Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

No	Item	Description	Section #
Domain 1 : Research team and flexibility			
Personal Characteristics			
1.	Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/conducted the interview or focus group?	Both the author and the facilitator, who were selected from the social group.
2.	Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	PhD Candidate
3.	Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	A University staff
4.	Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Male
5.	Experience and Training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	More than 15 years of teaching, field research and working with research consultants.
Relationship with participants			
6.	Relationship established	What a relationship established prior to study commencement?	yes
7.	Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? E.g. Personal goals, reasons for doing the research	They were informed with a consent letter written from Center for African Asian Studies Research approval committee. Without their permission, no data were gathered.
8.	Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/ facilitator? E.g. Bias. Assumptions. Reasons and interests in the research topic	There were three facilitators, who speak the local languages-Afar af and Amharic. The time was quite interesting that they were communicating with the research participants as much using their potential and study area knowledge as possible. So, the participants reported that they approached them with no bias, rather with openness.
Domain 2: Study design			
Theoretical framework			
9.	Methodological orientation and theory	What Methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? E.g. ground theory, discourse analysis, ethnographic, phenomenology, content analysis	Phenomenology
Participant selection			
10.	Sampling	How were participants selected? E.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball	Purposive
11.	Method approach	How were participants approached? E.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, e-mail	Face-to-face
12.	Sampling size	How many participants were in the study?	From the six research areas, 22 key informants and 56 focused group participants, 18 location assistance and informing the participants and supporting in finding comfortable sites for the research. A total of 96 participants were contacted.
13.	Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? What were the reasons for this?	Two higher officials were not participated although purposive sampling included them. It was because that an emergency meeting at national level interrupted their

			participation in this research.
Setting			
14.	Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? E.g. home, clinic, workplace	Sixteen interviews took place in the key informant's respective villages (home compounds) and the rest of the regional and district bureaus.
15.	Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	Of course yes, since the ares are within hot and arid environment and the culture of the people is mostly communal, non-participants were at all time were presented. If not, they considered it as marginalizing them if not allowed them to be there around.
16.	Description of sample	What are the important characterstics of the sample? E.g. demographic data, date	All participants' demographic characteristics were recorded. For the purpose of this study, their given code, age, and areas are presented.
Data collection			
17.	Interview guide	Were questions, promotes, guide provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	Yes, pilot study was conducted. All KII and FGD were guided by prepared items accordingly.
18.	Repeat interview	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	N/A
19.	Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	Voice recorder and Digital camera were the major data collection tools.
20.	Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	yes
21.	Duration	What was the duration of the interview or focus group?	Among the six FGD discussions, the longest in Mille area (about 4 hours) and in Asayta area (about 3 and half hour) , the rest took 3 hours for each. It was very difficult to collect the pastorals for FGD , but were more available for KII during the night time.
22.	Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	yes
23.	Transcription returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	Once and commented on writings of the local names, and the researcher accepted it accordingly.
Domain 3: Analysis and findings			
Data analysis			
24.	Number of data codes	How many data coders coded the data?	one
25.	Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	N/A
26.	Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	yes
27.	Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	N/A
28.	Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	Some key Informants, yes.
Reporting			
29.	Quotation presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotas identified? E.g. participant number	Yes
30.	Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes
31.	Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes
32.	Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	yes

Please indicate in which section each item has been reported in your manuscript. If you do not feel an item applies to your manuscript, please enter N/A.

For further information about the COREQ guidelines, please see Tong *et al.*, 2017: https://doi.org/10.1093/intqhc/mzm042

When submitting your manuscript via the online submission form, please upload the completed checklist as a Figure/supplementary file.
If you would like this checklist to be included alongside your article, we ask that you upload the completed checklist to an online repository and include the guideline type, name of the repository, DOI and license in the *Data availability* section of your manuscript.

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