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# The Challenge of Facilitating Child Adoption the Case of Child and Security Office in Bahir Dar City Administration

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**Abstract:** Adoption has connotation for creating healthy and ethical societies who contributes the development of a country in different aspects. The research objective is to investigate the challenges of Bahir Dar city administration women and children affair office when facilitating child adoption. In order to achieve the research objectives, the researcher employed qualitative research approach through case study design. The researcher used non probability sampling techniques. In order to collect the data, primary and secondary data were used. Thematic and document analysis were employed to analysis the data. The findings of the research indicated that Bahir Dar city administration women and children affair office when facilitating child adoption faced many challenges. such as, Bureaucratic system, scarcity of budget, low understanding and cooperation, low transport services, low/shortage human power, the interest of parents to adopt infant children, lack of information, low community perception on adoption, low participation of the society, unfamiliar of adopt parents, lack of special attention for children those are faced by diseases. And the researcher conclude that child adoption facilitating faced so many problems. And recommendation are forwarded depend on the conclusion.

**Keywords:** Challenges, Child Adoption, Facilitating Child Adoption

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Back Ground of the Study

Adoption is a processes when a child is permanently placed with a parent or parents other than his or her birth parents, and parental rights and responsibilities are transferred from the biological parents to the adoptive parents. International adoption takes place when the adoptive parents live in another country and the child is moved to that country (save the children, 2010) [1].

Inter- country adoption refers to an adoption that involves adoptive parents from one country and an adopted child from another country. On the other hand, Domestic adoption refers to an adoption in which the adoptive parents and the adopted child are of the same nationality and have the same country of residence (FHI, 2010) [2].

According to UNCEF, (2009) [3] while the number of domestic adoptions has been declining in many developed countries; several developing countries have experienced an increase in the number of domestic adoption, partly because

of the implementation of policies to encourage local residents to adopt.

Domestic adoption rates have generally been declining in the developed country mainly due to an increasing shortage of adoptable children while increasing in developing countries due to government campaigns and incentives to promote the practice (United Nations, 2009) [4].

Adoption is one of several alternative cares in which societies throughout the world allow a child who is unable to stay with his/her parents due to different causes to be grown up in a stable family based environment. It is commonly practiced in different parts of the world. However, adoption is vary from country to country and culture to culture. In the Ethiopian adoption is childcare and protection measure that enables an unaccompanied child to benefit from a substitute and permanent family care (MOWA, 2009) [5].

Africa is hunted by the legacies of famine, diseases and conflict of the recent past. And still counts millions of orphaned children with many more millions left at domestic adoptions (ACPF, 2012) [6].

Ethiopia has long history of culturally caring for children

in the community. Traditionally different forms of alternative care existed in the country for orphans and abandoned children. Customary guddifachaa practice which has the central socio cultural welfare among Oromo people can be taken as indigenous child problem intervention (Dessalegn, 2006) [7].

Adoption is inherited from Afaan Oromoo language, people practiced it for many years until today, which government heeded to increase awareness about the issue as good alternatives for orphan and vulnerable child care (Assefa, 1995) [8].

Guddifachaa is one of the best known of the traditional childcare in Ethiopia. It is a voluntary system of local adoption. It is voluntary arrangements made between biological and foster parents that accord with cultural norms about child rearing that often takes the form of informal fosterage rather than formal adoption (Madhavan, 2004) [9]. And also Bahir Dar city women and children affair office have great role by facilitating child adoption.

### 1.2. Objectives

The general objective of this research is to investigate the challenges of Bahir Dar city administration women and children affair office when facilitating child adoption. And the specific objective of the research are , to identify the challenges that the office faces during facilitating adoption activities, The research will have the following significances such as it will use as a clue for the offices to identify their challenges and then they will deal with the challenges those are faced. And it will serve for new employer in order to aware the challenges that they will faced and take some preventive measures.

## 2. Methodology

In order to achieve the research objectives the researcher employ qualitative research methods because it used to understand and explore the information deeply on the challenge and opportunities of facilitating child adoption on the study area. Qualitative method helps to the researcher to deeply explore and understand the experiences of the participants and it provides rigorous, reliable, verifiable data. It is described as discovery research method to describe the given issue deeply (Olson, 2005) [10]. The researcher used case study design because it was important to study the challenges and opportunities of facilitating child adoption on the study area as case. Creswell , (2009) [11], states that Case studies are strategy of inquiry in which the researcher explores in depth a program, event, activity, process or one or more individuals. Cases are bounded by time and activity and researchers collect detailed information using variety data collection procedures over a sustained period of time.

The researcher relay on non-probability sampling techniques in order to get the following advantages. Non-probability sampling, members are chosen depending on the nature of the study without giving each member of the study population an equal chance of being included Zikmund,

(2003) [12].

From non-probability sampling technique the researcher used purposive sampling techniques. Purposive sampling helps to find those interviewees who have available knowledge and experience that the researchers or investigators need, are capable of reflection, are articulate, have time to be interviewed and are willing to take part in the research (Morse, 2010) [13].

The inclusion criteria depend experts who work in child security and protection office and those have more than two years experiences. The sample size determined by considering the arrival of redundant information as a saturation point but there were three experts in the office and all were included. To gather relevant data, the researcher used primary and secondary data. The data collection instruments of the research were semi structured interview, document review and participatory observation, the researcher worked 4 months in the office in order to collect the relevant data. From various method of qualitative data analysis the researcher used thematic and document analysis in order to analysis the challenges and opportunities of facilitating child adoption. The process of data analysis begins with the categorization and organization of data in search of patterns, critical themes and meanings that emerge from the data. A process sometimes referred to as open coding (Strauss and Corbin, 1990) [14] is commonly employed whereby the researcher identifies and tentatively names the conceptual categories in which the phenomena interviewed would be grouped.

## 3. Results and Discussions

Challenges of child adoption in Security Office of Bahir Dar City Administration

Child adoption in Bahar Dar city administration faced so many challenges among them:-

Bureaucratic system

Interview three:

*"Sometimes the experts are boring to facilitating child adoption because the beaurocratic system starting from kebele up to the court is take longer time to implement child adoption process and also in these situation some adopt parents are refrained."*

This is related with the pervious researcher findings which is adopt child is time consuming, challenging and demanding as material covered ranges from child development to sexual abuse and suffering. It can be heavy and difficult learning that takes a lot of time and energy (MNAadopt, 2012) [15].

Scarcity of budget

Regarding on scarcity of budget one of the semi structured interview (Interview one) explained her feeling as follows:-

*money is very important to pay the cost of transport when children are reunify to their family and for the payment of the police because children are reunified with their parents by the support of police and also to give different support for adopt children money is very indispensable. Even if the office is need money for the above purpose but the government is*

*not fund enough money And the office mostly felt these money gab through connecting different projects through the form of sponsorship and NGOs but the office is face limitation to found money from different NGOs.*

This related with the important of money to giving service for adopt parents and children Assistance and support is available to help parents care for and raise their child. This includes financial assistance, accommodation, and day-care services. Supporting parents' benefit and housing schemes for single parents may be available or it may be possible to found suitable employment and use day-care services to care for your child (Victorian Government Department of Human Services, 2008) [16].

Low understanding and cooperation

Unity and cooperation is very important for effective works and to give responsive action for the clients.

*Interview one: describes as follows, "The experts face some problems of understanding and cooperation with different sectors like kebeles managers, police offices, justice office, and also regional women, youth and children office."*

Low transport services

Regarding on low transport services the semi structured interview (Interview two and one) described that:

*"Mostly children those find on the street come from very remote and distance rural areas so in order to reunify with their family and society transport service is very important but the office is faced these problems."*

Low human power

All most all research participants stated that they faced low human power in the office and one of the semi structured interview (interview two) stated that:-

*We faced a dilemma to give priority for the tasks like to reunify children with their parents, to facilitate the processes of adopt parents, to search children those loses their parents, to follow up adopt children and adopt parents to give support for different woredas. Because of these the experts are exposed to tiresome and to give active and responsive services.*

This is related with low quality and/or unstable care upon children's development in a variety of areas and adopt parents. The severity of the developmental problems that many children living in orphanages experience is indirectly related to the quality of the social environment (Daniel, 2014) [17].

The interest of parents to adopt infant children

All the semi structured interview stated that the interest of adopt parents on infant children high. And one of the semi structured interview (interview one) explained that:-

*"Infant is refers to children bellow 3 years. Mostly adopt parents need infant children because they have a perspective that infants are easily assimilated with the family, parents and children between the 3-7 years are emotional , confused to assimilated the parents and the environment , not easily adapt the family of adopt parents and societies because the grow in foster care institutions. Therefore these preference leads to lack of adopt parents to take children in the age of 3-7 years."*

These is related to the previous researcher findings which is Children who are adopted at an older age may have memories of living with their birth families (Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, n. d) [18]. Children experience neglect and abuse, severe emotional and behavioral problems, and cognitive and physical development setbacks (Muslim Women's Shura Council, 2011) [19]. Children experienced with traumatic effects often results in a high level of anxiety and the unknowns about the future. The difficult environment from which foster children begin, in conjunction with the losses suffered in the removal process, and uncertainty for the future, complicate their ability to heal and form new attachments [Wallace, 2003]. children feel insecure, have attachment issues, educational difficulties, and have experienced trauma that causes them to show signs of self-blame, powerlessness, loss and betrayal, stigmatization, destructiveness, and personality disorders (Stott & Gustavsson, 2010) [20].

Lack of information

Information is a power for every successful activities. And regarding on lack of information one of the semi structured interview three stated:-

*"Offices and experts need accurate information to reunify children who find on the street with their parents. So, in order to do this the office needs information from where kebeel and woredas child come, the situation of their family is very important to check the children have or loose there birth parents, but there is problem of finding evidence full and accurate information."*

This is related with lack of accurate and reliable data on children's situations and a comprehensive information system is not in place, all of which is further complicated by non-compulsory nature of birth certificates (ACPF, 2012) [21].

Lak of awareness and knowledge about adoption

Regarding on lack of awareness and knowledge of adoption one of the semi structured interview (Interview three) explained that:-

*"There is little awareness and knowhow of the society about adoption. Even if there are many persons who have problems of infertility and have not child in different reasons but have low knowledge how to find children in the form of adoption and lack awareness about the benefits of adoption."*

Low community perception on adoption

All research participants stated that they faced a problem of low community perception on adoption. One of the semi-structured interview (Interview two) described that: *"Mostly in our society caring and rearing adopt children is consider as non-beneficiary and not acceptable by the society. Example there are proverbs in the society that supports these condition."*

Low participation of the society

All research participants stated that they faced a problem of low participation of the society. And one of the semi structured interview (Interview one) stated that:-

*"Societal participation is very important for facilitating adoption. But in the context of our society the participation*

*of people to adopt children is very low. Therefore the experts are face these problem to facilitate child adoption."*

Unfamiliar of adopt parents

Regarding on newness of adopt parents one of the semi structured interview (interview three) described that:-

*"Mostly peoples who come the office to adopt children are infertile and have no children . so, when they adopt children they are fresh and lack follow up , care for children and also in rarer case when children are execute at night time on bedroom the parent are frustrated."*

Results from personal observation and document review: The researcher understand and observe that there were many challenges in the child adoption office. Such as;

Lack of special care for children those are affected by disease

The office give supports and follow up for children who lose their birth parents but the situation is different from child to child, some are affected by disease like HIV/AIDS, but the researcher have not seen any special planes and activities to support and follow up for those affected children.

Lack of information

Lack of accurate and reliable data on children's situations and a comprehensive information system is not in place, all of which is further complicated by non-compulsory nature of birth certificates. Other challenges in implementation of inter country adoption include lack of communication, resources and dispositions or attitudes and bureaucratic structures and the fact that a large part of the population is not familiar with the advantage and limitation of inter country adoption. The practice has suffered from poor regulation and its implementation is also inadequate. In addition to the existing gaps, the news highlights the legal and policy gaps that expose adopted children to abuses and exploitations (ACPF, 2012) [22].

Lack of transparency

Improper financial gains in connection with intercountry adoption are existing. For instance, claims of improper financial gain by adoption agencies are becoming increasingly common at least on one occasion, it has been reported that adoption agency workers are paid on the basis of commission, which does not constitute good practice. The presence of relatively large sums of money involved in intercountry adoption in Ethiopia has also posed a challenge for the implementation of the subsidiarity principle (Mezmur, 2010) [23].

Financial issues constitute a major obstacle to ensuring intercountry adoptions that are carried out in an unethical manner. In particular, measures need to be taken to ensure that children are not brought into the intercountry adoption process because of the potential financial gain they represent rather than because they truly need adoption abroad (Daniel Getachew, 2014) [24].

Psychological problems

Children who are adopted at an older age may have memories of living with their birth families (Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, n. d) [25]. Children experience neglect and abuse, severe emotional and behavioral problems, and cognitive and physical development setbacks (Muslim Women's Shura

Council, 2011) [26].

Children experienced with traumatic effects often results in a high level of anxiety and the unknowns about the future. The difficult environment from which foster children begin, in conjunction with the losses suffered in the removal process, and uncertainty for the future, complicate their ability to heal and form new attachments (Wallace, 2003) [27]. Children feel insecure, have attachment issues, educational difficulties, and have experienced trauma that causes them to show signs of self-blame, powerlessness, loss and betrayal, stigmatization, destructiveness, and personality disorders Stott & Gustavsson, (2010) [28].

## 4. Conclusion

Adoption has its own contribution for the development of a country in different aspects by crating healthy and ethical society who contributes a lot in the social, economical and political issues From the finding the researcher conclude that child adoption has faced so many challenges such as Bureaucratic system, scarcity of budget, low understanding and cooperation, low transport services, low/shortage human power, the interest of parents to adopt infant children, lack of information, low community perception on adoption , low participation of the society, unfamiliar of adopt parents, lack of special attention for children those are faced by diseases. In general we can conclude that adoption has faced many challenges, most of the problem could be solved by the cooperation of the government and different stakeholders. Therefore, in order to create healthy and good societies it needs huge work on the society about adoption.

## 5. Recommendation

- (1) The government should alter the bureaucratic system to fasten child adoption processes.
- (2) Awareness creation should be done for the society about the benefits of child adoption to enhance their participation and to eliminate there false perceptions.
- (3) The office should give special care for children who are affected by diseases.

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