

Women in Exile: A Phenomenological Study exploring the lived Experiences of Ethiopian Women who had irregularly migrated and lived in the Middle East and/or Gulf- State Countries, and, are currently living in Germany

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This particular study employed a phenomenological qualitative study technique with a general objective of analyzing the impacts of the *Kaffala* system against Ethiopian women migrant returnees. The study used an in-depth one-to-one interview, focus group discussions and secondary sources of data collections tool. The findings of the study showed that, the ‘kaffala’ system is considered as a ‘modern day slavery system’ among the study participants and they initiated for the abolishment of the kaffala system that is currently on ground as a labor and contractual agreement system, and they suggested for the protection of women migrant workers by a respective state instead of private sponsors. Moreover, the study was intersectional in its nature, that it discussed the multi-faceted nature of being an ‘Ethiopian women, care and labor migrant workers’.

As a result, the study concluded that the working condition of Ethiopian women labor migrant workers is characterized by a hostile working condition, lack of adequate legal and mental health services, existence of human rights violations, and various forms of abuses, violence and structural discrimination. Thus, the need for laying emphasis on the recruitment processes of care workers in these regions, prevention of illegal outlets of migrant workers, and addressing human rights violations against migrant women can be major issues and areas of future research, and social work practices and interventions.

Key Words: Care Workers, Ethiopian, Gulf State, Middle East, labor Migrant, Women, Human Rights, Mental Health, Kaffala