

The Aftermath of Human Trafficking in Ethiopia: Psycho-Social Impacts of Human Trafficking among North Wollo Victim Returnees from Arab nations

Mulugeta Berihun Asfaw Kasahun Desyalew Mekonen* Zenebe Yohanes Candido
Department of sociology, wolaita Sodo University, PO Box 138, Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia

Abstract

Human trafficking remains prime global concern due to its multifaceted causes and horrible consequences continue to be experienced by thousands of people including men, women and children in different parts of the world. Many lost their lives and others are living with post traumatic experiences associated with abuse and sufferings they experienced at the hand of their traffickers not only in the place of destination but also all along with illegal border crossings. This study examined the aftermath of human trafficking by scrutinizing the lived experience of Ethiopian migrants returned from Arab countries including their parents at home. A cross sectional study design was employed. Survey, in-depth interview, key informant interview and FGDs were data collection tools. Majority of the returnees (76%) in this study are women and 59 % of them were between the ages of 19 and 25. The study findings uncover the harrowing effect of human trafficking on the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of men, women and children trapped in its network. Victims have suffered from a range of physical and psychological health issues stemming from abusive living and working condition, and brutal physical and emotional attacks in the hands of traffickers. After coming back home, victims have continued to experience as equal pain as they have once suffered while they were under their proprietor's control as the psychological trauma of abuse and exploitation keep them hunting until now. The outcome of human trafficking transcends beyond the victim themselves to their families in different ways. Besides the financial risk of sending their children hoping more money in the near future, migrant families may also suffer from the worst scenario. This happened when migrants, after years of abuse and exploitation, return to home with physical injuries and various psychosocial problems which adversely affects the survival of the entire family.

Keywords: Aftermath of trafficking, trafficking victims, physical abuse, returnees, Ethiopian migrants

1. Introduction

Human trafficking is a rising global phenomenon and concern that is considered as contemporary form of slavery and a crime against humanity (Ebbie, 2008). It existed for long period in history from biblical time through the exploitation of Africa in slave trade era to the contemporary multibillion dollars trafficking business (Broderick, 2005; Lee, 2001). Even though there is no specific time to trace back the emergence of trafficking in human as modern day slavery, it becomes an ever increasing and boundary transcending problem concerning and challenging the world (Selamawit, 2013). Although the exact magnitudes and dimensions of the problem are unknown, available statistics suggest that human trafficking is one of the most serious transnational crimes in the 21st century. According to the U.S Department of State (2010), there are more than twelve million victims of human trafficking worldwide.

In Africa trafficking in human beings has been a flourishing business (Fitzgibbon, 2003). Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children are being trafficked to other parts of the world where they are being forced into all forms of labor, from the most dehumanizing to the deadliest and also in the most unfavorable of conditions with little or no pay (Asefah, 2012). Similarly, Fitzgibbon (2003), in his article entitled Modern-day slavery: The scope of human trafficking in Africa, asserts that the experience of slavery in Africa is not abolished but taking a new and modern form, is victimizing the society. He further explained trafficking as follows:

'Slavery and bondage are still African realities. Hundreds of thousands of Africans still suffer in silence in slave-like situations of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation from which they cannot free themselves' (p 81).

Historically, Ethiopia and the Middle East have been closely connected for long time (Erlich, 1994, 2007). The movements of slaves, soldiers, merchants, traders, laborers, tourists, pilgrims, priests, and scholars have been gone along with the circulations of commodities, money, language, ideas and religion. More recently, labor migration has become one of the most prominent features of the relationship between Ethiopia and the Middle East (Marina de Regt & Medareshaw, 2015).

Saudi Arabia is one of the main destination countries for Ethiopian migrants. According to a report by the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat in Nairobi, around 100,000 regular Ethiopian labor migrants moved to Saudi Arabia in 2011 (RMMS, 2014). In the first half of 2012 over 160,000 domestic workers migrated to Saudi Arabia, which was ten times more than the year before. The large majority (96 %) were women. Most Ethiopian

women who migrate to Saudi Arabia are unmarried Muslim women who have finished at least some years of secondary education (Fernandez, 2010 as cited in Marina de Regt & Medareshaw, 2015).

Though the exact magnitude and extent of trafficking in Ethiopia has not yet been systematically documented, in 2010 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of FDRE roughly estimated that about 75,000-100,000 people migrate each year in to Sudan, Libya and other nearby Arab countries (USDS, 2010). In the U.S. department of state, 2013 trafficking in person report for Ethiopia, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) reported that licensed Ethiopian oversea agencies received 198,000 application for work in 2012 but estimate that the number represent only 30-40 % of all Ethiopian migrating to the middle east, and that remaining 60-40% are trafficked with the facilitation of illegal brokers.

More recently, beginning from November 2013, following the Saudi Arabia's government crackdown on illegal migrants, around 163,000 Ethiopians were deported and it was believed that majority were likely trafficking victims. Many deportees reported returned empty handed and not having repaid debts to those who smuggled them, many, particularly female trafficking victims, were referred to care and rehabilitation centers due to severe traumatization and physical abuses (RMMS, 2014). There are sufficient evidences (Anchinesh, 2006; Yoseph et al., 2006; PTA, 2011; Selamawit, 2013) that indicate Ethiopian men and women in the Middle East are the subject of serious violence and human rights violations. Their journey in the majority of the cases is turning from legally recognized labor migration into a clear case of trafficking. The main purpose of this paper is to explore the aftermath of human trafficking i.e. the physical, psychosocial and economic consequences of human trafficking on the victim themselves and on the sending household. The study is conducted in Hara and Doro-gibir village town of North Wollo zone, source areas for many men, women and children labor migrant and a home to several Victim returnees.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Study design

This study is cross sectional in its design, in which data about the ruthless side of human trafficking in Ethiopia particularly in North Wollo is collected once at a time. Hence the entire data collection process was completed from February 6, 2013 - march 31, 2013. In an attempt made by the researchers to gather the necessary data, both primary and secondary sources of data were found relevant and used.

2.2 The research setting

The research was conducted in North Wollo administrative zone which is one of the eleven zones of Amhara regional state administration. It shares a border with South Wollo, South Gondar, Wag Hemra, Tigray and Afar Region. Based on the 2007 census conducted by central statistical agency of Ethiopia the zone has a total population of 1, 500,303, an increase of 19.4% over the 1994 census, of whom 752,895 is men and 747,408 are women. The largest ethnic group in the zone is Amhara (98.3 %) all other ethnic group made up of 1.7 of the population. The population is almost entirely rural and is largely Ethiopian Orthodox Christian, though about one-fifth of its inhabitants are Muslim. The orthodox followers mainly reside in midland towns and the highland districts while the majority of the lowlanders are Muslims. A total of 35,594 households were counted in this zone, which results in average of 4.21 people to a household, and 343,504 housing units (CSA, 2007). North Wollo zone is divided into ten rural districts and one town administrations. Specifically the research was undertaken in Hara and Doro Gibir areas.

The town of Hara Located in North Wollo zone, in the lowlands near Amhara border with the arid Afar region long used as a gateway to Djibouti and the Middle East (ODI, 2014). Nearly 90% of Hara's residents are engaged in agriculture, which, given the paucity of nearby surface water, is a risky proposition. Droughts are common and can be severe, as was evidenced by the massive famines the community experienced in the 1970s and 1980s. Given continuing food shortages, Hara is a site of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) – the country's flagship rural public works programme. Doro Gibir is another town in, North Wollo- 332 km north of Addis Ababa, capital city of the nation. The majority of Doro Gibir residents are agriculturists. Like Hara Doro Gibir is a site of the Productive Safety Net Programme (GWFEDO, 2014). The livelihood of the majority of the population depends on rain-fed agricultural practices, including both crop production and livestock rearing. Sale of labor, hairdressing, in-house weaving, local alcohol brewing and petty trade have all been practiced as a means of income diversification. The households of Doro Gibir are categorized as food insecure and the average agricultural production of the area is sufficient for only nine months (GWFEDO, 2014).

2.3 Tools of data collection

The data collection instruments used in this study was survey, in-depth interview, key informant interview and focus group discussion (FGD).

Survey

Survey method is used to generate quantitative data regarding the factors that make migrants vulnerable for

human trafficking. In this study, the survey data collection method required a self-administered questionnaire and this self-administered questionnaire was developed based on the general themes of the specific objectives of the research. All in all, the questionnaire contained question items on the personal characteristics and living circumstances of returnees and the various forms of abuse they encountered. In this study, the specific aim of employing the survey method was to generate quantitative information which was suitable for descriptive analysis. Hence, the researcher administered 112 questionnaires for returnees selected through purposive and snow ball sampling techniques. Upon completion the researcher collected 100 questionnaires.

In-depth interview

Gozdziac and Bump (2008), asserted that careful sociological studies based on interview with trafficking victims would provide scrupulous data on trafficking victims and their characteristics. In-depth interview allows the researcher digging into a certain issue until the required information is obtained from participants of a research. In this particular study the method is helpful for the researcher to understand the thoughts, feelings and lived experiences of victim returnees. In the context of this study a total of 14 purposively selected returnees 9 female and 5 male were interviewed. Through in-depth interview the researcher uncovered detailed information about the subjective experience of trafficking victims. The interview was conducted in Hara and Doro gibir where the interviewees reside. The depth Interview with returnees helped the researchers to acquire significant information about the structural vulnerability context and personal circumstance returnees went through in their place of origin, before their migration. Equally the entire journey of victim returnees through the process of trafficking and the abuse and exploitation they faced at the place of destination is discovered. The interview is held in the living and working places of returnees as well as in the nearby local cafeteria. Each of the interviews with returnees has consumed on average 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Key informant interview

This method was quite important for this particular study whereby the well informed members of the community being studied provide the researcher with rich and detailed information on the dynamics of human trafficking. In this study the informants were selected on the base of their knowledge, proximity to the issue, experience and willingness to participate. In the context of this study, key informants were parents of returnees, government officials, local knowledgeable person and local brokers. Interview with those selected key informants helps to generate rich information about the general situation of human trafficking, the development and trend of North Wollo zone labor migration to the gulf region. Furthermore, for the purpose of collecting this information, interview guides were designed and employed to track the interview session. A total of thirteen (13) key informants were contacted. The four key informants were parents of returnees who recounted the story of their son and daughter. The other five informants were government officials (chairperson of the office of labor and social affair of North Wollo zone, chairperson of north Wollo women, youth and child affair, administrator of both Hara and Doro Gibir town and head of police office of the zone). The other two informants were local elders. The rest two key-informants participated in the study were local brokers. Except the interview with parents of returnees, local elder and local broker, the other five interviews were conducted in the office of the informants and each took 50 to 60 minutes. The interview with parents of returnees and local elder was conducted in their own home and took 60 minutes each. Whereas the interview with local broker were conducted at local cafeteria and took 40 minutes each.

Focus group discussion

Focus Group Discussions were employed to generate qualitative data to supplement data obtained through in-depth and key-informant interviews. Totally two (2) FGDs were conducted at both Hara and Doro gibir town. The Composition of the discussant groups includes returnees, family members of returnees, government officials and local elders. In order to avoid potential threatening effect on the authenticity of the information gathered through this method, the group has been made to be homogeneous in terms of sex. On the other hand the diversity of the group in terms of their status helped to have deep and broad insight on the issues. All the discussions were held with the help of checklists and guidelines to facilitating the discussion. Key and important question were provided, directed and redirected by the researcher as moderator, so as to smooth the progress of the discussion. Each of the FGDs took more than an hour. The researcher has benefited a lot, from the FGD, in acquiring indispensable information about victim's pre departure vulnerability contexts, the entire process of human trafficking and the aftermath effect of human trafficking on the victim's family and the community at large.

2.4 Participant recruitment

The fact that victims of human trafficking are a "hidden group" that are difficult to access due to the clandestine and sensitive nature of trafficking in person and the negative attitude people have toward failed migration experience, restricted the researcher from employing reliable (non-probability) sampling technique. Therefore, in this study, purposive sampling particularly snowball-sampling technique was employed to approach study participants in the study area. Using the information from BoLSA of north Wollo to get initial contact with

returnees, the researcher selected 112 returnees from both town, 56 returnees in each town, using snow ball sampling technique. Similarly 13 key informants, 14 returnees for depth interview and 13 FGD discussants were selected using purposive and snowball sampling technique.

2.5 Data analysis

Data analysis in this study pursued thematic approach. The thematic approach has followed the process of displaying the analyses and findings from both quantitative and qualitative data. Thus, the qualitative data generated from the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions was analyzed manually through careful interpretation of meanings and contents, organizing and summarizing in accordance with the issue under investigation. Hence, all the data that was collected using local language-Amharic and it was directly translated into English by the researcher by taking a great care to maintain the originality and clarity of information while translating it into English. In line with this, the researcher makes descriptive presentation of the data in a reflexive manner whilst keeping its original content. Thus, in the data presentation and analysis process, the direct voices of the study subjects are in use. The quantitative data was reduced into descriptive statistics.

2.6 Ethical consideration

Ethical clearance letter was obtained from sociology department of Addis Ababa University and a written consent was obtained from women, children and youth affairs office of North Wollo zone administration. All the study participants were informed about the purpose of the study and finally their consent was obtained before the actual data collection process started. The information provided by each respondent was kept confidential in order to safeguard them from different troubles. Above all the researchers had made an attempt to develop a sense of trust and gain the genuine consent of all of the participants of the study including confidentiality of their information.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Socio demographic characteristics of study participants

Table 1: Socio demographic profile of study participants

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	24	24.0
	Female	76	76.0
	Total	100	100.0
Age	< 18	25	25.0
	19-25	59	59.0
	26-30	9	9.0
	>31	7	7.0
	Total	100	100.0
Educational status	Primary (1-8)	55	55.0
	Secondary (9-10)	35	35.0
	Preparatory (11-12)	6	6.0
	Higher education	4	4.0
	Total	100	100.0
Marital status	Married	40	40.0
	Unmarried	19	19.0
	Divorced	31	31.0
	Widowed	10	10.0
	Total	100	100.0
Religious affiliation	Orthodox Christianity	25	25.0
	Muslim	67	67.0
	Protestant	6	6.0
	Catholic	2	2.0
	Total	100	100

As indicated in the above table, out of one hundred returnees participated in the study, 76% are female and the remaining 24 % are male. Even though it is not suitable to conclude female are at high level vulnerable than man depending on data obtained through purposive sampling, the information obtained from key informant and North Wollo labor and social affairs office is similar with the survey result regarding the gender dimension of human trafficking in the study area. regarding the age distribution of study participants a large percentage (59 %) of returnees were between the ages of 19 and 25, followed by the age group younger than 18 (25 %), followed by returnees with the age group between 26-30 (9 %) and fewer but significant number migrated after

the age of 31 (7%). Around 25 % of the returnees are under the age of 18 indicating the high prevalence of child trafficking in the area.

Concerning the educational status of respondents majority of them (55%) are able to attain primary level (1-8th grade level), followed by 35% of returnee with secondary grade level (9-10 grade level), those who attend preparatory school and college are too few representing only 6% and 5% respectively.

With regard to marital status 40% of the respondents were married before their migration, those who were divorced before migration amounted 31 % followed by 23% and 6% of unmarried and widowed respectively. More than eighty percent of female respondent reported that they were married before their migration, those who were not married amounted less than twenty percent of the female respondents. This figure indicates the existence of early marriage in girls in the area. The religions composition of respondents confirmed that about 67 % are Muslims followed by orthodox Christianity (20%). Those who follow protestant and catholic religion are few but significant each representing 6% of the total respondents.

3.2 The Aftermath of Human Trafficking

The problems Ethiopian victims of human trafficking faced in the Arab nation embrace sever abuse and labor exploitation including excessively long hour working; deduction and total denial of salary; forced confinement in the workplace; food deprivation; verbal, physical, and sexual abuse; and forced labor including debt bondage (Yoseph et al, 2006; Selamawit, 2013; USDS, 2010).

No doubt the consequence of human trafficking is far reaching and it is not limited to the individual victims though it is individual victims who directly faced all the abuse and exploitation and suffer most from the inhuman act of human trafficking. Based on the information obtained directly from the mouth of victim returnees who had a lived experience and selected knowledgeable key informants below is a discussion of the effect of human trafficking first on the victim and then on their family.

Effect of human trafficking on the victim themselves

As per the evidences in this study, Migrant victimizations start not only at the place of destination, rather it began in the very place of origin of migrant. At the initial stage of the trafficking operation recruiters, local brokers who had link with traffickers at different transit areas and place of destination, deceived migrants through the exploitation of their current vulnerable circumstances. By giving false promises of securing their safe travel and better paying jobs and better life abroad recruiters deceived migrants and trap and render them in to sever abuse and exploitation, which is obviously a threat against the self determination of the local youths.

There is severe abuse and exploitation of migrants during the process of transportation. According to key informant migrants travels through the desert/sea route are exposed to abuse by brokers and other gang groups in the route. For girls and women migrants through the illegal route the abuse and exploitation is even worse. The informant told that the desert brokers usually rape women while they are crossing the border. She further noted:

“... Local brokers who transport girls and women from Hara to afar usually rape women migrants at hotels where they take shelter then the brokers take them to a place in Afar region close to the Djibouti border, and transfer them to another broker who similarly rape and takes them to the border. Once they cross the border, they will be contacted with another broker who snatches the material they had and rape while taking them to the shore where the boats come to take them...”

Once they reach in the place of destination, migrant faced serious abuse and exploitation in the hand of the traffickers (Yoseph et al 2006 and Selamawit 2013). As evidence in this study reveals migrant returnees suffer from collection of physical and psychological health issues due to their exposure to abusive working condition and brutal attacks at the hands of traffickers.

Interview with returnee shows that they were subjected to physical abuse and their bodies bears the scars of this abuse. Parents of returnees participated in FGD witnessed that their children returned home some with disability and some others with severe injuries like broken bones, burns, missing body parts such as fingers and toes.

Table (2) Psychological ill health and sex cross tabulation

Sex * Type of Psychological ill health due to trafficking experiences		Type of Psychological ill health				Total
		Chronic anxiety	suicidal thought and/ or self-harm	aggressiveness and violent outburst	Depression and frequent crying	
Sex	Male	3	1	18	2	76
	Female	37	17	6	16	
Total		40	18	24	18	100

Own survey (2014)

As the survey result clearly shows 40% of the victim returnees participated in this study mentioned Chronic anxiety (post-traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety disorder like sleep disturbances, frequent

nightmares) as the major psychological ill health they faced. 18% of returnees reported suicidal thought and/ or self-harm, 24% of them mentioned aggressiveness and violent outburst, and the remaining 18% reported depression, frequent crying, withdrawal and difficulty of concentrating as the most frequent psychological ill health returnees suffered due to their trafficking experience.

Similarly men FGD participants avowed that after coming back home they are experiencing as equal pain as they once suffer when they were under their proprietor's control due to the psychological trauma of abuse and exploitation that hunt them still now.

Key informant at North Wollo Labor and Social Affair Office explained that though several returnees come back with lots of physical injuries, the mental wounds they experienced are more devastating. He further asserted that:

"... The emotional scare and mental wounds that are imprinted in victims mind, because of their traumatic experience, though they are not visible like physical injuries, are more serious and dangerous. They have serious effect on the future life of victims even after they return to their home..."

Women returnees participated in FGD disclosed that due to the exploitative working and living condition they were forced to live and the various abuses and violence they faced from their employer returnees now suffer from various psychological ill healths.

The following case story illustrates the far reaching effects of human trafficking on the victims:

Case 1: 19 years old victim returnee

"I was born and raised in the small village town of Doro Gibr from a poor peasant. I was the first born daughter in the family. I had three younger siblings one of whom was physically infirm. Our living depends on the cultivation of small plot of land no other means of income. After I dropped out of school at grades three I used to assist the family by collecting and selling cow dump for fuel which was a failed effort to help my family escape poor living. One day a local broker come to me and told me the best opportunity that he can give me to help my family out from the thorny and hard knock life we are living. He told me that he can manage all the transportation process and my job there in Saudi Arabia. Since I had no hope at home it doesn't take time for me to consent to his offer. However after I left my home all I faced was totally a different stories. After passing the difficulty and hardships of the journey from logia, all the way through Assayta, Afambo, Dicheauto to Djibouti along that burning desert through truck and bare foot, and the terrifying boat trips along the red see what I faced in the promised land was heart breaking. In Saudi everything was not in the way I expected. In Saudi, an Ethiopian man received me and my two friends and takes us to his home. We stayed there for two weeks, and then the men contacted me with another man who is to be my employer. After that the whole thing was very bad. No money, no property. I was exploited for a year and four months working hard for greedy employers for nothing. I had worked in two houses but there was no one who was good to me, who even showed me good face. The first house was worst. The wife was so savage, I had worked hard for five months but she always shouted at me, she never thanks me even once. When things were not the way she want it she used to beat me harshly with anger and brutality. One day she had burned my hand with boiled water. Even the two little daughters, they were nasty, fierce toward me. May be their vicious mother made them to be so. After one year and four months experience of abuse and exploitation I returned home with empty pocket and scare of boiled water on my hand and the memory of sever insult, ridiculed and beating on my mind. Now it has been five months and around six day since I returned from Saudi but the memory of my horrible situation there still haunt me, the raging voice and bad sprit of that monster employer of me and all her mistreatment are still torturing me especially at the night time. Though, now I am physically far from that place and all the bad people that hurt me I still had no peace at all. I always stay home, I have no courage to go out and meet my friends, and above all I am unable to sleep well".

As the above case story clearly disclosed after they reach in the place of destination, passing the entire challenging journey, migrant faced sever abuse and exploitation in the hands of their employer and broker. This abuse and exploitation they experienced in the place of destination in turn causes various physical and psychological ill health that affect them for long time even after they managed to return to their home. The above story of abuse and exploitation is not only the story of this girl, most returnees participated in this particular study explained the same sad story.

The psychological ill health returnee faced is aggravated by the absence of support from the family and also lack of well-organized support from government and non government organization. The head of the Gubalafto *woreda* BoWCYA explained that failure of family of returnee to understand all the challenges returnee undergone and provide support made the problem worse.

She further avowed that:

"... Poor families, usually expecting money, when their children came home empty handed some even with medical case it become hard for them to accept what happened. Some families even dare blaming them for every misery of the family onward..."

25 years old Returnee from Saudi describes her health condition after she returns home as follows:

“... I am socially isolated and overwhelmingly possessed by despair. Beside my problem I am constantly worried by the behavior of my parents, especially my father. My parents are displeased with me. They were expecting money and didn't understand all the challenge I have been through...”

The North Wollo zone BoLSA officer also witnessed that while there is acknowledgment that returnees are suffering from psychological trauma and other ill health, so far there is only little effort by government to provide organized help and this made the problem worse.

Effect on the victims' family

Though it is the immediate individuals who directly experience all the abuse and exploitation, that suffer most from the horrible acts of human trafficking, its consequence is very far reaching. Families of trafficking victims directly or indirectly face the adverse implication of human trafficking. Most youths in the study area migrates to the Arab countries with the hope of helping out their family from thorny and hard knock life. As the survey result of this study reveals family plays decisive and pivotal role in migration decision. Family members participated in migration decision from initiating to financing the migration. 53% of survey respondents get support from their family while for 29% of the respondents the initial ideas of migration were initiated by their family. Family usually initiate and support the migration of their members through borrowing money and/or selling their assets with the expectation that the remittance they will get in the soon future will freed them from the loan they incurred and finally from hard knock life they are living.

The following case story below in the box illustrates the effect of human trafficking on the returnee's family.

Case 2: a 46 years old mother of victim returnee.

I have three children all of whom are students. Death took away my husband who was the breadwinner of the family. After the death of their father life become rough for four of us. You know how it is tough for a single jobless mother to raised three children on her own. Latter on getting lesson from my neighbor and at the request of local broker I decided to send my daughter, the elder one to Saudi. Since I can't afford the transport cost for her migration I am forced to borrow money. A local lender offered me 10,000 ETB to be returned by double (20,000 after a year. Sine I believe that she will pay back it within months, as I heard from my neighbors'; I didn't hesitate to accept the offer. However what happened after she departed me was a different story. After the day she give me a good by greeting I never hear her voice for two years. I had no idea whether she was alive or dead. As I got no money to pay the loan I borrowed for her transportation I start to rent my small plot of land for the lender. Finally after two years of lost my daughter comeback home with a broken hand, nothing in her pocket. Though what happened is totally pity and unexpected at all, after knowing all the trouble she went through I am glad she is alive and she is with me. Now we still struggling to pay back the loan we incurred for nothing, for worse, and we are struggling to survive by selling local beer "Tella" with the help of my two little daughters and renting our farm land.

Source: Key-Informant interview (Victim's mother), 2014

As the above story plainly shows the inability of migrant worker to make more money, as they promised, and send back to their family brings very serious financial crises and problems on the lives of migrant's family at home. as parents of migrant returnees participated in FGD disclosed most family in the local area send their children abroad either by borrowing money from local money lender" Arata Abedari" or by selling their vital assets like land and animals. Beside financial crises, in the worst case, when migrant, after years of abuse and exploitation, returns to home with physical injuries and various psychosocial problem it brings serious challenge on the survival of the family.

Conclusion

This paper examined the far reaching consequence of human trafficking on victims and their families in North Wollo zone which is among the well-known source area for large number of labor migrants to the Arab nation and home for several trafficking victims. This area is known by huge numbers of victim returnees in Ethiopia. Relevant data was gathered from various stake holders'-victim returnees, law enforcing agents, government officials and knowledgeable elder at the local communities. By focusing on the lived experiences of victim returnees and their parents in the place of origin, the study investigated the aftermath of human trafficking in Hara and Doro-gibir town of north Wollo zone.

The study uncovers the harrowing effect of human trafficking on the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of men, women and children ensnared in its web. Victims suffer from an array of physical and psychological health issues stemming from abusive living and working condition and brutal physical and emotional attacks at the hands of traffickers.

Findings of the study further confirmed that, the effect of human trafficking on the victim is severe and long-lasting that continues to affect them even after they managed to escape from the trafficking position. After coming back home, victims are experiencing as equal pain as they once suffer when they were under their proprietor's control due to the psychological trauma of abuse and exploitation that hunt them still now. The psychological ill health victim returnee faced is found to be aggravated by the absence of support from the

family and also lack of well-organized support from formal organization.

The effect of human trafficking goes beyond the victim themselves to affect victim's family in different ways. Most Ethiopians migrate to help their families out of poverty and destitution. Family members are often involved in initiating and financing the migration project, and expect that their financial investment will be returned. Thus, Failure of migrants to send back money to their family brings very serious financial crises and problems on the lives of migrant's family at home. In the worst case when migrants returned home after years of abuse and exploitation with physical and psychological ill health it brings serious challenge on the survival of the family.

Competing interests

Authors declare no competing interests among them.

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