



Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences

Department of Social Work

Program Master of Social Work

**AN ASSESSMENT OF ADOPTION PROCESSES IN HAITI: CASE  
STUDY OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
RESEARCH(ISWR)**

Robenson PELLITIER

Master's Thesis

Ankara, 2018



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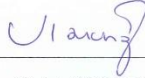
## KABUL VE ONAY

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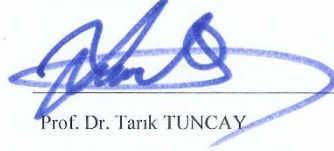
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Yukarıdaki imzaların adı geçen öğretim üyelerine ait olduğunu onaylarım.

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Robenson PELLITIER

# YAYIMLAMA VE FİKRİ MÜLKİYET HAKLARI BEYANI

## YAYIMLAMA VE FİKRİ MÜLKİYET HAKLARI BEYANI

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**o Tezimin/Raporumun 20.09.2020 tarihine kadar erişime açılmasını istemiyorum ancak kaynak gösterilmek şartıyla bir kısmı veya tamamının fotokopisinin alınmasını onaylıyorum.**

**o Serbest Seçenek/Yazarın Seçimi**

20 /09/2018

  
**Robenson PELLITIER**

## ETİK BEYAN

### ETİK BEYAN

Bu çalışmadaki bütün bilgi ve belgeleri akademik kurallar çerçevesinde elde ettiğimi, görsel, işitsel ve yazılı tüm bilgi ve sonuçları bilimsel ahlak kurallarına uygun olarak sunduğumu, kullandığım verilerde herhangi bir tahrifat yapmadığımı, yararlandığım kaynaklara bilimsel normlara uygun olarak atıfta bulunduğumu, tezimin kaynak gösterilen durumlar dışında özgün olduğunu, Tez Danışmanının **Prof. Dr. Vedat IŞIKHAN** danışmanlığında tarafımdan üretildiğini ve Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Tez Yazım Yönergesine göre yazıldığını beyan ederim.



**Robenson PELLITIER**

## **DEDICATION**

In the life, neither person can live without one unconditional support that may be very necessary for your way. It's an honor for me to dedicate this paper to persons that participate in the building of my life.

My father Robert PELLITIER and my mother Vana DORESTANT, I am very happy to mention your name grace to you today I can find the opportunity to write this work.

My uncles Wilbert PELLITIER, Bocilio DORESTANT and Lucien PELLITIER your support in my studies were always necessary that help me to progress I thank you.

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**September 2018**

**Robenson PELLITIER**



## ABSTRACT

PELLITIER, Robenson. “An Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR)”, **Master Thesis**, Ankara, 2018.

Adoption is defined as a measure of child protection used through the child welfare system to provide a permanent home with a parentless child or to facilitate to a childless parent to find a child. Further, that measure is pretended to be in the best interest of the child. The main purpose of this study is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of the best interests of the child as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 20 November 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. A qualitative research was conducted with a sample of 12 participants. A semi-structured interview proceeded with three (3) child welfare public authorities working at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), two (2) foster care managers, and seven (7) birth parents of adopted children. Moreover, a content analysis is conducted to analyze and interpret the data. The finding of this research indicates that the adoption process is focused only on the management of the children's adoption files as being arguments on the best interests of the child and ignored the different environments of connection of the child as vital elements in child development in the post-adoption. The result suggests that the child surroundings connections might be the tool to predict the best interests of the child in the adoption process.

**Key Words:** Adoption, Child Welfare System, Foster Care, Social Work, Social Worker.

## TURKISH ABSTRACT(ÖZET)

PELLITIER, Robenson. “Haiti’de Evlat Edinme Süreçlerinin Değerlendirilmesi: Sosyal Refah ve Araştırma Enstitüsünde Vaka Çalışması”, **Yüksek Lisans Tezi**, Ankara, 2018.

Evlat edinme hizmeti, çocuk refahı sistemi aracılığıyla evlat edinilen bir çocuğa anne ve/veya babanın da yer aldığı kalıcı bir ev sağlamak veya çocuk sahibi olamayan bir ebeveyne çocuk sahibi olması için kolaylık sağlayan çocuk koruma sisteminin bir boyutudur. Bu boyutun çocuğun yararına olduğu iddia edilmektedir. Bu araştırma, 20 Kasım 1989 tarihli Çocuk Hakları Sözleşmesi ve Ülkelerarası Evlat Edinme Bakımından Çocuk ve Uluslararası İşbirliği Korunması hakkında 29 Mayıs 1993 tarihli Lahey Sözleşmesi'nde tanımlanan çocuğun yüksek yararı ilkesi ile ilgili olarak Haiti'deki evlat edinme süreçlerinin değerlendirilmesini amaçlamaktadır. Nitel tarzda olan bu araştırma 12 katılımcıdan oluşmaktadır. Bunlar, üç (3) çocuk refahı kamu görevlisi, iki (2) kurum bakımı yöneticisi ve çocukları evlat edinilmiş olan yedi (7) biyolojik ebeveyndir. Görüşmeyi kabul edenlerle yarı yapılandırılmış bir görüşme yapılırken, verileri analiz etmek ve yorumlamak için bir içerik analizi yapılmıştır. Sonuç olarak bu araştırmanın bulguları, evlat edinme sürecinin sadece çocuğun evlat edinme dosyalarının yönetimine ve çocuğun yüksek yararı üzerine odaklandığını, evlat edinmenin çocuğun gelişiminde önemli olduğu ancak çocuğun çevresiyle olan farklı bağlantılarını göz önüne almadığını göstermektedir. Araştırma, evlat edinme sürecinde, çocuğun çevresiyle olan bağlantılarının önemli olduğunu ve çocuğun yüksek yararını tahmin etmemizde bunun bir araç olabileceğini göstermiştir.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Evlat Edinme, Çocuk Refahı Sistemi, Koruyucu Aile, Sosyal Hizmet, Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>AAA:</b>    | Approved Adoption Agencies                    |
| <b>AAO:</b>    | Approved Adoption Organizations               |
| <b>ARG :</b>   | Activités Génératrices de Revenus             |
| <b>AIG :</b>   | Activities Income Generating                  |
| <b>ACF:</b>    | Administration for Children and Families      |
| <b>AFA:</b>    | Adoption and Families Act                     |
| <b>CRC:</b>    | Conventions on the Rights of Child            |
| <b>HCCH:</b>   | Hague Conference on Private International Law |
| <b>ICA:</b>    | Inter country Adoption                        |
| <b>IA:</b>     | International Adoption                        |
| <b>IBESR :</b> | Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches |
| <b>ISWR:</b>   | Institute of Social Welfare and Research      |
| <b>MAST:</b>   | Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor          |
| <b>NAIC:</b>   | National Adoption Information Clearinghouse   |
| <b>OAA:</b>    | Organismes d'Adoptions Agrées                 |
| <b>PA:</b>     | Plenary Adoption                              |
| <b>SA:</b>     | Simple Adoption                               |
| <b>UNICEF:</b> | United Nations Children's Fund                |
| <b>UN:</b>     | United Nations                                |

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## **CHAPTER. 1**

### **1.1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1.2. INTRODUCTION ON ADOPTION THEMATIC**

Becoming a mother in women's lives in several societies plays an important role. Sometimes, certain values related to spiritual beliefs, cultural norms, and social constraints stigmatized women in case they are unable to procreate or give birth to a child, a problem that can come from several causes such as infertility, medical problems, and others. For illustration, some writers like Gumus & Lee (2012:804) quoted that, "in the United States infertility is an increasing problem, they justified this as an imperative, infertility is an imperative reason that determines the request for adoption". The conception about family is also another determinant point where a woman considers herself as a birth giver in case she has a procreation 's problem, she is obliged to seek for an alternative to complete this lack. If a woman continues to face childbearing challenges, and as well a child that faces challenges for having proper cares for instance when a birth mother dies or finds incapable to fulfill the cares and needs of a child. They can opt for alternatives to extend the family both from the father or mother sides. And also, if in the family members they are unable to provide care and needs, it can bring the child to a foster care or child welfare system for adoption. It is applied to both modern and traditional societies.

Besides, adoption is considered as an alternative for the childless families. Chandra et al., (2005) cited by Gumus & Lee (2012:804), argued that persons who lived infertility problems and want to search for children use both alternatives: infertility services and adoption. In addition, Hormans (2013:3) recognizes that "adoption has long been seen as a fictive "as if" form of family making, fabricated or figurative instead of biological or literal". Adoption facilitates a child to find an adoptive parent and also helps an adoptive parent to find a child by affiliation not by the blood. It is also based on the laws and can be regulated in different manners from one country to another. Also, there is intercountry adoption that regularizes the adoption between the countries. Mignot (2015:1) viewed adoption as a "legal institution that creates a parent-child relationship between an adopting individual or couple and an adopted". Adoption is characterized as a global question in the child protection field. However, the knowledge of the data concerning the adoption appears to be as a questioning via the adoption practices in certain countries that are not controlled or do not want to be controlled by the authorities.

According to a study on the “*Child adoption: Trends and Policies*” issued by the United Nations (UN) Populations Divisions in 2009 was conducted worldwide assessed that over 160 countries recognized adoption as a legal institution. It also estimated more than 260,000 children are adopted every year. This estimate illustrated that more than 12 children are adopted in every 100,000 persons under age 18. This study has also mentioned that a few countries account for most adoptions as the United States of America, with over 127 000 adoptions in 2001, that is nearly half of the total number of adoptions worldwide. A large number of adoptions has also taken place in China (almost 46 000 in 2001) and in the Russian Federation [more than 23 000 in 2001] (United Nations, 2009: XV). It has not been specified if the data are related to the intercountry adoption or domestic adoption or both. However, these movements allow understanding how the adoption issues through these countries have been demonstrated to a high level.

Furthermore, according to the United State Department in their annual report of 2016 on intercountry adoption quantified that “5,372 immigrant visas issued to children adopted abroad or coming to the United States to be adopted by U.S. citizens in FY (Fiscal Years) 2016 are slightly fewer than the previous year” (US Department State, 2016). Likewise, according to a study of United Nations issued in 2009 estimated that “around 200 countries recognized by the United Nations, 170 approved both domestic and intercountry adoption (p.486)” (Mignot, 2015:1).

In addition, in a recent research issued in 2016, on adoption of children in the European Union has been focused “on trends in the number of domestic and intercountry adoption and a comparison of the current requirements. Adoptions in the individual Members States from 2004 to 2014 described the data on domestic adoption and intercountry adoption” (Jurviste, Sabbati, Shreeves, & Dimitrova-Stull, June 2016). For the domestic adoption, it shows that “there were on average of 18 336 adoptions per year across the EU, with 19 adoptions per 100 000 children. From 13 949 adoptions in 2004 to 20 215 in 2012, falling to around 13 adoptions in 2014 per 100 000 children” (Jurviste, Sabbati, Shreeves, & Dimitrova-Stull, June 2016). Further, for intercountry adoption, the data showed that “there were on average 16 610 intercountry adoptions from non- EU countries, with a relative value for the EU of 12 adoptions per 100 000 children. The three countries with a highest total number of adoptions are Spain, Italy, and France” (Jurviste, Sabbati, Shreeves, & Dimitrova-Stull, June 2016). These data demonstrate a trend towards an increasing number of domestic adoptions in the EU countries contrary to

intercountry adoption. Thus, these different trends via these different countries describe the importance of adoption.

The adoption notion appears to be characterized by a question vital in the contemporary societies and that also seemed to have a different philosophy than the ancient societies. In the modern society, more particularly in 1974 to Bucharest, the third World Population Conference has been organized by the United Nations. In this conference, 136 representatives of countries as well as other recognized participants and observers who were represented, have been encouraged to facilitate adoption as the ways of helping all couples to achieve their desires to the number of children (Hunter, 1976). This call specified “couples” in the objective to give a response with the “involuntary *sterility and sub-fecundity* (Hunter, 1976)”, that confronted at the birth problems. In some countries adoption was a complex issue that was ineligible or had been practiced out of authorities control. Other than the conference of 1974 on adoption another stage is established and reinforced the adoption question, it is the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989.

Also, with such Convention, adoption becomes a legal institution, following the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children in 1989, with the articles, 3 and 21, focusing on “the best interests of the child (Art.3)”. The best interests of the child are one of four general principles of this Convention, and then, required all states parties’ signatory that “they should recognize and/or permit the system of adoption that shall ensure the best interests of the child and shall be the dominant consideration (Art.21)” (The Children’s Rights Alliance, 2010). Through this Convention, the countries that were concerned by the adoption implementation or their adoption systems were ineligible and have been encouraged to reform their adoption systems that will consider the principle of safeguard in the best interests of the child in all decisions about adoption. Despite the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 that encouraged to all states parties’ signatory to establish their adoption systems and to ensure the best interest of the child. There is also another instrument that describes the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989. It is The Hague Convention on the protection of children and international cooperation in respect to intercountry adoption of 1993.

Additionally, this Convention is considered as the last international instrument on adoption and is dated to 1993 and was effective in 1995, under the name of “The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption” (see Hague Conference on Private International Law, Proceeding of the Seventeenth Session (1993),

Tome II Adoption- co-operation). This document is constituted as an instrument of application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989, focused specifically on the intercountry adoption. The Hague Convention requires all States signatory to:

Establish safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoption takes place in the best interest of the child with respect for his or her fundamental rights as recognized in international Law; establish a system of co-operation amongst Contracting States to ensure that those safeguards are respected and thereby prevent the abduction, the sale of, traffic in children; secure the recognition in Contracting States of adoptions made in accordance with the Convention (Art.1) (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993).

This instrument provides the elements to apply by the States signatory in the implementation of their adoption systems in promoting and ensuring the best interests of the child. In this study, we have focused on one of the countries that are made part of signatory members both Conventions mentioned and that has an adoption system established.

This country, it is Haiti that is one of the States signatories of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993 and that is selected as a case study in this research as a country that has an adoption system very ancient, was instituted officially since 1966. Nevertheless, the literature review on adoption history in Haiti stays very poor and the second Adoption Law of 1974, which was organized the adoption processes was very inadequate. Also, the data on the number of adoptions that have been made during the application of these laws seemed to be a big challenge. However, international adoption with the Law of 1974 was eligible without the control of a central authority because the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as the institution of child protection in Haiti was limited in the management of all actors who intervened in adoption processes. Some doubts can be bringing up a lot of situations questioning the Haitian authority in the child protection. About the children wellbeing who have been adopted before the new adoption law of 2013. There has been questions like: Has the best interest of children been considered in the Adoption Law in 1974? What would those children who have been adopted on the adoption law of 1974 became? On what international instrument were those children adopted? What was the role of child protection authorities in the adoption processes?

Consequently, with the adoption reform of 2013 that is considered as an instrument related to the application of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993, signed and ratified by the

Haitian Parliament in 2012 and that is started to apply since 2013 by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) that plays the role of the central authority in the adoption processes in Haiti. Such reform motivated us to assess the results of this process in posing this questioning: Does the new adoption reform response at the weakness of the adoption process under the former law of 1974? In what way, the new adoption reform ensures the best interests of children as defined by The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993? All the children adopted in Haiti were they abandoned or orphans?

Accordingly, the adoption practices in Haiti has several known challenges. This study tries to specify some challenges around factors such as the economic conditions of certain parents, the vulnerability of this country face to natural disaster, the ignorance of certain parents on international adoption process, weakness of child welfare institution in terms of adoption, and the absence of specialized agencies in adoption mediation. These illustrations exposed above can place the child protection interests in danger in the intercountry adoption process. Also, another element that is an important tool in the adoption processes seems completely absent or ignored in Haiti, it is the adoption mediation processes that require some skills and knowledge of all practitioners who are specialized in this field. For this reason, as a social worker, we consider aspects underlined above and find it is an imperative to undertake a research on an assessment of adoption processes in Haiti.

### **1.3. JUSTIFICATION**

In the Haitian society, the adoption is characterized following the socio-economic conditions of families who are unable to answer to the basic needs of their families. A few years ago, family policy in the social policy is less considered in the policy programs. A social policy that is not giving a priority to the family policy, it also puts in question the basis of this society. If we take the portrayal of the family, Durkheim considers the family as a “social institution” (Lamanna, 2002). Therefore, the picture that takes this social institution can reproduce the same pathways to a similar society.

However, the Haitian family category constituting the core of the adoption represents the most vulnerable category in the country. The relinquished and orphan children are not principal causes of the adoption in Haiti. The family explosion, paternity irresponsible, weakness of the institution of the child protection due to disengagement of the Haitian State. Face to the global

social policy especially about the childhood and the poverty situation due to the application of the neo-liberal economic policy since 1980, has given us consequences, the deterioration of the rural economy that was the source incomes of this social category. Families who are affected by this social situation are becoming unable to take care of their own children. Furthermore, the social policy in the child protection field continues facing restrictions. The field of the child protection is yielded to the NGO's, religious organizations and persons having foster care (creches) and orphanages. Sometimes, some child homes at the same time play the role of foster care (creches) and orphanage, they receive the children, from parents unable to take care of their children and relinquished children from Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). These child households or foster cares have never received the financial support of the Haitian State, they received the financial support from the good Samaritans people and received fees from the child care placed in foster care for adoption.

In addition to two studies used in the study as antecedents have presented the complexity of the adoption system during the identified period. It allows us to question if the child protection policy before the new adoption reform has been obviously revealed ineffective principally in international adoption relating to The Hague Convention on international adoption. With the new adoption reform, we estimate, it is essential to evaluate the result of this changes and how the best interests of children are ensured in the new adoption Law. This study emphasizes to undertake an assessment of adoption processes. As a social worker, our role is to promote the social justice and to resolve the social problems that confronted our communities. For this reason, this research has an academic and scientific preoccupation.

The scientific preoccupation is based on social work principles. The social work profession according to Kadushin (1970:5), provides responsibility mainly through the society to parentless children and childless parents issues. Its responsibilities are given to social workers for finding homes and decide on different groups of children for a proper house. As mentioned Kadushin the profession of Social Work gives the obligation to Social Worker to resolve the problems that are concerned the parentless children or childless parents and also our communities. Also, the academic requirements allow us to realize a study to obtain our master degree in Social work. Therefore, this research intends mainly to carry up to a scientific contribution able to facilitate the strengthening of the adoption process in Haiti.

## 1. 4. BACKGROUNDS

Some studies have been conducted on the thematic in question. However, in the Haitian adoption literature, only two studies have been realized on intercountry adoption, one by a student for finalizing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, and the other one, a report of UNICEF and Terres des Hommes (Lands of Humans) in 2005.

The research that has been conducted by Freire and Hofstetter (2005) on the direction of UNICEF and Terres des Hommes under heading "*international adoption in Haiti*" showed that international adoption can constitute an important source of income for a number of considerable persons. And also highlighted that the first beneficiaries obviously have been the institutions (foster care), lawyers and hawkers who have pocketed transactions massive.

In addition to Roosevelt Jean-Louis (2009), in the case of her study, subheading, "*the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) face to the problems met in the international adoptions from 1996 to 2007*", found that the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) in some cases was intervened until at the end of the adoption process. In his work, he has noticed to the increasing adoption international observed in Haiti and the role plays by the child household (foster care) in the process. It also recommended the best control of its units via social workers, agents of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) with an effective partnership among this institution, other states institutions of the country that are making part in the organization or not of the child protection network in Haiti.

These studies have underlined some weaknesses in the adoption process in the covered period, the first study found that the lucrative aspects as motivations of actors related to the adoption process. A factor that can put in danger the best interests of children against child trafficking that are also in the United Nations preoccupations in adoption matters. The second research has shown the weakness of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as being the institution of the adoption control, has not been presented in all stages in the adoption process and also has been only limited in the last step in the adoption process. His recommendations illustrated that the adoption process has not been controlled. Besides, the actors participated in the adoption process have been free yielded to facilitate the children to international adoption. Also, it revealed that the adoption process has a lack of social workers and agents of child protection.



## **1.5. DELIMITATION**

In this part of the research, we focus on the thematic level, institutional and sequential delimitations.

### **1. 5.1. Thematic Delimitation**

This study is a part of the works carried out in the field of child protection especially in the adoption process. It is one of the branches of human and social sciences between the adoption, social work and the child welfare system. Therefore, we confine ourselves to follow this question: what are the problems and constraints that prevent the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) to ensure the best interests of the child in the adoption process?

### **1.5.2. Institutional Delimitation**

This research focuses on the adoption process in Haiti that contains some actors such as the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR), foster care managers(creches) and biological parents. There are also representatives Approved by Adoptions Agencies (Organisms Adoption Agréés/OAA), that make the adoption mediation between the adoptive parents and competent authorities of the ISWR, there are legal authorities (Juvenile judge) in the adoption process. In this study, the representatives of OAA and legal authorities (judges for children) are not considered as necessary for data collecting. The new adoption reform gives the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) the full control of the adoption process as the central authority for adoption. However, to make this assessment on the adoption process, the actors who are selected are the adoptive parents, biological parents, foster care managers and adopted children who are considered in this investigation. In this paper we consider two stages for this assessment: the first stage focuses on the pre-adoption placement where we consider, the central authority of adoption, foster care managers and biological parents. The second stage concerns the post-adoption, it is focalized on adoptive parents and adopted children that are analyzed via other research related to its own issues.

### **1. 5.3. Sequential Delimitation**

This exploration considers some steps: the timescale required to finish this work and the other constraints which can become inattentive. The two steps that we have described above, aim at showing how it is important to respect all the rules related to the scientific requirements. In fact, it is focused on the new adoption laws starting to apply from 2013 to 2017. It is also considered

the adoptions that have been realized before this new reform of 2013, it will be allowed to evaluate the post-adoption, which is on responsibility of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) according to the new adoption law for analyzing the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption.

## **1.6. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Intercountry adoption in a certain period had some considerations with the white adoptive parents who preferred to adopt a non-black child. The race issues were considered in certain receiving countries especially in the USA. Further, the nonwhite children were not a privileged category in terms of intercountry adoption. For these reasons, the Asians children and Hispanics children were considered in the international adoption. Raleigh and Colleague (2016), demonstrated that, once the white parents have focused on the question for making the family decision, they preferred to adopt Asian and Hispanic children (Raleigh & College, Spring 2016). Despite preference of children from Asian countries and Hispanics, they had another reality. Raleigh & College, Spring (2016), stated that according to some writers as Rothman and Dorow described that:

Insightfully depict how East Asian children tend to relatively valorized vis-à-vis blacks (Kim,1999), their research was conducted during the height of the international adoption boom. During this era of the early 2000s, the number of infants and toddlers adopted from China to the United States peaked at almost 8,000 in 2005 (U.S. Department of State 2014). Since then, the landscape of international adoption has significantly changed, and the number of children sent from abroad to the United State has fallen from almost 23,000 in 2005 to a little more than 7000 in 2013 Rothman (2005) and Dorow (2006) in (Raleigh & College, Spring 2016).

The decrease of this trend can be explained by several causes, despite the importance of the international adoption, especially in the United States. Selman (2009) argued that “one reason for the decline is that mainstay countries like China and Korea drastically curtailed the number of international placement permanents of healthy infants, and former sending countries such as Guatemala, Vietnam, and Cambodia shut-down their programs” (Raleigh & College, Spring 2016). With the decline of this great market of the international adoption, Africans countries or black countries are adding for completing the needs of the market of the international adoption. In addition, Davis (2011), attested that “during this era of rapid decline of international placements from Asia and Latin America, a new trend emerged. Adoptions from Africa, particularly Ethiopia, skyrocketed, and they now comprise the fastest growing segment of

international placements” (Raleigh & College, Spring 2016). Also, Haiti as one of the black countries becomes a sending country in the market of the international adoption.

Thus, in the international adoption, with the launching of the new trend on the race question that is emerging, the international adoption has changed due to the drastic measures in countries that were considered as the core in the market of the international adoption. In fact, Haiti as a sending country also represents an unavoidable actor in this market. In a research published by the United Nations in 2009 “*Child Adoption: Trends and Policies*” showed that the number of adoptions in Haiti from 1995 to 1999 were estimated to 2435 adoptions, this number of adoptions is divided between 2097 intercountry adoptions and 338 domestic adoptions (United Nations, 2009). In this era, The Hague Convention on the Intercountry adoption of 1993 was not ratified by Haiti but the intercountry adoption was possible to realize. Moreover, a recent research of the European Parliament in 2016 on the “*Trends Adoption of children in the European Union (UE) from 2004 to 2014*” among the classification that has been realized on the top 25 countries of origin of children adopted, and the top 5 receiving countries among the member States for each nationality between 2004 to 2014. In this study, it revealed that Haiti occupied the seventh place in 25 countries of origin with a number of 5371 adopted children (Jurviste, Sabbati, Shreeves, & Dimitrova-Stull, June 2016).

Nevertheless, formally the intercountry adoption begins to apply following The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993 in Haiti during the Fiscals Years of 2012 to 2013 (IBESR, 2018). Throughout this research, the data that we have found on the adopted children covering their periods from 2011 to 2017, is estimated to 2644 adopted children in the adoption process. This number of adopted children that is divided on 2488 adopted children to intercountry adoption and 156 adopted children to domestic adoption. These data show the trend of the Haitian adoption process toward the intercountry adoption. Nonetheless, the number of domestic adoptions has been decreased compared to the number intercountry adoption known, also a low-down trend compared to the trend before the new adoption Law of 2013. What does explain that trends towards the intercountry adoption instead of domestic adoption? Why the best interests of the child are not considered in the case of the promoting of the domestic adoption instead of the fostering of the intercountry adoption. And what is the role plays by the Institute of Social welfare and Research (ISWR) in terms of the child protection?

The challenges and constraints in the field of the child protection can connected with the adoption process or can also link to others specify challenge such as: the economic conditions

of certain parents, the vulnerability of this country face to natural disaster, the ignorance of some parents on the international adoption process, the weakness of the child welfare institution in terms of adoption, and the absence of the specialized agencies in adoption mediation. All these aspects mentioned above can place the protection of the best interest of the child in danger in the intercountry adoption process. All these factors allow us to put in question the best interests of the child in the adoption process. How the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) can describe being able to ensure and evaluate the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption?

In accordance with the practice of the Department of Social Science at Hacettepe University where this study is conducted. This paper divides into five (5) chapters: the first chapter presents a brief overview of the “ General Introduction with the characteristics of the study such as Introduction on Adoption Thematic, Background, Justification, Delimitation, Problem Statement, Research Purpose, Research Questions, and Research Procedure”, the second chapter examines the “ Literature Review ”, the third chapter describes the “ Research Methodology ” the fourth chapter presents the “ Data Analysis and Interpretation ”, and finally the last chapter presents the “ Conclusion and Recommendations”.

## **1.7. RESEARCH PURPOSE**

This research puts emphases on one main purpose and four specifics objectives. The main purpose of this study is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of ‘the best interests of the child’ as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 20 November 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. And the specifics objectives of the study are:

- To describe the model of the adoption process that exists in Haiti.
- To evaluate the types of intervention in the adoption placement of the child.
- To study the adoption mediation in the adoption processes in Haiti following the skills and knowledge existing in the field of Social work in the adoption intervention.
- To suggest recommendations for an application of the adoption mediation in the adoption process in Haiti, that can facilitate to resolve the psycho-social problems in the post-adoption in the best interests of the child.

## 1.8. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This paper focuses on one central research question and three secondary questions that are in accordance with the central question. The central research question of the study is formulated:

- How does adoption process in Haiti describe the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption considering the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993?

The secondary questions of the study are developed as follows:

- What are the considerations made in the pre-adoption mediation between biological parents or family members and adoptive parents in the adoption process?
- What are the weaknesses in the postadoption in reason of lacks of local adoption mediation agency and also to weaknesses in the State agency?
- What are the psycho-social problems might arise in the future between biological parents or family member, adoptive parents and adopted children?

## 1.9. RESEARCH PROCEDURE

A methodology is an intellectual approach that allows doing the bridge between the theoretical premise and empirical elaboration. In the framework of the methodological construction of this research, we use all the resources and procedures extending from concepts to data collection and analysis. In the purpose to explore the research theme, documentation, interview, and observation as the type of qualitative research methods are considered for data collection. Creswell & Plano Clark (2011:171) argued that the basic idea of collecting data in any research study is to gather information that addresses the question under the study. The qualitative research method is used by the researcher for exploring the research subject.

In this research, a small group of twelve (12) persons was selected as participants who were implicated directly in the adoption processes to collect the data. This group is divided into seven (7) biological parents, three (3) adoption authorities at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), and two (2) foster care managers. The twelve (12) participants were interviewed about their experiences in the adoption processes. These participants are codified to avoid mentioning their names, as established for this study and the information from participants are codified as following for each group (Participant 1, Participant 2, Participant 3,

etc..). Additionally, an interview guide for each group is established as a tool with the open-end questions for data collection. Montcalm & Royse (2002:284) noted, that for a qualitative research, a small sample undoubtedly not requires a statistical analysis because the qualitative research allows understanding a phenomenon in-depth. The data collected through the interviews and observations under data transcription form are reviewed, refined and reorganized by the terms' categories for analyzing and interpreting by the researcher. Content analysis is conducted to analyze and interpret the data from the participants. In this study, we have not intended to use a test for data analysis due to the purpose of this study. Here Montcalm & Royse (2002:281-281) state that researchers have the possibility to consider the structures and senses of their information because the data might not meet certain conditions needed by specific statistical tests. Mostly, these conditions as known assumptions, are not empirically verified but are presumed to have been met unless the researcher has reason to suspect a problem. This research is also aimed to understand a phenomenon through the adoption process in Haiti. The finding obtained should be used for reinforcing the adoption process or to undertake other research in the future.

## **CHAPTER. 2**

### **2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE NOTIONS: ADOPTION, CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, AND SOCIAL WORK.**

In this part, we try to link the theories that can help to understand the reality of adoption in the Haitian context and also in the international framework. The theoretical fields allow the researchers to catch up studied phenomenon by several approaches on the issue. The theory is also a scientific explanation of one reality. Payne (2014:5) argues that a theory is “a generalized set of ideas that describes and explains our knowledge of the world around us in an organized way”. In this work, we make a synthesis on notions of adoption that facilitate the understanding on the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption. And also that can facilitate to analyze the unequal pattern centered on child exchange characterizing in intercountry adoption. In encouraging a dominant relationship between parents of rich countries who want to fill their desires by adopting a child and parents in impoverished countries with children needing protection. A relationship between receiving countries and sending countries in the intercountry adoption which is established under a speech between dominant and dominated under the etiquette of the well-being of the child.

In the field of the child protection, adoption constitutes a measure in the modern conception of child protection that was not in the ancient societies. In this new vision on adoption, the best interests of the child are placed as a determinant of child welfare System. Furthermore, in the social work profession mainly concerning adoption, some intervention methods are defined for facilitating adequate interventions in the best interest of the child. Consequently, the literature on the adoption, the child welfare system and social work can facilitate the understanding and evaluation of the subject of study defined in this research.

## 2.2. LITERATURE ON ADOPTION

Adoption provides the child with a legally recognized new family as stated (Rycraft, 2007:208), and “creates a permanent family for children whose birth parents are unable to take care of them. It provides security, a sense of belonging, and the support system needed during a child’s developmental phases. It also cherishes the outcome often long coming, for families who cannot bear children but wish to expand their families (Dukette, 1984)” in (Rycraft,2007:208-210). Also, Mather; Lager; and Harris (2007:17) viewed adoption as being a “permanent placement program is an alternative in which families are established legally, not biologically”. It describes that adoption establishes a connection between the three parties that constitute a triangle; children, birth parents and adoptive families where each of them has different desires. However, those children are manifested through their birth parents via the child welfare system that legalized children exchanges with other families, estimating who are able to respond to these requirements. The decisions to place children for adoption by birth parents put into question the children legitimacy, in the sense of relinquishing of the children, to take care of them by the parents. whether they are not abdicated by the drug, the children are not abused and neglected and the parents do not vanish.

Nevertheless, according to Baltimore (2008:10), Nickman (1985) mentioned by Grotevan et al., (2000) noted that:

The social concept of adoption contains elements of rejection and relinquishment. Furthermore, studies found adopted children expressed ‘status losses’ arising from feelings of stigmatization within one’s family or society at large. Adopted children may perceive these beliefs from their social environment, which may elicit a negative feeling of self-worth or self-identity.

The feelings of self-worth or self-identity play an important role in child’s development, once child is affected by the feelings of stigmatization, the relationship between the child and the adoptive parent can also affect in causing attachment problems.

Mather et al., (2007:43) indicate that adoption is another form of care and is utilized in situations where children lost their parents, have been given up adoption, or have become children of the State because parental rights have been severed. In addition, Kadushin (1970:1) underlines adoption as a legal social process of becoming parent instead of biological process. A permanent change in family origin, permanent substitute care for the child once the birth parents



are unable, renouncing to care of him/her, and the parents have decided legally, terminated all affiliations with the child. It is one way that facilitates the child to complete bond in a “substitute” family life. It also specifies that the adoptive parents and child have the same rights and duties towards each other existing between nonadoptive and adoptive child. Nonetheless, as Shireman (2003:228) commented, according to Reitz & Watson (1992 :11), adoption defined as following:

A means of providing some children with security and meeting their developmental needs by legally transferring ongoing parental responsibilities from their birth parents to their adoptive parents; recognizing that in so doing we have created a new kinship network that forever links those families together through the child, who is shared by both.

This definition appears very suitable for the understanding of the adoption issue that does not stay on the adoption conception directed on adoptive parent-adopted children relationships. It is also considered in this research as the understanding of adoption for analyzing adoption process. Therefore, Kadushin’s (1970) and Rycraft’s (2007) assumptions seem to be realistic in the aspect where adoption is also considered as a procedure of becoming a parent and also one way for a child to complete bond in a “substitute” family life. However, some authors considered adoption merely as a form of care, a perspective often that reduces adoption with a question of care of the child, that is focused in the sense of adoption at which hides in the great perception only for saving a child. Nevertheless, infertility as a problem being privileged as a reason in which stimulates families for adoption changes with other preoccupations. For illustrating this position on the infertility issue, Triseliotis & Shireman (1997:7) argued that .... (as cited in Shireman, 2003:291) after World War II, adoption has become a standard solution to the problem of infertility. It was an era of “the perfect baby for the best perfect couple”. In addition, in a major advanced study in (2010) by UN revealed this statement affirming that:

Adoption is not simply a demographic response to achieve the desired family size for those suffering from involuntary sterility and sub-fecundity. Whereas involuntary childlessness is often associated with adoption, in several countries a large percentage of persons seeking to adopt already have children of their own (United Nations,2010:5).

In the contemporary perception on adoption, mainly in Australia adoption is considered as a social policy option used by the State for the placements of children in need of families, it is also a way to help adults to complete the private need of children to form a family and being

considered as a mechanism by which parents can have children (Cuthbert, Spark, & Murphy, 2010:428-429). Here adoption is perceived as a tool used for responding to a requirement focused predominantly on their desires of families to complete a need.

However, other than ideas making family decisions via adoption, there is a question of desires families in the rich countries, with their money power may decide to use adoption for finding a child without being childless parents. Adoption in a sense also can create a perception of the trade considering the child as a product that is evaluated to a price comparative to the country where it is. As Rycraft (2007:215), avowed that “adoption has become a lucrative business in the United States even though there are laws against the [selling] of babies and children”, and advanced that “the private adoption agencies are secular or faith based. The cost for adopting a [healthy infant], preferably white, can range from **\$ 5000 to \$ 25 000** and even higher if the adoptive parents are expected to cover medical and living costs of the expectant mother”. Furthermore, Perreau and Dusinger (2004:14) illustrate that “adoption transactions in the United States amount to roughly **1.8 billion dollars** per year. Then, there is the economy created by donations to orphanages, humanitarian associations, and local institutions in the adopted children’s countries origins”. Thus, Rycraft’s (2007) study allowed to discover another component that raises the trade perception and race in the choice of adoption of adoptive parents that are similar to a product which is in the supermarket where the clients are permitted to decide which quality is better to buy. The race issue also seemed significant in the adoption, the black children and white children are not the same possibilities to choose by the adoptive parents.

According to UNICEF’s (1998) study as one authority in child’s rights admitted the same philosophy of the adoption focusing on the care but with a specification for “orphaned or definitively children” always in the same perspective for a “permanent family” for the child (United Nations Children’s Fund, 1998 in (Jurviste, Sabbati, Shreeves, & Dimitrova-Stull, June 2016). This approach focuses on the orphaned or absolutely abandoned child and does not mention, children in the needy situations where the families are existing. Implicitly, children in needy situations living in their families should find the social supports in the child welfare system that has the duty to reinforce families with the child in the case of the child protection in cases of needy situations. As cited in Way and Staud (2007), Maslow’s (1970:123) approach allow to determine families’ problems categorizations as soon as they arrive in the child welfare system for the following needs: “physiological”, “safety”, “belongingness”, “esteem”, “and self-actualization”. Children living in families needing situations, the adoption cannot be found as the only one alternative to the child welfare system. Way and Staud (2007:120) underline

that “the first step in providing child welfare services. It is also to learn what brings a family to the attention of the child welfare system and understand their unique situation”. Consequently, the adoption as a measure of child protection maybe consider as an alternative if one parent abused and neglected their children, under drug effects or in the cases already mentioned above. In these conditions, foster care or permanent placement can be used as an alternative for the child.

Besides, the conception of UN Conventions on the Rights of Child, on the placement of the child in the Articles 20 and 21(b), suggests that:

A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interest cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State. In accordance with their national laws ensure the alternative care for such a child. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, *kafalah* of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. Intercountry adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child’s care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner to be cared for in the child’s country of origin (The Children’s Rights Alliance, 2010: 19-20).

The types of placement can be different in their name [inter alia, kafala of Islamic law, adoption] following the country but are considered in the case of the protection of child without families. The UNICEF’s approach does not mention children where the parents in needy situations. In his insight on the adoption, it’s also suggested that the intercountry adoption can use as an alternative of placement if other alternatives mentioned above are not considered suitable to the care of the child in their origin country.

Also, the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption (1993), stated that “intercountry adoption may offer advantages to a permanent family of the child that cannot find suitable family in his /her State of the origin”. In article 2(2), it writes that “the Convention covers only intercountry adoptions which create a permanent parent-child relationship” (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993). The Hague Convention on the intercountry adoption focuses on child-centered exchanges perspective to facilitate to a permanent family for a child where the State origin is unable to find another alternative. This international instrument does not reinforce merely the intercountry adoption. On the other hand, it allows some States to find a pattern of a way to get out of their duties of ensuring deprived families to find support to take care of their children and allow the children to stay in their own families. The intercountry adoption is more promoted

amongst countries rather than domestic adoption due to the different incomes from the intercountry adoption process. Consequently, The Hague Convention on the intercountry does not arrive absolutely to eliminate the “child’s selling” perception, previously which was always mentioned in the international adoption. However, it appears there is a decline in child’s trafficking aspects which is often discovered in international adoption.

In addition, concerning the case of Haiti, adoption is viewed in the Haitian legislation of 2013 on adoption as follows:

A solemn act pronounced by a court and created between a heterosexual couple or a single person and a child who is not biologically, his kinship ties similar to those resulting from affiliation by blood. This act is a measure of protection which is on the best interest of the child, providing him or her a permanent placement favorable to its development, respectful of its fundamental rights (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:3).

Here this outlook on adoption describes two aspects that may consider as a legal and social construction. It also identifies the categories of person who are able to adopt a child on the basis of the sex. It underlines the best interests of the child that is summarized in a permanent environment favorable, where its development and fundamental rights are respected. However, this perspective on adoption does not reveal the State responsibility to ensure the fundamental rights at which child welfare system must provide to the child and to be able benefit a protection. It uses terms that have a general content as a measure of protection, a permanent environment favorable, fundamental rights, best interests of the child, that are of principles defined on the child rights of 1989 and The Hague Convention on the intercountry adoption of 1993. However, the implementation of its rights is always stayed to evaluate.

Adoption according to the country divides into two types that are considered as domestic adoption or intercountry adoption, simple adoption or full adoption. In a report of United Nations on the child adoption in (2010), underlines that “the laws or regulations of some countries differentiate between types of adoption, the most common being simple adoption and full adoption. Whatever the categories in existence in a country, it is important that the type of each adoption be recorded explicitly” (United Nations, 2010:7). Moreover, Crycraft (2007:215) indicates that “the four more common types of adoption are the public agency, private agency, independent, and intercountry. State laws vary, and prospective adoptive parents must choose carefully which avenue they will take to find a child”. It describes the reality of the adoption in the USA contexts where adoption is established as complex issues in the child welfare system.

In this categorization or type of adoption; there are three considerations on as of domestic adoption: 1) public agency, 2) private agency, 3) independent, and the intercountry adoption, as mentioned above in the USA adoption system really there are two types of adoption that are domestic adoption and intercountry adoption. Similarly, in the Haitian adoption law, it mentions that national adoption can be domestic or plenary. It's also highlighted that international adoption is always plenary (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015: 12). In the following point, it examines the domestic adoption.

### **2.2.1. Domestic Adoption**

Domestic adoption constitutes one form of adoption that is mostly used in certain countries but this type concerns the adoption that is realized on the national territory among the citizens. Furthermore, Mignot (2015:383) in an article on [ *“Simple” Adoption in France* ], wrote that the simple adoption permitted to create a permanent bond for a minor or an adult who has already been elevated in the family adopter even before the adoption process. Consequently, family adopter adopts the child where a relationship has been done before having knowledge and affection during a long moment in raising the child that can help to facilitate the transmission his domain to him/her easily in the future. Moreover, in Haitian Law on adoption, Simple adoption is defined as an act by which adopted child received from his adoptive family certain effect of the right of the affiliation such as name, inheritances but staying in attachment with his biological parent. Adoption does not cease birth parent-child relationships that exist before the adoption but creates a new parental kinship between child and adoptive parent holder of the parental authority on the child (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015: 4). This section provides a brief description of the domestic adoption, and the succeeding point presents the plenary adoption.

### **2.2.2. Full /Plenary Adoption**

Jean-François Mignot (2015:383) in his article on the [ *« Simple » Adoption in France* ] writes that full-adoption in the France context is used as a way that facilitated the creation of a substitute kinship for a child born from others countries [international adoptee] rather than France or in France [ extra-familial] before, without the adoption, the adoptee has never been raised by the adopter family. And then he enhanced that the full adoption allowed adoptive parents to adopt children where they had not had a knowledge and an affection before without contributing in their education, to love them as their children [and incidentally to transmit to him/her his inheritance] in the future. According to the Haitian Law on adoption, plenary

adoption is considered as an act by which child adopted benefits all and affect the right of relationship in his adoptive family and terminates with this biological parent affiliation's bonds absolutely and irrevocable (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:4). The next section examines the intercountry adoption at which is focused mainly this research.

### **2.2.3. Intercountry Adoption**

Since in the Second half of the twentieth century, intercountry adoption was considered as an occasional practice, with the Second World War era, it became the result of a common phenomenon where orphaned children from Germany, Greece, and Japan were sent to the United States for new families (Altsein and Simon,1991; Masson, 2001; Weil,1984) in (United Nations, 2010:18). In the same study of the United Nations on the *Child adoption* (2010:18) showed that the Korean and Vietnam Wars occasioned a sudden large increase in intercountry adoptions frequently with interracial children in the direction of Sweden, the United States, and others countries. As the intercountry adoption was limited, practices in some countries have not considered the importance of a legal framework for the protection the interest of children adopted from the overseas. Intercountry adoption appears as an alternative that initiates the responses to the wide number of orphans in these two wars because before the intercountry adoption was unknown but after these wars, it becomes a common phenomenon. Some critiques on intercountry adoption demonstrated that this phenomenon has not been always introduced on the consent totally of a certain country.

In addition, Coltrane and Collins (2001) quoted at length from an article by Galey (2000:349) under the title of "*Seeking Baby Right: Race, Class, and Gender in U.S International Adoption*" underlined in Galey's work, Coltrane and Collins contended suggestion that there is unavoidable to understand the international adoption currently without fixated a look on the history of U.S military operations. Further, Galey highlighted, at the end of the twentieth century, the shapes of U.S. adoption internationally remained strictly joined to the results of U.S underground actions and Cold War operations. In questioning what is uncommon around the U.S. a successful State is the repercussion: The U.S. challenges to "assimilate" or "incorporate" the "enemy others". Coltrane and Collins advanced to the point's view of Galey (2000:349), mentioning that until the Vietnam War, the path of American International adoptions succeeds immense army occupation. Galey (2000:349) attested that the ideas similar children stayed orphans is a "myth" because children usually are taken by force from their biological families by the State (Fisher, 2003:157-158). The hypothesis of orphans' children

often mentioned as a reason for facilitating international adoption as related by Galey in major part appears as a “myth” in the sending countries, generally, the adopted children are not orphans of birth parents. Currently, either recent research has not yet revealed if its practices are continuing in the international adoption but the statements of writers described certain aspect used in the past particularly by U.S army for obtaining children in the International adoptions. However, currently, a new trend manifests in the intercountry adoption with other observations.

Intercountry adoption includes adoption exchange between both countries or more countries based on agreements that are defined by the countries that were before widely not concerned by legal frameworks. The rules on the intercountry adoption are established in the national legislation on the criteria available for facilitating this exchange. Since 1993 an international instrument is established on the international adoption on the name of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption that is the beginning of its application. This Convention focuses on ensuring the best interests of children, a term that was figured in the first modern adoption law of the United States of 1851. In fact, almost all countries that are applied The Hague Convention of 1993 are focused on the children needs. They consider that the best interests of the child outside of their origin country.

However, the statement mainly of the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption analyzed in his content puts into question some challenges or doubts. Also, Shireman (2003:320) in his points of view on international adoption commented that:

International adoptions also raise political, moral and policy questions. The political and moral issues stem from the removal of children from poor countries to more wealthy countries, until all countries can provide the family support and child welfare services to provide birth parents with real choices, the adoptions will continue to be questioned. Theorists who are family-oriented write movingly on this point, emphasizing that [international adoptions] find children for parents, rather than finding the most appropriate resources.

In fact, some writers as Cuthbert, Spark, and Murphy (2010), in his work, mentioned that Wellington (2000) cited by Penelope (2002:269-89) argued that:

The possibility of formulating public policy that can serve both the public needs of children care and the private desires of couples and individuals for children has inspired and challenged legislators and

policymakers since the inception of legislated adoption in the United States in 1851, and Australia 1891. Although, there is evidence to suggest that legislated adoption of these countries, and comparable jurisdictions in Canada and the United Kingdom, has frequently fallen short of the ideal of securing the public policy benefits of serving the best interests of children and meeting the needs of the adults who adopt them. Some critics suggest that legislated adoption is founded towards the interests of adoptive parents and the State which is relieved of the burden of the support of children for whom adoptive placement is found.

The intercountry adoption in its periods was centered on the needs of children under the cover of needs of the adults. This philosophy is continued in The Hague Convention on Intercountry adoption but with an evidence-centered merely on the best interests of children in the needs of care. However, Rycraft (2007) cited in Clark & Shute (2011:216) asserted that “the purpose of this treaty is to encourage international adoption and eliminate the illegal trafficking of children”. Also, Shireman (2003:320) transmitted in his questioning on international adoption mentioning that “there is little doubt that international adoptions provide vastly improved opportunities for those children whose parent are unable to care for them, particularly if the best option in their own country provides is institutional care”.

Furthermore, Croker & Allain (2011:119) explain that the intercountry adoption in the UK context where they describe that the “inter-country adoption is when the prospective parent adopters in the UK wish to adopt a child from abroad”. Further, Rycraft (2007:216) describes the intercountry adoption in the USA framework that “require approval from countries and dealing with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service can be especially time-consuming”.

In addition, concerning the adoption in the Haitian legislation, ‘international adoption’ is noted to specify intercountry adoption which is defined as an act whereby a child residing in Haiti is adopted by a person generally residing in a foreigner country according to the rules established by the law (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:4). By Analyzing the different statements, intercountry adoption may understand doubtless considering as an alternative used for completing the need for adoption in some countries, often, in reason of the market of domestic adoption that is insufficient for responding to the demand of couples desired to adopt to a child. For illustrating, Cuthbert, Spark, and Murphy (2010:249) disclosed that the situation in Australia has known a significant need to seek for the intercountry adoption since the 1970s. Because for the prospective parents they were in the unavailability to find children locally. This phenomenon has created the perception that, [on the basis of supply and demand alone] intercountry adoption



in Australia similarly to others known countries has an increase because of the deficient of the domestic adoption market to respond to the demand of parents. Prospective parents in quest access of children to adopt removed [ their search off-shore when both demand and preference could not be met in the local market].

Consequently, these different views describe on the intercountry adoption demonstrate that intercountry adoption has been settled on the best interests of children, notion, in which some sending countries referring to provide the children to the receiving countries due to the need's adoptions existing in their local market. Intercountry adoption is constructed on an exchange ratio non-proportional based merely on the best interests of the child to complete the adoptive families' desires.

In the same way, Riley and Vleet (2012:6) underline the dissimilarity exchange at which established the intercountry adoption when they relate that:

In many countries, children generally move from nonwhite mothers to white families, from poorer families to richer families, and from poorer countries to wealthier countries. Although there is some movement of children in opposite direction, the overall pattern of adoption is clearly a movement of children from lower-to-higher status families.

The movement of children in intercountry adoption if it is in the best interests of children to help them to complete the needs of care, also the relationship with birth parents should be continued. The cessation of rights of birth parents if it is not in the case where they abused or neglected their children puts in question the best interests of children in the intercountry adoption and represents an interrogation in the control the best interests of children. In this perspective, Hewitt (1998:229) cited by Lindsey (2003:13) in his hypothesis on the cessation of parents' rights attests that:

Termination proceeding is among the most dramatic actions the state can take against its citizens. A termination of parental rights is the ultimate legal infringement on the family. There are few state-imposed deprivations more unyielding and personal than the permanent and irrevocable loss of one's children. Termination of parents' rights is even more severe than a criminal sanction, only the death penalty is the more severe intrusion into personal liberty.

Hewitt's point of view does not differ about my understanding of the termination of parents' rights and how the best interests of the child may be provided without considering the relationships of parents. Furthermore, the best interests of children in the intercountry adoption

emphases on the incomes of adoptive parents in ignoring the biological bonds of children and the capacity of adoptive families to replace natural attachments of children. Intercountry adoption may be applied only to the orphan and relinquish' children, abused or neglected children by their parents. However, in some sending countries, others conditions contrary to the elements cited above facilitate the intercountry adoption. Moreover, Triseliotis, Shireman et al., (1997:2005) refer to the evidence that: "many intercountry adoptions, adopted children are neither orphaned nor abandoned. The reason that many of them are given up is their parents 'extreme poverty which makes the lure of money irresistible" (Shireman, 2003:320).

Additionally, Bartolet (1993:90-91) mentioned by Shireman (2003:320) noticed that in poorer countries around of the World lived some circumstances as war, political chaos and economic in which encouraged circumstances where some future adoptive parents, in contrast, are found to the immense extents of children in the necessity of households. It estimated that the interests of international adoption must be advocated with proper protection against abuses. Thus, Riley and Vleet (2012:4) indicated that:

To some extent, the transfer of child necessarily depends on shared agreement and acceptance of such transfer. Adults, however, take part in the transaction for many reasons and under varying circumstances; the child may have little or no voice in the matter; the channels through which children pass and the direction of children 's movements are often shaped by prevailing power relationship no matter what the personal intentions or emotional engagement of the individuals involved.

The decisions of parents for their adoption consent of their children often are independent of their willingly. Writers tried to describe the reality usually that is manifested in the children 's movement and birth parents in the adoption process. For the next point, it analyzes the transnational adoption notion which is including in the adoption concept.

#### **2.2.4. Transracial Adoption**

Raleigh and College (2016:86) in their article on "*the Color Exception: The Transracial Adoption of Foreign-born and Biracial Black Children*", examine transracial adoption as being a trend to increase the family with the adoption of a nonwhite child by the white parents through the international, domestic, and foster-care adoptions. Furthermore, Mather; Lager; and Harris (2007:260) avow that interracial adoption is an issue that has shaped the increase of conflict. As underlined above the transracial adoption describes a certain challenge with the race issue that sometimes symbolizes an important determinant in the white adoptive parents' choice to choose a nonwhite child. Consequently, the child nonwhite is at risk to live some

discriminations from in their environment via to the different color existing between adoptive mother and him/her. For the illustration of this issue, Rogers (2016:199) in his book under the heading “*Human Behavior in the Social Environment*” states that “one controversial issue that can confront social workers is interracial adoption. Some people argue that children need to be placed in loving homes, regardless of racial or ethnic background”. The race or ethnic background mentioned by the writers is not accepted in all points of view by some authors in the same sense. Hamilton, Chen & Powell (2007) cited by Rogers (2016:199) demonstrated that adoptive parents, regardless of ethnic background, invest more time and financial resources into their adoptive children than biological. In this perspective, it mentions an important aspect in the transracial adoption showing that the adoptive parents may invest more time and resource financial in their children than birth parents, retrace an unequal situation in which adopted children can be specified as being of children from a race categorization and a poor birth family. Thus, Rogers (2016:199) notes that this argument focused on enough families from these racial and ethnic’s categorizations for adopting all the number of children who are waiting for homes and showed that their adopted children generally live better rather than those who are waiting for adoption.

Nevertheless, Glazer (1993) & Samuels (2009) cited by Roger (2016:119) differ of the conception that focuses on regardless of racial or ethnic background on the placement of children, they suggest that “children should be placed only with families who share common ethnic origins, culture, and traditions. They further argue that ethnic groups experience discriminations when trying to adopt children and Caucasian families receive preference for placement”. Similarly, some writers as, Mather; Lager; and Harris (2007:260) emphasize in the conception of the Child Welfare League of America that promotes the placement of a child regardless of the race’s prejudice of the families and recognize also the importance of cultural and race support in the child life. While the League mentioned that the placement of a child shall be in the best interest of the child rather than adopters. It comes to see the challenges of the transracial adoption that shares different perceptions on child placement. Next notion examines concerned on open adoption or openness in adoption.

### **2.2.5. Open Adoption**

In the adoption process, some stages are very important for a successful adoption. Sometimes, some adoption processes concentrate merely on their agreements as determinant elements for justifying the adoption. The relationship with the parents for a successful adoption with an

openness in adoption for the best interests of the child are often limited or ignored. In fact, there are no legal provisions for this relationship between birth and adoptive parents but with the agencies of adoption, that have this specialization may provide this service to facilitate the parents to establish this connection. Despite the fact, open adoption is not forbidden by The Hague Convention on the Intercountry adoption of 1993. Moreover, Mather; Lager; and Harris (2007:261) indicate that openness in adoption has been analyzed by Henry, McRay, Ayers-Lopez, and Grotevant (2003), they conclude that:

Openness can be defined along continuum. On one end are closed adoptions where minimal information is shared with the adoptive parents by the agency. The information is sufficient and covers medical and others feature, but there is no contact between the birth parents and adoptive parents. The other end of the continuum involves full disclosure wherein birth parents and adoptive parents participate fully in the process. This contact may continue throughout the life of the child. The midpoint is where more information is shared, sometimes through the agency or through the birth parents.

Similarly, the point of view describes by Rogers (2016:198) does not differ than the first authors cited above. It asserts that *open adoption* is developed one trend more common and considered as a procedure that allows the birth parents to maintain a relationship with the adoptive parents about of visitation and communication with their children. Commonly, these relationships are established through their agencies that assist them around rules that guide the number, types de visits, and times necessities. The agencies also can facilitate the initial meetings between the biological family and adoptive parents. Social workers can play this role facilitating these processes even through helping clients to work about the emotions that open adoption can generate. Mather; Lager; and Harris (2007:18), argued that “open adoption, now more common, involves situations in which the biological parents may maintain some contact with their children. The contact varies with the individual situations and must be mutually established”. This approach also knows some critiques of certain writers, for examples, Gross (1993) cited by Rogers (2016) showed about problems that exist with this approach, research demonstrated that open adoption tends to have emotional advantages for the biological and adoptive parents. In a research mentioned by Rogers (2016:198), underlined that according to Berry, Cavazos Dylla, Barth, & Needell (1998) they existed a little effect of the open adoption on the families’ changes to adoption.

However, Rogers (2016:198), admits that some adoptive parents feel that these relationships permit a permanency in their children lives and facilitate the child development to the adoptive

conditions. The results in the open adoption reveal by some authors, for examples Mather, Lager, & Harris (2007:18) illustrate that “open adoptions are viewed positively because these arrangements offer permanency for many children who would otherwise not have permanent homes”. A research that is conducted by Henry and Colleagues (2003) on the openness in adoptions covering 12 -years periods concluded that the major impact on the transformation to openness was revealed to be that of the biological parents. Agency staff also have accomplished high well-being through the openness in adoption, relating the transformation as positive for all parties. Particularly, child contact with birth families appeared to reduce the [child ‘s feelings] of relinquishment (Mather, Lager, & Harris, 2007:262). Consequently, open adoption seems to be played an important role in the adoption process as underlined in the arguments revealed above, the best interests of the child are more important in the openness in adoption, the child may live healthier in reducing or avoiding rejection perception usually lived in the postadoption.

These arguments mentioning the openness in adoption show that the results are more positive with open adoption rather than negatively. And also describe that the benefits of the open adoption are favorable for all parties. To underline in open adoption, the agencies represent the mediators who facilitate the implementation of relationships or communication between birth and adoptive parents. Therefore, the relationship is not available between the parents without an adoption agency or adoption agencies. The adoption as a social and legal process may know some challenges at which the adoptive parents or adopted children can be found difficulty to retain their relationships. This complexity may describe as being an adoption disruption.

#### **2.2.6. Adoption Disruption**

Adoption disruption occurs in the post-adoption, where children may develop some attachment-behavior problems at which the adoptive parents may decide to renounced with the care of the child or the adoption. A research on the adoption disruption realized by the *National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC,2004)* described a number of statistics on the adoption disruption, showed that there is a rate of 10 to 16 % disruption in adoptive placement of children under age of 3; in the Illinois longitudinal research presented a rate of disruption of 12% and older children of 12 to 17 years with a higher rate of disruption of 24 to 25 percent (Mather, Lager, & Harris, 2007: 64).

Also, a study realized by the *National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC)* in 2003 showed that the factors from the child, family, and agency are justified as the reasons for the disruption. Furthermore, the behaviors of children identified as the disruption are presented as:

“sexual acting out, aggression, stealing, and suicide attempts”. For the family factors, this research discovered that single-parents managed healthier through children who have emotional or behavioral disturbances. Additionally, Barth & Berry (1998) revealed that [attachment-disordered children achieved more stability in single-parent homes or in situations where there was no competition with others children for parental attention. Mothers over the age of 40 also offered more stability]. It related that relationship care similarly may facilitate the stability in the adoption. The agency factors being considered to the services offered with undesirable impacts including interdisciplinary caseworker that contribute to the adoptive families, information insufficient for the families, lack of adoption supports and services (Mather, Lager, & Harris, 2007: 64). Therefore, the adoption disruption emphasizes by the authors describe three (3) factors that can analyze as sources of these issues in the adoption. These aspects mentioned provide an understanding of several problems that can consider the adoption process for avoiding the adoption disruption. In this section, it examines an important notion containing also concepts that represent vital points in the adoption process understanding, it is the child welfare system.

### **2.3. LITERATURE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

Child welfare system is considered as an institution of services calling to provide care to the children deprived of care in their own home. It is sometimes distinguished between foster care and public child welfare including in the child welfare system that focuses on the best interests of the child considering as their purpose ultimate. In this section, we will pass in review the literature on the child welfare system that allows us to understand their importance in the field of child protection, particularly in the adoption process.

Child welfare is defined in the literature of social work as the description of “a general and wide range of activities to do with the well-being of children” (Popp & Vecchiolla, 2007: 4), it is also illustrated by Kamerman and Kahn’s views, referring to definition of child welfare of Liederman(1995:424) as services “ designed to assist abused, neglected, or at-risk children and their families”, in (Popp & Vecchiolla, 2007: 4). Additionally, Boyd et al., (2007:70) argue that “child welfare refers to all aspects of the social environment necessary for the well-being of children, including medical care, day care, education, recreation, and public safety”. Furthermore, Kadushin and Matin (1988) mentioned by Lindsey (2003:3), explained that the traditional child welfare system was defined as a social service organization when children and

families entered in the system they received care services and after they left. Consequently, the writers mentioned above all admitted that “child welfare system” is considered as a social organism to provide care to children or families or children and families.

Carp (2002) cited by Bradley-King et al., (2013:161) described the child welfare history and underlined that child welfare history is attributed through challenges via self-image “child savers” toward “liberate” indigent group, and foreigner children coming out of the hypothesized risks linked to their families’ relationships. Early in the nineteenth’s era, at once child promoted where affected by their own class and race as they required to detach children from inopportune environments. Charles Loring Brace, a Protestant minister, and initial child welfare pioneer became the principal celebrated representative of the ‘child rescue movement’. Accordingly, child welfare historically was initiated by the caritative supports to benefits marginal group particularly children and their families. Child welfare system also knows the distinguishing that divides in foster care characterizing as care provider temporary for children or families or children and their families. And public child welfare generally that provides services for a long time to children or families or children and their families by the State. There is also a similarity between both, foster care and public child welfare, that are regulated by the State but are sometimes shared by the private agencies and state. In some countries, foster care and public child welfare are managed by the private organization or state. Generally, public child welfare is controlled by the State that provides all services necessary for children and families in needy situations. In the following point, we focus on the literature describing the characteristic of foster care and public child welfare.

### **2.3.1. Foster Care**

The literature on foster care is obviously very rich in this section we try to understand the importance of foster care in the child welfare system. Mather et al., (2007:44) described foster care in his genesis where they relayed that:

Foster care has been a major intervention since the beginning of philanthropic endeavors to help children. Often these early endeavors involved the farming out of children from the city. Children abandoned or without parents were often placed on trains from cities and sent to farming areas to become laborers or adopted children of families in rural areas. Foster care took on a more formal aspect with the initiation of public child welfare services.

Additionally, Turner (2007:188) attested that foster care, “is generally considered to be a temporary or out-of-home care for children who cannot live at home for reasons that range from abuse or neglect or parental inability to provide care and supervision due to illness or incapacity”. Similarly, according to Mather et al., (2007:14), they proclaim that:

Foster care refers to services and programs for children placed in out-of-home care, including foster family care, group care, and residential treatment care. Ideally, foster care is a temporary program wherein services are provided to children, foster parents, and biological parents; attempts are made to alleviate problems within the families, and speedy reunification occurs when the parents can protect their children.

In addition, Lindsey (2003:17) in his work analyzed the goal of foster care attesting that the goal of foster care specified by Jenkins (1974) “is not upward mobility for the lower-class child, but typically the return of child to the same milieu from which he [or she] came”, in other words, it shows that foster care’ purpose is to facilitate the homecoming children when they finish receiving their care.

Besides, Further & Brown (2011:91) mentioned that, “the placement of children in foster care can be, at its worst, just a ‘holding operation’ until a child is placed back home with his or her birth family, placed in kinship care, placed in residential care or placed with a permanent substitute family, through adoption, special guardianship or permanent foster care”. Further, Mather et al., (2007:14) enhanced that “children are usually placed in foster care because their parents or caretakers cannot protect them. Many children entering care have physical, developmental, and emotional challenges”. However, Lindsey (2003:2) in other line demonstrated that:

Foster care involves the removal of children from their biological parents and their placement in the ‘temporary’ care of their families. As such, it does not propose to change a client through casework services. Rather, casework services are offered to the family while the child is in care. A major concern with foster care centers on the outcomes for children.

Likewise, Brown (2011:91) recognizes that “foster care should provide a safe, containing, stimulating and caring experience of family life for the child. It can also be an effective intervention, improving the chances for foster children to fulfill their potential”. However, Lindsey (2003:11) underlined other elements that have included in foster reality, mentioning that some:



Studies of the foster care system had consistently found that, despite the best efforts of workers and agencies, some families and parents did not respond, unwarranted large number of children accumulated in long-term-care. The children too often simply drifted for years in long-term foster care, experiencing multiple placements and being denied the sense of permanency they might otherwise find in their own home.

The long-term foster care mentioned by Lindsey can arise in the case where children do not yet find their prospective adoptive parents or children may be in the waiting procedures for a permanent placement. The timeframe of children in foster care is defined differently from one country to another. For illustration, in 1998, the new law on administration for Children and Families (ACF), referred of the US Department of Health and Human Services, described the resulting important principles recognized in the Adoption and Families Act (AFA), among the five key principles, foster care is defined as a “temporary placement and not to viewed as permanent”. Further, it also underlines that “the law makes provisions that shorten the timeframe for making permanency decisions for children and for initiating proceedings to terminate parents’ rights”. It is also putting “emphasizes timely adoption for children who cannot return safely to their own home” (Turner, 2007:194).

Nonetheless, Bowlby (1958,1968); Harlow (1958,1951) mentioned by Lindsey (2003:11), “point out, the denial of parental love and compassion can diminish the capacity for these qualities in children raised in foster care”. It is also commented by them that, “foster care had never been regarded as a therapeutic modality, only temporary way of getting a child out of harm’s way that family’s problems often remained unresolved was a telling comment upon effectiveness of the method used (p.771), by the child welfare system (Knitzer, Allen, and McGowan, 1978)” children were not necessarily to suffer in foster care. Thus, studies suggested that foster care is often more dangerous than the family of the child is removed (Bolton, Lane, and Knudsen,1992) in (Lindsey, 2003:11). In fact, foster care is commonly considered as a temporary placement as mentioned in the different literature analyzed. Some writers consider the foster care only as temporary methods of placement. They underline the impact of foster care can be wrong for children than the family home. For concluding, analyzing the literature on foster care as services that provide care to children or family, we think that this temporary alternative placement can be used. However, children who are placed in long-term foster care can have a more much negative impact on their development. It is necessary to the professionals intervening in the foster care to consider all aspects at which may influence harmfully the child in their development. In the following section, it analyzes the public child welfare notion

wherein the child placement decisions are dealing and also deciding what kind of care are available to provide to the child family or child.

### 2.3.2. Public Child Welfare

Public child welfare generally is referred to care services to children or families or children and families offering permanently by the State. Suzanne Boyd et al., (2007:70) attest that, public child welfare “is especially concerned with two focuses: (1) the special needs of children and families when parents are unwilling or unable to provide parental care and (2) the special needs of the child who cannot remain in the family home because of behavioral, emotional, or developmental impediments”. In addition, for Popp & Vecchiolla (2007:234), they mentioned that:

Public child welfare agencies, by the law, are charged with the responsibility of protecting children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The task is generally broken down into two groups of functions. The first is generally referred to as *intake*, which is further broken down into (1) screening, (2) investigation and substantiation, (3) risk assessment, and (4) service planning. The second group of the function is referred to as *ongoing* services and is broken down into (1) services to families and children at home, (2) foster care services, and adoption or long-term care.

Moreover, public child welfare has been created under influences of several initiatives that have been undertaken by some professionals, like Mary Ellen who is considered as the pioneer of the child protection, with the case of a child abused by her stepmother, was rescued by Henry Bergh established the first chapter of the society for the child protection of children in the 1870s in the State of New York (...) in many others states (Mather, Lager, & Harris, 2007:4). During the early 1900s welfare programs were initiated in the name of Mother’s Pension. Illinois was the first state to implement pensions throughout the state in 1991, and 35 other states in 10 years after (Mather, Lager, & Harris, 2007:5). In addition, Lindsey (2003:2) underlines that:

The public child welfare system emerged to ensure care for the children who could not be cared for by their parents- orphans. During the first half of the century, the public child welfare system broadened its focus of concern to include to care for children who were not adequately cared for them pares parents. The major services child welfare agencies provided to accomplish this were orphanages and foster care. After World War II orphanages essentially disappeared as foster care emerged as primary service.

Similarly, Golden (2009:1-2) estimated generally, society refers on parents to assume their children ‘well and safe’, then when the parents are unable or unwilling, the public child welfare system temporary provides necessary services. It mentions that the responsibility of the child welfare system is to ensure “safety, permanence, and welfare”, and services to protect children that may be delivered in their own home or transferring them from home. Public Child welfare has the responsibility for evolving strategies and coordinating facilities for permanent homes and families, via their biological family or adoption or guardianship. Child welfare must also look on the well-being or needs of children and parents in all aspects: physical, emotional health, education and development of children, and the ability of families. Consequently, the public child welfare as described by the authors plays an important role in the child protection in showing the State’s responsibility in providing necessary services to children and families in needy situations. Analyzing the finality of the public child welfare that aims to ensure the best interests of the child providing care to family and child, allowing to examine the best interests of the child, a notion which is considered as the purpose the child welfare system. For this reason, the best interests of the child will be examined in the succeeding section.

### **2.3.3. Best Interests of the Child**

In the child welfare policy, the best interests of the child constitute the ultimate purpose. Further, the best interests of the child have also known a long history in the modern adoption referring to, “the first adoption statute passed in Massachusetts in 1851, it has become the model for subsequent adoption legislation; it outlines the basic provisions of adoption (Kadushin; Martin,1988:535) cited by (Shireman, 2003:290)”, under influence of this new ideological framework, adoption began to be advocated not simply as a legal mechanism to establish their status but as a means of promoting the best interests of children (United Nations, 2009). Thus, Blustein (1979: 120) cited by Thomas (2000:52), “suggests that every social practice is an attempt to accommodate the interests of children, parents, and society as a whole and that those interests are interdependent: [mutual adjustment of interests, not their ranking or aggregation, is required]”. Nevertheless, Thomas (2000:56) underscored that:

There is disagreement both in academic writing and real life about the proper boundary between the authority of parents and the power of the state to intervene. There is disagreement about when the state may intervene- whenever a child’s best interests are not being promoted; or when certain specified minimum standards are not met; or only being flagrantly ill-treated; or only when normal care arrangement have broken down. There is disagreement about whether the state’s primary duty is to

children, and to some conception of their best interests aside from their families, or whether it is first to families as social units that include children.

Consequently, the disagreement between the state and parents in the best interests of the child it commits that it is initialed families as social units, that is to say, that the best interests of the child must be considered inside in their family. As well Thomas (2000:57) explains that is:

A challenging version of the *laissez-faire* position is that taken by Goldstein, Freud, and Solnit (1973). They maintained forcefully that parental autonomy is actually in children's interests; to focus on their 'best interests' is to encourage over-interference, and in reality, it not possible to do the job of parenting well without having nearly total authority.

Thus, in the Convention on Rights of Children of 1989, it enlightens that "the best interests of the child are to prevail in all legal and administrative decisions; the state is to ensure the establishment of standards for the care and protection of children" (Mapp, 2010:5). In this convention, it is referred to the State of the full responsibility to ensure the best interests of the child in all legal and administrative decisions. Also, The Hague Convention on Intercountry adoption that constitutes an international instrument on the international adoption, the best interests of the child are defined in four articles:

**Art.1(a)** to establish safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights as recognized in international law; **Art.4(b)** have determined, after possibilities for placement of the child within the State of origin have been given due consideration, that an intercountry adoption is in the child's best interests; **Art.16(d)** and determine, on the basis in particular of the reports relating to the child and prospective parents, whether the envisaged placement is in the best interests of the child; **Art. 21.** where the adoption is to take after the child's receiving State and it appears to the Central Authority of the State that the continued placement of the child with prospective adoptive parents is not in the child's best interests, such Central Authority shall take the measures necessary to protect the child, in particular (see point 1 and 2 in Art.21); The recognition of an adoption may be refused in a Contracting State only if the adoption is manifestly contrary to its public policy, taking into account the best interests of the child (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993).

In these articles in The Hague Convention on Intercountry adoptions, they describe the points where the best interests of the child are presented globally for applying this instrument. However, objectively this Convention has not defined concretely the component of the best interests of the child that are stayed blurring and are difficult to evaluate.

Additionally, Thomas (2000) indicated that “the notion of ‘best interests’ has inherent problems, which may be designated as the problem of indeterminacy and the problem of culture”. It defines the problem of indeterminacy as being that, “we cannot know incontrovertibly what is in a child’s best interests, or nor always agree on what values are important”, and he has cited that Mnookin (1983:8) argued that, “*what is best for any child or even children, in general, is often indeterminate and speculative and requires a highly individualized choice between alternatives*”. Also, it specified that:

The problem of culture is first that standards of best interests only exist in cultural framework, and one’s version may simply not be accepted by another, second, that children have an interest in being balanced against their other interests (see Alston 1994 and Roche 1995, for more contributions about the best interests). Both problems in practice involve questions of social and political values (Thomas, 2000:63-64).

In addition to Thomas and colleagues’ point of views, Turner (2007:204) is also accentuated on the best interests of the child arguing that:

Determining what is in each child’s best interest is a fundamental challenge for those who work in foster care, in any capacity. It is as much a challenge to the social worker as it is to judge who hears the petitions and acts on the merits of each case. The understanding of what is in the best interests of a child comes from a careful collection of information pertinent to the case, careful assessment of that information, and wise planning on the basis of the assessment. This responsibility falls to the child welfare social worker.

The assessment of what is in the best interests of the child is on the responsibility of the child welfare social worker. However, with the power or the authority of child welfare system may restrict sometimes the professionals in their interventions, it may appear difficult for the child welfare social worker to ensure the best interests of the child in the adoption process due to the constraints existing in their interventions. Similarly, Thomas (2000:65) relays that:

In arguing for modesty in asserting children’s best interests Mnookin, like Goldstein et al., is also arguing for families to be protected against too much state intervention; it could be argued that this represents a demand for respect for cultural difference no less than defenses of corporal punishment or clitoridectomy.

The challenge of the best interests of the child becomes under the responsibility of professionals in Social Work who should use skills and knowledge existing to facilitate adequate interventions that are favorable to the best interests of the child. Although Mnookin (1973) cited

in Pardeck's (2008:24) indicated that determines what is in 'the best interests' of the child is not really clear. Therefore, the best interests of the child at which are focused on the international adoption appear to be used as an evidence for the supporters of this notion often in the adoption processes. However, different statements analyzed, have revealed that the best interests of the child are subjective and have indeterminacy and culture problems. Whether for the child welfare social worker practitioner, it is a challenge to assess the best interests of the child. Consequently, the social work profession provides a set of skills for proceeding interventions to the child welfare field mainly in the adoption process. Next section examines the adoption intervention in social work and the role of social worker practitioners.

## **2.4. LITERATURE ON SOCIAL WORK IN ADOPTION INTERVENTION**

The Social work profession advocates some advantages in analysis and interventions on the social problems that confronted the individuals, groups, families, and communities. The practitioners in social work have the responsibility to intervene in using the theories and methods adequate for understanding the problems that are living individuals, groups, communities in the perspective to resolve them. As mentioned by Rogers (2016:17) starting that "the social work profession is unique and many ways different from other helping professions, such as psychology. One key difference involves the core values on which the social work is based". Also, according to Rogers (2016:17), these unique values, social workers are particularly concerned with ensuring that interventions and approaches to work with people and systems are culturally appropriate. Each person and system functions in a cultural context and is influenced by unique cultural characteristics that help to define who that person or system is and how problems and solutions might play out.

Likewise, according to the International Federation of Social Workers on the values shared by the Social Work Profession on child protection mainly in adoption, encourages the social worker practitioners who intervene particularly in adoption to maintain in their fields of intervention that the objective of the social worker in the adoption process is to assure the best interests of the child. The practitioners should underline that the Humans Rights values are to the centre of the profession of Social Work principally on the rights of children. The four objectives that server as a guide of conduct and behavior towards the following way must be clear in their interventions, such as:

1. To promote knowledge, understanding, and awareness of the rights of children and social justice among social workers, students, teaching staff and others involved in social care.
2. To provide case examples so that those using the manual can apply the convention to their everyday social work practice.
3. To introduce some dilemmas posed by the convention, include the potential for attention between children's right and adult's rights.
4. To encourage users of manual to develop their own contribution towards the monitoring and implementing of the convention at micro, mezzo and macro levels (International Federation of Social Workers, 2002:6).

In this research, we prioritize the ecological approach in Social work for analyzing the adoption process in focusing on the different intervention fields offered in child welfare system particularly in the adoption process. Rogers (2016:25) argued that, social work scholars and workers often use the terms micro, mezzo, and macro for relating the different settings in which individual may involvement obstacles instead to focus on the people, the micro, mezzo, and macro approach which can facilitate social workers to observe client as agents who are in relations interdependent with their surroundings.

In addition, Mather et al., (2007:72) revealed that the ecosystems theory in social work practice is an investigative instrument that can be used to examine, establish, and facilitate the knowledge of different aspects that reinforce to the problem (...) of the child in the adoption process. This approach allows to examine their relations interdependent that are existing between adoptive parents, adoptees, birthparents, and adoption social worker expert or other practitioners at the different level in the adoption process. The first level that concerns “the *micro level* incorporates facets of the individual such as biological, psychological, developmental, spiritual, emotional, cognitive, recreational and financial aspects of personality and individual functions considered vital to a person's well-being” (Rogers, 2016:26). This level can analyze by the adoption social worker via the triad adoption, the adoptive parent-child-birth parent in facilitating the understanding to the parties of the importance of these characteristics, particularly for the adoption of the child.

Adoption mediation as a tool for a permanent planning can use for facilitating the understanding among both adoptive and birth parents. Moreover, Etter (1997:153) underlines that “adoption mediation can also occur within the context of permanency planning for children who are in the care of child welfare authorities. There are a number of considerations and specialized

procedures unique to this field of practice”. The second level that characterises “the *mezzo level* consists of elements in person’s immediate environment. Family, friends, co-worker, neighborhood, work environment, church activities, local resources and services and transportation could all fall into the mezzo level” (Rogers, 2016:26). In the case of a child who is placed for adoption, the elements in child immediate setting can be constituted as the birth family, foster care’s friends, caregiver, foster care environment, and other services that may be existed in the child mezzo level. In another way, in the post-adoption placement, the elements in adopted child immediate surrounding can consist with the adoptive parent, non-adopted children sibling, family adoptive environment, and other services. However, the complexity of the mezzo level of the adopted child may have effects on the development of the child. In this level, the mediation social work can use, because according to Etter (1997:142) referring to the benefits of mediation adoption that may facilitate to resolve problems in the adoption process in mentioning that:

The mediation adoption can occur before or after an adoption placement. Preplacement mediation has been used successfully as a tool to plan cooperation or open adoptions. Postplacement mediation is usually the result of a potential or existing legal action, often an attempt to reclaim a child. Mediation can also be used as a tool for resolving differences at the much later stage of adoption reunion, when a participant in closed adoption searches for another member of the circle and wishes to establish contact with them.

The mediator social worker has a larger field in adoption mediation that can use to facilitate the understanding of both, adoptive and birth parents on the elements in the child immediate setting that are symbiotic determinants in the investigation of mezzo system of the child. Furthermore, Rogers (2016:198) emphasizes that:

Social workers can help mothers and their partners make decisions about whether to give their child up for adoption. They not only assist both the birth and adoptive parents in adjusting to the adoption, but they also work with the children to ensure that they are adjusting well to their new situation.

The last concerning, “the macro level includes larger social forces that might affect an individual, such as government policy, discrimination, oppression, social policy, economic conditions, societal values, and even historical events” (Rogers, 2016:26). In this level, the social construction of social work can consider, referring to Payne (1999a), the social construction shows how the politics of social philosophy occupy a place in the society in describing the ‘political-social-ideological’, ‘agency- professional’, and client-worker-agency



that are three central field in interaction in social construction, that are also significant for the social work (see the description of these arena in (Payne, 2014:27). The understanding of the child adoption asks an investigation at macro level including all aspects and arena mentioned above. The adoption social workers or other practitioners in their interventions should use their values, skills, and knowledge in the field of social work to facilitate the understanding of the different actors for ensuring the well-being of the child. The interactions between micro, mezzo, and macrosystem portray significant aspects to examine by the professionals in the adoption process for helping to the triad adoption on the importance of relationships to benefits to the best interests of the child. Accordingly, for the establishment of this relationships the adoption mediation may use by their professionals or authority competent for adoption.

Also, Mather et al., (2007:248) attest that “permanency planning in the child welfare is a crucial aspect of the role of a social worker involved in the removal and placement of children. The security of being permanently placed within a family promotes a child’s healthy physical and emotional development”. Concerning the permanent planning as underlined by Mather and colleagues, consists as a central intervention in the role of social workers. In the case of permanent placement of children, the mediation offers ‘as an alternative process of permanency planning’ in which it underlines that:

Permanency mediation begins with the referral of a case, usually from the child welfare agency or department for ensuring that children acquire permanent homes (...). The child welfare agency will be proceeding toward freeing the child for adoption, (...), to begin proceedings toward termination of parental rights through the courts. Often a child welfare worker will attempt to engage the parent in adoption counseling, discussing the option of a voluntary relinquishment or surrender (Etter, 1997:155-6).

In this phase, the child welfare workers work at the macro level where they play the mediator role in facilitating the birth parents to understand completely the adoption decisions that arise to the termination of parents’ rights. The adoption counseling is very important, it helps the professionals to distinguish and analyze obviously the determination of birth families in their adoption decisions. The social workers who intervene in the adoption field particularly in the intercountry adoption need to have skills and knowledge and skills necessary for a suitable intervention.

For instance, Rogers (2016:198) indicates that, “social workers often play a pivotal role in national and international adoptions agencies, helping birth mothers and prospective parents navigate their way through the process of making decisions, filling out paperwork, meeting

agency requirements, and working through the emotional aspects of adoption”. Likewise, Etter (1997:146) highlighted on the skills and knowledge important in the formation of the mediator. It mentions that:

Mediators in the field of adoption must be knowledgeable in child welfare (..), have good understanding of adoption laws in their state, interstate compact laws and procedures, national and international perspectives on adoption; must be skilled in addressing in psychological conflict as they arise in the course of making adoption decisions, which often continue up to the time of adoption placement, may also need to educate the parties about the needs of adoptees as they grow and develop into adulthood. Finally, information about the process and structure of cooperative adoptions and forms of ongoing contact between birth and adoptive families also needs to be imparted by the mediator.

Therefore, the social work profession offers to the social worker practitioners, approaches, intervention methods and instruments at which they may also use in adoption field to facilitate the understanding of the adoption process to the parties involved. The adoption mediation as another field in child protection has their own field of knowledge. The practitioners intervening in the adoption process must apply their skills and knowledge to the adoption process for the best interests of child as defined in the child welfare system, intercountry adoption, and also as values shared in the social work profession. Following point analyzes the social work involvement in adoption field.

#### **2.4.1. The Role of Social Work in Adoption Process**

Social work offers some advantages as being one profession in human and social sciences. The intervention fields in social work are very extensive, with this wide field the practitioners need to have skills and knowledge appropriate to each intervention field in social work. In this case, one author as Ginsberg (1994:5) argues that “social work’s long-standing professional interest in social policy has been underscored in a number of ways other than, most obviously, the ways it educates its new practitioners”. In the point of view, it puts the focus on the educate ways of experts that are really vital for this profession via their attention in social policy. This point of view shows the role of social work to educate their professionals for the implementation of the social policy. This is not different from the childhood social policy mainly in the adoption process. Adoption is a part of the child protection that is considered as one measure of the child protection including in the social policy of the State and that has also an important role in social work. The institution at which is responsible to manage the programs of the social policy of a State on child and family use often the name of social welfare system.

Social welfare is a whole program, services, and policies that provide human's well-being (Ginsberg, 1994:1). All these programs, services and policies are managed through the skills and knowledge defined in the social work profession for the well-being of the people. The social work is considered as the major profession working in the social welfare system (Ginsberg, 1994:1). The child welfare system is included in the social welfare system focuses on the services and programs provide to children and families in the case of the social policies of a State. Also, Ginsberg (1994:2) maintains that social work is often different because it encompasses more widespread education in social policy rather than some other human fields. It demonstrates that social work takes an advantage on other human fields due to the complexity of interventions fields. In addition, Berg-Weger (2016:111) states that social work inextricably is connected to social policies accentuating the funding, insurance reimbursement, and authority to approve, implement, and oversee the programs. Consequently, Ginsberg (1994) and Berg-Weger (2016) describe the importance of social work for implementing the social policies via different programs and services.

The social work profession uses some theories or perspectives for helping the practitioners to be better intervene in their interventions. In the field of child protection particularly in adoption process, the social work also allows to examine the problems that confronted people (child and family). Moreover, David Howe cited in (Gray & Webb, 2013:75) confirmed that social work has been always attentive to develop a well-being of the children who are revealed to poverty, parental stress, maltreatment, rejection, and abandonment. It relates that the children have been always preoccupied in social work profession. Likewise, a writer as Kadushin (1974:34) introduces that children issues were done a part in social work. It appraises that the social problems to child wellbeing have a long period. It is characterized as orphaned, illegitimate, abandoned, and handicapped child and who has always been considered. And until now, social work professional is less than a century old. Here, it demonstrates that child has always been an intervention field in social work with an important consideration for the practitioners.

Furthermore, Kadushin (1974:34) enhances in questioning how were the child welfare issues before the development all this network of services? It has also answered with this interrogation showing that some substantial reasons may describe the evolution of child welfare social work field. It summarizes this factors in seven points:

The development of a humanitarian ideology and the growing rejecting of previously acceptable solutions (1); Economic and political changes that reinforced and supported changes in ideology (2); The increased specialization of social institutions (3); The increased in scientific knowledge (4); The “discovery” of childhood (5); The rise in status of the family and child (6); Changes in the arithmetic of the child production (7).

These different points designated the spiraling of the child through the different changes that knowing the human society in the child welfare services perspectives. Further, according to Kadushin’s view it relays all aspects at which justify the child welfare social work field. It offers to adoption process an intervention field able to ensure and achieve what is in the best interests of the child. Besides, Kadushin (1970:5) underscores that the profession of social work has been receiving a responsibility mainly from the society for thoughtful considerations of parentless children and childless parents’ issues. In this point of view, it illustrates the importance of social work in the decision making-family for children deprived of parents or parents deprived of children. And then, adoption is created merely one way that may help to complete these desires. In addition to a writer as David Howe cited by Gray & Webb (2013:75), indicated that “any theory and practice with things to say about how children fare under conditions of adversity and what might be done to help is bound to be of interest”. Similarly, Pardeck (2008:188) estimated that social work practice with children is improved in using ecological views. This is an excellent linkage for practice for helping integrate policy through practice. In supporting Pardeck’s point of view, we also estimate that social work practice in adoption can explain better the adoption process basing on the ecological perspective.

Moreover, for Pardeck (2008:188), this perspective permits description of human behavior in the setting of the social structure and environment. It also admits that this model is a general orientation to assessment and treatment including individual, family, organizational setting, community, and larger social ecology. Consequently, it classifies its different levels at which are convenable to undertake the interventions. In social work, individual and environment characterize an important role for interventions. In the adoption process, similarly social work practice with children via ecological perspective can facilitate the analysis of different settings of the children in the pre-adoption and post-adoption. Meinert, Pardeck, & Kreuger (2000) relayed by Pardeck (2008:188-9) described six elements constituting the ecological views:

Transactions are understood as being contingent upon reciprocal exchange; transactions are the guide for understanding human behavior (1);

Life stress can be seen as positive or negative; life stressors create changes in the person-environment relationships (2);

Coping is viewed as part of the problem-solving process and helps to manage dysfunctional behavior (3);

Habitat is the social setting in which individuals' function (4);

Niche is the results of one's accommodation to the environment (5);

Relatedness is one's environment supports attachments within the larger social ecology (6).

These six aspects (Transactions-Life Stress-Coping- Habitat-Nice-Relatedness) of the ecological model may help to do an analysis at Micro, Mezzo, and Macro system of the children in the adoption process. All these elements may allow to examine individuals and environments at different level. In each level the social work distinguishes some approaches and intervention methods to practitioners for an adequate understanding of their intervention fields. In the adoption process the social work profession provides education appropriate that is based on theory and intervention methods specifically to adoption field.

In this work, the adoption endorses a social approach and based on human rights. The social work profession also shares the Human Rights values and as already revealed the practitioners in their intervention fields predominantly the child rights should be clear in using these four objectives:

To promote knowledge, understanding and awareness of the rights of children and social justice among social workers, students, teaching staff and others involved in social care(1) ;

To provide case examples so that those using the manual can apply the convention to their everyday social work practice(2) ;

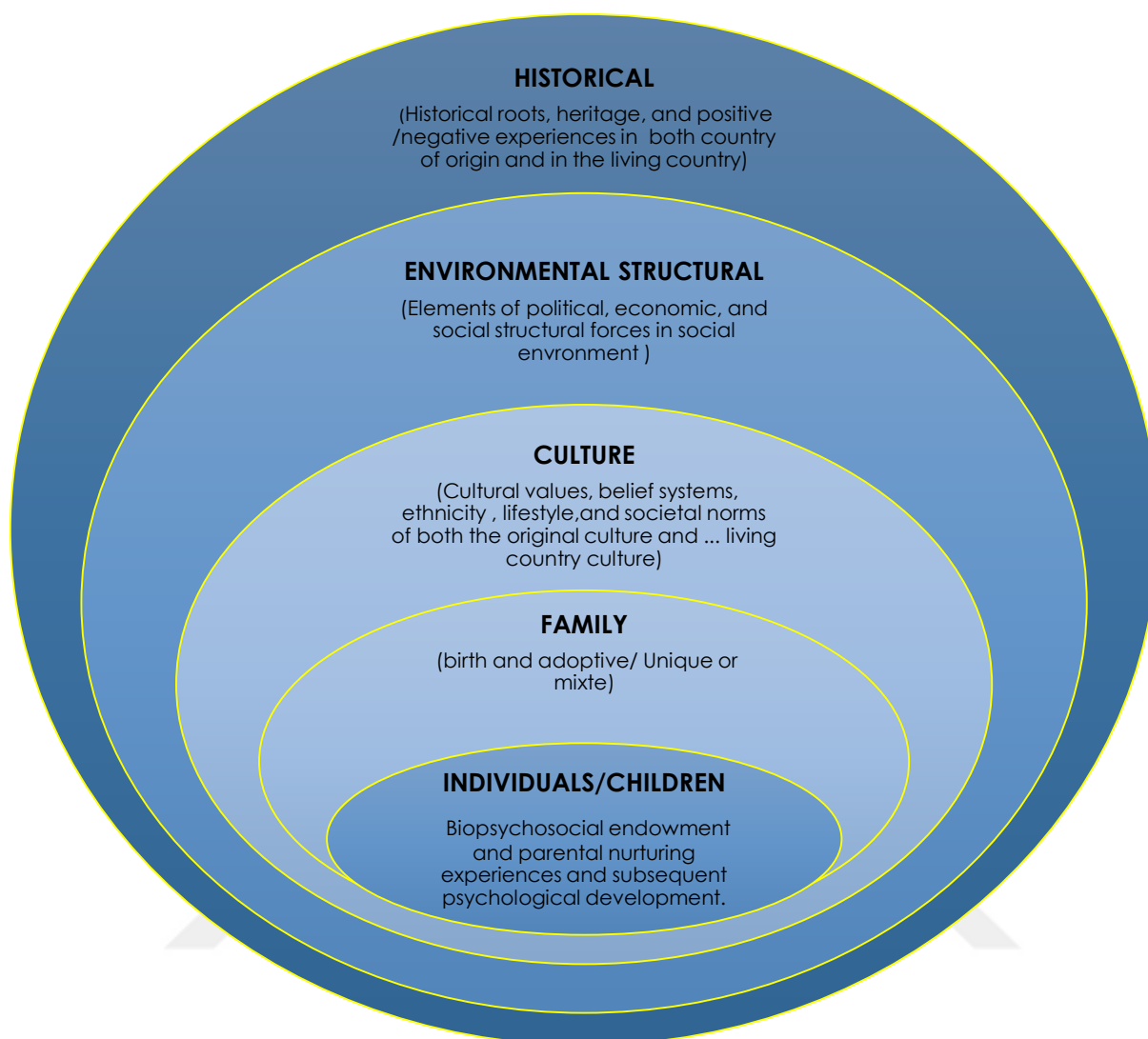
To introduce some dilemmas posed by the convention, include the potential for attention between children's right and adult's rights(3) .

To encourage users of manual to develop their own contribution towards the monitoring and implementing of the convention at micro, mezzo and macro levels (4)(International Federation of Social Workers, 2002: 6).

In this outlook, social work provides skills and knowledge fields very rich that comprise the child welfare social work and that also clarifies the different elements that may consider in the intervention fields. This is also available in adoption arena.

In fact, the ecosystem perspectives in social work have an important role in the scrutinizing different factors in the adoption process. These factors are specified as being the child, biological parents, adoptive parent, and social setting. More importantly, Boyd, Winston, & Berry (2007:72) stipulate that, the ecosystem model of social work practice is a diagnostic tool

used to observe, unify and improved distinguish several aspects contributing to the problem of child maltreatment,[ living in foster care, child welfare public and/or adoption situation]. It means in this perspective that social work practice should concentrate on observation and combination in their assessment for differentiating the factors causing the problems. This framework allows organizing the discussions on the causes of some parents and children developed that are related to the social services system (adoption process ). This perspective can allow us to organize the causal aspects at five settings: individuals (children), family (adoptive and birth), cultural (origin and living country),socio-environmental (foster care and public child welfare), and historical (historical roots and heritage) (Morales & Sheafor,2004) in (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007:72). We can also examine these levels and use them to the adoption process. This analysis inspires of the ecosystem model for social work practice of Morales and Sheafor(2004) in his book entitled “*Social Work: A Professions of Many Faces*” cited by Boyd and Colleagues(2008). These five factors described in this model correspond to determine the social worker role to the adoption process. However, in the Morales and Sheafor model the factors mentioned can use merely in certain changes can carry for modified the individuals level, that can change in child/chidren level, family level can change in families including both birth and adoptive, cultrual factors, environmental-structural factors and historical factors do not need to change and can use as specifcied in this model.



**Figure 1:** Morales and Sheafor(2004) cited in Boyd and colleagues(2007) schematized the ecosystems model for social work practice in this way arranged above.

In this figure they reveal the different factors that are likely to observe and that are as a diagnostic for examining their problem-solving in social work practice. This model is also available as an assessment tool in the adoption process in social work practice. The five-level of factors are described as following in Morales & Sheafor's perspective in social work practice with the ecosystems views:

**Individual factors-** At this level, the individuals represent the basis of the ecosystem model. Parents being helped through child welfare systems have practiced a diversity of individual factors, aspects that are working in interactions to affect their actions, with the neglect or abuse on their own children [or other problem situations]. The emphasis at this level is biopsychosocial inheritance of each individual with: communication and language skills (1);

habit formation (2); problem-solving skills (3); personality strengths (4); level of psychosocial development (5); cognition (6); perception (7); emotional maturity and temperament (8); and confidence (9), (Morales & Sheafor, 2004) mentioned in Winston, & Berry, 2007:73). In this level the important factor is biopsychosocial, it's considered as an heritage to every being at which includes nine elements. In social work interventions, the individual and environment are also similar with this idea noted in nine aspects underlined in the analysis of the individual-environment interactions which writers called biopsychosocial. This point of view is also essential in the adoption process to analyze the child microsystem.

**Family factors-** The family aspects consider as the second level in ecosystems perspective in social work practice. The attention is fixed on “ the nature of family lifestyle, culture, organization, family, division of labor, sex role, structure and intergenerational dynamic” (Morales & Sheafor, 2004:235) in (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007:77). In this aspect, it describes the composition of the family environment that may play an important role in the investigation of different elements that may be found at this level. The social worker may carry a considerable look at this step for examining the problem-solving. It's also evident that the social work in adoption may consider all elements necessities to facilitate the understanding to family factors. This setting also is called microsystem that puts the focus on child-parent setting.

Also, Boyd and Colleagues (2007:77) enhance that “each family unit is unique in its cultural context, the following factors are also reviewed at this level: (1) how a family unit manages stress (internal/external), (2) values, (3) beliefs, (4) affective style, (5) emotional support capacity, and (6) family strengths and vulnerabilities”. In this considerate, they underline an important element showing that each family should study in their cultural milieu that may analyze the couple individual-environment. The investigative of the family factors not should do out of this cultural environment in which including the main elements to the family. Moreover, they quote that the family level may also observe stresses describing the kinship between spouses or partners, parent's relationship with the child and extended family members (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007: 77). They mention the transactions available in stressess issues between four subsystems as partners/spouses-child-parents-extended family members. The transactions existing between them represent the key element in the assessing. This assessing is also essential in the diagnostic of families (birth or adoptive ) in the adoption process.

**Cultural aspects-** Considering as the third level in the ecosystems model focusing on culture. At this level the attention concentrates “on understanding the cultural values, beliefs systems,



societal norms of the host culture and, in the case of [people of color], their original culture” (Morales & Sheafor, 2004:235) cited in (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007:78-79). Further, Morales & Sheafor (2004:235) state that individual cultures “develop behavioral responses influenced by the environmental, historical or societal processes incorporating specific structures” (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007: 79). Writers consider the individual behavioral as the result of their cultures. It means for understanding the person behavioral it is also essential to learn the cultural settings that are constituted as being the results of the cultural processes established. For Boyd and Colleagues (2007:79) the influences of the cultures embrace the elements following: “(1) food, (2) kinship styles, (3) language, (4) norms, (beliefs), and (6) religion”. In this level, writers examine the triad-individual-behavioral-cultures, showing that the individual behavioral can explain the cultural surroundings in which they are developed. Out of the cultural context for those authors, it is not available to understand the individual behaviors. This point is also a determinant for the interventions in social work field for situating or studying the individual behavioral in their cultural roots.

**Environment and Structural factors-** Here, is considered as the fourth level in the ecosystems view. The viewpoints about this level analyses “the economic and social structure of our Westernized society cause problems and struggles for oppressed populations” (Morales & Sheafor, 2004) cited by (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007:79). In addition, Boyd and Colleagues (2007:79) argue that “when the social environment is unsupportive, the ability of individuals and families to cope with difficulties in constructive ways is compromised. Environment-structural stressors may be acute or chronic”. In this level the authors accentuated on the difficulties that can be crucial for individual and families that may be disadvantaged for them due to economic and social structure established, that may put the individual and families face to environmental-structural stressors acute or chronic. Both acute and chronic stressor are defined as following according to Boyd and Colleagues (2007:79), acute stressors are generally specified in the abuse issues where these stressors may stimulate the children’s relinquishment or exclusion from parental responsibilities. The highest common acute stressor is real or apparent child misconduct. And chronic stressors arise regularly with a lengthy period of time. The main persistent of chronic stressors reproduces “both society’s economic and social structure is the poverty”. The economic and social structure mentioned in this level play a vital role in the individual and families lives and also the social problems often are addressed with the same philosophy from the economic and social structure.

In this viewpoint, the authors examine the environmental factor and structural that embrace the social welfare system that often reflected the economic and social structure. In other words, the social welfare system is a result of the social and economic structure. Consequently, in social welfare system, the social work profession is considered as being the largest intervention field. It means that this profession can provide an entire understanding of the environmental-structural in which the individual and families have the duty to the services and programs via the social welfare system or child welfare services. However, this social welfare policy arises from an economic and social structure of a state. Further, the conception of the child and families will differ with the economic and social structure established.

**Historical factors-** It symbolizes the last level in the ecosystems perspective. It quotes that “the historical experience of individuals in oppressed populations and how their experiences influence the nature and quality of their interactions with the social environment” (Morales & Sheafor (2004) cited by (Boyd, Winston, & Berry, 2007: 81). Further, Boyd and Colleagues (2007:81) recognize that such a historical setting may facilitate the understanding between the families’ experiences connected in the child welfare system. At this stage, it puts, in reality, an aspect central to analyze the past backgrounds of individuals living in the exploited populations via their interactions in social environment entities. In this kind of assessment, also in social work field it’s required to scrutinize the people experiences in their environment for understanding the type of interactions. This evaluation allows us to describe the previous experiences individuals, the characteristic of the population, type interactions and social environment. Therefore, the historical factors are essentially necessary for the people problem-solving

Also, the ecosystems model represents a diagnostic tool that social work offers to facilitate practitioners to examine the different settings that are in transactions adoption process. At these different levels in this model, the types of interventions available are defined in social work profession. Social work role in the adoption process that is specified obviously in child welfare social work as skills and knowledge offered for this intervention field. Other than the skills and knowledge presented via this profession mainly in the adoption field, it also describes the role of social work practitioners in the adoption arena.

#### **2.4.2. The Role of Social Workers in adoption Process.**

In the social work profession, social welfare system constitutes one central intervention arena for the practitioners. The role of social workers may examine various level mentioned in

ecosystems perspective. Netting, Kettner, and McMurtry (2008:80) consider the role of social workers at the macro level practice as being “identifying and dealing with organizational and community conditions, problems, and needs, present a complex set of challenges to the social worker”. Further, they continue to underscore that social workers place themselves attentionally in macro practice incidents via different ways in which they will symbolize as (1) problem/need/opportunity, (2) populations, and (3) arena. And also suggested that as well as the interventions are obviously appearing and precise. A consideration in political and policy settings should be explored Netting, Kettner, and McMurtry (2008:81). At this intervention step, they stated that social worker has three things to characterize as problem/need/opportunity-populations-and arena. They added also that the intervention must be clearly understood and specified for a consideration in political and policy environment.

As mentioned above, the social workers’ role at this level in the adoption process should be similar, that means, it is important to indicate the three aspects that will change as problem/need/opportunity, (2) families and children, and (3) child welfare system. The social worker should be clearly theorized and specified their interventions in the adoption process considering in both legislative and procedure settings established. According to Price and Webb (1999) relays by (Webb, 2003:17) determine that one role of the social worker is to serve as” self-appointed, case coordinator to facilitate sharing of information and promote collaboration in the child’s best interests”. And also added that “each setting has its own group of professional experts who have its unique protocol for the involvement of special personnel for evaluation and treat a child with problems”. In this point of view, writers highlighted the harmonization of the social worker role in facilitating and advocating communication in the best interests of the child. It mentions also the limited role of each setting that has their own knowledge. It means that social worker role is limited in their expertise arena. It indicates also in this point of views the social worker plays a mediator role. Consequently, mediation field has a great importance in the adoption process. A writer as Steffek (2013:11) attests that mediation is “a procedure based on the voluntary participation of the parties, in which an intermediary (or multiple intermediaries) with no adjudicatory powers systematically facilitate (s) communication between the parties with the aim of enabling the parties themselves to take responsibility for resolving their disputes”. In this understanding of mediation, it mentions the intermediary or multiple intermediaries’ role and neutrality aspect of the mediation to facilitate the communication among both persons or groups to avoid the divergences.

Besides, Klope (2001:5) argued that the role of the mediator is to distinguish the wellspring of the argument and dam the source that is feeding it. It does not fundamentally matter whether that system is emotional, intellectual, familial, relational, organizational, political, economic, or social. The closer we get to the heart of any system, the greater possibility that something fundamental could shut and therefore the greater resistance. As mediators, they will need to bring or deep “dangerous” level of honesty and empathy to dispute resolution process. Otherwise, we become characters in others people’s scripts, rationalizing their torments, fears, and avoidance. As mediators, they need to avoid producing agreements that do not resolve conflicts, but just overpower, silence, or relax them. That result does not in growth, but in reluctant acquiescence enduring discords. Also, Etter (1997:144-5) mentioned that one the role of the mediator is facilitating rapport and trust building between them (birth and adoptive parents) in the early stages.

Other alternative roles of mediators added by Klope (2001), she demonstrated that its roles are defined in four models and also mentioned that each of these polarized philosophical systems correspond to a different approach to mediation. She suggested if people are basically bad, the mediator needs to be forceful *evaluative, and directive*. If people are good, the mediator needs to be *facilitative, non-directive, and conciliatory*. If people are basically good but behaving badly, mediators need to be *elicitive and transformative*. If people are both and neither, but just human, mediators need to *all the above*. With its characteristics role of mediators, the social worker mediator in adoption process may facilitate their parties to better understand their different settings. Also, as already related above the social workers in child welfare system mainly in adoption arena have a multipart role. The mediator role of social worker in adoption has an education field.

According to Etter (1997:161) adoption and permanency planning mediation help the children, birth parents, adoptive parents, and child welfare workers’ needs, and are a mixing of the best social work practices and mediation techniques. In adoption, the mediation serves as an important tool to help their parties to avoid their future conflict. But this required social work mediator to have skills and knowledge for a good learning of their role. Also, Etter (1997:146) seeks that mediators in adoption field should be taught in child welfare questions linked with permanency planning and placement decisions, adoption counseling and showing the process for birth and adoptive parents, adoption policies and practices, and family preservations and relationship placement problems. It also adds that is essential to have an understanding properly of adoption laws between state, interstate, national and international perspective. These

mandatory show that the social work mediators play an efficient role in this process. As emphasized by Etter (1997:162) that it is helping birth and adoptive parents to create permanent kinships and develop postplacement communication options safeguarding the parties. And she also mentioned that children are the key champions in this humane process that creates more constructive affiliations in birth inheritance and motivates ‘the adults in their lives to cooperate and work for a positive future’.

Nevertheless, Webb and Colleagues (2003:232) enlightened that social workers in child welfare environments take a complex role that is working directly with cultural, children and families, family court and branch of social services, and an interdisciplinary group. It develops also that social worker may play a role of supervisor, coordinating the advancement narrative of a child’s housing staff, instructive, and mental outline, and all substances related to settings goals and evaluating the child’s development. The social work role may be multiple in child welfare system mainly in the adoption process, as enlighten above all tasks that must accomplish the social workers. It’s also essential for social workers to have skills and knowledge corresponding to this arena. In addition, Webb and Colleagues (2003:232) appraised that “it is important for social workers in this field of practice to have a solid knowledge base in child assessment, including diagnostic classifications, family systems assessment, substance abuse assessment and evaluation of the impact of trauma on children”.

In addition to the role of social workers, Etter (1997:142) in the book named “*Mediation and Conflict Resolution in Social Work and the Human Services: in the section on Adoption: Applying Mediation to the Field of Adoption*”, describes the importance of role of social worker mediators in the adoption process. She shows the importance of social worker role to two levels: preplacement adoption and post-placement adoption. It also specifies that “preplacement mediation has been used successfully as a tool to plan cooperative or open adoption and gives to parties with different interests the opportunity to structure the future of their relationship in a mutually agreeable and workable manner”. For post-placement adoption mediation, it considers as being “usually the results of a potential or existing legal action, often an attempt to reclaim a child”. Also, it enhances that between biological and adoptive parent’s postplacement adoption is:

Less frequently used, although once legal action has begun, mediation may be a useful method of engaging the parties to discover points of agreements that could lead to their working together on a plan that is in the child’s best interests and meets the needs of both sets of parents(Etter,1997:142).

Here two sets exposed above and are available to be examined in ecosystems model that describe the different settings that are in transactions.

Henceforward, in the adoption process, this model may facilitate the social workers in their role to its different levels. In addition to other roles of social workers already specified, the 1996 National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics proclaims that social workers have ethical tasks to the extensive society. Also, according to the statement:

The social worker should promote the general welfare of society, from local to global levels, and the development of people, their communities, and their environments. The social worker should advocate for living conditions conducive to the fulfillment of basic human needs and should promote social, economic, political, and cultural values and institutions that are compatible with the realization of social justice (Ginsberg, 1994:5)

In this Code, it relates that social workers have a role to advocate wellbeing and existing conditions in the society for a social justice. This point of view shows the humanist role of social workers. This Code also specifies six points that include their responsibilities as social workers. Its points are defined as follows:

- 1) Facilitate informed public participation in shaping policies and institutions.
- 2) Engage in social and political action geared toward gaining equal access to opportunities that help all persons meet their basic needs and develop fully in areas such as employment.
- 3) Advocate for legislative and policy changes to improve social conditions and promote social justice.
- 4) Act to expand the choices people have, with special attention to vulnerable, oppressed, exploited, and disadvantaged groups.
- 5) Promote conditions that will, in turn, promote respect for cultural and social diversity(local) and the rest of the world.
- 6) Work to eliminate discrimination on bases such as ethnicity, sex, race, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, political beliefs, and physical or mental disabilities (NASW code of ethics,1996) in (Ginsberg, 1994: 5).

This code acclaims the points that social workers should follow as tasks, all its elements may find at different levels in ecosystems model. This guide creates a directive for the social workers in their interventions. It recommends also to the social workers to promote and apply all its notions in its different intervention fields as at Marco, Mezzo, and Micro levels. Finally, in the child welfare system principally in adoption arena, the social worker should consider this guide

as a symbol for implementing their interventions because this Code provides a general view of the social workers' intervention's role.

Other than the roles describe above, the social workers may have an influence in the adoption process that can help to change the law and social policy that are not in the best interests of the child. A writer as Jordan (2013: 242-3) cited by Milner et al., (2015:79-80) noted that "even when social workers cannot directly influence law and social policy, they are likely to be complicit in social injustice, unfairness and neglect they develop an awareness of current debates and issues and the wide significance of their practice". It highlights the important role of social workers in the advocacy the social justice. Social workers' role in this point of view shows that the social workers should be engaged in influencing the law and social policy. Also, Jordan (2013) in (Milner, Myer, & O'Byrne, 2015: 79-80) indicated that it is possible to feel unable in influencing the macrosystem. However, our skills can help to obtain the results in using our own techno-system and media generally. Technology and Science are hastily mutable all of the systems in our Environment. Consequently, as quoted the social workers should use their skills and knowledge for influencing the macrosystem. In the next section, we present the central notions analyze in this work with the different perspectives that help to the understanding this research study. We attempt to analyze some debates between different writers and also, we try to specify our point of view to different ideas discussed

## **2.5. ADOPTION, CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AND SOCIAL WORK THROUGH AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS**

Adoption in the ecosystems perspective is privileged as theoretical outline in this research for the understanding interactions between birth parents, adopted children and adoptive parents including in the adoption process. Studies are often focused on adoption's effects on adopted children, adoptive parents, and biological parents. Nevertheless, adoption process that makes the arrangements of relations between the different subsystem often is not considered as a part of this network that can influence the subsystems. The description makes in ecology system model can help to examine the exchanges centered on the child in the intercountry adoption through the child welfare system over the cover of the best interest of the child. However, the best interest of the child used in the intercountry adoption makes face to a poor research in the literature on adoption. Thus, we examine the adoption process with a consideration of the ecosystems approach. It was developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979), ecological theory explained human development by describing aspects of the individual, the environment, and

the interaction between the two (Rogers, 2016). Additionally, Sue, Rasheed, and Rasheed (2016:31) indicated that ecosystems model examines individuals and families in the settings of their networks with a diversity of biological, psychological, social and cultural surroundings.

The adopted children and their environments in the adoption process tend to describe adopted children via the transaction from one country to another. The central principle of ecological model is that “the way individuals perceive environments and experiences knowingly affects their well-being” (Rogers, 2016). Environments experiences and well-being characterized by this approach allow also to understand adopted children in these different environments that are likely in the pre-adoption placement and post-adoption, and the outcomes of their well-being. The way of organization of the adoption process can analyze by the ecological theory conceptualizing environment into four levels: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem. These levels according to this approach are determinants for retracing the schemes of interactions, transactions, adaptations, and interdependence in the contexts of their social environment to each level mentioned above that we examine in the parts following in the adoption process.

### **2.5.1. Microsystem in The Adoption Process**

Rogers (2016:44), mentioned that in Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory (1979), microsystem describes all roles and kinships in the current environment of a person. It illustrates home, school, work, and neighborhood as physical places. They are considered for the people as the daily face-to-face environment for establishing the relationships. Consequently, for the adopted children their roles and relations in the home are characterized by the attachment of biological families. Many theorists and practitioners sustain that attachment is a critical facet of infant development. It refers to the bond or relationship between an infant and her or his caregivers, particularly the mother (Rogers, 2016:216). Also, Ainsworth (1979) cited by Rogers (2016) attested that the quality of attachment in early infancy affects subsequent social behavior and development. The attachment of the child to her biological mother plays an important role in their developmental stages. The school and neighborhood following their ages of the child are constituted of places where they create relationships that may be done with classmates or friends of their neighborhoods. Here it demonstrates the importance of different setting in the child attachment. Taking the child removed from of the home to foster care in the cases where the birth mother is unable to care of the child characterizes a new environment in the child life that rises other joining in the child life.



In addition to Stern (1977) cited by German and Kitterman (1995:15) considered “attachment behaviors in the infant (crying, rooting, sucking) elicited reciprocal behaviors maintained, the proximity between the pair and, together with the social affiliation of a small band of skin and others protected the infant from predators”. It also enhances that the “attachment behaviors embracing vocalization, smiling, and gazing by baby and care give” (Stern,1977) in (Germain & Gitterman, 1995:15). According to David Howe revealed by Gray and Webb (2013:77) attachment denotes a continuing “affectional bond” one-person forms to another. Starting to seven or eight months of ages, mainly children demonstrate “clear cut” attachment behaviors and may have most attachment form.

These different immediate settings including the type of relationships and roles maintain by the child may have effects on the child behavior. The behavior of the child depends on type attachment that he has received in their microsystem before the adoption. The children living in the foster care or public child welfare may have some great risks to develop attachment problems. In the foster care, they are exposed to adapt to other experiences that were not in their own home (birthparent home). They are obliged to live with other children without a sibling in an environment with more children. The last transaction of the child is from foster to adoptive family. The adoptive family adds to the microsystem of the child, in this new placement, the child may find in another reality where their network increases by the burden. In this placement, the child may be forced to develop another figure with their adoptive parent. The relationship between the child and adoptive parent may crystallize in a double image that differs to the feelings of the attachment natural of the child already deteriorated in the displacement from home to foster care. By arriving in the adoptive families adopted children must try to adapt to a reality where they have not the choice to decide but they have only the way of interaction for expressing their shocks that they are living. These reactions may be displayed in their kinships via adopted child-adoptive parent. The child could be having in the needs of basic cares in the biological family that was not satisfied rather than psychosocial needs. Nonetheless, in the adoptive family, the needs of care of the adopted child may be provided but the psychosocial package of the child can always stay a complex issue that will be ongoing in the child development. Therefore, the best interests of the child in which are focused principally on the intercountry adoption can seem only limited to the cares question of the child based on materials factors

Regarding to psychosocial factor, Erickson’s child psychosocial development may facilitate us to understand of stages that are very important in analyzing the four first stages in which, they

describe that “each stage there are periods in which people(children) highly susceptible to learning-age-appropriate tasks that help them to adapt to, and gain mastery over, their environments” (Rogers, 2016: 87-89). In the case of adopted children, it is also likely to consider these four first stages that we estimate very important for examining the adoption process. Mostly, the age limitation for the child adoption varies from one country to another. These four first stages are determined in the following way:

The first stage that distinguishes to “***Trust vs. Mistrust (birth to 18 months)***” where, “children learn to trust others, particularly caregivers. Infants learn that they can count on their caregivers to give them food, shelter, and love, and to meet their needs. If their needs are not met, infants learn to mistrust others” Erikson (1950) in (Rogers, 2016:88). The first stage describes the relationship between child and birth mothers (write wrote caregivers because in the case child mother is dead or has another problem child may find caregivers similarly to their birthmothers) and it constitutes an important stage in the children lives where they are creating their attachment forms via these needs by their birthmothers whom they know and create their relationships’ trusts.

The second stage that determines “***Autonomy vs. Shame and doubt (18 months to 3 years)***” where, “children learn to do things, as eat and dress, independently. Through accomplishing various tasks, children gain a sense of self-confidence. If children’s independence is not encouraged, or if they are punished for acting on things independently, they can develop a sense of self-doubt” (Rogers, 2016: 88). This stage shows independence of children where they want to open themselves in the social environment but this autonomy is natural for children independently of caregivers(birthmothers) they try to satisfy themselves their needs. However, they may find obstacles where they are not encouraged to develop themselves. For the adopted children, where and how, they are living this stage in the mother home, foster care or adoptive parents, may constitute important facts in scrutinizing pre-adoption of the children because they may be displayed in the attachment issues of children in the future.

The third stage that analyzes the “***Initiative vs. Guilt (3 to 6 years)***”, where,” children in their environments (home, foster care, or adoptive parent), they need to take initiative to learn, explore and manipulate their surroundings. The Children who encouraged to do so will develop skills that allow them to pursue goals and interests in their future”. However, “if they are discouraged, they will lack the confidence to act on their interests and will not take the initiative to shape their lives” (Rogers, 2016:88). In this stage adopted children can be moved in various

environment how they lived this stage is important in the both pre-adoption and post-adoption assessing in their shapes of attachments or relationships who will develop with adoptive parents.

The four-stage examines “*Industry vs. Inferiority (6 to 12 years)*”, where, “children need to be productive and have successful experiences. They are busy playing and learning, giving them opportunities to master various tasks. Children who are able to find ways to succeed will learn to be industrious. Those who experience repeated failures will develop feelings of inferiority, hampering their chances of success in the future” Erikson (1950) in (Rogers, 2016: 88). Children need productive and have successful experiences describe at this stage but the accomplishment of these things depended on other stages mentioned above. However, the contrary of this accomplishment will develop of other problems on children. This stage allows understanding why sometimes they are difficult in the intercountry adoption in their choice of adoptive parents to prefer to adopt a child under ages. Nonetheless, children adopted even if they were adopted before the fourth stage they have possibilities to develop some problems related to this phase due how they are lived the other stages. These phases are important in investigating on the microsystem of children in the pre-adoption and post-adoption in the adoption process, where the best interests of children are preferred in the adoption particularly in the intercountry adoption. However, their patterns of relationships that will develop between children-adoptive parents due to all experiences of children in their environments (home, school, neighborhood, and foster care) generally are not considered in the adoption process particularly in the pre-adoption process.

Nevertheless, Scheweiger & O’Brien (2005:517) emphasize that some number adopted children arrived in the adoptive family are established shapes of connections, however, they have also their particularity kinship figures. As consequence, child-family naturally experiences changes complications resulting adoption. According to ecological theory, which “*are transactional, parents and children both affect and affected by each other*”. And then, they note that the literature on adoption analyzes the physiognomies between child and parents as “interdependent contributors” to family modifications without observing the dynamic relations between parents-child.

Consequently, the relationship parents-child may describe the attachments problems, Rogers (2016:217), asserted that attachment theory can be useful for social workers who work with children and families, particularly those who focus on parenting skills and child-parent relationships. Also, Sing, Brodzinsky Ramsay, Steir, and Waters (1985) related by Scheweiger & O’Brien (2005:517) determined that “research on adopted children’s attachment to their

adoptive parents has examined using standard observational methods and typically limited to children adopted in infancy”. The style of attachment developed by children in their relations with the adoptive parents not should see only in the current environment of the adoptive family, their patterns attachments may have resulted of all problems lived by the child in the transactions or interactions from home to foster care and from foster to adoptive parents. The cease of the relationship of the child with the biological parent may have an effect on the child behavior, which can be associated with the attachment problems that suffer in both relationships parents and children. In these cases, it is the importance of connections between third parties (biological parent-child-adoptive parent) by openness in adoption that may be evaluated and analyzed for adequate interventions.

### **2.5.2. Mesosystem in The Adoption Process**

Mesosystem related by Rogers (2016) describes according to ecological theory as the level where interactions between two or others environments backgrounds where people live. In other words, the mesosystem incorporates a system of microsystems Bronfenbrenner (1979) in (Rogers, 2016:44). Adopted children in this perspective are determined to the dynamics in a person’s birth parents, foster care and adoptive parents live habitually influence one another. It demonstrates instantly adopted children bring adoptive parent their experienced facts from of birth parents and foster care placements. Their transactions of adopted children in this level can explain their behavior of adopted children.

According to Brandell (1997) & Bronfenbrenner (1979) relayed by (Rogers, 2016:44), specified that transactions encompassed communication, interactions, or exchanges that arise between people and their environments. These can be positive or negative communications or exchanges. The patterns of transactions of adopted children used also at levels birth parent’s homes, foster care placement and adoptive parents include their environments where they developed their transactions. It also argues that in ecological model, transactions may be described in the case of adoption where “adopted children are undertaking a major transition which in the case of intercountry adoptions implies that they travel from one country to another, from one culture to another, from one language to another, from an institution to a family” (Palacios, 2012:79).

Similarly, the ecological model describes that all people have transactions, or positive and negative exchanges, with others. It indicates that people are dynamically involved in their settings, in which they obtain and offer “energy” as inputs and outputs. In this case, inputs and

outputs occupy a dynamic kinship attesting Bronfenbrenner (1979) cited by (Rogers, 2016:44). In other words, considering adopted children in the case of the ecological approach in the different environments experienced, they obtain and provide “energy” in the schemes inputs and outputs and that may take a dynamic relationship. The adopted children relationships may depend often on their environments. Thus, it is necessary to focus on the pre-adoption and post-adoption process in these environments for understanding and describing the type of attachment that may develop the adopted child in their relationships in the future.

Likewise, in the exploration of adopted children environments as described by this approach, the mesosystem of adopted children includes the adopted children’s microsystem in the understanding of the child psychosocial development. Rogers (2016:46) adds that the ecological approach also educates us that to provide well-being and health, individuals must be able to prepare for the changes in their environments. And it’s the role of social workers to facilitate individuals to adapt to the changes in which they are living conjointly to adjust to the environmental settings to changing needs of people. In this context, in the adoption process, the role plays by the child welfare social workers in the pre-adoption or post-adoption is determinant for helping particularly the adoptive parents to know how the changes of environments can affect the children. And how they must be adapted for understanding the children behaviors in their relationships with them.

### **2.5.3. Exosystem in The Adoption Process**

Exosystem as reveals by Palacio (2009) defined according to Bronfenbrenner’s theory as, “a setting that does not ordinarily contain the developing person, but in which events occur influence processes within the immediate setting that does contain that person” (Bronfenbrenner 1989: 238) in (Palacios, 2012: 81). Adopted children’s setting in the case of exosystem can concern their contacts established by adoptive parents of adopted children with foster care or public child welfare in exchanges of information on adopted children in post-adoption. And also, their contacts maintain by the foster care with biological parents for sharing the information received on adopted children in their adoptive families can also constitute a network in which things happen can affect the adopted children.

As well, Rogers (2016:44) attested that “all those social settings in which things happen that affect people make up the exosystem. Although the person is not necessarily an active participant in these settings, what happens in them will impact the person directly or indirectly”. Adopted children may affect by things from country origins, which can be also biological

family. It's also necessary in the case of adopted children who are sometimes unable to connect formally with the birth families but informally received or not received information from foster care about the birth parents. It is very primordial to consider the exosystem of the child in adoption referring or according to ecological model with their social environments, this consideration can focus particularly on the origins' setting of adopted children, in which they are rooted and they are affected by any obstacles that occur in these environments.

Furthermore, Palacios; Sánchez; Sandoval and León(2005b) mentioned by Palacio (2012) specified all the settings that can be considered, they focused on adoption professionals. They compare them with unorganized professional that intervene in all level of adoption process from preparation to placement to post-adoption services. They revealed that these professionals realized some critics tacks as making decisions on the type of placement, home study, preparation of children and parents, corresponding, follow up in pre-adoption stages, post-adoption devices, children and parents' therapy requirements. They underlined that research on adoption disruptions has determined that professional intervention mostly occupy a part of responsibility when the adoptions are unsuccessful (Palacios, 2012: 82).

Moreover, Palacio (2012:82) reasoned that usually, adoption components remained referring to the "adoption dyad" limited the adoptive parents and adopted children. It mentions with the influence of research on open adoption that is promoting thinking of the adoption relationship network, in which an adoption triangle with the adoption dyad added the biological family. It proposes an 'adoption quadruple' covering adoption experts and their interventions. Palacio (2012), in this analysis describes some important aspects to be considered in the particularity of the exosystem of adopted children that are usually analyzed with a traditional approach on adoption, other than that adoption triangle offers open adoption, it endorses the adoption quadruple interventions of adoption professionals. Also, we consider the idea of quadruple adoption that can constitute a considerable aspect of the adoption process. The adoption quadruple can facilitate the understanding of the importance the kinship network in all stages of the adoption process mainly in the intercountry adoption where adopted children are connected with settings that can influence them directly or indirectly. The idea of Palacio on adoption quadruple is also similar to adoption mediation as intervention method in social work that focuses on the use of skills and knowledge in the field of the adoption mediation social work and child welfare social work.

Here it occurs at the last point developed in this chapter, at this point we examine the macrosystem that uses to understand the adoption process at the macro level. Adoption according to Schewiger & O'Brien (2005:517) is considered as the choice of an adult to choose a child in a needy situation to adopt and to become a parent non-biologically but by a legal connection between child-parent. Also, adoptive parents become an element of a wide system of social services, without practiced birth family process. This system of social services commonly studied appropriately the adoptive families' characteristic in the exosystem. The system of social services, in others words, the welfare system may define a case study of multitude healthy aspect of exosystem of children. Thus, the last point to develop refers to the macrosystem that englobes the subsystems.

#### **2.5.4. Macrosystem in The Adoption Process**

Macrosystem according to the ecological theory of Bronfenbrenner (1979) itemized by (Rogers, 2016:42) defines as being "encompasses the ways in which larger cultural factors affect other levels of a person's environment and, consequently, how they affect a person's development. That is including aspects such as laws, political philosophy, and cultural beliefs".

In addition to adoption in his portrayal as a legal act that creates a relationship between an adult and child. This form is making in the modern philosophy of the family that considers the family out of biological shape in the cases of persons suffering from infertility problems or other medical problems. In other hands, it also similarly for a child where birth parents are unable to provide care of him/her or birth parents are dead. For various reasons, an adoptive parent as an alternative may be considered as a substitute for the child. The cultural beliefs aspects of adoption according to some literature is dated to a long period of human history. For illustration, the cultural beliefs aspects can be referred to:

The major Mediterranean civilizations provide several legendary examples of adoptive practice, Moses by the Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:10), Esther by Mordecai (Esther 2:7), Oedipus by Polybus (in Sophocle's Oedipus the king). And yet adoption was not widespread- it was even fairly rare in Israel, insofar as marriage sufficed to integrate an outsider into the family line (Perreau & Dusingberre, 2014:2).

Besides, the laws aspects of adoption in the ancient era referred to, adoption is the Code of Hammurabi(box.11). This Code, dating from the eighteenth-century B.C., contains many features that are still relevant to modern adoption Laws (Cole and Donley (1990) in (United

Nations, 2009). The political philosophy aspects of adoption, in the ancient societies can be also denoted, to Athenian democracy that known a dual dominant form of adoption:

An intervivos form of adoption(eispoiesis) enabled a childless Athenian to choose on by introducing him into civic and religious circles (...). Evidence of this intervivos form dates back to the first half of the fourth century BCE, notably appearing in the legal orations of Isaeus and Demosthenes. The second kind of adoption was called testamentary (diatheke) and was allegedly advocated by Solon. Unlike adoption intervivos, it was based on written law and enabled a childless citizen to designate his legatee as a son (Perreau & Dusinger, 2014:2).

In the ancient societies at the macrosystem level, adoption practices were based particularly on childless family, this trend was not focused on needy children to adopt. However, the laws' forms on adoptions were not different rather than modern society. In the modern idea on adoption, according to a research on "child adoption: trends and Policies" realized by United Nations(UN), mentioned that the first modern adoption laws are dated to the second half of the nineteenth century as results to the growing value in which society must play a supplementary positive part in encouraging the welfare. With the effect of the new philosophical contextual, adoption becomes not merely as a legal instrument to create their kinship but as a process to promote "the best interest of children" (United Nations, 2009).

Furthermore, with these adoption laws in which the best interests of children are defined as the political philosophy on adoption. The last Conventions (Conventions on the Rights of Child 1989 and Convention on Intercountry adoption of 1993) adopted the same adoption conceptions described by the first modern adoption laws in focusing on the best interests of the child. In the Convention on the Rights of the child of 1989, "the best interests of the child are to prevail in all legal and administrative decisions; the state to ensure the establishment of standards for the care and protection of children" (Mapp, 2010:5). The aspects considered in this Convention focus on the law and political philosophy of the best interests of the child that are using the adoption as the measure in the child protection. Adoption in the cultural beliefs is complex, each society has different perceptions about adoption.

The philosophy of the Convention on the Rights of child based on children without families indicates that "child has a right to receive special protection and assistance from the state when deprived of a family environment and to be provided with an alternative care, such as foster placement or kafala of Islamic Law, adoption or suitable institutional placement" (Mapp, 2010:9). This convention puts emphasis on a type of placement for a child deprived of the



family setting and this family setting can differ from one country to another. Adoption as one alternative care encouraged by this Convention in which it gives the responsibility to state, “to regulate the process of adoption (including intercountry adoption), where it is permitted” (Mapp, 2010:9).

Thus, adoption becomes a social institution with The Hague Convention on Intercountry of 1993 in which it considers that “intercountry adoption may offer the advantages of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin, [and] the Convention covers only intercountry adoptions which create a permanent parent-child relationship (Article.2(2))” (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993). Adoption is based on cultural beliefs from one country to another, the adoption regulation is approved generally by the State but intercountry adoption is not similar in all countries that are approved by this Convention. In some countries, cultural beliefs on the adoption issues are permitted but the intercountry adoption are based on values that are more complex.

These values create a dual adoption political philosophy distinguishing their sending countries and receiving countries, in uneven exchanges on the child. These exchanges include the transitions that describe some factors: from a culture to another, from one language to another, from one country to another. And also, the difference between sending country and receiving country generate an inequality, rich country -poor country and rich family- poor family. Additionally, Riley & Vleet (2012:6) demonstrate that “adoption tends to occur along a differential gradient of power within any given society; children tend to move from the care of those with less status and power (those with more status and power) status and power”. Also, they continue to advance that “adoption, not in other words, take place in any random fashion; inevitably, the pattern of adoption is the movement of children from a less valued to a more highly value category of social hierarchy (socioeconomic class, race or nationality)” (Riley & Vleet, 2012:6). Adoption creates a relationship unequal basing on children movement from less power to high power, a type of relationship also describing in The Hague Convention on intercountry adoption. All these political and cultural values have a vast impact on the child in their adoption lives. And then, these both Conventions, on Intercountry adoption and child Rights referring to macrosystem in the ecological theory provide greater cultural influences that can upset all levels of children’s setting and, subsequently, they can also have influences on children’s development. The laws aspects that put an end to the rights of biological parents on the adopted children created in a political philosophy allows adoptive parents to maintain

irrevocable rights without a real consent of adopted children, decisions that can affect adopted children in their development.

Nonetheless, the intercountry adoption political philosophy aspects are focused on the best interests of children as an alternative to responses to the family policies for facilitating the couples who are unable to procreate and having a desire to adopt a child. This political philosophy on the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption are staying more philosophical rather than practices. The best interests of the child in intercountry adoption provide a perception dominated and dominant in which, rich adoptive parents' vs poor birth parents where the rich adoptive parents benefit from all the rights of biological parents once able to have their incomes established for the adoption process. The adopted children can be found in positions where they are always affected by the political philosophy of intercountry adoption that is encouraged locally and internationally. The adopted children are set in contexts where they are deprived of their own identity, language, culture and their own biological families that are very important in their history as the individual where their past are determinant in their future.

Also, the cultural beliefs of adopted children whatever their age they were adopted making part of their identity. Baltimore (2008:10) attested that Kohler, Grotevant, and McRoy (2002), also studied adopted individuals' identities and concluded that:

Identity confusion is not an inherent outcome for adopted individuals. Furthermore, these researchers deduced that some adoptees may trouble by the social constructions of their adopted status as opposed to having psychosocial difficulties. They underlined that focusing on the psychological issue of identity formation may be erroneous because in many cases the stigmatization of adoption is the root causes of identity confusion. Thus, cultural or systemic causes should be explored as contributors to an adoptee's identity confusion.

The social constructions (origin settings) of the adopted status are important in the analysis of their adopted individuals' identities. The adopted individuals' identities encompass all factors of their settings that may influence their development.

Consequently, in the cases where they are removed to another environment, they should be adapted if they are difficult to make their adaptations, they can be affected by obstacles existing in this setting. For illustration, adopted children can be confronted by color line issue usually used by their classmates or in other places they can find alone or with their adoptive families. The color line discriminations or societal attitudes and others mentioned, are resulting issues in

the macrosystem of adoption that can play out and effect adopted children. The macrosystem in adoption particularly in intercountry adoption allows determining all cultural aspects that may influence adopted children in their environment and also how they can affect adopted children's development.

For concluding, as mentioned by Rogers (2016), examining that “with the micro-mezzo- macro approach, ecological theory contains several levels that describe factors within a person's environment that are significant in their development”. As already revealed in the overview ecological theory is prioritized for analyzing the adoption process in our research because this theory can also help to examine several levels that describe aspects in adopted individual's setting that are important in their environment but that cannot be considered in the adoption process. Riley & Vleet (2012:7) underline that the adoption process facilitates to change philosophies about families and family creation. They also show that adoption reflects the social shapes and pyramids, and they attested if we explore the movement of children, easily we can describe the evidence and illustrative boundaries. They encompass and the structures that created those processes. They mention that adoption reproduces social hierarchies and configurations of societies and international processes. And they also illustrate, by adoption, it is possible to verified inequalities in race, socio-economic class, ethnic group, and gender. We consider Riley and Vleet's (2012) point of views on adoption process that we estimate important in the understanding of the adoption process at the macrosystem level. In this research, we focus on the pre-adoption placement and post-adoption to analyze the intercountry adoption in the adoption process in the child welfare system in Haiti.

## **CHAPTER. 3**

### **3.1. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This section presents the scientific plan of the data collection focusing on the social constructivists' assumptions as a point of view to explore the adoption processes. According to Creswell (2014:37), "social constructivists believe that individuals seek understanding of the world in which they live and work. Individuals develop subjective means of their experiences-meanings directed toward certain things or objects". It highlights also that the purpose of research" is to rely mostly on the participants' views of the situation being studied" Creswell (2014:37). In addition, as an alternative research design, the phenomenology is considered as a strategy of analysis, also is described as "a design of inquiry coming from philosophical and psychological in which the researcher describes the lived experiences of individuals about a social phenomenon as described by the participants (Creswell 2014:254). All the techniques of data collection used generally aim to pursue the evidence's administration or to understand a reality. Accordingly, we consider also the same sense to rise to the understanding of the study's phenomenon.

The research methodology allows to make the link to the construction of the object of research, to the theory chosen, to the study area, research technical, population or institution of the study, sampling methods and techniques, and data collection for data analysis by methods nonreactive such as content 's analysis. A researcher must produce their own data via qualitative documents, interviews, observations, audio and visuals materials, posing questions particularly for arriving, to administer evidence and without modifying the opinions, attitudes or representations. It must also create his own study field in the sense to validate or invalidate the outcomes of the study. In this research, we choose interviews, observations and documents in qualitative research for data collection of the study. The content analysis is determined for data analyzing. The semi-structured interview is considered by the researcher with questions focusing on the participants' perceptions (authority in adoption field working in the Public child welfare, foster care's manager, birth parents of adopted children) in the adoption process related to the main purpose of this research that is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of the best interests of child defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 and The

Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993.

### 3.1.1. Study Area

The study is conducted on the adoption process in Haiti. The area is preferred merely because we have observed high scores in the intercountry adoption and also, we have observed some adopted youths who sought to find the biological parents using the social networks. Thus, we think such a situation needs to be explored in the assessment of the best interests of the child in intercountry adoption in which Haitian adoption process is involved officially since 2013 with the intercountry adoption enacted in 2012. In this research, we have chosen 12 participants: Three (3) child welfare public authorities working at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), two (2) foster care managers, and seven (7) birth parents of adopted children. Further, the adopted children, adoptive parents in the pre-adoption and post-adoption placement are also considered for an analysis through other studies realized on these issues. Lastly, we have carried out an analysis on adopted children, adoptive parents and birth parents before or after this new legislation on adoption.

### 3.1.2. Research Design

The study uses **qualitative method** mainly for evaluation of the adoption process and the best interests of a child basing on the adoption authorities of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR), foster care (creches) managers, biological parents' opinions and identifying the causes, weakness and ignorance of the adoption process describing the best interests of the child. Moreover, three forms of data collection are considered such as:

- **qualitative observation is considered** “when the researcher takes field notes on the behavior and activities of individuals at the research site. In these field notes, the researcher record, in an unstructured or semi-structured way, activities at the research site” (Creswell, 2014:239). We have also observed the behavior and activities of participants during the interview that allow us to recollect the data.
- **qualitative interviews** where “the researcher conducts face-to-face interviews with the participants, telephone interviews, or engages in focus groups interviews with six or eight interviewees in each group” (Creswell, 2014:239). We have also used the face-to-face interviews with the participants selected in the research for data collection. For the **qualitative interview** we considered the **semi-structured interview** that “imposes on

the researcher the necessity of obtaining certain specified types of information (hence the term structured) but does not have an interview schedule specifying the manner in which the information is obtained” (Crano, Brewer, & Lac, 2015: 287).

- And **qualitative documents** in which “during the process of research, the investigator may collect the qualitative documents. These may be public documents (for examples: newspaper, minutes of meetings, official reports) or private documents (for examples: personal journals and diaries, letters, e-mails)” (Creswell, 2014: 239). For the **qualitative** documents, we have consulted and used the public and private documents for realizing this paper.

### 3.1.3. Study Population

The population study is based mainly on the actors of the adoption process who are adoption’ authorities of the ISWR/IBESR, foster care’s managers (creches), biological parents of adopted children.

### 3.1.4. Sampling Method

In this study we use the maximum variation sampling, according to Kuzel (1999:39) maximum variation sampling occurs when one seeks to obtain the broadest range of information and perspectives on the subject of study. And also, underlined Guba and Lincoln (1989), “claims this is preferred strategy for constructivist inquiry. By looking for this broad range perspective, the investigator is purposefully challenging his or her own preconceived (and developing) understanding of the phenomenon under study” (Kuzel, 1999:39). Concerning the purposeful sampling, according to Creswell & Clark (2011:173) “qualitative research, it means that researchers intentionally select (recruit) participants who have experienced the central phenomenon or the key concept being explored in the study”. As underlined in the researcher’s intention, it selected purposely the participants that have experienced and possessed the necessary settings and familiar with the adoption process. They are twelve (12) persons in the number who are selected for the sample of the research: Three (3) child welfare public authorities working at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), two (2) foster care managers, and seven (7) birth parents of adopted children. Also, Creswell & Clark (2011:174) avowed that, “the qualitative idea is not to generalize from sample (as in quantitative research) but to develop an in-depth understanding of a few people – the larger the number of people, the less detail that typically can emerge from any one individual”. The sample chosen in the study

aims at advancing an in-depth understanding of the participants selected and issues that can arise from any one person in the adoption process.

### **3.1.5. Data Collection**

Creswell (2014) mentioned that “data collection steps include settings the boundaries for the study, collecting information through unstructured or semi-structured observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials, as well as establishing the protocol for recording information”. Protocol recording information in data collection forms for recording the information need to be developed in the interview and observational data (Creswell & Clark, 2011:178). We have also used a protocol guide for each participant for a good understanding of the way to recollect and record the data. This study uses both, primary and secondary data’ sources. Primary, data is collected directly from respondents in an interview form constituted in a semi-structured way. Secondary, data is obtained from documentary research such as journals, books, official reports, computer databases, etc.

### **3.1.6. Data Collection Instruments.**

Concerning the data collection instruments, the researcher uses **observation, interviews, and documentation**. Semi-structured interviews linked with fairly open-end questions, “in which the researcher does not use predetermined categories or scales to collect the data. The participants provide information based on questions that do not restrict the participant’s options for responding” (Creswell & Clark, 2011:176-7) as framework hence which focused, conversational and two-way communication between the interviewer and the interviewed. An interview guide form is elaborated for each group mentioned in the sample of the study, constituting the open-end questions based on their experience in the adoption process.

### **3.1.7. Data Analysis and Interpretation**

This part characterizes an important segment in this research where the researcher proceeds to present the data recollected and also proceeds to the data analysis and interpretation. It offers to the researcher a wide qualitative program that can be used to make the analysis and interpretation, the researcher can use the qualitative software program or hand coding for storing and locating qualitative data.

Therefore, we choose to use hand coding instead of the computer (qualitative software program) to store and locate the qualitative data, and also, we analyze the themes into inclusive portrayal

as described in phenomenology approach. In this way, according to Creswell (2014:249), the themes may analyze for every individual case and across different cases (as in case studies) or fashioned into a general interpretation (as in phenomenology). It also highlighted that “phenomenological research uses the analysis of important statements, generation of meaning units, and the development of what Moustakas (1994) called an essence description” (Creswell, 2014:245). Consequently, data analysis consists to prepare the data for analysis, explore the data, analyze the data, represent the analysis, interpret the analysis, and validate the data and interpretation (Creswell & Clark, 2011:204). In this section, we describe each step already mentioned above for analyzing and interpreting the data collected from the sample selected for this research.



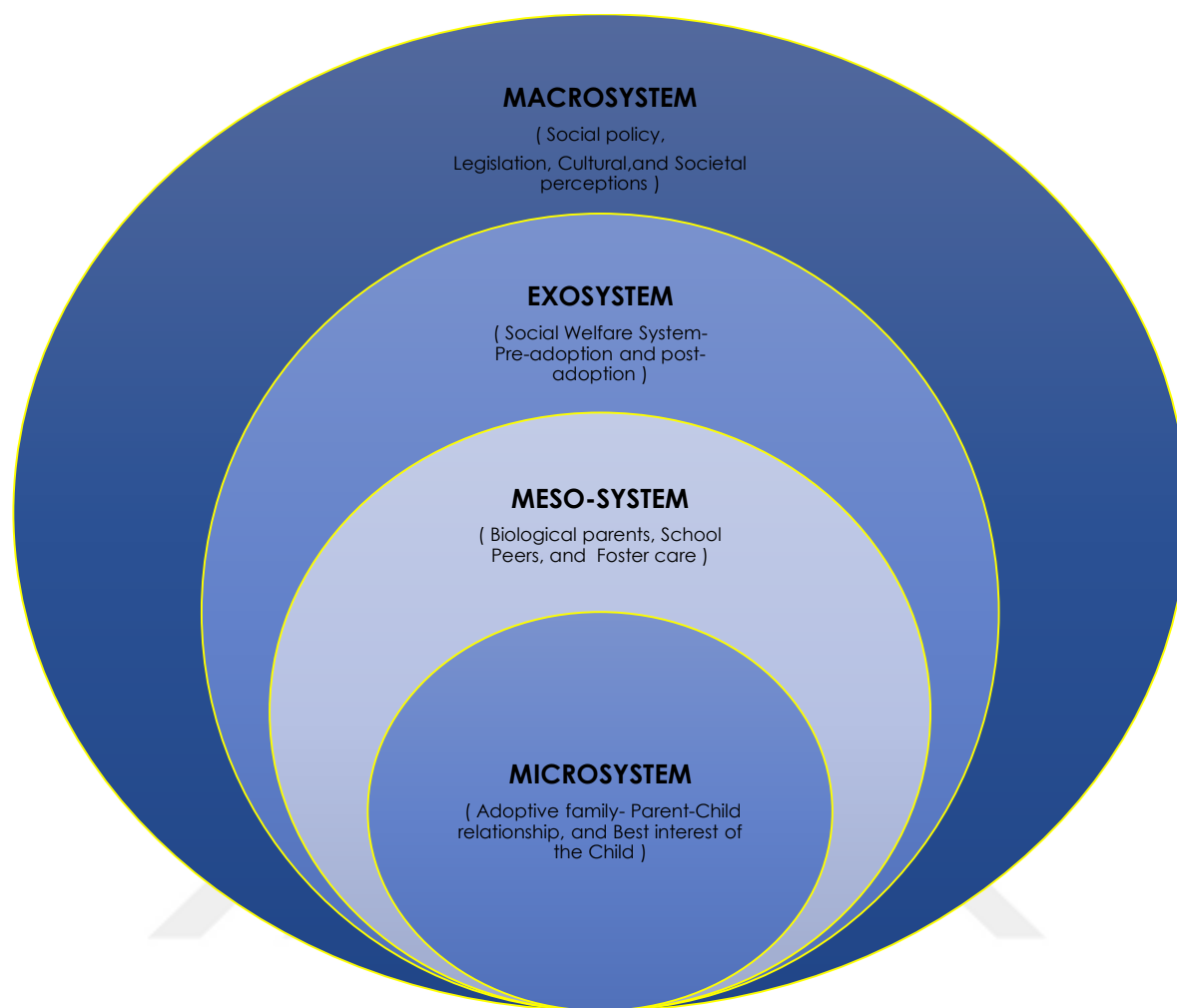


## **CHAPTER. 4**

### **4.1. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

In this section, it describes the empirical framework that is aimed at the purpose of this research. First, we present the institution in which this study is focused. Second, we present the collected data from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR)'s authorities through three (3) participants who have been selected (1), from the foster care manager via two (2) participants (2), and from biological parents through seven (7) participants (3) who have been chosen, and all these parents have children in international adoption. These data from participants are analyzed with the literature existing and we have proceeded our comments in the results' interpreting.

This figure describes the design of interventions approaches in the adoption process. We use this schema basing on ecological systems theory that examines "individuals and families within the context of their transactions with a variety of biological, psychological, social and cultural environmental" (Sue, N.Rashedd, & Rashedd, 2016: 31). As well as, we consider the Process-Person-Context-Times model (PPCT) developed by Bronfenbrenner that "addresses the increasingly complex process of reciprocal interactions between persons, objects, and symbols in the environments, some more immediate or proximal, others more remote" (Milner, Myer, & O'Byrne, 2015:81). Ecological thoughts allow analyzing individuals' interactions to different settings that are macro, exo, meso, and micro levels. The advantages of this perspective in this work, its allowed us to understand the adopted child in the different level during the pre-adoption and post-adoption in their interactions to all levels. It is the importance of Bronfenbrenner model in this work.



**Figure 2:** Ecological Systems of Bronfenbrenner in Schweiger & O'Brien (2005)'s work for schematizing the adoption process

In summarizing the figure describes the interrelations between the four levels ecological systems that are proposed to affect children development: (1) the microsystem, or the immediate settings or environments in which the child lives, primarily the family; (2) the mesosystem, or the relationships among two or more microsystems (such as adoptive children's parents biological, foster cares and adoptive families); (3) the exosystem, is defined as surroundings not experienced directly by the child but affect the microsystem (such as post-adoption services provided to parents [or post-adoption assessment] ); and (4) the macrosystem, or wider society and culture that includes in the other systems (Schweiger & O'Brien, 2005). We have inspired this model for presenting the data of our research.

In this chapter, the data are constituted in two parts: pre-adoption and postadoption. The main purpose of this paper is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of the best interests of the child defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. For analyzing this purpose, we have specified four other objectives for centering the general objective that is: (1) To describe the model of the adoption process that exists in Haiti. (2) To evaluate the types of intervention in the adoption placement of the child. (3) To study the adoption mediation in the adoption processes in Haiti following the skills and knowledge existing in the field of Social work in the adoption intervention. (4) To suggest recommendations for an application of the adoption mediation in the adoption process in Haiti, that can facilitate to resolve the psycho-social problems in the post-adoption in the best interests of the child. These objectives are included in the two parts that have already been mentioned and the participants are in part constituted the source of data for the exploring and analyzing.

## **4.2. PRESENTATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RESEARCH (ISWR)**

### **4.2.1. Historicity, Legal and Administrative Frameworks, Mission and Attributions**

The data allowing to characterize this institution are collected from this website and documents the Adoption Service of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). This presentation provides an overview of the establishment of the study in which is localized the Adoption Service that concerns us, particularly in this research.

The Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IWSR) or in French (Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches (IBESR) has seen the day under the direction of Dr. Jacques Foucand, with a mission to provide good services to the Haitian people. Also, a collaboration with the United Nations (UN) has been the basis for the creation of the National School of Social Service, has been managed by Mrs. Renée Télémaque. In 1974 with the opening of the Faculty of the Human Sciences (FASCH) by Mr. Salomon Pierre-Louis, a department of Social Work is instituted to provide professionals in Social Work for the social fields. The opening official of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR) has been done in November 1979.

In addition, the Decree of 24 November 1983, created the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and also determines the mode of functioning of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research

(IWSR) through an organizational chart which describes its legal and administrative activities and specifies its different attributions.

The Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) has for missions to (1) Improve the conditions of life of the population on the plan economic, moral and social; (2) Provide a protection to the child, to the woman, and to the family; (3) Create, Authorize, Supervise the works of foresight and social assistance both public and private; (4) Supervise the application of social laws; (5) Involve effectively against Human victims of the misery, of the illness, infirmities and of the old age; Integrate in the current policy of social justice of new technics of defense rational to a protection complete of the social body. Also, the Institue of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) is a technical and administrative branch of the MAST. It must fulfill their mission through its policy of social protection, rehabilitation, and socioeconomic development<sup>1</sup>.

#### **4.2.2. Services Providers and Structures**

The Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) is organized in a General Direction (containing the technical Cabinet, Secretariat of the General Direction and the Informatic Unity) in which three other directions are connected that is: one Administrative Direction including an Administrative Secretariat which is attached also to the Personal Service, the Accounting Service, and Purchases Service with two Directions of Service according to the organizational chart. These two other directions are arranged in a Direction of Social Service and a Direction of Social Defense. First, the Direction of Social Service includes the different Service Social Units, Prenuptial Service (including a laboratory), Adoption Service connecting with the Multidisciplinary Unit added recently to the Adoption Service. Second, the Direction of Social Defense encompasses the Service of Control of the prostitution, Service of Minors Protection including Minors Accompaniment, and Penitentiary Social Service (Ref. ibesr.com).

##### **4.2.2.1. Presentation of the Adoption Service.**

The Adoption Service is encompassed in the Direction of Social Service that contains four unities of Service in which Adoption Service is also included. The Adoption Service is charged to examine all requirements presented with a view to adoption, to constitute the files of each case in consideration with the Social Service of the institution interested, to recommend the adoption and to full the necessaries procedures to adoption according to the norms and

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<sup>1</sup> Ibesr.com, 11/02/2018

administrative actions approved by ISWR. It is also charged to undertake the necessary steps and to full required formalities nearby of competent authorities for the establishment of birth certificates for children of the public assistance and abandoned minors who do not have any. Also, the obligation is done to all Directors of Transit (foster care) and Receiving Center (children 's houses) to submit to the Direction of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) all the request and in general all the adoption files before their enrollment to the competent Courts.

Consequently, the necessary documents required for adoption are classified into two categories: one for the prospective adoptive parent and for the adopted.

For the adopter (prospective adoptive family) it's necessary to submit these following files:

1. Request
2. Psychological Assessment
3. Birth Certificate
4. Two Recommendation Letters Notarized
5. Marriage Certificate
6. Fees of Files (No refundable)
7. Three (3) Photos (Pictures)
8. Medical Certificate
9. Bank Account Certificate

For the adopted (Prospective adopted child) it's necessary to submit these files:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Archive Extract
3. Three (3) ID Photos
4. Social History
5. Medical Certificate
6. Certificate of Death of Parents

## 7. Consent's Agreement of Biological's Parents

These both category of documents will create the adoption files of the adopted children. The document of the prospective adoptive family will be sent to Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) through the Agency of Mediation named Approved Adoption Agencies/Organizations (OAA) and the document of the child will be constituted by the foster care (Creche) manager for sending to ISWR. Despite the ISWR as the central authority in the adoption field with the new reform of the adoption, others actors are intervening and are very important in the adoption process. These actors are: (1) Foster Care (Creches); (2) Justice of the Peace, Lawyers and Civil Status that are formed the legal branches in support to the adoption process; (3) Ambassadors for the international adoption; (4) Approved Adoption Organizations (Organismes d'Adoption d' Agréés-OAA). In the next section, it starts with the data collected from the study 'sample defined before that allow analyzing the different specific objectives established. This presentation is based on the ecosystem perspectives as an outline for analyzing this section.

### 4.3. Presentation of Data from The Participants in Following the Ecological Structure

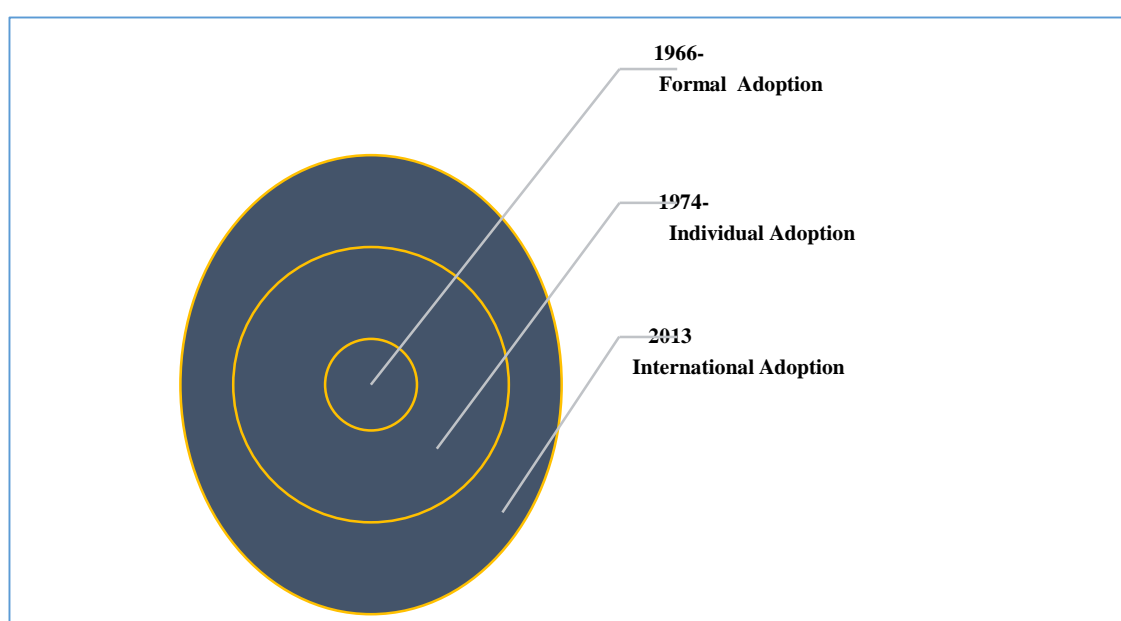
This section concerns the data from three category participants selected for this research. The first category participant was three authorities (Exosystem) of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). They are all persons who are occupying an important role at the level of three Services and they are also attached directly to the adoption process. The second category the participant is two foster care managers who are selected for helping to understand in sharing their experiences on the pre- adoption and post-adoption placement in this process. The foster care is considered as a temporary establishment to place a child for adoption in the adoption process. The third category of the participant is formed of seven biological parents (Mesosystem) who are selected for helping to understand their experiences in the pre-placement of their child for adoption and the post-adoption of their children in international adoption. Both foster care and birth parents have represented the Mesosystem in post-adoption but they play often the microsystem of the child in pre-adoption placement. The last category the participant should be the adoptive parents and adopted children (microsystem) of four countries that should be formed this part but it has been difficult to find them despite many contacts with the adoption agencies that should help us for the contacts. However, for the adoptive parents and adopted children, we have examined other researchers for an understanding of such eventuality of some psychosocial issues likely in the post-adoption.

The first point in the data analysis concerns the questions that have been posed with the first specific objective of this work. This point helps to present and describe the model of adoption existing in Haiti. All the aspects that are described in this presentation are from three authorities in the adoption field working at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR).

In the literature on adoption, there is not really scholars who provide a date exact of the adoption practices in Haiti. In our interview for this research, each of our interviewees has allowed us to find some elements that facilitate to complete a real shape of the adoption practices in Haiti. The adoption as a social phenomenon that has a practice very old in the human history. When we have consulted the different documentation, we do not find the adoption literature that permitted us to indicate the genesis of this practice in the Haitian reality. These three participants have shared their knowledge of the adoption system through their experiences in this field and we have presented these data explored from them that help to examine the Haitian adoption model.

#### 4.3.1. Exosystem in the Adoption Process

The three first participants have answered the questions on *their knowledge of the adoption system or on the adoption model in Haiti*. In their answers on the adoption system, they have mentioned these three dates (**Figure. 3.**) in the adoption evolution that allows describing the Haitian adoption's model.



**Figure 3:** Evolution of Adoption Model in Haiti.

This portrayal describes adoption evolution via its three different laws in the Haitian legislative on adoption. From 1966 to 2013 the adoption system has known three laws, in the first of two laws the intercountry adoption officially was not known. However, the international adoption was practiced in Haiti without the necessary control of the authority of the child protection, only the foster care managers and lawyers have completely managed the international adoption. Its weaknesses were due to insufficient of the 1974 adoption law that was not planned for the international adoption procedure. With the 2013 adoption law, the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) becomes the only central authority in the adoption question. Its three participants have shared their experiences about the adoption process. They are found at exosystem level of the Social Welfare System. Their experiences have allowed describing the adoption model through the pre-adoption and post-adoption process in the adoption system. They are codified as the following for describing the answers that they have given.

The first participant is notified as “**Participant 1:**” and all participants are followed in the same way. After each point of view presented, we summarize the important elements and after the presentation of their point of views, we analyze their ideas with the 2013 law on adoption and in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 20 November 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993 for understanding really the best interests of the child in the intercountry adoption.

### **Participant 1:**

The adoption system that we have in Haiti has nearly fifty years. It is divided into adoption formal and informal. For the informal adoption, it exists almost in all Haitian family. Generally, it is doing by the family who adopts a godson or a member of the family who has the benefit all privilege of a natural child. For verifying this type of adoption just seeing in the sumptuary ads in the journals. But the adopted child receives the birth certificate of their biological family.

Since very long years' informal adoption exists in Haiti. This type of adoption gives us often certain problems with the adoptive parents when they come in the Adoption Service for doing the legal process. In reason to organize the entry of the adopted child in a foreign country but generally the old issues of those children are always outdated compared to what the law recognizes from 0 to 16 years old for adoption.

For legal adoption, it began to apply to the law in 1966, that of 1974, and the last one of 2013. The 1974 law on adoption has taken much time before to be modified by that of 2013. On the 1974 law, there were many excesses and weaknesses often repeated in the adoption system. Because it was questioned it was the children's homes (foster cares) and the Lawyers that deposed the adoption files. How was it done?



The children's homes (foster cares) have the children from the IBESR(ISWR) or parents who have left the children in these children's homes (foster cares). These children's homes are on the internet or in contact with the foreigner adoptive parents who are in the adoption needs of a child, it was almost like a bargain.

For illustrating, who is among them(children), do you want to? Do you want John? Do you want James? John is prettier than James! It is to avoid this haggling that makes, we have a new law. It is not the children's homes (foster cares) that make the contacts with the adoptive family or the Approved Adoption Agencies (AAA/AAO) that make the contacts with natural family for adoption. It is the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) that is responsible, the prospective adoptive parents send the file to IBESR and the children's homes (foster cares) send the child files to the ISWR. It is the IBESR/ISWR that makes the mechanism according to the new law. It's the IWSR that is related and that is the central authority for adoption. It is not transmitted to children homes (foster cares) and the Approved Adoption Agencies (AAA/AAO), it is the ISWR that is related. What can I describe the adoption system?

In summarizing the first participant has described two forms of adoption, one is formal and one is informal. He has specified that the formal adoption began with the 1968 and 1974 laws. Where the children's houses (foster cares) had the possibility to choose or to contact the prospective adoptive parents who could adopt a child. The prospective adoptive parents could also contact the foster care for explaining their desire to have a child for adopting. This kind of thing the participant has qualified like a bargain and has categorized also like excesses and weakness in the law of 1974, that is encouraged by the new law of 2013. And according to the new law, it is the ISWR that is the central authority (art.37,38 and 39) and is related and that makes the mechanism between the adoptive parents via the Approved Adoption Agencies (AAA/AAO) and children 's homes (foster cares).

## **Participant 2:**

The adoption system that we have in Haiti started from the 1974 law, we have had a simple adoption system. There are two types of adoption: simple adoption and plenary adoption. Simple adoption is when a parent gives his/her child to adoption even if the child goes to another receiving family the biological family is always staying in contact with the child. However, for the plenary adoption, all child affiliations with the biological parent are ceased. It is the new receiving family who benefits the role of mother of the child and the birth mother still has no right to the child.

Currently, with the 2013 law, adoption is supposed plenary, it is for this reason we privilege abandoned and orphan's children. It is the 1993 Hague Convention which governs the international adoption. It is this Convention which serves as a guide in the new law by privileging the full adoption of abandoned and orphan's children.

In summarizing the second interviewee has mentioned the two types of adoption, simple adoption, and full adoption, that were applied in the 1974 and he has described each of them. Further, he has underlined the new adoption law of 2013 in which he has specified that is in relation with the 1993 Hague Convention which is represented as a guide in international adoption focusing on abandoned and orphan's children. The type of children who should privilege by this new law should be abandoned and orphan's children according to the participant referring to the 1993 Hague Convention on the intercountry adoption. Another aspect enhances in the new law of 2013 which was not in the 1974 law, is the international adoption in relation with the 1993 Hague Convention.

### **Participant 3:**

The adoption system in Haiti, before we have worked on the Decree of 1974. This Decree has several points that they did not consider. With the new law, these points considered. The Decree of 1974 has not considered of The Hague Convention, and the eligible criterion for adoption and the plenary adoption were not notified. In the old procedure of 1974, the private adoption was possible. For example, this type of adoption used to be done this way, a white (white parent) may go to a foster care (Creches) or an orphanage and seen a child that he loved and said that he wanted to adopt this child. He (white parent) made the file (of the child) through a law firm and legal but the Institute of Social Welfare and Research was not the central authority in matters of adoption.

I have an impression in the old procedure that there were adoptions that were being done that the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) was not even aware of it. Because if it could be adopted through foster care, orphanages and law firms it means that the ISWR might not be aware. Perhaps if they needed some things for the ISWR to put on the file (adoption file) they could come to ISWR. But with the new procedure, the ISWR becomes the central authority for adoption, there is no adoption that can be done in the country either national or/and international without going through the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). Consequently, the ISWR becomes the central authority for adoption.

The Decree of 1974 did not define the eligible criterion for adoption, it means the way in which the parents should come, biological parents consent or guardians. If the child is abandoned the Magistrate (municipality mayor) must provide the consent in front of the juvenile judge. There were not all these norms that had really governed whether the child was adoptable or not. The 1974 Decree did not prevent any post-adoption follow-up. Neither the Haitian State nor anybody had anything like information going on about adopted children. Because of these things, we used to talk about child trafficking, the question of selling kidneys, selling the heart of the child, and so on. So, we cannot say that these things were done or not. Because there was no follow-up that we used to be done, and the law had not provided a legal provision to that effect. Only the director or the president when they went to a country, and they saw that such child has been adopted. But there was really not a control over how much children were adopted, in

what country where the children are, what they are still in the country that adopted them. There was no control at all.

In summarizing the third participant has revealed the weaknesses that were in the old procedure of adoption underling that the private adoption was permitted. She has specified that the eligible criterion for adoption (art.41, 42, 43, 44 and 45), and post-adoption follow-up (61, 62, 63 and 64), and The Hague Convention until this new adoption law did not prevent in the old procedure of 1974. It has highlighted with the new adoption law of 2013 the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) plays the role of the central authority in matters of adoption, and any adoption cannot be done in Haiti without going through the ISWR. But she said that neither Haitian authority had anything like information going on about adopted children on the old procedure.

These three interviewees have explained the reasons that have stimulated to modify the 1974 law and they have accentuated also on points important in the new adoption law of 2013. The first participant has highlighted according to the 2013 law it is the IBESR that is the Central authority in matter of adoption (Art.37,38 and 39) and makes also the linkage (Art.38(4), 49,50 and 51) between the adoptive parents through the Approved Adoption Agencies(AAA/AAO) and the foster care (children's homes/creches). The second participant mentioned the new adoption law that he estimated that is in relation with the 1993 Hague Convention privileging the abandoned and orphan's children (Art.43). The third participant accentuates on four points where two are already mentioned that are: the eligible criterion for adoption (Art.41, 42, 43, 44 and 45), the post-adoption follow-up (Art. 61, 62, 63 and 64), The Hague Convention and the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) as the central authority for adoption. These participants have exposed the points that were not in the 1974 law and that are in the 2013 law in which justified the causes of this new law. According to the new adoption law six key reasons explained why a new law on adoption: (1) The 1974 Decree on the adoption did not answer to international standards and mainly to the principles of The Hague Convention; (2) The 1974 Decree did not define the eligible criterion for adoption; (3) Neither follow-up was planned after adoption; (4) Haitian State did not have a central authority in the matters;(5) Plenary adoption did not plan; and (6) generally it is the situation of poverty that justified the adoption, often to the detriment of the best interest of the child(MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015: ii). The six reasons quoted according to this new law were justified as weaknesses that have revealed as causes that have allowed to modify the 1974 law and the answers to these points are in the following articles:

The present law has for goal to administrate national and international adoption (Art.1); National adoption may be simple or plenary. International adoption is always plenary (Art.22); International adoption only when other forms of family-based and permanent care of children in Haiti have been suitably duly evaluated. The forms of care include social assistance to families, foster care, family adoption, national adoption, or any other solution that meets the specific needs and best interest of the child (Art. 42); Adoption of a child should determine by the central authority to ensure that adoption is the proper measure in the best interests of the child (Art.45); A child is available to adopt when his adoption is decided by the central authority for adoption. It should be adopted, according to the provisions of Article 43: (1) Orphaned children of father and mother; (2) Abandoned children whose filiation is not determined; (3) Children who have the biological parents have been deprived of the rights of parental authority following a judicial sentence; (4) Children whose biological parents have consented to their adoption. In this case, both biological parents must provide their consent (Art.19); The consent to the adoption must be given by the biological parents or by the legal representative and be verified in writing by the juvenile judge. It cannot be given until the child has reached three months old (Art.43);

The central authority has the obligation to carry out, in each case of national or international adoption, the post-adoption follow-up, by means of the reports regularly submitted by the adoptive parents, under the responsibility of the Authorized Adoption Organizations (AAO) which accompanied them during the adoption process to enable monitoring of the child's evolution and integration into his adoptive family and his environment, over a period of eight (8) years. All the reports are parts of the child's file (Art.61); The Authorized Foreign Adoption Organizations (AAO) are authorized to operate on the Haitian territory by the central Haitian authority according to the needs that it assesses yearly in the field of adoption (Art.65);

The technical and administrative direction of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor acts the central authority for the adoption, by the delegation of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in pending the adoption of the new organic law of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). The central authority is responsible for examining all applications submitted for adoption, for compiling the files, for authorizing the adoption according to the standards and the administrative procedure adopted by the ISWR before referral to the competent Courts. The central authority is responsible for promoting cooperation between the competent authorities for the purpose of ensuring the protection of children and taking all appropriate measure to prevent unlawful practices and material improper investment in connection with placement in

a children's home or during the adoption process. In addition, the central authority ensures cooperation with foreign central authorities to disseminate information on national adoption legislation and to remove obstacles to the application of The Hague Convention and takes all necessary measures to prevent unlawful practices, including material improper investment (Art.37); International adoption is always plenary (Art. 22); Plenary adoption definitively ceases all ties of filiation existing between the adoptee and his family origin. The adoptee loses his original name and his inheritance in his biological family. Plenary adoption is irrevocable, insusceptible of an action for annulment, revision, or revocation (Art.33);

The adoption is a measure of protection which is in the best interests of the child; providing him or her a permanent placement favorable and conducive to its fulfillment. The situation of poverty or poverty-extreme of parents can in no way be a sufficient reason for adoption. The State has the duty to promote and facilitate the implementation of policies, programs, and services as well as the creation of structures to improve living conditions of families and preserve family unity (Art.3); Under the principle of the subsidiarity of intercountry adoption, it is only used when other forms of family and permanent care in Haiti have been duly assessed and found to be deficient or non-existent (4) (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:3-28).

In summarizing in the new adoption law, these twelve Articles (1, 22,44, 45, 19, 43, 61, 65, 37, 33,3, and 4) mentioned above justified as responses brought to six reasons that have been mentioned as weaknesses in the 1974 law on adoption. According to this new adoption law in his article (37), this law aims to remove obstacles to the application of The Hague Convention and considers all necessary measures to prevent unlawful practices, including material improper investment. It is important to underline the idea of The Hague Convention in which is guided by the 2013 law on adoption (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:17). The Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993) indicates that "intercountry adoption may offer advantages a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin". In article 2(2), it writes that "the Convention covers only intercountry adoptions which create a permanent parent-child relationship" (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993). In the Article (3) on adoption stipulates that "adoption is a measure of protection which is on the best interests of the child" by the measures taken by the State for ensuring this protection by the implementation of policies, programs and services as well as the creation of structures to improve living conditions of families and preserve family unity and also underlined that the situation of poverty or poverty-extreme of parents can in no way be a sufficient reason for

adoption. And the Article (4) complements in mentioning that “under the principle of the subsidiarity of intercountry adoption, it is only used when other forms of family and permanent care in Haiti have been duly assessed and found to be deficient or non-existent” (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015: 6).

The best interests of the child mention in the Article (3) are defined in The Hague Convention in four (4) Articles that are:

**Art. 1(a)** to establish safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights as recognized in international law; **Art. 4(b)** have determined after possibilities for placement of the child within the State of origin have been given owing consideration, that an intercountry adoption is in the child’s best interests; **Art. 16(d)** And determine, on the basis in particular of the reports relating to the child and prospective parents, whether the envisaged placement is in the best interests of the child; **Art. 21**. Where the adoption is to take effect after the child has received State and it appears to the Central Authority of the State that the continued placement of the child with prospective adoptive parents is not in the child’s best interests, such Central Authority shall take the measures necessary to protect the child, in particular (see point 1 and 2 in **Art. 21**); The recognition of an adoption may be refused in a Contracting State only if the adoption is manifestly contrary to its public policy, taking into account the best interests of the child (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993).

The intercountry adoption should be privileged if the Article(4b) of The Hague Convention and the Articles 3 and 4 of the 2013 Law on adoption of the ISWR have been used and planned to biological parents in the purpose of the best interest of the child. For understanding and describing the services provided to families living off the situation of poverty or poverty-extreme and willing to place the children for adoption, we have interviewed three (3) authorities working in adoption process of the ISWR, and we have asked for their perception of how the measures of protection considering in the adoption process facilitating the best interests of the child? These three participants are persons working at the Adoption Service and they have answered in the following points:

### **Participant 1:**

Yes, the adoption process serves the best interests of the child. Because, before, we could even talk about haggling in the old procedure. A children’s houses (foster care) have offered such child to such adoptive parent downright where the adoptive parent says: “*I want to have a child like this, such type, such type, such type*”. So, in the children’s houses (foster care) there were a haggling but currently, this bargain does not exist anymore. It is the agencies (AAA/AAO) that are limited particularly to occupy the adoptive parents, it is the ISWR that decides, it is not the children’s houses that decide such child goes to find such

adoptive parent. If the adoptive parent says: “*I want a child of two years*”. So, we seek for him a child of two years. But an adoptive parent cannot say it’s Jacques that he/she wants, it’s Antoine that he/she wants. There is always this requires that is doing but it’s the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) that decides in the last resort. (.....), before the adoptive parents said when they came in a children’s houses often for seeking a child or the process is already finished, they said: “Oh, I love this little boy, I want also this little boy”. So, now we are trying to put the order in this history, it is not haggling! (with a voice strictly). And the others children? He says. So, here (ISWR) we offer the chance with everybody (child), it’s why we say it is in the best interests of the children.

In summarize the participant exposed the weakness that there was in the adoption process in which he is considered before as a haggling with the choice of adoptive parent easily for seeking a child in a foster care. He underlined nowadays it’s the ISWR that is responsible to propose a child to a prospective adoptive parent through the agency of mediation which represents it. And then he has also declared in the children’s house (foster cares) the haggling’s issues does not exist. Because it’s the agency (AAA/AAO) that represents the adoptive parent for making the adoption mediation process. According to him, the adoption process considers the best interests of the child.

## **Participant 2:**

When I read in bulk the best interests of the child, the best interests of the child stipulated: “Everything we do must be considered the child, not for you, all that one does, should consider the best interests of the child, it is what that stipulated the best interests of the child”. But in Haiti (whispering) is depressed! I think it’s always in words the best interests of the child. Is it true that the best interests of the child are considered? We are talking about a big concept “*Principle of subsidiarity*” which said that: “The State must do everything possible to keep the child in their family”. It does not say that adoption should not be done but adoption must be but it must be the last resort. Do we do that? Myself for 11 years I am working in this service (Adoption Service) is a question. Personally, often when I signed the adoption file by looking at a child’s face, the child is beautiful, a pretty boy or a little girl looking at this child who is going for adoption. And in Haiti, the parents do not give their children with a heart of joy for adoption. Why the parents give their children for adoption? In the old days, we talked about the proverb that the *child is wealth for poor’s parents* “*Timoun se richès malere*” in (creole language). It allows people to have a lot of children. The State is very responsible (currently) because in the past time there were awareness campaigns of family planning in the radios (with Fany and Tiyo) to show to the families how it is important to have another conception in the procreation and to be limited of too many children.

Contrarily with the first participant, the second has questioned the best interests of the child. He has mentioned that according to the concept the best interests of the child, the child should be considered before in all the considerations. He has reinforced his point of view with the

“Subsidiarity Principle” that he has summarized by saying that: “The State must do all likely to keep the child in their family” which is also in the Article 4 of the new law on adoption of 2013 mentioning that “under the principle of the subsidiarity of intercountry adoption, it is only used when other forms of family and permanent care in Haiti have been duly assessed and found to be deficient or non-existent” (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:6). According to him for 11 years he has worked in the Adoption Service and he has questioned this point, “the best interests of the child” that is staying in the words. He has also emphasized that the birth parents do not give their children with a heart of joy for adoption. Implicitly he supports the idea that the Haitian birth parents are forced to relinquish their child in the adoption process.

### **Participant 3:**

Yes, we do it (the best interests of the child) as I explain the child’s file before going to court, we do a lot of work. If the mothers said that the father of the child is unknown in the child’s file. We can ask in the interview (refers to the pre-adoption counseling by the ISWR for the consent) with the birth mother where is the child’s father because you did not do it alone. Sometimes, the mother said that the child’s father left her during two or three months during the pregnancy. Do you not know a brother or sister of your child’s father? yes, we know them (question posed and answered by the mother). When a brother of the child’s father came and he really admitted that he recognized that his brother was with this lady (child’s mother) but he did not take care of this child and also affirmed that he never saw the child’s father.

Also, I (interviewee) give the mother two weeks to search the child’s father. By doing this you find the father who was unknown now he comes to the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) admitting that he really knew this lady (child’s mother) but he was doubtful that this child is his because he has mistrust about the pregnancy. The father admitted that the mother can continue the adoption process. Sometimes, we make the father signs a report admitting that he is the child’s father. It is true that he did not give the birth certificate to the child because he had doubts, now he accepts that the adoption process can move forward. This little report can follow the file continuously in case the embassies can have some doubts this paper could be useful. Similarly, the father can say that this girl (child’s mother) was too rude and badly I did not want to recognize it (child) but now I give it (child) an act of recognition. At this moment the file can go back to the foster care (Creche) and the father will do the birth certificate of the child. The foster care will review the file and return it to the Institute of Social welfare and Research (ISWR) with the child’s known father.

In summarizing the third participant, does not differ with the first participant, they are all admitted that the adoption process ensures the best interests of the child. The third participant has focused on the control of the child’s file before to send to courts as essentials about the best interests of the child. She has underlined also the paternity issue often used in the adoption file but often with the child’s unknown father. The unknown father often questioned by the Institute



of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) but after of research forced by the ISWR, the father could be known but with other issues about the pregnancy. She also mentioned the embassies could have doubts on certain adoption file particularly on the unknown's father or not. However, she has also indicated often the father comes to the ISWR about the unknown father questions to give their permission for continuing the adoption process or to facilitate the birth certificate or act of recognition to the child.

These three participants that we have questioned on their perceptions about the best interests of the child in the adoption process. They provide elements that allow analyzing their understandings about the best interests of the child. The first participant focuses on the old adoption practice that he describes that there was a bargain in the choice of the adoptive parent for choosing a child in the foster care. He estimates currently this practice does not exist anymore because it is the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), and that is responsible and decides in the last resort. And the adoptive parents must be passed through of an adoption agency not directly by the foster care (Creches/ children's houses). This is what he has considered as in the best interests of the child. Also, he emphasizes on the management of adoption file by the ISWR as the central authority for adoption which did not exist before. But he did not mention in their responsibility through even in one of their missions that is to provide a protection to the child, to the woman, and to the family. The weaknesses that they had have before it was only in the bargain of the child in the adoption process. Therefore, what is the services or supports provided to woman and family who decided to place their child for adoption? This interrogation was not considered as a weakness in the 1974 law, and also about subsidiarity principle that is mentioned in the 2013 law on adoption, what is the services or programs offered to children 's families placing for adoption?

The second participant briefly revealed that according to the best interests of the child "Everything we do must be taken into account the child, not for you, all that one does, should take into account the best interests of the child, this is what stipulates the best interests of the child". However, he has affirmed that in Haiti, he has assumed that is in the words the best interests of the child. He has maintained his point of view with the subsidiarity principle that stipulates the State must make all essentials to keep the child in their family and adoption must be as the last resort. But he has avowed for 11 years, he has worked in the Adoption Service, it is an interrogation for him the best interests of the child issue.

Nevertheless, the Article 3 and 4 in the new law of adoption stipulates that adoption is a measure of protection which is on "the best interests of the child" by the measures taken by the

State for ensuring this protection by the implementation of policies, programs and services as well as the creation of structures to improve living conditions of families and preserve family unity, and also underline the situation of poverty or poverty-extreme of parents can in no way be a sufficient reason for adoption. And the Article (4) enhances in mentioning that “under the principle of the subsidiarity of intercountry adoption, it is only used when other forms of family and permanent care in Haiti have been duly assessed and found to be deficient or non-existent. These two Articles inspired of their 1, 4(b), and 16(d) Articles from The Hague Convention describing the best interests of the child for the Contracting States as the tool of application in matters of intercountry adoption. This Convention is also as the instrument of application of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. In his Articles 3 states that the best interests of the child are to prevail in all legal and administrative decisions; the state is to ensure the establishment of standards for the care and protection of children (Mapp, 2010:5). What is the establishment of standards for the care and protection of children by the Haitian State that is Signatory State of this Convention and approved by the Decree of the National Assembly dated 23 December 1994(MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015: v) established as service for the families of children necessity of support needs?

The third participant has focused on the analysis of the adoption files before to send to the courts by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as elements control about the best interests of the child. This participant is also the responsibility of the Multidisciplinary Unit in the adoption process under the control of the central authority for adoption. She explained that she often discovers the unknown's father in the adoption files. The unknown father issue often questioned by the ISWR but after the research forced by the ISWR, the father could be known but with other issues about the pregnancy. In the Haitian legislation particularly, there is a law on paternity, maternity, and the filiation voted at the Haitian Parliament in April 2012 and published in the Official Journal of the Republic 'Le MONITEUR', June 2014 (Le Moniteur, 2014). How the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) considers this law in the best interests of the child when the father becomes known? This interrogation was formulated by the interviewer but the interviewee has only noted this question without giving an answer. Two of three participants are concentrated only on the adoption procedure or adoption file management as arguments about the best interests of the child without demonstrating the services provided by the ISWR as being a child welfare public that has the responsibility via their missions to ensure and to implement its five points that are:

- (1) To improve the conditions of life of the population on the plan economic, moral, and social;
- (2) to provide a protection to the child, to the woman, and to the family;
- (3) to create, authorize, supervise the works of foresight and social assistance both public and private;
- (4) to supervise the application of social laws;
- (5) to involve effectively against Human victims of the misery, of the illness, infirmities and of the old age; Integrate into the current policy of social justice of new technics of defense rational to a protection complete of the social body.

The Institute of Social welfare and Research (ISWR) which has the tasks to provide to families living in the poverty and willing to place their children for adoption an assistance as an alternative to taking care of their children. However, anyone of its three participants has not proclaimed that the families have the possibility to find supports from the ISWR for responding to problem situations. Only the second participant has insisted on “the principle of subsidiarity” mentioning the institution implicitly has offered neither support to families to allow them to live with their children instead to choose adoption as the only way to save the life of their child. In this sense, its proved that some of the children adopted in the adoption process are not really orphaned and abandoned children. Nonetheless, one of six reasons have exposed as causes (*generally it is the situation of poverty or poverty extreme that justified the adoption, often to the detriment of the best interest of the child*) has been facilitated to modify the old procedure of adoption is completely ignored in the implementation of the new law on adoption. The birth parents have never found assistance and support from the ISWR as an alternative for avoiding to place their child in the foster care for adoption. The poverty issues parents of these children forced them to relinquish their children for adoption in order to save them. However, the ISWR as a child welfare public has the tasks of child protection where it must provide services or programs accessible to the families that are living with children in the needy situations.

Social Welfare Public refers to all the institutions of social policy established by the State for providing the services through several programs to the well-being of a population. According to Colby & Dziegielewski (2016:49), the social welfare is divided into both public and private environments. The public is defined by programs in which the preview of State, federal or local (city or country) government. Illustrating that public welfare comprises State agencies that prepare with the child and adult caring services, housing services, supplemental nutrition assurance programs, mental health agencies, social security, and employment. Private represented the services provided for non-profit agencies, voluntary, services and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As in the case of our work the Public refers to the

Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR) and Private represents services provided by the nonprofit agencies particularly the foster care or children's homes/Creches.

Besides, Berg-Weger (2016:111) discloses that social welfare has a dual sense: (1) defines a group's level of emotional, physical, and economic stability; (2) determines to our country's system of programs' benefits, and services that support those in need of financial, social and healthcare support. The social welfare is defined in the case of social policy as programs or services to welfare-being of the population. Also, Berg-Weger (2016:111) examines the social welfare programs as a guide by the social policy, the government instructions and procedures used to develop and guide practices and regulations associated to social problems. She emphasizes that social policies may be divided in both: residual social policies that refer a social need specifically to a population that continues irrespective of the policies, efficacy or futility. Contrarily, institutional social policies focus on a universal social need, social security, providing retirement insurance for all older, adults who have invested at the required level in that system is an example of an institutional social policy. Among both approaches illustrate the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) is perceived as residual social policies addressing specifics social need to Haitian population that continues regardless of the policies, efficiency or inadequacy.

Nevertheless, in the ISWR's missions it is characterized as an institutional social policy that has for five (5) assignments that are : (1) to improve the conditions of living of the population on the plan economic, moral and social ; (2) to provide a protection to child, to the woman, and to the family ; (3) to create, authorize, supervise the works of foresight and social assistance both public and private ; (4) to supervise the application of social laws ; (5) to engage effectively against Human victims of the misery, of the illness, infirmities and of the old age; Integrate in the current policy of social justice of new technics of rational defense fo a complete protection of the social body. Among these five attributions, the point which is effectively applied or are all applied effectively? Why the poor parents or poor families choose the foster care to put their children for adoption? The reasons advanced by the birth parents do not include in the tasks of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR)? Why the biological parents have only the foster care as an alternative to place or to put their children in case of assistance needs? The next point scrutinizes the mesosystem in the adoption process that formed the foster care and the birth parents that may consider also the second settings of the child placed for adoption after the birth home.

### 4.3.2. Mesosystem in the Adoption Process

For understanding and describing the type of choice of biological parents for the adoption of their children. We have interviewed seven birth parents who are all, have children in intercountry adoption and we have asked them the reasons that forced them to put their children in foster care for adoption. They have all given these elements of responses:

#### **Participant 1:**

I had the children I could not take care of them. I lived very desperately and I lived in a friend's home that was not mine. I did not have the opportunity to rent a house. I am obliged to close (place) the children in a foster care (Creche) for adoption. Because if I lived in misery I did not want that tomorrow the children will live the same situation. I would like that the children will become else in their life. But I lived in misery and children the same thing, this life is not attractive. This is the reason that made me given the children for adoption. I was twenty-two old when I gave my first child for adoption.

The first biological parent has exposed the reasons of care of their children and housing that forced them to place the children in a foster care for adoption. And she has also mentioned the poverty situation in which she lived it was not a good life and she did not want that the children will live the same situation.

#### **Participant 2:**

I had a child who was an illness. The child's father had abandoned me. I did not have enough people to help me. The smallest of my child was sick in the eyes and I could not find a solution from the hospital. I found a friend and she has helped me to find a foster care. I gave the children to foster care manager. Because I did not have anything to support the children, I had to place the two children in the foster care. Because the foster care manager told me when the children will be eighteen I will be in linking with them and they could help me in a lot of things. These are the reasons that made me placed them and I was twenty old at this moment.

This natural mother has introduced the health issues of their children, the child's father relinquishment and insufficiency of support as causes that forced them to place their children for adoption. She has also declared that the foster care's manager explained that the children could help her and in linking with her when they will have 18 years old.

#### **Participant 3:**

At the moment, for me, adoption was a good thing. Because I personally could not take care of the child because her mother is dead. Because if he stayed in my hands he could die. Because I could not find

anyone to help me with the child. I did not find any help to support me. It was only this path (foster care) that I had found to save the child. I was only 38 years old in this period.

This parent is the unique man among the seven biological parents. He has avowed the death of the child's mother as a reason of the child adoption because he said himself he could not take care of the child. He has also explained that he has not found a person to support him with the child and it was only the foster care that allowed him saving the child's life.

#### **Participant 4:**

It was not easy because for a mother to separate with their child is a little difficult. But because the economic resources, the problem of education and education that I would like to provide to the child. I have seen that I arrived in a situation which can corrupt the child. I lived in a deprived environment that is Cite Soleil (biggest shantytown of Port-au-Prince). I don't want the child to adapt to what we do in the community. Because I could not provide the child a proper education. I had chosen to place the child for adoption. I was 23 old when I gave my child for adoption.

This parent has revealed the economic resources, education and training issues as reasons that forced her to give their child for adoption. He has expressed their inquietude of the child's future because she was living in a debauched environment and she could not offer a proper education to his child.

#### **Participant 5:**

The things really were difficult for me when I gave the children for adoption. And after God, it is me who is the mother and father of my children. I did not have a family, father or mother who helped me with the children. I do not need to be ashamed to say that I used to pick up the irons in the streets with other people so that I could go to APN (National Harbour Authority) and some laundry to take care of the children. I had seen it not a reality for me what I should do so that I could pay for school and give food to my children. What I found that was the best for me, I asked someone for information. She took me to a foster care (Creche). When I arrived in the foster care (Creche) they asked what I came to do. I said I came with those three children I want to close (place for adoption) them. I want to give them to the State so that the State finds a mom and a dad to adopt them for me. Because I have many children I cannot take care of them. I have closed (put in foster care) a child in 2005 and two children in 2006.

This parent has explained their difficulties that forced her to place the children for adoption. She has also indicated that she has not found any family support to help her to take care of the children. She has mentioned the activities that she did, cannot help her to pay education and provide food to children. For these reasons she decided to give their children to State to help

her to find an adoptive parent. Thus, she has clarified that its causes have forced her to place their children in a foster care for adoption.

### **Participant 6:**

When I gave my children(twins) for adoption, I lived a situation that was not good. When I wanted to go to work to take care of my children because I did not have a person to stay with the children, I forced to give them for adoption. When I got up and found a job finding so that I could go and do it. I was resigned at that moment and they were two years old. I left alone at home from five in the morning to six in the evening. When I came home, it was at this time that they could bathe and eat. It was the reason that made me given them for adoption. I explained a person about this situation she told me she will take me to a foster care so that I can give them for adoption. When I said it the way children lose weight and their lives go on with me, I did not want children to die in my hands. I am obliged to give them for adoption.

This birth mother has explained that the condition that she has lived as mother was not good. For taking care of the children it was very difficult for her because when she wanted to go to work to care for the children, she has no one staying with the children. It is showed that this mother lived without children father because she has declared when she wanted to go to work she has left the children themselves in the house and she has affirmed that this situation was not easy because children lived very sad. She exposed this situation as causes that forced her to give the children to adoption with the advice of a friend that explained her a foster care as an alternative.

### **Participant 7:**

It was my father who always helped me with the child. The child father had started to help me with the child. But after three months of the child's birth, the child father told me that the child does not belong to him, he will not give anything new. My family used to help me with the child but my father gave me much more supports. After a while, my father died, and my mother is struck by an illness.

When the child was three old I did not anything to send it to school. At that time, I had a friend who was near with me. I explained to her that I have no incomes to send the child to school. She told me if I find a place (foster care) to close the child (for the adoption) what will I do? I said I need the kids there is no problem.

Then she told me if the child is in the foster care you can only see her/she once in a while only once a month. I told her that there will be no problem. Because I need that the child so comfortable. I would not like my child to be the same situation as I saw the other children living in the streets, have delinquency (*kokorat*) behind the pick-up (*camionnettes*). I did not want my child to come in such a situation. After she made the contact for me and I gave the child in the foster care for adoption. At that moment I was 29 years old.

The last natural parent situation is not different from others parents already cited. This parent has underlined that their support usually that he has found no help her was closed. She has explicated that the child father has refused to recognize the child after three months of birth. Her family was supporting but due to the death of his father and an illness of her, she finds it hard and difficult to send the children to school. With the assistance of a friend, she found a foster care and she gave his/her child for adoption.

In summarizing, the seven birth parents' experiences on the causes that have forced them to use the foster care to place their children for adoption, they are not completely different to problems that have made them to place their children under foster care. They have all declared that the lack of economic supports or poverty situations as the main reasons that caused the adoption of their children. Other than the poverty conditions they have also underlined the difficulties to send or to pay the school of their children. And also, there is the irresponsibility of a certain father to take care of their children. Between the participants, only one man as the birth parent has been interviewee he has exposed the lack of assistance after the death of her wife as a reason that allowed him to give his child for adoption and he has emphasized it was a unique way that permitted him to save their child life.

The common points among all participants are linked on two aspects, they are all of the parents lived in the poverty situations and they have used the foster care as the alternative of care services to place their children for adoption. Anyone of the seven birth parents has not revealed that they have found supports or helps from programs provided by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). The unique establishment of assistance for their children is the foster care that has only the mission to take care of children and to place them for adoption, particularly international adoption. A dilemma for the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) it is when a parent has only one way to save their children's life. What about the Article 3, of the new adoption law accentuating on "the situation of poverty or poverty-extreme of parents can in no way be a sufficient reason for adoption". And then the Article 42 of this same law, also documented that International adoption may apply only when other forms of family-based and permanent care of children in Haiti have been suitably duly evaluated. The forms of care include social assistance to families, foster care, family adoption, national adoption, or any other solutions appropriate to specific needs in the best interests of the child.

Nevertheless, the seven families interviewed have not revealed that they received social assistance or other support from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as an



alternative for taking care of their children. These seven participants' experiences describe a reality that constitutes the sense of intercountry adoption. The State used only the easier way as the alternative for children living in foster care. The adoption is considered as only services providers to families who are living in poverty situations and are unable to answer to the needs of their children. The poverty situations have justified as the reasons for adoption of children of this group of the parent. This tendency illustrated by these parents often known some debates, for example, Riley and Vleet (2012:6) in his works underscore that:

In many countries, children generally move from nonwhite mothers to white families, from poorer families to richer families, and from poorer countries to wealthier countries. Although there is some movement of children in opposite direction, the overall pattern of adoption is clearly a movement of children from lower-to-higher status families.

The authors' point of views is similarly corresponded to the Haitian adoption process. In the Haitian adoption process, often the children completely are not abandoned children they are forced abandoned by their parents who have not found other services or programs from the State to the families need social supports to take care of their children. In addition to the birth parents' experiences, it is important to understand the foster care's placement. It is also essential to justify the reasons according to two foster care managers selected in this research. Because the foster care plays a vital role in the adoption process. It is represented until now the first place where the parents living in needy situations with a child may place their child for an alternative to care that is often continued for an adoption placement. The two-foster care manager answered to two questions that are based on the eligibility's criteria of child category in the foster care, and the process used by the foster care for getting the children. These two aspects may help to describe the family and child realism using the foster care for an adoption placement. An element essential to accentuate on the foster care that represents the second environment of the adopted children or prospective adopted children. In the ecosystems perspective, its two settings symbolize the microsystem of the prospective adopted children and mesosystem of adopted children. Once the child moved from birth parent home to foster care its two settings are always in interactions. The first point described by the two foster care managers designated the eligibility criterion and category of a child in their foster care.

### **Participant 1:**

The first thing child is that the child is in a situation of need. There are several situations of need, for example, there is a child who is very bad and is dying. We know that if we take the child it is because he

is hungry. Because he suffers from malnutrition or is ill and we can take care of him. But this is not an illness where the child will die. If the child is left in the hands of the mother, he may die. But if we take the child we know we can save him. That's the first thing, the most important thing, that's the first thing.

Secondly, we can take a child who is very well. But the parents suffer a lot, they are undernourished like that the child is well but they cannot do anything. The moms cannot do anything and they are nearby to die to hold their child. There are times both are in the same condition and sometimes the child is well but there is a family problem. But it occurred rarely, I can say that we have (1%) one percent of this kind of child who attains with family problems seriously, as if the mother has another husband, the husband does not want to see the child, etc. It rarely occurred, but if we see that it is a serious problem we can take the child. But usually we take children who are living difficult situations, really difficult, deprived of food and we know that the child has no other chance of survival.

Here it specifies that the situations may come from the child side or mother side. The child can suffer from malnutrition or be illness and their parent cannot take care of him/her. The mother can have a lot of problems, for example, unable to take care of her, unable to nourish itself or be abandoned by the child father and unable to live with their children in the same house with the new husband. These explained the family problems and poverty situations as reasons for a foster care manager to accept a child. These situations should be showed that child has no other chance of survival.

### **Participant 2:**

For the eligibility criterion of a child, it is a little complex. Because every child has a specific case. There are cases where the parents have an economic problem. There are cases where the parents are dead and the children are abandoned. There are cases where children need assistance temporarily, either their parents have problems or difficulties. In these cases, we should help these children and take them in the foster care (Creches) temporarily to assist them until their parent can take their tasks. Therefore, in these cases, there are numerous criteria that can allow taking the children.

The second foster care manager revealed almost the same situations already underlined by the first participant. It also underlined that the economic problems of parents, the death of child parents or abandoned children, and children in need of assistance as main conditions that facilitate the entry of a child in the foster care.

In review, its two-foster managers have noted that the economic problems of child's parents, situation problems of children parents, family problems of children and abandoned children are causes usually exposed and observed in the admission of the children in their foster care. In its elements, it is emphasized that the poverty situations of families are determinants as restrictive

factors of parents in their responsibilities of their children. We examine the elements in which the foster care is exposed to take a child. On the other hand, it is also essential to see their way used by the foster care for getting the children. Here, the last point in this part aims to analyze the different conditions estimated as reasons that have constrained the parents to place their children in a foster care for adoption. Its two-foster care managers shared these elements that explained how the foster care has done to have children. These two participants have answered as follows:

### **Participant 1:**

It's the parents who come here (at foster care) with the children. Besides, for me, it would be much more interesting to take the children who really need to be in a foster care. For me, children who are in need to be in a foster care are it is children who have lost parents, abandoned children, that is to say, who have no father or mother or any family or close family who can take care of them. These are the children that I cannot take now, that I cannot take now. In the past, I took them, it was the children who were welcome in my foster care but now I cannot take them. Because as soon as I took them it is over. We cannot do anything with these children there. You have to make a family council; the family council now gives so much trouble. A child can spend six years in the foster care and for me, at my foster care, it is not good for the child.

The family council it is us who must do the work, it is us (foster care managers) who must do all the work. We must spend anything, do everything and we are blocked every time. We come to the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) with people, how does it do? It (ISWR) says us that we must have every person at the same time and we cannot find them. The country is not ready for that.

Whereas in the old days (old procedure) it was so easy to make a family council, the family council went to the court, we were presented to the court with everyone and we signed by giving a guardian to the child. And this guardian organized anything for the child. But now (in the new procedure) it is necessary that the whole family council returns to the ISWR. Every time we cannot even find and in Haiti's addresses are difficult to find. That means, we cannot even find people, we spend a lot of misery. And in the end, the worst what now happens in the court the judge says "*I want only the guardian who has to sign because the law tells me that it is the guardian only must sign*". And the ISWR says, he does not accept that it is everyone who must sign at the judge. But the judge does not want what to do, we do not know, the judge should be accepted, it took one year and a half to pass as asked the judge. That's why it is hard for me, a child who comes here (at foster care), I said, oh good! Go to find the ISWR and go someone else, personally, I cannot.

In this point, the participant recognizes that it is the abandoned children who should be in a foster care. However, it highlights that she cannot take the abandoned children. Because the new procedure asks a lot of exigencies that were not before that are very difficult for the foster

care manager establish the family council that is essential to find a guardian for the child. It also mentions that the old procedure was very easy for them. But in the old procedure, the ISWR was not the central authority for adoption and the foster care and the judge were sufficient to create a family council and to provide a guardian to the child. It is the reason for which the participant prefers the old procedure. And it indicates that she cannot take the abandoned children due to this situation. However, implicitly it means that this foster care prefers the children who have their parent and who decide to place their children for adoption. For the second foster manager who answered the same questions she has responded in this way:

**Participant 2:**

For us (foster care manager) to find these children, it is from other parents who had their children adopted through this foster care. The other parents who had their children in this foster care, they realized that the adoption is a good thing for them and for their children when they were in difficulties. They could not provide food to their children, send them to school and children were in malnutrition. When we take these children in charge, they are evolved in their health and weights, they go to school and sometimes they are traveling. So, other parents who found that we are doing a good thing for their children when they see the pictures of their children, they saw that the children are good and they are evolved very well. These parents found that we are doing a good thing for the kids so they made choices and from those parents who did the adoption in this foster care. Its parents may retrace other parents and take them to this foster care.

The foster care manager underlines that it is the other parents who had their children adopted in this foster care that encouraged other parents to place their children for adoption. And it specifies the same reasons advanced usually by the birth mothers and other foster care responsible as causes that facilitated the placements of these children for adoption. The poverty situations of the parents who are unable to provide food and to send their children to school are considered as main descriptions of placement for adoption. To the difference of the first foster care manager, this last participant relays neither preference of children for their foster care, only it is pretended that she provides some good services to the children that are displayed through the birth mothers, when they have seen their pictures of their children when they are traveled or are adopted. And also, she estimates that these parents are always happy what that justified their desires to take other parents and come with them for placement of their children.

In review, the opinions of these two participants reinforce the facts shared by the seven birth parents described above who have all declared they have been forced to place their children due to the poverty situations that constrained them to take care of their children properly. Here it

justified that its parents have not abandoned voluntarily their children as required by the adoption process. They are obliged to use this alternative of placement, i.e. foster care and adoption to save the lives of their children due to the lack of other alternatives offered by the State, that is charged to implement programs and services to families who are living under poverty situations or need social supports. Other than abandoned children i.e. who have no mother and father or a close family usually who need a permanent family as a substitute.

Under others conditions, these children are placed by their own birth parents in a foster care due to inadequate interventions of the State into the services providers to the family other than international adoption. Because this type of adoption or an alternative placement requires the cease of parents' rights definitively that is done, often within the ignorance of these parents, who are manipulated by the foster care responsible or other parents lived themselves into post-adoption problems. Besides, they continued to encourage other families to make adoption for their children declaring that it is a good thing. In the different points described between both foster care managers and birth parents, they have shown that poverty situations characterize the central point of the children placement and adoption reasons. The birth parents found only the foster care as an alternative of placement of their children facing such a situation. Consequently, the State interventions do not provide alternatives to take care or support families with their children living under problems.

On the other hand, only the foster cares as private institution helps this category of the family for their children's placement. Does the foster care institution receive the social and financial support from the State through the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) to take care of children placed for adoption? We have interviewed its two-foster care managers under the ways of financing for understanding the source of their support. They have answered of this manner:

**Participant 1:**

With the will of God! We do not have money to payroll. Because I have a lot of people working here. I hold on the belief, sometimes good Samaritans who have given us assistance. Some adoptive families who creates parents' associations sometimes provide us supports.

This foster care manager declares that the supports that they receive from good Samaritans and adoptive families' associations that help the foster care in their needs. However, there is another financial source that has been mentioned out of the interview by the same person. She also

reveals the fees of adoptions that may be estimated to an amount that was not essential relayed but that is found between \$ 7000 to \$ 10000. It is considered that these fees participate to take care of other children live in the foster care.

**Participant 2:**

We have the adoption's money that adoptive parents have given to take care of the children who live in the foster care. And also, we have donations in cash and materials.

Here, this foster care manager justifies that adoption requires a fee that she does not specify but that we have asked her, she referred to us the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) that recommends a fee for the foster care's services. As the first participant has already itemized an amount required that is considered as the fee to take care of other children living in the foster care.

These two-foster care managers reveal that the foster cares receive an amount as adoption fee to take care of other children. They also highlighted that they found other help from adoptive parents' associations that are in cash and materials. At the administrative level, the foster care is constituted of staffs that enquire financial supports. We have questioned the foster care managers about the category of people working in their foster care and they have answered in this way:

**Participant 1:**

We have caregivers, they are people who work directly with the children. There are the cooks, the people doing the laundry, the drivers, the office, and there is someone who keeps the stock. We have to put people everywhere so that the house (foster care) is functional. We have a psychologist who comes to see the children and also a social worker.

The different category of people described by the foster care manager illustrates that the foster care has a staff that necessitates financial supports. It is mentioned in this foster care that there is one psychologist and social worker who work with the children. Though, any description has not been exposed that its two professionals have skills and knowledge in social worker foster care interventions. It specified only the status of the social worker or psychologist that is not sufficient to intervene with their children living in foster care.

**Participant 2:**

We have a nurse who ensures that the children are healthy and provides them medication if they are sick. Also, caregivers who make cleaning and washing children. A secretary who works with the director in the preparation of the child's files. Two volunteer coaches who teach music and play with the children. A Social Worker who helps in the family exploration of children to find out who are the children and to look about their family to know the causes of their adoption placement. A psychologist who assesses whether the children do not have mental problems and if they involve very well and detect in the child family if there is not a family who had a mental disorder. And a pediatrician who allows stabilizing the level of health of children.

This foster care manager has a professional staff who work in this foster care. All the category professionals describe in the foster care corpus are important. She also mentions one social worker and psychologist working with this foster care. However, as the first foster care manager, she emphasizes only aspects that focus on a part of the childcare or tasks propose to professionals.

These points of views allow to determine weaknesses in the foster care interventions especially through the social workers who make usually the social history of the child. An essential point in the child adoption file. The second participant quotes important points in the tasks of the social worker in the preparation of the adoption file of the child. Nevertheless, any foster care manager does not reveal that the social worker prepares the child for adoption. It is not only the foster care managers who ignore this point but also the social workers who intervene in the foster care have a lack of knowledge appropriate to child social work or adoption social work, foster care social work and child welfare social work field.

In these interventions, we appraise that the participants have given an attention to the adoption files of the child but not about the child itself. However, the foster care represents a setting that has an importance in the child life that necessities an appropriate understanding by the social workers' practitioners in this field. Pardeck and Pardeck (1987,1998) cited in Pardeck (2008:7) point out on foster care demonstrating that children placed in foster care have obviously experienced emotional rejection state and refute about the birth parents. Placement of the child in an alternative care usually activated traumatic and comprised emotive embarrassment. Long-foster care predominantly is considered as dangerous because children may spend long times in foster care system frequently moving from one foster home to another, and accordingly absence of sense of a permanency. The foster care as an alternative for placement of children deprived the family care but may also have impacts on the children lives. Fahlberd (1994) related in Cocker and Allain's (2011:112) work, attested that the social workers who prepare

children for adoption will necessity to assume direct work with the child. Here in addition and complementary to all life story work that has been realized through any child's social worker or foster care. It has been demonstrated once the child is better arranged for adoption, it will be easier for the child to live fewer traumatic only in the transition to their adoptive parent. It is described the importance of child social worker at this level that may facilitate the child to spend the transition from foster home to adoptive family easily if the work in the foster care has been made appropriately with the child. At this point, it also relates that the foster care considered as the mesosystem of the child may affect the microsystem of the child i.e. in the post-adoption. This point will examine in the next section about the microsystem in the adoption process.

We have already examined one specific purpose of this research that is to describe the *model adoption existing in the Haitian adoption* through both exo-systems and mesosystem, exo-system setting including the social welfare system that represents the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) via the three participants interviewed working at level of this institution, are constituted as a primary source of data for the exo-system. And then the mesosystem incorporates the birth parents and the foster care, that represent two settings in the child life in the pre-adoption. The next point characterizes the second specific objective and aims *to evaluate the type of interventions in the adoption placement of the child*. Here this point analyzes the roles of different actors that intervene in the adoption process with their particularity in the adoption placement. Two group of participants are concerned at this phase, it is the authorities working in adoption field and the foster care managers. The first group that composes of three participants describing their different interventions and the other group that is two foster care managers, have been questioned on their own intervention in adoption placement. The three respondents working at the ISWR describe the type of interventions that are making in the adoption process that is correspondence to two questions under the types of actors and their roles in this stage, and their descriptions have been done in this way:

### **Participant 1:**

The Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as the central authority. The foster cares have the children placed for adoption. The Approved Adoption Agencies (Organismes d'Adoption Agréées-OAA) make the mediation between the prospective adoptive family and the ISWR, and also make the pre-adoption, and post-adoption follow-up. The lawyers deal the legal aspect of the question, i.e. all the documents. There is the juvenile judge who studies the case of the child placed for adoption to see if it is a completely abandoned child. It is this judge for the child who receives the parents if the child has one.



But if it is an abandoned child the judge notes to say that it is abandoned child very often it is the municipality mayor where the child is found that provides a birth certificate to completely abandoned children.

For example, the abandoned child at the “Hospital General” General Hospital, placed in child’s house (foster care) after a while this child may consider as entirely abandoned. We should ask to the municipality mayor where is localized this child’s house (foster care) to provide a birth certificate and also his consent for the adoption. Once concluded to go to the judge who has no problem to endorse and provides his favor for adoption. But if there is a parent then at this moment the judge will ask to make come to the parent to ask the questions to see if the person gives satisfactory answers and then she signs his consent. The public prosecutor office deals the approval of the adoption process. Also, the social workers evaluate the case studies of these children, write the social history of the child and shuttle between children’s homes (foster care) and the Adoption Service.

This participant categorizes the interventions that are realized in the adoption process. He identifies the different actors intervene in this process and also specifies their roles. In this description it also relates an important aspect which shows that are two categories of the abandoned children, one is considered as completely abandoned where he has given one example, and the other, as abandoned child but who may have a parent to give their consent for the adoption.

### **Participant 2:**

We have several partners(collaborators) who work with us (ISWR) and intervene in the adoption process. First, one of the most important partners is the foster cares and orphanages. Then, from the new adoption law, we find the Approved Adoption Organizations/Agencies (AAA/AAO). We find the Ministry of the Interior including the immigration who prepares the passport of the child when he should go abroad. We find the Public Prosecutor’s Office when there is a document for legalization as Annals (Procès-verbal) that’s where we have to authenticate it. The juvenile judge is an extremely important partner because it is the juvenile judge who prepares the adoption report, the consent also has to be done in front of the juvenile judge. Also, the municipality mayor once there is an abandoned child in their locality, the declaration of birth of the child should be made by the municipality mayor where the child is abandoned.

This interviewee has related almost the same information shared by the first participant only he has added an actor that intervenes in the preparation of passport of the child in the adoption process. However, he has not mentioned the social workers and psychologists who intervene although he knows there are social workers and psychologists in the process.

### **Participant 3:**

Concerning the actors of the adoption process, the first great actor we have the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as the central authority. Because one adoption cannot make without to pass by the ISWR. The second partner is the foster cares for the reason that is at the foster cares are placed the children. The third actor is the Approved Adoptions Organizations/Agencies (AAO/AAA) that are deposed the files for the prospective adoptive parents. The fourth great actor is the juvenile judges because for the child eligible criterion for adoption they should be presented in front of the juvenile judge. Also, the municipality mayor in the case of abandoned children they must go to provide their consent to the juvenile judge. Similarly, the birth parents include in the actors because they must go to give their consent to the juvenile judge. The last actor is the Court when the files go in the judiciary phase, includes the lawyers all take a part in the adoption interventions. It is true that we try to do the mediation without using the skills and knowledge in this field but we cannot have defined clearly the lawyers, Social workers and the AAO's roles in the case of the mediation adoption process.

Here the respondent describes seven actors who intervene in the adoption process. For each of them, this participant tries to do a brief presentation about their intervention. In this description, she enhances an actor who has not presented before by the two other interviewees but they all complemented the different actors essential for this process. Nevertheless, she indicates about the roles of these actors similarly to mediation processes that are not obviously defined in the adoption process.

In recapitulating, the three interviewees who are mainly three important actors working directly at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) particularly in the adoption field, have described the nine (9) actors (ISWR-Foster Cares-Birth parents- AAA/O- Municipality mayor-Courts (Juvenile Judge- Public Prosecutor's Office- Lawyers)- Ministry of Interior-Social Workers and Psychologists) intervening in the adoption process. However, other than the Courts that have descriptive professionals who intervene in this process, the other interventions have no specialization appropriate of their interventions. The practitioners intervening in the foster care are specified only as social worker and psychologist, neither foster care social worker, child welfare social worker and child protection professionals have no relation and also not different to the professionals working in the ISWR they have weaknesses to the mediation adoption and also other specialization.

In addition, in its different interventions, any regard is not centered on the children in adoption pre-placement, needs an essential preparation for the adoption. It is also the same for the birth parents any support that is not offered by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as the institution charged to implement the social welfare. The diverse interventions are focused only in the preparation of adoption files of the child. All the others procedures written in the

new adoption specially in the Article 3 and 4, stipulated that the State has the duty to promote and facilitate the implementation of policies, programs, and services as well as the creation of structures to improve living conditions of families and to preserve family unit (3); Under the principle of the subsidiarity of intercountry adoption, it is only used when other forms of family and permanent care in Haiti have been duly assessed and found to be deficient or non-existent(4) (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:6). However, neither interventions are established to assist the families who are deprived of resources to take care of their children. Accordingly, these three participants have done a synopsis of different interventions that are realized in the adoption process. In the next point, we examine the specific intervention of foster cares in the constitution of adoption files of the child.

This point is focused on the adoption files including the child, birth and adoptive parents. We interviewed two foster care managers who have answered to questions specified to this aspect. These two participants have answered in this matter:

#### **Participant 1:**

No, we do not do that anymore. In the past, we had a lot of adoptive parents who sent us the files. But now I am not going to take care of the parents sending files. We prepare the child, take care of the child for their parents who are in need and in a situation of poverty 'extreme. We (foster care manager) take the responsibility of the child for their parents. We are told and promised them that the child will be well and that we will give the child a family, etc.

But now I do not even know where the children are going to, the only thing I am saying is that the Institute of Social welfare and Research (ISWR) can never lie and choose a bad adoptive parent for our children, I believe it! We prepare only the files, now we do not know anything about the adoptive family according to the new adoption law. We do not absolutely nothing about the adoptive family. The prospective adoptive family sends all the files to the ISWR. We do not even really know who we are actually going to deal with. We can only ask for ID documents from the mother and father of the child if he has both. But we talk with the parents we ask them questions when they come with the children. It is about of these(questions) that we do the social history of the child. I prepare the child file with the birth certificate, social history, psychologic and medical assessment report of the child to transmit to the ISWR. It is the ISWR that receives the birth parents again and that questioned them. However, to each meeting with the ISWR always I request the same question that specifies according to The Hague Convention it is not the foster care that should be charged to take directly the children. It should be to the ISWR to place the children in the foster care. But until now it allows us (foster care) the possibility to take the children.

It is underlined in the past that the foster care was in charge to receive the prospective adoptive parent files and the foster care was able to match the child with a prospective adoptive parent. But with the new adoption law, the foster care is in charge only to arrange the child file for sending to the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) that represents the unique central authority in adoption. This participant accentuates that the foster care not only should receive directly the children from their parent but also underlines it has to be the responsible of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) to place the children in the foster care but until now that is not changed. The second interviewee also answered the same questions.

### **Participant 2:**

It is not us (foster care) who proceed to find the prospective adoptive family, everything is done at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), via the Approved Adoptions Organizations/Agencies (AAO/A) that are in the countries of the adoptive parents and they are filed the files. The Approved Adoptions Organizations/Agencies (AAO/A) representatives submitted the files to ISWR. And then, the ISWR makes the matching between the child and the prospective adoptive parent. Everything is played out of the ISWR now from The Hague Convention. But before we have always made the individual adoption, that means we have direct contact with prospective adoptive parents who wanted to adopt a child.

In the context of a child who is not abandoned, biological parents bring the documents. From there, we other, we have our social worker and psychologist. So, we go with the children in their home, or they go to foster care to see the family, do the interview and take the information to make the social history of the child. We ourselves have a special work that we do personally to put in our file apart from that, it is the social worker who has a special work who he does with the birth parent.

For the child who is abandoned, it is the almost the same thing, the only difference municipality mayor who provides to the child the birth certificate and then the ISWR will authorize the foster care to do the child's birth certificate. For an abandoned child a six-month period is given before the child is placed for adoption, for the ISWR to carry out the family search for the child or to wait for until there is no complaint from the child.

As the first foster care manager, this participant said that it is the ISWR that proceed to pursuit the prospective family adoptive through the Approved Adoptions Organizations/Agencies (AAO) in the residence country. It also declares before this new law the foster care was able to receive the prospective family file and to make directly an adoption and she has specified that was the individual adoption. It also justifies that it is the foster care that receives the documents from biological parents and organizes the social history of the child by the social worker and psychologist working with the foster care. For the abandoned child, it is detailed

that the procedure is not totally different from the municipality mayor, must provide to the child the birth certificate. Finally, the ISWR should be authorized to the foster care to make the birth certificate and to place the child for adoption if there is no complaint in the six-month period established.

These discussions demonstrate the importance of the foster care in the arrangement of adoption files of the children. Because they have explained that they are in charge to prepare the social history of the child via their social worker or psychologist. They have related previously that they were able to make the individual adoption but currently, that is not possible with the new law on adoption. One participant highlighted that it is the ISWR that should take the children and afterward to give them to a foster care. But until today (interviewee date) the foster cares receive directly the children. They also recognize with the new adoption law it is the ISWR that should receive the prospective adoptive files through the AAO that play the adoption mediation role between the prospective adoptive family and the ISWR. However, it stated by one of the participants the foster care should not receive the child from the birth parents. Also, the social history of the child should be realized by one social worker and psychologist who work with the foster care. One participant explains that often she goes to the social worker and psychologist home or social worker and psychologist arise to the foster care to do the social history assessment report of the children. This point of view displayed that the consideration of the data received directly from these parents and without really going to the birth parents' settings to collect the information essential for the child social history. Another point also is very important any report not focused on the assessment of the child about both, birth home and foster care settings.

When the child moved from birth home to foster care these two environments make part of the child development. The social history of the child is limited with the biological family setting but the foster care setting should be considered in the child social history and should be added by to the foster care social worker or child welfare social worker or child protection specialist. This aspect will be an element essential for the child in the post-adoption and also for the adoptive family for understanding the child behavior or child attachment in their development.

In this section, we analyze the third objective of this research that intends to *study the adoption mediation in the adoption processes in Haiti following the skills and knowledge existing in the field of Social work in the adoption interventions*. We have already studied some scholars as the framework in the literature review on the importance of mediation in adoption arena.

Mediation adoption is used as intervention tools in social work in the adoption field. We have interviewed the three group of participants on questions related to mediation adoption and also some aspects that should be consider in adoption process as a determinant in adoption mediation in the best interests of the different parties particularly the child in this process. The three interviewees of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) have answered to questions related to this objective. They have given these elements of responses:

**Participant 1:**

There are the Approved Adoptions Organizations/Agencies (AAO/A) that make the adoption mediation between the children's homes (foster care), the ISWR, and the prospective adoptive parents who want to adopt a child.

Here, it is underlined that the agencies called AAO assure the mediation adoption between the parties, that are the ISWR, Foster care and the prospective adoptive parents. However, these AAO are international agencies that search the children for the prospective adoptive family and that are paid particularly by the adoptive families for their services. It allowed us to question the impartiality principle of the mediation. Because the AAOs provide a service only for the prospective adoptive parents the unique purpose of the AAOs should be to find the children for their clients. Though, it appears that the AAOs have several tasks in the adoption process.

**Participant 2:**

Since 2013, it is the Approved Adoption Organizations/Agencies (AAO/A) that are supposed to play the mediation adoption role. But it is not a mediation directed or directly by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). The AAOs are foreigners with filiations in Haiti. These AAOs have delegated people to file adoption records in Haiti. There is also locally one AAO that was a foster care but currently becomes an Approved Adoption Agency (AAA).

The second participant has also added that it is the AAOs that play the mediator role in the adoption process but this adoption mediation is not controlled directly by the ISWR. And it also related that these agencies of the mediation are strangers' filiations that have their representative in Haiti. But he also proclaims that there is one local adoption mediation agency previously that was one foster care.

**Participant 3:**

I did not really understand this question. As this morning (interview date) I received a case, a proposal of relatedness despite the family accepted but the couple of the adoptive family refused maybe it is an aspect that we will have to know in mediation. Accordingly, the agency (AAO) came to inform me while alarming saying that the adoptive parent should not refuse. But I answered to the agency that it is full rights for the child and adoptive parent. Because the child will have another family who would love her/him and the adoptive parent will have another child that he would love. Subsequently, I told the adoptive parent that there is no problem it is that you have been fooled, the social report did not really expose the child history. You will have another proposal in the future that maybe, will answer to the child profile that you would like to have. For the child, he will have a family normally who would love her/him and with all his deficiency or his psychological deficiency emotional that the adoptive parent discovered and that he did not accept. On the contrary, I said to the AAO they are the simple thing of the adoption.

It was for the first time that I found a case where I had to summon the adoptive parent. Because the adopters were come and tomorrow they should go to do the socialization process but they said they will not stay. I said before to go I would like to meet with them. If I had not summoned them I would not know the reason for this refusal. Because they spent almost eight (8) days in the foster care observing the child. The child urinated on himself and in the documents, it did not report this thing. The child is four years old, he does not know the colors and he does not go to school. However, the psychologist who did the report mentioned that all things are well, in the report that the parent has, he mentioned everything is fine. He knows the spatial orientation. Yet, the child did not have a good special orientation and the psychologist revealed everything was satisfactory.

This morning (interview date) I played the mediator role, the agency (AAO) was there and the parent was sitting. I took the report that the parent has it and I read it while doing the translation for me, by asking is what writes in the report you have not observed. The parent answered no what they observed is completely different from what is mentioned in the report. I said that I thank you, you will have another proposal. Then everything is finished well, the parent will travel so that he can return to their country today. I do not know if this type of mediation you are talking.

This participant plays an important role in the adoption process. In the beginning, she said that she did not understand this question. Consequently, she has explained a case of proposal relatedness but the adoptive parent refused the child in reason of the deficiency that he observed, for the AAO the adoptive parent should be accepted the child. The participant has indicated that she has underlined for the AAO that is a right for the prospective parent and child. The adoptive parent revealed that he was not observed what written in the child report. It seems that psychologist not really mentioned the child situation. The participant has estimated the necessity to invite the adopter and the AAO for better informed about this situation. Once informed about this situation that caused the refusal of the family adoptive. She understood the situation and she said to the prospective adoptive parent that he will have another proposal

maybe that will correspond to the child profile that she will hope. And also, the child will have a family who will accept him/her with her deficiency. After the interviewee she has mentioned that she does not know if it was a type of mediation that she has done. Absolutely, she plays a mediator role between the parties, child-adopter-AAO, facilitating the communication but the mediation adoption skills were not use by this participant, only this case requiring a mediation. It also shows implicitly that she has not skills and knowledge in the field of adoption mediation. However, the example that she presented, showed the importance of the mediation adoption in the adoption process. It is true that she has not skills and knowledge in adoption mediation field but this intervention has been done professionally.

Accordingly, the three interviewees tried to provide their knowledge about the existence of the adoption mediation in the adoption process. According to the first participant, it is the Approved Adoption Organizations/Agencies (AAO/A) that assure the adoption mediation role between the ISWR, foster care, and prospective adoptive parents. For the second, it underlines that it is the Approved Adoption Organizations that are supposed to play the role of adoption mediation via their representative in Haiti and it also relates that is not a mediation administrated or directly by the ISWR. He also specifies that there is a local AAO before that was a foster care. Implicitly this participant estimates the adoption mediation is not completely applied in Haiti when he declares that is *the AAO that are supposed to pay the role of adoption mediation*. Here, he questioned the adoption mediation role of the AAO in this process. The thoughts of this participant allowed us to question also the existence of adoption mediation in the adoption process. The AAOs are they adoption mediators' professionals? The case illustrating by the third participant enquiring the role of adoption mediator of AAOs, when this participant declared that the prospective adoptive parent did not accept the child for the causes already explained, the adoption mediator of the AAO declaring to this interviewee that the parent should not be refused the child, it showed that the AAO not respected the impartiality principle of the mediation. This aspect may be caused some damage for the parties in reason of the adoption complexity.

Once the other interests are considered the child will live its consequences and the adoptive parents will develop rejected feelings for the child due to the weaknesses of the adoption mediator. Accordingly, in examining their points of views of participants we may conclude that the adoption process needs the application of the adoption mediation field. The adoption mediation arena may be controlled by the IWSR/IBESR or adoption mediation practitioners



having skills and knowledge in this field. Concerning the regulation of the mediation, there is a debate between both approaches, extensive and restrained regulation.

Hopt and Steffek (2013:18-9) demonstrate that there is a distinction that is referred on basic legal sources for mediation dealt, with the complexity on the individual legal systems presented two models of regulation that may be recognized at the macro level: Extensive and restrained regulation. They also define both extensive and restrained regulation. They also specify from one country to another, one of the positions may be preferred to apply. For the extensive regulation positions:

One group of countries tend towards an extensive, at the time almost comprehensive, regulation of mediation and the associated professional law. The high point of legal sources here is a mediation law structure under which significant provisions are mandatory, and which is realized and supplemented by means of regulations, directives, and codes. Arguments raised in favor of a high regulatory density are consumer protection, the need for State promotion of mediation, legal certainty and the necessity to draw a line between mediation and professional legal services.

For the second position that is the Restrained Regulation:

This group has consciously, or at least effectively, decided against the tendency towards systematic and thorough regulation of the substantive issues of mediation and its participants. The supporters of this approach point out that the institution of mediation is as yet inefficiently established or common for any need for regulation to be evaluated and met. On the contrary, the precipitate regulation would hinder the development of mediation approaches by the practitioners, academics, and associations complicated. Any comprehensive regulation of mediation is also partially rejected on grounds of an underlying incompatibility with the intrinsic nature of mediation as a discrete procedure outside civil litigation.

These positions allow understanding each tendency and how it can be worked better in applying and working in the restrained regulation model or extensive regulation model. However, it will be preferred to apply the restrained regulation that will facilitate the development of mediation approaches by the practitioners, academics, and associations in some area particularly in adoption process because in the Haitian reality the mediation institution not yet recognized efficiently. Thus, Etter (1997:143-5) stated that mediation between birth and adoptive parents may use as a tool to organize and structure the adoption process before the adoption is done and is employed to avoid their conflicts that may occur in the future. And also, it considers that mediation may use at any point in the adoption process. She underlines that the mediator in the adoption area must have knowledge in child welfare including “the permanency placement decisions, adoption psychoanalysis and assessment procedures for the parties, adoption policies

and laws (Ibid., p.146). In the new adoption laws, in the Articles, 68 and 69, it is described their tasks and roles of AAOs that intervene in Haiti, they can be international or national. The Article 68, defines the tasks and roles of the international's AAO, in which they are described in eight points:

(1) To represent prospective adoptive parents in the adoption process; (2) To inform prospective adoptive parents wishing to adopt children in Haiti, technical and legal aspects of the adoption process, as well as, prescriptions in force by the Republic of Haiti; (3) To assist prospective adoptive parents in the preparation of the adoption project and provide advice for the files constitution; (4) Verify the legal capacity prospective adoptive parents; (5) To verify that prospective adoptive parents are completely preparing for the adoption; (6) To transmit the files of prospective adoptive parents to the Haitian central authority for the adoption process; (7) To lead drive prospective adoptive parents who wish to adopt children with special needs to specialized professionals to supervise them; and (8) to accompany prospective adoptive parents after the arrival of the child, including in postadoption follow-up reports(MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:29-30).

The International 's AAOs in this Articles provide a service to the prospective adoptive family wishing to adopt a child in the Haitian adoption process. The International's AAOs play a mediator role for prospective adoptive parents or adoptive parents. This service is solicited by the prospective adoptive families and remunerated by the prospective adoptive parents. They offer the supports to adoptive parents in the pre-adoption placement and in the post-adoption. The point that seems contradictory in this article it is the tasks of the AAO to assess the post-adoption for the adoption of central authority and to send the post-adoption follow-up reports. This point puts in question the neutral principle of the mediation, how the AAO can produce a post-adoption follow-up's assessment for an adoption's central authority on adoptive parents who paid them for finding children. The AAOs could they provide a post-adoption follow-up assessment where they evaluated that adopted children are abused and neglected by the adopters? If the ISWR represents the central authority of adoption, why the central authority of adoption at the ISWR does consider the practitioners of this institution for this assessment? The professionals of the ISWR who have skills and knowledge in child welfare particularly in adoption mediation should proceed to post-adoption follow-up assessment.

The best interests of the child that are hypothesized as the purpose for the adoption process, allowing to children to find a permanent family, are they sufficiently assessed only in a report realized by an agency, that already has their own interest in this process? The international AAOs may play the mediator role between the prospective adoptive family or adoptive family

and the central authority of adoption and also assure the post-adoption assessment or supports for the adoptive family. However, the Adoption central authority not should use the service of the same AAO to do the post-adoption follow-up. This assessment must be proceeded by the professionals' adoption mediators, child welfare worker, child welfare social workers, or the national AAO specialized in the preplacement adoption mediation and post-adoption.

Also, for the national 's AAO, the tasks and roles are defined in the Article 69, that composes in five following points:

- (1) To inform the prospective adoptive parents wishing to adopt children in Haiti or in foreigner country, technical and legal aspects of the adoption process, as well as prescriptions in force in Haiti or in their origin country;
- (2) To assist prospective adoptive parents in the preparation of the adoption project and provide advice for the file's constitution;
- (3) To prepare prospective adoptive parents on the adoption consequences;
- (4) To transmit the files of prospective adoptive parents to the central Haitian authority;
- And (5) to accompany prospective adoptive parents after the arrival of the child, including in post-adoption follow-up reports (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:30-31).

As in the international AAO's tasks and roles, similarly, the national AAOs tasks and roles are considered only prospective adoptive parents and adoption central authority as two parties with which the AAOs may assure the adoption mediation. The international AAO could limit to mediation between the ISWR and the prospective adoptive parents. However, the International AAOs communicate with the foster cares that is not also specified in the new adoption law and that is not forbidden. The foster care represents the microsystem of the child in the pre-adoption placement and exosystem of the child in the post-adoption. The biological parents arise to inform of their children in the post-adoption via the foster cares that provide them the information and pictures from the adoptive parents. As well as, the individual adoption is not recognized with the new adoption law, the birth parents and prospective adoptive parents do not permit to meet but it exists some transactions that are established between the birth parents and adopted children and adopters via the foster cares.

Nonetheless, in the adoption process, the birth parents are completely ignored in the adoption process. Like to the adoptive parents, the birth parents must be assisted in the adoption pre-placement and post-placement adoption due to the complexity of the adoption that may affect all the parties. It is also advised to promote to different parties as the birth parents and the prospective adoptive parents to find a cooperative adoption or to establish a parent's cooperation through the adoption mediators for sharing information necessary in the best

interests of the child. The parents' cooperation in adoption mediation may offer some advantages to parties, they may allow to avoid or to reduce the abandoned feelings that live the adopted children. The benefits of the adoption mediation particularly in the adoption process may facilitate to avoid the conflict and other psychological issues in the post-adoption.

The doubts of prospective adoptive parents, in this case, may exist but studies realized on this question mainly in open adoption showed that it is more beneficial for their parents in the best interests of the child. If the birth parents decided to give their own child to another prospective adoptive parent due to different reasons for this decision. Why should a prospective adoptive parent refuse to establish a relationship via a mediation adoption with the birth family? However, the adoptive parents informally established the relationship with the foster cares when they need to have some information about the children. Parents cooperation may be essential to consider in the pre-adoption placement via the adoption mediation available or authorized to provide this service. Croker and Allain (2011:114) examined that the complexity of adopted children requires exhaustive assessments prospective adoptive parents in preparing groups and individual assessment, that aim to certify that adopters develop a dense thoughtful about the triad dynamic formed via adoption. This triangular dynamic that is established through adopters, the child and the birth family. Here, it demonstrates that prospective adoptive family needs to prepare to have a full understanding of the difficulty of adopted children. This preparation should be started in the adoption preplacement through the agency specialized in this field. Additionally, Clocker and Allain (2011:114) reasoned that "the agency needs to have confidence in the resilience of the adopters to parent children who have experienced significant loss or trauma and enable the child to maintain links to links with the birth family". It also evidenced the importance to maintain the parent's relationships in the adoption by the mediation adoption service. However, it is underlined that this cooperation is not always appreciated by the adopters who think that adopted children will preserve the birth family relationships. The adopted children maintain always with their past mainly the birth family.

For illustration, Pardeck and Pardeck (1998:10-11) recognized that "biological family relationships begin at birth. Open and truthful discussion of the child's past is the most effective approach; denial and secrecy by the adoptive parents can damage the child's social and emotional functioning". All these points of views expose the importance that may offer the adoption cooperation that can allow to parents to ensure the child wellbeing in the adoption process. Consequently, these two articles, 68 and 69, show the necessity to apply mediation to

adoption field due to weaknesses analyzed in this process, like specified in Etter (1997) focusing on the practice of skills and knowledge related to adoption mediation field.

We have analyzed the interventions of AAOs that are done at both level adoption pre-placement and post-placement adoption. In the next point, we examine how the ISWR assures the control of the adoption pre-placement with the experiences of its three participants working in this institution. We have also studied how the foster cares participate in socialization processes with the adoptive family in the adoption process. The foster care managers selected shared the experiences that they made in observing the children socialization with the prospective adoptive parents. The birth parents selected are also interviewed on three questions related to the way use to place their children in adoption, the perceptions about the adoption, and the feelings and experiences in their child placement in the pre-adoption process. Further, after the analysis of participants' opinions, we proceed to scrutinize the microsystem of the adopted children or the future microsystem of children in foster care. The microsystem of adopted children is related to post-adoption.

The control adoption pre-placement realizes the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) is done as mentioned by these three following interviewees:

### **Participant 1:**

There is the section of social services which deals mainly with the control of the preplacement of the child. A child abandoned at General Hospital or in any hospital in the country it is the section that receives the child and places in a child's house (foster care) temporarily. Why is it temporarily? Because at any time the natural parents can present themselves and claim this child. For example, there was a case, ten years ago, there was a file (of adoption) that was finalized, the process was in the preparation phase of the child's passport for this trip. Suddenly, the birth mother introduced herself, what happened? The child mother had gone to Dominican Republic (a neighboring country) she left her child in the hands of one of their sisters, child aunt. The child was sick the aunt went to General Hospital at pediatric service, she abandoned the child in this service. But in the new adoption procedure, there is a time that has been set as soon as a child is placed in a child home (foster care). There is a time when we consider this child completely abandoned but we do not where parents come to claim these children.

This participant underlined the section of social service that is in charge of control of the child placement. And also added that this service receives the abandoned children from of different hospital of the country to place them in foster care temporary before to place them for adoption in the deadline established by adoption law.

## **Participant 2:**

For this question, I do not have too much information it would be better to see the section of the social services having more data on this question.

This respondent estimated that he has not enough information about the control of the adoption pre-placement of the child. He advised me to see the section of the social services that the first participant has already mentioned. It is not important to contact this service because their person resource selected may complete together with the information necessary to this question.

## **Participant 3:**

The adoption pre-placement is the work that we do, the first step of adoption, the foster care or the cabinet send the child file to the follow-up 's section which will bring it in the Multidisciplinary Unit that does the analysis for all the biological parents if the child file is acceptable. If I do not call a parent it is that the file is not acceptable.

Then, the file is prepared, it is satisfactory we are working on the file. The parent has just given the consent and the child's father must be presented. If the child's father is missing, the child-parent must go to a Court to make the statement so that they can have a disappearance reports that justified that they have not seen this father, and that will give to the juvenile judge. The juvenile judge accepts that the parent has given the consent and after thirty (30) days if the parent does not make a renunciation, now the child is adoptable. We will now move to relatedness periods. Once the parent sings the pre-consent to juvenile judge, the child is adoptable. They are children of the State, the foster care has nothing to do with this thing, normally the foster care should not see anything. It is the child of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) and the ISWR that must find the adoptive parent for their child.

And after the relatedness is done, socialization, the parent is accepted and the socialization period is made. If the social worker went and he found that the affiliation did not really make between the child and adoptive parent. We can report that this child with this family cannot coincide. Normally, we have to make two meetings: a first meeting when the adoptive parent just arrives and another, when the adoptive parent must return to their country. But sometimes, we do one in the middle because of the lack of locomotive means. And sometimes we also organize two meeting if the need is necessary.

This participant plays an important role in the adoption process mainly in the Multidisciplinary Unit. In the first phase in the pre-placement of adoption, it is mentioned that child file must send by the foster care or cabinet to the section of follow-up that sends it to Multidisciplinary Unit for analyzing the acceptability of the child file. If the child file is acceptable the birth parent will summon to give their consent but with child father. If the child father is missing the birth parents need to go to a Court to make a declaration about the question and to get

disappearance reports that can prove to juvenile judge for the parent's consent. After this consent, a period of thirty days is given to make the renunciation. Once the parent does not make the rejection, the child is adoptable and becomes only the child of the ISWR, that is eligible to find a prospective adoptive family for the child. Once prospective adoptive is found and the relatedness will proceed with the socialization process that is done between the child and prospective adoptive family. The socialization period is supervised by the ISWR social worker who assesses the child and adoptive family relationships. The interviewee declares that this assessment can make in two meetings in reasons of the circumstances or needs.

The three interviews allow describing the control adoption pre-placement by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). This control is realized through three sections that are based in the ISWR, that are the section of the Social Service, the Section of Follow-up, and the Multidisciplinary Unit. The first is responsible to receive the abandoned children, declaration of child placed in foster care in the forty-eight (48) hours of the child placement in the foster care, the second section receives the child file and send to multidisciplinary Unity that plays an essential role that examines the child file acceptability, the child eligible criterion for adoption, makes the relatedness and also assess the socialization process between the child and prospective adoptive family. The different elements shared by the interviewees showed that the control of the child preplacement in adoption is based essentially on three aspects, that are child file acceptability (Art.41), the child eligible criterion for adoption (Art.19,43,44,49), and relatedness (Art.21,52, 53).

All these interventions in the pre-adoption placement control centralize only to examine the child eligible criterion for adoption even the birth mother or father of the child is not in the incapacity psychical and physical to care for the child. Any service is not proposed as an alternative to support the families who decide to place their child for adoption. However, in the same adoption law, in the article 41, it writes that the protections of the child to his biological parent should be encouraged throughout the evaluation period. During this period, the central authority has the obligation to support this family to preserve the family unit (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:20). As revealed in this article the birth family making decisions to place their child for adoption what type support provides by the central authority to assist the families? The birth parents' interviewees have answered to this interrogation.

In this point, we examine the socialization process already underlined where the adoptive parent should realize with the child in the foster care. And that is evaluated by a social worker who

examines relationships displayed between the child and prospective adoptive family and writing a report for making decisions. One of three interviewee avowed that this assessment can be made one or two time in reason of the needs. We chose two foster care managers who explained how the foster cares participate in the socialization process. The two have answered as following:

### **Participant 1:**

Before we had no the socialization process. we made the relatedness. we studied well the files. We identified that the child who cannot match with an adoptive family. Hmm! No, it is not good! It takes a very strong person and the person tells me that she is very sympathetic. We do not feel firmness, in their eyes we do not see the closed. Which means we cannot take this child and give her/him to any parent. In the new procedure, there is socialization, but before there was not before it was necessary to do it yourself and decide to which family we can give the child. But now the ISWR decides to give a child with the profile required but the person must do the socialization of fifteen days in Haiti and at the foster care. The parent must stay at the foster care with the child. We can observe the parents to the foster care with the child. But not with the biological family of the child. It is not possible. Because the biological family, the education we provide to the child now is not the same thing as the biological family, these are two different things. We cannot do that like this, biological parents, me I want the children to know their birth parents' despite being defended in the new law.

This foster care manager avowed before the socialization did not exist, and the foster care managers, themselves were in charge to do the relatedness in giving the example how they proceeded to identify if one adoptive parent can be matching with such child. It is also specified with the new procedure it is the ISWR that decides of the relatedness and that proposes the profile of the child required by the prospective adoptive family. Furthermore, the adoptive family should be made the socialization with the child at the foster care during a period of fifteen days. The foster care can only observe how the adoptive family familiarizes with the child. However, this participant underlines that is not possible to the biological family to meet with the adoptive family during the socialization time at the foster care but it also declares that she encourages their children to recognize their birth parents even it is not permitted by the new adoption law.

### **Participant 2:**

For the adoptive parents, there are the fifteen days of socialization which they are obliged to come to do once to find the letter of relatedness. During these fifteen days as, foster care manager we observe them see how they live with children, how they play and eat with children. What are their intentions with the



children? We inquire them questions so that we can really see if they are ready to adopt the child. They are familiarized with the child and after these fifteen days, the ISWR/ comes to make a type of evaluation report, after we attach to the child's file for the file to continue. During the socialization period, it is the foster care manager who makes a kind of observation. He/she observes and spends a lot of time with the adoptive families to know the people a little. But in the old adoption procedure, there had been not the socialization process. Because ourselves as foster care manager we know the children, we have an ability to study the adoptive parents' files that were very interesting.

Before we facilitated the meetings with the biological families and adoptive parents because we found that they were reasonable. Because we found it judicious, at least since the child was going to live with the adoptive family all the rest of their lives. We found it logical for us to be parent Haitian at least so that he saw to whom, he was going to give the responsibility of this child. We think it was necessary when we were made it, we think it was important.

This interviewee also relates once the prospective adoptive family receives the relatedness letter it is an obligation to come to make the socialization process during a period of fifteen days at the foster care. In this period, the adoptive parents are familiarized with the child. It also said that the foster care manager observes the family with the child to see how she lives with the child. This participant explained that the ISWR comes during the socialization period for making an assessment report. It also declares before this new procedure the socialization did not exist only the foster care authority had the ability to assess the adoptive family file and made the relatedness. It also enhances that she was always facilitated the meetings between the biological family and adoptive that she estimated important for the birth family.

In brief these two foster care managers reveal that the socialization process did not exist in the old procedure. And also recognize with the new procedure adoption once the adoptive parents receive the relatedness letter corresponding to the child required by the ISWR they must come in Haiti to do the socialization process during fifteen days at the foster care with the child. They affirm that the ISWR comes in the foster care during this period to proceed to socialization assessment reports. They mention during this period they also participate to observe the adoptive family with the child and to evaluate how the prospective adoptive family lives with the child. These two participants have a divergence only on the possibility of meeting between the birth parents and adoptive parents, the first participant finds that is not possible but specified that she encourages their children to know their birth parent despite the law constraint. The second foster care manager estimates that is necessary the possibility of meeting between the parents. She proclaims before this new procedure she facilitated meetings between both birth and adoptive parents that she thinks that was judicious. Therefore, these two interviewees

disclose that they have the knowledge in the analysis of the adoptive families' files, and it was their responsibilities in the old procedure to make the relatedness.

The socialization process is essential in the adoption process and facilitates the parties to familiarize before the beginning of other procedure to finalize the process. In the new adoption procedure two articles, 52 and 53, describe when the process may start and how the prospective adoptive families can proceed to finalize the socialization process. The first articles are presented as following:

Once the express acceptance of the adopters has been received, the Haitian Authority authorizes a socialization period between the adoptive parents and the child. Socialization is obligatory. In any case, it cannot be less than two weeks, for both national adoption and intercountry adoption. The central authority, within 10 business days after the familiarization period, approves or refuses the authorization based on an assessment report (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:25).

The socialization period is obligatory in the adoption process. The adoptive family must complete the socialization time necessary. The socialization process is supervised by the ISWR/IBESR via a social worker who assesses this process and produces an assessment report for making decisions. According to one of the interviewees already mentioned above this assessment may organize in two times, but often only one appraisal is doing on the child and adoptive family's familiarization at the foster care by the social worker. It also emphasizes if the case needs two assessments it is possible to do it. Furthermore, the two-foster care managers interviewed describe how the adoptive family familiarized with the child at the foster care. Also, they reveal that they participate to observe how the adoptive family lives with the child during this process.

The different elements explain the socialization procedure and allow revealing three aspects that are important to develop in the socialization process. First, the socialization assessment necessitates one evaluation of the adoptive family through professionals in child welfare out of the foster care at the beginning and at the end the familiarization process. Because the child living in the foster care known a movement from birth home to foster care that is crucial in the child life. Also, will move from foster care to adoptive family home. Its different settings may stay in connection in the future microsystem of the child that is the adoptive family setting, that requires an understanding of different child's environments that may facilitate the adoptive family to know the child's attachment development. Second, despite the law restriction in the

socialization period, the adoptive family and birth parents necessitate support of adoption mediator professionals who may help them to establish the parent's cooperation agreement. Therefore, this cooperation may serve the adoptive family the possibility to obtain information which could be necessary for the future in the best interests of the child. The last aspect to consider in the socialization is the place established for this process. The foster care establishments are not appropriate for this process, the adoptive family and the child should find in a place where both child and prospective adoptive parent may develop or refuse the first relationship. The child welfare social worker or other professionals may really analyze how the prospective adoptive families live daily with the child during this process. Only two days are completely insufficient for the social workers' interventions in this process. However, despite some critical often make to the social worker in this process. The assessing plays a vital role in the adoption process. Moreover, Crocker and Allain (2011:114) illustrated that:

A good working relationship between the assessing social worker and the adopters is critical as prospective adopters are being asked to reflect the own histories and share detail information about themselves. The assessing social worker, in turn, needs to analyze this information to determine how able and adopter would be a parent and what type of child would 'fit', i.e. that the attachment style held by adults complements the attachment style of the child. What is becoming increasingly apparent is that not only are prospective adopters' lives are equally complex.

Here, it shows the importance of the assessing social worker to scrutinize the prospective adopters. This assessing may help to determine the type of child attachment corresponds with such of type adopter. It also reinforces the importance to revise the socialization process that is a basis for making decisions about adoption.

In this point, we examine one actor who is less considered in the preplacement adoption. However, the birth parents as much as the adopters require a lot of support in the adoption pre-placement. The seven birth parents as participants in this works may help to understand the type of supports that should be appropriated to them at this stage. Two questions try to examine this aspect and the answers of participants may explain their needs, the first concerns the knowledge about the type of adoption that they have done for their child and they answered as follows:

### **Participant 1:**

Yes, they were told me that there is plenary adoption. That's how they were explained to me but I do not remember everything. They had been asked is that I accepted the adoption of my children. I said yes.

They were told they will not be my children anymore. I said that it is not a problem. They were told that children will have another mom, another dad, and another godmother. I said is not a problem because the children could have a mom, another dad but when the children will start in adulthood even the person who adopts them can be a white parent. She could tell them there is a black parent who is their parent. Despite that I was happier because they would have a life that would not have done for them.

This birth mother has affirmed that she had been informed what is the adoption mainly international adoption. And also, she has underlined that she has accepted the conditions that required the international adoption. However, this parent thinks that their children could have a recognition via the adoptive family who will inform their children of the birth mother origin. Then she also mentioned that their children will have a life that would not have possible with her.

### **Participant 2:**

I did not know what kind of adoption my kids had done. Because the foster care manager did not tell me nothing about this thing. When the foster care manager organized the documents, I gave her my file and child file. She took me to do all the files only when the children I was not aware until now I do not know anything about the international adoption.

This birth parent reveals that she did not inform about international adoption. The adoption files were organized through the by foster care manager. However, this adoption was realized before the new adoption law where the foster care manager was permitted to do the relatedness. It is also possible for this reason this participant was not clearly informed the type of adoption about of their children.

### **Participant 3:**

I did not inquire what kind of adoption they did for my child. Because it had always been told that the child when he leaves, it is only their motivation that will allow him to return to Haiti. But also, I did not have any understanding of international adoption. It was only saved that I wanted to save the child life.

This parent participated in a process where she has ignored completely the thing that she realized. Then, she did know what kind of adoption that his child did and also, she did not have any understanding of intercountry adoption. However, the most important for her it was saved the child life but only she was informed that the child can return if he will decide.

#### **Participant 4:**

They have said that the child has made an international adoption. They have said at the limit that we gave the child to international adoption as the biological parent, we lose all priority over the child. They have said that adoptive parent who adopts the child is her mother and his father. It is the adoptive parent who has all the priority over the child, to the limit that was signed the consent to give the child, we lose the power on the child. I had a lot of trouble when they have said that. Because I had only one child so I gave it for adoption. But the style of life that he should live with me I saw that he could not live it. Because I live in a country we do not know, no matter, any accident I could die. The child is with me he has not a father and I personally did not have a mother and father.

This birth mother has known what kind of adoption that she made for his child. And also, she has informed about the ceased of parental rights that is necessary for this process. However, she has explained the reasons that forced her to give his child for adoption despite that she has affirmed that it was a trouble for her. But she wants to save the child life and to allow to his child to live a better life that she thinks that could not have possible with her. She has decided to give the child to international adoption.

#### **Participant 5:**

I had taken the plenary adoption for my children. They were told once we give the child, we give him/her definitively. It is given to parent for adoption. We do not have the right to the child. It is the white parent who has the right to the child. Only we can receive the child information, receive the child photos. Afterward, they were told that they have not been a guaranteed that they are going with the child and they will bring them back again. It is the child who will make his choice when he grows up.

This biological parent has two children in adoption and she has known what kind of adoption that she has made for their children. And she has informed that the parent right is ceased completely and transmitted to the white parent. She has also added that she is guaranteed that she can receive photos and information about their children. But any guaranteed on the possibility if the children can return only when they will become adulthood maybe they could decide.

#### **Participant 6:**

International adoption, well, they explained to me. They told me if I would give the children, do I agree that I cannot have priority over children? For example, so that I cannot talk and see them. They have told if I would be informed that the children would have a problem in their adoptive family what should I do?

I said good, instead, they were with me so they would have a problem. Rather than where they live, they would be better instead so that they live any situation. Preferably, where they live they would live as God is alive. God is there he knows if I will see them if I will not see them. But I put them back in the hands of God.

This birth mother also affirmed that she made the international adoption and she has been informed about this. But she said that she would not like children live any situation. And she would prefer that children would have a problem in the adoptive parents instead of with her. And she hopes that their belief helps her if she should see the children or not.

### **Participant 7:**

International adoption, they have said that we will never see the child, that the child is not yet our child. It is the family adoptive that will adopt the child that will be their parent and mother.

This natural mother was informed what is that the international adoption. She has also affirmed that the parent right is ceased once the child has a family adoptive.

In summarizing, we have interviewed seven birth mother about of their understanding of the type of adoption they have made for their children. Five birth parents have exposed that they were informed of the kind of adoption that they have done. Two have affirmed that they have not known more thing on the kind of adoption that they have made. The common point between these natural parents they have used the international adoption to offer a better life with their child/children. Some of them have a belief that they will see their child or will inform about of their child. Its different sensitivities shared through their biological mothers have exposed that they have not abandoned their children definitively. They appear that they have feelings of troubles that they live in the pre- adoption placement.

At the last point, we examine the second question corresponding to the feelings and experiences of birth parents in adoption's pre-placement. The birth parents who have participated in this work have answered at this interrogation in the following points:

### **Participant 1:**

When I gave my children for adoption I did not really have a problem. Because I always come to see them. When I came to see the children, I saw that they were better than before. I saw them they were better now it did not worry me. If I saw that they lived badly in foster care, it was going to hurt me a lot. But it was not the case.

This birth parent avowed that she did not live any problem in the adoption. She has estimated that their children were better than before and she always visited their children. So, this parent has not displayed that she has lived problem of trouble in their child placement.

**Participant 2:**

I had no doubt because I did not sign to give my children definitively so that I could never see them again. When I came to the foster care the responsible (foster care manager) told me that the children will close (place for adoption) to find a white parent who will take them so that the children can help me when they will be adult. After the foster care manager told me that he had a family who wanted to adopt the children. At this time, I was sick and I said ok. But when I went back to the foster care, she (foster care owner) told me that the children were traveled. But since at the beginning of my illness she had started going out with me to do some papers, but I did not the day that the children will be moved.

This birth mother has made his adoption in the old procedure but she has affirmed that she did not sign to give definitively their children in adoption. However, the children were moved that she did not inform. Implicitly this parent was troubled because the children move without their authorization.

**Participant 3:**

I was affected a lot of, because I was attached to the child. It made me come to the foster care very often. It's every moment I came to see my child.

This parent has affirmed that he has affected with the placement of his child for adoption. And also, he has underlined that he was really attached to his/her child. This parent is unique men as participant between the biological parents.

**Participant 4:**

I felt anesthetic, I felt that it shocked me. But personally, I did not have a mother or a father and when I did this child I was young. I had no opportunity to take care of the child. His father has not taken care of him. I chose to give the child for adoption. Sometimes when they have informed me with that the child will be adopted it shocked me so much. But the situation that I do not want that child lived, I chose to give him for adoption.

This biological family explained that she has really traumatized with their child placement. But she not found support to take care of his child. She decided to place the child for adoption to avoid the child to live such situation. She affirmed when she was informed that the child will adopt and she was completely worried.

### **Participant 5:**

It saddened me a lot of, I saw that I have the children I should live with them and I am their mother. But when I went to see them in the foster care I am happy seeing them the way they take care of them. Because personally, I could not take care of them in the same way.

This parent declared that it was very troubled for her when she has seen that she cannot live with their children as a mother. However, she estimated that she was happy when she has seen how the children have lived in the foster. She has thought that the children have very well cared in the foster care.

### **Participant 6:**

I had resigned, compared, although I never stopped crying. But I had asked God a lot of strength and courage. I said he has seen for what purpose I gave my child my children. It is not so that I can go to live a free life. It is not so that I can go to bloom that I exhaust them gave for adoption. But God saw why I gave them.

This participant was not different than the others birth parents, she has also affirmed that she has been felt traumatized with the child placement. But she has declared that God knew the causes that forced her to give the children for adoption.

### **Participant 7:**

I lived with a grief, at the same time I resigned myself. When I see other children playing, running with their mother I have sorrow. But then I said that it is a child who does not die. Even if I do not see him now I will hope for a moment he would live with me.

This birth mother reveals that she was affected by their child placement. But she avows that she was obliged. She believes that she could live with the child one day because he does not die.

In summarizing, six birth parents have underlined that they were felt traumatized by the adoption placement of their child. Only one parent was estimated that she has not any problem during the pre-adoption placement. Each birth parent has explained a reason for the child placement. The different feelings and experiences exposed through the parents show that they were in the incapacity to take care of their children. The foster care has represented for them the only place where they can find assistance for their children. During the different interviewees, we have also observed that the birth mothers were reminded very quickly the feelings and experiences that they lived in their child pre- adoption placement. It seems that its



different moments stayed drawing in their daily lives. Here it is proved that the birth parents need to take in charge it the pre-adoption placement. It's not only necessary to provide psychosocial support to prospective adoptive parent it is also primordial for the birth family. This service can provide by the Adoption Service or other professionals in the adoption field. Crocker and Allain (2010) analyzed the importance of an Adoption Service for the parties involved in the process. They affirmed that:

An Adoption Service works closely with the child's social worker, the child's foster carers, and the birth family of the child, and liaises closely with adoption panel (Multidisciplinary Unit). The core of the work, however, focuses on preparing children for adoption on finding families for them, supporting the adoptive placements, assessing adults as prospective adopters and providing counselling for adults' adopters who are seeking information about their birth families (Cocker & Allain, 2011: 110).

In addition to point of views of those authors, it is important to support the pre-adoption placement, to evaluate adults as prospective adopters as well as birth parents and providing them counseling during the pre-adoption placement. Some tendencies are often focused on the prospective adoptive parents who should be assisted through professionals during the adoption decisions without considering the birth parents supports. Absolutely, the prospective adoptive parent paid or received the services appropriate for adoption counseling even before the adoption decisions. It is also essential to consider one view already described that the foster care should not receive the children, it should be the ISWR that must be the first place where the natural parents should communicate such need for the child placement.

The parents must be assisted over a long period with the child 'needs and also an assessment could make for justifying a placement real for adoption. In the next point, we examine the last settings of the adopted children and that is also the future setting of the prospective adopted child. Some adoption studies described this environment as the child family substitute or permanent placement of the child. Studies also considered this setting as the purpose of the child adoption. The Hague Convention and the New adoption law of the estimate that this environment should ensure the best interest of the child and provide to the child a permanent family. The best interests of the child known some debates in the adoption works. Westman (1991) cited in Pardeck's (2008:24) works, concluded that the child' 'best interests' may be shaped mainly to meet the challenging adults 'pretenders' desires or to preserve the agencies (States/Governments) general policies where the child needs are frequently subsidiary. This point of view also shared by other authors already showed that the adoption is principally in the

best interests of adoptive family and the child is secondary. Because when the rich families necessitate these desires they spent a sum of money to obtain a child. Moreover, the children placed for adoption often from poor families unable to find support in the origin country to take care of their children.

Also, Pardeck (2008:24) stated that “with state intervention into family is that the standards that guide this intrusion are not very clear and at times arbitrary. An excellent example of this is the ‘best interest’ standard that has emerged in the field of child welfare”. In addition, Westman (1991) cited Pardeck’s (2008:24) works, admitted that this idea is often founded ‘on middle - class values’ and may use as causes for children placement in rich families. And what that explains that the children may be removed from poor families to rich families merely because they belonging to a poor family. This interchange characterizes the intercountry adoption that is based mainly on the child’s the best interests that may be appeared available only in the adoptive family. In this immediate place where the child is living with adoptive family called the post-adoption. The post-adoption in the ecosystems perspective represents the microsystem of the adopted child.

#### **4.3.3. Microsystem in the adoption process**

Microsystem in the ecosystems model symbolizes the immediate setting of an individual. In the adoption process, the child often moves from birth home to foster care house and from to foster care home to adoptive parent home as microsystem. In each setting, the child has transactions and relationships that may always have influences on the child development and child attachment. This impacts on the child development or attachment may be positive or negative. The microsystem of the child in the post-adoption often maintains or keeps the transactions and relationships with the other settings that he lived. Palacios (2012), already cited in this works said that adoption knows some ideas, from dyad adoption to triangle adoption, and also enhances the birth mothers to this triangle that creates an adoption quadruple with the adopted children-adopted parents-birth parents and adoption specialists. Palacios estimates that the birth mothers are really important to consider because they may facilitate the relationships networks in the post-adoption. It is the reason that explains his position for the adoption quadruple. The birth mother’s relationship in the child life is natural but the child may always have attachment problems in this setting if the natural mother has developed with the child a relationship that is based on troubles or lack of sharing of love to the child. Pardeck (2008:10) attested that the natural family kinships start at birth. The child attachment is depending on the first birth home

once this attachment has been troubled, the child may grow up with this problem in these different environments.

Additionally, Gittenden (2008:16) cited by (David Howe) in Gray and Webb (2013:79) confirmed that “each adaptive response and behavioral strategy. Therefore, reflects the quality of the attachment relationship. An infant’s attachment behaviors and strategies represent his or her best attempts to ‘thrive and survive’ in the context of the particular parent-child relation”. Similarly, children develop the type of attachment that they received. That means that children adopted in the adoptive family need a great understanding in their development phases because they may affect in its different experiences lived. Moreover, David Howe cited in Gray and Webb (2013:75) added that “the children psychosocial development was the product of their actual, lived experiences with their caregivers, siblings, and others family members”. Consequently, these authors disclose that the children adopted need to be considered in its different settings in the development stages. The adopted children microsystem is shaped of their adoptive family home. Also, Pardeck and Pardeck (1998) cited by Pardeck (2008:11) attested that the adopted child develops a great sense of continuity with the past and present if he or she has knowledge about biological parents and others significant people who shared the past. Besides, Rogers (2016:44) documented that in Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory (1979), **microsystem** symbolized all roles and kinships in the current environment of a person. In the adoption process, the post-adoption represents also the child microsystem. In this micro-system, it analyzes the roles and relationships likely for the adopted children.

Lastly, the last mainly purpose of this paper tries to examine the obstacles at which the parties in the post-adoption may be confronted or lived and also intends to try to propose how resolves this challenge particularly in the best interests of the child. Consequently, this point aims *to suggest recommendations for an application of the adoption mediation in the adoption process in Haiti, that can facilitate to resolve the psycho-social problems in the post-adoption in the best interests of the child.* In the context to determine if the post-adoption has some impacts, we have interviewed three adoption authorities working in the ISWR. Three questions have been posed: one on the control the best interests of the child in post-adoption; second, the desires displayed by the adopted children to seek the connection of their natural family; and third, the ISWR perceptions on the open adoption or parent’s cooperation. The foster cares, play a great role in the post-adoption, in the adoption process often they receive the information on adopted children and keeping a relationship with adoptive family and they share the adopted

child information with their biological family. For these reasons, we have interviewed two foster care managers who have answered to three questions about information requirements between the parties, adopted children-adoptive parents- biological parents, in the post-adoption.

To conclude, the last group participants who are seven natural parents have been interviewed and answered to one question about their feelings and lives experiences in the post-adoption, this including these followings items: lived problems- desires child's contacts and child's information. These different answers may help to understand the challenges of the adoption triad, birth parents-adopted children-adoptive parents in the post-adoption in their different desires manifested to full some psychosocial problems. First, these participants answered the first questions about the control the well-being of the children in the post-adoption. Each interviewee has given an answer via their experience as practitioners in the adoption process.

### **Participant 1:**

According to the new law, the agencies (AAO) must send reports every six months. Previously, for people (adoptive parents) there was no obligation but now they have a responsibility to send post- adoption assessment reports. This is why agencies (AAO) are the first to be involved in the adoption process because they are in contact with the adoptive parents. Accordingly, it is an interaction that ends almost with the child 's majority age. So, the agencies are obliged to follow the child and send a regular report about the child progression until his majority's age.

This new law is in its implementation phase, all that is said in this law does not yet in application i.e. about the post-adoption follow-up. So, very often it in agreement with agencies or the other central authorities, the ISWR is invited to make visits. But it should be not done by an invitation but by the ISWR itself. We work in this sense; we will end up accustomed but the ISWR must provide itself resources to go to visit itself or via the consulates that are placed in its countries.

Although the adopted children come here (IBESR) very often accompanied by the adoptive parents, they come to finding their biological parents. It is where there is the difficulty very often especially in the old law it was the children' homes that were organized adoption and all steps of adoption. It was the children's homes that sent the file to the ISWR. So, how the process was done very often the ISWR was not so well informed how this whole process was done. When the children come to finding the parents it always is a great challenge. From 1996 to present day (2018), I am in this direction, personally, my biggest problem is to find the biological parents of the children. Because the way that the files are prepared with imprecise information and even if we had the information.

This participant declares that the control of the post-placement adoption is done by the AAOs with the new adoption law. They are in charge to send a post-adoption assessment report every

six months until the adopted child's majority age. He considers that the AAO is very connected with the adoptive parents, it is why they are involved in the adoption process. He underlines that this law is in the implementation stage and all the post-adoption follow-up is not yet applied. And also, some visits realized by the ISWR are done under the invitation of the AAOs or other central authorities. He proclaims that the ISWR must assure itself the post-adoption follow-up using the personal resources or using the Haitian Consulates established in its countries. In concluding, he discloses that the adopted children come often with adoptive parents in the ISWR to finding their biological parents. However, he appraises that this situation stays a challenge for this institution it is not often easy to find the adopted children's birth parents due to the files arrangement in the ancient law.

## **Participant 2:**

Well-being of the child!!! First of all, to be able to make a valid assessment of the child 's well-being. It is when ourselves (ISWR) as social workers if there is an evaluation that would be done for seeing how the child lives in the adoptive family. It is us (ISWR) that should go out in Haiti that can move to make this assessment but it will cost a lot of money to make these trips. For this reason, at the time, we made a proposal that even through the Haitian Consulates in those countries. We could choose a social worker to go to play this role, in the accredited countries where live those adoptive children, visit, prepare reports and show if those children are good in their new substitute families. Because a child could go out in Haiti where he lives in a poor 's condition. He is not too well for his well-being and not too well insured. The child could go to another country where he is well, take care of him, economically, he has no problem but funding cannot provide maternal love, attachment, and psychosocial characteristic. For example, I met a child who was adopted, she explained to me that she worked well and his economy is good. Nonetheless, she asked herself a questioning set why her biological mother had given her in adoption, did not her mother need her, look at how he shines, she works well at school, look at how her adoptive parent admired her, why her biological mother rejected her? Their parent who adopts her today, tomorrow will not also reject her?

No, strictly speaking, the ISWR does not evaluate the child's well-being in post-adoption. Only the ISWR receives assessment reports from children that show how they evolve in the new host families. But this information in its reports is not written by us (ISWR), it is written by the AAO who presented us (ISWR) with these reports. Can we say that these reports are reliable? No, because to the extent that the person who prepares these reports provide the story of the child's adoption, the child health state, the child's development (how the child evolves in the family, the attachment...). It is this kind of relationship with the pictures of the child in the family that received the ISWR

There is nothing that comes out of the ISWR is that the ISWR could only receive the reports and classified them. After these reports, the ISWR should send a person to go check and do another assessment. It is to show you(interviewer) how we cannot really make a good assessment of the well-being of the child.

Because the child's well-being is when the child develops in a new family where he is psychological, mentally well. Because the child can live physically well but mentally he is not fit.

This interviewee questioned itself the well-being of the child. He estimated that a real assessment of the best interest of the child, it is when the ISWR could move or send the Social workers to evaluate the child in her new family. In the past he affirmed that he proposed even through the Haitian Consulates in those countries, the ISWR could choose social workers to go to full this role. He said a child can move for a poor condition and finding all the comfort in the adoptive family and economically the child has no problem. However, the child may suffer a lack of maternal love, attachment, and psychosocial problems. He admits that the ISWR does not evaluate the child's well-being in the post-adoption. He underlined that the ISWR received only the reports that explained how the child evolved in the adoptive family and quoted that these reports have written by the AAOs. He questioned the consistency of these reports and he specified once that the ISWR received these reports and classified them, there is no follow-up that realized about the information presented in these reports. So, he indicates that the must make to another post-adoption assessment because he considers that the well-being, it is when the child develops mentally and psychosocially well in their new family and underlines that the child may be physically well but mentally may be traumatized.

### **Participant 3:**

With the new procedure of 2013 on adoption, post-adoption follow-up is planned by the Approved Adoption Organization (AAO), with the parents and adoption authority. Here is a sample report that we have just received from an agency, Marken's 12-month post-adoption placement report in which described how the child evolved in the family and their school progress. This report according to the law must send to the ISWR every six (6) months but in relation to the child number the agency may send it annually, that is to say, every 12 months.

I am in this institution since 2011. Personally, what had caught my attention, it is that I had also thought that the institution could have a professional who can go to do the post-adoption assessment. But they said to me once that the adopted child, immediately act of adoption is made, he is become a citizen of their destination country. They have explained to me that it is an American citizen, not a Haitian citizen, once the adoption is done. But I do not know in this new law if we (ISWR) do not have plans, for even if it is an American citizen of Haitian origin, is that it would not be good to do the post-adoption follow-up.

It is true when the director and other people traveled, they met with some adopted children. But I had thought even after the adoption we (ISWR) would have the opportunity to go to see how the children are

living. I had always asked is that in this law, I had questioned one authority, was not expected that social workers and psychologists could go in these countries to see how the children live. But he had said that it is American and French citizens once they traveled, Haiti would not be too interested. It is only a report of the international expert who should send to the ISWR documents that described the child situation. For me it is true, it is not enough because it is true they send this information about children, said they are good and they live well in their families, showing pictures that they are good in their families.

However, not all adoptions are successful, there are adjustment problems, children cannot adapt to their families. When they sent the reports, I have always observed even if I did not read all the reports. I had met a case that had a coping problem since when he arrived, several times he would go to the police officer. There was a phone problem he took the phone from a friend of her mother. Again, it is a kleptomania that may be developed at the child it could be because there is a lack of affection, not because he wanted the phone, is it that it is not to hurt the adoptive parent. Saying *“you took me in the hands of my mother and my father, I myself will make you live very badly”*, even if it does not need mother phone, even though they bought phones but every time he is arrived in a space, he has always done the same thing. For me, it is an adoption that has not been so successful so the central authority (ISWR) should seek to know the cause of this failure.

For this participant, the post-adoption follow-up is realized according to the new adoption law via the AAOs which have the responsibility to do it with adoptive family and adoption authority. The agency is charged to send a post-adoption assessment reports every six months or annually related to the children number. In these reports, it described how the child evolves in the new family and school progress. However, the interviewee avowed that she thinks that the ISWR should send professionals to do this assessment. She said that they explained to her that children once adopted, are not the Haitian citizen. She also reveals that the adoptions are not always successful, she illustrated a case where a child had a behavior problem that she has considered as an unsuccessful adoption or disruption adoption. She affirmed once that the ISWR received the reports including information of the children situations in the adoptive families there was not really an assessment of these reports for a follow-up. However, she said that she has always observed them even if she did not read all the reports. And she has given one case that she has discovered where the child developed a coping problem, that she considered as kleptomania, that may be caused by a lack of affection, not because the child needed the thing that he took but to hurt the adoptive parent. She estimates that the ISWR should seek to know the reasons when there is this kind of problem.

To conclude, all participants affirmed that the post-adoption follow-up is done by the AAOs that are in charge to assess the post-placement adoption, and they should send only assessment

reports to the ISWR every six months. They declared that the post-adoption follow-up should be made by the ISWR itself through the social workers and psychologists. Two of them stated that the institution may use the support of Haitian Consulates accredited in those countries to do to these assessments with the social workers. One participant recognized that the director or other personnel often traveled in of countries they met with some children and another participant also mentioned that in agreement with agencies or the other central authorities, the ISWR is invited to make visits. But they admitted that there is no process established formally that allows to professionals to go to do this post-adoption follow-up and according to them the post-adoption does not evaluate by the ISWR. Two of them declared that the post-adoption reports received, have not analyzed by the ISWR. One participant admits that the ISWR does not evaluate the child's well-being in post-adoption and estimates that only documents to assess the child situation it is not enough because it is true they send this information about children, described they are living well in their families, showing photos that they are good in their families according to this participant is insufficient to assess the well-being of the child.

The post-adoption assessment represents a significant step in the adoption process because the challenges that exit in the adoption, each of parties may live a problem that requires an intervention. The post-adoption services often provide by the adoption agencies who support the adoptive family during a time period may differ from one country to another. The central authority of adoption of sending country should assess the child post-adoption with the professional team in relation with other central authority in the receiving country established, that may proceed to assess to different causes from the adoptive family that may be prejudicial to the child-well-being. In reasons of the adoption complexity, the reports received the ISWR should be analyzed and to assessed the follow-up available, that may realize in relation with the central authority of receiving country where such assessment is necessary. In the new procedure of 2013 on adoption, in the Articles 68(8) and 69(5), provide the same tasks of the international and national AAO in the post-adoption follow-up that is "to accompany prospective adoptive parents after the arrival of the child, including in post-adoption follow-up reports" (MAST/IBESR, Avril 2015:30-31). The Hague Convention on intercountry adoption also recognizes that an adopted child placed in an adoptive family may have some assessments in the post-adoption. In his Art.9, it is written that:

Central Authorities shall take, directly or through public authorities or other bodies duly accredited in their State, all appropriate measures, in particular to, (c) promote the development of adoption counselling



and post-adoption services in their States; (d) provide each other general evaluation reports about experience with intercountry adoption; (e) reply, in so far as is permitted by the law of their State, to justified requests from other Central Authorities or public authorities for information about a particular adoption situation (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993).

The Central Authorities have the elements important that may help to solicit or to organize the post-adoption follow-up establishing following this Convention. This Convention does not relate that it is not permitted to a Central Authority to proceed to a post-adoption follow-up. But it admits that all the post-adoption follow-up should do in relation with other Central Authority where this assessment could be realized. Nonetheless, it reveals in the post-adoption follow-up established, the same agencies that assist the prospective adoptive parent in their adoption process, also is in charge to assess the post-adoption for the Central Authority of the origin country. It appears a dilemma for an appropriate assessment for the post-adoption follow-up. It would be more ethical if it is a national agency or Central Authority's representative accompanied adoption professionals for such assessment.

These three participants answered to the second question around adopted children who come to the ISWR displaying their desires to join their biological family in the post-adoption. Every interviewee has specified their experience about such situation in the adoption process.

### **Participant 1:**

Very often what happens, two cases can be occurred. We have young adoptees who come to visits us (ISWR/IBESR) with the adoptive parents as well as natural parents. They have been looking the biological parents themselves. How? I do not know. They are very often adopters who come with boys aged 17, 18 and 19 years old. They came to tell you 'we were at Marbial in the height of Jacmel (Sud Esty of Haiti) visited our biological family. They came to see us at the IBESR to say we were at this place of the Republic to visit their parents. There are also cases, young people who want to have information about biological parents, so there are several cases.

For example, in the case of an investigation where the foster care does not exist. If the foster care no longer exists where are you going to get the information? We have a case, there is sister Veronique who was responsible for a foster care "Maison des Victoires", this foster care no longer exists with the death of Veronique. So, these children placed or the files that were in this foster care, we do not have all these archives. Except for the

social history, only that saw that child has been in this foster care. The parents live in this or that place. But we can always go to the area and see if these parents still live in this area.

So, this is a really difficult case, I will leave the IBESR with this regret when they ask me, help me find my biological parents I know it is a really difficult request. That is why, I encourage the adoptive person or adoptive parent to hire someone, to hire a social worker, to do the research. I do not say a private detective but look for the biological parents for you. Because the IBESR do not has the structure for such reality. Especially, in the old system, it is the foster cares that made the files they sent us (IBESR) the files. Now the IBESR is fully involved, so from this new law, if we want to look for biological parents we could always look for.

The intentions of the adopted children to connect with the natural parents are often manifested. This participant declared often adopted children come alone or with their adoptive parents to seek their biological parents. However, he said that sometimes, it is very difficult for the IBESR to retrace their birth parents because in the old procedure it was the foster care that arranged the adoption files and sent to the IBESR, and often this foster care did not exist. Sometimes, only with the child social history, it is also difficult to find the parents due to the different movements of these birth parents. He affirmed that he has a regret because when there is this kind of case often he is unable to help the adopted children to find their natural parents and the institution has not a structure for an eventual situation. But he recognizes with the new procedure of adoption where the IBESR has the control adoption files if there is a requirement, it may be likely to find the biological parents but that was more difficult for the children adopted on the old procedure.

### **Participant 2:**

This is a very beautiful question, yes, it is true recently, there was a young lady 6 or 7 years ago. I always took it as an example, who came out from Canada, was evolving with her adoptive family. She was engaged and married. It seems as if she had fallen on their adoption document and said oh well! She is going into talks with their adoptive family, and it was said yes, she was adopted in Haiti. She asked their parent so she could meet their biological family. It was given a green light on the adoption file because it seems like a person coming in 35 or 36 years. Their adoptive family handed her the document and was sent her to Haiti.

When she came back to Haiti she did at least a month and a half before coming to IBESR. It is in Caribbean Radio (a radio station in Port-au-Prince) that I have heard her speak that she would like to meet with their biological family. It was sent to IBESR directly directed to me. I did at least a month really working with this lady. It is in Cap-Haitien, it is a sister of catholic church who found her on a pile of garbage and the sister has returned it in a process adoption. But when it is an abandoned child the IBESR has no information about the biological family. That is what makes The Hague Convention privileges the abandoned child instead of a child having a biological family. Because a child with a family should not go into adoption, such as a mother or father giving his child for adoption, the IBESR should refuse. It is to make sure that we have just talked about the “Principle of Subsidiarity”, to allow the child to stay in their family, to provide the child family the possibility to be able to support their child. Because we can read in this law that poverty is not a cause of adoption. However, we can see in all the conclusions, in all records, consent to adoption. We see that a single sentence ‘parents say they are not able to provide care for their child and they give their child in adoption.

This participant confirmed the adopted children often manifested their desires to go to Haiti for seeking the birth family connection. He has given one example of an adoptee who went to Haiti for finding their family but that was not available because it was an abandoned child. He declares it should be the abandoned child who should be privileged as related in The Hague Convention in the adoption process, because he admits that one child who has a family not should be in adoption. And it also underlines that in all the adoption files, consent to adoption, the families have justified that the poverty is the cause in their adoption-decisions.

### **Participant 3:**

Personally, I think it is a good thing. Since it is normal that the child seeks to know their origin. There are children, it is only their origin that they wanted to know. Since they know it sometimes after they can go without even trying to return again. So IBESR (ISWR) must leave an archive where the child can have a place of origin or reference person in case they cannot find their biological parents.

It is normal I think it is to encourage in case there are young adoptees who want to find the connection with biological parents. But I know a young adoptee who made it but never comes back. There are families who have explained to their children that they have been adopted.

For example, there is one case, the adoptive family would like to take their child to come visit their biological family living to Jeremiah after the Cyclone that was passed in October 2016 despite the proscribed adoption law. It is shown that adoptive parent explained to the child that he was adopted but these are occasional cases. And also, the families who do not explain to their children that they have been adopted. For example, I have a similar adoption file where the adoptive parent of the child does not want him to know their history how he has been adopted but the child could stumble upon a picture showing that he was adopted.

This interviewee justifies that there are some adoptees who come to Haiti to know their origin family. She estimates that it was a good thing when the adopted child manifests these wishes. She also declares that often the adopted child wants only to know the natural family but sometimes, they don't will come back to visit their birth family. She thinks that it is a thing to encourage by the Institute of the Social Welfare and Research (ISWR). She has given two examples showing that one adopted child came to Haiti to see the birth family and one adopted child where the adoptive family does not want to inform the child about their adoption history. The different elements revealed by the participants showed that some adopted children manifested their desires about their origin. Two participants have acknowledged that often the adoptive parents come with the adopted children to seek their natural parent. In this study, we don't have the adoptive parent and the adopted child who could help us to examine the reasons that motivated the adopted children to return to their roots. And also, we don't have the adoptive parents' opinions about their experiences with their adopted children who may be manifested the desires to know the natural parents. One of the participants estimated that the ISWR should encourage, once that adopted children display the desires to know the origin families and also mentioned one case where the adoptive family refused to inform their adopted child to know their origin family. We don't have researches in which it described the number of Haitian adopted children who are not permitted to know their adoption history and also that explained the reasons that prevent some adoptive parents to inform their adopted children about the adoption history. However, the adopted child has the right to the information about their adoption history. All the restrictions of the adopted child on the roots represent some ways for ceasing the child with the past. This kind of restriction may affect the child life and may reinforce their desires to know their past. Pardeck's (1998) already mentioned in this work, estimated that the secrecy of the child past may mutilate child psychosocial development.

Nevertheless, Baltimore's (2008) work highlighted that Kohler, Grotevant, and McRoy (2002), demonstrated that individuality misinterpretation does not represent an essential consequence for adopted persons. They explained that some adoptees may be troubled by the social constructions of their adopted status as opposed to having psychosocial complications. They evidenced that focusing on the psychological issues of the identity formation may be erroneous because in many cases, the stigmatization of adoption is the root causes for identity confusion. The element that we think important in the authors' point of views is the social construction of the adopted child status that represents the different experiences lived around of their different

settings. They consider that the stigmatization of adoption may characterize mainly the source of the identity confusion. However, we may also estimate that the cessation of the adopted child with their origin imposed by the adoptive parent may consider as an adoption stigmatization form. Further, the adoptive family setting is made part of the social constructions of the adopted child. Consequently, this environment may participate in the adopted child identity confusion with such rupture about their origin.

This point questioned the same participants about their perceptions of the ISWR on parents 'cooperation in the adoption process. The cooperation of parents does not permit in the adoption legislations. However, despite the adoption complexity that is often occasioned in the post-adoption. Some countries authorize a parents' cooperation form to share necessary information available in the post-adoption. This cooperation appears to be more important for the adoptive families because it is themselves often who send their adopted child in their origin country to pursue their family connection or other information about the child. Some studies revealed the importance of an agreement between the parties with the support of professionals or mediation adoptions services to establish how they may define this cooperation. The open adoption between of both birth and adoptive parents, some studies showed that it is more benefits for the parents and also is in the best interests of the child. The openness adoption allows to avoiding the abandoned feelings that may live the adopted child in the post adoption. For this reason, we have interviewed the three participants working at the ISWR and they have given their perceptions about the parents 'cooperation in the adoption process.

### **Participant 1:**

In the new law, adoption is plenary, in this case, the ISWR is the mediator. From the new law, for the old cases (adopted children) it is a little difficult. But with the new law, it is not the foster care that is of the deliberate way that offers such child to such adoptive family. If the ISWR is the central authority and plays the role of mediator .... And then the ISWR must be prepared for this sense (parents 'cooperation).

This participant recognizes that adoption is plenary, it says that it does not permit officially for such eventuality. However, he does not show that such possibility of the parent agreement not should be available. He thinks that the institution should be organized for such cooperation because it is the ISWR that is the central authority for adoption and that plays the mediator role.

### **Participant 2:**

There is one country recently that has done what you said (parents 'cooperation), it is Canada. There is a procedure that is applied where even in the act of adoption that will be given to the child, the mother name will mention. Even when the child is adopted by a new family but the biological parent will always remain in the management and evolution of the child. Because there is a child who could fall into unhealthy things but the biological parent could intervene to reach the moral of the child in any situation.

This participant illustrates one country where the parent's cooperation is available. He also relays how the biological parent can participate if the adoptive family will meet a problem in the child development. He also elucidates in case of a child adopted where the biological mother may interfere for helping the adoptive family to modify the child behavior.

### **Participant 3:**

No, they (parents) do not have this right, the law does not allow them. Because normally the adoptive parent should not recognize the biological parent of the child. In the old procedure they could sometimes do it but in the new procedure, they do not have this right. Once parent signed the consent in front of the judge. The parent is renounced of their responsibility of the child. It is hard to tell you (interviewer) that but it is true. We (ISWR) explained them (natural parents) the whole process despite they are continuing to advance. They continue until the consent phase. But after signing in front of the judge they should not see the child yet. It's hard to tell you that but it is true. Because they had the opportunity during all the preparation so that they could express themselves that they would not accept. Although the ISWR also must provide means like Activities Income Generating (AIG/ARG) when a parent said if he had a small income he could have taken care of their child, at this moment we could assist the parent.

The parent's cooperation often is not written in the adoption legislation. This participant underlines that the law does not permit it. The birth and adoptive parent should not be recognized. She discloses in the old procedure sometimes it has been practiced. She affirms once the birth parents signed their consent in front of the judge they are discharged from the child charge. She also considers that it is a hard situation when the parents signed to forsake their child. However, she also thinks that the ISWR should support the parents who express their needs to take care of their child.

Between the three participants interviewed only one has expressed that it is not available for a parent's cooperation. He is referred to the adoption legislation that is not permitted. One participant has thought that the ISWR should prepare for such possibility and another one has also estimated that this possibility is important in illustrating Canada that started to practice a similar model. The participant who underlined that adoption legislation does not allow, his argument does not differ with another participant who declared with the new law, adoption is

plenary. But one admits that the ISWR as the central authority that plays the mediator role should organize for such possibility.

The parent' cooperation in adoption continues to lead some debates between the adoption legislation supporters and child social welfare professionals. The adoption legislation supporters focus on legal perspectives ignoring all the adoption complications that the laws have not provide any way to resolve in the post-adoption. however, the national adoption legislation and international adoption convention ignore the post-adoption issues that repose only on the responsibility of the adoption social workers or other professionals. The second position, that concentrate on social aspects of the adoption, shared a common point for a parent's cooperation in the adoption process. This position is reinforced with the open adoption notions that developed and analyzed in some studies showing the different advantages offered the parents' cooperation. Mather; Lager; and Harris (2007:18) evidenced that open adoption, now more common, involves situations in which the biological parents may maintain some contact with their children. The contact differs with the individual situations and must be mutually established. Furthermore, Rogers (2016:16) examined open adoption as a procedure that allows the birth parents to maintain a relationship with the adoptive parents about of visitation and communication with their children.

However, this cooperation does not always accept by the adoptive parents who think the birth parents will remain in the children lives. The birth parent in the child life is natural but the adoption process estimates that once the birth parents provide their consent for the child adoption. Legally they do not have any right to the child but the law ignores the child-birth mother relationships that are natural in the child life. Once the adopted child manifests their desire to seek or to know the origin family, one conflict may activate in the adoptive family. This kind of conflict may have some impacts on the child development. All these reasons may explain how the parent's cooperation may facilitate the adoptive family to resolve in the future some post-adoption issues.

Thus, Kornitzer (1968:33) emphasized that adopters were permanently questioned about what kind of contact available with the birth parent. Adopters had often seen the natural mother, even only in the Court, for until rather lately it was traditional for the mother to have to attend the juvenile judge hearing to give their agreement. It is related that some adopters were glad for this opportunity to meet with natural mothers and communicated temporarily in the courts. Though, adoptions humanities pioneers discouraged meetings and thought it was best if the

parties never met. This tendency often recommended to the adopters to apply for order Courts where only the natural parent consent is necessary even the expensive high required in the courts once the adopters were not present. In this point of view, it allows analyzing the tendency of the Courts in the birth parents' right termination that are always favorable to the adopters who have the economic power facilitating them to get a child. However, the most important for the adopters are the children without being attentive to the birth mothers who have made these children. This author allows us to understand the legal aspect of the adoption in the adoption traditional that has not changed about the birth and adoptive parent relationships. Because of now day, in the adoption legislations other than the social profession that advocates the open adoption, any convention international until now does not recognize the open adoption or parent cooperation, even also there is no instrument that refuses this kind of cooperation.

The foster cares in the post-adoption plays always an important role in the adoption. These establishments are often continued in contact with adopters. For this reason, we also questioned two foster care managers about their experiences with the adoptive parents or the adopted children that inquired them to have the contacts of biological parents. These two interviewees have shared their different experiences:

**Participant 1:**

Yes, they come to seek their parents. And also the adoptive parents come with them. They asked to meet with the birth parents. They come to see the birth parents(...).

This respondent affirms that the adopted children display the desires to know the birth parents often accompanied by their adoptive parents.

**Participant 2:**

They (young adopted children) are a lot now who contacted us (foster care manager) to have information about their birth parents. It's not difficult for us to retrace the birth parents when they contacted us. Because we have the adoption files we were available to put up. We also have the contacts of the person who took the birth parents to the foster care. Subsequently, from all of this information, there are also the phone numbers from all of those, we try to find the parents.

For this interviewee, she affirms adopted children come to seek their birth parents and they are numerous. She also declares that it is easy for the foster care to connect with their birth via the birth parents' networks used by this foster care.



Therefore, these two foster care participants have completed the three other adoption authorities interviewed about this questions that have also revealed that the adopted children returned in Haiti to search for or to find their birth parents' origins. However, the adoption process as mentioned by one participant the ISWR is not yet established a way to facilitate the adopted children or adopted parents to find easily the natural parents. It appears for the foster cares it is more available to connect with the birth parents because the two foster care managers interviewed have not declared that they are difficult for them to find the birth parents contacts for the adopted children or adoptive parents. Its different opinions schematize the post-adoption reality showing that adopted children often are accompanied of their adoptive parents and are traveled in the origin country to try to find the natural parents.

The desires of these adopted children manifested for seeking their natural parents, are they occasioned by a deficiency in the adoptive families' setting? Or want they only to reconnect with the birth parent's relationships? According to Pardeck (2008:10), child-birth relationships is introduced at the birth. And also, Pardeck (2008:11) discloses that the adopted child develops a great sense of permanence with the past and present in the case where he or she has known the biological parents and all-important individuals sharing the past. It describes that this process will support the child to renounce hallucinations with the past and elucidate her or his logic of self as an individual by attachment and linked with the natural family. It is also confirmed by Cocker and Allain 's (2011:112) point of views, appraised that adoption does not a termination for children. They describe for a lot 'front line-staff' adoption is considered the child story's end once removed from traumatic settings. They admit that the beginning of new life for these children who lived on a trip with their parent. They underline that the social workers should not think that adoption is the close point, they may disengage in the process too early. Also, it reveals an important statement often the professionals in the adoption field have tendencies once the adopted children are in their substitute family, the children have nothing to see with their other systems. This tendency also does not differ to the child welfare systems. Crocker and Allain's (2011:112) explanations relay that it is "importantly, the local authority s' responsibilities towards the child continue even after adoption order has been obtained in terms of post-adoption supports and contacts, and plans should be made and supported accordingly". It concludes that child adoption has not put the termination in the child history. Also, it demonstrates that the child remains in interaction with their different settings.

We have analyzed the different opinions that explain some adopted children have sought to connect with their natural family in the post-adoption. We want to examine the natural parent experiences in the post-adoption to understand how they live and feel when they display their desires to see or connect with their children who are in adoption. In this point, we examine the feelings and experiences of seven birth parents and who have interviewed. They were all, answered in the following terms.

### **Particiapnt 1:**

Really the children are gone I do not regret. Because when I was watching (post-adoption pictures) the kids I do not regret. Because I found the pictures of the children and I see that they are good. When the foster care manager traveled she gave me information about the children. What the foster care manager made, myself, I could not do it.

This natural mother declares that she has not regretted the adoption of their child because when she has seen the pictures of the children, these children are better than before their adoption. And also affirms that she is informed about of their children by the foster care manager. However, what we reveal at this parent may describe their child adoption reasons. She considers that their children are well and what that foster care manager provided, she cannot do it. It explains that this happiness of this mother arisen to the changes that she has observed after their children adoption.

### **Participant 2:**

I always want to see my children. When I came to foster care to find pictures of my children I never found them. The foster care manager always told me I can return another day but I could not see the pictures of my children. But there are other biological mothers who have always said when they come to the foster care, they found the contact with their child. They have pictures, the phone numbers I never have these things. I feel uncomfortable because the children have been away for a very long time. I would like to have contact and talk with them to inform how they are doing.

When I want to see my children, I fell that I have problems because I cannot see them. I should see them because it is my blood. Because I have the pictures when they were babies when I looked at them, I see I have these two pretty girls due to the problems and misery made me close them (in adoption placement). Now I cannot see them. Before I received photos but it is more than 7 to 8 years I did not get photos from the foster care manager. I did not really regret giving these children because I did not live in a good environment. My children are aware that the adoptive family is not their real (natural) family. I have another child bigger than them, they (adopted children) called the foster care manager when they saw her

in the adoptive family and said, they have a brother who had the used to keep them when their (biological) mother was not at home.

The desire for seeing their children is always displayed at this birth mother. She explains that she often comes to the foster care for getting the pictures from the adoptive family. But she affirms that she has not yet full this wishes. She proclaims that other natural parents explained to her that they received pictures and have the contact with their children. She declares that she felt scratchy in reason that she has a long time she does not get information and pictures about of their children. She elucidates when she has the desire to see their children she has a lot of problems because when she looked the children pictures when they were infants, who are two beautiful girls. However, she avows that she has not a remorse because she has given them for adoption. She underlines that she did not live in an appropriate environment but she has also revealed that their children known that the adoptive family is not the real family. This natural mother is found in a dilemma despite the desire to inform or to see the pictures of their children and also mentions that she felt uncomfortable with this situation. However, she declares that she has not a regret because she has given their children in adoption.

### **Participant 3:**

In principle, I do not have rights to the child after their adoption. Because I gave him for adoption. But he always asked for me. Sometimes, the adoptive family sent me photos and I saw that the child is very beautiful. It was the problem that caused me to place him for adoption. Whenever I saw him in the photos I prefer him to be in his adoptive family instead of staying with me because he could die. When I think with this child I console myself on my other children that their mother left them to me.

I hope one day that my child would remember that I exist because if I had not given him for adoption he could die. I did not ask for contact with my child 'adoptive parent even the contact with the adoptive family could help me to better inform how the child involving. But I asked to have contact with my child's adoptive parent, he could refuse to send me pictures of my child. But I have no regrets to give my boy for adoption because if he was with me as already mentioned he could die.

This natural parent who is only one man among the birth parents. He recognizes that he has not rights on the child once he has given him in adoption. But he also declares it was the problems that forced him to give the child for adoption and he thinks if he did not give him, the child could die. He explains that he is informed and received pictures from the adoptive family via the foster care. He mentions that he has preferred the child lives in adoption instead of with me and also affirms that he has not any regret to give him in adoption. But he hopes one day, the child would remember the birth parent to know well the reason that occasioned their adoption.

#### **Participant 4:**

My child is ten years old and he has two years old in their adoptive family. During these two years, it is a sadness for me. But at the same time, I am happy, how? Because we will wait for whatever problem that we will have in the future, this child will have a life, he will live. But does not prevent that I think of the child, that does not prevent that I think. Because I have only one child, a little boy. I am obliged to place him for adoption. He should be there with me as often as I looked at other children who live with their parents, yet I have one but he cannot with me. It gives me a lot of problems.

While he is in adoption I took their information only one time. I received pictures I saw where he is there is a big difference. And the foster care manager said me, the child progresses at school, he always is the first in her class. I was happy but at the same time, I cried. Because my child should be with me, he should be evolved with it is not in a photo or the foster care manager who would inform me since when he always is the first in his class. He should be with me, to contemplate him, to adore him, at the same time I was happy and I was sad.

I often ask the foster care manager if she did not take or receive information about the child but I did not ask to have the contact with the adoptive parent. Because sometimes when we gave the child for adoption. When he is just going like that, first he is gone to 10 years, it is a great child if we were disturbing him, it could make him that he does not stay where he lives. For myself, I put in my head, that he knows that the parent with whom he lives is not really their parent. Because there were always visits to the foster care so that the biological parents came to see the children and play with the children.

For this natural mother, she explains that she felt depressed, on the other side, she felt happy because she does not know what can happen in the child life. She thinks that the child will have a better life in adoption. However, she explicated that she lived a lot of problems when she is considered that the child should be with her. She highlights that she informed and received pictures only one time of their child. He accentuates that she thinks the child will recognize that the adoptive family is not really their parent because before the adoption she has always visited the child in the foster care.

#### **Participant 5:**

Good, my child's biggest often calls me by phone or sometimes she talks with a friend to make me talk with her. But I have only one problem I cannot communicate with her really because when I talk with her she told me that she cannot understand me because she not understands too well creole (mother's language). She assures me that she will come to me.

For my other children in adoption, I received photos and I am very happy to see them. But there is only one thing the adoptive parent (she quoted the names of two adoptive families), January 12, 2010 happened, but the children it is not us who made them, they are adopted the children, but it is a mother

who did them and gave them to us (adoptive parent) for adoption. It is only this reproach that I had for the adoptive parents of my two children. Because they could contact me to inform how I live because they know that I had other children.

This biological mother has three children in adoption, she reveals that she has two problems; the first problem came with the difficult to communicate with one of their children, who does not understand well the birth mother language (Creole language), the second, she explains that one of the adoptive family of their children was not informed about her when his country has known an earthquake, January 12, 2010, but this adoptive family has not informed about the birth mother of the child. She also mentions that she is happy when she received the pictures of their children and affirms one of the children has promised her that she (one adopted child) will come to see her (birth mother)

#### **Participant 6:**

I'm happy on one side, but I'm not happy on the other side... I'm happy one way because they live a better life. But on the other hand, I'm sad, because they are not with me, they are not near me. When I think of my children I inquire God a lot of strength. They have only fourteenth months overseas in this month (June 2018) and they are also six years old. I did not get information from them because there are only fourteenth months since they left. For the belief that I put in God, under the faith that I put in God, one day even if it is on the internet (social network) I will connect with them. With the willing of God wills, I hope that one day, I always pray Gog to Preserve my life because I have stories to tell my children. For what purpose, for what reason I provided them for adoption.

This birth mother also lived the same dilemma already mentioned, she affirms that she was happy in another side she was unhappy. She explains that his happiness came because the children will have a better life but she felt unhappiness because her/his does not live with her. She said that she thinks God will give her more power and also hopes one day she will have the connection of them even across the social network. She avowed that she has stories to share with their children about of their adoption causes and she believes that God will help her to realize this thing.

#### **Participant 7:**

I never lived too well. Because I thought that the child always was in the foster care I could make a phone call to the foster care manager to say which day I will come to see my child and then I can go. But for the moment I cannot see him ever again. Yesterday (one day before the interview) I called Mrs. X (foster care manager), I asked her if she had not taken the information about my child. She told me she had not yet received information from the adoptive parent. But she has a person who will return she will have

information about the child. I enquired her if she did not receive photos. She told me, no, but I would like to see my child's photos, once the adoptive family will send photos I must see them.

For this natural parent, she proclaims that she always thought that his/her child was in the foster care. She discloses that she has not lived well because she cannot see their child. She also said that she does not receive information and pictures of their child because the foster care manager does not yet receive information about the child. But she affirms that she would like to see the child's pictures from the adoptive family.

In summarizing these natural parents' interviewees describe different feelings and experiences displayed in the post-adoption. Each birth parent has explained their own post-adoption reality. Some parents have shown that they have any regret to provide their children in adoption. They have revealed that in the post-adoption with the pictures of their children, they observed that the children are better before their adoption. Some birth parents also estimated that their children should be with them but the different problems survived that occasioned the adoption of their children.

Similarly, among the seven biological parents, only two parents have not yet received information or photos of their children. There is only one parent who has received their children pictures since 7 or 8 years. This parent lives in a dilemma she showed that she does not felt well because during a long time she does not inform or receive photos of their children. In the same time, she admits that she has any regret because she provided their children in adoption. Among the seven parent, two birth parents have one child in adoption. Four natural parents have two children in adoption, and one birth parent has only one child in adoption. In this assessment of these birth parents, we have observed that six birth parents have thought that their children in adoption are always their own children. Some of them have introduced that the children recognize that the adoptive family really is not their parent. Here it may illustrate implicitly that its biological parents think that there is one possibility of connection with their children. A great number of biological parents are always staying in the relationship with their children in the post-adoption. These relationships are established in the sharing of the adopted children pictures or other information exchanges.

The foster care managers play the intermediary role between the birth parents and adopters for sending photos, information's about the adopted children. Despite all, some natural parents prove that they don't have any regret to have their children in adoption. Because according to them when they have seen the children pictures they observed that the children are better than

before their adoption. We can consider that these considerations may diminish the kinds of a feeling of regret. Because the reasons that have been occasioned their children adoption were to take care of their children. Also, they were in the impossibility to provide care or take care of their children due to the different situations already described by the birth mothers and foster care managers. Accordingly, once the natural parents appraised that these needs have completed when they looked at their children pictures. They expressed a kind of satisfaction. In others side, some natural parents have displayed their feelings to be with their children and have illustrated the different problems that forced them to choose adoption as an alternative for their children.

We analyze the different birth parents' views shared and that showed the linkage between adopted children and natural parents. Here it exposes an understanding of the parental consent in the adoption process. The parent consent for their child adoption really does not a decision to relinquish completely their child. The different point views considered, from these participants, may explain that they used the adoption process to save the life of their children. However, they do not absolutely relinquish their children. On the other hand, the adoption process inquires the parent consent they are obliged to conform to such a decision. Furthermore, if other alternatives of supports were provided with these parents to take care of their children, they could have the choice among to relinquish or to participate in the programs offered to support the child and family or the child family.

#### **4.3.4. Macrosystem in the Adoption Process.**

In the adoption process, the macrosystem symbolizes the social policy, social legislation, and the cultural values. Scheweiger and O'Brien (2005) define macrosystem as the wider society and culture which includes the other systems. For these authors, the Macrosystem composes a lot of systems. And also, they underline that the culture and values share by these systems are similar. Moreover, Rogers (2016:42) accentuated that macrosystem in Bronfenbrenner's ecosystem perspectives combines entirely transactions of a larger cultural characteristic influencing other levels of individual settings and individual development. The cultural aspects that affect all the others close settings are defined as laws, political philosophy, and cultural beliefs. Also, Milner and Colleagues (2015:79), indicate that Macrosystem is also encompassed national and international agencies, social ideologies, cultural values, laws, politics, attitudes, beliefs, war, poverty, migration, globalization, homelessness, pandemics etc. And it belongings to that falls throughout the other layers. This point of views on Microsystem embraces

completely the adoption process. The Haitian adoption law is influenced by The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. Consequently, the adoption process is also persuaded by the social ideologies, cultural values, laws, politics, attitudes, beliefs global that dominates international adoption philosophy.

These different settings that are interrelated and influenced in the macrosystem are categorized exosystem, mesosystem, and microsystem. Besides, other than the three-subsystem mentioned, Milner and Colleagues (2015:79) specified another subsystem that is called chronosystem, as being a “chronosystem having the impact on all the systems of transactions or change over time or one’s lifetime” . And also, this subsystem that is added to the others systems named technosystem is considered as “an extension of the life in that through it the person can be in contact with other systems. This subsystem establishes a cyberlife that affects parent-child interactions significantly” (Milner and Colleagues (2015:79). In addition, Riley & Vleet (2012:7) underlined that adoption process facilitates to modify philosophies about families and family creation. They also demonstrate that adoption reflected the social shapes and pyramids, and they advanced if we explore the movement of children, easily we can describe the true and illustrative boundaries. They extend the structures that created those processes. They attested that adoption reproduces social hierarchies and configurations of societies and international processes. And by adoption it possible to verify inequalities in race, socio-economic class, ethnic group, and gender. Its different perceptions expose the trend in which is encouraged the Intercountry Adoption that is expanded in a macrosystem, divides in both national and international. Similarly, the Haitian adoption process is instituted in its two branches. The purpose of the adoption process is to provide a substitute permanent family estimating able to ensure the best interests of the child. Its permanent families who are often in the rich countries and the children who are often from the poor families in the poor countries. In this categorization among the sending countries and receiving countries the new adoption law characterized Haiti as a sending country. However, in the old adoption law Haiti was both receiving and sending, is it a choice or in the international adoption market, Haiti is considered only as sender country? Such questioning allowed to analyze the best interests of the child that advocate in the international adoption philosophy and on which is based the Haitian adoption process. In the understanding of this notion in the adoption process, it expressed that the best interest of the child is projected in the receiving countries or rich countries. The philosophy of the best interests of the child is built on economic aspects in which the child well-being is seeing in rich families in the rich countries. However, this perspective



overlooked that the economic aspects are not sufficient to ensure the child well-being. A type of the child well-being should be a package including some needs that may be mainly materials and psychosocial needs, etc.

The best interests of the child are defined in the both Conventions, Intercountry adoption, and Child Rights. That notion also is the same in the new adoption law that is related to these two Conventions. Consequently, we examine some debates, as Thomas (2000), Pardeck (2008), Turner (2007), that allowed us to assess the purpose of this paper that is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of ‘the best interests of child’ defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. Some novelists make known the standard of the best interests of the child used the State to intervene in the family is not clear and subjective. This characteristic is often founded on middle-class values and can be understood as a motive for children placement richer families or educated families (Westman,1991; Pardeck, 2008:24). Nonetheless, Blustein (1979: 120) cited in Thomas (2000:52), itemized that every social practice tried to accommodate the interests of children, parents, and society as a whole and that those interests are interdependent: [mutual adjustment of interests, not their ranking or aggregation, is required].

Those authors have described the challenges that are existed in the notion of the best interests of child. For Westman (1991) in Pardeck (2008:24), best interests of the child are covered on interventions that are not clear and arbitrary, and also are based on middle-class values. According to Turner (2007:204) found what is in each child’s interest is a fundamental challenge for all practitioners. The understanding of what is in the best interests of a child arises after careful collection of information pertinent to the case, careful assessment of information, and a good planning on the basis of the assessment. This responsibility is based on child welfare social worker. Between the three-participants interviewed who work in the adoption services in the ISWR, two have avowed that the best interests of the child are ensured in the adoption process. They are referred on the managing of the adoption files illustrating as proofs of the best interests of the child. One participant has estimated that the best interest of the child should be referred to the principle of the subsidiarity at which the State should ensure the children cares in their families before all other placement’s alternative considered by the ISWR.

These participants not illustrated that there are alternative services that are established to ensure the best interests of the child in their natural family. However, the foster care managers and

birth parents' interviewees have confirmed that reasons for the children adoption often are the poverty conditions. Accordingly, adoption is characterized as unique alternative for this group of parents. This analysis may help to question the State role in the child protection and the family protection. It may also help to question the children abandoned issues where the birth parents are forced to provide the consent for their adoption.

Similarly, Galey (2000:349) attested that the ideas similar children stayed orphans is a "myth" because children usually have been taken by force in their biological families by the State (349) in (Fisher, 2003:157-158). This situation is similar to the Haitian adoption where often the children are not orphaned and abandoned. The different group of participants interviewed may illustrate and based on the reasons of children adoption. Likewise, Shireman, et al., (1997, 2005) emphasize that "many intercountry adoptions adopted children are neither orphaned nor abandoned. The reason that many of them are given up is their parents 'extreme poverty which makes the lure of money irresistible" (Shireman, 2003:320). Further, the political and moral issues emerged of the removal of children from poor countries to more wealthy countries until all countries can provide the family support and child welfare services to provide birth parents with real choices, the adoptions will be continued to be questioned (Shireman, 2003:320).

Nonetheless, both Conventions at which the ISWR are based on managing the adoption process defined clearly that the State should:

- (1) To establish safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights as recognized in international law;
- (2) Have determined, after possibilities for placement of the child within the State of origin have been given due consideration, that an intercountry adoption is in the child's best interests;
- (3) Determine, on the basis in particular of the reports relating to the child and prospective parents, whether the envisaged placement is in the best interests of the child (Hague Conference on Private International Law, 29 May 1993).

The possibilities of placement that should be determined in Haiti mainly for the birth family with the support of the State providing to child family are not considered because the birth parents or families have neither program or services where they may find that help them to take care of their child. Nonetheless, Golden (2009:1-2) indicated generally, society refers on parents to assume their children 'well and safe ', then when the parents are unable or unwilling, the public child welfare system temporary provides necessary services. She mentioned that the responsibility of the child welfare system is to ensure "safety, permanence, and welfare", and

services to protect children that may be delivered in their own home or transferring them from home. But, for this category of birth parents in the Haitian public welfare system, the adoption denotes as the unique alternative where they may place their children in the foster care for adoption. Although the Convention on Child Rights Conventions of 1989 recognizes that “the best interests of the child are to prevail in all legal and administrative decisions; the State is to ensure the establishment of standards for the care and protection of children” (Mapp, 2010: 5).

On the other hand, these different responsibilities that promote this Conventions about the best interests of the child do not appear significant to ensure the establishment of standard care and children protection in the Haitian social policies. Because these different elements analyzed of the adoption process showed that the unique establishment of values for care and protection of children is based only on intercountry adoption. This perspective of child protection may put in question the Haitian child policy and also family policy in the social welfare system. The Haitian adoption process is instituted in a universal philosophy of family’s policy, characterized by the best interests of the adoptive family instead of the best interests of the child. This position may illustrate with the first adoption law of 1851 that initiated the best interests of children ideas. This perception is always sustained in all Conventions and also in the national legislation on the adoption. Thus, Cuthbert, Spark, and Murphy (2010), in his work, mentioned that Wellington (2000) in Penelope (2002:430) revealed that this notion:

Has frequently fallen short of the ideal of securing the public policy benefits of serving the best interests of children and meeting the needs of the adults who adopt them. Some critics suggest that legislated adoption is based towards the interests of adoptive parents and the State which is relieved of the burden of the support of children for whom adoptive families’ placement are found.

These different debates on the best interests of the child may be justified to this point of views that showed the adoption does not close on the child’s best interests but answered to adoptive parent needs and State needs. These ideas may also confirm the power of these actors in the adoption process. However, the child and birth parent are completely discounted of their natural connection by the termination of parents ‘rights and all the ceased contacts. Despite all, in legislated of adoptions, the adopted children are continued to display their desires to reconnect with their origin countries or natural parents. It shows the importance to openness in adoption because with techno-system that is characterized by the technological tools development the adopted children may have the different way for seeking their own origin. The intercountry

adoption should be opened on a new perspective to offer and revise The Hague conventions for a parent cooperation to facilitate the adopted child in future to have the possibility to reconnect easily with their roots, which could be beneficial for all the parties (adoptive parents-adopted children-birth parents). Because the different settings of the child may connect and this transaction may facilitate child development and child behavior reinforcement. The adopted children microsystem is always connected with their settings include in their macrosystem. The ecosystem model used in this study permits to understand the adoption process and also allows analyzing the best interests of the child since the adoption law of 1851 until The Hague Conventions of 1993. The conception of this notion does not change and continue to apply or to philosophize in the child protection mainly in the national adoption or international adoption.

By summarizing, this study provides an understanding of the adoption process in Haiti. Through the main purpose that has been analyzed by the four specific objectives. Thus, the twelve participants' interviewees have permitted to collect the data through their experiences in the adoption process. This exploration allowed to assess the adoption process and provided an understanding of elements which can use to undertake a quantitative research for a depth study more wide on the adoption process. The different interviewees provided vital elements at which is based the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) to manage the adoption process. Its elements showed that the ISWR is concentrated on the adoption files in this process and does not rise to assess the best interests of the child in the post-adoption. The ecosystem approach used in this research allowed to describe the adoption process and provided also an understanding of different environments at which adopted children are connected and that are determinants in the development of the child. However, this research has been limited on the data from the adopted children and adoptive parent in the analysis their experiences in the adoption process. Also, the desires of adoptees for seeking the natural parents have not been examined with the collected data from adoptees and adoptive parents. Such aspect characterizes the boundary in this investigation. Although some participants underlined that a lot of adoptees often displaying the desires to find their birth parents roots. However, the reasons that stimulate these desires were not studied in this research.

## **CHAPTER. 5**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study is conducted on the adoption process in Haiti. The main purpose is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of ‘the best interests of the child’ as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 20 November 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. A sample of twelve participants has been interviewed on the questions related to the purpose of the study. This group of participants is divided into two foster care managers, three practitioners in the Adoption Service at the Institute of the Social Welfare and Research (ISWR), and seven biological parents who have children in the international adoption. A qualitative research has been considered and based on the semi-structured interviews. Content analysis is conducted to analyze and interpret the collected data. This study considers the ecosystems approach to examine the adoption process. Also, in this model that composes of four subsystems that are microsystem, exosystem, mesosystem, and macrosystem, have been considered as the scheme to present and interpret the data. The different participants have been assimilated to their place related to the different level in the ecosystems model. The concepts of adoption have been analyzed in both legal and social perspectives. Different perspectives on adoption concepts have discussed, as Kadushin (1970), Grotevan et al., (2000), Rycraft (2007), Reitz & Watson (1992), and Shireman (2003). Those authors described the different debates on the adoption notion and it has examined on the legal and social perspectives.

Other debates also developed on the best interests of the child as the purpose of the international adoption is defined in both Conventions on the child rights of 1989 and The Hague Conventions related to the intercountry adoption of 1993. The best interests of the child defined in these two Conventions developed some discussions that have been analyzed in three positions. One of the positions focuses on the adoption as a measure of the child protection that facilitates the child to find a substitute permanent family estimating in the best interests of the child. This position embraces the two Conventions mentioned and also the Haitian adoption process. A second position considers adoption as a way to facilitate a childless parent or parentless child to

maintain a relationship between parent-child or child-parent. This position relays that the adoption can assure the best interests of both child and parent. Also, Kadushin (1970) shared this position in his conception about the adoption. The last position, for this group the adoption is considered as the strategy used in the policy of the family to respond to the needs of the family unable to procreate due to infertility complications. For this position, the best interests of the child used in the intercountry adoption are in the best interests of the adoptive family or adoptive parent.

Likewise, other than the different discussions on the best interests of the child or the best interests of the family. Other debates arise on the constituent of the best interests of the child that promote or define in both Conventions and the national legislation on adoption. Some authors as Blustein (1979) cited by Thomas (2000:57); underlined that “every social practice tries to accommodate the interests of children, parents, and society as a whole and that those interests are interdependent: [mutual adjustment of interests, not their ranking or aggregation, is required]”. Besides, in The Hague Convention, the best interests of the child are defined in the Articles 1, 4, 16, and 21. In the Article 1, it specifies “to establish safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect to his or her fundamental rights as recognized in international law”. Also, in the Convention on the Child Rights of 1989, it stipulates that “the best interests of the child are to prevail in all legal and administrative decisions; the State is to ensure the establishment of standards for the care and protection of children” (Mapp, 2010: 5). The point of views of these two Conventions related to the bests interests of the child as already discussed, continue to raise debates on the components of this notion.

For some authors as Mnookin (1973) it is difficult to determine the best interests of a child; according to Westman (1991), “the best of the child may be fashioned primarily to meet the needs of competing adults’ claimants or to protect the general policies of agencies. Under these conditions, the needs of the child are often secondary” in (Pardeck, 2008: 24). Also, Pardeck (2008:25) determined that “interest in the social and legal rights of children often controversy, principally in relation to the scope of the State intervention and the allocation of child-rearing responsibilities between parents and the State”. These different points of views illustrate the complexity of the characterization of the best interests of the child. Similarly, Thomas (2000:8) concluded that “the notion of ‘best interests’ has inherent problems, which may be designated as the problem of indeterminacy and the problem of culture”. These discussions on the best interests of the child seem to be less analyzed or considered in the adoption practices. Because

the intercountry adoption is always focused on this notion. Also, the Haitian adoption process that is linked to The Hague Convention similar pursues the same philosophy on the best interests of the child. The results of this study describe that the Haitian adoption process is based mainly on the management of adoption files by the central authority of adoption. This kind of management of the adoption process is presented as the best interests of the child according to the point of views of three participants working in the Adoption Service. At the macro level, this research shows that the interventions of the ISWR focus only on the implementation of the new adoption law. At this level, the ISWR has both pre-adoption and post-adoption responsibilities. In the pre-adoption control, the study discovers in this stage some actors intervened under the control of the ISWR as the central authority of adoption. It also shows in the pre-adoption the ISWR occupies only the children placed for adoption to search the prospective adoptive parents for these children. The children placed for adoption are cared for by the foster cares that are also charged to receive the children from their birth parents. Moreover, the foster cares also receive the abandoned children from the ISWR. However, the foster cares have no financials support from the State via the ISWR. The foster cares receive the support from the good Samaritans, adoption fees, and adoption parents' associations. The foster cares also represent the unique alternative for the birth parents who are unable to take care of their children.

Also, the seven birth parents' interviewees mentioned that they used the foster care to place their children for adoption because they have not found other support to take care of their children. They have also revealed that they have not found other alternative from the ISWR for renouncing to place their children for adoption. These birth parents have declared that they have lost the parents' rights in giving their consent to the juvenile judge. The contrast of the parents' consent, they are obliged to renounce the parental rights to ensure the life of their children due to the situation of poverty. Once they signed their consent in front of the juvenile judge specified one interviewee who works in the Adoption Service revealed that the child becomes the pupils of the ISWR that should seek a prospective adoptive parent for the child. At this level, the child involuntary loses legally the birth parent as affiliation and similarly for the biological parent. Once the birth parent consent terminated, the process is assured by the ISWR that manages the child placed in the foster care for adoption. Once the prospective adoptive parent received and accepted the offer, a socialization process is necessary to realize with the child during fifteen days. And then the socialization period once completed the ISWR proceeds to assess the socialization reports for approving or refusing the prospective adoptive parent. Once approved

the prospective adoptive parent has a period to accept or refuse the proposal. If the prospective adoptive family accepts, at this moment it may begin to organize the other stage required to plan the child travel.

Similarly, the prospective adoptive parent should use an Approved Adoption Organization/Agency (AAO/A) in their residence country to facilitate or to help him/her in the processes. The AAO/A is also charged to support the family in the pre-adoption and post-adoption follow-up. Likewise, it is charged to do the post-adoption follow-up for the ISWR that is the central authority of adoption. Further, the post-adoption follow-up reports are necessities to provide to the ISWR every six months over a period of 8 years. Nevertheless, the dilemmas in the post-adoption follow-up, it is the AAO/A that plays the adoption mediation role providing a service solicited by the prospective adoptive parent and also represents the central authority of adoption for evaluating the post-adoption follow-up. The post-adoption follow-up reports consist of the documents related to the aspects of the child development in their adoptive family and accompanied by pictures of the child with their adoptive family. Once the ISWR obtains the post-adoption reports, the follow-ups have never realized. According to two participants interviewed working in the Adoption Service, the reports received by the ISWR have never analyzed deeply only sometimes it may look on one report without proceeding really to the study of evaluation of documents. These different aspects demonstrate that the adoption process focuses mainly on the management of the adoption files in the pre-adoption and post-adoption process.

Consequently, according to the point of views of two interviewees who are two important practitioners in the Adoption Service, they have declared that the adoption process ensures the best interests of the child. The arguments that they advanced to show this process considers the best interests of the child are focused only on the different administrative procedures' management established by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research(ISWR) and that are under the control of the central authority for adoption. Contrarily, to the two participants, another participant has declared that the ISWR does not ensure the best interests of the child in the adoption process. And he has underlined that the principle of the subsidiarity that gives the responsibility to the State to implement the programs and services to provide an alternative to the families who decide to place their child for adoption due to the economic difficulties and taking care of the children health, has never been established or proposed to the families. Also, he has revealed that in all adoption files concluded the families declared that they placed the children for adoption because they did not have the economic means to take care of them.



Other than the different point of views on the best interests of the child in the adoption process. These three participants have also recognized that the post-adoption follow-up should realize by the ISWR via the social workers or professionals of the institution. Also, they declared that the ISWR may use the Haitian Consulates in these countries to proceed this assessment. They also admitted that the assessment of AAO/A are not sufficient to evaluate really the child development of their new family. This study describes the conception on the best interest of the child in the adoption process in Haiti. The different point of views analyzed may help to understand that the Haitian adoption process does not arrive to define the contents of the best interests of the child as also shared in the several debates on this notion. For the Haitian adoption process according to the perceptions of the participants the best interests of the child, it is to examine appropriately the child eligible criterion for adoption and to find a permanent family for the child mainly in another foreign country. However, an important aspect analyzed in this research discloses that the adoption process encourages the cessation of the relationships between the birth parent and child. Because some children who have parents are admissible to adopt by the consent of their parents via the legal aspects of the adoption process. On the other hand, these birth parents suffered from their decision because they are obliged to place their child for adoption due to different causes already described.

The different point of views shared by the birth parents showed that they have not provided definitively their child for adoption. They have exposed that they are always informed about their children (no participant has mentioned the adopted child they always used my child or children) via the foster care managers who represent the facilitators or mediators who assure a relationship or network for the transactions between the birth parents and adopted child/children. Nevertheless, this kind of transaction is limited to share only the adoptee pictures or other information on the child. It demonstrates that the consent of parents is not completely a relinquish of their child/children. Some of the birth parents interviewed in this research have confirmed, they will hope to meet with their child/children to explain to them the causes that forced to place for adoption. They also displayed the feelings of regrets. They have expressed that they are happy to give their child but in the same time, they have declared that they have suffered because they should be with their child/children. The feelings expressed by the birth parents illustrated that they are ongoing to live the post-adoption traumatic.

This study is limited to the assessment of the adoption process considering the four levels comprising the ecosystems approach, microsystem, exosystem, mesosystem, and macrosystem. However, the participants at the microsystem level in the post-adoption similar to the adoptive

family home are not considered due to the constraints explained in the limitation of the study. In the adoption process, the child can know different microsystem: birth parent home, the foster care and the home of the adoptive family. Consequently, we analyze the transactions that are likely to happen among the different settings that are very important in the analysis of the adopted child development. The immediate environment of the adopted child that defines as their microsystem in the adoption process has not been analyzed via the data collected but the two foster care managers and the three participants working in the Adoption Service have revealed that they are often solicited by the adoptive parents who display the desires for finding the connections or the contacts of the biological parents of their adopted child/children. Moreover, they avowed that adoptive parents often came and accompanied of their adopted child to seek their birth parents. However, this research is limited to this aspect and cannot explain the desires displayed by the adopted children who tried to find the contacts of their origin families. In the future studies, such aspect maybe investigated for an understanding of this phenomenon. Also, this exploration does not allow the generalization but provides elements which can be used to undertake other research most deeply on the Haitian adoption process mainly on the assessment of the psychosocial aspect of the Haitian children adopted and the type of attachment developed with their adoptive families. Other than the point of weaknesses in the adoption process, it is also important to mention that the new adoption law changes some aspects of this process. The pre-adoption placement process is controlled merely by the ISWR, the foster care managers who were before able to match the child with the prospective adoptive does not exist. Furthermore, the child trafficking perception changed but the lucrative aspect is always maintained due to the cost for adoption of a child.

The last part of this section consists of recommendations to some suggested problems in order to implement the adoption processes in Haiti. Here it concerns some elements that could be used to reinforce the adoption process. These elements can be considering at both pre-adoption and post-adoption levels. First, at the pre-adoption stage, it is important to the Institute of the Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) to provide programs and services to the families confronted by the poverty situations and those who decided to place their child for adoption. These programs and services should be offered to the families before all the decisions of the parental consent. Once the families are involved in these programs and services as alternatives instead to place their children for adoption. A period of one year should be necessary to support these families via economic activities that will facilitate them to take care of their children. Once these programs and services are offered to the families during one year the Institute of

Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) will examine the progress of these families. Also, after this year these families may decide to pursue their adoption decisions if they will estimate that they will prefer to place their children for adoption instead of living with their children. Once these families decided to place definitively their children for adoption, the ISWR can ask the parental consent for proceeding the pre-adoption process. Similarly, if these parents relinquish their children for adoption, the ISWR should facilitate these families to find other service related to education and health necessities via other appropriate institutions. For the abandoned children at the Hospital or in the streets, it is also important for the ISWR to proceed for evaluation to find the information about the abandoned child's parents because there is the possibility of finding the data about the abandoned child in the environment where he/she is placed by the individual. This information can help the professional to retrace the examination of the finger print found on the abandoned child. Once the ISWR finds this information one research can proceed to find the parent of the abandoned child via the identification system established in the country. Subsequently, it is available to find the information on the abandoned child once another individual has not yet touched the child in the place where he/she is placed. The decisions to place this kind of child for adoption will depend on the result of these elements mentioned but this process can facilitate to reduce the phenomenon of the relinquished children.

Another aspect to consider in the pre-adoption placement refers to the foster care that represents a vital element in the adoption process. The ISWR should create a service for receiving the parents who will opt to place their child for adoption. This service can avoid the foster care to influence the decisions of the biological parents in the choice to place their children for adoption. Also, the ISWR can examine the needs necessary for these families and provide them with the programs and services as an alternative before definitely placing their children for adoption. Thus, the foster care should receive the children from the ISWR instead of receiving them directly from the birth parents. Additionally, the children placed for adoption should be assessed by a foster care social worker who will prepare the child for adoption. This type of foster care social worker must send to foster care by the ISWR or employ directly by the foster care.

Here the focus on the professionals intervening in the Adoption Service, that should be encouraged by the ISWR to participate or take seminars on the adoption thematic that will facilitate them to improve their skills and knowledge in their interventions. Also, with the progress of the adoption field, the adoption mediation should be promoted for applying the adoption process. This kind of intervention may help in the pre-adoption placement planning. The professional adoption mediators should have the skills and knowledge existing in the

adoption mediation field for intervening appropriately in the adoption process. The last aspect in the pre-adoption placement consists the social history of the child that should be elaborated by a social worker professional. This document represents a significant element in the adoption files and also a fundamental aspect for the child in the post-adoption. For this reason, the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) should modify the content of this document existing and require the social worker to describe the social history of the child, the GPS point of the birth parent origin (place of birth) that will facilitate the adoptee in the future if he/she will decide to know their birth parent origin. Additionally, a cooperation of parents should be encouraging via the adoption process, the support of an adoption mediator professional or adoption mediation services is necessary to facilitate between the adoptive family and natural parent to have a way to share information in the post-adoption. Accordingly, these different elements mentioned can serve to provide a content to the best interests of the child used in the adoption process. As soon as the pre-adoption process is better organized the post-adoption can have fewer challenges and such the best interests of the child can provide a positive result.

Second, this point consists of the post-adoption in the adoption process. In this study, it demonstrated that the ISWR does not really control the post-adoption assessment. The institution receives only the post-adoption follow-up reports from of the Approved Adoptions Agencies/Organizations. Nonetheless, the reports received by the ISWR have not really analyzed for knowing the type of follow-up proper for a depth assessment of such group of adopted children. Another aspect in the post-adoption follow-up, the AAOs should not proceed to the post-adoption follow-up assessment for the ISWR as the central authority of the adoption. The AAOs are adoptions agencies that provide services for the prospective adoptive families. They are paid for the service by the prospective adoptive families. The ISWR can always use reports of post-adoption assessment from the adoptive family via the AAO but these assessment reports should not be definitive as being the post-adoption follow-up assessment. The ISWR can use the reports provided by the AAO as antecedents to pursue another assessment of the child post-adoption. Therefore, the reports provided by the AAO do not allow to evaluate adequately the well-being of the child in their adoptive family. The central authority can use the social worker or psychologist professional in the adoption field to proceed to these evaluations. These assessments should not be realized only by one director or a person who has not appropriate skills and knowledge in the social work, psychology, child welfare social work or adoption mediation social worker. The adoption interventions require an expertise and the professionals should intervene without influence by the authorities.

For conclusion, we propose some elements at two level to the adoption process. We do not provide the intervention methods for certain points proposed because some aspect suggested can be find in the social work profession mainly in adoption mediation intervention. The social worker practitioners know the tools to use in their interventions. Thus, the adoption process in Haiti has merely the control on the pre-adoption process mainly in the management of the child adoption files but in the post-adoption the central authority of adoption is limited to investigate or determine really on the best interests of the child in the adoptive families.



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## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX. 1. ETHICS PROTOCOL



T.C.  
HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
Rektörlük

Tarih: 31.05.2018 18:29  
Sayı: 35853172-100-E.00000070706  
  
E.00000070706

Sayı : 35853172-100  
Konu : Robenson PELLITIER (Etik Komisyonu Hk.)

### SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜNE

İlgi : 14.05.2018 tarihli ve 12908312-300-E.00000045405 sayılı yazınız

Enstitümüz Sosyal Hizmet Anabilim Dalı yüksek lisans programı öğrencilerinden **Robenson PELLITIER**'in **Prof. Dr. Vedat IŞIKHAN** danışmanlığında yürüttüğü "**Haiti'de Evlat Edinme Süreçlerinin Değerlendirilmesi: Sosyal Refah ve Araştırma Enstitüsünde Vaka Çalışmasıdır.**" başlıklı tez çalışması, Üniversitemiz Senatosu Etik Komisyonunun **15 Mayıs 2018** tarihinde yapmış olduğu toplantıda incelenmiş olup, etik açıdan uygun bulunmuştur.

Bilgilerinizi ve gereğini rica ederim.

e-imzalıdır  
**Prof. Dr. Rahime Meral NOHUTCU**  
Rektör Yardımcısı



HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ  
Beytepe / ANKARA

YÖNETİM KURULU KARARI

Oturum Tarihi  
18.07.2017

Oturum Sayısı  
29

Karar Sayısı  
2017: III-37

Sosyal Hizmet Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığı'nın 20.06.2017 tarih ve 339 sayılı yazısı incelendi. Yüksek Lisans programı öğrencilerinden **Robenson PELLITIER**'in, tez önerisinin aşağıdaki şekilde kabul edilmesinin uygun olduğuna karar verildi.

Tez Önerisi

**Türkçe:** Haiti'de Evlat Edinme Süreçlerinin Değerlendirilmesi:  
Sosyal Refah ve Araştırma Enstitüsünde Vaka Çalışması

Danışmanı

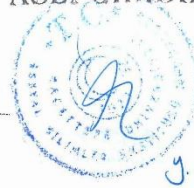
Prof.Dr.Vedat IŞIKHAN

**İngilizce:** An Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti:  
Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR)

ASLI GİRİDİR



Prof. Dr. Musa Yaşar SAĞLAM  
Müdür



Yönetim Kurulu

|                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Prof. Dr. Musa Yaşar SAĞLAM    | ( Müdür )            |
| Doç. Dr. Ayça GELGEÇ BAKACAK   | ( Müdür Yardımcısı ) |
| Yrd. Doç. Dr. Mutlu ER         | ( Müdür Yardımcısı ) |
| Prof. Dr. Zehra UÇANOK         | ( Üye )              |
| Prof. Dr. Ali Tarkan ÇAVUŞOĞLU | ( Üye )              |
| Doç. Dr. Burcu ŞİMŞEK          | ( Üye )              |
| Şirin KOÇOĞLU                  | ( Raportör )         |



### **D. Explanation for the Participants**

This research is conducted by a Haitian student for his Masters in Social Work at Hacettepe University in Turkey. This study will be concerned on an” **Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR)**”. The interview will focus on adoption experiences of participants. This research will respect the confidential of information that you will share with us. The names of participants not will write anywhere. Once we have finished with the data recollecting, we will produce a scientific document that would help in the adoption process in Haiti. And also, which will help the adoptive parents, biological parents and adopted children. For this research we need 12 participants includes: three (3) ISWR’s authorities, two (2) Foster care managers, and seven (7) biological parents. We prepare three interview forms: ISWR’s authorities and foster care managers interview form will divide in two parts: pre-adoption and postadoption placement experiences, and the birth family interview form divide in three parts: Socio-demographic profile of birth families- pre-adoption placement- and postadoption experiences.

I agree to participate voluntary in this study.

Date.....

---

Signature

**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY  
HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY, SOCIAL WORK, MA**

**VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION FORM**

**Title of Project:** An Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR).

**Principal Investigator:** Robenson PELLITIER

**Research's Advisor:** Prof. Dr Vedat IŞIKHAN

The purpose of this research is to understand the adoption process in Haiti related to the principle of 'the best interests of child' defined in the Convention on the Rights of Children of 1989 and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and International Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993.

All participants who will be selected in this research should have a knowledge about the research study. Further, they should be an adult and have neither psychic problem.

You are being asked to be in a research study that will be done on the adoption process in Haiti. You are being selected as a possible participant because this research focus on the participants' experiences in preplacement adoption and postplacement of birth parents, foster care manager, and authority in adoption field. Three group of participants are selected as sample for realizing this assessment on the adoption. In this study the participants are chosen with the authorization the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) as Central authority in matter of adoption in Haiti. The participation to this research is voluntary. The acceptance to make part of this study includes the following points:

I understand that my participation in this research will involve:

- Taking part in an interview with the researcher about my pre-adoption and post adoption experience in the Haitian adoption process.

- During this interview, notes will be taken and the interview recorded for later transcription. The interview will be fully anonymized when it is transcribed. The audio files will be also destroyed.

I understand that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that he can withdraw from this study at any time without giving a reason.

I understand that this participation will be treated confidentially and all information will be stored anonymously and securely. All information appearing in the final report will be anonymous.

I understand that I am free to ask any questions at any time. I am free to discuss any questions or comments I would like to make the researcher.

I also understand that at the end of the study I will be provided with additional information and feedback about the purpose of the study.

You will be asked to participate to face to face structured interview. The information obtained will be kept confidential. Your will not be asked to write and mention your name. Results will only be reported in the form of a scientific document.

- The interview should take approximately one hour for completion.

You must be: an authority in the adoption services/domains in the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR), Foster care (Creches) managers, parents who have children in adoption can take part in this research study. Contact for questions about the study: if you have questions, contact Mr. Robenson PELLITIER, by WhatsApp (+90)5531391522 or [pellirobens25@yahoo.fr](mailto:pellirobens25@yahoo.fr)

I, ..... (NAME) consent to Mr. Robenson PELLITIER proceeding with this study.

Signature of Participant : .....

Place : .....

E-mail : .....

Phones : .....

Date : .....

**APPENDIX .2. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FORM  
(AUTHORITIES OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
RESEARCH(ISWR/IBESR)).**

**EG/No.1**

This interview guide is about authorities in the adoption field. We would like to collect data on the adoption system in Haiti that will allow us to make an analysis on the topic that interests us for this research, called an **“Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR)”**. The authorities' contribution in the area of adoption is an important source of information for this research and the data collected will respect all scientific standard. We would like to interview people who can answer the questions and have experiences in adoption process. The results obtained in this research will be available at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR). This study will realize in English but for data collection tools, it is an imperative to write data collection tools in three (3) languages: Creole, French and English. For all suggestions and others, this e-mail and this number will be accessible: [pellirobens25@yahoo.fr](mailto:pellirobens25@yahoo.fr), (+509) 43254504 / (+905531391522 only for WhatsApp).

I agree to participate voluntary in this study.

Date.....

---

Signature

EG/No.1

#.....

**SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FORM****INTERVIEW QUESTION FORM FOR AUTHORITIES IN THE AREA OF  
ADOPTION IN THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RESEARCH(ISWR)**

1. May you describe the Haitian adoption system?

Answer.....

.....

2. May you describe the chain of the adoption process?

Answer.....

.....

3. What kind of mechanisms establish by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR)  
to control the adoption process in Haiti?

Answer.....

.....

4. Does the adoption mediation process existing in Haiti?

Answer.....

.....

5 What is the role of lawyers, social workers and adoption agencies in the adoption process?

Answer.....

.....

6. How the ISWR ensures the adoption pre-placement control in the adoption process?

Answer.....

.....

7. How the ISWR evaluates the best interests of the child in the post-placement ad

Answer.....

.....

option?

8. How does the adoption process in Haiti consider or facilitate the best interests of the child?

Answer.....

.....

9. What does ISWR think about of young adoptees who wanted to join the link of their biological parents?

Answer.....

.....

10. What does think the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR) about parents' cooperation in the adoption process?

Answer.....

.....

**APPENDIX .3. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FORM  
(FOSTER CARE'S MANAGER)**

**EG/No.2**

#.....

This interview guide is for foster care (Creche) Managers in the adoption field. We would like to collect data on the adoption system in Haiti that will allow us to make an analysis on the topic that interests us for this research, called an " **Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR)**". The contribution of foster care managers in the adoption field is an important source of information for this research and the data collected will meet all scientific standards. We would like to interview people who can answer the questions mentioned below. The results obtained in this research will be available at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR). This study will be done in English but for data collection tools, it seems imperative to develop data collection tools in three (3) languages: Creole, French and English. For all suggestions and others, this e-mail and this number are available: pellirobens25@yahoo.fr, (+509) 43254504 / (+905531391522 only for WhatsApp).

I agree to participate voluntary in this study.

Date.....

---

Signaturre

**APPENDIX .3. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FORM  
(FOSTER CARE'S MANAGER)**

**EG/No.2**

#.....

**I- EXPERIENCES OF FOSTER CARE MANAGER IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS  
(PREPLACEMENT ADOPTION AND POSTADOPTION) IN HAITI.**

1. May you describe the persons who are working in your foster care and mainly their responsibilities?

Answer.....  
.....

2. What are the child' category eligible in your foster care?

Answer.....  
.....

3. How your foster care proceeds to find the children?

Answer.....  
.....

4. How do you proceed to find the prospective adoptive parents?

Answer.....  
.....

5. How your foster care participates in the process of socialization or familiarization of the child with the prospective adoptive family?

Answer.....  
.....

6. How your foster care participates in the constitution of the child's archives?

Answer.....  
.....

7. How do you do about financial needs for your foster?



Answer.....  
 .....

8. What kind of the relationships establish by your foster care with adoptive parents in the post-adoption?

Answer.....  
 .....

9. Have you found biological parents in the post-adoption who required to have contact with their children?

Answer.....  
 .....

10. Have you found adoptive parents in the post-adoption who asked you information's about biological parents of their child?

Answer.....  
 .....

11. Have you found adolescents or young people who have been adopted in Haiti who would contact you to have their contacts of their biological parents?

Answer.....  
 .....

#### **APPENDIX. 4. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FORM (BIRTH PARENTS)**

**EG/No.3**

#.....

This study will focus on an” **Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR/IBESR)** ". As part of this study, we look at the perception and experience of biological or biological family members of children who are adopting their knowledge of adoption, before and during the adoption process, how they live the post adoption and kinships with adoptive parents which is established up for the welfare of the adopted child. Your involvement in this voluntary in this investigation and all that you will have to share respect all the rules and ethics of a scientific work, and your participation will allow to understand better certain aspect in the adoption process. All participants in this study are required to have one or more children in adoption a foreigner adoptive family. This interview guide is divided between three parts: 1) Profil of biological families’/ families’ members, 2) preplacement adoption, and (3) post adoption experiences.

I agree to participate voluntary in this study.

Date.....

---

Signature

## SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FORM

EG/No.3

#.....

### I. PROFIL OF BIOLOGICAL PARENTS

**1. Gender**

☐ Male

☐ Female

**2. Your residence city** .....

### II –PRE-ADOPTION PLACEMENT EXPERIENCES.

3. May you explain your experience in the pre-placement of your child for adoption?
4. How did you feel and live the preplacement of your child for adoption?
5. What type of adoption have you done for your child and What did you know about this type of adoption?
6. May you explain what did you use to place your child for adoption?

### II- POST-ADOPTION EXPERIENCES

7. May you explain your experience after the adoption of your child/children and how did you feel and live the post-adoption experience?

For example:

- a) What the problem have you lived as a biological parent who has a child in adoption?
- c) Have you displayed the desire to find the child's contact?
- d) Have you found information about your child after their adoption?

## APPENDIX.5. LETTERS



T.C.  
ANKARA  
ONBİRİNCİ NOTERLİĞİ  
Atatürk Bulvarı No: 103/23-24  
Kızılay - ANKARA  
Tel: 417 20 06 - 417 43 61

( Logo )

REPUBLIC OF HAITI

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RESEARCHES  
(IBESR)



07 Mart 2018.

No: .....IBESR /DG/09/16-17# 362

Port-au-Prince, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Institute of Social Welfare and Researches (IBESR) attests, by the present that Mr. **Robenson PELLITIER**, who is the M.Sc. student in **HACETTEPE University**, is in contact with the institution as part of the preparation of his thesis entitled "**Evaluation of Adoption Process in Haiti**" on favor of the institution.

In this regard, he has got the responsibilities of Directorate of Social Services as the member of Multidisciplinary Unit, as well. He will interview some biological parents and adopted children living in Haiti and some adoptive parents and adopted children living in the countries like "**United States of America, Canada, France, and Belgium**", and compare them.

In accordance with the Law and for service, a workshop was organized in Port-au-Prince on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

// Embossed Seal and Signature //  
Arielle Jeanty VILLEDROUIN  
Director General

(Address exists in the original document ..... Haiti. )



İş Bu Belge, Ben Yeminli  
Tercüman Muammer DIRAMAN  
Tarafından Aslına Uygun  
Olarak İngilizce'den Türkçe'ye  
Türkçe'den İngilizce'ye  
Tercüme Edildiğini Onaylıyorum.

İş Bu Belgenin İngilizce'den  
Türkçe'ye, Türkçe'den  
İngilizce'ye Doğrudan  
Saklı Yeminli Mütercimimiz  
Muammer DIRAMAN Tarafından  
Tercüme Edildiğini Onaylıyorum.



ANKARA 11. NOTER  
Yekili  
CANAN CAN DURAN

Haiti Cumhuriyeti**SAĞLIKLI YAŞAM VE ARAŞTIRMALAR ENSTİTÜSÜ  
(IBESR)**

No: .....IBESR /DG/09/16-17# 362

Port-auPrince, 27 Eylül 2017

**İLGİLİ MAKAMA**

Sağlıklı Yaşam ve Araştırmalar (IBESR) Enstitüsü; HACETTEPE Üniversite'sinde Bilim Yüksek Lisans öğrencisi olan bay Robenson PELLITIER'in "Haiti'de Evlat edinme sürecinin değerlendirilmesi" adlı tezin hazırlık kadrosunda kurum ile ilişkide olduğunu belirtir.

Bu konuda, Sosyal Hizmet Müdürlüğü'nün sorumluluklarını, hem de Çok Disiplinli Hücrenin üyeleri olarak Evlat Edinme Servisininkilerini de zaten karşılamıştır.Haiti'de yaşayan, bazı evlat edinilmiş çocukların biyolojik ebeveynlerini, 'Amerika Birleşik Devletleri, Kanada, Fransa ve Belçika gibi ülkelerde yaşayan evlat edinilmiş küçükleri evlat edinmiş ebeveynleri de karşılamalıdır.

Hizmet için ve yasaya uygun olarak, 26 Eylül 2017 tarihinde Port-auPrince'de düzenlenmiştir.

N° 03220

07 Mart 2018

İmza  
ArielleJeanty VILLEDROUIN  
Genel Müdür

İletişim bilgileri asıl metinde vardır.



İşbu belge, Fransa ve Fransa 'den  
Türkçe'ye tercüme edilmiştir.  
Huz: Sahin tarafından  
gavrilmiştir. onaylanmıştır.  
Tercüman Noter

ANKARA 11. NOTER  
Vekili  
CANAN CAN DURAN





RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

N° 03220

07 Mart 2018

**INSTITUT DU BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL  
ET DE RECHERCHES  
(IBESR)**

No. .... **IBESR/DG/09/16-17/# 362**

Port-au-Prince, le 27 septembre 2017

**A QUI DE DROIT**

L'Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches (**IBESR**) atteste, par la présente, que monsieur Robenson **PELLITIER**, étudiant en Master Science (Sciences Sociales) à **HACETTEPE University**, est en contact avec l'institution, dans le cadre de la préparation de sa thèse intitulée : **Une évaluation du processus d'Adoption en Haïti**.

A ce titre, il a déjà rencontré les responsables de la Direction du Service Social, ceux du Service d'Adoption ainsi que les membres de la Cellule Multidisciplinaire. Il doit aussi rencontrer les parents biologiques, vivant en Haïti, de certains enfants adoptés, les parents adoptifs ainsi que les mineurs adoptés vivant dans les pays suivants : **Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Canada, France et Belgique**.

Fait à Port-au-Prince, ce 26 septembre 2017, pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.

*[Signature]*  
**Arielle Jeanty VILLEDROUIN**  
Directeur Général



## OZGEÇMİŞ

### Kişisel Bilgiler

Adı Soyadı : Robenson PELLITIER

Doğum Yeri ve Tarihi : Cavaillon/Sud/Haiti, 27.09.1985

### Eğitim Durumu

Lisans Öğrenimi : Haiti Devlet Üniversitesi İnsanları bilimler Fakültesi  
Sosyal Hizmet Bölümü

Yüksek Lisans Öğrenimi : Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler  
Enstitüsü Sosyal Hizmet Anabilim Dalı

Bildiğim Yabancı Diller : İngilizce ve Türkçe

Bilimsel Faaliyetleri : ---

### İş Deneyimi

Stajlar : Sığınmacılar ve Göçmenlerle Dayanışma Derneği/  
SGDD-ASAM(Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanı)

Çubuk Abidin Yılmaz Huzurevi Yaşamı Bakım ve  
Rehabilitasyon Merkezi(Sosyal Hizmet  
Uzmanı)

Projeler : ---

Çalıştığı kurumlar : International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent  
Societies, PORT- AU- PRINCE /Haiti(Sosyal Hizmet  
Uzmanı)

World Vision International, PORT- AU-  
PRINCE/Haiti(Araştırmacı)

Institut Interuniversitaire de Recherche et de  
Développement (INURED), PORT- AU- PRINCE/  
Haiti(Araştırmacı)

### İletişim

E- Posta Adresi : pellirobens25@yahoo.fr

Tarihi : 20.09.2018



## APPENDIX. 6. ORIGINAL REPORT



**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MASTER'S THESIS ORIGINALITY REPORT**

**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT**

Date: 20/09/2018

**Thesis Title : Assessment of Adoption Processes in Haiti: Case Study of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR).**

According to the originality report obtained by myself/my thesis advisor by using the Turnitin plagiarism detection software and by applying the filtering options checked below on 20/09/2018 for the total of 195 pages including the a) Title Page, b) Introduction, c) Main Chapters, and d) Conclusion sections of my thesis entitled as above, the similarity index of my thesis is 9 %.

Filtering options applied:

1. ☐ Approval and Declaration sections excluded
2. ☐ Bibliography/Works Cited excluded
3. ☐ Quotes excluded
4. ☒ Quotes included
5. ☐ Match size up to 5 words excluded

I declare that I have carefully read Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences Guidelines for Obtaining and Using Thesis Originality Reports; that according to the maximum similarity index values specified in the Guidelines, my thesis does not include any form of plagiarism; that in any future detection of possible infringement of the regulations I accept all legal responsibility; and that all the information I have provided is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I respectfully submit this for approval.

  
Date and Signature  
20.09. 2018

**Name Surname:** ROBENSON PELLITIER

**Student No:** 15125859

**Department:** SOCIAL WORK

**Program:** SOCIAL WORK

### ADVISOR APPROVAL

APPROVED.

  
PROF. DR. VEDAT IŞIKHAN

(Title, Name Surname, Signature)





**HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ  
YÜKSEK LİSANS TEZ ÇALIŞMASI ORJİNALLİK RAPORU**

**HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ  
SOSYAL HİZMET. ANABİLİM DALI BAŞKANLIĞI'NA**

Tarih: 20/09/2018

**Tez Başlığı : Haiti'de Evlat Edinme Süreçlerinin Değerlendirilmesi: Sosyal Refah ve Araştırma Enstitüsünde Vaka Çalışması**

Yukarıda başlığı gösterilen tez çalışmamın a) Kapak sayfası, b) Giriş, c) Ana bölümler ve d) Sonuç kısımlarından oluşan toplam 195 sayfalık kısmına ilişkin, 20/09/2018 tarihinde şahsım/tez danışmanım tarafından Turnitin adlı intihal tespit programından aşağıda işaretlenmiş filtrelemeler uygulanarak alınmış olan orijinallik raporuna göre, tezimin benzerlik oranı % 9 'tür.

Uygulanan filtrelemeler:

- 1- ☐ Kabul/Onay ve Bildirim sayfaları hariç
- 2- ☐ Kaynakça hariç
- 3- ☐ Alıntılar hariç
- 4- ☒ Alıntılar dâhil
- 5- ☐ 5 kelimeden daha az örtüşme içeren metin kısımları hariç

Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Tez Çalışması Orijinallik Raporu Alınması ve Kullanılması Uygulama Esasları'nı inceledim ve bu Uygulama Esasları'nda belirtilen azami benzerlik oranlarına göre tez çalışmamın herhangi bir intihal içermediğini; aksinin tespit edileceği muhtemel durumda doğabilecek her türlü hukuki sorumluluğu kabul ettiğimi ve yukarıda vermiş olduğum bilgilerin doğru olduğunu beyan ederim.

Gereğini saygılarımla arz ederim.

Tarih ve İmza  
 20.09.2018

**Adı Soyadı:** ROBENSON PELLITIER  
**Öğrenci No:** 15125859  
**Anabilim Dalı:** SOSYAL HİZMET  
**Programı:** SOSYAL HİZMET

**DANIŞMAN ONAYI**

UYGUNDUR.

PROF. DR. VEDAT IŞIKHAN  
 (Unvan, Ad Soyad, İmza)

## HAİTİ

## ORIJİNALLIK RAPORU

%9

BENZERLİK ENDEKSİ

%6

İNTERNET  
KAYNAKLARI

%5

YAYINLAR

%3

ÖĞRENCİ ÖDEVLERİ

## BİRİNCİL KAYNAKLAR

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|---|--|-----|
| 1 | www.healthpolicyproject.com<br>İnternet Kaynağı  | %1  |
| 2 | LexisNexis<br>Yayın  | %1  |
| 3 | rm.coe.int<br>İnternet Kaynağı   | <%1 |
| 4 | www.un.org<br>İnternet Kaynağı   | <%1 |
| 5 | Kerry O'Halloran. "The Politics of Adoption",<br>Springer Nature America, Inc, 2015<br>Yayın | <%1 |
| 6 | www.iin.oea.org<br>İnternet Kaynağı  | <%1 |
| 7 | www.fmsi-onlus.org<br>İnternet Kaynağı   | <%1 |
| 8 | orca.cf.ac.uk<br>İnternet Kaynağı  | <%1 |

*Uğur*  
30.09.2018



