to Adolescents' Reproductive Behavior in Slum Areas of Addis Ababa: The Case of Teklehaimanot Area. Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. Adolescents' reproductive behavior is mostly determined by interrelated factors. Therefore, this study has tried to see the underlying environmental factors and reproductive behavior of slum adolescents. For this purpose, 186 adolescents, in the age range of 15-19 and are residents of Teklehaimanot slum area, were identified through systematic random sampling. Among them, 54.8 percent and 45.2percent are female and male, respectively. Descriptive data and bivariate analysis were used to explore the existence of association between different variables. Accordingly, both male and female adolescents are well aware of the social values towards pre-marital sex and have perception of their vulnerability to reproductive problems. However, the majority are engaged in early sexual practice. The study has found that factors like dropping out of school, poverty, involvement in risky behaviors contribute for their sexual behavior. Therefore, a well integrated, social work intervention, implemented at different levels, is very crucial.

Mussie Tezazu Asmare. HIV/AIDS and Its Impact on the Traditional Support Networks of the elderly: The Case of Arada Sub City in Addis Ababa. Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. The purpose of this study is to assess and analyze the consequences HIV/AIDS on the traditional support networks of the elderly in Arada sub-city. The study focuses on assessing the impact of HIV/AIDS on the traditional support networks of the elderly; problems, aggravating factors and coping mechanisms of older people; and policy responses and the existing practices to address problems of older people. The methodology of the study was qualitative where primary and secondary sources of data were used. To collect the necessary data, the researcher employed key informant interview, focus group discussion, semi-structured interview, observation, in-depth interview and document analysis as major techniques. In this regard, interview guides, topical outlines, and observation checklists have been used. In the course of analysis, family care giving, community care and support through its institutions, supports of religious institutions, alms giving, and sporadic initiatives by associations and private

enterprises have been identified as traditional support networks of the elderly. Lack of basic needs; financial constraints; age related health problems; psychosocial stress and trauma; social exclusions; etc are the major problems of older people. Whereas, poverty, lack attention, absence of social security, death of children from AIDS, the myths and misconception related to aging and lack of elderly-targeted programs are the identified aggravating factors. HIV/AIDS is affecting the traditional support networks of the elderly in a variety of ways. It was concluded that though it is difficult to figure out the number of older people infected/affected by the epidemic. HIV/AIDS is changing the roles of the elderly from being the recipient of care to providers of care and support. In this regard, the researcher suggests a number of relevant areas of social work practice to address problems of the elderly. Accordingly, policy responses; advocacy and awareness raising to maintain the traditional support networks, and designing and implementing participatory older people-focused relevant social work interventions at micro, mezzo and macro levels are recommended.

Selamawit Abebe Kelbisow. **The Situation of children Imprisoned Mothers: The Case of Addis Ababa Prison.** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. Despite the increasing number of women in prison who have children, little is known about their children's situation during their imprisonment. This study attempts to assess the situation of children of imprisoned mothers. Survey method was mainly used for the purpose of data collection. Accordingly, 34 mothers in Addis Ababa Prison were asked about the situation of their 61 children. In addition, five children were interviewed about their condition. The findings indicate that children of imprisoned mothers live in a very difficult situation deprived of their basic needs and right. The findings have led to some recommendations that will help to curb the unfortunate situation of the children.

Serkalem Bekele Zewdie. **Divorce: It's Cause and Impact on Women and their Children: A Comparative Study between Divorced and Intact Families.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. The study attempts to investigate the causes of divorce; the economic and social impact of divorce on divorced women and the mechanisms used to adopt life after divorce. In addition, the study tries to assess the impact of parental divorce on the psychological, social and child parent relationship of children from divorced families. Data collection primarily relies on survey and supplemented with case histories, key informant interview, document analysis and observation of case proceedings at the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) and Arada Family Court. The sample size is based on principle of random sampling, which is proportional distribution of attributes taken in to assumption where 50% for each married and divorced family. Then with 95% confidence interval and 5% significance level the sample size became 384 for each group. Data collection instruments used for mother of two groups are structured questionnaires, including background information, forms of marriage, economic condition, social situations, information about their children and their husbands and ex-husbands. Children questionnaires have included background information and outcome measures of the children psychological condition, social and child parent relationship. Mean age at first marriage is lower in divorced group while the mean number of marriage is larger in divorced group. Marriage by abduction and arranged marriage found in high percentage in divorced group. Due to early marriage and absence of orientation of pre marriage and post marriage counseling, the decision of entering and termination of marriage is made poorly. Major factors of divorce are economic problems, fertility problems, pressure from friends or families, and difference in ethnic and religion

background reported. Between divorced and married family, there is difference in income, which is preexisted even during marriage. In post divorce the participation of divorced women in employment is mainly in the informal sectors that include pottery, selling homemade products, collecting wood. Therefore, children of divorcees are involved in economic activity to support the household income. Their living arrangement is affecting their relationship with their parents. Those who are living with single mother and father have better relationship with their parents than those living with the presence of stepparents. The psychological, social and child parent relationship of outcome measures of children from married and divorced families are compared using mean of the two groups. Divorce affects both child social relationship and child parent relationship. Divorce has negative impact and consequences on the lives of divorced women and their children therefore it needs due attention from government, non-governmental organization and helping professions including social workers.

Tadesse Hailu. **A Study on Street children in Dessie with Specific References to Admas Child Rehabilitation and Development Project.** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Abstract. The phenomenon of street children is recognized as a major social problem throughout Ethiopia. A very high proportion of Ethiopia's children live in or have experienced conditions which worldwide are recognized as pre-disposing factors to street-life involvement, namely poverty, natural disasters, family disintegration, aids, war and displacement of families. Dessie is the capital of South Wollo Zone of the Amhara National Regional State. The town has suffered the full consequences of recurrent drought, famine, and civil war for a prolonged period of time to become home to a multitude of acute socio-economic problems. It is estimated that there are in excess of 5000 street children in Dessie. This study was carried out with the purpose of studying the situation of street children's familial and socio-economic background, their involvement in street-life and their present life circumstances in Dessie. The findings indicate that the factors that contribute to the problem of streetism in Dessie are family breakdown, rural-urban migration, unemployment. Out of the thirty street children interviewed, the majority (63%) were fairly young boys in their teens or even younger, with no access to services such as education, health and social welfare. The educational achievement of these street children and of their parents is very minimal. These children are with no marketable skill. The majority of the households earn below the income level required to meet the minimum essential needs of their family. The study indicates that problem of street children cannot be ameliorated in isolation from the family setting where it exists. In order to bring permanent solutions to the problem, therefore, the study recommends programmes to target their help for both the children and their families.

Tamrat Terefe Belachew. **Orphan Girls Education in Addis Ababa: A Case Study.** Advisor: Professor Melese Getu.

Abstract. The problems facing orphans are multifaceted and the product of many interrelated factors. This study looks at the complexities related to the education of orphan girls in Ethiopia using the case study method. It assesses whether living arrangements influence orphan girls' access to education in the school under consideration, and identifies complex factors aside from living arrangements that further complicate orphan girls' access to education.

Tena Yigezu Gerbertsadik. **Effects of Gender Inequality on the Lives of Women: The Case of Kibet Town of Silti Woreda in SNNPR.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. The paper is aimed to study the effects of gender disparity on the lives of women in Kibet town of Silti woreda. The paper has tried to assess the living condition of women, their contribution in the household, their legal rights and their general socio-economic situation. Survey is the method used to generate data from sample respondents. In support of the primary data, available literature was reviewed. The survey result indicated that due to the socially constructed gender disparity women are deprived of their basic rights and over burdened with domestic tasks. They are also made to hold subordinate position in the household. The secondary position of women in the household affected the exercise of their legal rights. They are excluded from control and ownership of resources, access to education, credit services and other basic services. The low access to education resulted in low employment opportunities. In addition, lack of control and ownership over productive resources impede their decision-making power in both the household and the community. Due to all these factors, they are limited to the tedious and routine household tasks. With a little help from children, they perform all these activities from early in the morning to mid night.

Tenagne Alemu Ayele. **Inter-Country Adoption in Ethiopia.** Advisor: Professor Donna Petras.

Abstract. This qualitative study explores and describes the practice of inter-country adoption in Ethiopia. The study sample included 13 key informants, 11 in-depth interviewees, 15 participants in focus group discussions, and physical observation of the court, agencies and orphanages. Major findings included that while inter-country adoption serves many children well, inter-country adoption as practice in Ethiopia has various problems that compromise its effectiveness, such as: working relationships among organizations facilitating inter-country adoption, time and cost required to complete the process, reliability of documents presented to the concerned governmental agencies, and the legal structure of the process. Recommendations include that the Ethiopian government should revise the legal provisions to establish an effective system for inter-country adoption, illegal actors should be legally challenged, and technical provisions and supervisory mechanisms should support the working relationships among all legal actors.

Tesfaye Wolde Hussen. **The Situation of HIV/AIDS Infected and Affected Persons in Dessie Town, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia.** Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. The population structure of Dessie town is one of the main towns in Amhara regional state of Ethiopia where the young constitutes the largest proportion. The situation of HIV/AIDS in the region is one of the worst in the country with persistently high prevalence. It is estimated about three thousand HIV/AIDS infected people are found and Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) are considered some of the groups most heavily affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the town. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods was used to investigate the situations of HIV/AIDS infected and affected people in the town. For the quantitative part, survey questionnaire was utilized, and focused group discussion as well as key informant interview was used to collect qualitative data. Both qualitative and quantitative findings show that there is lack of sufficient access to basic services like food, health care, Shelter, education and economic support for HIV/AIDS infected and affected people in the town. There is lack of coordination of efforts and resources among the stakeholders. Programs and projects

have also been identified as being developed without studies and response analysis of the beneficiaries. Therefore, the study findings suggest the recommendations basically the coordination, follow up and control of HIV/AIDS activities in Dessie town should be strengthened.

Teshome Mengiste T/Medhin. **Needs, Problems and Responses to the Situation of AIDS Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC): The Case of Lideta Sub-City Kebele 01/18**. Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. This study was conducted in Addis Ababa city Administration, Lideta Sub-City, Kebele 01/18 to provide a relatively complete and reliable picture of the situation of OVC in kebele 01/18, focusing on the magnitude, characteristics, causes and consequences. The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative techniques to gather relevant information. Different categories of respondents, which were the units from which information was collected, had participated in this study. The total subjects of the study were 90. Data was collected using a structured, semi structured and unstructured questionnaire for different categories of respondents. A total of 50 heads of OVC households and 25 OVC age 10 and above participated. Investigation of the living arrangement of orphans revealed that the majority of them live within the extended family system. Each adult headed households care for approximately 2 OVC while child headed households care for three children. Many depend on support from NGOs, begging and house rent for livelihoods. Average income of the OVC households is Birr 157.40, and 62% have at least three meals per day irrespective of quality and quantity. The majority viewed their living standards as extremely poor and lives below average as compared with their neighbors. Most of the households surveyed had access to potable water and latrine, but not within their dwellings. Respondents from each institution also identified the major gaps in the implementation of OVC program and proposed solutions. In general, they observed that families and communities are the first line of response to the epidemic concerning orphan care. Strengthening capacities of families and communities, providing counseling services to affected children and their care givers, and looking for possibilities to reunite OVC like street children with their relatives are some of the recommendation of this study.

Wassie Kebede Reda. **Social Networks and Communication among Female Householders at ‘Gedam Sefer’ in Addis Ababa**. Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. This research on social networks and communication, conducted among female householders living in Kebele houses at “Gedam Sefer” in Addis Ababa, is a pioneer study in Ethiopia. There is not previous research on this topic in Ethiopia, perhaps not in Africa that attempt to understand the use of social networks to improve poor women’s way of life. Yet, the importance of social networks is commonly understood and highly valued in Ethiopia and Ethiopian culture. However, no empirical data available that help to understand how social networks work in Ethiopian society to improve the lives of poor communities such as female-headed households. A social network is defined as a set of actors/nodes (persons, organizations, points, edges) linked by social relationships or ties of a specified type. Participants in this research were female householders. Ten cases were selected out of a random sample of 100 female-headed households living in Kebele houses who participated in a previous study in the Gedam Sefer community. Profiles of the cases indicate that majority of them are from poor households with meager income and poor housing conditions. This study identified five forms of social network: 1) neighborhood, 2) friendship, 3) kinship, 4) gender, and 5)

ethnic-based. Most of the social networks are established within the geographic boundary where case informants are living. The results from this study further indicate that the roles and responsibilities of social network members within a given network system vary from one case to the other depending on the size, age and diverse purposes of the network systems they are engaged in. Physical communication among members of a given network is the best means of delivering information. For poor woman like those involved in this study, the role of social networks in responding to social and economic needs of network members is fundamental. Non-material values play important roles for individuals to choose their network types and members than material values. Case informants who have more members in their networks have strong interaction than those with few members.

Yared Getachew Teferi. **Cross Sectional Assessment of Violence Against Female Domestic Workers in Gulele Sub-City for Local Level Intervention.** Advisor: Professor James Rollin.

Yohannes Mekuria Aberra. **Community Responses to Provision of Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children—Constraints, Challenges and Opportunities: The Case of Chagni Town,Guangua Woreda.** Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield.

Abstract. The study was conducted in Guangua woreda, Awi Zone, Amhara National Regional state. The methods employed are qualitative, utilizing data collection techniques such as interviews with OVC caregivers, service providers, community-based organizations, civil society associations, and faith-based organizations. The research methods also include three case interviews with OVC and field observation. The main findings suggest that community awareness to the problem of OVC is relatively high in Chagni- town, but response to the problem is low. HIV/AIDS and poverty are the main factors that attribute to the vulnerability and problems of OVC and their caregivers. Almost all OVC and their caregivers live in abject poverty and are unable to meet their basic needs. The extended family and local HIV/AIDS projects are the main providers of care and support to OVC in the community. Nevertheless, some community initiatives exist. These include Egna-Legna Orphan and Street Children Association (ELOSACA), an OVC association, and care and support by community iddirs. The types of care and support provisions are mainly financial and material; medical, legal support and psychosocial support are generally non-existent. The main challenges that the community encounters in OVC care and support are stigma and discrimination, poverty and lack of policy and guidelines on community-based care and support. Policy and practice implications include the need for more extensive community assessments, and the need to build the capacity of local communities to respond to OVC, including advocating and lobbying for adoption and foster care, and comprehensive care and support. The study also suggests the need for more comprehensive community-based, integrative approaches that incorporate the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the community and poverty alleviation programs for children and families.

Zena Berhanu Sisay. **Care & Support of People Living with HIV and AIDS at Holy Water: An Assessment at Four Selected Sites in Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Nathan L. Linsk.

Abstract. This study is an exploratory qualitative research focusing on the experience of some PLWHA who are using holy water as a means of treatment for HIV/AIDS. Four holy water sites were selected purposefully from several sites in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian capital. These sites are among the famous places of holy water in the opinion of people. In-depth interview with 17 PLWHA and other forms of interviews with five voluntary

care givers and six church officials were conducted. Holy water use in the form of drink and shower is the main treatment used by the PLWHA together with other spiritual practices. It is found out that people went to the holy water sites ultimately for the purpose of getting cure and also to escape the stigma and discrimination they are facing in their original locality. The PLWHA have talked about observed changes on their lives while using the holy water. The knowledge, attitude and experience regarding the anti-HIV/AIDS drugs vary from individual to individual with different rationale of their own. Taking both holy water and Anti-Retroviral (ARV) drugs together (simultaneously) is found to be a controversial issue both among the faithful as well as the leaders of the church. Voluntary caregivers are the best support groups among others for PLWHA at the sites but with limited capacity. There is no other formal intervention at these sites by NGOs or other governmental organizations. These points have implications for social work interventions.

Zenebe Ayele Faris. Job Creation for Unemployed Youth: A Case Study of Two NGOs in Addis Ababa. Advisor: Professor Melese Getu.

Abstract. Alleviation of poverty is a major challenge for many sub-Saharan African countries. The success of any poverty reduction endeavor is anchored in the availability of sound policies and the participation of all concerned development entities, many of which are NGOs. One key area of intervention by NGOs is the provision of skills training combined with job creation and/or placement services. This intervention has enabled many unemployed youth to better negotiate and find work in the labour market and eventually pull themselves out of poverty. The main purpose of this study was to investigate the provision of training, job creation/placement and other related services provided, the strategy adopted by the two NGOs subject of the study to make unemployed youth productive member of society, and look at the satisfaction level of the beneficiaries. A case study method was used and sample NGOs were selected within Addis Ababa. The study participants were two managers, 56 former graduates, and 16 current beneficiaries. Purposive sampling was used to identify the former graduates. Information was gathered by examining various related documents, using key informant interviews, questionnaires, and focus group discussions. The findings of the study show that the two NGOs have played significant roles in reducing unemployment, uplifting the social and economic life of unemployed youth, and consequently alleviating poverty. The results are attributed to provision of high quality training, which places more emphasis on practical skills, job placement/creation service, upgrading and changing of the training curriculum according to the demands of the labor market.