



**COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES**

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN PREVENTING HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING: THE CASE OF WEJERAT WOREDA SOUTH  
EASTERN ZONE TIGRAY ETHIOPIA**

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**Approved by Board of Examiners**

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# Table of Contents

| <b>Contents</b>  | <b>page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....                                       | i           |
| Table of contents .....                                      | ii          |
| <i>ABSTRACT</i> .....  | vi          |
| ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS .....                               | vii         |
| CHAPTER ONE .....  | 1           |
| 1. INTRODUCTION .....  | 1           |
| 1.1 Background of the Study .....                            | 1           |
| 1.2 Statement of the Problem .....                           | 3           |
| 1.3. Objective of the Study .....                            | 4           |
| 1.3.1 General Objective .....                                | 4           |
| 1.3.2 Specific Objectives .....                              | 4           |
| 1.4. Research Questions .....                                | 4           |
| 1.5. Significance of the Study .....                         | 5           |
| 1.6. Delimitation of The Study .....                         | 5           |
| 1.7. Limitations of The Study .....                          | 6           |
| 1.8. Organization of the Paper .....                         | 6           |
| CHAPTER TWO .....  | 7           |
| 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....                        | 7           |
| 2.1 Definition of Community Policing .....                   | 7           |
| 2.2 Theories of Community Policing .....                     | 7           |
| 2.3. The Concept of Human Trafficking .....                  | 8           |
| 2.4. THE ROLES OF COMMUNITY POLICING .....                   | 8           |
| 2.5. The Benefits of Community Policing .....                | 9           |
| 2.6. The Development of Community Policing In Ethiopia ..... | 9           |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 2.7. Challenges of Community Policing Practice .....   | 10 |
| 2.8. The Institutional Challenges .....  | 10 |
| 2.9. External Challenges.....  | 10 |
| CHAPTER THREE .....  | 11 |
| 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....   | 11 |
| 3.1. Description of the Study Area.....  | 11 |
| 3.2. Research Approach .....   | 11 |
| 3.3. Research design.....  | 12 |
| 3.4. sampling size and sampling techniques .....   | 12 |
| Table 3.4.1. Summary of Participants .....   | 13 |
| 3.5. Method of data collection.....  | 13 |
| 3.5.1. Primary Data Collection .....   | 13 |
| 3.5.2. Interview .....   | 14 |
| 3.5.3 Focus Group Discussion.....  | 14 |
| 3.5.4. Document Analysis.....  | 14 |
| 3.5.5 Observation.....   | 14 |
| 3.6. Data Analysis Techniques .....  | 14 |
| 3.7. Ethical Considerations.....   | 15 |
| CHAPTER FOUR.....  | 16 |
| 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.....   | 16 |
| 4.1. Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings.....   | 16 |
| 4.2. Understanding the Role of Community Policing Officers in Preventing Human Trafficking ..... | 16 |
| 4.3. Awareness Creation among the Community Regarding Human Trafficking .....                    | 17 |
| 4.4. Community Participation and Organization.....   | 17 |
| 4.5. Training on Human Trafficking by Community Policing.....                                    | 18 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 4.6. Availability of Policing Services in Preventing Human Trafficking .....   | 18 |
| 4.7. Gathering Relevant Information for Human Trafficking Prevention.....  | 19 |
| 4.8. Priority Given to Preventing Human Trafficking by Community Policing .....  | 19 |
| 4.9 Conducting Discussion Forums within the Community .....  | 19 |
| 4.10. Legal Support for Vulnerable Groups .....  | 20 |
| 4.11 Challenges of Community Policing Practices in Preventing Human Trafficking .....                                      | 20 |
| 4.12. Institutional Challenges .....   | 21 |
| 4.13. Government and Stakeholder Challenges .....  | 21 |
| 4.14. Societal Challenges .....  | 21 |
| 4.15. Possible Strategies to Enhance Community Policing by Government or Stakeholders to<br>Prevent Human Trafficking..... | 22 |
| 4.16. Comprehensive Primary Prevention Strategy .....  | 23 |
| 4.17. Expansion of Community Awareness .....   | 23 |
| 4.18. Minimizing Legal Transportation Costs .....  | 23 |
| 4.19. Creating Better Job Opportunities.....   | 24 |
| 4.20. Taking Action against Brokers or Traffickers.....  | 24 |
| 4.21. Key Challenges Affecting Community Policing Practices .....  | 24 |
| 4.22. Less Focus on Human Trafficking in Community Policing Targets .....  | 24 |
| 4.23. Lack of Discussion Forums and Advisory Activities on Human Trafficking.....  | 25 |
| 4.24. Lack of Legal Support for Vulnerable Policing Groups .....   | 25 |
| 4.25. Challenges to Community Policing in Preventing Human Trafficking .....   | 26 |
| 4.26. Possible Strategies to Enhance Community Policing in Preventing Human Trafficking                                    | 27 |
| CHAPTER FIVE .....   | 28 |
| 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....  | 28 |
| 5.1 Conclusion.....  | 28 |

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| 5.2 Recommendations ..... | 30 |
| REFERENCES .....          | 31 |
| APPENDIX.....             | 35 |

## **ABSTRACT**

*Human trafficking is the most severe problem in Wjerat Woreda, where many youths migrate illegally in search of job opportunities. Human trafficking has led to illegal migration and increased criminal activities. Above all, it has challenged the role of community policing in preventing such crime. The primary objective of this study was to assess the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda. To conduct this research, the researcher used a purposive sampling technique and a qualitative research design. Data were collected through interviews, focus group discussions, observations, and document analysis, and analyzed thematically. Key participants were selected based on their skills and knowledge. The findings of the study indicate that in order to minimize human trafficking, the government must design effective strategies that enhance the role of community policing. These include raising awareness, reducing the cost of legal transportation provided by the government, and creating job opportunities. Furthermore, the public, police, government stakeholders, and various organizations should focus their efforts on combating human trafficking to effectively prevent illegal migration.*

**Key Terms:** Community policing, community, policing, human trafficking, trafficker

## **ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

- **EFPCPIR** – Ethiopian Federal Police Commission Community Policing Implementation Report
- **TPRS** – Tigray Peoples Regional State
- **UNPWC** – United Nations Protocol on Women and Children
- **OSCE** – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- **UK** – United Kingdom
- **UNODC** – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
- **ICMPD** – International Center for Migration Policy Development
- **NGOs** – Non-Governmental Organizations
- **PSTPSMP** – Prevention and Supervision of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation
- **POP** – Problem-Oriented Policing
- **IOM**- International Organization for Migration

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Human trafficking remains a widespread human rights violation globally. It is defined by the United Nations as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force... for the purpose of exploitation” (UNODC, 2022) [p.3]. By 2021, approximately 50 million people were living in modern slavery, including around 27.6 million subjected to forced labor and trafficking (ILO, Walk Free, & IOM, 2022) [p. 4]. Women, children, and migrants are particularly vulnerable, often exploited through low awareness and weak governance.

Community policing has emerged to combat trafficking through collaboration and proactive strategies. Defined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (2014) as promoting partnerships and problem-solving for public safety [p. 5], empirical research (e.g., Farrell et al., 2019) shows that agencies with strong community ties are better positioned to detect and respond to trafficking. In Ethiopia, trafficking of women and youth for labor and sexual exploitation remains persistent. The country is both a source and transit route, with internal and external flows—especially toward the Middle East and North Africa—orchestrated by deceptive intermediaries or exploitation networks (U.S. Department of State, 2024) [p. 6]; the 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report notes that 278 victims were identified in sex trafficking, 263 in labor trafficking, and NGOs reported assisting over 4,200 potential victims [p. 7]

Ethiopia has taken several legal and institutional measures. Proclamation No.1178/2020 established a high-level council chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and instituted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for investigating trafficking and smuggling [p. 8]. The UNODC-sponsored project (2020–2024) aims to enhance victim-centered criminal justice responses, including strengthening the Witness Protection Directorate [p. 9]. Recent legislation enhances penalties, emphasizes prevention, cross-border cooperation, and lays foundations for victim assistance, have already been trained [p.10]

Yet, challenges persist prosecutions often stall due to witness reluctance or misclassification—some trafficking cases are prosecuted as smuggling with lower penalties—and institutional capacity remains respected. In the Ethiopian context, IOM and UNODC highlight internal trafficking (e.g., domestic servitude, child labor) as more prevalent than external trafficking, often perpetrated by small operators from victims' own community Conflict and displacement have further increased vulnerability—over 6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are at risk of exploitation, especially children separated from families. In Tigray, the regional police commission was established to maintain public safety in accordance with national law, often involving community participation in addressing systemic crime, including trafficking (EFPCPIR, 2017) [p. 11]. In Wjerat woreda specifically, a community policing strategy was developed and implemented across kebelles—but preventing human trafficking remains a pressing challenge for both police and community [p. 12].

In wjerat woreda, the local police have developed a community policing strategy aimed at effectively implementing crime prevention and related responsibilities. After significant preparation, community policing was rolled out across all kebelles and administrative areas. However, proactively preventing human trafficking through community policing remains a major responsibility and a pressing issue—not only for law enforcement, but also for the wider community. Based on his Tigray Region Police Commission was legally established by the regional government Authority established aimed to prevent crime, keeping peace and Security of the region by complying to and enforcing the constitution and other laws of the country through the Organized police units usually deal with trafficking in human beings as a participation of the people (EFPCPIR, 2017). Human trafficking one form of serious and often systematized crime .Fighting such crime ,however ,should not automatically exclude the role of community policing, uniformed police addressing the issues of human trafficking problems. In relation to this, the wjerat woreda Police developed a community policing strategy to effectively carry out its crime prevention and other related mandates. After several preparations, community policing has been implemented in all kebeles and woredas. However, proactively preventing human trafficking through community policing remains one of the key responsibilities and critical issues for both the community policing units and the public at large.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Human trafficking, a global atrocity, is especially acute in developing nations, including Ethiopia—a country serving as source, transit, and destination for trafficked persons. Victims, driven by poverty and conflict, endure severe abuses: deception, coercion, physical and sexual violence, overwork, and psychological trauma (Endeshaw et al., 2006; Gudet, 2014) [p. 13].

The Ethiopian Federal Police introduced community policing in 2002, expanding it nationwide (EFPCPIR, 2017) [p. 14]. Despite legal reforms and strategic frameworks, anti-trafficking response systems remain inadequate; traffickers exploit weak governance and rule of law for continued operations.

Specifically, in the Tigray regional context, including Wjerat woreda, community policing has gained traction, yet trafficking persists. Identified obstacles include low public awareness of community policing roles and responsibilities. Poor relationships between community members and police. Limited capacity: lack of human resources, training, and comprehensive prevention strategies. Inadequate victim support: shelters and services are largely NGO-dependent; government assistance remains limited outside major cities. (ENACT)[p.15].

Cultural and social barriers: communities may view trafficking or irregular migration as acceptable, hindering prosecution and prevention efforts. Gaps in existing research are evident: while several studies address community policing and minor crimes, there is scant focus on its role in preventing human trafficking—especially considering Ethiopia's unique sociocultural dynamics (e.g., Girma, 2018) [16] This underscores the critical need for context-specific research. However, human trafficking continues to increase in the region and includes arranging journeys that cost many lives each year. There are various reasons why community policing has not been effective in its role of preventing human trafficking. As a result, the human trafficking rate continues to rise, causing social, economic, and other negative impacts on the community, as well as on the victims and their families. Community policing faces serious challenges in effectively preventing human trafficking

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

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general objective of the study was to assess the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda, located in the Southeastern Zone of Ethiopia.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The study outlines three specific objectives that guide the research process

1. To explore the current practices of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda.
2. To identify the key challenges facing community policing in its role of preventing human trafficking.
3. To propose possible strategies that government and stakeholders can implement to strengthen community policing for effective prevention of human trafficking.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

Research questions was intended to guide the study by defining what the researcher seeks to understand, analyze, or explain. In this case, the research explores the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda. The research questions serve as a framework for data collection and analysis.

1. What are the current practices of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda?
2. What challenges hinder the effectiveness of community policing in addressing human trafficking?
3. What strategies can be implemented by the government or stakeholders to enhance the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking?

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The study would be enormous advantages in different aspect. Predominantly, the study may indicate alternative policy recommendation to the community policing on human trafficking in Wejerat Woreda. Subsequently, by creating awareness toward community in the prevention of human trafficking and thus it may help to avoid the negative factors affecting the community policing and to prevent human increase the positive impact on the the society. So after conduct this research in study area, the recommended report of research access reaches to community through concern body of office of woreda and the result of research would be assed to community. The study would be also hope to have a considerable contribution in applying peace, security and simplify practical problems of wejerat. This research benefits several stakeholders. Policy makers and law enforcement: Gain evidence-based recommendations to strengthen community policing structures. Local communities: Become more aware of their roles in reporting and preventing trafficking. Academics: Fill a gap in literature on the link between community policing and anti-trafficking strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa. International organizations and NGOs: Better understand community-based strategies to complement broader anti-trafficking efforts. Ultimately, this study can lead to practical changes, including improved policies, heightened public awareness, and strengthened policing practices in Wejerat Woreda. It may also serve as a reference for future researchers interested in similar topics.

### **1.6. Delimitation of The Study**

The scope of the study is geographically limited to Wjerat Woreda, with particular focus on four kebelles: Bahri Tseba, Senale, Sebbera, and Gonka. These kebelles were selected based on their high vulnerability to human trafficking, which makes them pertinent for understanding how community policing might be more effectively utilized. Although human trafficking is a broad and complex issue, this research focuses specifically on the role of community policing in preventing trafficking within the selected areas of Wejerat Woreda. By limiting the study's geographic and thematic scope, the researcher ensures a more in-depth analysis. However, the delimitation also means that findings may not be generalizable to all regions of Ethiopia or to

other forms of trafficking (e.g., organ trafficking or cyber exploitation). Nevertheless, the insights derived are expected to serve as a reference for similar studies in regions with comparable socio-economic dynamics.

## **1.7. Limitations of The Study**

Despite its relevance, the study faced several limitations that may have impacted the depth and breadth of the findings. Financial constraints restricted the scale of data collection, limiting the number of respondents and possibly excluding key informants or locations. A larger budget could have allowed for more robust triangulation and wider geographical coverage. Lack of literature on the specific intersection between community policing and human trafficking in Ethiopia made it challenging to contextualize findings or compare them with existing models. This underscores the need for more academic attention in this area. Time constraints placed pressure on the research timeline, which may have affected the depth of data analysis and field engagement. Respondent-related challenges—such as unwillingness to participate or provide accurate answers—also posed limitations. This could be due to fear, mistrust, or lack of awareness, especially

## **1.8. Organization of the Paper**

The research paper is structured into five logical chapters Chapter One lays the groundwork for the study by providing the introduction, background, problem statement, objectives, significance, scope, and limitations. It serves as the conceptual foundation and frames the research problem clearly. Chapter Two presents a comprehensive literature review. It discusses prior studies and theoretical frameworks related to community policing and human trafficking, identifying gaps the current study intends to fill. Chapter Three outlines the research methodology, including the study design, sampling techniques, data collection tools, and analysis methods. This chapter is critical in establishing the study's reliability and validity. Chapter Four presents the findings, analysis, and discussion. It interprets the data in light of the research questions and compares findings with the literature reviewed in Chapter Two Chapter Five offers conclusions and recommendations. It synthesizes the key insights from the study and proposes actionable strategies for policy makers, practitioners, and communities when discussing sensitive topics like human trafficking.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Definition of Community Policing**

Community policing is a collaborative approach where both police and community members jointly identify and resolve local safety issues, shifting from a purely enforcement-driven model to a partnership-driven one. As Ratcliffe (2004) notes, it emerged in the US and UK during the early 1980s (Ratcliffe, 2004, p. 12). However, definitions vary Oliver (1998) suggests there's no universally agreed-upon definition, which can hinder implementation due to ambiguity (Oliver, 1998, p. 23). Friedman (1992) views it as a policy to enhance crime control, legitimacy, accountability, and quality of life through proactive engagement (Friedman, 1992, pp. 45–47) (2008 Ndungu) describes it as both philosophy and organizational strategy, fostering innovative police–community collaboration (Ndungu, 2008, p. 15). Oliver (1998) further outlines a systematic approach involving decentralized policing, redistributed resources, and local programs to tackle crime’s root causes (Oliver, 1998, p. 33).

#### **2.2 Theories of Community Policing**

##### **2.2.1 Social Structural Theory**

This theory posits that crime stems from structural factors—not individual faults—such as poverty, social disorganization, and lack of education (Sampson & Groves, 1989, p. 510). Informal social controls—like strong neighborhood networks—are more effective than penalties alone (Bursik & Grasmick, 1993, p. 77). In Ethiopia, where socioeconomic vulnerabilities drive trafficking risks, community policing aligned with this theory underscores the importance of addressing local livelihoods and trust (Kebede & Alemayehu, 2020, p. 84).

##### **2.2.2 Public Relations Theory**

Public Relations Theory elevates community policing as a two-way dialogue that builds mutual trust between police and citizens (Skolnick, 1994, p. 88). In resource-constrained settings like Wjerat Woreda, such relationships enhance early detection of trafficking through community

vigilance. The IOM (2021) underscores that empowering communities through dialogue is foundational to anti-trafficking efforts (IOM, 2021, p. 102).

### **2.2.3 Normative Sponsorship Theory**

This theory, stemming from Tiedke et al. (1957), emphasizes institutional adaptation—decentralization, participatory management, and supportive culture—as prerequisites for community cooperation (Goldstein, 1990, p. 65). In Ethiopia, rigid police structures hinder community engagement; as Kebede & Alemayehu (2020) highlight, such adaptation is key to building community trust for trafficking prevention (Kebede & Alemayehu, 2020, p. 90).

## **2.3. The Concept of Human Trafficking**

Pre-2000, human trafficking lacked a unified definition (Yuko, 2009, p. 63). The UN Protocol (2000) clarified it as involving recruitment or exploitation through force, coercion, fraud, or abuse of power—including trafficking for labor, sexual services, and organ removal (UN, 2000, p. 42). “Community” in policing encompasses diverse institutions—schools, religious bodies, and health facilities—alongside geographic neighborhoods. Effective community policing can be led by dedicated units or integrated into regular police functions. Community policing supports systematic problem-solving, environmental scanning, public communication, fear reduction, and community mobilization (Carter, 2004, pp. 112–115). Trust-based police–citizen ties encourage information sharing, aiding early victim identification. Globally, countries like India and the Philippines have applied these principles to improve trafficking reporting; UNODC (2022) cites community leader training and grassroots surveillance as effective tactics (UNODC, 2022, p. 33).

## **2.4. THE ROLES OF COMMUNITY POLICING**

According to Goldstein (1990), the police have the primary role in crime prevention through social development that means, asserting a peace and security prevention strategy through the development of economic, social, health, and educational development change. Therefore, the police have the following roles: identification and analysis of crime and conflict and improve the elimination of problems for short, intermediate and long term intervals, changing crime causing conditions with the participation of the community, government and other stakeholders. Police have a role playing in poverty reduction activities by maintaining peace and security, working to

gether with the government, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders working on poverty reduction and developmental activities, organizing victims of human trafficking and let and support them to educate the community at large especially potential offenders to commit human trafficking about the illegality and impact of human trafficking and the advantages of leaving the home country through legal means and related issues, organizing parts of the community those who have not income and unemployed to start their own business with collaboration of the community, government and non-governmental organizations so as to improve their quality of life and not involve in criminal activities and not to commit human trafficking (Goldstein, 1990).

## **2.5. The Benefits of Community Policing**

As police officer, who is implementing a solutions plan to a problem using community policing skills will benefit from the following satisfaction of confidence: the officer considers himself strong enough to bring changes or agreed solution to a concern, increasing job opportunity many job opportunities can be created by problem solvers, increment of work desire the desire to work with problem solving increases, emergency calls decreases by minimizing the source of problems, negative results decrease, legal capacity increases, suspicion and unawareness decreases, confidence and capacity increases, and satisfaction of society increases (Cordner, 2007).

## **2.6. The Development of Community Policing In Ethiopia**

The community policing practices in Ethiopia was started 1997 particularly in regional states (Ethiopian Police University College Research Institute, 2012). But it was not well organized and in 2004 member of the Ethiopian federal police commission undertook community policing training provided by British trainers in Addis Abeba and some senior officers also undertook further training in Europe, following that community policing announced officially as a police at the national level in 2012 (Lisa and Demelash, 2023).

In 2014 Ethiopia federal police commission prepared Ethiopian community policing policy strategy launched its first countrywide community policing policy on December 2014 at. The main objective of this policy are ensuring participation of the community including vulnerable groups, and protecting crime as well as illegal human trafficking, domestic violence, ensuring

liberty and security of individuals (Ethiopian federal police commission, 2014).

## **2.7. Challenges of Community Policing Practice**

According to Mayhill (2007), community policing has many significances for the public at large. However, the researcher some challenges emanated from the police in situation and outside of the police institution especially from the government and the society.

## **2.8. The Institutional Challenges**

Absence of sufficient orientations to the police officers about the effectiveness of community policing, the police officers' perception about their duties that they think themselves as crime fighters not as social workers, fear of the broader police function being affected by the introduction of the community policing adopting, and the potential oppression of minorities by the majorities who involve in the community policing programs are among the challenges from inside.

## **2.9. External Challenges**

External challenges primarily stem from the lack of government support and the public's skepticism about the effectiveness of community policing. Government agencies often fail to show commitment, and the general public is sometimes more critical than cooperative. According to Mulugeta (2017), additional barriers include conflicting values among stakeholders, the misallocation of problem ownership to the police alone, limited community participation due to individualism and weak social capital, and insufficient community voice due to vocal minority dominance. Reluctance to share information with the public also undermines the core principles of community policing, thereby limiting its success.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter presents the research approach, design, and participant selection strategy. It also discusses issues of validity, reliability, and ethical considerations.

#### **3.1. Description of the Study Area**

The study was conducted in Wjerat Woreda, located in the South Eastern Zone. The Woreda has a total population of 126,489 (Woreda Finance, 2021). Its agro-ecology consists of Dega (35%), Woina Dega (35%), and Kolla (30%) climatic zones. The majority of the population depends on subsistence agriculture as their primary source of food and income. Most engage in mixed farming systems, combining crop and animal production, while a few are merchants or civil servants. Annual crops cultivated include maize, teff, wheat, peas, beans, barley, and others. Despite its agricultural productivity, Wjerat Woreda faces several social problems, including child trafficking, extreme poverty, and other social issues. The study focuses on this Woreda within the South Eastern Zone.

#### **3.2. Research Approach**

To collect relevant and appropriate data, the researcher employed a qualitative research approach. The reason for selecting this approach is that it allows for the examination of attitudes, views, and experiences of respondents. This study intends to explore participant's experiences regarding strategies, as well as the perspectives of other participants on the issue under investigation. Since the study seeks to explore institutional policies and strategies, qualitative interviews is the most suitable method to achieve this purpose. As Kothari (2004) notes, qualitative research relies heavily on the researcher's insight in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. Qualitative research focuses on exploring the meanings people construct and how they understand their world and experiences (Merriam, 2005).

Furthermore, Creswell (2002) argues that qualitative research is more appropriate when the researcher aims to investigate problems and develop a comprehensive understanding of concepts,

ideas, or processes related to recent phenomena. In this study, qualitative aimed to uncover participants' views and experiences regarding the contemporary issue of sexual harassment.

### **3.3. Research design**

This study mainly employs descriptive research design. Because, descriptive research designs are those design which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group. And also qualitative research approach is selected to understand the problem indepth. Qualitative method helped the researcher study things in their natural setting and attempt to make sense things studied from their natural pointof view (Tayler, 1994) .Data obtained in a qualitative study has the characteristics of showing the realityof the problem it looks in a real life the context.

### **3.4. sampling size and sampling techniques**

The study site is identifying after coming across the rigorous selection procedures. The study was used the evaluation reports of woreda labour and social affairs office as point of departure to select the study area. Based on the above criteria, the researcher was initiated to study specifically in wejerat Woreda. Purposive is used to select participants or specific sites for the study internationally by researcher (Kothari 2004:59 and Singh 2006:91). Accordingly, participants in the study were purposefully selected by the researcher in relation to specified experience's and knowledge in regarding community policing and prevent of human trafficking that were assumed important for a particular research question (Kothari 2004:59).

The purposive sampling technique was employed to select four kebelles based on their observed potentiality of human trafficking. Those are kebelles and those are nearest to urban market centers and presence of broker with in area makes more exposure to the human trafficking. The target populations for the study from the communities who are community policing officers and crime investigators, court judges, labor and social affairs office, youth, women and children affairs office, local community members were selected by purposive sampling. Therefore, the households were purposefully selected on the criteria of their capacity to provide the necessary information related to the topic from the selected areas. Thus sample size for the current study was judgmentally **38** households.

**Table 3.4.1. Summary of Participants**

| <b>Participant Category</b>                             | <b>Number of Participants</b> | <b>Selection Criteria</b>   | <b>Duration of Interview/Discussion</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Community Policing Officers & Crime Investigators       | 10                            | Direct involvement in local policing and trafficking prevention         | 50–80 minutes                           |
| Women, Youth, and Children Affairs Officer              | 1                             | Institutional role in trafficking-related issues                        | 50–80 minutes                           |
| Labour and Social Affairs Officer                       | 1                             | Key insights on labour migration and social impacts                     | 50–80 minutes                           |
| Court Judge   | 1                             | Judicial perspective on trafficking cases                               | 50–80 minutes                           |
| Focus Group Discussion Participants (Community Members) | 20                            | Lived experience, local knowledge, and exposure to trafficking dynamics | 50–75 minutes                           |
| Victim Returnees  | 5                             | First-hand experience with trafficking and reintegration                | 40–65 minutes                           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>38</b>                     |   |   |

### **3.5. Method of data collection**

#### **3.5.1. Primary Data Collection**

Primary data was collected through interviews, focus group discussions, and observations. Participants included community policing officers, crime investigators, local community members, court judges, and officers from women, youth, children, labor, and social affairs offices. The researcher personally conducted all interviews, focus groups, and observations.

### **3.5.2. Interview**

Key informant interviews were used to understand the perspectives of individuals directly or indirectly affected by the issue. Interviews are a common qualitative data collection method, generating primary information from knowledgeable participants (Koul, 1997). Semi-structured questions and checklists were prepared. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with community policing officers), court judges, women, youth and children affairs officers, labor and social affairs officers, and returned victims of human trafficking.

### **3.5.3 Focus Group Discussion**

Focus group discussions allowed participants who share relevant experiences to discuss the topic collectively. The researcher selected individuals purposively from local communities and victims of human trafficking. The main purpose was to triangulate findings from interviews and other data. Discussions were conducted in the selected kebelles at different times, with the researcher taking detailed notes.

### **3.5.4. Document Analysis**

Legal documents and reports related to community policing and human trafficking prevention were analyzed to verify data obtained through interviews and focus groups.

### **3.5.5 Observation**

Observation was employed to triangulate data and verify events in the study area. The researcher observed community policing offices and their efforts to mainstream community policing elements for preventing human trafficking. Observations also focused on the deployment of officers to promote police-community relations.

## **3.6. Data Analysis Techniques**

All qualitative research involves some degree of data transcription—whether from interviews, focus group discussions, or handwritten notes (Lucey & Luff, 2009). One commonly used method is thematic Analysis, which enables researchers to code and categorize data into meaningful themes. Through thematic analysis, it is possible to associate different ideas and

viewpoints shared by participants and compare them with data collected in various contexts and at different times, either from the same or different participants (Alhojailan, 2012).

Accordingly, this study employed a thematic approach to qualitative data analysis. During the interviews and focus group discussions, the researcher took detailed notes. These notes were later analyzed to develop thematic content based on the research questions, and the findings were presented in narrative form.

### **3.7. Ethical Considerations**

Given the sensitive nature of the research topic, obtaining accurate and relevant data required gaining participants' trust. All participants were asked for their informed consent before interviews. According to Bryman (2012), informed consent means providing participants with sufficient information to make an informed decision about their involvement. The purpose, procedures, and time commitment of the interviews were explained clearly. Consent was obtained orally, supported by interview consent forms and study information sheets. Participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Privacy, anonymity, and confidentiality were strictly maintained to protect participants, especially considering the sensitive topic of human trafficking. No personal identifiers were collected, and ethical clearance was obtained from the appropriate institution. The identities of research participants were safeguarded throughout the study.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **4.1. Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings**

This chapter analyzes, presents findings, and discusses data collected from both primary and secondary sources to answer the research questions outlined at the beginning of this study. Data were gathered through interviews with key informants, returned victims, and focus group discussions (FGDs) involving a total of 38 participants, organized into five groups. FGDs were held across four Kebelles, where returned victims also participated in interviews. Additionally, key informants were purposefully selected from the woreda town and kebele offices, including representatives from community policing, judiciary, labor and social affairs, and women, youth, and children affairs in Wjerat Woreda. All collected data were analyzed and discussed in the following sections.

#### **4.2. Understanding the Role of Community Policing Officers in Preventing Human Trafficking**

Community policing officers are expected to play a critical role in preventing human trafficking. Before assignment, officers should have adequate awareness and understanding of community policing functions, including the objectives and activities that support crime prevention. These officers are tasked with mobilizing community efforts to address and solve social problems.

According to Respondent 3 "Community policing has a role in preventing human trafficking by raising community awareness about its impacts. However, many officers lack training and professional skills related to community policing, leading to attitudinal challenges and a focus on minor crimes rather than trafficking. "Supporting this view, another respondent said "Community policing should advise families, youth, and women about the negative impacts of human trafficking, empowering them to prevent it. Yet, in our kebele, officers lack adequate skills on this issue and often prioritize political agendas or minor crimes."

Further, three interviewees highlighted that "Initially, community policing officers were recruited from police or related fields, but recently officers are assigned regardless of relevant

expertise, often as a measure to reduce unemployment. This results in a lack of knowledge and experience to effectively prevent human trafficking. Overall, the majority of participants agreed that most community policing officers in Wjerat Woreda lack sufficient experience and awareness of their role in preventing human trafficking, which poses a significant challenge to effective crime prevention.

### **4.3. Awareness Creation among the Community Regarding Human Trafficking**

Creating awareness is a fundamental responsibility of community policing to combat human trafficking. An informed community can actively participate in addressing social problems. However, FGDs revealed mixed perspectives .one group stated "We have not been invited to participate in discussions on human trafficking, nor is there a community policing center in our kebele. The community tends to accept illegal human trafficking as a way to improve their livelihood and resents interference with traffickers and brokers."

Conversely, another group reported "Our kebele has a community policing center, and officers are familiar with the community, often organizing meetings about minor crimes. However, human trafficking has not been addressed in these discussions, leading the community to perceive illegal migration as an economic opportunity."

One respondent added "Community policing activities are weak and poorly coordinated with the community. People do not see these officers as effective crime preventers but rather as ordinary local officials."These findings demonstrate a significant gap in awareness creation regarding human trafficking, both within the community and among community policing officers, contributing to the persistence of trafficking in Wjerat Woreda.

### **4.4. Community Participation and Organization**

Community policing has the potential to organize community participation to prevent human trafficking and maintain social order. However, key informants indicated: "While the community participates in addressing various social problems, human trafficking remains neglected. Police

and community policing officers often know who the brokers are but fail to report them, effectively allowing brokers to operate openly."

Returned victims supported this view" We have never been involved in human trafficking prevention activities at kebele or woreda levels. Our participation is limited to minor crimes and political agendas, and we have received no training or awareness on trafficking. "Community policing officers themselves admitted "We organize the community on government-mandated issues, but human trafficking discussions are limited due to lack of community willingness and weak officer initiative."

Thus, community participation in preventing human trafficking is minimal, further enabling the continuation of trafficking activities in the area.

#### **4.5. Training on Human Trafficking by Community Policing**

Training is essential to equip community policing officers and the community with knowledge to prevent human trafficking. Seventeen FGD participants stated "We have been trained on various crimes and government issues, but not specifically on human trafficking."

Returned victims echoed this, noting that "Information on human trafficking is superficial and informal, lacking depth necessary for effective prevention."Two key respondents noted "Our office received training from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), but this knowledge was not effectively transferred to the community through community policing officers. "Overall, the lack of targeted training on human trafficking limits the effectiveness of community policing in preventing this crime.

#### **4.6. Availability of Policing Services in Preventing Human Trafficking**

Police presence is crucial for crime prevention, including human trafficking. Sixteen respondents reported "Although a police center exists symbolically in the kebele, no officers are regularly assigned or available. Crimes frequently occur without timely police response."

One key participant added "Police officers are often absent from their posts in rural areas, preferring to stay in woreda towns, which undermines policing effectiveness and allows

trafficking and other crimes to proliferate. “These findings reveal that police services are largely symbolic in many kebelles, with poor presence and commitment hampering crime prevention efforts.

#### **4.7. Gathering Relevant Information for Human Trafficking Prevention**

Gathering information is a critical function of community policing for identifying traffickers and victims. However, a key respondent stated “No reports regarding human trafficking or brokers have been received by our institution, indicating weak community-police information exchange.”

Another key informant added Although we coordinate with kebele community policing offices on general crime issues, the role of community policing in human trafficking prevention is weak due to poor community cooperation. “Community members themselves often protect brokers, viewing them as necessary facilitators of migration rather than criminals, which further weakens information flow.

#### **4.8. Priority Given to Preventing Human Trafficking by Community Policing**

Human trafficking is a high-density crime with far-reaching negative impacts, including human rights violations. Seven FGD participants and returned victims emphasized "Human trafficking is a serious crime requiring urgent and prioritized prevention efforts locally and internationally. However, in our woreda, prevention efforts focus mainly on minor crimes, with little attention or formal training given to human trafficking."

Two key respondents noted “Although we received IOM training and understand the severity of trafficking, our efforts are hindered by budget constraints and limited focus, resulting in neglect of this hidden crime. “In conclusion, both community policing and concerned government bodies have not prioritized human trafficking prevention adequately, contributing to the ongoing prevalence of the crime.

#### **4.9 Conducting Discussion Forums within the Community**

Discussion forums are intended to raise awareness and advise the community on the dangers of human trafficking, aiming to change attitudes of traffickers and vulnerable groups toward

peaceful coexistence. These forums are supposed to strengthen community policing by fostering partnerships between the community and police<sup>16</sup> FGD participants acknowledged discussion forums help solve societal problems but noted forums mostly focus on minor issues or political topics (e.g., tax collection), not human trafficking. Returned victims and some participants highlighted that illegal migration and trafficking are culturally normalized, and no forums have been held specifically addressing human trafficking in their kebele. Majority reported no community discussion forums on human trafficking, limiting the effectiveness of community policing in prevention.

#### **4.10. Legal Support for Vulnerable Groups**

Legal support focuses on protecting vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, by addressing economic causes of trafficking, motivating responsible bodies, and ensuring protection and rehabilitation in line with national and international laws. Returned victims reported no support from government or organizations despite reporting trafficking impacts. They faced exploitation by brokers and lack of rehabilitation support, which pushed some to attempt illegal migration again Other respondents confirmed government and NGOs prioritize other issues like environmental concerns over trafficking. Some government officials mentioned attempts to involve international organizations (e.g., IOM), but actual support remains limited and delayed Overall, absence of legal and rehabilitation support reduces community policing effectiveness in preventing trafficking.

#### **4.11 Challenges of Community Policing Practices in Preventing Human Trafficking**

While community policing holds great potential for crime prevention, its implementation in the context of human trafficking faces significant obstacles. These challenges are both institutional (within the police and justice systems) and external (related to government, stakeholders, and resources). Understanding these barriers is essential for identifying where policy and practice need improvement, especially in vulnerable regions like Wjerat Woreda.

#### **4.12. Institutional Challenges**

One of the most pressing institutional challenges lies in the lack of committed and strategic leadership within police structures. In many cases, police leaders focus heavily on administrative routines, such as documentation and reporting, while neglecting the proactive, preventive elements of community policing (Bayley, 2006). This reactive mindset leads to delayed responses and limited engagement with community partners.

Additionally, there is often no legal protection for witnesses or whistleblowers, which discourages community members from reporting trafficking cases. In regions like Wjerat, where social and familial ties are strong, fear of retaliation can severely limit the flow of intelligence to law enforcement. High turnover rates and the absence of specialized community policing officers also contribute to weak implementation. When officers are frequently rotated or reassigned without proper transition, relationships with community members are lost, and local trust erodes (Skogan, 2006)

#### **4.13. Government and Stakeholder Challenges**

Despite national and regional frameworks, many government officials lack sustained interest or commitment to community policing or trafficking prevention. In practice, anti-trafficking policies are poorly implemented, and coordination among relevant departments—such as justice, labor, social welfare, and security—is often weak or absent. Moreover, there is no clear accountability mechanism for measuring how well local governments support community policing programs. Without strong monitoring and evaluation systems, initiatives risk becoming symbolic rather than effective

#### **4.14. Societal Challenges**

Regarding societal challenges, research participants revealed that the community has been unable to bring about the necessary and expected attitude and behavioral changes. In some communities of Wjerat Woreda, such as Bahri Tseba kebele, human trafficking is regarded as an accepted practice. Additionally, human trafficking crimes often occur within families, and there is weak

partnership and coordination between the community policing officers and security bodies. Group discussion participants echoed these societal challenges.

A case example from a returned victim illustrates the community's inability to foster the required attitude and behavior change concerning human trafficking, and how these societal factors negatively affect community policing efforts “I live in Wjerat Woreda, Bahri Tseba Kebele. In 2018, I completed primary school but had no family support. In 2019, I migrated illegally to Beirut through a broker, where I earned enough money for my future. After returning to Ethiopia in 2022, my life improved. My younger brother, who had dropped out of school due to poverty, resumed his education and overcame poverty. However, the thank was targeted for helping others. Among five people, two (including me) migrated illegally to Beirut. This challenge stems from attitudinal problems because no one from the community warned me against illegal migration.”

Document analysis also highlighted additional challenges, including the complexity and seriousness of human trafficking crimes, hidden information, and the availability of night transportation that traffickers exploit to move victims easily. These societal factors hinder the effectiveness of community policing in preventing human trafficking.

Overall, the findings indicate that community policing efforts in Wjerat Woreda are significantly challenged by various institutional and societal factors, including leadership, capacity building and support, partnership and communication gaps, corruption, government and stakeholder involvement, and resource limitations. These challenges make proactive prevention of human trafficking difficult for police institutions and community policing efforts in the region.

#### **4.15. Possible Strategies to Enhance Community Policing by Government or Stakeholders to Prevent Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking activities may increase over time at international, national, or local levels. To combat this alarming trend, government and stakeholders aim to enhance the effectiveness of community policing in preventing human trafficking, which can help minimize illegal migration. Research participants suggested several strategies expected from concerned bodies to reduce trafficking and empower community policing, as described below.

#### **4.16. Comprehensive Primary Prevention Strategy**

All participants agreed that comprehensive community participation is key to addressing the root causes of human trafficking before it occurs. This requires strong partnerships among the community, government, and civil society organizations. Anti-human trafficking strategies should include prevention programs supported by the government and civil society. Laws must be harmonized with international and regional human rights standards (UNODC, 2008). Effective prevention should address root causes or "push/pull" factors such as economic, social, cultural, and political insecurities. Development policies, media awareness campaigns, education, and research can provide accurate understanding and better inform prevention strategies. These government and stakeholder initiatives can empower community policing to be more effective in preventing human trafficking.

#### **4.17. Expansion of Community Awareness**

Key participants, FGDs, and returned victims emphasized that raising awareness about human trafficking within the community is vital to reducing trafficking. Prevention is possible with active involvement from youth, females, elders, religious leaders, and others, by educating them about trafficking and enabling them to report traffickers, brokers, and recruiters. If awareness-raising activities are implemented by Woreda institutions and community structures, this would strengthen community policing's role in prevention.

#### **4.18. Minimizing Legal Transportation Costs**

Restrictive migration policies often increase illegal migration, benefiting traffickers. Without safe and legal migration options, migrants resort to smugglers and traffickers. Participants noted that legal transportation costs in the woreda have increased, pushing many to choose illegal migration through brokers who charge less. Therefore, reducing the legal transportation cost by the government is seen as a key solution to encourage community policing's effectiveness in preventing trafficking.

#### **4.19. Creating Better Job Opportunities**

Economic hardship and lack of job opportunities make individuals vulnerable to human trafficking. Poverty and unemployment diminish people's choices and self-esteem. Creating jobs and economic opportunities, especially for youth, can reduce illegal migration. Community policing officers should collaborate with government and private organizations to facilitate job creation, thus helping prevent human trafficking.

#### **4.20. Taking Action against Brokers or Traffickers**

Ethiopia has enacted national laws against human trafficking, including a new overseas employment proclamation to prevent unlawful recruitment and punish traffickers. However, in Wjerat Woreda, no brokers have been prosecuted due to a lack of witness testimonies and evidence. Community policing officers must coordinate with the community to gather information on traffickers and submit it to judicial authorities for investigation and punishment.

#### **4.21. Key Challenges Affecting Community Policing Practices**

Lack of Awareness Creation Community awareness is essential to combat trafficking, but in Wjerat, awareness programs are insufficient, leading to increased trafficking Lack of Community Participation and Organization The inability to organize and engage the community limits efforts to prevent trafficking and maintain peace's. Lack of Training on Human Trafficking Officers without training on trafficking issues lack the knowledge and skills necessary for effective prevention. Scarcity of Police Services and Partnership Problems Police presence and services at kebele and family levels are inadequate, weakening prevention efforts and allowing trafficking to expand.

#### **4.22. Less Focus on Human Trafficking in Community Policing Targets**

Human trafficking crimes are grouped among high-density crimes, indicating their significant prevalence and impact. Crimes can be categorized into minor (low-level) and high-density (serious) crimes. Human trafficking is the base for many other minor crimes, including human rights violations, as these violations often result from trafficking practices. Therefore, human trafficking is a broad, serious crime that requires prioritized prevention efforts.

Based on participant feedback, the findings reveal that community policing practices have not been effective in preventing human trafficking. This ineffectiveness is primarily because community policing and other concerned bodies have not prioritized preventing human trafficking to the same extent as other crimes.

#### **4.23. Lack of Discussion Forums and Advisory Activities on Human Trafficking**

Discussion forums and advisory activities are crucial to creating awareness within the community about the negative consequences of human trafficking and ways to address them. These platforms help change the attitudes of human traffickers and juveniles, promoting peace and harmony and deterring involvement in trafficking. Community policing typically organizes such forums to engage the community on trafficking and related issues.

However, findings show that the majority of participants reported no discussion forums held within the community by community policing to address human trafficking, which hampers effective prevention efforts. Some participants agreed with this observation.

#### **4.24. Lack of Legal Support for Vulnerable Policing Groups**

Providing legal support to vulnerable groups, particularly youths and women, is crucial to addressing the economic causes of human trafficking. This involves motivating responsible organizations and stakeholder participation.

According to PSTPSMP (2015), alongside economic and social efforts to alleviate trafficking problems, proper protection, support, and rehabilitation for victims are essential. Special care must be given to vulnerable groups considering age, gender, and special needs. Ethiopia should enact detailed laws addressing trafficking and impose proportional sentences on offenders, consistent with international conventions.

Police play a primary role in crime prevention through social development, which includes promoting peace and security by improving economic, social, health, and educational conditions (Goldstein, 1990). However, respondents explained that in the study area, government bodies or NGOs rarely support vulnerable groups affected by trafficking. For example, organizations like

SEFTNET focus on famine and poverty but do not address human trafficking issues. Consequently, many returned trafficking victims receive no support and sometimes attempt illegal migration again. The analysis indicates that due to this lack of support, community policing has been ineffective in preventing trafficking in persons.

#### **4.25. Challenges to Community Policing in Preventing Human Trafficking**

Several factors hinder the effectiveness of community policing in preventing human trafficking in the study area. These challenges emerged from document analysis, interviews, and focus group discussions

**Leadership Challenges:** There is inadequate commitment and consideration from leadership, lack of legal protection for witnesses, and knowledge and skill gaps affecting community policing effectiveness.

**Capacity Building and Support:** Police officers and community policing leaders lack the necessary expertise and skills to implement community policing strategies effectively, especially concerning human trafficking.

**Partnership and Communication:** Effective prevention requires strong partnerships and clear communication between police and community members. However, in the study area, there is a significant gap in collaboration, which hinders cooperative crime prevention efforts.

**Corruption and Ethical Problems:** Some police officers and leaders show corrupt behavior by accepting human trafficking as an economic opportunity, permitting bail easily, closing cases prematurely, or being unwilling to prosecute traffickers. In some cases, police officers even participate in trafficking activities, facilitating the crimes.

**Government and Stakeholder Challenges:** Local and regional governments show insufficient commitment and support, including inadequate budgeting, failure to monitor anti-trafficking measures, and weak engagement with NGOs and stakeholders. These deficiencies negatively affect community policing efforts.

**Resource and Economic Challenges:** Limited budgets and economic hardship in the community push individuals toward illegal migration, increasing vulnerability to trafficking.

**Community Attitude:** The community has not yet embraced the necessary attitude and behavioral changes to actively combat trafficking.

Overall, the findings show that community policing's effectiveness is highly challenged by factors related to leadership, capacity, partnership, corruption, government support, resources, and societal attitudes.

## **4.26. Possible Strategies to Enhance Community Policing in Preventing Human Trafficking**

**Comprehensive Primary Prevention Strategy:** All participants emphasized the importance of comprehensive community participation and stakeholder partnerships to address root causes of trafficking before it occurs. Prevention programs should incorporate economic, social, cultural, and political factors, supported by government and civil society cooperation. Legislations must be harmonized with international standards (UNODC, 2008). **Expanding Community Awareness:** Increasing awareness among youth, women, elders, religious leaders, and others can help identify traffickers and reduce trafficking incidents. Awareness-raising activities by local institutions are vital to strengthening community policing. **Minimizing Legal Transportation Costs:** High costs of legal migration push many to seek illegal migration through brokers, increasing trafficking risks. Lowering legal migration costs would provide safer alternatives and reduce trafficking vulnerability. **Creating Job Opportunities:** Economic deprivation and unemployment make individuals vulnerable to trafficking. Collaboration between community policing and governmental/private sectors to create jobs can reduce illegal migration and trafficking risks. **Taking Action Against Brokers/Traffickers:** Despite national laws against trafficking and illegal recruitment, no brokers have been reported or punished in the study area due to lack of cooperation between police and the community. Community policing officers must coordinate with the community to gather evidence and ensure traffickers face legal consequences. Participants agreed that government and stakeholder strategies play a crucial role in empowering community policing to prevent human trafficking effectively.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This study established to assess the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda, located in Ethiopia's Southeastern Zone. The findings indicate that while community policing is formally recognized as a crime prevention strategy, its actual implementation in addressing human trafficking remains severely limited and challenged on multiple fronts.

First, the study reveals a significant lack of awareness and training among community policing officers concerning human trafficking. Many officers do not possess a clear understanding of the nature, methods, and impacts of trafficking, especially as it relates to local migration trends and gender-based vulnerabilities. This knowledge gap, coupled with the absence of specialized training modules, hampers their ability to detect warning signs, educate the public, or intervene in trafficking networks. As a result, preventive efforts are often superficial, reactive, and ineffective.

Additionally, ineffective policing practices were identified as a core problem. Community policing in Wjerat Woreda is marked by minimal engagement with local residents, and a lack of structured programming to involve the public in identifying and responding to trafficking threats. In most kebelles, community-police interactions are short lived, and public trust in the police is low. The organizational structure of community policing units is also weak, with no clear leadership, follow-up mechanisms, or institutional learning processes in place. This diminishes the credibility and visibility of community policing efforts, allowing trafficking activities to continue unchallenged.

Resource constraints and poor inter-agency coordination also present problems. Police officers are often overburdened and under-resourced, lacking basic equipment, transportation, or safe spaces to conduct interviews with potential victims. Equally concerning is the weak partnership between police, local government, NGOs, and civil society organizations. A lack of communication and strategic alignment leads to duplicated efforts, missed opportunities for

intervention, and poor monitoring of trafficking cases. In rural areas, the limited presence of police forces and weak ties with community leaders make it difficult to gather intelligence or respond promptly to trafficking threats.

The absence of strong legal and advisory frameworks further aggravates the problem. Most communities do not have clearly defined support systems for reporting, protecting victims of trafficking. Legal protections for whistleblowers or vulnerable groups are inadequate, and community members are often unaware of their rights or legal recourse options. Without institutional mechanisms that prioritize anti-trafficking responses, community policing efforts remain unstructured, under-resourced, and largely symbolic.

Another critical issue identified is the series of institutional challenges within the police system itself. These include a lack of leadership commitment, ineffective supervision, and poor communication across sectors. The shortage of skilled manpower trained in investigation or victim-centered approaches means many trafficking cases go unaddressed or are poorly handled. Corruption also emerged as a serious concern, with some officers or public servants reportedly colluding with traffickers or deliberately obstructing investigations. This undermines community trust and emboldens traffickers.

Due to these combined factors, human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda is escalating, outpacing the capacity of community policing initiatives to address it. Traffickers exploit weaknesses in the legal system, socioeconomic desperation, and gaps in surveillance. The growing frequency and complexity of trafficking networks highlight the urgent need for systemic reforms and more strong state involvement.

Lastly, the study strongly emphasizes the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration. Preventing human trafficking is not solely the responsibility of the police. It requires active and sustained cooperation among law enforcement agencies, local governments, community leaders, educational institutions, religious organizations, and international partners. Such collaboration is crucial for strengthening early advice systems, sharing aptitude, building community resilience, and creating long-term socioeconomic alternatives to irregular migration.

In conclusion, while the concept of community policing holds potential, its current form in Wjerat Woreda is not adequately equipped to prevent or respond to human trafficking. The findings point to a pressing need for capacity building, legal reform, resource allocation, and partnership development to transform community policing into an effective, community-anchored tool against trafficking.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

1. Capacity Building for Police and Stakeholders
2. Strengthening Legal and Institutional Frameworks
- 3.. Promote Community Awareness and Engagement
4. Foster Multi-Stakeholder Coordination and Partnerships
5. Improve Resource Allocation and Infrastructure
6. Economic Empowerment and Prevention Program

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# **APPENDIX**

## **Data Collection Tools**

### **Interview Guidelines**

The objective of this research is to assess the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda. The information obtained will help to discover solutions to solve challenges related to human trafficking. This is purely an academic project and will in no way affect your personal circumstances. It also has no relation to any religious or political stance. Your genuine views, opinions, and timely responses are very important for the success of this study, and your responses will be kept completely confidential. You are kindly requested to extend your cooperation by providing relevant information. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw your participation at any time without any fear.

### **Interview with Community Policing Officer**

#### **Part One – Respondent Profile**

- Name of respondent (optional)
- Sex:
- Age:
- Educational background:
- Represented institution location:
- Official position:
- Duration of engagement with the institution:

#### **Part Two – Understanding of Community Policing Officers on the Role of Community Policing and Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- In your understanding, what is the role of community policing in the prevention of human trafficking? How would you describe it?
- What is your understanding of community policing and its objectives? What is the role of the community?

- Have you undertaken any training related to community policing before being assigned as a community policing officer? What kind of training? For how long?
- Do you think the community has any awareness of community policing activities to prevent human trafficking?

**Part Three – Practice of Community Policing in the Prevention of Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- What activities have you done to prevent human trafficking? Can you explain some?
- Does your institution have any strategy to prevent human trafficking? What kind of strategy?
- Have you made any coordinated efforts with other stakeholders? What do you think should be done by the government or other relevant actors?

**Part Four – Challenges for Community Policing Practice in Preventing Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- What are the challenges that affect community policing practice to prevent human trafficking effectively?

**Part Five – Possible Strategies to Enhance Community Policing by Government or Stakeholders to Minimize Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- Does your institution have any mechanisms to minimize human trafficking?
- What measures should be taken to minimize human trafficking?

**Thank you very much for your cooperation!!**

## **Interview with Labour and Social Affairs Officer**

### **Part One – Respondent Profile**

- Name of respondent (optional)
- Sex:
- Age:
- Educational background:
- Represented institution location:
- Official position:
- Duration of engagement with the institution:

### **Part Two – Understanding of Community Policing Officers on the Role of Community Policing and Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- In your understanding, what is community policing and human trafficking? Can you explain?
- What is your understanding of the role of community policing in preventing human trafficking? Could you explain?

### **Part Three – Practices of Community Policing in Preventing Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- Do you think community policing has any role in preventing human trafficking?
- What are the root causes of human trafficking?
- How many trafficking cases have been reported to your institution?
- Is there any strategy for community policing to prevent human trafficking?

### **Part Four – Challenges of Community Policing in Preventing Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- What do you understand as the challenges for community policing in preventing human trafficking? Can you explain some?

**Part Five – Possible Strategies to Enhance Community Policing by Government or Stakeholders to Minimize Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- Does your institution provide any assistance to community policing in the prevention of human trafficking?
- Do you think there is a coordinating and collaborating mechanism with other stakeholders for community policing?

**Part Six – In Your Opinion, What Measures Should Be Taken by Community Policing to Prevent Human Trafficking?**

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

**Interview with Youth, Women, and Children Affairs Office**

**Part One – Respondent Profile**

- Name of respondent (optional)
- Sex:
- Age:
- Educational background:
- Represented institution location:
- Official position:
- Duration of engagement with the institution:

**Part Two – Understanding of Community Policing Officers on the Role of Community Policing and Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- What do you think about the role of community policing in the prevention of human trafficking?
- What is your understanding of the role of community policing practices to prevent human trafficking?
- Have you given any training to the community in collaboration with community policing? For how long?

**Part Three – Practice of Community Policing in Prevention of Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- In your awareness, what are the practices of community policing in preventing human trafficking?
- Do you think community policing gives any priority as a mandatory case to prevent human trafficking compared to other crimes?
- Do you have any coordination with community policing officers to prevent human trafficking?
- Do you have any common strategy to prevent human trafficking?

**Part Four – Challenges for Community Policing in Prevention of Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- What are the challenges of community policing in preventing human trafficking? Can you explain some?

**Part Five – Possible Mechanisms to Enhance Community Policing by Government or Stakeholders to Minimize Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- What do you expect from the community policing office to prevent human trafficking? What do you expect from the government and other stakeholders to minimize human trafficking?

**Part Six – In Your View, What Measures Should Be Taken to Prevent Trafficking by Community Policing?**

**Thank you very much for your cooperation!!**

## **Interview with Judicial Official**

### **Part One – Respondent Profile**

- Name of respondent (optional)
- Sex:
- Age:
- Educational background:
- Represented institution location:
- Official position:
- Duration of engagement with the institution:

### **Part Two – General Issues on the Role of Community Policing and Human Trafficking in Wjerat Woreda**

- In your understanding, what is community policing and human trafficking?
- What are the roles of community policing in preventing human trafficking?
- How do you investigate the prevalence of human trafficking in Ethiopia at the country level and in Wjerat Woreda in particular?
- What are the root causes of human trafficking in your opinion?
- Who are vulnerable in this area?
- How many trafficking cases have been reported to your institution?
- Is there follow-up on the reported cases?
  - If yes, what was the outcome?
  - If no, why?
- What measures are taken to protect the personal life of victims?

**Thank you very much for your cooperation!!**

## **Interview with Returned Victims of Human Trafficking**

### **Part One – Respondent Profile**

- Name of respondent (optional)
- Sex:
- Age:
- Educational background:
- Represented institution location:
- Official position:
- Duration of engagement with the institution:

### **Part Two – General Issues on the Role of Community Policing and Human Trafficking in Wejerat Woreda**

- Do you think there is any role for the community policing office in your community?
- What do you understand by human trafficking?
- What is your understanding of a trafficker?
- Could you tell me about the conditions you lived in before your migration?
- What was the reason for your migration?
- Who pushed you to migrate? Family, relatives, brokers, or your personal decision?
- How did you finance your trip?
- Do you have any idea about exposing traffickers?
- How did you come back to your country?
- Have you received any support so far?
- What is your future plan? Do you intend to migrate again? If yes, why and how? If no, why not?
- Has community policing contributed to your situation regarding human trafficking issues?
- What do you think should be done by the government and other actors to prevent human trafficking?

**Thank you very much for your cooperation!!**

## **Focus Group Discussion (FGD) for Local Community (Elders, Families/Relatives of Victims)**

Greeting and introducing myself and my work.

The ultimate purpose of this FGD is to generate evidence-based information from the grassroots society regarding the trends in community policing in the prevention of human trafficking and the ongoing countering responses in Wjerat Woreda. The awareness level of society, actors involved in the crime of human trafficking, and the main reasons for vulnerability are also part of the discussion. Please feel free to share your experiences or those of your families, relatives, and neighbors. Any comments or opinions related to the issue under discussion are welcome and will be treated confidentially for academic research purposes only. You are also welcome to ask for clarification on any concepts.

- What do you understand about the role of community policing in the prevention of human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda?
- Do communities participate in community policing voluntarily, and what is their motivation?
- Do you think there is a mutual relationship between the police and community?
- Do you think community policing is given priority for the prevention of human trafficking in Wjerat Woreda / in your Kebele?
- Could you please describe the current trends of human trafficking in Wejerat Woreda / in your Kebele?
- Do you think community policing has improved police-community relations and public interest? How?
- What are the major factors contributing to migration?
- Who are the traffickers?
- Who are the most affected sections of society and why?
- What is the community's level of awareness about the consequences of human trafficking?
- Are the community policing centers serving the community 24 hours for the intended objectives?

- What are the challenges faced by community policing in preventing human trafficking?
- What measures should be taken by community policing to combat human trafficking?

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

### **Document Analysis**

Data regarding the roles of community policing in preventing human trafficking and the impacts of human trafficking were collected from statistical documents, reports, and publications of various levels of government bodies and guidelines.

### **Observation**

- Presence of policing services available in kebeles
- Presence of community policing centers in kebeles
- Presence of trained manpower in community policing centers.

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!**