

IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION :THE EXPERIENCE OF AZE DEBO AND HARESSAW

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Ethiopia
wide

tracking communities
since 1994

OUTLINE

- Description of sites
- Methodology
- Findings
 - Impacts of migration on economic life
 - Impacts of migration on social /cultural life
 - Impacts of migration on health and others
 - Impacts of migration at community level
- Implication



AZE DEBO

- SNNPR/Kembata
- Improvements in agricultural activities
- Unemployment of youth
- Close to asphalt road
- Main migration destination South Africa



Harresaw

- Eastern Tigray
- Affected by recurrent drought
- High unemployment
- Far from main road
- Main migration destination Saudi Arabia



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METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative research method
- The study was conducted in two phases between January and March 2018.
- Aze Debo and Haressaw sites were selected for study on migration from the total 4 sites in 2018 because of high migration to South Africa and Saudi Arabia respectively.
- Semi-structured interview tools were employed to collect data.
- Respondents at different levels participated in the study. Accordingly woreda officials, kebele officials and community members were involved in the study.
- Most of the study participants were selected purposely based on their direct and indirect experiences of migration.



FINDINGS :ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Involvement in business
- Buying cars, livestock and building house in their localities and nearest towns.
- Buying household utensils, clothes, school materials (H)
- Repaying loans (taken by family for migration, taken to copewith drought)
- Inability to pay debit(deportation, illness, unsuccessful in getting job)
- Less labor force for farming and other activities.



FINDINGS :ECONOMIC IMPACT

“For instance, my youngest brother migrated to Saudi 1 year and five months ago. My father sent him renting out his land and selling his only ox. He spent 4,000 birr in general for his migration. However, we have no information about it so far, let alone getting remittance. Thus, this is the experience of many people in our community.”(Migrant’s sister Haressaw)



FINDINGS :SOCIAL /CULTURAL IMPACT

- Change in clothing , hair style, lifestyle
- Accessing better technology use like mobile phones
- Economic empowerment of women
- More involvement of women in decision-making when the husband is away. But if there is a very big decision to take but a wife may also wait until her husband calls and they will discuss over phone.



FINDINGS :SOCIAL /CULTURAL IMPACT

“...Young women used to marry farmers here and they were leading bad life, having children and serving their husbands as slaves. However, the situation currently has changed. Young Women are migrating to Saudi and improving their livelihood independently.” (Respondent Haressaw)



FINDINGS :SOCIAL /CULTURAL IMPACT

- Some of these successful migrants, if married, may divorce their wife, or get concubines. (Harssaw)



FINDINGS :HEALTH AND OTHER IMPACT

- Better access for food
- Better health access
- Women face rape during their travel to Saudi
- Disability
- Death,
- Illness during travel



COMMUNITY LEVEL IMPACT OF MIGRATION

- New aspiration other than the previous one which was on education.
- Engagement of young people in deviant acts like drinking alcohol and disturbing the community.
- Fear and insecurity among community when the younger children intention is to go to Saudi end up in failure.(Haressaw)
- In Aze Debo migration helped to bring more security to the community.



COMMUNITY LEVEL IMPACT OF MIGRATION

“Because those who spent their life on education are losers now, they can’t even get jobs after spending more than 15 years, but those who went to S. Africa, who engaged in trade are able to accumulate capital and help their parents, and live much better life, so even parents and children now don’t value education. The traders and those who able to migrate to S. Africa are able to live independent better life., (Young man Aze Debo)



COMMUNITY LEVEL IMPACT OF MIGRATION

"The fact that the young people in the community are engaged in international migration has contributed to the community economically and also security wise in the past 10 years. Before that (10 years), the young people had nowhere to go and there were many robberies and theft in the community. It was difficult for girls to move within their neighbourhood even to fetch water because the incidence of rape was high. Now these are no longer the community's biggest issues."

(Aze Debo)



COMMUNITY LEVEL IMPACT OF MIGRATION

- Some services in communities like schools are affected because students also migrate.
- Public works are facing labor shortage due to migration of male community members.
- Health extension workers endeavor was a bit affected due to because it was not easy to get men to carry mothers to health center.



COMMUNITY LEVEL IMPACT OF MIGRATION

“Recently, 200 people from G/kidan, Harresaw, and Dera were killed in Saudi due to contraband trading. Among them there were our clever students whom we were proud of, and trusting that they would join universities with good points and be successful in education. When we heard the news, we cried and felt deep sorrow but we could not help it except cursing illegal migration.” (A teacher from Haressaw)



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Increase minimum salary and improve working conditions in terms of safety, accessibility.
- Inter-sectoral approach is highly needed to solve the problems of the youth.(taxation from small business, minimizing corruption)
- Migration causes loss of life and huge financial requirement specially so it is recommended for safer ways and cheaper means to be facilitated by the government.
- The government has to look ways to maximize the positive impacts of migration
- The government has to solve problems that migrants face at destination countries and these includes training on how to adapt work situations and requirements at destination countries.

