

Abstracts
Social Work Thesis Research
July 2007 – 2nd MSW Graduating Class
School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University
<http://www.aboutsweep.org>

To obtain further information of the complete thesis, contact info@aboutsweep.org

Alegnta Felleke. (2007). *Child Labor in the Informal Sector: A Study on the Impact of Child Labor in the Case of Children who are Engaged in Blacksmithing Activity in Kolfe-Keranio Sub-City.*

Advisor: Professor Donna Petras.

Abstract. Child labor is widespread and growing phenomenon in today's world, especially in developing countries. Alike other developing countries, child labor is a pervasive problem in Ethiopia. Agriculture is by far the dominant sector of child employment in rural areas where child laborers are mostly engaged in the informal sector in urban areas. Though there are different types of child labor in the informal section, this study focused on children that are engaged in blacksmithing activity. The objective of the study was to examine causes and impacts of child labor on children engaged in blacksmithing activity in Kolfe/Keranio sub city. The study is descriptive in its nature and it employed a child-centered research. The study employed cross-sectional research design by using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The quantitative data were collected from the entire (45) children who were engaged in the blacksmithing activity in the study site by use of census survey and via structured interview schedule. The qualitative data were collected using focus group discussion conducted with the working children and observation. The findings of the study revealed that the children were pushed to work by various socioeconomic and cultural factors. The core causes of child labor identified in the study were poverty, societal attitude, rural-urban migration and peer influence. The study also revealed that the children were leading adult lives. They were working for long hours under conditions damaging their health and physical well-being. They were also deprived from meaningful educational opportunities that could open up a better future for them.

Anteneh Mekonnen. (2007). *Factors That Affect Pregnant Women's Decision to Utilize HIV Counseling and Testing for PMTCT: The Case of Antenatal Care Attendees at a Government Health Center in Addis Ababa.* Advisor: Professor Richard T. Winterstein

Abstract. Pregnant woman's knowledge about her HIV status plays the most significant role in modifying behavior either to remain uninfected or to prevent infecting male partner(s) in addition to protecting the child from HIV infection. Despite its importance, several barriers could affect pregnant women's decision. Therefore, identifying the factors constraining pregnant women's decision to utilize counseling and testing for PMTCT is the focal point that the research dwells in as objectives. Qualitative method of research was employed in which In-depth interviews, focused group discussion and observation applied as a means to collect primary data and information. Pregnant women were served as the subjects of the study while health professionals, government officials and NGO's representatives played momentous part being key informants for the study. The study recognized social stigma and discrimination as the major threat that the women have encountered. Besides, it commented the inadequacy of male partners' involvement for the betterment of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs. Similarly, the study discovered that inaccessibility of infrastructure has constrained the services being delivered

by the health institution. Even though pregnant women intended to conduct voluntary counseling and testing for PMTCT, matters like personal, social, economic and institutional factors have been hindering their judgment to utilize the service effectively. Thus, by exerting efforts that able to empower women's decision in line with poverty eradication it is possible to minimize the intensity of the problem.

Arega Gera. (2007). **An Exploratory Study of Health Seeking Behavior and Its Implication for Adherence: The Case of Antiretroviral Therapy Users in Zewditu Memorial Hospital.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. A qualitative research was deployed to explore the implication of health seeking behavior on adherence among Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) users in Zewditu Memorial Hospital. The primary data obtained from 20 ART users through interview and another 16 through focus group discussions. Study participants were selected purposely based on years of experience in attending ART in the Hospital and their self expressive ability. Among the major findings of the study, threat perception and perceived benefits has played the major role in influencing antiretroviral therapy adherence. Moreover, self efficacy, cues to actions, and perceived barriers to antiretroviral therapy have their contribution for adherence though it is less weighted as compared to threat perception and perceived benefits. As intervention modalities, the study forwarded integrating family and relatives' involvement, development of ART users self esteem, education on misconceptions and coping mechanisms for stigma and discrimination, psychosocial support, and integrating the available care and support programs with the ART program as an essential component for adherence. In conclusion, it was found that Adherence is subject to perceived susceptibility, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, cues to actions and self efficacy of individuals who are taking ART.

Aynalem Yigzaw Meshesha. (2007). **The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Livelihoods: Consequences and Barriers of Household Case Studies.** Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. This study attempts to explore the influence of HIV/AIDS on the livelihood of households. The study looks to gain an understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS on livelihoods from the respondents' perspective and their experiences. As part of this research process, respondents were encouraged to tell their own stories and relate them to their experience in their households. Their perspective is told as the member of a household who has experienced and been impacted upon by HIV/AIDS. These experiences provide valuable insights as to the relationship between HIV/AIDS, household and family relationships and livelihood income. The respondents' own narrative about their household reveals with considerable clarity how HIV/AIDS significantly affects their livelihoods. The number of households addressed consists of 26 households in two towns of Ethiopia. The research employed a qualitative method focusing on infected and affected households of different ages and sex of household members. The research methods include interviewing and observation. Finally, the research assessed the capability of the households and communities to cope with the problem and made recommendations.

Belayneh Dagneu. (2007). **The Vulnerability of Unemployed Urban Youth to High Risk Sexual Health Behaviours: A Case-Control Study In Gullele Sub-City, Kebele 08/16 Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi

Abstract. In the past urban youth unemployment and their exposure to high- risk sexual behaviors have been poorly understood. These days, however, the issue of adolescents, in general, and unemployed urban youth, in particular are becoming a serious public health concern, and has gained recognition. Adolescents without basic skills relevant to the local market have limited job

prospects. Thus, long-term unemployment leads to idleness and hopelessness, and in turn linked to risky factors, which further pushes them to be engaged into risky sexual behaviors. The objective of this study is to explore whether or not urban youth unemployment makes youth vulnerable to selected high-risk sexual behaviors. A cross-sectional, case-control study was conducted in Gulele Sub city, Addis Ababa in April 2007. One kebele was randomly selected from ten kebeles. A systematic random sampling method was used to identify households. The sample interval of every 31 households was visited to get the required number of study subjects. Frequencies of distribution, Chi-square and Odds Ratio (OR) with 95% Confidence Interval were used in data analysis. A multiple logistic regression analysis was performed using SPSS version 11 statistical program to assess the relative impact of variables on risky sexual behaviors. The study revealed that about 58.2% of unemployed youth reported to have had sexual intercourse. Statistically significant and positive association was found between cases and premarital P< 0.05 [OR = 104, 95% CI .018, .605] and between alcohol intake and khat chewing habit with premarital sex in unemployed study subjects, P<0.05 [OR = .37795% CI .131.080]. The paper concludes that most of the high risk sexual behaviors, simultaneously with habits of risky factors were found to be more in unemployed study population than their counterpart employed youth.

Beza Bekele. (2007). **The Exposure of Women to HIV/AIDS: Societal Explanations.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. The gender dimension of HIV/AIDS reveals that, owing to the social, cultural and economic reasons women comprise an increasing proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. In reducing the exposure of women as well as decreasing the overall prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS, addressing gender factors are core issues to be critically considered. The general objective of this study rests on looking at how the societal construction of femininity influences the vulnerability of women to HIV/AIDS in Bahir Dar town. This study used in-depth interview and focus group discussion methods as major primary data collection techniques. Purposive sampling technique is employed to select sample organizations and thereby 31 respondents. The finding of this study reveals that the societal values attached to femininity have great influence on the sexual behavior of women and their access to information and services on HIV/AIDS, increasing their exposure rate to HIV infection. Based on the finding of the study possible intervention areas, like design conducive environment towards the empowerment of women and gendered approach to HIV/AIDS, are also forwarded.

Bezabih Tolsa. (2007). **Assessing the Socio-Economic Impact of Self Help Groups: A Case to Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Nazareth Integrated Urban Development Project.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen

Abstract. many years passed by, different attempts have been made to mitigate the effect of poverty in many parts of the world. In sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries, various development efforts have been tried to avert the miserable living conditions of the poor; but many of them remained unsuccessful. As one of the sub-Saharan Africa countries, different attempts had been made to improve the life of the poor in Ethiopia. The Self Help Group (SHG) development strategy is one of those efforts; and it is a community owned and managed poverty alleviation program designed to empower the poor in general and the poor women in particular. Adama, the town where this study was conducted, is one of the fast growing towns in the country, and it has various social problems. Population influx, unemployment, lack of housing, lack of basic facilities, etc were the salient problems from which most of the residents are suffering from. To lessen the impact of these problems, various measures have been undertaken by different governmental, non-governmental, and civic organizations; and the Self Help Group development approach that the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Nazareth Integrated Community Development

Project is undertaking in the town is one of those attempts. In view of the fact that the SHG is a newly introduced development model in Ethiopia, the purpose of this study was to assess its social and economic impact on the life of the poor. In the process of assessing the impact of SHG, seeking answer to the research questions “Has participation in the SHG enhance the economic and social capacity of the poor women; and thereby contribute to the national poverty alleviation effort?” was made. In order to come up with an adequate reply to the questions under the study, both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies were employed. Data gathered from various groups of respondents were then analyzed and summarized. Improved saving habit, enhanced access to loan, wider opportunity to involve in different kinds of individual and group IGAs, improved decision making power of SHG members at household, group, and community level, participation in various trainings and the resulting increase in knowledge and skills, and improved household consumption were some of the major outcomes of involvement in SHGs. Besides, social cohesion created due to group interaction and mutual support among SHG members were also found to be valuable gains of involvement in SHGs. The SHGs that the NCDP is undertaking in Adama town consisted of disempowered poor women whom almost half of them were either divorced, separated, or widowed women who shouldered the responsibility of earning an income for their families. Likewise, social work is a profession that is concerned in helping underprivileged members of the society, enhancing the well being of people within their social context and addressing the well-being of society as a whole. Such a resemblance of the two services calls for the close working relationship between them. Thus, self-help groups, as an empowerment approach, needs to closely collaborate with social work service provision organizations for the better benefit of their clients.

Biresaw Geremew Tegegne. (2007). **Opportunities and Challenges of Gender Mainstreaming in Selected Sector Bureaus in Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi

Abstract. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy adopted by the Beijing Conference (1995) for pursuing gender equality. According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, it is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in any area and at all levels. The overall objective of the study is to assess and to examine the existing gender mainstreaming practices in selected bureaus in Addis Ababa, namely Bureau of Finance & Economic Development (BOFED), Women’s Affairs Office (WAO), and Education Bureau (BOE). The methods of data collection include semi-structured interviews; focus group discussion, checklists and document analysis. Those informants who are currently working as deputy bureau heads and department heads in the two sector bureaus in general and in Women’s Affairs Office in particular had better understanding on concepts like gender, women in development, gender and development and gender mainstreaming. However, planners, senior experts and junior experts in BOFED and BOE, did not properly understand gender as a socially constructed roles and responsibilities assigned to women and men in a given society. Addis Ababa Women’s Affairs Office is hindered in the implementation of gender and gender related activities. Some constraints include a limited role in decision-making, shortage of staff, budgetary limitations and a lack of capacity to give technical assistance for line sector bureaus as the Office is not placed at the cabinet level. The findings suggest that the National Policy on Ethiopian Women cannot substitute for gender policy. Thus, there is a need to formulate gender policy with broad objectives in order to improve gender mainstreaming practice at all levels in the country and, and in particular, in the study sectors.

Debebe Ero. (2007). **Sexual Abuse of Male Children in Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor James E. Rollin

Abstract. Child sexual abuse is a complex social problem that threatens the well being of children in Ethiopia. The problem seems to persist in the society despite the lack of attention due to cultural, traditional, and religious factors that considers it a taboo and restrains people from openly addressing the issue. This research investigates how social systems and institutions and the change in the social structure either contributed to the prevalence of or failed to address the needs and rights of abused children. It will look into the major causes, consequences of the problem, how existing facilities responded and its implication for social work practice as a growing discipline in Ethiopia. The study describes the problem based on the information generated from reported data to the police, administration of questionnaire to 21 abused children, and information from in-depth interviews with four victim children and young persons. The study found that the family which is responsible for character formation and socialization is challenged with problems of adjustment with changing environment. Families cannot properly control and guide growing children who become either abusers or victims of sexual abuse. Other institutions like the legal system are not functioning properly to protect children from abuses. Abused children encounter serious psychosocial, physical, and emotional problems and in some cases the abuse has influenced their sexual behaviors. Interventions pertaining to the empowerment of families, and strengthening facilities available for children would help to prevent the problem and establish effective responses for abused children. Social work interventions should focus on mezzo and macro level interventions.

Deressa Kenea. (2007). **Measuring Community Housing Need Satisfaction: The Case of Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia Shashemenne Low Cost Housing Project.** Advisor: Alice K. Johnson Butterfield

Abstract. Housing is a critical social problem in Ethiopia. In recognition of this, Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia has helped people living in a poor housing to become homeowners in Shashemenne town. The overall objective of the research is to assess homeowners' satisfaction with their Habitat home. In order to achieve this objective, a household survey was conducted on 72 Habitat homeowners head and in-depth interviews on four Habitat homeowners. The survey instrument form obtained from Habitat for Humanity of East King County, USA and was used with modification in accordance with the local context. The research finding revealed that all Habitat community homeowners are extremely poor. The majority have elementary education (53%) and no school background (14%). Average monthly family income of the respondents is Birr343.70 (\$ 38.20 USD). Per capita monthly income for an average family size of 5.5 is about Birr 62.00 (\$ 6.90 USD), which is too small to satisfy their basic needs. About 57% of the respondents are engaged in self-employed micro businesses. The rest are employees of private firms as guards, cleaners, salesmen and daily laborers. Even though Habitat has enabled poor families to build their own homes, the ethnic and religious composition of the community appears to be unfair in accordance with Habitat for Humanity's mission statement. The homeowners are generally satisfied with the whole process ranging from the family selection to receiving their respective houses. However, some expressed their dissatisfaction with the mortgage payment and with access to the basic utilities and social services in their respective home and community. There are multiple areas for social work practice to play enabling, networking, advocacy and counseling roles. Low cost housing policy is required to encourage NGOs, local governments and private sector to provide the wider urban poor community with simple decent houses.

Ermias Bezabih. (2007). **Anti Retro Viral Treatment- its Social and Religious Challenges (The Experiences of 32 Members from Two Associations -Tesfa Setechign Mariam and Mekdim Ethiopia).** Advisor: Professor Meles Getu

Abstract. There are anecdotal evidences suggesting that the rollout of ART in Ethiopia facing challenges from social and religious directions. These social and religious challenges have attracted the interest of the writer of this thesis. And the project has been conceived with the objective of identifying the social and religious challenges of ART program at the selected two PLWHA associations. For the study, cross-sectional qualitative research method was applied. In-depth interview with selected twenty individuals and focus group discussion with two groups (each had six participants) were conducted. Moreover, four key informant interviews were also carried out. The study suggested that there are different knowledge and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS and ART that affect the uptake of ART. We can categorize the participants' attitude towards using ART in to three. The first group strongly disagrees with the idea of using ART considering it as a weapon of Satan. This group of participants believes that HIV/AIDS is a punishment sent from God or it is caused by evil spirit. For them, it can be cured and has to be treated only by holy water. The second group regards ART as a supporter of the holy water. So, they believe in taking ARV with the holy water concomitantly. The other attitude supported with few informants was using only ART to treat HIV/AIDS. Respondents expressed their fear saying that the spiritual practices like fasting and going to the holy water sites in cold weather may hamper the therapy of ARV drugs. In addition to religion, social factors are also play significant role in affecting the ARV intake. Most are taking the drugs secretly in fear of the stigma and discrimination they may encounter. Especially, members of Mekdim Ethiopia National Association were subjected to this situation because they are living in the inner part of the city. In spite of some problems in using the drug and holy water simultaneously at the holy water site, the social relation at Entoto locality is encouraging for the users. Most of the respondents who were living at Entoto have no interest to leave the place because they are socially free there. In conclusion, the issue is waiting for large scale study in order to measure the magnitude of the problem and for implementation of possible measures at a wide range to abate the problems.

Ermias Tesfaye Teshome. (2007). **Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: The Case of Children Aid Ethiopia and Forum on Street Children Ethiopia In Addis Ketema Sub-city.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. The purpose of this is study to assess the response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Addis Ketema sub-city of Addis Ababa. Sexually exploited children were the unit of the analysis. An exploratory cross-sectional survey, in-depth interview, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and observations were employed to produce qualitative data. A total of 63 respondents representing sexually exploited children (SEC), child and girls' clubs, organizations working on sexually exploited children and polices were part of the study. The failure of social institutions mainly the family, education and polity to properly function their roles are major causes for CSEC. CSEC has consequences both on the SEC, the lives of girl children and work culture of 'balukas'. There are few NGOs implementing prevention and rehabilitation programs, though there are no significant changes observed. The lack of awareness among the general public and some law enforcing bodies, dearth of financial and human resources, lack of accountability and coordination among actors, and leaving the problem aside to 'others' are some of the challenges. The study also recommends relevant points which have social work implication at practice, policy and research levels.

Ferework Neda. (2007). **An Exploratory Study Of Child Out-Migration in Ethiopia: The Gurage Case.** Advisor: Alice K. Butterfield

Abstract. There are various interrelated and diverse factors that motive or push children to migrate from their place of origin to the cities. This research explores the causes that push or motivate children for out-migration from Edja district, Dessena Kebele to different cities in Ethiopia. Eighteen (16) individuals were selected to participate in the research as respondents from the community using single criterion; that is sending at least one child to the cities. In-depth interview and field observation were used to collect data from the respondents of the study. As the finding of the study indicated the major causes of child out-migration to the cities are related with the economy of the district. But there are other factors, like the positive perception of the community respondents about life in the cities, large family size, poor health and educational services that push or motivate children to migrate to the cities. The implication of this study for social work practice is that social worker may intervene in raising the awareness of the community about the negative effects of child out-migration, the importance of education for children's future career development and the benefit of having small family size. Besides, it could be suggested that since child out-migration is one of the livelihood strategies of the community it could be difficult to minimize child out-migration. Thus, teaching the children as well as the community how to overcome the problems the children may encounter in the cities. Generally, economic poverty of the community is one of the major causes for child out-migration.

Habtamu Getinet Desta. (2007). **Opportunities and Challenges of Networking Among Organizations Working on HIV/AIDS Care and Support Services (Assessments of Arada Sub- City in Addis Ababa).** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. The overall objective of this research is to assess opportunities and challenges for networking among organizations working on HIV/AIDS care and support services in Arada Sub City, Addis Ababa. Accordingly a qualitative research method sample survey was utilized in order to assess the roles that networking could play among AIDS organizations in the sub city. Hence, 3 AIDS organizations (out of 28), currently working on HIV/AIDS care were selected purposefully taking their performances indicators into consideration. Various AIDS service organizational performance indicators like the numbers of beneficiaries, program components, follow-up mechanisms and organizational capacity were criteria for selecting sample organizations in the study. Furthermore taking their positions and relations to HIV/AIDS care into consideration, 30 concerned individuals (10 from each organization) were selected as respondents of the study. Accordingly, from this organizational assessment it was found that networking among AIDS organizations plays various roles in avoiding program and beneficiary duplications (major sources of resource wastage) and a means of experience sharing. Under certain conditions, networking has also a role for resource sharing and even could help AIDS organizations in the Sub City to solve their problems with united efforts. In spite of all these opportunities however, this organizational assessment in the Sub City has come across with challenges of networking among AIDS organizations. Accordingly, lack of organizational as well as individual commitment was the prime challenges of networking among AIDS organizations. Furthermore, resource constraints for network activities, lack of transparency among partner AIDS organizations, primarily due to competition for funds, and policy initiation and implementations in the area were also found as challenges of networking among AIDS organizations in the sub city.

Habtamu Mammo Manaseb. (2007). **Assessing the Patterns and Trends of Crimes against the Women: Reported Cases of Eight Districts in the SNNPRS (September 2001 to August 2006).**

Advisor: Professor James E. Rollin

Abstract. Since there is reportedly a gross human right violation-taking place against the women in our country, this study has been conducted to assess the patterns and trends of crimes committed against the women in the selected eight districts of the SNNPRS. In addition, the findings will serve as a benchmark in monitoring crimes against the women in the future in the study areas and beyond. Thus, the reported cases of the last six years (2001-2006) have been collected from the police stations of each district. The tools used in analyzing the data include: the incidents/prevalence of crimes per 10,000 women population/year, patterns and trends of crimes, arrest rates against the reported cases, socio-demographic characteristics of the offenders, etc. During the period, a total of 1221 (and seventeen different – being dominated by marriage by abduction, rape, polygamy and physical assault – crimes) cases have been reported to the districts. The crime incidents reports for per 10,000 women have increased from 120 in 2001 to 435 cases in 2006, with an average annual prevalence of 2.0% /10,000 women. The crime cases seem to have been lower in those districts with high arrest rates. The violent crimes and the crimes related to Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) constitute the greatest proportions of all: 45% & 42%, respectively. Around 70% of offenders share same households and neighborhoods with the victims themselves indicating that the women are indeed highly being abused by the men who are well known to them. Delinquent offenders (8%) and ex-convicts (12%) are responsible for 20% of the reported crime cases. The risk factors for victimization of the women include HTPs, illiteracy, etc. The official statistics have limitation in disclosing the crimes against the women in our country compared to some victim survey results.

Henok Bizuayehu. (2007). **Vulnerability to Little Akaki River: Health and Social Risks on the Inhabitants of “Hechu” Peasant Association.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen

Abstract. Despite various environmental problems in Ethiopia, this study focuses on the pollution of the Little Akaki River. The objective of the study was to assess the impact of river pollution on the lives of the inhabitants of the “Hechu” Peasant Association. The study is descriptive in its nature and it employed a cross-sectional research design. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The quantitative component utilized a survey study and employed the purposive sampling technique to select 72 heads of households that were interviewed. The qualitative method used two focus group discussions and direct observation. Members of the focus group discussions were the inhabitants of the association, but not necessarily head of households. The study revealed that the river pollution has affected the inhabitant’s health seriously. Water related human health problems such as typhoid, dysentery and amoeba are commonly reported among the inhabitants. As a result, the major problems experienced by the inhabitants were increased medical expenses, low agricultural production, problems on children’s education and financial loss due to labor hire. In addition, the dwellers face the death of animals due to toxic pollutants, decline in production and decrease of animal body weight. The study revealed that the respondents that were economically poor tend to be strongly affected by the river pollution when compared with the well-off and middle-class respondents. The study also revealed that the inhabitants did not take any measures to stop the river pollution. However, they took precaution measures to reduce the effect of river pollution on their health like changing the water into alcohol, and adding ash on the water and filtering the river water using cloth.

Hussein Seid Hassen. (2007). **An Assessment of Community Participation in Upgrading Slum Houses: A Study in Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield

Abstract. The purpose of this study is to assess the mode and the level of community participation as well as motivating factors that make community members participate in the upgrading program of rundown houses in the Kirkos sub city of Addis Ababa. The participants of the study were community members from the neighborhood groups, arbitration committee, facilitators and the ordinary residents. The study was descriptive and explanatory in nature, and cross-sectional study design was applied. The participants of the study were four categories of people and qualitative data collection tools of interview, FGD and observation were used to generate primary data. The findings of the study show that community members have different forms of participation in the program, and are participating as facilitators, supervisors and daily laborers. The neighborhood groups working at four levels from family to kebele are more engaged in identification of dilapidated houses for the upgrading program, prioritization, supervision of activities of other groups and mediation of conflicts. The arbitration committee together with the neighborhood groups involve in the arbitration of conflicts in the community. The majority of the poor members tend to participate as daily laborers while the well-to-do residents of the community occasionally assist the daily laborers and facilitators. These activities are additional to their participation in the meetings arranged for different purposes. The situation of poverty and level of education for the daily laborers, public respect for working on behalf of the community in the case of neighborhood groups, and social services (mainly to the arbitration committee) are seen as motivating factors. Contrary to this, low level of education restrains them from involvement in the crucial processes at the planning and decision making stages. All in all, the study investigated that none of the community members (whether elderly, youth, illiterate, educated, or men and women) are denied to take part in the program though they mainly participate in the implementation stage. Furthermore, none of these groups dominate the process of the upgrading program of the rundown houses. Rather, all categories of community members are working as facilitators of the implementing organization that controls the key processes of planning, decision making and designing of the program. The implication of the study shows how important is involvement of community members in the community development programs. Challenges observed also indicate areas that social workers contribute to address drawbacks.

Mekdes Yirga. (2007). **The Situation of Street Working Children: The Case of Child Vendors in Three Selected Areas of Addis Ababa.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. This thesis deals with the investigation of the living, and working conditions of street vending children in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The study examined the positive and negative consequences of working on the street on the lives of these children from the perspective of the working children themselves. The study also attempted to investigate the socio demographic characteristics of street vending children. The study was mainly based on primary data which is collected using unstructured interview and observation. A total of 30 street vendor children (age ranged from 5-17) from three sites: Merkato, Stadium and Arat kilo were interviewed. These three sites selected because high concentration of street vendors is observed in these area. Qualitative method of analysis was employed for conducting the research. The findings show that children as early as five years are involved in street vending. The main reason for children participating in such activities is found to be poverty. Most of the families of the children in the study are poor that enforce children to work. As the study revealed children contribute 3-15 hours of work per day. Most of the children work the whole week including weekends. The high work efforts hinder the children from attending school. According to the assessment 60 percent of children attend school. The remaining 40 percents are either dropouts or never enter school. The study identified shortage basic needs (food, cloth and shelter), access to

education, health problems, physical and verbal abuse, psychological problems arise from worries and risks; and habit and addiction to intoxicants as major problems encountered by street vending children. The study showed that street vending children also gain benefits from working on the street. The major one is income (money) which plays important role on the survival of most of the children and their families. The study applied the “balance model” developed by McKechnie and Hobbs in determining the cost and benefit of the work. Different variables: the number of hours worked, the type of job being done, when the hours and days are worked, working conditions, and age are discussed. The problems children encountered are considered as “costs” and the income (money) and social benefits they get from their work considered as “benefit.”

Mesfin Jonfa. (2007). **Effectiveness of Community Conversation as a Tool of Empowering Communities in the Prevention and Control of HTPs: The Case of Abela Kebele, SNNPR.** Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield

Abstract. Community Conversation (CC) is hoped to be a competency-based development approach and has been working as a tool aiming communities’ empowerment. Contrary to this, there are questions as to how these efforts by NGOs uphold such a framework. That is there is a claim that development agents do create the local people’s abilities and enable them active participant as a means of empowering to be the owner of development endeavors. Goal Ethiopia has been working as a strategy that initiates and promotes CC among community members of Abela kebele as communication for change through capacity building to prevent HIV/AIDS and its fueling factors, harmful traditional practices (HTPs). Data for the study was collected through interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis. Respondents of the study were residents of the kebele and some key informants at Goal Ethiopia program staff and woreda level. A total of 68 respondents were involved. The study showed that HTPs were commonly used, and the communities sustained these practices as beneficial and valuable ones. The main reason was deep-rooted cultural influences. Female genital mutilation, abduction and widow inheritance were the three top harmful traditional practices found in this particular community. People’s involvement in CC meetings brought about behavioral, attitudinal and knowledge changes. Participants in CC meetings were actively participating, freely exchange ideas and opinions and accept views of others. In contrast to this, some elements of empowerment like community resource mobilization, community capacity enhancement, sustainability, duality between government and community were not addressed. Legal and human right issues were not incorporated in the program.

Mengiste Ayele. (2007). **Orphans and Problems of Property Stripping: A Case of Orphan Beneficiary Children at Action For Self Reliance Organization.** Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi

Abstract. Sixty children were selected from Action For Self Reliance support program for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The adult group of respondents included representatives of various governmental and non-governmental organizations, Iddir leaders, school, Kebele administration, persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and the police. Orphans in the community encounter various and complex problems, which have adverse effects for their growth and development. Other than the basic needs of shelter, food and clothing, a lack of or limited access to health and education facilities are common challenges. In addition to these, inadequate parental care deprives orphans from getting love and affection from their parents or guardians. Double orphans as compared to half orphans are found to be victims of property right violations. As compared to half orphans, double orphans are much more exposed to a violation of rights to own the properties of their parents. This can be attributed to various factors including the exposure of the deceased parents’ property to abuse and exploitation especially when the children

are in their tender age and with no one to look after them. The study also confirmed that close relatives, especially aunts/ guardians/ grandparents are the most common violators followed by neighbors of the deceased parents. However, cases of such violation are hidden and their chance of going to the legal system is very slim. Violation of such types are both undertaken and hidden at the family or neighborhood levels. The motives behind property violations are many, but the most common ones include selfishness, ignorance (low level education), material thirst, poverty, lack of awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the limited culture of writing a legal will.

Meron Ayele. (2007). *Early Adolescent Girls' Participation Experience in Family with Special Reference to Play and Friendship: The Case of Adolescents from Dual-Parent and Mother-Only Families.* Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi

The prime objective of the study is to assess the participation experience of early adolescent girls' living in dual-parent and mother-only families that are from low socio-economic strata. Sampling was made based on a pre-defined inclusion criterion used to select girls were age (10-15), sex, family type (dual-parent and mother-only families) who were affiliated with Ethiopian Gemini Trust, and were interested to participate. The mothers' of the girls were selected on the basis of family type and their willingness to participate. From the list of 125 girls aged 10-15 that were registered under the Family Care and Case Management Department, 30 girls each were chosen and interviewed from each of the two categories: dual-parent and mother-only families. Two focus group discussions were utilized. A preliminary focus group discussion identified girl's issues that were of concern and frequently limited their participation in the family. Twelve different issues were singled-out that impeded participation at home as perceived by the girls. Play and friendships were identified as the most prominent two issues by consensus of the group members. The outcome of the discussion was used to develop the interview guide that was the main source of information for the study. The second group discussion was conducted with 12 mothers (six from each family type) to obtain their particular perspective on their knowledge and opinion regarding early adolescent participation, and the practice of participation with regards to play and friendship in the family. The participation experiences of the participants are examined, particularly from the perspective of play and friendship. The study assesses knowledge and opinion regarding early adolescent girls' participation. Second, the study explores respondents' experience of participation in relation to play and friendship. Third, it identifies the barriers to the realization of participation in the family. And finally, the study looks at the negative impact of non-participation on respondents.

Mezegebu Zemene Zerihun. (2007). *Psycho-Social Problems of Aids Orphans: The Case of Welfare for the Street Mothers and Children Organization (WeSMCO).* Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi

Abstract. This study attempted to identify the psychosocial problems of AIDS orphaned children at Welfare for the Street Mothers and Children Organization (WeSMCO) in Addis Ababa. Children made orphaned due to HIV/AIDS are those severely impacted on by psychological and social problems. Interview guides and focus group discussion guides were employed. Data were collected from 30 AIDS orphans, 7 voluntary caregivers, 3 key informants who are working in WeSMCO, 2 focus group discussions with AIDS orphaned children, and observation. Accordingly, the data collected from these respondents were analyzed thematically. AIDS orphaned children were selected by using purposive sampling method. The results of this study revealed that HIV/AIDS orphans face multi faceted problems. They face severe psychosocial problems during illness and after the death of their parents. They experience depression, anger, guilt and fear of their future, sadness, hopelessness, stress, anxiety, low self- esteem, stigma,

maltreatment, isolation and discrimination. They do not have access to adequate health care and are more likely to be malnourished. They become unable even to secure their daily needs including food, clothing and shelter. The study also revealed that double-orphaned children are the most vulnerable and severely affected by various kinds of psychosocial problems. The derogatory words attached to AIDS affect them severely. The problems of AIDS orphans are multidimensional and complex, it is suggested that a combination of intervention strategy and approaches. This will reduce the vulnerability of various kinds of survival problems, stigma and discrimination attached to the diseases, provision of adequate and sustainable care and support for AIDS orphans. Training of caregivers about the impact of the disease, how to handle the psychological problems of children, and recruiting well-educated and professional counselor with advanced counseling skills is crucial to help HIV/AIDS orphaned children ameliorate and cope with their psychological and social problems.

Mohammed Yimmer. (2007). Exploring the Role of Community Based Organizations Specially Idirs in Mitigating the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Adama Town. Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi.

Abstract. This study was conducted to explore the role and contribution of Idirs in combating HIV/AIDS through Home and Community Based Care (HCBC) programs in Adama town. Idirs are traditional community based organizations (CBOs) primarily established to facilitate burial ceremonies and comforting the bereaved. With the advent of HIV/AIDS pandemic, the role of Idirs has transformed from such single communal functions to HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Ten Idirs in Adama have been implementing HCBC program to improve the quality of life of bed-ridden patients and their families. The study employed qualitative research method. Three Idirs that included in the study were selected randomly. After the three Idirs identified, the research participants were selected using purposive sampling technique. The qualitative data gathering instruments included in-depth interview, focus group discussion and observation. Subjects of the study include program beneficiaries, voluntary care givers and Idirs HCBC committee members. Key informant interview also was carried out with government and non-government organizations representatives. The study involved strict respect for informed consent, voluntary participation and confidentiality. The findings of the study indicated that Idirs HCBC program has significantly contributed to improve the life of bed-ridden patients. Despite the important work of Idirs HBCB program, patients expressed unmet needs. Hence, insufficient nutrition support, housing problem, and care for AIDS orphans were major challenges of the program. The study recommended the strengthening of HCBC program referral chain, local resource capacity, protecting and care of AIDS orphans and intervening in income generating activity (IGA) and integrating family planning services with HIV/AIDS prevention.

Mulu Yeneabat. (2007). Pottery Production as an Asset for Women Livelihood: Case Study on Kechene Women Potters in Addis Ababa. Advisor: Professor Alice K. Johnson Butterfield

Abstract. Historically, traditional handicraft producers such as weavers, blacksmiths, tanners, and potters (the Beta Israel), were persecuted and discriminated against in Northern Ethiopia. Today, urbanization and modern education has increased the social interaction between artisans and other social groups. This research uses a multiple case study approach to explore the lived experience and livelihood of 40 women potters in their production and marketing efforts in the Kechene neighborhood of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The sample represents four types of women potters, including women representing old and new potters associations, women who have never joined an association, and those who left an association to work on their own. Four areas are assessed: 1) gender issues and the intergenerational transfer of skills; 2) the women's understanding of market supply and demand; 3) pottery production and community attitudes; and

4) using the house as a unit of production. Findings include the perception of a decrease in stigma and discrimination among women who are members of potters associations. There is also evidence of changes in the traditional division of labor in pottery production that historically has been only a woman's trade. The use of housing a productive asset has both positive and negative effects for women potters. From a sustainable development perspective, intervention is needed in preserving access to clay sources which are threatened with redevelopment in the urban environment. The study suggests an important link between social work practice, traditional handicraft producers, and sustainable development in urban slum areas of Sub-Saharan Africa. This study explores the livelihood of women potters in Ethiopia. Findings include decreasing stigma, changes in gender-based labor, and the productive use of slum housing.

Mulugeta Debebe Gemechu. (2007). **Emergency Aid and Sustainable Rural Livelihood: The Case of Shalad Goto A Rural Ganda in Ziway Dugda Ana Arsi Zone of Oromiyaa Regional State**. Advisor: Professor James E. Rollin

Abstract. A cross-sectional exploratory study had been conducted in four chronically food insecure rural villages of Oromiyaa. The purpose was to investigate effects of emergency aid and whether the attempt to use it as a transition to sustainable rural livelihood had been realized. Using different formats, interviews had been granted to purposely chosen key informants and subjects through snowball sampling. Stumbling blocks that deterred emergency aid programs from bridging to sustainable rural livelihoods and successful models that achieved their goals had been assessed through a qualitative research design. Results show the necessity of emergency aid to save lives, need for comprehensiveness and interplay of the livelihood framework components, need for strengthening the process of decentralization and governance and the importance of the social work practices to gear emergency aid towards sustainable rural livelihood.

Rahel Shiferaw. (2007). **Religion and Peace: The experience of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) in building positive peace in Ethiopia**. Advisor: Professor James E. Rollin

Abstract. Religions exhibit positive outcome in positive peace building in Ethiopia. Thus, this research tries to look at the experience of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in building positive peace with particular reference to nonviolence, tolerance and protection for disadvantaged groups. Using qualitative data collected from interviews and focus group discussions, this study examines the church's peace perception, values that inform this perception and strategies as well as structures put in place to carry out the peace work. The study indicates that peace is understood in the church as "positive peace" and "peace as a process". The church's perception is governed by concepts of holistic ministry, *shalom* and other Biblical values. These values are reflected in the church's strategies and structures in place to promote peace.

Selamawit Getachew. (2007). **The Social Adaptation of Refugees with the Host Country: The Case of Congolese Women Refugees in Addis Ababa**. Advisor: Dr. Abye Tasse

Abstract. Due to the forced nature of migration, refugees especially women have specific needs that have to be met in order to facilitate their adaptation and integration process with the host community. Though they are the most vulnerable and at same time the most resilient, there are impediments that hindered their adaptation and integration process with host community. This paper analyzes the factors that hinder refugee's social adaptation process with the host community by taking the case of Congolese women refugees residing in Addis Ababa. The purposive sampling method was applied to select the respondents. The tools applied to collect data are in-depth interview guide and field observation. For the compilation of the data, 10 Congolese women refugees with certain criteria were interviewed in addition to a focus group

discussion comprising various members of the host community. The findings of the study are seen from two perspectives: the challenges from Congolese women refugees' perspective and barriers from the host community, aid agencies and Congolese women refugees' perspective. The study proposes some intervention implications to address the problem and needs of women refugees in host community.

Tekalign Gunjejo. (2007). *Vulnerability of Persons with Disabilities to HIV Infection: The Case of the Blind, the Deaf and the Physically Disabled in Gullele Sub City of Addis Ababa.* Advisor: Professor Sandhya Joshi

Abstract. HIV/AIDS has been one of the deadly diseases affecting the lives of millions of people particularly in developing countries like Ethiopia. To alleviate the plight of the disease, a lot of efforts have been made in the country. Particularly, some sections of society have been beneficiaries of special treatment because of their perceived vulnerability to HIV. However, persons with disabilities are neglected in the overall attempt to curb the spread of the virus. They are rather perceived to be sexually inactive and have less social interaction to contract HIV. Based on this, this paper attempts to answer the following underlying questions: what risk factors contribute for the vulnerability of disabled people to HIV infection? What services related to HIV are available for persons with disabilities in Gullele Sub- City? The paper discusses issues related to disability and poverty, disability and HIV/AIDS, and poverty and HIV/AIDS. The research was carried out by using qualitative method. Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews, focus group discussion and key informants interview. The subjects of the study include PDs, PDLHAs, representatives from local kebele administrators, and churches. Besides, organizations working on HIV/AIDS and disability were participants in the interview. Moreover, this research reviewed secondary data sources like National HIV policy documents and strategic plans. The finding of the study shows that persons with disabilities are at high risk of HIV infection due to the various factors like poverty, disability, lack of information, inaccessibility of HIV educational materials and social exclusion, and stigma. This implies urgent need to incorporate disability issues in HIV/AIDS and poverty reduction policies of the country.

Yusuf Ali Mehajeb. (2007). *HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices among Persons with Sensory Disabilities in Addis Ababa: The Case of Enab and Enad.* Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen

Abstract. A cross-sectional study was conducted to explore the HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and practices of persons with sensory disabilities. A total of 96 non-randomly selected respondents were interviewed through questionnaire. Using a descriptive statistics data analysis was done. The overall result demonstrates lack of comprehensive prevention knowledge (46.6 %) as well as comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission without misconception (11.5%). Sex, age, being married or unmarried did not result similar patterns of differences in comprehensive knowledge. However, similar result patterns were found with level of education and what type of disability. Poor attitudes and practices towards protection from HIV/AIDS were also documented. Despite a very high level of belief in the severity of the AIDS disease (88.5%), those who perceived themselves of being at risk of HIV/AIDS were very low (22.9%). Consistent condom use was not common and only 58.3% of the respondents knew how to use a condom correctly. Only forty-three percent (43.8%) respondents believed in the effectiveness of consistent and correct use of condoms to prevent HIV. In general, the survey result indicates the need for intervention programs to save the lives of the visually and hearing impaired from this deadly disease (HIV/AIDS).

Yusuf Ferej Ahmed. (2007). *A Research on Economic Condition of Street Children in the City of Harar.* Advisor: Professor James E. Rollin

Abstract. The purpose of this study was to analyze and present the economic situations of street children in the city of Harar. The street kids were the unit of analysis for this study. Primary data was gathered from street children and agencies working on child affairs. The findings of the study confirm that the problem of street life is a major concern for the community. The majority of street children in the city have been forced into the street life mainly because of family economic deprivations, unsuitable parenting styles and lack of community support. Seeking survival and better economic opportunities, these children have been involving in different kinds of informal jobs. However, the majority of them are unable to utilize their potentials and achieve better life. This is partly due to lack of significant intervention programs; remunerative employment opportunities and shortage of social security facilities which are incapable of satisfying the ever increasing size of these vulnerable kids. The interventions made so far to address the problems were scanty and at times non-existent. As a consequence of the harsh economic and social life situation in the street, the majority of these children have encountered deficiency of basic necessities of life. Drug and sexual abuses; criminal activities and expansion of socially unacceptable behaviors among the children are also the results of unfavorable life on the street. This situation has been negatively affecting the life of children themselves and the security of the community in the city at large. The provision of basic essentials for the decent upbringing of the children in the family setting and realization of reliable economic security programs for the street children are found to be crucial and directly related to the betterment of children's economic and social life.

Zelalem Fesseha Zemichael. (2007). **Assessment on needs of ART Consumers in Addis Ababa: The Case of 20 ART Consumers at Alert Hospital.** Advisor: Professor Charlla Allen.

Abstract. A qualitative explanatory research was deployed to assess the needs of ART consumers in Alert hospital who are residing in Kolfe Keranio sub city Kebele 02/03. The study participants are People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who are selected purposely based on years of experience taking ART and their communication skills. The primary data was collected through in-depth interview and observation guide. In addition, secondary data sources were used to obtain information on total number of ART consumers at Alert hospital and national level. The study shows that need for nutritious food, employment, financial support, human right, own or Kebele accessed houses as major needs of participants of this study. Furthermore, the study revealed that many of the participants are in a weak economic condition, which is found to adversely affect them from meeting their needs which results for weak adherence. The study has also revealed that males needs access for job and female family members who can provide them support while females are found to have a different need for safety within the home environment and access for prior service at health posts. Finally, the study has identified a social work practice that aims at training ART consumers on income generating activities based on their prioritized needs, skills, interest and capacity besides complementing the program by providing education on stigma and discrimination to the public so that they will contribute their share in supporting the effectiveness of the program.