

**Female Journalists' Reporting in the Ethiopian Print Media:**

**A Case on the Privately-Owned Press**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

*Women in Ethiopia make up close to half of the total population. Like in other African countries, Ethiopian women live under high dominance of men. Also, the society does not portray women positively. In the study of media and women, three areas have characterized most of the research tradition: a portrayal of women in media content; women representation in the media institutions; and women as sources of information. Little attention has been paid to the practice of female journalists in the Ethiopian media. Hence, the purpose of this thesis is to assess how female journalists in Ethiopia report issues. Four research questions were set: How are news stories reported by female journalists in the newspapers; what are the major themes in the stories reported by female journalists; how do female journalists use their professional autonomy when reporting news stories, and what challenges do female journalists experience in the process of reporting issues in the sampled newspapers. For the purpose of this study, four newspapers were purposively selected, namely Addis Admas, Reporter, Fortune, and Capital (all privately owned). These are some of the strongest newspapers in the media market in the country, where there has been much pressure on the media, particularly on the privately-owned press. By using textual analysis, 12 stories reported by female journalists were analyzed. Five female journalists and an expert were also interviewed. The data collected through interviews and textual analysis indicate that female journalists in the selected newspapers highly depend on events in their reporting; they use one or two sources for the most part; and they have a preference for reporting on social issues. Also, the stories of the female journalists expressed high concern towards public interest.*

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## **Abbreviation**

CSA	Central Statistic Authority
GMMA	Global Media Monitoring Project
IWMF	International Women Media Forum
SNNP	Southern Nations and Nationalities People
NSD	Data Protection Official for Research
ESAT	Ethiopian Satellite Radio and Television

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### ***Dedication***

*This thesis is dedicated to my grandmother – W/ro Tsigé Birru, and grandfather – priest Yeshewayenet Sinafekew, who grew me with extraordinary care and love. They were eager to see this success, which unfortunately they were not able to see my end. They were the pillar of my life. I will never forget them forever.*

*Let God Rest the Soul in Peace and keep them at His Right Side of His Kingdom.*

## 1. Chapter one: Introduction to the Study

### 1.1. Background of the Study

There are arguably two fundamental issues in relation to the media in Ethiopia. The first one is an attempt to prevail freedom of expression and expand the media markets in the country. Among the universal human rights provided to citizens, freedom of expression is one of the well-recognized rights in the current Constitution of Ethiopia. In line with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Constitution has guaranteed the right to freedom of expression for all citizens. In its article 29, the Constitution articulates the right to receive, hold, and share information without any restrictions.

*Everyone has the right to freedom of expression without any interference. This right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any media of her/his choice. (Proclamation No. 1/1995, article 29: 2).*

The Constitution also bans censorship, which was one of the barriers that curtailed freedom of expression in the former regimes of the country. The incumbent government has obviously given better attention than its predecessors to ensuring freedom of expression<sup>1</sup> to its people in general, and to the media in particular. Making use of their Constitutional rights, journalists in the independent press has reported on various issues such as politics, social issues, culture, sports, art and entertainment, business and economy, both in local and foreign languages.

Despite freedom of expression being guaranteed by the Constitution, the media have been beset with challenges<sup>2</sup>. Particularly journalists working in the independent press have been working under pressure and strict control from the government, threatening the right to freedom of expression. Newspapers have been shut down, and journalists have been arrested, prosecuted and intimidated. Though the Ethiopian media, specifically the privately owned, are under pressure, one cannot deny

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<sup>1</sup> The 1995 Constitution and the Press Proclamation (32/1992) by the transitional government (later improved in 2008; Proclamation No.590/2008) have allowed Ethiopians to own private newspapers and to freely express their ideas in any form.

<sup>2</sup> The Ethiopian government is widely criticized for arresting politicians, blogger, journalists, and activists. For instance, (Dessalegn & Meheret, 2004; Stremlau, 2011; Doha Centre for Media Freedom, 2013; Nigussie, 2014, etc) note that due to the political repression in the country, a numbr of media, particlaurly the private press were shut down, and their journalists were flying to the second country.

that in comparison with the previous governments, there is at least some chances to exercise press freedom. This can be taken as one step forward to ensure freedom of expression and promote democracy, though it is limited. Particularly, the coming of Dr. Abiy Ahmed into power as a Prime Minister of Ethiopia the media and political freedoms have been prevailed. Soon after he ascended to power, he pardoned and released prominent journalists and politicians who were in jail because of the allegation of involving in terrorists acts and false accusation of them in violating the Constitution. His aspiration is to make the political and media sphere wide and free to the people so as to have free discussion and dialogue, he allowed diaspora media (run by activists) to come in and report from Ethiopia. A couple of them are now having their office in Addis Ababa.

The second one is an attempt to improve the number of female journalists in the media houses both as reporters and leaders. Historically, female journalists in Ethiopia were not only minimal in number but also undermined in their roles in the media institutions. For instance, in Ethiopian Radio, a pioneer broadcaster in the country, and now, part of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, female journalists were not only fewer in number than males, but also most of them were not assigned on active program production (Ellene, Mesfin, & Alemayehu, 2003, p. 43). These authors suggest that there is a need for qualified female journalists who have understood gender issues and who have courage to bring positive outcomes to the profession. In a similar vein, there are various studies that find the female-male composition in the Ethiopian media to be massively disproportional. For example, in 2007, Mengistu (2007, p. 34) revealed that female journalists in Ethiopian media constitute only 13.5%. Similarly, a study conducted in 2008 found that women in the Ethiopian media both as decision-makers and as general workforces are extremely minimal or almost non-existent (Eastern Africa Journalists' Association, 2008, p. 24). This document also noted that when comparing the female-male journalists' composition in the media with other countries in the eastern African region, Ethiopia is left with the lowest number of female journalists in the media (Eastern Africa Journalists' Association, 2008).

A recent study, however, shows that the number of women journalists in the local media has significantly improved (Skjerdal, 2016). In the survey, covering 27 media institutions across the country, a slightly great number of female journalists than male journalists recorded under the age group of 25 and below (Skjerdal, 2016). Among the reasons that account for the improvement of female journalists in the country, one can be the attention given by media house particularly the

state-run media to give more opportunity for women in their employment. This is because of the Ethiopian government has ensured the right of affirmative actions<sup>3</sup> to women in all sphere of life by including an article in its Constitution (Proclamation No. 1, 1995).

Another reason can be the expansion of training institutes and the increment of female students in attending journalism programs in the academic institutions. Collaborating this, Skjerdal (2016 and 2017) notes that the expansion of media training programs is one of the fundamental reasons for the improvement of number of female journalists in the media in the country. In addition, the numbers of female graduates of humanities and arts, journalism, and social science who are commonly joining media houses in Ethiopia are increasing. Particularly, female graduates in art and humanities are greater than male (World Economic Forum, 2017, p. 149).

The promising improvement of the number of female journalists can also be witnessed by observing the reporting in various media outlets. Unlike other periods, female journalists are currently becoming more active and courageous in writing, investigating and publishing critical stories in the media. For instance, Reyoot Alemu, a former reporter and columnist for the newspapers *Awramba Times* and *Fitih* (both newspapers ceased publication as a result of pressure by the government) can be one example with regard to being active in voicing her views in politics and other social concerns in the media. Due to her reports, she was arrested for about five years, and subsequently of her release in July 2015, she was forced to leave the country. She now lives in exile working for a diaspora media channel, Ethiopian Satellite Radio and Television (ESAT). In another case, Hana Gebresilassie is currently an active female journalist not only in the sport genre, which is mostly male dominant, but also taking a leadership position in the Sport Journalists' Association<sup>4</sup>. And, though their number is still low, there are female journalists who are in the top positions in the media houses. In the private newspaper sector, for instance, Tiguest Yilema, who is an owner and a managing editor of *Capital* newspaper, can be mentioned as a pioneer among female media

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<sup>3</sup> Ethiopian constitution in its article 35:3 notes that The historical legacy of inequality and discrimination suffered by women in Ethiopia taken into account, women, in order to remedy this legacy, are entitled to affirmative measures. The purpose of such measures shall be to provide special attention to women so as to enable them compete and participate on the basis of equality with men in political, social and economic life as well as in public and private institutions.

<sup>4</sup> Hana Gebresilassie is recently elected as a vice president of the Sport Journalists' Association, (<http://www.aipsmedia.com/2017/05/22/20904/ethiopia-women-in-sport-esja>, accessed 21 September 2017)

leaders. These names are mentioned to show how the involvement of female journalists in writing and reporting as well as leading media businesses is relatively progressing in the country.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

I have mentioned two fundamental changes in the Ethiopian media over the past few decades: the relative improvement of the freedom of expression situation, and the increased engagement of female journalists in the media. To the latter issue, women involvement in the media has shown great progress, relatively speaking. However, studies in the area have tended to present women involvement some limited aspects. For instance, a cursory look at studies in the Ethiopian media in relation to gender reveals that the focus is mostly on the representation of women as a source, the portrayal of women in the media, and the representation of female journalists in the media (Nardos, 2005; Kenaw, 2006; Mengistu, 2007; Gubae, 2009; Agaredech, 2013). Other studies have researched the topic ‘women’ from the perspective of women’s portrayal in the media, and ‘women’ as a media consumer (Haregewoin Cherinet & Emebet Mulugeta, 2003). Fewer studies, however, have assessed women and the media in light of how female journalists report issues in the media. Hence, it is my interest to investigate how female journalists deal with issues, and how their views are reflected in the stories.

In the global media research literature, there are debates on how male vs female identities influence on the way issues are reported. Some research supports the view that gender makes no significant difference in ethical principles and actual reporting. A quantitative research conducted in 18 countries from all continents found no significant difference between men and women journalists in how they executed their professional roles (Hanitzsch & Hanusch, 2012, p. 274). Previous studies from the US and the UK support the finding that male and female journalists have similar perception, understanding and performance in the media (Delano & Henningham, 1995 cited in Steiner, 2011, p. 120; Weaver & Wilhoit, 1996). Other research, often theoretically situated in a feminist framework, argues that gender is a key variable accounting for differences in the media. According to this argument, if the journalists want to serve the ongoing political and social need of the people, they shall consider these differences coming from experience, social status and social history (Steiner, 2011, p. 127). Though the ongoing debates whether there is a difference on reporting based on sex continues, it is fair to look at what gender and the media in the Ethiopian context look like. One may argue that female journalists in Ethiopia have their own critical point of

views and that these views are reflected in their reports in the media. Supporting this idea, Skjerdal (2016) notes that there have been huge gaps between male and female journalists in Ethiopia in relation to reporting issues critically and thoroughly. However, there is little attention given in the research in the Ethiopian context regarding how issues are presented by female journalists who are specifically working in privately owned, supposedly politically independent, newspapers. In a nutshell, the gap of studies in relation to female journalists and their treatment of various issues in newspapers in Ethiopia inspires this project.

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

The main objective of the study is, thus, to investigate how female journalists report issues in the media, in the case of Ethiopian privately owned newspapers. The chosen cases are *Addis Admas*, *Reporter*, *Fortune* and *Capital*, which are among the largest private newspapers in Ethiopia. The hope is that the research will contribute to an academic discussion in light of framing and feminism standpoint theories.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

In order to meet the above-mentioned objective, I have set the following research questions.

1. How news stories are reported by female journalists in four selected privately-owned newspapers: *Addis Admas*, *Reporter*, *Fortune* and *Capital*?
2. What are the major themes in the news stories reported by female journalists?
3. How do female journalists use their professional autonomy when reporting stories in the sampled newspapers?
4. What challenges do female journalists experience in the process of reporting issues in the sampled newspapers?

### **1.5. Method of the Study**

This is a case study that focuses on female journalists reporting in the Ethiopian private newspapers. The research is purely a qualitative approach both in collecting and in analyzing data. The main tools used here to collect and analyze data are textual analysis and interviews. Some selected stories reported by female journalists in the sampled private newspapers from the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to September 30, 2017 were taken as the sample to be analyzed textually and be interpreted qualitatively. Also selected female journalists and editors from the selected media were

interviewed. The data collected through the textual analysis and interviews presented together thematically.

### **1.6. Significance of the Study**

Among many, the following points are mentioned here as significance of this study. As the main interest of the study women and the media, it will help to fill research gaps in relation to female journalists and their reporting in the Ethiopian media context. The study may also contribute to the academic discussion in the field of female journalists and the media, and specifically from the perspective of framing and feminist standpoint theory. As already indicated, there has been little attention to this particular topic.

Additionally, this study can be not only a starting-point for other researchers who want to investigate on the issues on media and gender in the Ethiopian context, but also the finding may help the policy maker and media organizations.

### **1.7. Scope of the Study**

The study is limited to the Ethiopian media, in particular privately-owned newspapers (*Reporter, Addis Admas, Fortune and Capital*). Selected news stories from these newspapers will be analyzed by using a qualitative method. In term of time, the study is defined to July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Interviews with journalists and editors in the newspapers and some other experts in the field are also part of the research.

### **1.8. Limitation of the Study**

One of the major challenges that should be mentioned here is a methodological problem. i.e. it is difficult to generalize the research finding since I am using qualitative research method. While I was selecting the subject of the study, I limited only on female journalists and stories written by them. Even I exclude some stories with bylines which don't have names (not written by the name of the reporters) This sometimes affects the research to draw conclusion on journalists in general, and female journalists in particular. In addition to this, it would be more comprehensive if the study included the electronic media. However, due to the limited resources both time and finance as well as the main purpose of the study, I did not include not only male journalists but also the electronic media in the country.

It is also good to mention that the sample period, and the number of the sample of cases were limited. Though the period, and the sample of cases taken to this study do not affect the results of this study, it would be wider if it included longer period and many cases.

### **1.9. The Structure of the Thesis**

This thesis has five chapters. This first part introduces the study, consisting of background, statement of the problem, objective of the study, research questions, scope and significance of the study. The second chapter is mainly devoted to literature review and theoretical framework. The third chapter explains the methods that will be used and in which way the study employs different data collection and analysis tools. The fourth chapter consists of data presentation, discussion and interpretation. And the last chapter is the conclusion, outlining the major findings, conclusions and recommendations.



## **2. Chapter two – Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

### **2.1. Introduction**

This chapter contains a review of relevant literature and theory for the study. Firstly, I present briefly about the situation for women in Ethiopia. Then, I review literature related to women and media. Thirdly, I review two important theories that will support the study. These are framing and feminist standpoint theories.

### **2.2. Women in Ethiopia**

Women in Ethiopian makes up close to 50% (49.5%) of the population (CSA, 2008). Most of the women, like men, live in the countryside. However, women are less educated than men, and Ethiopian women are found to have one of the lowest literacy rates in the world at 41%, lower than that of men (Helina, 2015, p. 13). The women are mostly devoted to household chores, while men have access to resources and make decisions in the community (USAID, 2018). However, it is estimated that 25% of the households are headed by women (UN Women, 2014).

A global ranking puts Ethiopia in 115<sup>th</sup> place of 144 countries in terms of health, revival and education (CEN, 2017). In specific elements, Ethiopia ranks 109 in health, and 134 in education. According to the World Economic Forum (2017), the political involvement of women in the country has shown significant progress. It is ranked 50 out of 144 countries (CEN, 2017). The reasons for the improvement of women involvement in political participation are given as increments of the number of women in the parliament, appointments of women at the ministerial levels, and appointments at the regional states bureaus (World Economic Forum, 2017, p. 149). This is supported by a UN research conducted in 2014, which underscores that the engagement of women in politics, including in the parliament and ministerial appointments, and other decision-making position, has significantly improved (UN Women, 2014, p. 11).

The engagement of women in the professional workforce in the country has also shown progress, though it is still less than for men. For example, a research conducted in 2015 found that professionals who work as authors, journalists and linguists in the country are 5,500. Form this number, women share only 37 % (Helina, 2015, p. 73).

The brief report above demonstrates that despite the fact that there have been changes in women participation in the country, their engagements are still behind what it should be.

### **2.3. Female Journalists and the Media**

Studies on women in relation to the media mainly focus on three aspects. These are women's representation in the media industry, the portrayal of women in the media, and women journalists' report in the media. The following section will review relevant studies in these areas, as well as point out what is missing in the study of women and the media.

#### **2.3.1. Women Representation in the Media Industry**

Much literature on women and the media are focus on how women take up positions in the media industry. When it comes to leadership positions, plenty of studies indicate that women do not take higher position in the media. Several explanations could account for this. For instance, it could be a result of the overall lack of women in journalism. Like elsewhere in society, there is no exception in the media institution in describing female journalists as they are seemingly incompetent. This can be also related to gender differences. Such studies tend to extrapolate how sexual (orientation) differences have affected female's engagements in the structural hierarchy of the media industry (e.g. reporter, senior reporter....editor-in-chief) .This has been discussed in a form of "Gender schemas" (Valian, 1998). She explained the idea of gender schemas that there have been barriers on women in the media industry in general and the offices in particular that they could not evaluate the performance of female journalists based on the objective reality of them (females). To illustrate, the male-female difference in society has its own influence: the way we perceive each group affects our evaluations to the groups in the profession (Valian, 1998, p. 04). Valian also contends that though there have been many changes recognizing women's role in the society, the gender schemas still have negative influences on the evaluation of women's competence in male dominated professions (Valian, 1998, p. 314). Valian's argument is based on two points. First, most professions are male dominant and second, women are portrayed with incompetence behavior. This has happened because females are infrequent in the profession (Valian, 1998, p. 314). Moreover, Valian attempts to show how the gender discourse in the community, the prior perception of sex in society and the out-numbering of male in the working environment affect women's professional levels and their performances. This difference which does not show a clear picture of women or their competence creates some sort of unhappiness to the women in engaging in the profession and continue working for long. A research by Stevenson and Wolfers (2009) indicates that most women are less likely to be happy about their jobs, and one of the reasons they mention is unfair gender differences.

It is my argument that by any account, female journalists can experience the above challenges in a more serious manner. As a demanding nature of the profession of journalism, the problems can be even vast on female journalists. It is also a cause for female journalists to leave their jobs. A research from the US on female journalists' turnout found that due to the disparities of equity and the dominance of male journalists which has some forms of influence on women, female journalists prefer to leave their jobs (Elmore, 2009). The journalists in the study explained that they quit their jobs to resist being overwhelmed by men and dissatisfied by workplace, which is dominated by a patriarchal norm (Elmore, 2009). In other words, there has been repression of women journalists. As a result of this and other reasons, there have been high turnouts of female journalists in the USA media. A study conducted by 715 US newspaper journalists indicated that female journalists show higher level of exhaustion and lower level of effectiveness than male journalists (Reinardy, 2009). The same is found in research from Ethiopia. A study conducted in 2007 indicated that female journalists lose interest to work as journalists soon after they get engaged in the profession. It was reasoned out that this might happen because of better salary in other organizations and because journalists are not able to exercise freedom of expression and professional ethics, thus wanting to leave their job (Mengistu, 2007).

A recent report indicates that the male domination in the US media still exists. A study on columnists on the top ten newspapers circulated in the US found out only six female contributors among the 22 columnists. Also, among the top 11 members who made editorial decisions in the newspapers, only four were women (Taibi, 2014, p. pp 6). Generally, women in the media still have lower responsibility, are assigned on neglected or soft power, and they are few in number. The above studies are from the USA, where journalism is well developed, democracy and equal participation is well recognized both by the government and the society. Though there is a conducive environment for the media and women, there are still challenges for female journalists. In a review of studies in Ethiopia, Mengistu (2007) notes that female journalists in Ethiopia are not only fewer in number but also face challenges in reaching the top decision-making levels of the media institutions. He argues that part of the reason could be that the news values in the stations are framed from the men's point of view (Mengistu, 2007, p. 34). Though the proportion is slightly improving, men still dominate the media in the country. Likewise, Birhanu (2014) notes that Ethiopian journalism continues to be dominated by male journalists, and he argues that the main reason for this difference is society's attitudes toward gender.

### 2.3.2. Portrayal of Women in the Media

The second main focus in the literature is how women are represented in the stories. In other words, the portrayal of women in the media. By quoting the 1995 Global framework of the Beijing Platform for action, GMMP (2015, p.77) claims that

The media have a great potential to promote the advancement of women and the equality of women and men by portraying women and men in a non-stereotypical, diverse and balanced manner, and by respecting the dignity and worth of the human person. (GMMP, 2015, p. 77)

However, the Beijing Platform does not show the changes of women's portrayal in the media. Various studies have found that women are either negatively portrayed or underrepresented by the media. For instance, Tuchman (1978), an early researcher on women in the media, comments that while half of the world population is women, they, unfortunately, get less attention in the media. As part of her 'symbolic annihilation' theory, by analyzing stories in the selected magazines in the US, she argues that women are either excluded or trivialized in the media reports (Tuchman, 1978). In her argument, since few females hold higher positions in the media organizations, the content of the media distorts the status of women in the social world (Tuchman, 1979, p. 531). These distortions further lead the media, in particular the advertisement industry, to use women in a negative or wrong manner. Some writers, for example Wandor (1990, cited in Thornham, 2007, p. 6), reveal that women are highly exploited by advertisers, the media and the press, as they take female as a commodity.

In a similar study from Israel, Lemish (2002, p. 123) argues that the overall success of women in society is ignored or overshadowed by the media due to cultural stereotypes. A study on portrayal of women in politics in the US, focusing on the coverage of the 2008 election in three newspapers, namely the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*, found that although better coverage is given to women candidates than before, there are still differences in the theme of the stories on women candidates (Fox, 2010). A study of British and Irish media outlets show that men are still the dominant sources. From a total of 450 sources of the news with a clearly identified sex, 138 (30%) were women and 312 (70%) were men (Ross & Carter, 2011, p. 1158). In short, studies from across the world reiterate more or less similar results, indicating persisting gender stereotypes. In its study, GMMP (2015) argues that although there has been lots of platform that insists on avoiding gender stereotypes, it continues to be seen in the media. The global study concludes, "Only

4% of stories clearly challenge such stereotypes, reflecting a one percentage point change since 2005 when this indicator was first introduced into the GMMP coding instrument” (GMMP, 2015, p. 77).

In relation to stories dealing with gender equality or inequality in the global media, the Global Media Monitoring Project observes that there is a slight change over a decade or so. “In 2015, 9% of stories evoke gender (in) equality issues, more than double the percentage documented 10 years ago” (GMMP, 2015, p. 72). This is to mean that “14% of stories by female reporters focus centrally on women, in contrast to 9% of stories by their male counterparts (GMMP, 2015, p. 10) ). Moreover, issues focusing on women in economics, politics, legal and other social issues are still minimal. A surprising finding is recorded in the result of centering women in the stories in the 2015 reports. While Africa is away in many aspects, here, “African news stories have the highest overall proportion of stories highlighting gender equality concerns” (GMMP, 2015, p. 10).

### **2.3.3. Women in Reporting**

The third area of research focuses on the role of female journalists in media institutions. Much of the research find that the proportion of female journalists in the media houses, both as reporters and supervisors, are minimal. For instance, a study conducted by Elasmr, Hasegawa, & Brain (1999) concluded that though there was a slight increase in female professionals appearing on prime-time television broadcasts in the US in 1992/1993, women were more likely shown playing minor roles (Elasmr, Hasegawa, & Brain, 1999, p. 33). A recent comprehensive research in 60 countries found that women share the minimum number of positions not only in top management jobs (which consists of 27% of the top management positions) but also as reporters (which consist of 34%) in the sampled countries (IWFMF, 2011).

Such numeric differences between male and female journalists is also reflected in the bylines of the stories. In examining the extent of female journalists, Strong & Hannis (2007) counted the byline of about 15, 000 stories published in fifteen days in newspapers in New Zealand and Australia. The result shows that although female journalists make up half of the journalist population in the media in these two countries, male journalists report more than half of the stories (Strong & Hannis, 2007). There are also studies that focus on how female journalists frame sport issues specifically in the media. For instance, Kian & Hardin (2009) found that women’s tournaments were more likely to be covered by female reporters. And such events were considered less relevant than those covered

by their male colleagues (Kian & Hardin, 2009, p. 200). Here, it is fair to point out that the journalistic roles in media houses are less filled by women than by men. It is also true in Ethiopia. While women have few top management positions in the Ethiopian media, they occupy one-third of the ranks-and-file positions (IWMMF, 2011, p. 89; Skjerdal, 2017, p. 12).

In summing up, most studies have found that although there have been certain changes over time, women are still highly misrepresented, excluded and undermined in the media, in the society and in the profession. However, there is still little research on female journalists and their reporting practices in the Ethiopian context. In this study, thus, I want to investigate how various issues have been reported by female journalists in selected newspapers. As theoretical framework for the study, I use two theories. These are framing and feminist standpoint theories. While framing theory helps the study to look at media aspects – how the stories are framed, standpoint theory will be used from the women’s perspective. Here, I want to describe the two theories and explain how I use them in this study, briefly.

#### **2.4. Framing Theory**

The relevance of framing theory in this study is twofold. First, it is important to provide a conceptual framework for the study. It helps me to understand how the stories are framed in the selected newspapers in Ethiopia. Then, it is also important to develop tools for data collection and analysis. But, here, I present a brief review of what framing means.

Scholars define framing as a process of selection and presentation of issues in the media. For instance, Gitlin (1980) describes framing as a presentation and interpretation of information (p. 7).

Media frames are persistent patterns of cognition, interpretation, and presentation, of selection, emphasis and exclusion, by which symbol – handlers routinely organize discourse, whether verbal or visual. Frames enable journalists to process large amounts of information quickly and routinely. (Gitlin, 1980, p. 7).

Gitlin emphasizes the systemic ways of presenting and interpreting information in the media. In fact, framing can also be seen as a process taking place by the receivers. For instance, Goffman (1974) defines framing as a schema of interpretation. This is to indicate that whatever the media frame, it is understood and interpreted by the receivers’ prior knowledge. “Each primary framework allows its user to locate, perceive, identify, and label a seemingly infinite number of concrete occurrences defined in its terms” (Goffman, 1974, p. 21).

Robert Entman proposes a quite relevant definition of framing theory from a media studies perspective. His definition focuses mainly on the power of communication to select and make more salient aspects of the issue to the receivers.

To frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described (Entman, 1993, p. 52).

Entman also notes that frame can be identified by focusing how the cause is diagnosed, the problem is defined, the situation and the context are interpreted and what kind of suggestion is given as a remedy for the problem. These elements are very important to this study for search of frames of the stories from the newspapers.

Reese (2001) summarizes the definition of framing as follows. “An *organizing principle* that is socially *shared* and *persistent* over time, that work *symbolically* to meaningfully *structure* the social world” (Reese, 2001, p. 11). Those terms that are italicized (as they are written in the book) are fundamental terms which initiate further discussions the use of framing theory. For instance, the term “organizing” is one of the important terms in the definition of Reese (2001), indicating that the frame can be successfully carried out based on its way of organizing the information that will be presented in the media. Framing theory attempts to make sense of how media frames affect people’s thinking either in a form of cognitive or cultural dimension. Reese proposes that the frame influences the receivers of a message to think about a certain social phenomenon as the way it is framed, and then, to accommodate it in a certain culture (Reese, 2001, p. 12). The other important term used by Reese is ‘persistent’, which signifies that the frame shall be consistent over time.

In short, framing theory concerns the selection, presentation and interpretation of certain issues in the media. Hence, using framing theory as a backdrop of this study is vital to assess how issues have been framed by female journalists in the selected newspapers in Ethiopia. It is clear that framing of an issue in the media is contested by various settings. It can be influenced by sources, culture/context, receiver, and the journalists (Entman, 1993). With this understanding, it is worth to look at how female journalists report issues in the newspapers so as to identify what kind of frames they construct while covering different cases.

## 2.5. Feminist Standpoint Theory

The second theory to be applied in the study is feminist standpoint theory. This theory deals with how marginalized groups look at things differently. The marginalized in this study refers to women. The theory will help to analyze how female journalists look at issues in a different way while reporting them. The relevant background here is that the Ethiopian government employs affirmative action to increase women's participations in many aspects of society, since, as described earlier, women still take a lower position in politics, economics, education, and so forth. In other words, women are still marginalized and yet not free from the patriarchal hegemony in the country. Within this context, I want to see how female journalists report issues in the media. Feminist standpoint theory argues that the perspective of the marginalized and the oppressed individuals can help to create more objective accounts to the world based on their position (Smith, 2004). In a similar vein, Wylie (2003, p. 26) underscores the following point,

Those who are subject to structures of domination that systematically marginalize and oppress them may, in fact, be epistemically privileged in some crucial respects. They may know different things or know some things better than those who are comparatively privileged (socially, politically), by virtue of what they experience and how they understand their experience. (Wylie, 2003, p. 26).

As articulated by feminist standpoint theory, women are able to see things in a different way than men do, thus, their frames may reflect their perceptions which is gained through their experiences in the society in general, and in the profession in particular. Consequently, there may be unique frames constructed by female journalists. I want to note that in this context, female journalists are not necessarily feminists; however, it is to address that being a female by itself will give them an advantage to see things differently and perhaps critically (Smith, 2004). This is also argued by Sandra Harding, who writes that feminism standpoint theory emphasizes an alternative way of looking of issues, when viewed from the marginalized group. To use her words,

A social history of standpoint theory would focus on what happens when marginalized people begin to gain public voice. In the society where, scientific rationality and objectivity are claimed to be highly valued by dominant groups, marginalized people and those who listen attentively to them will point out that from the perspective of the marginalized lives, the dominant accounts are less than maximally objective. (Harding, 1993, p. 54)

The 'marginalized' in the context of my study is the female in the society in general and in the media in particular. It is thus my argument that female journalists may have a different perspective



and outlook on issues they report on. As noted, this study will analyze those stories reported by female journalists, thus the findings can be interpreted from feminism standpoint theory.

## **2.6. Summary**

Studying women and the media in particular, and women in the society in general, is a recent phenomenon. In fact, issues of gender in the global perspective have got better attention following the 1995 Beijing conference. However, after the 1970s, there has been a growing attention on these issues in the research. Tuchman (1978) was one of the pioneers with her study on the depiction of women in the media. Today, there is quite a number of related studies, mainly focusing on women representation in the media, women proportionality in media institutions, and women's responsibilities and reporting of issues in the media. In continuing to fill the gap in the research, for example concerning women and media in Ethiopia, this chapter has pointed to two theories to be used in the study, namely framing theory and feminist standpoint theory.

### **3. Chapter three – Methods**

#### **3.1. Introduction**

This study employs mainly the qualitative method that enables collection and analysis of relevant data from the sampled newspapers. More specifically, this study makes use of textual analysis and in-depth interviews. The former was found useful to look deeper into the stories collected from the selected newspapers. The latter was used to support the textual data during the analysis. In this chapter, I present how I used both tools to collect and analyze data, how the newspapers and stories were sampled, how interviews were used in the analysis, and how the informants were selected and other important matters. But, first, I want to present the population of the study (subject of the study).

#### **3.2. Research Design and Approach**

The research can be regarded a case study. The cases consist of stories reported in the privately-owned newspapers by female journalists in Ethiopia. The cases were purposively sampled.

The study used qualitative approach in both collecting and analyzing data. Using this approach in this study was with the purpose to get deeper information and insights for the analysis. One of the challenges in using a qualitative approach, as emphasized by methodology scholars, is that it is difficult to generalize the research findings to the whole population. As the main purpose of this case study was exploring how female journalists report stories in the private newspapers by taking a sample, it did not have the intention to get data that could be generalizable to the general population.

#### **3.3. Subject of the Study**

The main subject of the study was Ethiopian media, specifically the private press. Stories which were reported by female journalists in the private press were taken as the population of the study. In addition, in order to get insights from the reporters, female journalists who were actively publishing stories in the private press were taken as a subject of the study. Hence, the subjects of the studies were the independent press, stories reported by female journalists, and themselves. It is presented hereunder why and how the independent press, stories of female journalists, and

themselves were taken as subject of the study. I will also explain how sampling of newspapers, stories and informants were done.

### **3.4. Selection of Newspapers**

Currently, in terms of ownership, the Ethiopian mainstream media can be mainly classified into three. Government owned (sometimes, for example in the broadcasting law, these channels are classified as public), commercially or privately owned, and community owned (for all practical reasons: community radio). In terms of media type, these media can be reclassified into two, namely electronic media (radio and television), and print media (newspapers and magazines)<sup>5</sup>. The latter one has existed in the country for more than a century. The electronic media came later but have progressed well. From these two traditional media types (electronic and print), I chose the print medium as focus in the research. One reason for this is that print materials are easier accessible for research since they can be retrieved anytime retrospectively (Deacon, Pickering, Golding, & Murdock, 1999).

However, there are also additional reasons for choosing print media as subjects for the study. One of the most important reasons, perhaps, is that the independent press is relatively autonomous in reporting critical issues and comparatively speaking they enjoy more freedom of expression than the electronic media (Infoasaid, 2011). This may also allow female journalists to reflect their own views more freely, as they work in media firms that are relatively free. This is to mean that female journalists in the selected newspapers may reflect their views in the privately-owned newspapers in the Ethiopian context (Yetenayet, 2008). Besides, unlike journalists in the state run media, who are blamed for promoting protocol journalism, which may not deal critical issues widely (Skjerdal, 2013), the journalists in the independent press are not only interested in reporting issues critically, but also may follow different styles to reflect their views freely. Hence, since journalists working in the government run newspapers are afraid of publishing different views, the state-run newspapers are not included in the sample of the study.

As noted previously, it is easy to access newspapers archives and to review them in a certain limited period. Since my interest is to investigate stories published in consecutive months in a certain period

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<sup>5</sup> One can include online media as one type of the media, however, since it is a recent phenomenon in the country, and it is still in progress, I did not include it here.

(from July 1 to September 30, 2017), it was important to focus on newspapers which can be easily available in libraries and can be accessed within the time frame of the study. Here, I want to note that there is a law that enforces media institutions to submit two copies of each publication to the national archives and library agency, then, any interested people can trace them (Proclamation 590/2008). So, accessing the subject of the study was the other reason that the researcher depends on print medium.

It is also possible to reason out that unlike other private newspapers in the country, the specific newspaper titles chosen for the study have been in the media market for a long period and have relatively high circulations in the country (Ward, 2011). Lastly, one can take the bureaucratic structure of the media institutions. Since the study is conducted in a limited period, it could be difficult to access pertinent data from the electronic media, particularly from the government owned media. The government owned media, especially the electronic part, tend to be highly bureaucratic and slow in assessing applications for access to material and space to review the videos for collecting data. Hence, including electronic media in the sample was regarded as unrealistic based on the time limit given to the study.

In relation to the number of newspapers included in the study, despite the fact that there are currently about 20 newspapers circulated in the country, this study sampled only four newspapers. These are *Addis Admas*, *Reporter*, *Fortune* and *Capital*. The *Reporter* is a bi-weekly (Wednesday and Saturday), but only the Saturday one is included in the study. Among various reasons for the inclusion of these four newspapers in the study, I want to briefly mention the following four points. Firstly, each of the four newspapers has female journalists who either work as a permanent staff or freelancers. Secondly, the newspapers are good examples of the Ethiopian private press, since they represent both English and Amharic medium newspapers. One may also look at the stories in relation to the readership since a medium of publication has an impact on its readers. Thirdly, as they have been part of the Ethiopian media for a longer period<sup>6</sup>, the findings in this study may possibly show a trend in female journalists' reporting. Lastly, due to the scope of the research, the financial and the time constraint, it would be cumbersome to deal with many newspapers in this thesis, thus I deliberately limited the study to four newspapers. So, four newspapers were regarded

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<sup>6</sup> The selected newspapers have been in circulations for longer period. For instance, *Addis Admas* since 1999, and *Reporter* since 1996 are in the media market.

as sufficient to analyze how female journalists report issues in the privately-owned press in the country.

### **3.5. Time Period of the Study**

After deciding which newspapers should be included in the study, the next step was to decide which time period should be included. I first planned to include newspapers published from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 (six consecutive months). It was my fear that I might not get enough stories reported by female journalists if I chose a shorter period. However, when I started reviewing stories in the selected newspapers, I immediately minimized the period to three months, from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to September 30, 2017. In this period, I found ample stories in the newspapers that female journalists reported. It was deemed sufficient to take samples from those stories as basis for the textual analysis. Also, as the research is qualitative, it is wise to limit the number of samples.

### **3.6. Types of Stories Selected**

As noted, while I was reviewing the selected four newspapers, I found many stories published by female journalists. The stories were in different genres, news, feature, interview, and others. Stories written by female journalists in the selected newspapers are specifically the subject of the study. Though the main purpose of the study is to look at how female journalists report issues and how they reflect their views in the stories, I intentionally focus on stories reported in the news genre. In fact, it was possible to include other genres too, but the genres differ in their approach to opinion and point of view, as well as the question of objectivity. Traditionally, news is seen as having strict criteria when it comes to being objective and fact based, whereas opinion and other genres are more subjective, influenced by the writers, and less fact-oriented and time sensitive (Fang, 1991). Hence, news genre was taken as sample of the study.

In the reviewing period, I found 171 stories in the four selected newspapers (*Reporter* – 30, *Capital-23*, *Addis Admas*- 42, and *Fortune*- 76). As my research is qualitative and focuses on how female journalists report the stories, it is not necessary to take a representative number of stories. However, it is fair to include stories which enable to meet the purpose of the study. Hence, I have set the following selection criteria for the news stories:

### **3.7. Selection Criteria**

- Among the stories reported in the news genre in the sampled newspapers, I have selected stories which deal with political, economic, or current issues.
- In addition, for the textual analysis, I selected stories which deal with controversial and sensitive issues, such the current conflicts and political turmoil. This and the previous point can show how female journalists treat current and sensitive issues in the country.
- In order to get wider views and look at detail in their report, relatively lengthy stories were included in the sample of the study.

Hence, a total of 12 stories published in the selected four privately owned newspapers were included in this study.

### **3.8. Data Collection Processes**

#### **3.8.1. Textual Analysis**

This study is initiated with a purpose to conduct a critical analysis on female journalists in Ethiopia and how they report stories in the selected newspapers. It is my argument that the issue of gender in general, and female journalists in particular, in the case of Ethiopia cannot be seen as a single aspect. It can be interpreted in various ways. Their reports, for instance, are a reflection of politics, economics, and socio-cultural aspects as well as their professional levels. It is necessary to go deep into the text and analyze the meaning of the stories in relation to those elements, which is the reason for choosing textual analysis for the study.

Textual analysis is a common tool used in media and mass communication studies (McKee, 2003). It enables the research to reach an educated guess of the text. In other terms, the research can interpret the text based on the socio-cultural context of the country. Fürsich (2009) claims that textual analysis is one of the best tools to collect qualitative data when analyzing media content. “Textual analysis is generally a type of qualitative analysis that, beyond the manifest content of the media, focuses on the underlining ideological and cultural assumption of the text.” (Fürsich, 2009, p. 241).

This author adds that researchers who cannot find sufficient answers by using quantitative content analysis often use textual analysis. Textual analysis is important to look for meaning beyond the

manifested text published in the newspapers. Hence, this study used textual analysis to analyze the stories selected in this study.

In the process of analyzing the text, the researcher focused on the theme and the tone of the story, the main issues discussed in the story, the priority given in the story and sometimes, the words or phrases used in the text. As argued by Seidel & Kelle (1995), it is possible to use any part of the text that can elicit meaning to the story or the society. Using these elements helps me to freely look at many aspects of the story reported by the journalists. Since there is not pre-defined category that could be used to analyze the text, the researcher can dig out new insights and perspectives from the story (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005). Hence, by reading and rereading the texts repeatedly, I analyzed the selected texts. Here, it is fair to mention that it could have been useful to apply software to process the qualitative data, however, due to the limited resources, time and capacity, I did not use such applications. I processed the data manually. This does not mean that the data and the results were less valid. Since I used various techniques to make sense of the text, the validity of the study was adequately maintained.

### **3.8.2. Interviews**

The study used interview as a tool to collect relevant information from the main actors in the Ethiopian media. The interview method helped to get in-depth information from the journalists and editors about why female journalists report stories the way they are. This ultimately showed the extent of female journalists' professional autonomy in the selected newspapers. Additionally, the interview approach helped to fill the information gap that the textual analysis did not answer. For instance, from the text, I did not get a clear answer for the way the female journalists report the stories. Conducting face-to-face interviews with key informants then became relevant to capture the insiders' view. The informants had been selected based on the no. of stories they wrote in each newspaper during the sampling period. Thus, female journalist who had reported many stories were potential interviewees and most of them are editors too. It would have been preferred to include male editors too, but they were very busy and could not be available for interviews during the data collection period. In total, however, the interviewees comprised of five female journalists and a chairwoman from Ethiopian Media Women's Association. Though the number of informants for the study were relatively few in number, the information collected from these informants contributes well to meet the purpose of the study.

For the interview, I set interview guide (list of questions) based on the research purposes. Moreover, after I have got some results, I added some other questions. While I was interviewing, I took notes that could help me to guide the analysis. I also listened to the recorded material to get the main gist of the interviews. I took information from these interviews to support the data collected through textual analysis.

### **3.9. Data Analysis**

After deciding the subject of the study and the sampling period, the next step was to decide how the qualitative information from the newspapers would be collected. Stories reported by female journalists in the study period in the sampled newspapers were already picked. For the in-depth analysis, I read the selected stories repeatedly based on pre-determined themes. The data collected through interviews were used to support the discussion.

### **3.10. Ethical Clearance**

All formal ethical obligations concerning research and data storage were followed. For instance, in relation to the ethical clearance of research to use information collected from the informants, I applied and got permission from The Data Protection Official for Research (NSD). Also, before the actual interviews started, I made sure each of the informants were informed about the consequences of participating and were willing to be cited by their name if the information was found relevant to the study. Each informant signed a written agreement stating the willingness to participate in the study.

Although they were willing to be quoted in the text by their names, I did not write their names in the text of the study. Instead, I used them in a form of code, like informant 1, 2, ...and 12. It is because it is my responsibility, as researcher, to protect the sources from some forms of harm, which may happen in the future in connection with the information they gave it to me (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2011).

One point that I want to mention it here is that the names of the informants were identified in the draft of the study just to show who were them to the supervisor. However, when I finalized the paper to submit it, I did not mention their names. I prefer to hide their names. I used codes, like informant one, two...and 12. In fact, I mentioned where they are from.



## **4. Chapter Four – Presenting, Discussing and Interpreting the Findings**

### **4.1. Introduction**

In this chapter, I will present, discuss and interpret the main findings of the study. Firstly, I review what was observed in data collection from the selected newspapers. Secondly, I present some elements that can show female journalists' engagements in reporting and writing stories. And, lastly, I discuss the framing of the stories, with support from the interview data.

### **4.2. Summary of the Findings**

As noted in the methodology chapter, four newspapers were reviewed in the study. In these four newspapers, 171 relevant stories were found, representing different genres (42 from *Addis Admas*, 30 from *Reporter*, 76 from *Fortune*, and 23 from *Capital*). As the main focus of the study is the news genre, twelve news stories (three from each newspaper) were purposively selected for in-depth analysis. However, before delving into the in-depth analysis, it is suitable to present an overview of the main findings of the data collection.

### **4.3. Female Journalists' Reporting**

The following observations are based on all the material scrutinized for the study.

#### **4.3.1. An Overview of All Reported Issues by Female Journalists in the Selected Media Material**

The study found a relatively high number of stories reported by female journalists. As noted in the methodology chapter, it was my fear that there would not be many stories reported by female journalists because there have been claims that female journalists are few in number in the media companies in the country, which might result in a minimum of stories reported by them. However, compared with the proportion of male/female journalists in the country, one could conclude that the number of stories that were found in the newspapers represents a fair amount. Between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 171 stories in different genres were reported by female journalist in the four newspapers. It is a good sign that female journalists have actively reporting stories in the selected privately-owned newspapers during the study period. It is still fair to note that there are differences among the selected newspapers. In some newspapers, the participation of female journalists is high. For instance, female journalists in *Fortune* newspaper reported 76 stories. In *Capital* newspaper on the other hand, which a comparable newspaper in terms of publication

frequency and size of the editions, only 23 stories were reported by female journalists. In the former case, surprisingly, female journalists also take the lead in being behind more stories published on the front page than male journalists during the sample period.

#### **4.3.2. Female Journalists' Tendency of Reporting Event-based Issues**

While I was selecting stories for qualitative analysis, I got a chance to look at what kinds of stories female journalists report in the sampled newspapers. As a matter of fact, it has been claimed that female journalists in Ethiopia are preoccupied with reporting soft news. It was my expectation that a similar trend would be reflected in this study. And rightly, I found that most of the stories reported by female journalists in the selected newspapers were a kind of soft news, dealing with entertainment, arts, culture, and literature. These stories were typically reported from events that were organized by different institutions where journalists were invited. The events were for example graduations, inaugurations, conferences and workshops.

There is not necessarily anything wrong about reporting from events. However, it is an indication that they mainly depend on reporting the issues or the views of the event's organizer. Most events are described as they are "well-orchestrated events" organized by an institution with the purpose of getting wider chances to promote their agenda (Garrison, 1992). When female journalists focus primarily on events, they risk that their impact on the public agenda is minimized.

However, it is also possible to interpret the event-orientation of female journalists in other ways. Firstly, it can be explained in terms of the media culture in the country. Ethiopian media, particularly the state-run, highly depend on event-oriented reporting so as to meet the interest of their organization which is to focus on success stories (Negeri, 2013). In support of this idea, a study indicated that the high tendency of the government media (63% of the development issues) in dealing with issues from events led them to report issues uncritically as well as in favor of the state (Abayneh, 2017, p. 58). Though the sampled newspapers are privately owned, female journalists in the selected newspapers follow the same trends – they report stories based on events.

Secondly, the female journalists' high interests in reporting stories based on events can be explained in terms of their readiness and potentials in executing tasks immediately. Since the events are organized by external institutions, the media companies may not know well the agenda for the event. The media get an invitation letter to attend the events. Then, the media houses assign

journalists to report the event when the issue has some public interest. Usually, only events which are relevant and newsworthy to the people (readers), get attention by the media. Considering the relevance of the issues, the journalists may be informed the editor to report the events. Hence, they should be always ready for such kinds of assignment- unplanned task. This may also indicate that female journalists are most available and most willing to report on such issues. Unlike demand driven reporting, event-oriented reporting needs the readiness of journalists who are organized to be assigned anytime to report any issues. In this aspect, female journalists can be appreciated.

Thirdly, as noted above, media houses do not send journalists to all events they are invited to the issues. Only top events get attention by media organizations. From this one can infer that female journalists have been assigned to report top events in the country. Then, it is possible to argue here that female journalists are capable to report not only soft issues, as they are widely levelled, but also top issues whenever they get the chance. In support of this idea, an informant (Informant 1) from *Fortune* newspaper claims that female journalists are competent enough to covering hard issues, sometimes perhaps even more than their male counterparts. The informant claims that this is the case because female journalists are believed to have “a special ability” to work under pressure. Moreover, she emphasizes that as an editor-in-chief, she prefers to assign female journalists to report hard issues. It is her argument that female journalists use different options and techniques to get the required information to make their story complete. This informant says:

As long as female journalists get the opportunity and exposure to report certain issues, they have the ability to accomplish the tasks. These calibers of female journalists along with their qualification and experience, have helped them to publish large number of stories (Informant 1).

In support of her idea, the newspaper has published a large number of hard stories reported by female journalists. Most of them were published on the front page.

Earlier studies indicated that privately owned newspapers, some of them are included in the current study, have had difficulties getting access to information from government offices and attending press conferences of higher officials (Getahun, 2005; Dagime, 2013). Nevertheless, this study confirms that the sampled newspapers have accessed official sources and big events. One may argue that female journalists access the events since they are widely connected to the society. It is believed

that they often have the ability to communicate easily with people and know how to network<sup>7</sup> (Merchant, 2012). However, another informant does not agree with the idea that female journalists are better in connecting socially, hence having greater chance to access events and to report from those events. She argues that since women are busy with family and social issues, female journalists do not have extra time to socialize and create networks among friends and resourceful persons. Male journalists do more on socializing. Instead, the informant suggests that female journalists have strong commitment and courage to realize their goals (Informant 4). Along this line of thought the selected newspapers in the study are privileged to have female journalists because they are committed to address events. In other words, when female journalists report on events, they can be described as being active in reporting current, relevant and timely issues. From a critical point of view one could argue that event-based reporting leads to less critical journalism, as reporters are invited to the events by the organizers. This may mean that stories reported by female journalists in the selected newspapers are less critical. In fact, it is common that the media, particularly the government-owned, are dependent on event-based reporting, where only the success of the government is reported (Negeri, 2013; Abayneh, 2017). However, among the stories analyzed in this study, there were also critical stories, which will be presented later. In other terms, although female journalists rely on event-based issues, their reporting tends to cover different views and present things critically. This can be taken as a typical trait of female journalists. An informant from *Addis Admas* claim that female journalists have the ability to look at the issue and report the story from a different perspective. She argues that since journalists working in private media have better professional autonomy to practice critical reporting than the state media, female journalists use that opportunity to report issues critically (Informant 3). To be noted, this informant gained experiences from other privately-owned newspapers, namely *Awramba Times* and *Medical*, before she joined *Addis Admas*. Her work experience in these newspapers may sharpen her critical writing skills on hard issues like politics. Through her nine years of journalism experience, she become a wife, a mother and a successful female journalist parallely at the age of 31. One can thus argue that their solid experiences in working for government-critical newspapers may make the female journalists to be more critical in their reporting.

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<sup>7</sup> According to Merchant (2012, p. 17) women use communication as a tool to enhance social connections and create relationships,

### 4.3.3. Using Sources

There are some trends when it comes to the use of sources in the Ethiopian media. Some point out, for instance, that the state-run media have easier access to information from government offices than the private media (Getahun, 2005; Dagim, 2013). As a reaction to this, privately owned newspapers are keen to invite private firms, opposition parties, and others who do not have strong link with the state. However, this is not reflected in the sampled stories of this study. The sampled newspapers inform that most of the stories were collected from the government officials, either by means of interviews or from speeches in the events. For instance, a story reported by Fasika Taddesse, a *Fortune* staff writer, includes two sources of information to report a story about a new law that focuses on fertilizers (appendix 1). These two sources are experts and officials working in government institutions. Similarly, a story reported by Eskedar Kifle, a reporter at the *Capital* newspaper, used two main sources to collect information and write her story. In the story, published on July 23, 2017 (appendix 3), the reporter used one government official and one from a private organization. This writer also used documents from the humanitarian offices as a main source of her news story with a head line “*Now 8.5 Million Ethiopians need food aid.*” (appendix 2). This story is written based on a revised Humanitarian Document for an emergency assistance.

In a similar manner, *Fortune* newspaper published a story with quotations by Taddese Haile, a Former State Minister for Export and Investment in the Economic Section at the Prime Minister’s Office. A story written by Hawi Abdisa in the same newspaper quotes two officials in a story about the new law that penalizes pedestrians that do not obey the road safety in the country (appendix 4). Newspapers published in Amharic language show the same tendency. For instance, *Reporter*, which is a bi-weekly, Amharic-language newspaper (Wednesday and Saturday), used sources from the government office.

In addition to relying on government officials and their offices in collecting information, female journalists also quote research findings and researchers in their stories. For example, stories reported by Metasebi Teshom on *Addis Admas* were sourced from the Parliament report and researched material (appendix 8 and 9). These two stories raised critical issues related to poor quality of education in the country (appendix 9), and Parliament’s decision to lift the state of emergency in the country after 11 months (appendix 8). They were critically reported and included relevant information. Such kinds of female journalists’ critical reporting of issues may be because

of the sources of the information. The journalists collected information from the research findings, that one can argue those government officials may not clearly state the problem in the societies. In other terms, research findings, as one of the sources of information, can be considered as neutral. Moreover, the research findings, which are reported by experts, can help to the journalists to get alternative ideas in a particular issue. The stories selected for in-depth analysis in the study appear to be fair and neutral in referring facts. In support of this, a study conducted in 2009 noted that female journalists, particularly in the women column, use documents and researched material to present a variety of perspectives (Mulu, 2009, p. 34).

The researched female writers in this study were found to quote sources mainly from government offices. In fact, this is not unique for female journalists in the country. It is because Ethiopian journalism in general find a great deal of protocol reporting, where officials dominate the sources (Skjerdal, 2012). However, one can interpret this differently. The use of state officials as sources means that the researched journalists are successful in approaching government offices. It would seem that the female journalists, who are the subject of this study, demonstrate endurance to face the challenges of accessing government officials, who do not easily open their doors to journalists (Human Rights Watch, 2015). As noted earlier, privately owned newspapers generally have a challenge in accessing information from government officials and their offices. In the words of one informant, “we [journalists who are working in the privately-owned press] are a step-child to the government officials” (Informant 3). On the other hand, another informant claims that officials have a tendency to open their door more easily to female journalists than male journalists. This could possibly be a result of the women’s particular communication style, as suggested by researchers elsewhere. According to (Basow & Rubenfeld, 2003) Basow and Rubenfeld, “women use more expressive, tentative, and polite language than men do” (Basow & Rubenfeld, 2003 cited in Merchant, 2012, p. 17). However, the informant does not consider this to be the reason for sources’ willingness to give information to female journalists. She does not believe that easier access to information by female journalists is a result of gender differences. She rather believes that sources are convinced to give information to all who ask for it as a result of their responsibility of letting the people know.

This issue can be explored further. Firstly, it raises questions regarding the source-journalist relationship. Obviously, sources can to some degree influence the way in which female journalists

(or any journalist, for that matter) report on a given issue. If female journalists get easier access to relevant sources of information than male journalists do, the female journalists can have a better chance of reporting issues as complete as possible. The quality of the interaction between journalists and news sources thus could give better chances of writing an informed news story (Berkowitz & Beach, 1993). Secondly, the finding raises questions regarding the female journalists and their views in the story. As noted above, journalists in the privately-owned media are relatively autonomous, for instance when it comes to selecting issues and sources (cf. Skjerdal, 2017). This means that the researched female journalists in the private media are able to select their sources and pick issues from the information available. This could also mean that female journalists have higher chances of promoting their own views, since they can be selective in choosing which information to highlight from the sources. In other words, the female journalists in the study have power to select issues and sources which will influence the way the stories are reported in the newspapers. It is because “sources alone do not determine the news, but they go a long way in focusing the journalist’s attention” (Gans, 2004, p. 154).

Lastly, the finding raises a question in relation to sources and news worthiness. One can argue that one of the main reasons that the journalists’ high dependence on government officials is to make their stories more trustworthy. Trustworthiness also comes from the fact that the sources are mostly top officials, who have an authoritative voice on issues (Gans, 2004, p. 130). In Gans’s argument, journalists use facts and opinions by official sources to make the story appear as more valuable (Gans, 2004). In the case of this study, however, the second point which was mentioned above in relation to ‘female journalists and their views in the story’ holds water. Although sources, especially government officials and communication officers, make information available for journalists with the aim of promoting their personal view or their organizations’ view, it is the journalists who select the relevant information in the end. In other words, what matters is not necessarily using government sources; instead, it is the information which comes from the sources. Hence, though the reviewed stories were using government officials, they were reported critically. In general, the female journalists in the study are found to collect information from government officials, government institutions, and to use research findings that concerns most of the people. This is also observed when looking at the issues they select to report on.

This doesn't mean that there is no gap in using sources by female journalists. For example, in the sampled 12 stories, there were, surprisingly, no quotations from women officials. The informants were asked why they don't include women as sources and quote them in the stories. Among the reasons given is that women are not that much available in the top official position in the public organizations<sup>8</sup> and most officials are men by default. The other reason is related to professional integrity. Female journalists consider sources based on willingness, availability and how the sources have newsworthy issues to share, regardless of gender. An editor reiterates: "It needs extra effort to search and find female sources on every event and story, female journalists are also forced to pick the available source to meet the deadline rather than to keep the gender balance" (Informant 6). In a similar vein, scholars argue that news production is mostly "professional and non-gender specific or [...] news is news and it does not involve gender" (Lavie & Leman-Wilzig, 2003, p. 8). Informants in the Ethiopian media have a similar perspective. For instance, an editor says that a journalist is supposed to be genderless and free from ethnic, religious and citizenship affiliation. Rather she or he must work as a global citizen by excluding her or his stance from the report. (Informant 6)

Research demonstrates that there are gender imbalances in the stories, even in those which are reported by female journalists. On this issue, Zoch & Turk (1998) argue as follows:

Women are seldom used as a source for stories of national and international importance, but rather are quoted as victims or because of their relationship with a male who is central to the story. The study also found that female reporters were no more likely than their male colleagues to quote other women. (Zoch & Turk, 1998, p. 1)

Different explanations can account for this – like lack of awareness, fear of bias, or lack of gender sensitivity in terms of quoting women. One of the interviewees said that in her six years of journalistic work experience, she has not really had an awareness to look deliberately for female sources to balance the gender gaps in the story. Recently, however, she attended a training by UN Women which aimed to raise awareness of gender balance and gender sensitivity in journalistic reports. Now, she tries to include females in her stories as much as possible (Informant 5).

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<sup>8</sup> However, the coming of Dr. Abiy Ahmed to power as prime minister in April 2018 has changed many things. One of them is women involvement in government offices. From 20 ministerial positions, half of are taken up by women. Also, the President of the country is now a female (appointed October 2018).



#### **4.4 Issues Reported by Female Journalists**

As noted earlier, research finds that female journalists are more interested in reporting soft issues than male journalists are. Thus, a study concludes that, “female journalists are dealing with issues of soft stories, which includes celebrities, arts, and they are least likely to be found in hard issues (politics, economic, business, ...)” (White, 2009, p. 14). However, in this study, as noted earlier, female journalists show interest in reporting a variety of issues from events. Taking the selected twelve stories as cases, the following issues were identified in the reports by female journalists.

##### **4.4.1. Social Issues**

Most of the stories reported by the researched journalists can be categorized as social issues, such as education, health, and women’s issues. For instance, a story published in *Addis Admas* (appendix 9) presents the current education status in the country. The article discusses the challenges in the education sector, which is portrayed as being marked by poor quality. In a similar manner, a story published in *Reporter* (appendix 7) raises the issue of support to Ethiopian emigrants who are returning from Saudi Arabia. Though there were calls from the government office to register and rehabilitate them, the number of people who have returned from the Arab countries isn’t yet confirmed. The story incorporates information about what kind of support that the emigrants would get and other issues. In the same newspaper, a female journalist reports on a health issue. The gist of the story is that although life expectancy is improving in Ethiopia, transmittable diseases still cost the life of many people. By means of facts and figures, a reporter explicates the health problems of the country (Appendix 6). Here, one notices the characteristic tie between female journalists and their interest in reporting social issues and humanitarian cases. For instance, a story published by *Capital* (appendix 2) deals with the humanitarian crisis caused by internal displacement and the expected need of support to the victims.

Some scholars (for instance Lavie & Leman-Wilzig, 2003) argue that the tendency of reporting social issues supports a feminist agenda. They note that female journalists often work for justice and equality, and this may lead them to focus on social issues (Lavie & Leman-Wilzig, 2003).

##### **4.4.2. Hard News Issues**

Issues such as finance, business, economics, law, and politics are described here as hard issues. In looking at each story, these issues were to some extent the focus of the reports of female journalists.

In fact, the sampled newspapers concentrate much on business, economy, politics and other sensitive issues (Ward, 2011). The nature of the newspapers allows such hard news issues to be covered by all journalists, including female journalists. This does not mean that the essence of their reporting is purely, for instance, economy or business. A thorough reading of the sampled stories indicates that when female journalists report some issues, for instance law, they do not present the implication of the law in relation to political and economic terms, instead, they frame the stories to show the social implications of the cases. I want to elaborate on this by taking some examples from the selected stories.

A story reported by a female journalist in *Fortune* (appendix 1) deals with the newly drafted law to import fertilizers to Ethiopia. The story analyzes the benefits of the new directives for the farmers and to minimize monopoly of some groups. The story subtly discusses the disadvantage of monopolizing the distribution of fertilizers to the farmers. In *Addis Admas* newspaper (for instance, appendix 9), female journalists report on politics and policy issues. The concerned story is about the poor quality of elementary education in the country, seen from a policy perspective. The story expresses a female journalist's concern with the fundamental problems of education in the country. To add one more example of reporting on politics, the same newspaper (*Addis Admas*) covered the state of emergency, which was imposed in Ethiopia following a series of violence. The issue is purely about politics. Female journalists also report on legal issues. For instance, a story published in *Fortune* (appendix 9) discusses the importance of drafting a law that penalizes pedestrians who disobey traffic regulation. Here it is important to note that most of the issues covered by the newspaper, including social issues, have certain links with politics. That means issues of politics are also reported by female journalists although the volume does not get large as the volume of social issues.

It is appropriate to add one more case for the analysis (appendix 8). The story is based on a meeting held in the House of People's Representatives where the state of emergency, which was declared in October 2016, was discussed, resulting in a lifting of the act after eleven months. The issue was critical and sensitive for both the government and the public. As the country was in certain crisis, the government declared a state of emergency for the second time<sup>9</sup>. Due to the violence, which

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<sup>9</sup> There was a serious debate on the second state of emergency. Unlike other times, The Members of the Parliament have shown strong resistance of the declaration of the state of emergency. However, it was approved by the majority vote principle of the Parliament.

happened prior to the state of emergency, many lives had been lost and property had been damaged. In the article, the journalist took information from the discussion in the Parliament and presented facts about the number of people who were arrested, the extent of properties which had been destroyed by the violence, as well as explaining the political consequences in the country. The point here is that the story demonstrates how female journalists do not only report serious cases, but also examine the cause, problems and possible consequences of the case.

What should be emphasized here is the strong relationship between gender and social issues. Although most the sampled stories represent current affairs, politics and economy, a critical look on the contents of each story indicates that most of them touch on social issues. This is to mean that the issues are reported in such a way that they meet the public interest at large. Arguably, this is an expression of the feminist point of view. As noted by van Zoonen (1998), women mostly report human interest, consumer, health and similar issues. “Gender is also one of the determining discourses in journalists’ identities and their texts” (van Zoonen, 1998, p. 127).

On the other hand, it can also be argued that the seemingly less interest of female journalists to cover areas such as politics and business can be ascribed to gender differences in the media houses. A study from the US found that “Women reporters are frequently relegated to soft news stories, like health and entertainment news, whereas their male counterparts are given stories of political and international importance” (Irvin, 2013, p. 39). Similarly, a study that focused on three mainstream media in England found that stories of human interest and social issues such as health are among the main interests of female journalists in the UK (Desmond & Danilewicz, 2010). An informant from the *Capital* supports this idea.

She is more interested to write on a poverty, health and other neglected social issues rather than focusing only on business and finance reports as of the interest of her male colleagues. Because of this reason, her stories will not appear on the front page, even if they are important and interesting enough. What is believed to be newsworthy and interesting by her male editors are those hard issues (business and economics), but which is boring to her. (Informant 4)

It is relevant to mention here how the stories were reported. As noted earlier, most of the stories quoted government sources, meaning that the reporting could benefit the state. Unlike research findings from some other media, which quote the government offices just to report success stories of the state (Abayneh, 2017), the female journalists in this study could not be described in such way. The researched journalists have been critically dealing with issues in their stories so as not

only to make the stories complete but also to meet the public interest. This can be explained in three ways. Firstly, the selected newspapers are privately owned, meaning that they are highly dependent on the income from copy sales. They therefore need to deal with issues critically, in order to attract readers. Secondly, the critical approach can be described in relation to the relative autonomous nature of the independent press in the country. As privately-owned newspapers are relatively independent in dealing with issues (Infoasaid, 2011), female journalists, like their male counterparts, enjoy the freedom and can report on issues critically (see 4.3.2. and 4.3.3). Thirdly, it might also be of personal interest to the female journalists to report issues critically. This is to mean that focusing on societal issues as well as identifying the main problems may arise from being a woman since women often are the primary victims of the problem and know its pain well. Supporting this, Smith (2004) points out that the reporting can reflect the situation of women in society.

In the social sciences the pursuit of objectivity makes it possible for people to be paid to pursue a knowledge to which they are otherwise indifferent. What they feel and think about society can be taken apart from and kept out of what they are professionally or academically interested in. (Smith, 2004, p. 09)

Generally, the indication from the study is that women journalists are significantly interested in dealing with problems, gaps and weakness of the government, institutions or the society at large. The female journalists seem to have special attention to the major problems prevailing in the country<sup>10</sup>. They are generally more concerned with social issues and problems than controversies and political issues. In fact, focusing on problems is nothing new in journalism. It is one of the news selection criteria that journalists have followed for a long time. Issues of controversy and negative events are some of the criteria the media use to select cases (Galtung & Ruge, 1965).

#### **4.5. Balancing the Stories**

In the review of the stories selected for this study, most of the stories were found to contain one or two sources. As stories selected for this study were news and news analysis and most of them were event based, the stories were often supported only by one main source. Previous research has found

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<sup>10</sup> This does not necessarily mean that male journalists are not keen on such types of reporting. However, since the focus of this study is only on female journalists, the conclusion is made on them.

that it is common in the Ethiopian media to use single sources when writing news stories<sup>11</sup> (Eshetu, 2011), so the female journalists' reliance on one source is a reflection of the media in the country.

As noted earlier, most of the stories used government officials as sources, which the journalists may believe increases the credibility of the stories. However, when there are issues which need confirmation or crosscheck from other perspectives, the female journalists do not refrain from doing that. As far as can be told from the researched material, those issues which need crosschecking and balance, included that in the story. For instance, a story published by *Fortune* newspaper, on 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 (appendix 1), is a best example how the journalists try to make the stories complete. The writer fascinatedly uses all relevant sources to make it complete both in views and sources. The reporter presents the gaps, problems and the importance of the law to the direct beneficiaries of fertilizers. The article also informs how the law would be implemented and who would participate during the implementation process. A similar richness is found in the story concerning the draft law to propose penalties for pedestrians who do not obey the traffic regulations (appendix 4). The story informs of the extent of the problem of traffic accidents in the country, the loss of life and property, the main cause of the traffic accidents, and the possibility of reducing the extent of the traffic accidents when the draft law is endorsed and implemented.

The above stories demonstrate how female journalists strive to write a complete story in terms of views and sources. Views which are important to the story, and sources which are relevant to support the information, are well incorporated in the selected stories. This does not necessarily mean that the reports are perfect. In my view, there are stories, which are in need of more information to support the data and to include views of individuals. For instance, a story printed in *Reporter* that deals with 'Migrants who were returning back from Saudi Arabia have not yet been registered for the rehabilitation program that the government set needs more information about why the migrants were not interested or unable to be registered and then participate in the government rehabilitation plan (appendix 7). There should surely be some sort of reasons as to why the returnees refrain from registering in the program. It would have been appropriate to incorporate the views of the returnees by asking about their opinions, which are hardly reflected in the story. As the story

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<sup>11</sup> According to this study, from a total of 288 news stories, 131 or 45% of the news stories were using single sources (Eshetu, 2011, p.43).

was exclusively based on an interview with the Head of the Communication Department of Workers and Social Affairs at the Ministry, the report misses the view of the returnees.

Overall, nevertheless, the majority of the studied articles were rather complete in their presentation of the issue at hand. Even the single-sourced stories were complete enough for the purpose of the story. Here, one could infer that female journalists try to adhere to the professional values of the discipline, at least by reporting a balanced story.

#### **4.6. Frame of the Stories**

In a critical reading and rereading of the selected stories from the sampled newspapers, this study has identified one major frame. Before presenting what it is, it is appropriate to reflect what elements were taken into consideration to identify the frame of the stories reported by the female journalists. It is also important to explain the mechanism used to identify the frame.

Firstly, the frame is constructed through a manual process. A story is read and reread many times. In the review process, I wrote down important themes and words mentioned in each story. The above-mentioned points, such as sources, views and issues selection, were also part of the elements used to point out the frame. Most importantly, I looked at how the story narrates the cause, the problem and the remedy. By looking at each of these elements, I concluded that the dominant frame in the stories was a compassion frame.

##### **4.6.1. Compassion Frame- High Sense of Concerns**

The scrutiny of the stories by female journalists finds them to describe events and issues in way that exposes the feelings, concerns and attention of the writers. This is why I called it a compassion frame. This frame can be seen, firstly, from the issues the journalists report. Secondly, it is reflected in the theme of the stories. Thirdly, it is also mirrored in the way the headlines and the stories are reported. Sometimes the diction of the journalists also infers how they are answerable to the public. By using these points, I will explain the framing by taking examples from the selected stories.

Among the stories analyzed in this study, some of them can show how female journalists have serious concerns about prevailing problems in the country. For instance, a story published by *Addis Admas*, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 (written by Metasebia Teshome, one of the female journalists in the newspaper), reports that the quality of education in the country is badly deteriorating. By quoting the findings of a research carried out by Addis Ababa University, Draham University, and Kottebe

Teachers' College, the journalist articulates that the education system in the country is in a huge challenge that needs immediate attention by concerned people. A couple of researchers who participated in the study are quoted in the lengthy story. Such kind of reporting might be a result of the journalist's concern towards the issue.

This particular story shows how female journalists can have the potential to dig out and report on serious issues. In the country where media somehow suppress critical issues subtly due to internal and external pressure, it is fascinating to see such kind of presentation, particularly from female journalists. This also shows how female journalists, like male journalists, can report on hard issues. Poor quality of education is indeed a serious problem in the country, and both oppositional political party members and experts have been criticizing the education policy of the government. As widely seen, criticizing policy issues of the government has not been the focus of the Ethiopian media, particularly not the state-run media. As they are concerned with promoting the development agenda of the government, the state-owned media do not dare to report critical cases (Abayneh, 2017). However, the privately-owned newspapers have covered such issues. As demonstrated here, female journalists also report critical issues of the government. By using data from a research paper, the journalist reports the story to set on the agenda a serious problem in the country, where both primary education and the entire education system are in danger.

The thorough reporting of such a case can also be interpreted as an example of how female journalists are highly interested in covering social issues that can affect every household. One could possibly argue that their interest towards reporting social issues can be explained in terms of females being more sensitive to those issues. It is because they are the prime victims of those social problems. Therefore, female journalists have a particular motivation for digging out those issues.

Another story which supports the compassion frame is found in the Amharic medium newspaper *Reporter* (appendix 6). The headlines of the story can be translated as follows: "*While life expectancy in Ethiopia is improved, many people are still dying due to transmittable diseases*" (my translation). The story could have been presented as a success story in relation to the better performance of the health activities that improve the life expectancy of the people in the country. However, the journalist includes a health problem that affect many people. The story lists the main causes of transmittable diseases and the extent to which they kill people, especially children. The causes, the problems and the solutions are narrated in the story in a way to show the risk of the

transmittable diseases. One sentence can illustrate how the reporter's concern is expressed: *"Though the life expectancy of the people in Ethiopia are getting improved, their smooth lives styles are highly challenged by diseases and accidents"* (my translation).

There are also other examples of stories reported by female journalists which show how they are sincere to the people and the country. A story published in *Addis Admas* (appendix 10) contains information about the outbreak of weed on Lake Tana, which is one of the biggest lakes in Ethiopia. The headline of the story runs: *'Enboche' weed becomes the threat of Tana; it wide spread into river Abay*" (Appendix 10). The story explicates the fear that the weed may totally affect the water and its value. The writer has compiled information from researchers and written reports and has gathered information about previous bad experience on lakes in the country and elsewhere in the world, which are relevant to the story. The writer presents detailed facts to show how huge the problem that Lake Tana faces is, showing that it needs serious attention and immediate actions by all stakeholders. The story also presents the consequence of the weed in the water, which ultimately has an effect on the country's ecology. The journalist reports the causes of the problem and the consequences, as well as possible remedies. In looking at the overall theme of the story, it is almost a warning call to the people and their government. The story has a tone of emphasis that unless an immediate action is taken by the concerned people, the consequence will be devastating.

Another story, purely political in essence, can elaborate on how female journalists are showing serious concern to public issues. The story with the headline *"The state of emergency was lifted after 11 months"* (my translation) was published in *Addis Admas*, on July 26, 2017 (appendix 8). Following a series of violence in the main towns across the country, the government declared a state of emergency first for six months and later extended (was expected for three months). Considering the stability of the country, the government latter lifted the state of emergency after 11 months. Three observations can be made here. First, it seems that the journalist does not have an interest in emphasizing the state of emergency, which put many young people who seek changes under arrest; some of them were also killed. Secondly, the report seems to highlight the irrelevance of the state of emergency. And, thirdly, the story subtly indicates that the period of the state of emergency was too long. I go on to present some points to show how the story seemingly undermined the importance of the state of emergency.



The concerned story had one headline and two sub-headlines. The two sub-headlines somehow deviate from the main issue of the story. One of the sub-headlines reads, “*390 thousands of militias got training during the state of emergency; and seven thousand suspects are under investigation*” (my translation). The second sub-headline reads, “*the appointment of three ministers approved*”. By just focusing on the first part of the sub-headlines of the story, the writer seems to argue that the period of the state of emergence in the country was too long. In trying to indicate the repercussion of the state of the emergency on the socio politics of the country, the reporter mentions that there were military trainings to train huge numbers of militias, who would survey the security in many areas. As a matter of fact, there is nothing bad in providing training to the ‘*militias*’ who are closely working with other security forces. However, the tendency of the story rather seems to be that it is a less profitable investment in allocating money to train ‘*militias*’, perhaps to control the peaceful demonstrators, and some violence, which were erupted by youth who wanted freedom and equality. Furthermore, in its lead story, the reporter immediately lists out how many youths were under arrest and under scrutiny from Amhara, Oromia, and SNNP regional states. Needless to say, it is commonly described by concerned groups that the correction centers in Ethiopia are not well furnished that prisoners at least get basic service. From this understanding, the writer seems to have an intention to show that there might have been human rights violation on more than 7000 youth who were staging for changes.

On the basis of these stories from *Addis Admas*, one can conclude that female journalists show societal concern and present cases in a responsible manner. In addition to the thoroughness of the stories, female journalists bring issues to the public’s attention. The journalists show a high degree of concerns towards issues that touch the life of the grassroots.

To add one more point here, considering the issues they report and the way they report them, female journalists, particularly in *Addis Admas* newspaper, demonstrate courage to deal with serious issues. There has been a claim that women have the power to carry out any task as long as they get the opportunity. The above-mentioned stories can be indicators that women have the power and interest to deal with current affairs, as long as they get the opportunity to report on it. They do the report not for the sake of reporting. As noted earlier, female journalists can also report hard issues in Ethiopian local newspapers. They report the cases to meet the interests of the people at large, and particularly of those marginalized in economy, health or power.

This way of dealing with issues is also observed in the other sampled newspapers. For instance, in *Capital*, the female journalists' reports have a tendency to point out gaps, problems, or weakness of institutions. In a similar manner, *Reporter* newspaper publishes stories that show how female journalists are serious about social as well as public issues. In their reports, they show how they are more concerned to those, who are seemingly marginalized or victimized. For instance, let us see one sampled story from *Reporter*, about returnees (Ethiopian immigrants) from the Arab world. The way the story is presented serves as support for such poor people. They lost their properties, jobs, money, and even some of them lose hope and became abnormal. And that was why the government called to rehabilitate them in home country even though, the intended number of returnees not yet registered. The journalist gives emphasis to cover this news to address the missed message to the intended returnees through the media. One can here detect how journalists are concerned to point out not only success stories but also not succeeded one like this.

A story published in *Capital* newspaper on July 23, 2017 with the headline "Aquatabs imported to prevent water borne diseases, to be widely available next week" clearly deals with health issues (appendix 3). It is about importing aqua tabs. The story has business and economy elements. However, the story deals with the importance of importing aqua tabs to prevent water borne diseases in Ethiopia, which affect its people, particularly children in the rural areas. The following quote from the story could show the interests of the writer:

*"Among the common diseases that could break out around this season is Acute Water Diarrhea (AWD). This disease is occurring in some places in the country such as the Somali region"* (Appendix 3).

The article indicates that while the core of the story is importing the tabs, the journalist implicitly narrates the real problem of the people in relation to water borne diseases in the country. The financial and business interest of importing the tabs is narrated at the end of the story. Arguably, the journalist has shown an interest in prioritizing health issues that will touch the life of the general public. In other terms, female journalists in the selected newspapers pay more attention to public issues than other topics by giving them higher priority.

Similarly, according to a story published in *Fortune* newspaper, a very important fact to the public is presented. (appendix 4). In fact, a journalist in country can report the extents of the traffic accidents in the country. It is because it is one of the causes of the death of the people, which is one of the newsworthy issues. However, the story starts by presenting the importance of the draft law

in controlling the poor traffic system, which kills several people every day. Appendix 2 can also be another example of how female journalists give priority to people, especially the needy ones. In this story, the reporter firstly presents the extent of the problem and the required amount of money to alleviate the severe problem of people who need emergency food assistance.

In summing up the overall tendency of female journalists in providing information that is pertinent to the public, it is important to underline that this does not mean that male journalists do not show concern for the public. It needs another study. Here, all the arguments and conclusions are based on the stories reported by female journalists since the main focus of the study is on their reporting. At this juncture, it is fair to explain why female journalists have showed such kind of interests. There can indeed be many possible reasons. One may say that the event itself may lead the journalists to give more emphasis to public issues. As a matter of fact, it is clear that news stories are written in line with the interests of the wider public. However, a detail in the story can become the main lead of the article. Other reporters (male journalists) may report differently. It is here sufficient to conclude that it is the intention of the female journalist to report such social issues out of a concern for the public.

Perhaps, female journalists' interest in focusing on social issues, such as humanitarian issues, education and health, can also be argued in terms of the internal and external pressure on the media in the country. Many studies focusing on the Ethiopian media (Stremlau, 2011; Price, Marashi, & Stremlau, 2009; Doha Centre for Media Freedom, 2013) note that Ethiopian journalists work under fear due to the harassment and prosecution by internal and external bodies. As part of the media environment in the country, female journalists earn no exception. This is also a tendency elsewhere. By surveying female journalists across the globe, Reporters without Borders (2016) indicates that it has become a common trend that female journalists, like their male counterparts, face similar threats and harassments (Reporters Without Borders, 2016). Informants in the media also explain that they are pressured, but it is not a political pressure. They note that the working culture of journalism, as well as the societal norms do not allow them to work freely. For instance, female journalists want to work in the production of the newspapers, which is mostly carried out at night.

#### **4.7. Challenges of Female Journalists**

As noted earlier, female journalists have professional autonomy in reporting issues. They have the right to select issues, identify sources and report the issue in a way they might believe will help the

larger public. Such autonomy has given more freedom to enjoy the profession. However, the journalists are challenged by the working trends of the newspapers. The data collected through interviews found that the final part of the newspapers production is mostly carried out at night. Sometimes journalists, especially editors, need to work an extra hour to meet the deadline, even the whole night. This is the primary challenge raised by the informants in terms of double responsibilities. Women in the Ethiopian socio-cultural contexts are responsible to be at home to manage the family, to cook and to take care of their children. Due to that, it is difficult for female journalists to work on the newspaper production at night. In addition, night hours are risky to women since they are vulnerable to harassment in the dark. One of the informants said there are times some form of theft, perhaps an ambushed attack on the streets at the night. And, she is afraid of that, and prefers to leave the office early (Informant, 4). Moreover, she mentions that even though she is highly interested in covering for example stories about the city's night life, her gender is the only obstacle for not doing so.

The other challenge mentioned by the informants is though it is not many, there is a tendency of the sources to shift the journalists-sources relationships into some form of friendship (sexual related friendship). When female journalists are in the field and meet people for interviews, sometimes they face a challenge of diverting and interpreting the relationship to unnecessary direction by male subjects and a trial of an abuse will follow them.

As noted, journalists in the chosen newspapers are free to select and work on issues. However, there are certain fears that female journalists may face. One challenge is related to freedom of speech and democracy in the country. Especially female journalists somehow refrain to cover hard and controversial issues like politics, not to take risks because they are thinking twice about the consequence of reporting of an issue. This could be due to the assumed responsibility of being a wife and mother. Thus, journalists in general and female journalists in particular were working under the climate of fear, which has a clear impact on accomplish tasks of the journalists as a fourth state in Ethiopia. A recent shift in Ethiopian politics, however, has meant that journalists now enjoy relatively greater freedom of expression. This happens to be in connection with the coming of a new Prime Minister in the country.

In terms of maintaining the professional autonomy of the journalists in reporting issues, the sampled journalists confirm that there are likely less challenge in their media institutes. As indicated above,

there is no pressure imposed by their editors to cover an issue without their interest. However, there are a few cases where project proposals to report an interesting or newsworthy issue has been rejected. It is because there is a male dominant cultural barrier that affects the editors' attitude or habit not to accept female story proposals as of their male counterparts. The newspapers are male dominant, although there is a steady growth in the number of female journalists in the press.

Moreover, there are no organizations that provide support to female journalists. The only association, Ethiopian Media Women Association, which has been providing training and other support to the journalists, is currently becoming weak because of lack of sponsors and donations since the government introduced the new 'NGO Law' in 2009 (Informant 2)

## **5. Chapter five – Summary, Conclusion, and Future Studies**

### **5.1. Introduction**

Ethiopian women have been challenged with social and cultural norms, as well as economic and educational barriers. Traditionally women in the country were pushed to stay inside the house and they were not allowed to articulate their ideas publicly. They were highly responsible in the household chorus and taking care of children at home. As they were not educated, and they were not involved in money making, they did not have the necessary power to challenge the pressure they were subject to. As a matter of fact, women in the rural areas were and still are working with agriculture; however, they would not own any property or manage the family's finances.

In connection with the coming of the current Prime Minister into power, initiatives have been made to improve the life of women and their participation in the government system. The state recognizes the importance of women in economic development, social changes, and political roles, and works to capacitate large number of women by passing laws. For instance, the 1995 Ethiopian constitution allows affirmative action to get women involved in every aspect of life so as to improve their participation. As a result, women have become more represented in politics and economy. They are also widely employed in the education sector, including higher academic institutions. Recently, women have got more seats in the parliament and in the latest cabinet (October 2018) take up 10 out of 20 minister positions, including the Ministry of Defense. More surprisingly, the country now also has got its first female president in its history, Ambassador Sahlework Zewde, an experienced diplomat. The prime minister's chief of staff, Fitum Arega comments on the new president appointment as such: "in a patriarchal society such as ours, the appointment of a female Head of State not only sets the standard for the future but also normalizes women as a decision makers in the public life", (Capital, 2018).

In a similar pattern, the situation for women in the media is currently improving both in number and responsibilities. Previously, women were ignored by the media and their roles were neglected due to socio-cultural and educational barriers, but today, women are actively working in the media houses both in the privately and state-owned media. In some media, they are also getting leadership positions.

While their number has improved, and they serve the media in various positions, how female journalists report issues, particularly in the private media, has not been much studied. Also, there are claims that female journalists are mainly engaged in reporting soft news and less sensitive cases. Thus, this study aimed to assess how issues are reported by female journalists in selected privately owned newspapers, namely *Addis Admas*, *Reporter*, *Fortune* and *Capital*.

The study set four research questions:

1. How stories were reported by female journalists in four selected privately-owned newspapers: *Addis Admas*, *Reporter*, *Fortune* and *Capital*?
2. What were the major themes in the stories reported by female journalists?
3. How did female journalists use their professional autonomy when reporting stories in the sampled newspapers?
4. What were the main challenges female journalists' experiences in the process of reporting issues in the sampled newspapers?

In order to answer these research questions, the study applied a qualitative method. It made use of two research instruments, namely textual analysis and interviews. Textual analysis was used to analyze texts published in the selected newspapers by female journalists. Twelve stories were purposively selected for analysis. These stories were published between July and September 2017. Interviews were conducted with female journalists who were active in reporting issues in the selected newspapers during the sample period as well as with other stakeholders such as Ethiopian Media Women's Association.

## **5.2. Major Findings of the Study**

After analyzing the data collected from the texts and interviews, the following major findings were exposed:

- Previous research in relation to women and the media indicates that female journalists are less interested in reporting hard news. Female journalists are found to focus relatively more on art and entertainment, literature, and social issues. This study, however, found that women journalists in the researched Ethiopian newspapers also are interested in reporting hard news issues.

- During the sampled period, female journalists were found to report 171 stories in the four newspapers (*Addis Admas* 42, *Reporter* 30, *Fortune* 76 and *Capital* 23).
- However, there is a major tendency of female journalists to report stories from events, such as conferences, inaugurations, and the like. This was interpreted as evidence that female journalists are ready to report event, since those events are preplanned by various organizations. Secondly, privately-owned newspapers in Ethiopia were customarily not invited to conferences and events organized by government offices in the past. However, the present study finds that the female journalists are able to attend a number of events and cover stories from government offices through their strong social networks. It can also be inferred that female journalists have attained recognition and trust by the official sources.
- It is also found that female journalists are interested in reporting social issues. Even when they report on political and legal issues, female journalists tend to emphasize the social elements.
- In relation to the use of sources, female journalists mainly use officials and experts from government institutions. In addition, they use a fair amount of reports and research data. However, none of the stories contained female sources.
- The journalists in the study for the most part used one source for each story. The stories were found to be rather comprehensive, in the sense that they incorporated various views and appeared to be balanced. Some stories were reported by using two sources.
- In looking at the framing of the stories, one dominant frame was found, namely the compassion frame.
- In this frame, female journalists express societal concern by treating stories that address public interest. Legal and political issues were also covered.
- In terms of the selection of issues and sources, the female journalists in the selected newspapers expressed that they were relatively free. The interviews data indicated that female journalists operated professionally independent from the influence of editors and other gatekeepers. This is to mean that female journalists were able to use their professional autonomy when selecting, writing and reporting stories for the sampled newspapers.
- However, lastly, lack of strong associations that support female journalists is seen to be among the major challenges for the informants in maintaining a strong professional identity and unity.



### **5.3. Conclusions**

Based on the overall analysis, the following major conclusions can be drawn.

- The overall data collected through interview and textual analysis show that female journalists in Ethiopia are active in reporting a variety of issues, including hard news. However, they highly depend on events in their reporting.
- Female journalists were found to be more interested in dealing with social issues.
- Some of professional characteristics emerging from the study are a high degree of responsibility and ethical consciousness, as well as a concern for informing society about important issues.
- The main frame in the stories reported by the female journalists is found to be the compassion frame. This frame is mainly dealing with social issues and public interest. The frame reflects a marginalized standpoint perspective.
- Women journalists sometimes face problems getting professional recognition from information sources. In this regard, they reflect traditional Ethiopian media experiences and could also be said to be victims of a cultural stereotype which undermines the potential of females.
- Inside the media houses, female journalists enjoy professional autonomy. They are free to select issues, sources of information and point of views. Recently, the trust towards female journalists has shown significant changes. They now get access to government officials, for example.
- Although female journalists are mostly depending on one source of information, they tend to report issues in a rather comprehensive manner. Different views were entertained in a given story.

### **5.4. Future Studies**

This study can help other researchers to further investigate issues related to media and women in Ethiopia. I here present a few of potentially new areas of study.

- Future studies could focus on how issues are reported by female journalist using a quantitative research approach. This thesis only used a qualitative approach, but a

quantitative approach could generate data which are generalizable to the entire Ethiopian context.

- Further studies could be undertaken in the area of broadcast media. Since the nature and the characteristics of the electronics and the print media are somehow different, one can develop a proposal to study female journalists reporting in the electronic media by means of case studies.
- Also, it is possible to propose a project idea for conducting a comparative study on female journalists in the electronic vs. print media in the country.
- Besides, in order to look at the impact of identity in reporting issues, it is possible to propose a project idea that can compare how male and female journalists report issues.

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## List of informants

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- Informant 2. A staff member of Ethiopian Media Women's Association, held at January 30, 2018
- Informant 3. A staff member of Addis Admas newspaper. The interview was held on 31, January 2018, at her Office which is found at Kazanchi
- Informant 4. A staff member of Reporter newspaper. The interview was done 22 October 2018 at Bole Medanialem.
- Informant 5. A staff member of Capital Newspaper. The interview was conducted on 23 October 2018 at Bole Medanialem-
- Informant 6. Editor in-chief of Capital newspaper. The interview was carried out 29 October 2018 at her office, which is found in Bole Michael.

## Appendix

### Appendix 1. New Law Surface to Sustain Fertilizer Import

FORTUNE VOL. 18 No. 902 AUG. 13, 2017

# New Law Surfaces to Sustain Fertiliser Import

■ The new directive will enable the Ministry to procure fertilisers directly from the manufacturers

By FASIKA TADESSE  
FORTUNE STAFF WRITER

The Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources (MoANR) has finalised a draft directive that will gear up the monopoly of the fertiliser import process. The new directive will also let the Ministry procure fertilisers directly from manufacturers for three years at a fixed price.

The main aim of drafting the directive is to shorten the period spent to import and distribute fertilisers and to resist the drastic price surge of the former, according to Seifu Assefa, director of Agriculture Input Marketing at the Ministry.

"When the fertilisers are procured from importers it takes over a year to reach the hands of the farmers, but when it is directly from manufacturers, the time will be cut by half," said Seifu.

It took a year for the Ministry to draft the regulation. Three weeks ago, the Ministry put the directive up for discussion to stakeholders of fertiliser import and distribution. The Ministry of Transport, the Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation, the Maritime Affairs Authority, and regional state agricultural bureaus were the stakeholders consulted in the process and gave comments on the directive.

"Comment from the stakeholders was already collected, and we just finalised the draft incorporating the comments," said Seifu.

The amount of fertiliser imported into the country is increasing year to year. A decade ago, the country imported 200,000tn of fertiliser, but this amount reached 1.2 million tonnes during the just-ended fiscal year.

In the recent procedure, the Ministry



For the current fiscal year, the country targets to collect 345 million tonnes of crop yield using 1.5 million tonnes of fertiliser

announces a tender through the Agricultural Business Corporation (ABC) inviting companies to supply the product to the Corporation. The tender is announced in different lots and rounds. The then Agricultural Inputs Supply Corporation (AISCO) has been exclusively procuring fertilisers delegated by the Ministry since 2008.

"We experience significant price fluctuation throughout a year between the time intervals of consecutive tenders," said Seifu.

The new procurement process will also reduce the administrative cost to announce and process the tenders, according to him.

For the new fiscal year, to procure 1.5 million tonnes of fertiliser, the Ministry needs 18 billion Br; about 600 million dollars of it will be in foreign currency and five billion Birr will be in local currency.

Currently, the country imports seven types of fertilisers, mainly Urea and NPS. For the current fiscal year, the Ministry targets to

collect 345 million tonnes of crop yield.

In addition to the directive, recently the Ministry finalised an amendment of two legal frameworks named the Fertilizer Policy and the Fertilizer Production & Trade Proclamation, which were issued in 1993 and 1998, respectively, and will facilitate the monopoly of procurement and distribution of fertilisers.

According to the new draft legal frameworks, the monopoly will continue through the delegation of ABC.

"But in the meantime, we might delegate another institution for the procurement of the fertilisers, or the Corporation may continue as a delegate," said Seifu.

This is an unwise move for Franklin Sintowe (PhD), a fertiliser expert who assessed the National Fertilizer Policies, Regulations & Standards of Ethiopia.

The centralised procurement system has proved useful concerning ensuring the

allocation of foreign exchange and the fertiliser procurement, but there is a lot of competition within the fertiliser supply chain, according to Sintowe.

"Gradually, it is necessary to liberate the fertiliser industry to raise the private sector's participation in the procurement and distribution process," said Sintowe.

With a probability of being liberalised, the government recently announced a tender for the procurement of 1.5 million tonnes of four types of fertiliser: Granular Urea, NPSB, NPS, and NPS.

The government plans to gradually reduce the import while the ongoing legal frameworks are finalised.

Currently, the Metal & Mining Corporation (MetEC) has been procuring fertiliser. In addition to Yayu, five b

Appendix 2. Now 8.5 million Ethiopians need food Aid



### Appendix 3. Aquatabs Imported to Prevent water borne disease

Year 19, No. 972 Sunday July 23, 2017 Capital

# Aquatabs imported to prevent water born diseases, to be widely available next week

By Eskedar Kifle


It is common to have water disease break out during the rainy season and awareness creation on how people can better protect themselves will be needed, according to Dr. Dadi Jima the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute Deputy Director. According to him there is currently no disease outbreak in Addis Ababa.

"Water born diseases occur when there is heavy rain and we will work on bringing awareness to the public soon. So far, there is no concern," Dr. Dadi told *Capital*.

Among the common diseases that could break out around this season are Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD). This disease is occurring in some places in the country such as the Somali Region. Addis Ababa was affected with the disease last year but was put under control.

According to Menase Kifle, owner of Citers International, a company that imports Aquatabs, a tablet which is added to drinking water to kill most harmful micro-organisms, stated that in the past few months, the government has made hard currency available for companies to be able to import Aquatabs.

"We have been importing it for the last few months and distributed



in vulnerable areas including the Somali Region," Menase said.

The company has provided one million Aquatabs for the Somali Region and it is preparing to provide 500,000 tabs in the Oromia region.

Through the support of the Minister of Health, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity and Commercial Bank, the company was able to get the needed foreign currency to import the Aquatabs.

"Although Aquatabs are found in some pharmacies currently, they will be commercially available on a large scale next week in Addis Ababa and the surrounding area," Menase also said.

## Appendix 4 Government Puts new law

PAGE 16 NEWS

FORTUNE Vol. 18 No. 902

# Gov't Puts New Law to Fine Faulty Pedestrians

■ The directive states faulty pedestrians will be fined 40 Br to 80 Br and will be forced to engage in community service.

By HAWI ABDISA  
FORTUNE STAFF WRITER

The Federal Transport Authority (FTA) has drafted a new directive that will penalise pedestrians who do not obey conducts of road safety, such as walking on the left side of a one-way road and crossing the streets properly.

The Authority has been drafting the directive for the past seven months following the coming into action of the amended regulation to control the traffic system in December 2016. The directive will be effective throughout the country starting from next year.

Although the regulation provides for the control of the entire traffic system, the new directive will specifically deal with the conduct of pedestrians. Accordingly, the directive is to provide detailed monetary punishment that ranges from 40 Br to 80 Br, adding to community service for pedestrians that violate the regulation.

The directive also aims to minimise traffic accidents that are caused as a result of negligence, according to Yigzaw Dagnew, director of communications at the Authority.

Additionally, it will incorporate punishment on pedestrians that stand idly or walk on streets that are only allowed for vehicles, as well as on those that cross the street jumping over concrete and steel barriers, and those who cross the street on ring roads, which are not allowed for pedestrians.

The monetary punishments will also be imposed on those that put materials or



Walking on the right side of the road will be among the faults of pedestrians that are to be punishable by the new directive.

conduct trading activities on sidewalks. Pedestrians that cross the street with headsets on will also be subjected to a fine.

Moreover, a person who fails to improve their act, those who were fined more than once and those who cannot afford the fines, will be subjected to community service that will range from cleaning the streets to planting trees based on the repetition of the offences.

Currently, the Authority is holding discussions with the community members on the directive, according to Yigzaw

"Road accidents are causing significant mortality rates in the country, and a big legal, regulatory gap was observed on the conduct of pedestrians," he explained.

Ever since 2006, on average 400 traffic fatalities are experienced in Addis Ababa yearly, out of which 88pc is on pedestrians. Within the past year alone, 463 people have been killed in road accidents, and property damages worth 1.3 million dollars have occurred, according to the Addis Ababa Police Commission.

Police officers and code enforcers that

are under the administration of different *Weredas* and regulatory bodies will enforce the applicability of the new law.

Pedestrians are among the four major causes of traffic accidents along with drivers, technical problems of vehicles and problems on roads, according to Assistant Inspector Assefa Mezgebu.

"Regulating pedestrians makes a significant difference. Although we couldn't continue with it, seven years ago we started working on this issue and witnessed a 70pc decrease in the mortality rate of pedestrians in a year,"

he asserted.

In addition to the new law, there have also been several improvements in road infrastructure in recent years to control the increase in road accidents. In Addis Ababa City Road, for example, in this regard, has been a significant improvement in the road network. Accordingly, the city increased its road network by 5,365km in 2016, increasing the road width from 20pc to 23pc.

Recent data from the Ethiopian Road Authority stated that the number of road accidents in Addis Ababa is still high, and Ethiopia is among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest reports of road accidents (WHO).

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In our *Launch* *Number* have a profound impact on the economy and not only that, but also on the environment.

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J A G E R T I S S E



## አሥር የትምህርት ኮሌጅ ያላቸው ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችን የሚያካትተው የስኩልኔት ዝርጋታ ሊጀመር ነው

300 ህስተኛ ደረጃና መሰናዶ ትምህርት ቤቶችም ተካተዋል

### ዝርጋታው 26.4 ሚሊዮን ዶላር ይፈጃል

የአዲስ አበባ	አድድም	ባህር
<p>አሥር የትምህርት ኮሌጅ ያላቸው ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችን የሚያካትተው የስኩልኔት ዝርጋታ ሊጀመር ነው</p> <p>300 ህስተኛ ደረጃና መሰናዶ ትምህርት ቤቶችም ተካተዋል</p> <p>ዝርጋታው 26.4 ሚሊዮን ዶላር ይፈጃል</p>	<p>አድድም የትምህርት ኮሌጅ ያላቸው ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችን የሚያካትተው የስኩልኔት ዝርጋታ ሊጀመር ነው</p> <p>300 ህስተኛ ደረጃና መሰናዶ ትምህርት ቤቶችም ተካተዋል</p> <p>ዝርጋታው 26.4 ሚሊዮን ዶላር ይፈጃል</p>	<p>ባህር የትምህርት ኮሌጅ ያላቸው ዩኒቨርሲቲዎችን የሚያካትተው የስኩልኔት ዝርጋታ ሊጀመር ነው</p> <p>300 ህስተኛ ደረጃና መሰናዶ ትምህርት ቤቶችም ተካተዋል</p> <p>ዝርጋታው 26.4 ሚሊዮን ዶላር ይፈጃል</p>

የአዳማ መናኸሪያ በዘጠኝ ሚሊዮን ብር የማስፋፊያ ግንባታ ሊጀምር ይችላል

# Appendix 6- Life expectancy in Ethiopia



Appendix 7- Returnees from Saud Arabia

ሰኞ 14 ቀን 2009 ዓ.ም.

የገባችሁት ስድስት

ደንበኞች

## የሰዓዊት ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ

**ወጪዎች**

የሰዓዊት ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ። ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ።

ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ። ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ።



በደቡብ አዲስ አበባ የግራም ተመላሾች ግብይት

ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ። ግራም ተመላሾችን ለማቋቋም በቀረበው ጥሪ የሚጠበቀውን ያህል ሰው አለመመዝገቡ ተገለጸ።



Appendix 8. State of emergency lift

**ለአስራ አንድ ወራት የቆየው የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጅ ተገባ**

በአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጁ ወቅት ከ390 ሺ በላይ ሚሊሻዎች ሰልጥንዋል  
 ከ7ሺ በላይ ተጠርጣሪዎች ከሳቸውን እየተከታተሉ ነው  
 የሦስት ሚኒስትሮች ሹመት ፀድቋል

የተባሉ ከሎሚያ ክልል 436፣ ከሜሪ ክልል 1888፣ ከደቡብ ክልል 1166፣ ከአዲስ አበባ 547 በድምሩ 7737 ተጠርጣሪዎች በተለያዩ ደረጃ ባሉ ፍርድ ቤቶች ከሳቸውን እየተከታተሉ መሆን ተጠቁሟል። ከ21ሺ በላይ ተጠርጣሪዎችም በሁለት ዙር የተሃድሶ ስልጠና ወስደው፣ ወደ ህብረተሰቡ እንዲቀላቀሉ መደረጉ በሪፖርቱ ላይ ተመልክቷል። ከማንድ ፖስቱ የታጠቁ አሻራዎችንና ወረራም ሃይሎችን ለመቆጣጠር የተሰሩ ሥራዎች ቤት ባቀረበው ሪፖርት ላይ እንደተገለጸው፣ በሎሚያ 325፣ በሎሚያ 275፣ በደቡብ 109 በድምሩ 709 ሾማቂዎችና የታጠቁ ጋይቶች፣ ከህዝብና አዋጅ ወደ ጎፊ 2 ዞራ

መታሰቢያ ካላዩ  
 ከታወጀበት መስከረም 28 ጀምሮ በሎሚያ 233 ሺ 070፣ በሎሚያ 143 ሺ 459 እንዲሁም በደቡብ 16 ሺ 475 ሚሊሺዎች መስልጠናቸው ተገልጿል። በተጨማሪም በየክልሉ ያሉ የብሔራዊ ተጠባባቂ የሰራዊት አባላትን የማጠናከር ሥራ ተሰርቷል ተብሏል። የተፈጠረውን አሰመረጋጋት ለማስቆምና የህግ የበላይነትን ለማረጋገጥ የሚያስችሉ ሥራዎችን በተመለከተም በሁከትና ብጥብጡ ተሳትፏል።

ከመስከረም 28 ቀን 2009 ዓ.ም ጀምሮ ለዘ ወራት በሥራ ላይ የቆየው የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጅ በትላንትናው ዕለት ተነሳ። የህዝብ ተወካዮች ምክር ቤት ትናንት የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጁ እንዲነሳ የቀረበውን የውሳኔ ሃሳብ ያፀደቀ ሲሆን ባካሄደው አንደኛው አስቸኳይ ስብሰባ ላይ በቀረበው ሪፖርት መሰረት፣ የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጁ

ለዋጅ ከገፅ 1 የዘረ

ከመስተዳደር አካላት ጋር በመሆን ለመቆጣጠር እንደተቻለ ጠቁሟል። ህገወጥ የመሣሪያ ዝውውርን ለመቆጣጠር ከ97 በላይ አዳዲስ ኪላዎችን በማቋቋምና 196 ነባር ኪላዎችን በማጠናከር የተለያዩ የነፍስ ወከፍና የቡድን ጦር መሳሪያዎችን በቁጥጥር ሥር ማዋሉንም አስታውቋል። ከነበረው ሁኔታ ልምድ በመውሰድ የጦር መሣሪያ እያያዝና አጠቃቀም ላይ ረቂቅ አዋጅ አየተዘጋጀ መሆኑንና አዋጁ በሥራ ላይ ሲውል የዚህ አይነት ችግሮችን ለመፍታት ከፍተኛ አስተዋፅኦ እንደሚኖረውም ተጠቁሟል።

በቅርቡ ከግብር ከፍተኛ ጋር በተያያዘ ተከሰቶ የነበረውን የፀጥታ ችግር የየክልሉ የፀጥታ አካላት በራሳቸው አቅም መፍታት መቻላቸው፣ የኮማንድ ፖስቱ አስፈላጊነት ወሳኝ አለመሆኑን አመለካከቷል ያለው ሪፖርቱ፣ የፌዴራል የፀጥታ አካላትና የክልል የፀጥታ አካላት በአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጁ ወቅት ያዳበሩትን በጋራ ተቀናጅቶ የመሰራት ልምድ በመጠቀም ችግሮችን ለመፍታት እንደሚቻል ጠቁሟል። ኮማንድ ፖስቱ ሲያከናውን የቆያቸውን ሥራዎች ደረጃ በደረጃ በአካባቢው ላሉ የፀጥታና የሚመለከታቸው አካላት እያሰረከበ፣ የቅርብ ድጋፍ ሲያደርግ መቆየቱም ተገልጿል።

በየቦታው እያጋጠመ ያሉ ጥቃቅን ከሰተቶችና ያልተቋቋሙ መለሰተኛ ሥራዎች ቢኖሩም እነዚህ ሥራዎች በመደበኛ ሁኔታ፣ በየደረጃው ካሉ የፀጥታና የመስተዳድር አካላት አቅም በላይ ሊሆኑ ስለማይችሉ የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጁ አንዲነሳና ቀሪ ሥራዎች በመደበኛው የህግ አግባብ እንዲፈፀሙ ለምክር ቤቱ የውሳኔ ሀሳብ ቀርቧል። ምክር ቤቱ የአስቸኳይ ጊዜ አዋጁ በመነሣቱ ጉዳይ ላይ ድምፅ መስጠት የሚጠበቅበት ባለመሆኑ፣ የምክር ቤቱ ኃላፊት ድምፅ ማወቅ ለውጭ ግለሰቦች ሊቻል

Appendix 9- quality of education in Ethiopia deteriorated

**የትምህርት ጥራት በአስደንጋጭ ሁኔታ አሸቆልቋሏል ተባለ**

መታሰቢያ ካሳዩ

- የፆቻ ክፍል ተማሪዎች ማንበብና መጻፍም ሆነ ሂሳብ ማስባት ስደቻሉም
- የኮሌጅ ተመራቂዎች የፆቻ ክፍል ፈተናን በብቃት ማስፍ ስቧቸውም

በአሁኑ ወቅት የአገሪቱ የትምህርት ጥራት ደረጃ በአስደንጋጭ ሁኔታ እየሸቆለቆለ መምጣቱን ሰሞኑን ይፋ የተደረገ እንደ ጥናት አመለካከተ።

የኮተቤ መምህራን ኮሌጅ ከአዲስ አበባ የኔቨርሲቲና ከአንግሊዙ ዱርሃም የኔቨርሲቲ ጋር በመተባበር ያደረገው ጥናት፣ በአገሪቱ በደቡብ ክልሎችና በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ውስጥ በሚገኙ 10 ኮሌጆች ላይ ያተኮረ ሲሆን የትምህርት ጥራት በአስደንጋጭ ሁኔታ እየሸቆለቆለ መምጣቱን ይጠቁማል። ጥናቱን በኮተቤ ኮሌጅ አዳሪሽ የትምህርት ወይ ገፅ 2 ዙሪያ



የትምህርት ጥራት በአስደንጋጭ ሁኔታ አሸቆልቋሏል ተባለ

ለትምህርት ጥራት ረታታይ የሚታየው ጥግር በትምህርት ጥራት ጥሩ የሚሄድ ነው ያሉት ዶ/ር ተጨባጭና በአገሪቱ ጥሩ የሚሄድ መሰረታዊ መስፍን የትምህርት ጥራትን ለማሻሻል መሰረታዊ ችግሮችን በማስወገድ ለለውጥ መነሻት ይኖርብናል ብለዋል። ለትምህርት ጥራት ማሻሻል ዋና ምክንያቶች ተብለው ከተጠቀሱት ጉዳዮች መካከል የጦርነት ትምህርት (ኮሪቩሊም) ከብደት፣ የጦርነት ትምህርት ያደረገው የትምህርት ሥርዓትና ለጋራ ስራ ስራ ያደረገው ክብሩ ነው አሉት። በተለይም ለመምህርነት የሚሉት ይገኙባቸዋል። “በተለይም ለመምህርነት መያ የሚሰለጥኑት ውጤታቸው እነሱን የሆነና መያ የሚሰለጥኑት ውጤታቸው በመሆኑ፣ ለመምህር ፍቅርና ፍላጎት የሌላቸው በመሆኑ፣ ተመርቀው ሲወጡም የመያ ፍቅር የሌላቸው መምህራን ይሆናሉ” ያሉት ጥናት አቅራቢው፣ “እነሱም ለተማሪዎቻቸው ደንታ የሌላቸውና ለትምህርት ጥራት መገኛል የበኩላቸውን አሰተዋፀኦ የማያበረክቱ ይሆናሉ” ብለዋል።

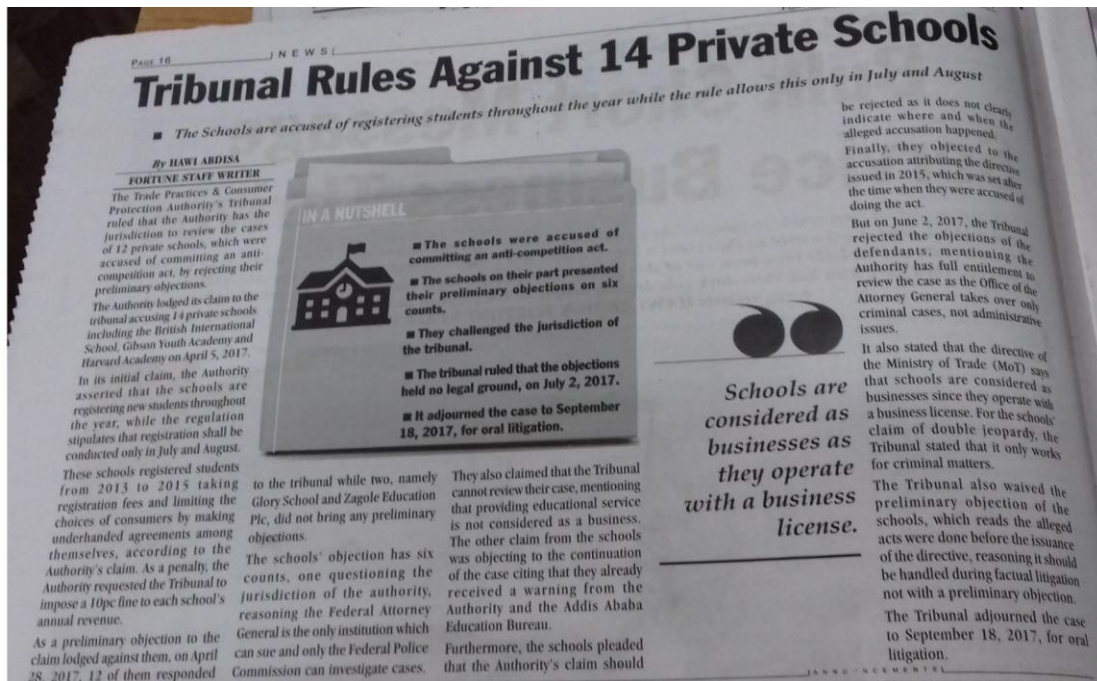
በአዲስ አበባ የኔቨርሲቲ ሌላው የፊዚክስ ተመራማሪና መምህር የሆኑት ዶ/ር መክብብ ዓለመ በበኩላቸው፣ የትምህርት ጥራት ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ እየወደቀና የተማሪዎቹ የዕውቀት ደረጃም እየሸቆለቆለ መምጣቱ እጅግ አሳሳቢ መሆኑን ገልፀው፣ በአገሪቱ ትርጉም ባለው ደረጃ ለውጥ ለማምጣት የሚያስችል ትስስር በመፍጠር፣ ጉዳዩ የሚመለከታቸው እካላት በሙሉ ለለውጥ መታገል ይኖርባቸዋል ሲሉ አሳስበዋል። አያይዘውም በአገሪቱ የሚዘረጉ መሰረተ ልማቶች በሙሉ በውጫ ባለሙያዎች እየተሰሩ መቀጠል የለባቸውም ያሉት ዶ/ር መክብብ፣ ዕውቀቱ የአኛ መሆን አለበት፣ ተማሪዎቻችን ለእንደዚህ ያሉ ተግባራት ሲሰለጥኑና ራሳቸውን ሊያበቁ ይገባል ብለዋል።

በኮተቤ መምህራን ኮሌጅ ሰሞኑን ሲካሄድ የሰነተው አውደ ጥናት፣ የትምህርት ጥራትን ለማሻሻል የሚያስችሉ የተለያዩ ተግባራትን ለማካናወንና በቀጣይ አለማቀፋዊ ዎርከኾፕ ለማዘጋጀት በማቀድ መጠናቀቁን ለማወቅ ተችሏል።

በአሁኑ ወቅት የአገሪቱ የትምህርት ጥራት ደረጃ በአስደንጋጭ ሁኔታ እየሸቆለቆለ መምጣቱን ሰሞኑን ይፋ የተደረገ እንደ ጥናት አመለካከተ። የኮተቤ መምህራን ኮሌጅ ከአዲስ አበባ የኔቨርሲቲና ከአንግሊዙ ዱርሃም የኔቨርሲቲ ጋር በመተባበር ያደረገው ጥናት፣ በአገሪቱ በደቡብ ክልሎችና በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ውስጥ በሚገኙ 10 ኮሌጆች ላይ ያተኮረ ሲሆን የትምህርት ጥራት በአስደንጋጭ ሁኔታ እየሸቆለቆለ መምጣቱን ይጠቁማል። ጥናቱን በኮተቤ ኮሌጅ አዳሪሽ የትምህርት ወይ ገፅ 2 ዙሪያ



## Appendix 11- Tribunal Rules Against



## Appendix 12- Ethiopian's hospitality and Tourism Sector

