

Rural-Urban Migration and its Consequence on Urban living: the case in Hawassa City Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract

In some developing countries such as Ethiopia the phenomenon of rural-urban migration which is mainly triggered by rural 'push' factors and urban 'pull' factors is the main cause of unbalanced rate of population growth and distribution between urban and rural areas. This situation in turn affects the healthy development of both urban and rural areas. In spite of this fact, much is not known on many of the aspects of rural-urban migration. As such, this study is mainly concerned with an assessment of the consequence of rural-urban migration on the socio-economic condition of urban living, consequence of rural-urban migration on the environment of urban areas, and consequences of rural-urban migration on the urban labour scenario of the city. In order to find out the problems, household survey was conducted on 197 households sampled through systematic sampling. Primary data had been collected through questionnaire and interview while the secondary one was from different documented sources. Thus, the data obtained from the participants was analyzed through descriptive statistics. Having analyzed the collected data, the researcher had arrived at the conclusion that rural-urban migration has impact on the socio-economic life of the urban dwellers. Rural migrants came to urban areas in search of employment and to utilize urban services and facilities. Since, the continued out flow of rural migrants is in search for the urban basic facilities, migrants have created pressure on the socio-economic and environmental condition of the host area. Now the cities experiences problems such as a shortage of housing, unemployment, increasing cost of living, lack of access to social services, increased crime rate, expansion of urban informal sectors.

Index terms— rural-urban migration, consequence of migration, migrant, urban areas.

1 Introduction a) Background of the Study

Ethiopia is one of the least urbanized countries of the world where 18 percent of its population lives in urban areas. However, its rate of urbanization is one of the highest in the world, 4.1 percent (Markos and Seyoum, 1998). The rapid growth of urban population in Ethiopia and in many other developing countries has been largely due to rural-urban migration contributing almost half of their urban population growth. For instance, in 1994, about 44.7 percent of the urban residents in Ethiopia were migrants (CSA, 1998 summary reports). The figures were higher for some towns such as Hawassa, 50.6 percent (CSA, 1995). Hawassa is the capital and center of administration of the Southern Nations and Nationalities and Peoples Regional State. The town has become the major socioeconomic and political center of SNNPR. Due to its location on the main road, it receives a considerable number of in-migrants. As a result the numbers of migrants of Hawassa town has grown from 11,325 people in 1994 (CSA, 1995) to 110,834 in 2007 (CSA, 2008). The tide of migration to the town of Hawassa is consistently higher than the capacity of the town to accommodate the new demands posed by the migrants.

42 It is apparent that the basic reasons for the drift of large numbers of people from rural to the urban areas are
43 the relative improvement of different facilities and better living conditions in the urban areas compared to the
44 rural areas is the main "pulling" factor. The pace of urbanization or the tide of migration to urban areas which
45 is triggered by rural "push" factors is consistently higher than the capacity of new job openings and the provision
46 of housing and others social services and amenities. Its effects are felt in wide spread urban unemployment, over-
47 crowded housing and severe shortage of public amenities. Consequences of rapid urbanization are multi faceted
48 and requires timely responses by development planners and policy makers to deal with pressures created on the
49 infrastructure of large urban centers by the influx of migrants, there is also view that the notion of migration
50 should not only be seen from the view points of its negative implications as it is also seen to play positive role in
51 socio-economic development. The outflow of migrants, for instance, manifests itself in the changing labor market
52 scenario in which migration is source of labour force to the urban economy.

53 In Ethiopia, much has not been done to study the effect of rural-urban migration on urban living condition.
54 From the available limited literature on the subject a few have attempted to study aspects of urbanward migration
55 such as Shack (1973) in Addis Ababa, ??ullenbach (1976) in Akaki, Bjerer (1985) in Shashemene, ??ebede (1991)

56 2 d) Materials and Methods

57 The study was based on both primary and secondary data. Using more than one data collection approach
58 give opportunity to the researcher to combine the strengths and correct some of the deficiencies of any one
59 source of data. Initially questionnaire which includes open-ended and closed ended types were prepared and
60 administered for 70 migrants and 127 urban natives (non-migrants) of the city. The sample researcher employ
61 this sampling method because these three sub-cities are areas in which expansion of the city takes place and great
62 number of migrants settles in this sub-city. In-depth interview was also conducted to substantiate the responses
63 acquired using questionnaires. The interview was conducted with the city administrators, and other concerned
64 authorities of the city, administrator of sample kebeles. The questions concerned with the effect of migration on
65 socioeconomic condition of the city. Their responses were interpreted and analyzed using descriptive statistics.
66 In addition to this, published and unpublished literatures were used.

67 3 II.

68 4 Litrature Reviews a) The Nature of Rural-Urban Migration 69 in Ethiopia

70 In the sub-Saharan Africa, there is a consensus that improvement in economic circumstances is the primary
71 motivation for internal migration. African migration is fundamentally a family affair rather than an individual
72 activity. Sending of remittances by migrants is identified as one of the strongest and most all encompassing
73 phenomena in Africa's migration systems. Accordingly individual migration enables the household to maximize
74 its chances for survival by diversifying its sources of income and spreading its risks (Stark and Bloom, 1985).

75 Studies in Ethiopia regarding the implications of migration reveal both the positive and negative aspects.
76 On the positive aspect, migration contributes in meeting the labor demands of receiving areas, bringing back
77 skills, and playing a key role in the diversification and improvement of household income (Degefa, 2005). On the
78 effect of rural-urban migration, different researchers state that migration leads in increasing population exerting
79 pressure on urban social services in the host environment, as well as creating a shortage of farm labor, placing
80 burden of responsibilities on the person who left behind.

81 5 b) Consequence of Rural-Urban Migration

82 The effects of migration are viewed from two directions. On one hand migration causes excessive urbanization,
83 unemployment, income inequalities, ecological stress and population mal-distribution where as on the other
84 hand migration is a necessary part of economic growth, equilibrating tendencies, facilitating industrialization,
85 improving income distribution and introducing technological change in agriculture, and generalize that migration
86 is the human right ensuring choosing one's destination to improve welfare and economic benefit ??Lewis,
87 1982;Standing, 1984). In general, Rural-urban migration has a number of economic, social, cultural, and
88 demographic impacts to both destination and origin areas.

89 6 i. Economic Effect

90 In many cases of migration economic gain has been the prime objective. The economic gain acquired by rural
91 migrants from the cities could be an important asset to be transferred to the rural areas (home area or village)
92 in the form of capital, technology, learning awareness, knowledge, trade, goods or services, etc... Tiffen (1995)
93 describes the positive value of migration as any work outside the district brings in capital and information as well
94 as investment in transport or shops which in turn can facilitate agricultural profitability. Migrants are everywhere
95 doing all kinds of jobs mostly in the service and informal sectors. They are mainly engaged in the 3d jobsdifficult,
96 dirty, and dangerous ??Ma & Xiang 1998) jobs that the urban population does not want because they are too
97 hard or disgracing. migration has significant influence on the population size of both receiving and sending

98 regions. As Standing (1984) pointed out, an increase in migration is expected to reduce rural population growth
99 while urban population can increase because of the majority of migrants are males and females of reproductive
100 age group. As the result, there can be predominance of older age groups with lower fertility rate in the sending
101 rural areas (Khinchuk 1987). The UN (1991) reported that the migration which is caused by population pressure
102 becomes age and sex selective. The result will be a rejuvenation of the population structure of the urban area at
103 destination because the migrants are younger than the resident population. Moreover, some studies demonstrated
104 that the age selectivity nature of rural-urban migration supplies cities with more young adults which in turn
105 increase crude birth rates in cities and urban areas (UNFP A, 1996). In Africa the age selectivity in city ward
106 migration is predominantly noncontraceptive societies; hence it makes the urban population age structure more
107 conducive to high fertility (UNESCO, 1992).

108 **7 iii. Consequence on providing urban basic facilities**

109 Migration has not only impact on demographic and economic aspects, but it has also different impacts on urban
110 basic facilities. The consequences of migration are numerous in the urban areas among which overcrowding
111 and congestion, strain on urban social services, rising food costs, worsening air and water diseases are important
112 (Adepoju 1991). The most visible impact of growing urban population is probably the rise in squatter settlements
113 in the main urban centers. The artificial barriers include high housing costs and regulations making it harder
114 for migrants to rent houses in the cities, pushing them to suburban areas where lack of social services and police
115 protection is pervasive (Zhao, 1999).

116 **8 iv. It results expansion of Urban Informal Sectors**

117 A majority of migrant workers find work in the urban informal sector which then leads to low productivity and
118 limited prospects for exiting poverty (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005). However, there is also compelling evidence
119 that migrants can escape poverty even when they have remained in the informal sector. The majority of the
120 new workers in the urban labor force seemed to create their own employment and start their own businesses.
121 Self-employment comprises a greater and represents 70 per cent of informal employment in sub-Saharan Africa
122 (SSA), 62 percent in North Africa, 60 per cent in Latin America and 59 per cent in Asia (Deshingkar and Grimm,
123 2005). The self-employed were engaged in a variety of activities such as street vending, prostitution, selling
124 different items. Other migrants found jobs as daily labourers, barbers, carpenters, mechanics, Their main reason
125 for taking part in the informal sector is to use what little skills they have to earn enough income to sustain their
126 daily lives. As mentioned before, urban informal sector activities can be labor intensive, the labor coming from
127 every member of the household that is able to work. The majority of the workers entering the urban informal
128 sector are recent rural migrants who are unable to find jobs in the formal sector and the main reason for taking
129 part in the informal sector is to use what little skills they have to earn enough income to sustain their daily
130 lives (Acharya and cervatus, 2009). The informal sector is connected to the formal sector, since it provides
131 opportunities for people who are unable to find employment in the formal sector. Thus, rural-urban migration
132 results expansion of the informal sector and seen as a cause of rural-urban migration, because it lowers the risk
133 of the individual being unemployed once they move to the cities (McCatty, 2004).

134 **9 v. Consequence on rise of urban population**

135 Migration has increased urban populations significantly over the years. A common view held by policymakers and
136 economists in developing countries is that urban growth rates are excessive. This view is brought about by the
137 large numbers of unemployed or underemployed young people in many Asian, African, and Latin American cities
138 (McCatty, 2004). Rural-urban migration increases the urban population and hence unplanned urban expansion
139 with insufficient supply of social services like housing, electricity, water supply, proper sewerage system, road
140 networks and transportation system. Increased number of people because of rural urban migration certainly puts
141 pressure on available and stagnant public utilities. Health services and education have been particularly burdened
142 with a huge demand, causing overcrowded classrooms in urban areas. The most visible impact of growing urban
143 population is probably the rise in squatter settlements in main urban centers. There are cases of unsafe and
144 overcrowded shanty towns where exposure to pollution and diseases are high at risk. In general, increasing urban
145 population has also brought increasing problems in urban.

146 It is also difficult for the urban administration to have proper record of urban residents. Lack of proper
147 record concerning residents made it difficult to control certain criminal activities like robbery and attacks on
148 individual property and in some cases life of residents ??Alemante, Ansha &Waktola, 2006). Unplanned urban
149 growth further contributes to the displacement of farmers around expanding towns ??Alemante, Ansha &Waktola,
150 2006). This further aggravates production shortfall and family disruption. Displaced family members may decide
151 to join urban where there is no job opportunity. As Alemante, Ansha &Waktola (2006)Year 2015 (E)

152 ii. Demographic Consequence maids, personal servants and artisans (McCatty, 2004).

153 **10 Rural-urban Migration**

154 pointed out that, growths of streetism, urban unemployment and higher proportion of unskilled migrants
155 negatively affect the peace and security of the town. In the absence of proper waste management system,

156 environmental pollution is another area of concern for the wider public. Urbanization is connected with a variety
157 of policies, spanning demographic economic and environmental concerns. Growing of cities is often seen as
158 the agents of environmental pollution and urbanization can place stress on the land through sprawl; coincident
159 industrial development may threaten air and water quality (Micheal, 1999).

160 Most of the migration conventionally linked to these urban issues was seen, as a conventional pattern of
161 migration does not always lead to increase incomes and impacts of migration perhaps, the migrant may face
162 obstacles in availability of job and loss of much human labor and social capital. Many in migrants are not in a
163 position to find space and/or materials to accumulate the necessary resources and materials to build a permanent
164 house and they are forced to erect and live in temporary dwellings on the streets. Cities of developing countries,
165 over one-third of their populations have the possibility of living in squatter and slum settlements (Todaro, 2003)
166 III.

167 11 Data Presentation and Analysis Descriptive Statistics a) 168 Consequence of Migration on Urban Households

169 In order to analyze consequence of migration on the urban life of the city an attempt was made to gather
170 information about the problems faced by urban natives (non migrants). As such, problems such as inadequacy
171 of housing, inadequacy of social services like education, health care etc, rise in the cost of living, inaccessibility
172 of job and competition for employment were used as instruments for assessing the impacts of migration on urban
173 life. About 26% of surveyed nonmigrants responded that they have encountered with housing problems. In this
174 regard, an attempt was made to collect information through interviews with the officials of the municipality of
175 the city. They stated that the city has been facing chronic problems of housing and shortage of other urban
176 facilities. About 22.8% of respondents reported that rise in cost of living is a problem. The analysis of the key
177 informant's s also strengthened the aforementioned facts that migration results increase of cost of living. During
178 the in-depth interview with labour and social affairs officials of the city, it was stated that: Steep increase of the
179 population in the city results increase in the cost of consumer goods.

180 The third major problem that non-migrants encountered with was inadequacy of social services. According to
181 information surveyed through key informants from Kebele administrators, there are consequences of migration
182 that the wider public faces.

183 12 Rural-urban migration increases the urban population

184 Urban pull factors Source: Adopted from Brihan, 2011 behind.

185 and hence unplanned urban expansion with insufficient supply of social services like education, health care,
186 proper sewerage system, road networks and transportation system. The inadequacies of social services were
187 highly signaled on education and health care services. Because of high influx of migrants in to the city, the ratio
188 of student to section highly affected. About 18.1% and 13.4% responded that competition for employment and
189 difficulty in getting job is their major problem of urban life respectively. The flow of migrants from surrounding
190 rural areas creates huge access of labor and this results low payment as well as inadequacy of job opportunity in
191 the city.

192 b) The Consequence of Migration on Socio-Economic Conditions of the City Migration affects socio-economic
193 condition of the wider public. Rural-urban migration causes for urban poverty, unemployment and expansion of
194 crime in cities ??Devereux, 2003).

195 As survey data indicated of non-migrants responded that increased rate of unemployment is a problem in
196 the city resulted from influx of rural in migrants. The analysis of the key informants also strengthened the
197 aforementioned facts that rural migrants increased unemployment. Interview held with key informants from city
198 municipality, for instance indicate that Hawassa city is not driven by industrialization rather it is tourism based
199 city hence, there are no adequate industries or corporate establishments worth mentioning and the Government
200 and the tertiary sectors remains the largest employer in the city. In such a given situation, a large proportion
201 of the rural to urban migrants who come in search of better livelihood and employment remain unemployed.
202 Expansion of informal urban sectors was the second socio-economic problem caused by the rural in migrants
203 and it was reported by 24.4% of the respondents. The main reason that rural-urban migrants taking part in
204 the informal sector is to use what little skills they have and to earn income to sustain their daily lives. In
205 urban informal sector activities, the labor coming from every member of the household that is able to work.
206 Of the overall respondents nearly 21.3% reported that urban congestion is a problem caused by migration. Key
207 informant interview from labour and social affairs office of city administration state that influx of migrants results
208 from simple overcrowded in the city up to pressure on urban infrastructure and amenities.

209 The rest significant numbers of the respondents (18.8%) state that rate of crime is increased as the rural in
210 migrants continue to flow towards the city. It clear that, migrants most of them come with low level of skills and
211 education, are prone to a number of social crisis at the place of destination such as being victims of unemployment,
212 homelessness, lack of good access to health and other social services. This chronic c) Demographic Consequence
213 of Migration on Destination Area Migration has significant influence on the population size of both receiving and
214 sending regions. According to the survey data about 70.1% of the surveyed non-migrants reported that urban
215 problems they encountered with were caused by rapid increase in population of the city. Concerning the cause

216 for this rapid population growth in the city 49.6% of the respondents responded that natural increase (fertility
217 of the urban natives) is the main cause. Whereas 48.8% of non-migrants state that rural-urban migration is
218 responsible rise of population of the city. This indicates that rural-urban migration has equally important with
219 natural increase (fertility of the urban natives) in the growth of population of the city. In conclusion we can infer
220 that problems face urban people is caused by the rapid population growth, and this rapid increase in population
221 highly aggravated by rural-urban migration.

222 **13 d) Consequences of Migration on Physical Environment**

223 of the City Urbanization is connected with a variety of, spanning demographic economic and environmental
224 concerns. Fast growth of cities which is facilitated by rural-urban migration is often seen as the agents of
225 environmental pollution.

226 According to the data surveyed through key informant's interview of the city administration officials, there are
227 consequences of migration that the wider public faces. As indicated above Rural-urban migration increases the
228 urban population and hence unplanned urban expansion with insufficient sewerage system, road networks and
229 transportation system. In the absence of proper waste management system, environmental pollution is another
230 area of concern for the wider public. This is evident from most part of the town where street dwellers perform
231 all activities required for human survival in the road side with the absence of proper environmental concern. Key
232 informant interview with officials of the city municipality state that, Migration can contribute to the growth of
233 urban squatters and unplanned expansion of towns and cities, with improper environmental management.

234 IV.

235 **14 Conclusions**

236 Rural-urban migration puts pressure on urban basic facilities like schools, health and housing services. Migration
237 also affects urban dwellers by making food items prices to raise, competition for employment which results work
238 for low payment. Migration has significant influence on the population size of city. The flood of rural migrants
239 to the city results unplanned rise of population and demand of jobs, health, education, and the like Year 2015

240 **15 (E)**

241 unemployment leads them to crime, as people need to find ways of putting food on their tables. urban facilities.
242 Besides, as more and more rural migrants move into this city, there will be soon a point of diminishing returns
243 where the towns will become unable to provide even basic social services to the registered residents due to
244 increased migrants' pressure.

245 Furthermore, rural-urban migrants are polluting the city, as they defecate in public because they have rented
246 rooms without any services except for sleeping. In most part of Hawassa Town Street dwellers erect plastic
247 houses on road side, and perform all activities required for human survival with no concern to the environment
248 of the city. High flow of migrants to Hawassa creates excessive labour and this has accentuated the problem of
249 unemployment. In growing number of street children, growing rate of the prostitution, growing rate of crime and
expansion urban informal sectors are the major problems that have resulted from rural-urban migration. ^{1 2}



Figure 1:

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