

1 Livelihoods in Dilapidated Neighborhoods of Jimma City: The 2 Efforts of Poor Urban Dwellers to Survive

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7 **Abstract**

8 This study is entitled as ?livelihoods in dilapidated neighborhoods of Jimma City: The efforts
9 of poor urban dwellers to survive in the city of Jimma?. To study it, variety of objectives was
10 emanated from the general objective of the study. The general objective of this study is to
11 investigate the life making of the poor in dilapidated neighborhoods. Four specific objectives
12 were derived from the general objective. These specific objectives include describing the
13 nature of vulnerability dwellers face in the study area, identifying the major types of
14 livelihood strategies the poor use in the study area, examining assets of the of the households
15 and the access to these assets and to describe the outcomes of their livelihood. To address
16 these objectives, qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. A cross-sectional
17 survey was conducted on 50 respondents purposively sampled from the Hirmata Kebele.
18 In-depth interviews were also conducted with seven informants. One focus group discussion
19 was also conducted to get both in-depth information on the issue at hand. Secondary data
20 was also used. Therefore, the study reveals that households in the study area face variety of
21 vulnerabilities. Majority of the respondents in the study site characterized by low
22 socioeconomic status, low income, and concerning the educational status; more than (60

23

24 ***Index terms***— livelihood, urban poor, dilapidated neighborhood, assets, urban, coping strategy.

25 **1 Introduction**

26 dilapidated or deteriorated neighborhoods in urban areas are one of the main units of analysis for researchers in
27 urban studies. The reason for this attraction is the susceptibility of those neighborhoods for the diversities of
28 vulnerabilities. These areas are most of the time prone to government eviction for variety of purposes. The
29 houses, infrastructures, the behavior of people are considered as not favorable to lead normal life. To understand,
30 change and improve this situation, it needs rigorous studies of the existing condition. The study therefore, has
31 focused on investigating the living condition of people and the major factors that influence their livelihoods in
32 depreciated neighborhoods.

33 As cited in Ermiyas (2000) the urban poor mean those of urban residents who live in poverty. People who
34 lack access to basic urban services are also considered urban poor. Although in certain ways urban poverty and
35 rural poverty are comparable, there are features that are severe in poor urban settlements than in rural areas.
36 This results in different coping mechanisms on the part of the poor and demands different interventions to reduce
37 poverty.

38 Ermias ??2000) provides a useful categorization of the main characteristics of urban poverty, such as
39 urban environmental and health risks; diseases from contaminated food, water and lack of hygiene; diseases
40 associated with poor drainage and inadequate garbage collection; overcrowding and poor ventilation; open fires;
41 landslides and flooding—since these areas are constructed in vulnerable topographies; accidents; social diversity,
42 fragmentation and crime; more impersonal relationships; evictions for variety of purposes; corruption; and
43 vulnerability arising from inflation.

2 A) STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

44 Similarly to their rural counterparts, urban households seek to mobilize resources and opportunities so as to
45 combine these into a livelihood strategy. Urban households, rich or poor, adopt a number of livelihood strategies
46 in their attempts to manage the changes in their economic circumstances. However, because of the economic,
47 environmental, social and political context in which they live, the livelihood strategies of urban poor households
48 may be different from those of their rural counterparts.

49 Ermias ??2000) provided the following useful definition of a livelihood strategy from urban perspective: A
50 "strategy" implies some alteration in an individual's or household's economic behavior, in order to reduce the
51 adverse impact of, for example, declining incomes or deteriorating infrastructure or services. Hence, a strategy
52 may be a long-term planned response to circumstances that yields positive benefits. Poor urban households
53 adopt two major coping strategies that have so far been well documented: multiple D , sourcing of cash incomes,
54 especially from the informal sector and urban farming. In addition, the contribution of urban-rural links in the
55 livelihood of poor urban households is very important.

56 Dwellers in these neighborhoods employ important approaches to secure their livelihoods. The strategies range
57 from diversification of incomegenerating strategies to coping strategies. Households and individuals adopt a mix
58 of these strategies according to their own circumstances and the changing context in which they live. These
59 economic activities form the basis of an urban household's strategy. Urban households diversify their income
60 sources to raise or maintain their incomes. In other words, households construct an increasingly diverse portfolio
61 of activities and assets to survive and to improve their standard of living (Elias 2000; Ahiadekeet. al2000; Potts
62 1997).

63 Urban coping strategies tend to be characterized by such conditions as; environmental conditions with
64 overcrowded neighborhoods lacking basic infrastructure, lack of adequate housing and high population density,
65 and significant health risks, especially in winter. Human and social conditions shaped by widespread illiteracy
66 and child labor, leading to long-term negative effects on health status and education, thus fewer income-earners
67 per dependents. The informal economy is made up mostly of the urban poor and vulnerable, often leaving them
68 with insufficient income in the commoditized urban economy. Political conditions which arises from an evolving
69 and largely uncoordinated policy environment, poor governance and widespread insecurity of tenure of housing.
70 Loss of income; food insecurity; poor physical and mental health; and social disintegration are the major risks
71 in having to make a living in urban coping economies. i Strategies to cope with these risks vary, but are often
72 not very sustainable and in many cases lead to what has been called the "asset vulnerability" of the urban
73 poor. The pressure generated by unfavorable external conditions and the attendant risks to livelihood security
74 prevalent in developing country cities often weakens people's capacity to deal with the constraining factors of
75 their environment, resulting in an internal condition of defenselessness and inability to cope with threats to
76 livelihood security (Ahiadeke et al 2000; ??hiella et al 2001).

77 If livelihoods are to be sustained they require the capability to respond to change. Households and communities
78 react to changing circumstances, external or internal pressures or shocks, by adapting how they use their portfolio
79 of assets and capabilities and their traditional livelihood systems. This study tries to explore the portfolio of
80 assets common in the neighborhood. In addition to the portfolio of assets, access to these assets and contexts that
81 surround the livelihood of these people is explored. Therefore, the study is aimed at investigating the livelihood
82 strategies, assets of households and accesses to assets, and the vulnerability people face on the study setting.

83 2 a) Statement of the Problem

84 Urban areas are considered as better serviced with all types of infrastructure than rural areas. However, rapid
85 urbanization has resulted in congestion, inadequate infrastructure facilities and the consequent environmental
86 problems. The dramatic growth of cities in the developing world has brought with it a new challenge wide spread
87 and increasing urban poverty. Moreover, most of the time, anti-poverty initiatives have traditionally targeted
88 rural areas, which were presumed to have been worse off than urban areas. But the problems of poor city dwellers
89 have become more pressing, including the issues of how the urban poor earn their livelihoods and the ways in
90 which this affects key indicators of human welfare, such as food security and nutrition (Ahiadeke et al 2000).

91 There is a general agreement among social scientists that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon with
92 complex linkages. Poverty is more than just a physiological phenomenon denoting a lack of basic necessities
93 like food, health, shelter and clothing. Poverty is also a state of deprivation and powerlessness, where the poor
94 are exploited and denied participation in decision-making in matters that intimately affect them. It is also
95 characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and civil, social, and cultural life (Sheilla et al 2001).

96 The concept of poverty invokes all kinds of questions such as; what is poverty, who is poor, and according
97 to whom are they poor? Two major conclusions can be drawn from the growing body of literature that has
98 attempted to answer these questions. First, it is now well understood that poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon.
99 The dimensions of poverty cover distinct aspects of human capabilities: economic (income, livelihoods, work),
100 human (health, education), political (empowerment, rights, voice), socio-cultural (status, dignity) and protective
101 (insecurity, risk, vulnerability) (OECD 2001). Secondly, poverty should be defined not only as a state but also
102 as a process in which people's choices and the level of well-being they have achieved are narrowed. Equivalent to
103 all the statements, poverty can also take the form of denial of access to employment-which restricts economically,
104 again, denial of freedom and intellectual poverty are also among its manifestations.

105 Degefa (2008:1-2) pointed out that Ethiopia, with only less than 20% of the people living in towns and cities, is

106 among the least urbanized countries and yet one of the rapidly urbanizing nations of the Sub-Saharan Africa. The
107 rate of urbanization for the country is estimated at 4.7% per annum ??CSA 2006). However, the rural-urban
108 migration that accounts for the largest proportion of urban population increase puts a 20 (C) tremendous
109 pressure upon physical, economic and social infrastructure and services of urban centers. Ethiopian towns of
110 different sizes have not well developed to receive the ever-increasing rural-urban migrants. Formal economic
111 activities in urban centers could not absorb illiterate migrants or with low educational background. Majorities of
112 migrants to urban centers concentrate in neighborhoods which lack basic services or neglected. When migration
113 to these areas increases, the amount of poverty also increases.

114 The livelihoods of urban poor are defined to maximum extent by the opportunities and constraints under
115 which they are operating. There is a context difference between rural and urban livelihoods. Cities are more
116 culturally diverse, and are likely to be less safe and more socially fragmented than relatively more stable rural
117 part. In light of that, this study aimed to examine the existing nature of the social, natural, human and other
118 capitals and the nature of access to these assets when poor dwellers pursue their livelihood in the study area.

119 In this study, the efforts of poor urban inhabitants to survive and cope were addressed. The study focused
120 on how urban people under poverty make a living and maintain affordable levels of consumption. Therefore, the
121 study investigates the livelihood strategy the poor people practiced in malfunctioning neighborhoods in Jimma
122 town.

123 Studies which focus on challenges and opportunities of livelihood in run-down neighborhoods, squatter
124 settlements, the impact of the sprawl on periurban farmland in Addis Ababa and other major towns have been
125 conducted by among others, Degefa (2008); Haregewoin (2005); Ahiadeke et al ??2000); Minwuyelet ??2005).
126 The livelihood of the poor in deteriorating areas of Jimma town, however, is less considered. Thus, emphasis was
127 given to these areas in order to study the abovementioned concerns.

128 **3 b) General Objective of the Study**

129 The general objective of the study is to investigate the life making strategies of the poor in dilapidated
130 neighborhoods of Jimma town.

131 **4 c) Specific Objectives of the Study**

132 In light of the general objective, the following specific objectives were addressed thoroughly. i. To describe the
133 nature of vulnerability dwellers face in Hirmata Merkato ii. To identify major types of livelihood strategies the
134 poor use in these neighborhoods iii. To examine capitals/assets (social, human, natural and physical) vis-à-vis
135 the nature of access to these assets the poor have iv. To describe the livelihood outcomes of dwellers in the study
136 setting

137 **5 d) Scope of the Study**

138 This study focuses on the livelihood strategies of the urban poor in Hirmata Merkato Kebele of Jimma town,
139 Southwest Ethiopia. In this study, households who live in dilapidated houses in Hirmata Merkato Kebele were the
140 subjects of the study. Therefore, physically decayed housing units and the inhabitants therein were contemplated
141 through the use of qualitative and quantitative research approaches.

142 **6 e) Limitation of the Study**

143 Since the study gave attention to judgmentally selected dwellers inhabiting in physically decayed housing units
144 of the study setting, both participants and respondents of the qualitative and quantitative parts were sampled
145 purposively. Understandably, however, questionably, one may resent considering extrapolation of the data to the
146 population.

147 Of course, it has not been extrapolated in the sense of what Maxwell (1996:96-97) referred as 'external
148 generalizability', but applied to the 'internal generalizability'-to the population or the group who do really have
149 commonalities in various aspects.

150 Hence, the study is representative in the sense that it has uncovered the case at hand in detail as has been
151 aimed in the objectives of the study. Therefore, emphasis was given to describe the existing livelihood strategies,
152 and factors that constrain alongside those which enhance security of livelihood.

153 **7 f) Research Methods Study Design; Sources of Data; Methods 154 of Sampling, Data Collection, Analysis; and Ethical Consider- 155 erations**

156 Cross-sectional study design was employed to get data at one point in time from the cross section of the population.
157 In light of that, purposive sampling was employed to get respondents. In purposive sampling, the researchers
158 take samples with purpose in mind. We usually would have one or more specific predefined groups we are seeking.
159 Based on this idea, first, physically deteriorated areas of Jimma city were selected by the researchers through
160 observation. Purposively, 50 households from Hirmata Merkato Kebele or neighborhood were selected.

12 TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE (N=50)

161 Survey method was used to collect quantitative data from 50 respondents purposively sampled due to the
162 absence of sampling frame on dilapidated and poor households in the kebele. In addition to that, an FGD
163 with a group of 10 members was conducted, observation has also been carried out as per the check list, and
164 7 individuals from the study area were also purposively selected for in-depth interview. Thus, simple survey
165 research on purposively sampled respondents and participants was conducted.

166 Both primary and secondary sources of data were consulted. The primary data was obtained through
167 distributing questionnaire and conducting key-informant interview with study participants in light of the design
168 of the research. As tools of data collection, questionnaire was designed consciously and administered by the
169 researchers to sampled respondents. For the qualitative part, interview guide and observation checklist were
170 developed for the in-depth interview and the observation respectively.

171 The data gathered in qualitatively and quantitatively explicable forms were presented and analyzed by using
172 descriptive statistics and thematic analysis respectively.

173 Study participants were informed about the purpose of this study. Informed verbal consent was obtained from
174 participants before the interviews and discussions. The participants were assured that information they provide
175 would be kept confidential and for research purpose. Pseudonyms, therefore, were used to keep anonymity. The
176 participants were also assured that their participation was on voluntarily basis and they were free to withhold
177 their consent and quit the interview anytime.

178 8 II.

179 9 Data Presentation and Analysis a) Socioeconomic Status of 180 Informants

181 According to the design of the study, both quantitative and qualitative research methods were employed to
182 collect data from the study subjects. Among qualitative methods, in-depth and unstructured interview with key
183 informants was conducted to get data pertinent to the issue under scrutiny. Quantitative data was collected
184 through researcher-administered questionnaire from respondents sampled purposively due to the nature of the
185 study population. Hence, quantitative data on the socioeconomic, demographic, educational and marital statuses,
186 and income distribution of the respondents were presented and analyzed below. The above percentage distribution
187 depicts the respondents' sex and age distribution. Based on the field survey, 34% of the respondents' age group
188 is between 10-18 years old; 46% of the respondents were between the ages of 19-29; 12% of the respondents fall
189 under the age ranging from 30-40 and 8% of the respondents were between the ages of 41-60 interval. Regarding
190 the sex of respondents, 44% of the respondents were male and 56% of them were females. Women outnumber
191 males in the study area. Table 2 displays the distribution of Ethnic groups in the study site. As has been shown,
192 24% (12) of the respondents were Oromo; 12% (6) were Amhara; 24% (12) were Dawro; 20% (10) were Yem;
193 4% (2) were Kaffa; 12% (6) were Gurage and 4% (2) were Silte. Therefore, in the neighborhood, people from
194 surrounding zones dominate particularly from Dawro, Yem and Kaffa.

195 10 (C)

196 Table 3: depicted that 46% of the households in the study area are male-headed while 54% of the households are
197 female-headed. This indicates that the magnitude of problems these households face is severe because, in poor
198 urban neighborhoods, female-headed households have little access to assets. This increases their vulnerability to
199 variety of shocks. Concerning the educational status of individuals and households in the neighborhood, 42%
200 (21) of the respondents were at grade 1-4 level. This also constituted the majorities of the sampled respondents.
201 The second majorities were those who can't read/write and they accounted for 28% (14) of the respondents.
202 Others are those who are at secondary school level and above primary levels. They constitute 20% (10) and
203 10% (5) respectively. Therefore, from the table shown above, one can understand that the majority of dwellers
204 in the neighborhood were with a very low educational status. This in turn has a negative consequence on their
205 livelihood strategy as well as livelihood outcome. Due to low educational status, the return of their labor is very
206 minimal hence cannot sustain their life adequately.

207 11 Table 5: Employment History of Respondents

208 12 Total sample size (n=50)

209 Table ?? has depicted that majority of the respondents are self-employed who constituted 52% (26) of the
210 respondents. There are also many unemployed youths in the study area and they comprised 28% (14) of the
211 respondents. Some of the respondents were employed in the government organizations and NGOs as guards and
212 janitors and they constitute 10% (5) each. Thus, the occupation of the majority of the respondents was self-
213 employed activities such as street vending and other casual activities. Majority of them have engaged in these
214 activities for the sake of survival rather than to get profit. Table ?? indicates that 6% (3) of the respondents
215 depend on monthly salary as the main source of income. The majority of the respondents 54% (27) said that
216 they get their income from self-employed activities. The second majority of the respondents 34% (17) get their
217 income from wage labor. They sell their labor at the sites of construction in various parts of the city of Jimma.

218 Some of the respondents receive remittance from Arab countries and they constitute 6 % (3) of the 50 sampled
219 respondents. Total sample size (n=50)

220 Table 7 reveals that the majority of the respondents dwell in rented houses rather than own houses. They
221 constitute 48% (24) of the total sampled respondents. The second majority of the respondents reside in the
222 kebele houses that constituted 32% (16) of the respondents. Although some of the respondents have their own
223 houses, however, the houses are too dilapidated and constructed from a very simple construction material like
224 mud and woods. This segment constitutes 20% (10) of the total 50 sampled respondents.

225 **13 Total sample size (n=50)**

226 As it is depicted on the table above, the overwhelming majority of the respondents are engaged in street vending
227 activities as their sole livelihood strategy. They constitute 90% (45) of the respondents. Other respondents are
228 engaged in domestic services 2% (1); some lead their life by pension of husbands 6% (3) and remittance from
229 Arab country comprises 2% (1). Therefore, from the table, it is possible to conclude that the majority of the
230 members of the neighborhood depend on street vending as their main livelihood strategy. This strategy is mainly
231 a survival strategy with niggardly income than something which yields enough earnings.

232 Table ?? The assets that poor people possess or have access to, the livelihoods they desire and the strategies
233 they adopt are influenced by the context within which they live (Rakodi 2002:37). The contexts that surround
234 urban dwellers can be turned into sources of vulnerability. In the table above (table ??), shown are sources
235 of vulnerabilities of the respondents. Majority of the respondents, 50% (25), replied that the main source of
236 vulnerability in their neighborhood is inflation of goods and services.

237 Next to inflation of goods and services, vulnerability as a result of illness follows. Since the poor neighborhoods
238 lack most of basic urban services, particularly the service of efficient sewage disposal, the dwellers are suffering
239 from frequent communicable diseases.

240 Apart from that, rainy season also creates significant amount of tension on the activities of dwellers. For
241 example, 10% of the dwellers replied that during the wet seasons, they face vulnerability. There is also frequent
242 neighborhood conflict in the area between adjacent neighborhoods. During this time, it is difficult to pursue the
243 livelihood in the neighborhood. From the total sampled respondents 6% (3) of them stated that they are affected
244 by conflicts of youths in their neighborhood. Sometimes vendors are confiscated/ raided by polices too. Since
245 the main source of livelihood of people in the neighborhood is street vending and for the activity is not allowed
246 and even considered as illicit, there is a police confiscation or raiding. Respondents who shared this response
247 as the major source of vulnerability accounted for 4% of the samples. Therefore, as has been mentioned by the
248 study participants, one can understand that the neighborhood is suffering from ranges of vulnerabilities which
249 are impeding the potential development of the real wealth of the nation, Human. Hence, to provide the people
250 of such circumstances (vulnerabilities) with the tools, services and diverse opportunities they need to lead the
251 ways of lives that they value (and which are realistic as per the context), is imperative. Total sample size (n=50)

252 Before they are engaged in street trades like street vending, hawking; some of them are employed in other
253 forms of formal and informal employments. But majority of the respondents were unemployed before they become
254 engaged in the self-employed sector. They constitute 44% (22) of the total sampled respondents. The largest
255 share of respondents, 52% (26), was formally employed in government offices. However, they were employed in
256 lower positions for niggardly income due to their lower educational achievements. Others who migrated from
257 adjacent zones of the city were previously engaged in farming activities and they constitute 2% (1) of the total
258 respondents and the same figure (2%) also represented NGO employees.

259 Therefore, unemployment, underemployment in low ranking jobs and migration from surrounding zones to
260 Jimma city is the common characteristics of people who live in this neighborhood.

261 **14 b) Households' Sources of Livelihood, Settlements**

262 Respondents of the neighborhood have varying sources and ranges of income. According to an interviewee, the
263 total income he gets monthly was 200 birr and his daughter earns 600 birr from her domestic service. However,
264 the household needs a minimum of 1200 birr for monthly expenditure. The informant's family size is also large
265 i.e. eight. Large family size, coupled with niggardly income, is pressuring onto the livelihood which accompanies
266 rise in vulnerabilities. Heads of the households, though expected to provide the necessities for members, yet the
267 large size of family tempts them with meager sources of income.

268 Concerning places of origin and settlement, the informant reported his migration from Dawro zone of SNNPR
269 and settled in Jimma. As to his account, he is married and dropped his education from grade 7 and engaged in
270 daily laboring and coffee-beans collection (buna lekema) as the livelihood strategies as a breadwinner to support
271 his household.

272 He also replied in detail about his living condition as the following, "I dropped education from grade 7, Monthly
273 I earn 200 birr, my daughter earns 600 birr/month, and we have an ownership/ access to plot of land-which is
274 200 care meter, the sources of income for our family is: daily laboring, and 'buna lekema'. The main contributors
275 for the household income is me, my wife and my daughter. Some of the Children are also contributers for the
276 household income diversification."

16 D) AWARENESS OF INHABITANTS TOWARDS GUIDELINES CONCERNING URBAN LIVELIHOODS

277 Largely, there is no secured or dependable source of income for this household. They change their livelihood
278 seasonally. With low educational status and its negative consequences on human capital of the household, it is
279 difficult to participate in dependable livelihood strategy. The only available resource to them is their labor. But,
280 with low educational achievement, the return to their labor is meager and forced them to lead subsistence life.
281 An informant's household expends more than they earn. For instance, the total household's expenditure was
282 more than 2000 birr/month. They fulfill this expenditure through their insecure livelihood and support from
283 NGOs and sometimes from the government.

284 As an informant recounted, there is support from nearby organizations. When they are affected by food
285 shortages they get support from government and non-governmental organizations. However, rather than stressing
286 on support during food shortages and other challenges, what the households preferred is to support their livelihood
287 strategy in variety of ways. They believe that if their livelihood is strong enough to withstand the shocks and
288 vulnerabilities, they can overcome whatever challenges they face.

289 15 c) Human Capital

290 Human capital can be understood as the labor resources available to households, which have both quantitative
291 and qualitative dimensions. The former refers to the number of household members and time available to engage
292 in income-earning activities. While the qualitative one refers to the levels of education, skills and health statuses
293 of households' members ??Rakodi, 2002).

294 Human capital of households is in either form. i.e. qualitative or quantitative one is fragile. The quantitative
295 aspect of the human capital is also not competent. Although there are youths and adults in the households, they
296 do not fulfill formal criteria to be employed in the formal sector. In terms of the time available to them, they
297 have good opportunity to be engaged in any emergent income generating activities since there is no regular and
298 stable livelihood strategy.

299 Largely, households are characterized by low formal education and malnutrition. The inhabitants are food
300 insecure. They get food from market. In addition to this, the price of food is souring from time to time. Again,
301 the source of income of the households is also limited. Though there is the practice of diversification, it is meager
302 and serves only for survival. Thus, they face challenge to adequately feed members of the household.

303 Investment on education and balanced diet is low. Much of their money is invested on cheap foods for survival.
304 They use some kind of local innovations such as "innovative fishing with barbed wire".

305 16 d) Awareness of Inhabitants towards Guidelines concerning 306 Urban Livelihoods

307 The crucial determinants of households' ability to achieve improved livelihoods are their access to assets and the
308 effects of external conditioning variables that constrain or encourage the productive use of such assets and that
309 expose households to risks or threats. A variety of levels and categories of policy may impact on these. Policies
310 are generally categorized as macroeconomic or local policies (Rakodi 2002:114).

311 Economic growth is not accompanied by rapid poverty reduction in poor neighborhoods in regional towns. It
312 seems that the policy environment nationally emphasizes on mega-projects which has a long-run positive impact.
313 Though there are some policies regarding micro and small-scale enterprises, the scheme does not accommodate
314 the poorest segment of the demographic spectrum. Because it needs some initial capital and related social net
315 workings.

316 In the study area, the households have less knowledge of policies, legislations and laws concerning the livelihood
317 strategy they pursue. Government policies towards some of the activities practiced by the individuals and
318 households are outlawed. For example, street trade without registration and paying tax is considered as illicit.

319 However, since people of the neighborhood for one thing-have not been sensitized with the existing regulatory
320 frameworks (policies, directives?) and for another thing, though stated as an 'informal' sector by the government,
321 yet by its nature the sector is prevailing with such mesmerizing peculiarities as small-scale initial capital required
322 to furnish and/or commence the business, speedy financial return helping the poor to look into the next day,
323 thereby, contributing to maximum extent in the struggle against addressing what can be termed as silent
324 emergency-poverty amongst several other neglected human agenda.

325 The poor not only suffer from the labeling, i.e. informal, illicit and non-tax payer; but also lacked vending
326 places yet with the presence of sites of waste disposal which are risking the lives of the poor and the affluent. In
327 an adult conversation, to deny the poor from access to marketing areas does not do justice either to the poor or
328 the local consumers and the economy combined.

329 This act also poses a serious question on whether diversity is appreciated or denounced for its presence. For
330 diversity is not only with cultural or religious dimension, and since we do also have diversity in the sense that the
331 well-to-do, the middle one and the destitute are integral parts of the real context, to approach all these diversities
332 with an unvaried marketing style has not been an easy task to attain, hence, not realized yet. To appreciate
333 such diversity cannot be revealed through vivid strategies of demoting the market of the poor for the poor and
334 beyond.

335 Literatures recommend that in order to reduce poverty, policies designed to achieve economic growth need
336 to be accompanied by redistribution of income or assets. Income redistribution can be achieved by designing

337 growth strategies that increase the incomes of the poorest, or by redistributing income through taxation. Growth
338 might be expected to be pro-poor if it takes place in sectors in which the poor work, but opportunities for urban
339 wage employment arising from economic growth are often not accessible to the poor because of their lack of
340 education and appropriate skills. Redistribution of assets is necessary to enable poor people to take advantage of
341 opportunities, but which assets are critical, varies according to the context. In urban labor markets, redistribution
342 of human capital assets (education, knowledge, skills, and health) may be as important as the redistribution of
343 productive assets, especially land. However, some consider the latter to be a prerequisite for reducing poverty,
344 inequality, by providing a basis for secure livelihoods ??Rakodi, 2002).

345 Apart from that, poverty and inequality can also be meaningfully reduced by exercising sensible use of one's own
346 resources (even with limited or no assistance) which may start with efficient resource utilization by sector bureaus
347 and, done effectively, and found rationally feasible, may extend even to slight budget cutting exercises from the
348 annual expenditure of the military. At seasons of relative geopolitical stability and regional/continental/global
349 peace, economies must be worried of addressing neglected human agenda (homelessness, un/underemployment,
350 illiteracy?) in a form of peace-dividend-for the peace has implication on possible reduction on annual expenditure
351 of the armed force.

352 One should also promote for the availability of enabling environment for the working and indeed striving poor
353 who are contributing sometimes at

354 **17 (C)**

355 household level, at others at local level and even on times to the wider community. Hence, it is far better to
356 enable the invisiblized segment of the demographic spectrum, the poor, to have access to conducive and protected
357 market opportunities rather than to keep them on destitution-which has direful impact be it to the nation or
358 onto the poor and the neighborhood combined.

359 Pro-poor growth policies, income and asset redistribution are considered as vital to reduce poverty in
360 dilapidated neighborhoods. Without this process, the poor cannot be benefitted from the economic growth since
361 they lack education and appropriate skill to be accommodated in job opportunities created by economic growth.
362 Redistribution of assets like schools, health stations, training services to poor neighborhoods are imperative so
363 that the poor dwellers may get access. After this process, the poor can be beneficiary from the national economic
364 growth and improve/secure their livelihood.

365 **18 e) Social Capital of Households**

366 Social capital is defined as 'the rules, norms, obligations, reciprocity and trust embedded in social relations,
367 social structures, which enable its members to achieve their individual and community objectives'. For social
368 interaction to be termed 'capital', it must be persistent, giving rise to trust on which people can draw. Social
369 networks are not all supportive of the poor and are generally thought to be less healthy in urban areas because
370 of the mobility and heterogeneity of their populations (Carole Rakodi, 2002:33).

371 In poor or tumbledown neighborhoods of Jimma town, intra-group social network is intense but the inter-
372 group social network is less intense. They make social relationship within their neighborhood and intimate social
373 circles. But, they don't make it beyond their immediate social circles. The common types of social networks in
374 the study area were mahber and iddir. Members of these associations support each other at times of wedding,
375 funeral and rarely graduation ceremonies. Concerning the effectiveness of these groups some of the informants
376 believe that it is obvious that to carryout any ceremony, the hosting household is required to cover labor cost
377 of many individuals, however, being a member of an eddir or mahber will enable the households to access the
378 support (which includes such materials as dish, plates, cups?) for free. The associations are too beneficial to
379 members, yet not responding to your life-long poverty. The problem with iddir is it doesn't improve your life
380 but helps only at funeral and other ceremonies or events. They have also no mechanism to help members even
381 during health problem.

382 They are active only at times of ceremonies such as funerals, weddings, etc. So, they have nothing to do with
383 the livelihood strategy of poor people. Despite that, sometimes there are loans provided by the iddir but the
384 poor has less chance to get it due to low social asset. In general, as it is common in many cities, enduring social
385 interaction and trust development in the study area was not dependable. The poor cannot depend on these
386 fragile social capitals. This is exacerbated by the frequent mobility of poor to search their daily job. Moreover,
387 the heterogeneity of dwellers in many aspects also affects trust which is the source of social capital in the area.

388 **19 f) The Situation of Natural Capital of Households**

389 The natural capitals include land, water or river or mainly commonly used resources. Generally, natural capital
390 is less significant in cities. But, the practice of urban agriculture means that for some urban residents, land
391 is an important asset. However, urban agriculture is practiced on marginal lands; it is frequently vulnerable
392 to environmental contamination. Moreover, while common property resources (such as rivers or forests) are
393 generally less significant assets for poor urban dwellers, some natural resources are used in urban settings. Rivers
394 in particular may be used as a source of water for washing and even drinking, and for livelihood activities, such
395 as fishing or poultry rearing ??DFID, 1998; ??akodi, 1993; ??ited in Rakodi, 2002:69).

21 H) FINANCIAL CAPITAL OF THE HOUSEHOLDS

396 As has been rightly observed above, in the study area too, informants have stated that; they have access to
397 a nearby river for fishing and forest to collect for fuel or firewood. The access is communal; it is not protected
398 or prohibited. They said that "we are making livelihood out of it". Access to natural capital can be affected
399 by external factors. In the town of Jimma, there are many rivers around the locality of the town but many of
400 them are polluted. They are the dumping sites of dry and liquid wastes due to poorly organized waste disposal
401 strategy in the town.

402 Although there are some open lands in the study area, poor inhabitants do not practice livelihood strategies
403 like urban agriculture. The weather condition in the town of Jimma is favorable for practicing urban agriculture.
404 Land in pocket areas of these neighborhoods are not used for urban agriculture but dumping sites of wastes and
405 vending sites on the other hand. As it has been mentioned above, some of the informants said that they depend
406 on rivers for fishing. They fish for survival than accumulating capital from it. They use traditional/hOMEMADE
407 fishing materials. Although they use nearby rivers for their livelihood, the rivers are not well protected from
408 contamination. In addition to this, with a traditional material and absence of investment on feeding fishes in
409 rivers, they do not pursue a secured livelihood. Therefore, despite of the availability of some form of natural
410 capital in the study area, it does not guarantee the security of their livelihood. Lack of support by concerned
411 bodies; lack of training on how to fishing, feed fishes in the rivers; how to protect the rivers , , from contamination
412 pose vulnerable condition to the poor in the study setting.

413 20 g) Physical Capital Status of the Households

414 Physical capital includes household assets, including tools, equipment, housing and household goods, as well
415 as stocks (such as jewellery). The ability to invest in production equipment may directly generate income and
416 enhance labor productivity. Shelter is similarly multifunctional, potentially providing income from rent as well as
417 a location for home-based enterprise. Infrastructure, which is public property, is an important component both
418 for household maintenance and for livelihoods. Important for health and social interaction, and thus contributing
419 to human and social capital, it also enables people to access, and directly supports income-generating activities
420 ??Rakodi, 2002).

421 In cities, housing is one of the vital assets for the poor. It is used for productive (renting rooms, using
422 the space as a workshop area) purposes in addition to shelter. Livestock is generally less important in cities.
423 Nevertheless, many urban residents undertake livestock rearing for the sale. Production Equipment, such as
424 utensils for preparing cooked food for sale and nonmotorized vehicles, is vital to many household enterprises (see
425 Moser, 1998; ??akodi, 1997 ?? Rakodi, 2002:69).

426 Physical capitals mentioned by some of the informants in the area were include shelter; utensils for preparing
427 cooked food; non-motorized vehicles to transport goods; fishing tools (homemade); livestock; televisions; digging
428 tools for daily laborers. Members of the households in the study area use the aforementioned household utensils
429 to pursue their livelihood. Mainly used productive tools by households in the area include: utensils for preparing
430 cooked food for sale; traditional fishing tools, shelter and digging utensils. Many of household assets they use
431 were traditional and does not allow beyond survival livelihood. Though livestock are one of the vital household
432 physical assets in other towns and cities, the inhabitants in the study area do not depend on it mainly. Even
433 if some households have their own shelter, renting is impossible due to decay and narrowness of the houses.
434 Injera baking utensils are not efficient as electric stove. Households mainly use the traditional bakery. With
435 these inadequacies and ineffectiveness, the available physical assets do not guarantee the security of household
436 livelihood.

437 21 h) Financial Capital of the Households

438 Literatures reveal that income derived from the sale of their labor, pensions and remittances from outside the
439 household constitute the main sources of financial asset in the poor neighborhoods. When there is a surplus,
440 some of this flow may be saved as financial capital or converted into some other asset, such as jewelry, which can
441 be sold. Mechanisms to facilitate saving can help in dealing with stresses and shocks and building up financial
442 assets. Access to affordable credit is important for variety of purposes (see ??hambers, 1997; ??NCHS, 1996;
443 ??akodi, 2002:69).

444 Regarding the financial assets in the study area, informants mention selling of labor as daily labor, pension
445 as a vital source of financial asset. As one of financial asset, there is a credit associations owned by government
446 and banks. But the access to these institutions is limited and the poorer groups of dwellers have no collateral to
447 get loan and other services given by these institutions. The most important financial asset found in the study
448 area is in the form of 'iddir and iqub'. Households become member to either iqub or iddir. Informal financial
449 institutions like 'Equb' are vital to the overcoming of financial challenges they face at present time. According
450 to some households, becoming a member to many 'equb' associations is possible as much as the capacity of the
451 member is concerned. It is via this financial institution that households and individuals sustain their life. The
452 only financial institution in the study area that complement the livelihood of the poor is 'equb' and occasionally
453 'iddir'.

454 On the other hand, iddir can hardly be taken as a financial asset for the households. 'Iddirs' are local
455 institutions designed to meet the needs of resources during various ceremonies. Materials, household utensils,

456 tools and other items owned by iddir were allowed to use only funeral ceremonies, weddings, occasionally during
457 graduations. Under such circumstances, the iddir as a financial local institution does not provide support to
458 members for immediate usage. Therefore, despite of the existence of equb and iddir as local financial institutions,
459 do not support pursuing a secured livelihood in the study area. This is related to the purpose of their formation.

460 **22 i) Susceptibilities in Dilapidated Neighborhood**

461 In this section, conditions which pose challenges and threats to households in the study area were addressed. In
462 the aspects of informal or casual wage employment, shelter and land, the poor become challenged. In addition
463 to that, rainy season (wet season); inhospitable environments to settle; diseases (communicable and curable);
464 tenure insecurity and others pose difficulties.

465 Vulnerabilities related to informal or casual wage employment, shelter and land ownership exist in the study
466 area. Poor educational achievement led people to work in unprotected working conditions such as long hours,
467 poor pay, insanitary or unsafe conditions. Moreover, tenure security is also a big deal in the study area. Urban
468 residents living on illegally occupied land lack legal tenure rights. This may force them to experience poor
469 housing quality and later on they may face the threat of mass eviction. Following it, lack of participation in
470 decision making on issues related to 28 (C) their neighborhood may occur. This situation is known as political
471 disenfranchisement. Though currently no disenfranchisement, the malfunctioning of the neighborhood would lead
472 to it later on.

473 According to the informant's word, wet seasons have also their own impact on their livelihood. Concerning how
474 wet seasons pose threat to their life, an informant replied that "during wet season, the roof does not protect us
475 from rain". The materials the house constructed were simple like woods, mud and other less strong construction.
476 Afterward, many of houses in the area are built hastily out of the plan; the materials of construction are also
477 dilapidated. The entire neighborhood by itself is located at environmentally inhospitable areas. It poses the
478 great threat of flooding during summer season. If heavy rain drops, it is inevitable to be flooded. Mobility in the
479 neighborhood due to its swampy nature and lack of gravel roads turn out to be reduced during this season. So,
480 during wet season, the livelihood activity of the poor people in this area becomes truncated.

481 Decaying of houses is also one of the situations which create vulnerability to the households in the study
482 area. The process of decaying is related to the strength of construction materials they have used. Lack of tenure
483 security is also another reason for the decomposing of shelters. Since there is a threat of mass eviction from local
484 authority, the dwellers become reluctant to renew their shelter. With meager livelihood strategy, it is difficult to
485 repair the houses constructed initially with substandard materials. These houses are mostly constructed hastily in
486 order to occupy urban lands. After their construction, they become neglected gradually. Urban basic services are
487 also not provided for these neighborhoods. The environment where they live, the nature of house construction,
488 the nature of tenure security and the weather condition has a cumulative effect on the security of livelihood.

489 Lack of tenure security, decaying of shelters, insecurity of wage employment, disenfranchisement create
490 insecurity in the study area. So, if the dwellers in this neighborhood cannot withstand these shocks, their
491 livelihood strategy is not sustainable and secured. Since the definition of sustainable livelihood says that; "A
492 livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its
493 capabilities and assets both now and in the future, which not undermining the natural resource base ??Carole
494 Rakodi,2002:37).

495 One informant has replied to us concerning the vulnerability in the neighborhood: "We have no access to
496 credit association; we do have access to bank for saving purpose only. But micro-finance institutions do not
497 provide the loan to as because they believe that we are un-trustable." The poor in these neighborhoods have no
498 strong social-network that can serve as a social capital. They may have social networking, within their immediate
499 neighborhoods. But, they make rarely the interneighborhood social bonding. The networks available are intra
500 social-neighborhood networks. Therefore, they may have less chance to get new information, opportunity, benefit
501 from their intra-neighborhood networks which do not go beyond far to the next neighborhood.

502 **23 j) Shocks, Stresses and Trends in Neighborhoods**

503 According to ??akodi (2002), key features of poverty are a high degree of exposure and susceptibility to
504 the risk of crises, stress and shocks, and little capacity to recover quickly from them. To understand the
505 sources of vulnerability, it is necessary to analyze trends (demographic change, available technologies, political
506 representation and economic trends), shocks (the climate and actual or potential conflicts) and culture (as an
507 explanatory factor in understanding how people manage their assets and the livelihood choices they make).

508 **24 k) Shocks/stresses and Trends**

509 Long-term trends, recurring seasonal changes and short term shocks are the contexts of the vulnerabilities in
510 decaying neighborhoods of Jimma City. Seasonal climate change (wet season), changes in the ownership right
511 (tenure insecurity), inflation, unsafe employment, illness are the conditions of vulnerability which surround poor
512 in the study area. Households in this neighborhood inhabit in decayed shelters. This condition of houses poses a
513 threat of eviction on the dwellers at any time. Moreover, inflation of house rent (shows increasing trend from time
514 to time), price of goods and services creates massive timidities for these people. Since the households livelihood

515 strategy is fragile as it has been addressed above; withstanding shocks and changing trends was rarely. Therefore,
516 the livelihood strategies pursued by dwellers in the study area hardly resist or withstand the shocks, stresses and
517 trends.

518 25 Case 2

519 An informant aged 36, when asked about the vulnerable situations, the strategy they use to cope up or withstand
520 shocks replied as follows. He said that, "Most of us are not capable of financing educational and other costs of
521 our children. Only some dedicated households among neighbors seldom buying some exercise books to students.
522 Students buy educational materials by themselves. Occasionally some volunteers support students by purchasing
523 exercise books and giving cloth/shoes. As a result of meager income from our survival strategies, it is beyond
524 the family capacity to fulfill even basic educational materials. He also added that "we go for intimate neighbors
525 who are economically better off to seek assistance."

526 The noticeable feature of the neighborhood concerning facing of the challenges is that, every household handles
527 its own challenges. But funeral, wedding and graduation ceremonies are assisted by the neighborhood associations
528 like mahber or iddir. The sphere of influence of these institutions is paramount in the life members in rural and
529 urban areas. Their influence on members is paramount in rural than urban. In rural area, due to the weakness of
530 the formal social control mechanisms, they serve as strong mechanism of informal social control in collaboration
531 with other traditional social control institutions. They are also mechanism of social control.

532 Other trial of the study area is, a crime. Unemployed youths dominate the employed ones both formally or
533 informally, they try to earn money illegally by robbing people at street streets at night time and breaking houses
534 to steal something. Police protection in the neighborhood is not efficient to fully control crime. As a result,
535 members of community mobilized by the kebele actively participate in keeping their neighborhood. There is a
536 community policing service by members of the neighborhood in collaboration with police department of the city.
537 In Dilapidated neighborhoods, there is lack of a police protection. As a result of that, these neighborhoods are
538 considered as unsafe, pose vulnerability to anyone who lives in them.

539 26 1) Livelihood Outcomes in the Study Area

540 The job opportunities available for the urban poor, depend on their skills. Many urban poor people survive
541 through undertaking a variety of activities which mainly take place in the informal sector. Even when they are
542 fully employed, they produce little towards their social well-being. The most vulnerable, and the least secure or
543 skilled people, engage in a variety of marginal activities ??Rakodi, 2002:61).

544 The outcome of livelihood from fishing, street vending, domestic service, daily laboring and other strategies
545 support their life. As mentioned in the above sections, the inhabitants in the study area participate in various
546 types of strategies for survival strategies. However, according to informants, the outcome of their livelihood is
547 insufficient as the strategy itself. Thus, fulfilling the need to food, cloth, shelter and other utilities through it
548 is difficult without relying on supports from various sources. It cannot be considered as a Capital accumulation
549 and life changing practice.

550 Fishing from rivers is typical form of livelihood strategy. The return from fishing monthly is not more than
551 500 birr. During rainy season, the amount of earning from fishing become reduced. The change of seasons creates
552 vulnerability to whom practice fishing. Despite of that, households finance variety of aspects in their life via
553 the money they earn from fishing. But saving and accumulating capital is unthinkable unless their livelihood
554 strategy is supported by concerned bodies.

555 The livelihood strategy is affected by the urban contexts that surround it. Some of these contexts that can
556 either hinder or enhance the livelihood and its outcome of the poor may include; economic context, political
557 context, environmental context and social contexts. Therefore, when livelihood of poor is studied, these contexts
558 should be taken in to account.

559 In poor urban neighborhoods, the effect of economic contexts is highest. Too much dependence on cash highly
560 manifests itself with its full packages in urban areas. The returns from meager livelihood, therefore, are negatively
561 affected by the economic context. In urban areas, everything needed to daily life is bought by money. This poses
562 great pressure on poor in the study area who struggle to live through variety of survival strategies. Through
563 subsistence livelihood strategy, income earning is limited.

564 The social contexts in urban area have also a negative effect on the livelihood of urban poor. Generally, there is
565 heterogeneity of dwellers in many aspects due to differences in occupations. Heterogeneous people have less deep
566 interaction and shared common values and norms. On the other hand, the poor in urban area need to depend on
567 shared values of helping and reciprocity in times of shocks and crises. Under such circumstance, a dependable tie
568 with neighborhood that can endure long-time is rarely formed. When combined with high mobility of people for
569 the purpose of work and other issues, building social ties, bonds with other inhabitants is demanding. Therefore,
570 the livelihood outcome in the study area was fragile. Fragile livelihood outcome does not allow the dwellers to
571 lead secured life.

572 27 i. A Scheme to Upkeep Insecure & Unsustainable Livelihood 573 Strategies of the Poor in Towns

574 Supporting self-employed activities; providing education and training, facilitating access to financial capital are
575 one of the schemes that can encourage the endeavors of the poor. The poor is not a docile group who awaits
576 something to happen externally. As many livelihood frameworks put, regardless of their qualities, they possess
577 their assets and resources. Therefore, external support should be given to what they are already striving.

578 Concerning education and training, the poor people, based on the activities they are engaged should get
579 training. For example, there are individuals and households who are participating in fishing from rivers, domestic
580 services and other self-employed activities.

581 Vocational training for traditional fisheries can enhance their human capital and later on financial asset.
582 Facilitating educational access to all disadvantaged households in the neighborhood is believed as one mechanism
583 to empower the meager livelihood. Since education and training has positive impact on their assets, therefore, by
584 providing educational services, by constructing schools and giving specific training to individuals who participate
585 in variety of livelihoods.

586 Facilitating access to financial assets to poor indiscriminately is what the poor needs from the stake holders.
587 Like pointed out in many literatures, access to financial capital by the poor should improve. For example, the
588 loan and credit service should not be given just for micro-enterprise development but for household's financial
589 management. Helping poor in urban areas as not entrepreneurs but the life of men and women changed first. This
590 is because of the poor need financial services more frequently and more urgently than other groups in urban area.
591 Therefore, unconditional provision of access to financial assets will improve the household's life and encourage
592 their livelihood eventually.

593 28 III. Conclusion and Recommendation

594 In this study, the livelihood strategy of poor in dilapidated neighborhoods conducted in order to describe the
595 efforts made by poor to survive and cope with the problems. There are many researchers conducted on the
596 livelihood strategies of poor in impoverished neighborhoods of cities in Ethiopia. Studies conducted by ??Elias
597 2000; ??hiadeke et. al 2000; ??totts, 1997; ??rmias, 2000; ??SA, 2006; ??egefa, 2008; ??aregewoin, 2005);
598 Ahiadeke et. al 2000; ??inwuyelet ,2005) have tried to investigate the livelihood strategies of poor in inner cities,
599 peripheries and peri-urban areas; and the livelihood adjustment challenges of ex-farmers in variety of cities and
600 towns of the country. But, as mentioned in the introduction and statement of the problem part of this study,
601 little studies were conducted on the livelihood strategy of poor in dilapidated neighborhoods in the city of Jimma.
602 Therefore, this study has focused on describing the life making in malfunctioning parts of cities in the city of
603 Jimma.

604 According to the findings, the sampled respondents and selected informants have low educational status,
605 income status, and mainly households are led by female heads. The assets possessed by households and access to
606 them were fragile and full of constraints. Lack of financial support, training are one of the critical challenges in
607 the study area. The endeavors of poor in these neighborhoods are rarely supported adequately by the concerned
608 stake holders. Therefore, to see progress and enhancement, resilience and sustainability of household livelihood
609 in the study area, supports including, training, education, facilitating access to financial assets are needed.

610 In the study site, households are led by both males and females. There are many female headed families due
611 to variety of reasons. The livelihood challenge, shocks and stresses were severe in these types of households.
612 Compared with male headed households the extent of livelihood challenges they experience, and shocks were
613 greater due to fragile financial, human and other capitals/assets.

614 In terms of educational attainment in the study area, the majority of the respondents were with low educational
615 status that didn't complete their secondary school education. Low education and training have a negative impact
616 on their livelihood strategy. As a result of low educational status, they have low skill and they could not be
617 employed in formal sector economic activities which are considered as stable and secured.

618 29 a) Recommendation

619 In the conclusion part, interpretation of the results given in findings section is presented. Based on analysis,
620 conclusions were drawn. Therefore, this part presents and discusses the actions that the future researchers
621 should take us a result of this project.

622 To make the livelihood strategies vibrant, sustainable, resilient to shocks and stresses; facilitating access to
623 assets, providing training concerning how to make efficient the life making activities of poor, raising and creating
624 awareness about rules, policies of urban livelihoods in the informal sector.

625 Therefore, to change the aforementioned recommendations in to practice, households should get fair access to
626 educational institutions starting from primary level to tertiary level. Educational materials for the children of
627 poor households should be provided by various support programs in the community. In order to achieve this,
628 concerned bodies should initiate the support programs that are oriented on providing educational materials to
629 children.

630 Entrepreneurial trainings based on the interests of participants of various livelihood strategies should be given
631 to the people in the area.

29 A) RECOMMENDATION

632 Generally, there is too much dependence in cash economy in urban area and particularly in impoverished
633 neighborhoods. So, people in impoverished areas should get financial support even for day-today needs and
634 wants. Thus, policies which emphasize on non-collateral based financial services should be advocated. It is
635 vital to provide poor households in urban area with financial support without too much preconditions. Since
636 households have no adequate collateral, financial support that does not base itself on the collateral status of
637 households should be given in the form of aid. Then, the utilization of money by households should be checked
638 by kebele and other stakeholders in order to prevent extravagant and unplanned utilization of money.

639 Therefore, this research aimed to develop a detailed understanding of the diverse livelihood strat-, , The social,
640 financial, human and other assets of the poor were fragile. Because of that, the livelihood strategies of the poor
641 could not withstand shocks and stresses they experience if there is no support from the stake holder. egies of the
642 urban poor and vulnerable. This is done with the overall objective to inform a policy formulation process that
643 builds on the capabilities, needs and priorities of poor and vulnerable urban populations and to assist aid actors
to develop appropriate, effective and practical interventions that strengthen the livelihoods of the urban poor.

1

Age group	Sex		Male No.	Overall total %	Female		Total No. %
	Female	Male			No.	%	
10-18	13	4	4	8%	13	26%	17 34%
19-29	9	14	14	28%	9	18%	23 46%
30-40	4	2	2	4%	4	8%	6 12%
41-60	2	2	2	4%	2	4%	4 8%
Total	28	22	22	44%	28	56%	50 100%

[Note: Total sample size (n=50), Source of Data for all tables (field survey 2015)]

Figure 1: Table 1 :

2

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage
Oromo	12	24%
Amhara	6	12%
Dawro	12	24%
Yem	10	20%
Kaffa	2	4%
Gurage	6	12%
Silte	2	4%
Total	n=50	100%
Total sample size (n=50)		

Figure 2: Table 2 :

644
645

3

Types of Households		Total (n=50)
Household Head	Male-Headed Household	Female-Headed Household
Number	23	27
Percent	46%	54%

[Note: 100%Total sample size (n=50)]

Figure 3: Table 3 :

4

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Can't read/write	14	28%
1-4	21	42%
5-8	10	20%
9-10	5	10%
Total	n=50	100%
Total sample size (n=50)		

Figure 4: Table 4 :

6

Sample house-holds	Income Sources						
	Monthly salary	Self-employment	Wage labor	Remittanc e	Others	Total	
Frequency	3	27	17	3	0%	50%	
Percent	6%	54%	34%	6%	0%	100%	
Total sample size (n=50)							

Figure 5: Table 6 :

7

Occupational Status	Frequency	Percentage	
Self-employed	26	52%	
Unemployed	14	28%	
Government-employed	5	10%	
NGO Total	5 50	10% 100%	Year 2018
			23
			Volume XVIII Issue
			III Version I
			(C)
Housing Condition	Frequency	Percentage	Global Journal of Human Social Science -
Rented house	24	48%	
Private house	10	20%	
Kebele house	16	32%	
Homeless	0	0%	
Total	n=50	100%	

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Figure 6: Table 7 :

8

Types of livelihoods		Frequency	Percentage
Street vending	Vegetables	18	36%
	Clothes	10	20%
	Electronics	5	10%
	Cooked food	2	4%
	Lottery	10	20%
Domestic service		1	2%
Pension		3	6%
Remittance		1	2%
Total		n=50	100%

Figure 7: Table 8 :

Sources of Vulnerabilities	Frequency	Percentage
Police raiding	2	4%
Rainy season	5	10%
Illness	15	30%
Inflation	25	50%
Neighborhood conflict	3	6%
Total	n=50	100%
	Total sample size (n=50)	

Figure 8: :

10

S.N	Types of Former Employment	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Government employee	26	52%
2.	Farming	1	2%
3.	NGO employee	1	2%
4.	Unemployed	22	44%
Total	Total	50	100%

Figure 9: Table 10 :

29 A) RECOMMENDATION

646 [Moser ()] *The Asset Vulnerability*, C Moser . 1998.

647 [McDonald and McMillen ()] *Urban Economics and Real Estate*, J F McDonald , D P McMillen . 2008. Oxford:
648 Blackwell Publishing.

649 [Ludwig et al. ()] ‘Urban Poverty and Juvenile Crime: Evidence from a Randomized Housing-Mobility Experi-
650 ment’. J Ludwig , G J Duncan , P Hirschfield . *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 2001. p. .