

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Young Women's Emigration from Borena Woreda (District) to the Arab World and its Impact on Socio-Economic Development of the Area: The Case of Mekane Selam Town

Gashaw Muhammad*

Abstract

This study focuses on the migration of young Ethiopian women from a place called 'Mekane Selam', Borena, South Wollo, to the Arab world, and its influence on the socio-economic development of the area. The study mainly aimed at giving a comprehensive image of the emigrants' socio-economic aspects that are supposed to have their own impact on Mekane Selam town. Based on descriptive methods including both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection techniques, various data gathering tools such as observation, interview, and questionnaires were employed. The study involved key informants who were living in the town at the time of data collection. Based on primary and secondary information collected through the various data gathering tools, a number of findings were in place. Some of the major findings of the study unraveled causes and ways of young women emigration to the Arab World; the magnitude of young emigrant women at a family level; ways of young women emigration; challenges facing young emigrant women during and after travel, etc.. Besides, the study also dealt with issues related with the economic significance of young emigrant women to families and the town itself, the impact of young emigrant women on educational development of the area, and issues related with the cultural and religious impact of the young emigrant women. Based on the findings, a number of recommendations are also given to secure the economic welfare of young women in the country at large and in Mekane Selam town in particular; to expand domestic job opportunities; to create awareness on the psychological, social and cultural consequences of migration to the Arab World.

* Wollo University History Department, Dessie Campus
E-mail: gashawmoh@yahoo.com Mobile: 0914717428

INTRODUCTION

According to Cohen (1995), Kamiar and Ismail (1991), migration is a movement of people from one place, region, or country to another, particularly, with the intention of searching for a more favorable region or because of some adverse condition or combination of conditions in the home environment. The specific stimuli for migrations may be either natural or social causes (Castles and Mark, 1980). Ethiopians migration for more developed countries around the world is not an exception.

In our contemporary world, one of the centers for migrants is the Middle East. In relation to this, our country, Ethiopia, is one of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa where many of its citizens migrate to the Arab world. It is argued that events, such as drought and socio-economic crises, have considerable impact on people's migration movements in Ethiopia (De Regt: 2006).

As is the case with most developing countries, the rate of population growth in Ethiopia outstrips the rate of economic growth, resulting in an increased level of unemployment. This coupled with increased demand for cheap labor in developed countries that pushed many young men and women to leave their country in search of employment (Appleyard, 1989; Schlein, 2002).

Informants suggest that because of the absence of suitable livelihood at home, young women at Mekane Selam are increasingly looking for job opportunities abroad. Women have especially become vulnerable to trafficking as a result of their continued exploitation in the country along with their limited access to education and employment opportunities (Momsen, 1999). Increasing social disintegration of families due to extreme poverty has also

mounted women's traditional burden of taking care of their families and siblings (Kamiar and Ismail, 1991). This in turn has created an added burden to generate income (Adenew, 2003 & Laura, 2005). In this regard, many young women of Borena Woreda, particularly, Mekane Selam town, have become victims of illegal traffickers and agents, who claim to have established contacts with foreign employers. Women's vulnerability has not been limited to trafficking alone but also to violence and violation of their rights upon arrival in the country of destination (Moors, 2003). It has now become common practice for them to be asked or forced to perform other duties outside of their formal contracts (Hondaneu, 2001). Lured by their desire to send remittances to their families and the empty promises of their traffickers, many young migrants now face various forms of persecution in the hands of their 'owners' (Birkis & Sinclair, 1979; Russell, 1986; Elens, 1990). Having given up their freedom of movement, they have become vulnerable to physical as well as mental torture. Another major obstacle to monitoring the well-being of the trafficked women is the change in their identity. According to written sources, almost all the young women migrants to Middle-Eastern countries bearing Christian names should change their names to Muslim names to facilitate the visa process (Adenew, 2003).

In the present time, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Gulf States in particular Dubai have become their major destinations (Beyene, 2005; Emebet, 2001; De Regt, 2006). It is said that young migrant women reached the Middle East either by plane or smuggled by boat (Castles, 2002).

Statement of the Problem

It has been known that large numbers of young women have been incessantly

travelled to countries of the Middle East for a number of reasons. Informants in Mekane Selam said that because of the influx of young females to the Arab world, the town became the home of old men and women as well as children. As we know young women are part of the productive force that can make vital contribution in the socio-economic development of the society. Despite this reality, they prefer to leave their local areas and migrate to the Arab world hoping that they may find good jobs and living opportunities

It has been evident that women migration to the Arab world have a serious socio-economic repercussion on a variety of dimensions including the educational developments of the area, the health condition of the emigrants, the economic aspects of the community, the relationship of the emigrants with their marriage partners, the life of the emigrants children, the life of elderly family members and the cultural heritage of the community. As a whole, the issue is a lingering and very sensible matter that should be studied rigorously with possible solutions.

Research Questions

Given the research objectives above, the study seeks answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the factors that caused the migration and employment of Mekane Selam's young female domestic workers in the Middle East?
2. To what extent do female students' dropout in primary and secondary schools at Mekane Selam relate to the emigrant women?
3. To what extent does the money sent from the Arab world alleviate the socio-economic needs of the local people at Mekane Selam?

4. To what extent does Mekane Selam's young female movement to the Arab world affect the economic progress of the town?
5. To what degree have the migrants been influenced in Arabia, and in turn impacted the cultural and religious life of the local people?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the present study is to search out the multi-faceted impact of young emigrant women of Mekane Selam to the Arab world on the socio-economic development of the town. Pertaining to the general objectives, specific objectives set are the following.

- To identify the causes that contributed to young women's emigration to the Arab world;
- To uncover the degree to which the emigrants have affected the economic conditions of the area;
- To describe emigrants' impact on the cultural life of the area;
- To spell out emigrants' influence on the educational development of the area; and
- to make known the consequences of emigration on the life of the elderly people and small children in the area.

Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this research work will have vital contribution for officials of the Woreda to take effective action against incessant and illegal movement of young migrant women. Besides, the local people will know how much the emigration of young women has repercussion on the socio-economic development of the area,

the emigrant families and on the private life of the emigrants themselves. Besides, other researchers may use this research as a reference for similar studies either at the woreda, zonal, regional, or national level.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The work is based on survey method which is one of the descriptive research methodologies (Nath, 2005). Survey research is concerned with describing, collecting, recording, tabulating, analyzing and interpreting of responses of people designed to elicit their opinions, attitudes, and sentiments about a specific topic or conditions that either exist or existed (Kothari, 2008). It helps to ask different people about their beliefs, opinions, characteristics, and past or present behavior. That is why this study preferred to make use of this research methodology.

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Regarding the population size of the study, the researcher divided it into three strata. The first group constituted house holders of the town. The total number of householders within the current realm of the town is 4774. Among these householders, 1055 had sent their daughters to the Arab world. To access both groups of the householders (i.e., those who sent their daughters and those who did not), the researcher used stratified random sampling technique. Accordingly, the sample size involved for this study is 70 (6%) householders from those who sent their daughters, and 231(6%) householders from those who did not send. The selection of samples from each category (strata) was carried out by using the lottery method of simple random sampling technique.

The study also involved teachers for the reasons that are related with the cause of

female students' dropout. In the town, there are five public schools of which two are secondary and the rest elementary schools. In the five schools, there are a total of 298 teachers of whom 179 are working at the two secondary schools, while 119 are working at the three elementary schools. Among the 179 secondary and 119 elementary school teachers, 18 (10%) from the secondary and 12 (10%) from the elementary schools were randomly selected to be another sample of the study. For this purpose, the names of teachers were collected from the schools' attendance lists. Thereafter, the 30 teachers were selected by using systematic random sampling technique.

Data Gathering Tools

Data collection tools employed for the research were observation, structured interview, and questionnaires. Observation was applied to obtain information about the life of emigrant families, the school life of their children and the alleged contributions they made to their local communities and the town. In order to collect the pertinent information, a check list was prepared containing 10 major points. The researcher's strategy of applying this tool is to use it as a means of cross-checking the answers provided from respondents for the questionnaires.

To obtain first-hand information on the subject, resourceful individuals have been interviewed. It included families of emigrant women, returnees, executive members of the Qabele administration, education officers of the Woreda and brokers. Most of these oral informants were identified by field assistants. On the other hand, the study utilized three major types of questionnaires to collect data from the representatives of the stratified householders and school teachers. All questionnaires consist of cloth ended and

open ended questions. In addition to the aforementioned data gathering tools, the research has made use of auxiliary documents of the school archives, the Qabele offices, the town's municipality, the Woreda Education Bureau, and the South Wollo Emigration Office.

sections based on the themes the study followed for its investigation.

Causes and Ways of Young Women Emigration to the Arab World

In order to find out the causes, five alternatives were incorporated into the questionnaires. The response of the respondents' to these alternatives is shown below on the table.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussions of the data collected are presented in the following

Table 1. Responses to the priority pushing factor of young emigrant women to the Arab world

Respondents	Alternatives										Total
	Ambition to get more money	%	Economic Hardship	%	Family pressure	%	Influence of ex-emigrants	%	Unemployment	%	
Emigrant family	24	34	30	43	0	0	16	23	0	0	70
Nonimmigrant family	0	0	129	56	32	14	18	8	52	23	231
Total	24	8	159	53	32	11	34	11	52	17	301

As shown in Table 1, 30 (43%) of the emigrant families and 129 (56%) of the nonimmigrant families responded that the principal pushing factor of young emigrant women to the Arab world is economic hardship. This means that the majority of respondents from the two sample groups agreed on economic hardship to be the main factor of the movement. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that economic hardship may be the main factor, while others are auxiliary causes of the movement.

According to the qualitative data collected from the questionnaire of emigrant families, the amount of money paid for the journey varies from 5,000 to 45,000 *birr*. Re-turned women and brokers also added that an illegal migrant paid 7,000 - 8,000 Birr, which is the least travel expense, to reach Djibouti and then to arrive in the Arab countries across the Red Sea, while the highest Birr, which sometime reaches 60,000, is paid for *Umra*. They said that every illegal traveler pays 2,000 Birr for a local broker who has contact with other broker either in Addis Ababa or in

Djibouti. This is one of the emigrants' initial monetary challenges to fulfill their aspiration.

In order to assess sources of the money that was used to cover the travel expense, emigrant families were asked to respond to

the five alternatives: high interest loans, money from the sale of fixed and moveable properties, loan from the bank, borrow from relatives, or others. The table below shows the result of the alternatives.

Table 2. Means to cover the travel expense of emigrants

Description	Frequency	Percent
Bank loan	2	2.86
Borrowed from relatives	2	2.86
Others	1	1.43
Sale of fixed and moveable properties	29	41.43
Usury	36	51.43
Total	70	100.0

As shown in the Table 2, the majority of the respondents (51.43) reported that they covered the travel expense with usury. Both local sources argued that usury is given at a rate of 100% interest. That means the usurer lends 1000 Birr to earn 2000 Birr. This shows how the emigrants and their families exposed to severe economic exploitation of the usurers.

Magnitude of Young emigrant Women to the Arab World at a family level

In order to know the incessant number of emigrants, questions were prepared for both emigrant families and non-emigrant families. A question posed to emigrant family was "how many daughters did you send", while question to non-emigrant family was "how many young emigrant women went to the Arab world from your neighborhoods". With respect to the question for emigrant families, the result is shown below on the graph.

As shown in Figure 1 below, out of 70 respondents 38 of them replied that they sent one of their daughters while the rest

24, 5, 2 and 1 responded that they sent 2, 3, 4 and 6 daughters, respectively. From these results, it is possible to say that the majority of the families had one daughter in the Arab world. When we take the average number, at least 2 daughters from each family had been moved to the mentioned region. With respect to the 231 non-emigrant family respondents, 218 that the question for which the minimum is 1, the maximum is 50 and the average is 9.

According to the view of interviewed individuals, the problem is very serious in the rural areas of the Woreda. One best example given to this was *Wala Qabele* where the majority of the residents in all villages are old women and men, and children. For the sake of assessing the magnitude of emigration from the Qabele, the researcher himself visited one village called "Yechiqocu Mender", a name for lower level of administration during the Imperial period. It is 17 km to the east of Mekane Selam, along the main road to Dessie. In this village, there are 12 households. Among these households, five sent two daughters, one household sent

three daughters; another sent four daughters and only two who had no daughter in their houses were found out of observation, it is not difficult to conclude the severity of the problem.

the game. Derived from the response of emigrant families, non-emigrant families and the data collected from interviews and

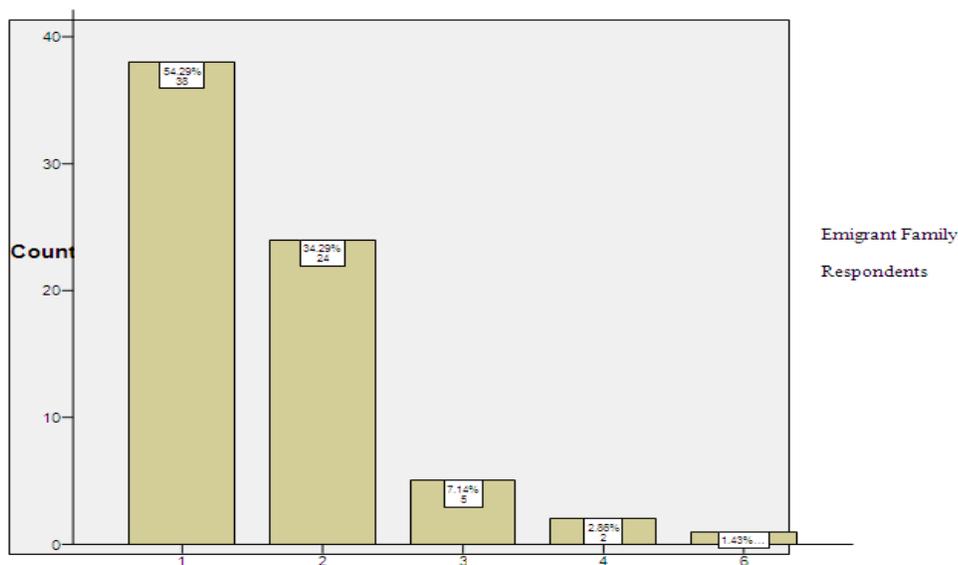


Figure 1: Number of Daughters sent by Families

Ways of Young Women Emigration to the Arab World

Both written and oral sources indicated that after emigrants secured the necessary documentation, three main alternative travel routes were made available to them to go to the Arab world. The first one is

legal by air, the second one is travel by air through the “assistance” of brokers, and the third one is travelling via the sea routes with the support of smugglers. For the sake of knowing the route of emigration, the following alternatives shown in the table were indicated in the questionnaires.

Table 3. Means of Travel for Emigrants
Count

Respondents	Alternatives				Total
	Illegal and by boat	%	Legal and by air	%	
Emigrant Family	11	16	59	84	70
Non- emigrant Family	106	46	125	54	231
Total	117	39	184	61	301

As indicated in the table, both the majority of emigrant family (59%) and non-emigrant family (54%) respondents responded that the young women used air transport and legal procedure to reach the

required places. However, as the chi-square test shows below in the table, there is a significant difference between the results of the two independent samples.

Table 4: Chi-Square Tests

Description	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	20.583 (b)	1	.000		
Continuity Correction(a)	19.333	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	22.680	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	301				

a Computed only for a 2x2 table

b 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 27.21.

Although the number of emigrant families' response to illegal procedure and travel by boat is smaller than the non-emigrant families' response, information collected from interview and written sources (International Labor Organization, 2004, Adnew, 2003 and Mariana, 2003) uncovered the existence of overwhelming emigrants across the sea route with the help of outlawed brokers. Since Mekane Selam is one of the towns in the country, the work of these researchers and the collected data

from interview consolidated the response of non-emigrant families. Thus, it is possible to conclude that illegal travel by boat across the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden is the second major route of young emigrant women.

Challenges Facing Young Emigrant Women during and after Travel to the Arab World

Starting from home country to their destination, young emigrant women have faced various hazards. According to the information collected from 39 returnee women, sexual abuse, losing of lives,

plundering of property and physical torture are the main circumstances that are encountered by the emigrants during their sea travel by boat. In the course of the movement, young females are forced to have sexual intercourse with brokers and their male partners. As a result, most of them even become pregnant either before or after arrival in the Arab countries. According to the experience of a returned interviewee, they were smuggled by boat from Djibouti to the Red Sea coast of Yemen. The boat trip could have been dangerous because the boats were not equipped for large number of passengers, and smugglers sometimes forced people to jump off the boat to prevent being caught by the police. After their arrival in Yemen, many of them intend to travel to different Arab countries, mainly Saudi Arabia. This was cross checked by written sources (Emebet: 2007; Beyene: 2005; ILO: 2004). Since these written sources assess female emigrant workers of Ethiopia, it is not difficult to relate the fact with the case of Mekane Selam.

Issues related with the Economic Significance of Young Emigrant Women to families and the Town

were incorporated into the questionnaires. Regarding this issue, respondents gave the response below on the table.

To assess either the money sent back home has an obliging character or not, questions

Table 5. Responses to the issue of “money sent by young emigrant women to their families has no blessing or obliging character”.

Respondents	Alternatives			%	Total	%		
	Agree	%	Disagree				%	Uncertain
Emigrant Family	44	62.85	26	37.14	0	0	70	100
Non-emigrant Families	119	51.52	97	41.99	15	6.49	231	100
Total	163	46.17	123	48.83	15	6.49	301	100

As shown in the table, the majority of the emigrant families (62.86%) agreed that money sent by their daughters has no blessing or obliging character. Their plausible justification for this was that they paid the maximum portion of the money to usurers and used the money unwisely because most of them did not have the concept of planned life. Contrary to this, 37.14% of the emigrant families confirmed that the money sent by their daughters from the Arab world has blessing or obliging character. Their rationale for this was that they have constructed houses, contract farm lands, bought mills, opened shops, and purchase grains for consumption purposes. According to non-emigrant families, 119 (51.52%) of them responded that the money sent by young emigrant women from the Arab world to their families has no blessing or obliging character. These respondents argued that families who received the money from their emigrant daughters do not have a better change of life. According to these respondents, the reason is that the money could not be wisely used was paid to usurers and borrowers; utilized for religious ceremonies, holydays, weddings and other

unnecessary expenses . This is why written sources stated that receiving remittances have negative effects (Rampel and Lobdell: 1977).

In order to verify the response of the respondents, observation had been conducted to assess emigrant families' constructed houses, opened shops, mills and other ways of life. However, most of the houses for young emigrant women were built at the outskirts of the town, were poor in quality and lacked finishing . In addition, the researcher ensured the absence of well established enterprises and firms that supposed to be exist with the help of young emigrant women for families. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that young emigrant women have least contribution to the town's economy though their financial and material support to the immediate needs of the family is unforgettable

Moreover, the return of young emigrant women from the Arab countries to home areas has its own impact on the town's socio-economic development. In connection with this, data was collected through questionnaire, interview and

observation. The responses are presented below.

Table 6: Responses to returned emigrants' contribution for the retardation of the town's socio-economic development

Alternatives	Respondents				Total	%
	Emigrant Family	%	Non emigrant Family	%		
Agree	41	59	149	64.5	190	63.12
Disagree	29	41	73	31.6	102	33.88
Uncertain	0	0	9	3.9	9	2.99
Total	70	100	231	100	301	100

As shown in the table, 59% of the emigrant family and 64.5% of the non-emigrant family respondents agreed on returned emigrants' contribution to the retardation of the town's socio-economic development, while 41% of emigrant family and 31.6% of non-emigrant family respondents replied to the opposite of them. The justification given by those who agreed on the issue is mainly attached with returnees' extravagant character and health condition. According to the view of these respondents, most of the returned emigrants consumed their money within a short period of time, become jobless and dependent of their family, still pay debt borrowed from usurers, have poor social relationship, and fail in health problems. It also becomes clear from the respondents that the psychological and mental disturbances of returnees were troubled by a nickname called '*tiriz*' (i.e. captured and deported by the Arabs).

Regarding the information collected through interview, the researcher met with thirty-nine returned women of whom 27(69%) came back due to capture and health problems. Although their health conditions vary from individual to individual, most of the returnees confirmed that they were suffering from persistent headache and kidney problems purportedly caused by restlessness and heavy domestic

chores. To have some insight on the issue of health problem, the researcher made contact with the chairmen of Tila Borena HIV Positive Rehabilitation Association and the Mekane Selam HIV Carriers' Association. The chairman of Tila Borena HIV Positive Rehabilitation Association mentioned that his organization enlisted 500 individuals of whom six returnees as its official members, while many of them had been secretly registered.

With respect to the economic condition, thirty-nine out of forty interviewees confirmed that they have no personal assets or enough money to lead their life. This has been confirmed by looking at the returnees who have been engaged in commercial sex, selling alcoholic drinks and retail trading, such as selling onion and vegetation, at the daily market of the town. Therefore, the reply of the majority respondents and their justification to the issue and the researcher's data collected through observation and interviews seem to be more adequate to surmise that the returnees have had a definite apparent impact on the socio-economic development of the town.

The Impact of Young Emigrant Women on Educational Development of the area

As noted under the first unit, one of the objectives of the study is to assess the

influence of young emigrant women on the educational development of the Woreda in general and the town in particular. With respect to this issue, the researcher collected data through questionnaires and interview. The questionnaires consisted of

three groups of respondents, i.e. emigrant families, non-emigrant families and teachers. The replies of these respondents are displayed below.

Table 7: Replies of Respondents to young emigrants influence on the increasing number of female students dropout in the school

Alternatives	respondents						Total	%
	Emigrant family	%	Non-emigrant family	%	Teachers	%		
Agree	56	80	191	82.7	30	100	277	84
Disagree	13	19	34	14.7	00	00	47	14.
Uncertain	1	1	6	2.6	00	00	7	02
Total	70	100	231	100	30	00	331	100

In the above table it is found that all of the teachers, 80% of the emigrant families and 82% of the non-emigrant families agreed on emigrants influence on the increasing number of female students' dropout from the school. Surprisingly, there is no substantial difference in the response of teachers, emigrant families and non-emigrant families. To cross check the replies of these respondents, the researcher also interviewed Woreda education officers, Qabele chairpersons and the head of the municipality. According to the Woreda education officers, the chronic cause for the increasing number of

dropouts was young female students' inherent aspiration to work in the Arab countries. Similar assumption was given by the Qabele chairpersons and the head of the municipality of the town, who entertained young women, for getting identification card and passport.

It also becomes clear from emigrant families that most of their daughters had been learning at different grade levels, while few others were illiterate till they went to the Arab world. For further clarification, information is given below.

Table 8: Response of Emigrant families and Non-emigrant families to the cultural influence of Young Emigrant women

Alternatives	Respondents					
	Emigrant families		Non emigrant families		Total	%
Agree	45	64	153	66	198	65.78
Disagree	25	36	58	25	83	27.57
Uncertain	0	-	20	9	20	6.65
Total	70	100	231	100	301	100

As shown in the table, young emigrant women had modern education ranging from elementary to tertiary levels before they travelled abroad. According to the given data, most of them dropped out after they reached grades eight and ten.

Therefore, it is possible to generalize that young emigrants have influence on the increasing number of female students' dropout from the school.

Issues related with the Cultural and Religious Impact of the Young Emigrant Women

Culture includes rules of behavior, styles of dress, religion, language, rituals, and the like (Bodely, 2008). It must be noted that one of the purposes of the research is finding out young emigrants' cultural and religious impact on the inhabitants of the town. With respect to the issue, the replies of emigrant families and non-emigrant families are shown in the table below.

Table 9: Responses of Emigrant families and Non-emigrant families to cultural influence of Young Emigrant Women

Alternatives	Respondents					
	Emigrant families	%	Non emigrant families	%	Total	%
Agree	45	64	153	66	198	65.78
Disagree	25	35	58	25	83	27.57
Uncertain	0	-	20	9	20	6.65
Total	70	100	231	100	301	100

Looking at the data in table 5.1, it becomes apparent that more than 65% of the respondents ensured young emigrant women's influence on local culture. Regarding dress style and fashion, the respondents described that almost all returned emigrants are mostly wearing very long dresses which cover even their hands, and used cloth to mask their face; young

emigrants working there also send Arab made clothes to their family members. They added the use of Arabic words by the returnees mixing with Amharic. Derived from the given rational, these respondents agreed to emigrants' influence on the traditions and culture of the locality. With regard to religion, respondents also ensured the religious influence of Young

emigrant women on the local people. In order to crosscheck the reply of the respondents, information was gathered from 39 interviewees of whom thirteen were originally muslim and nineteen were formerly christians and later turned muslims.

Young Emigrants' Impact on Their Marriage

Marriage is commonly defined as a partnership between two members of

opposite sex known as husband and wife. However, studies pointed out that labor migration has contribution to family disorganization, instability, and dissolution (Ismail, 1989; Dumon, 1989; Kamiar and Ismail, 1991). In relation to this issue, the responses of respondents are exhibited on the graph below.

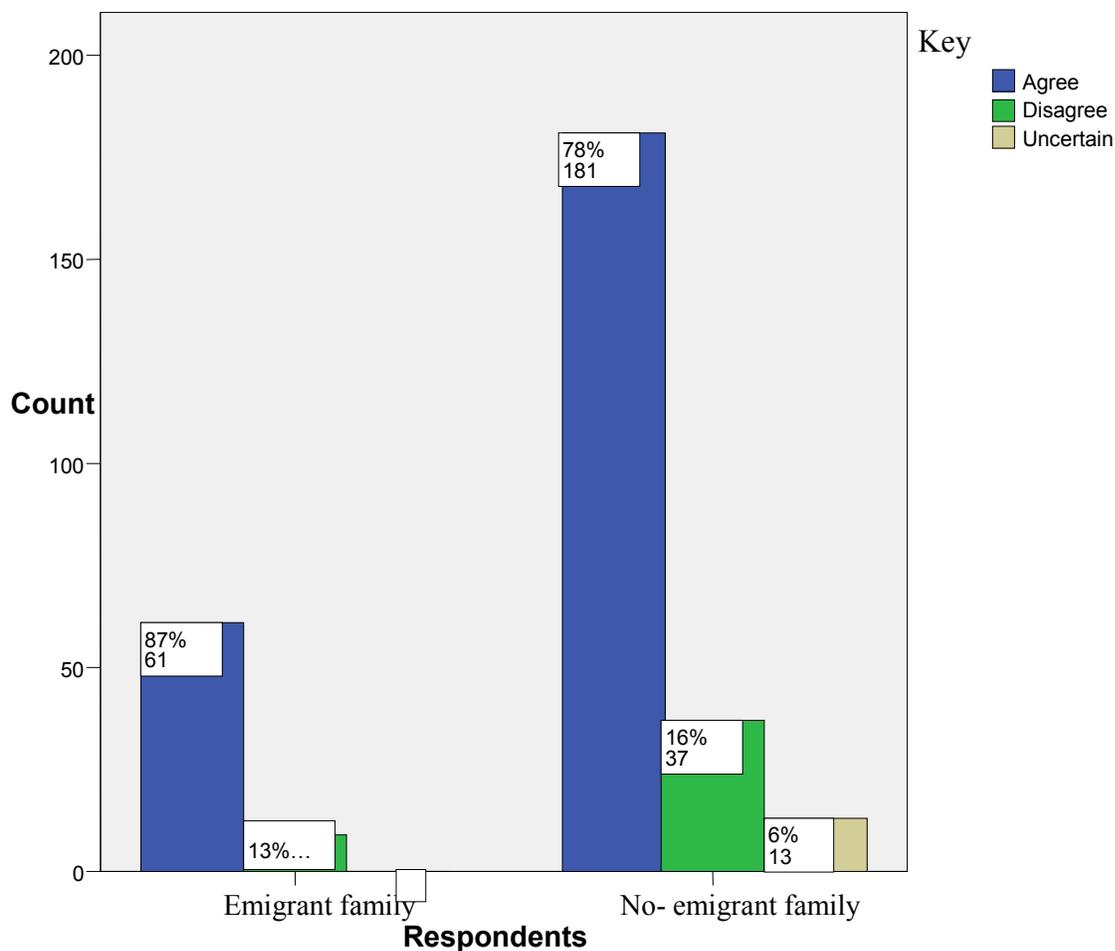


Fig. 2: Respondents response to “most of the young emigrant women divorced from their former husbands after they reached the Arab countries”

As shown on the graph, 87% of the emigrant family respondents and 78% of non-emigrant family respondents agreed that young emigrant women divorced their husbands after they arrived in the Arab countries. The respondents were also asked to describe factors that contribute for the annulment of marriage alliance between emigrants and their husbands. They mentioned that husbands profligacy of

emigrants money and property, couples' deceitfulness, emigrants' disloyalty to their husband due to the beginning of a new affair with other, emigrants a despise feeling as a result of the money that they earned abroad, the catalyst role of families against the harmonious relationship of couples and their disagreement with the use of money sent by emigrants, husbands' guilty of bigamy, and emigrants' religious

conversion were the major causes of the problem.

The other critical issue is that “young emigrant women’s marriage condition after they returned from the Arab countries to their local areas”. In order to ensure how much the marriage relationship between the young returnees and their husbands was affected, qualitative data were collected from emigrant families and non-emigrant families. They disclosed that religious differences between couples, returnees misconduct such as hot-temperedness with husbands’ minor faults, returnees’ health problem, husbands’ having children from concubines, husbands’ wastage of returnees money sent before, emigrants return due to capture, and their upper hand on property management were among the causes of divorce after return from Arab countries.

This, in turn, was substantiated by the information collected from the 39 interviewed young returnee women, of whom 15 divorced their husbands after they began to live in the Arab countries and 9 divorced after they came back home, while only seven secured their marriage.

In addition to this, all of the interviewees agreed with the given justification of respondents to the causes of emigrants’ divorce from their husbands. Thus, the overall findings presented above attest to young emigrant women’s negative impact on marriage bond.

Issues related with Young Emigrant Women’s Children

It is an unquestionable fact that appropriate family protection and guidance is vital for children. With regard to the living condition of young emigrant women’s children, data were with questionnaire, interviewees and personal observation, which focused on the life of children born

before their mothers went outside and children born in the Arab countries and sent to Ethiopian parents. Respondents replies are shown on the graph below.

Looking at the graph, 70% of the emigrant families and 75 % of the non-emigrant families respondents replied that children born before and after their mothers going outside do not get enough guardianship. According to the justification of these respondents and the information collected through interview, the problem of outside born children began before reaching the homeland of young emigrant women.

It was mentioned that after they reached six months, they were given to captured and arrested women. Each captured woman who becomes responsible to transfer the child to emigrant woman’s family would receive 3000 Saudi riyal. This meant that the value of a female caregiver is 3000 *riyal* per child. Next, the captured woman stayed in prison for a minimum of fifteen days. During their stay, the captured women in prison and children with them suffer from various hazards. Most of them faced health problem that would cause death. In the mean time, family members went to Addis Ababa to wait the baby at the Bole Air Port. While the babies reached Addis, they met new environment that did not suit them. In addition to this, children born in the Arab world are called *yeareb ager diqaloch* “(illegitimates, or bastards of Arab countries)” and are socially segregated. According to a written source, differences in the value system of the child’s parents are one of the factors that influence the development and personality of children (Mussen, 1956).

In the study area town, most of the returnee children did not get proper care guardianship although nannies were supposed to take the prime responsibility of home care.

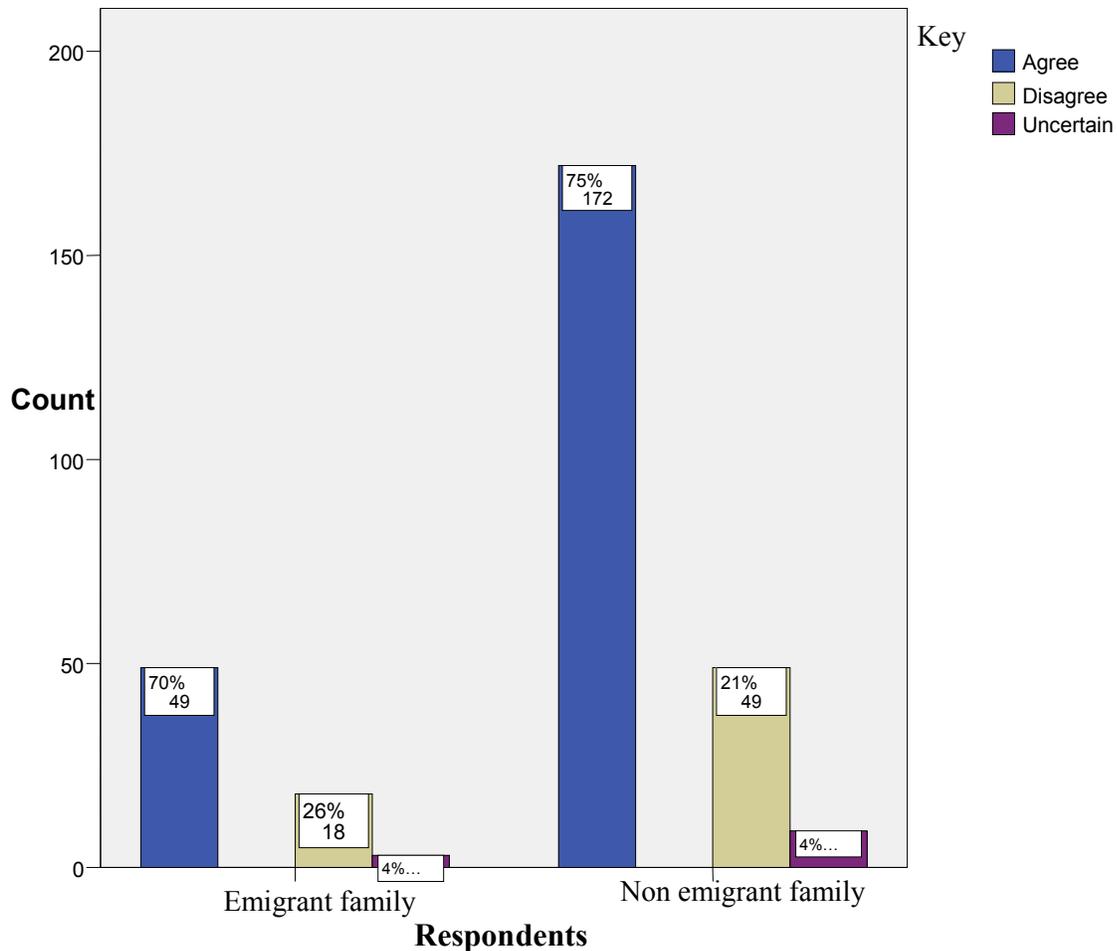


Fig.3: Respondents’ reply to “Children born before their mothers went outside do not get enough guardianship”

In families where children live with one or both of their parents, the childcare role may also be taken on by the extended family such as couples’ sisters. There is always disagreement and conflict between families caused by who is responsible to be guardian of the child. The parents of emigrant women want to be guardian for getting money from their daughter in exchange for their responsibility, while the father of a child would oppose this.

Both respondents and interviewees unmasked that although their mothers attempted to send the necessary materials and money, proper care was not given to their children. Instead of spending the money on the children under their care, most of the guardians utilize it for other purposes. Both the returnees and respondents confirmed that derived from the consequences of the above mentioned problems, emigrant women even send

money to be directly used by their premature children, who are gradually exposed to bad habits such as smoking, alcoholism, stealing, gambling and profligacy. By using all these sensible justifications, it may not be difficult to conclude that young emigrant women have negative impact on the life of their children.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

This research found that the priority pushing factor of young emigrant women to the Arab world was economic hardship followed by influence of ex-emigrants, ambition to get more money, family pressure and unemployment. These findings are consistent with the money paid for the travel that varies from 5,000 to 45,000 Birr. Here, the surprising thing is not the amount of the paid money, but its source and attachment with brokers. Finally, the research discovered that most of the young emigrants covered the travel expense at high interest rate of paying the debt. This shows how the emigrants and their families are exposed to severe economic exploitation of the usurers.

This research found out that the least travel expense was that of illegal emigrants who crossed the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden by boat while the highest Birr is paid for the study has also shown challenges faced by young emigrant women during and after travel to the Arab world. All these have again socio-economic impact on the life of emigrants, their family and the town.

With respect to emigrants' influence on the socio-economic aspect, it has been found that their insignificant contribution to the development of the town's economy and the obliging character of their money. The given justifications for this were money paid to usurers, families' unwise or

unplanned life, and emigrants' returning back to home related with capture and health problem. In addition, this research observed the miserable life of returnees who engaged in prostitute mode of living, alcohol selling and retail trade. Thus, the research concluded that the absence of well grounded infrastructural basis, strong business centers and other remarkable properties of the emigrants or their families in the town.

Regarding emigrants' impact on education, this research found that their impelling contribution to the increasing number of female students' drop out in the school. The research also assured that the majority respondents' replay to young emigrant women's influence on local culture and religion. With respect to religion, it was found that the conversion of young emigrants to Islam and their pressure up on families as well as other dwellers to strictly apply Islamic doctrines.

With regard to the impact on marriage this research discerned that young emigrant women's divorced their husbands before, during and after they arrived in or returned from the Arab countries. In the last part of the study an attempt was made to assess young emigrant women's influence on the life of their children. Regarding this issue, the study findings indicated that the absence of proper care for children born before their mothers went outside and children born outside and sent to families. In addition to these circumstances, the research found how much the children were socially segregated which has an influence on the overall development of their personality. Thus, it is possible to say that young emigrant women have negative impact on the life of their children.

Recommendation

Given the findings of the study, a number of recommendations can be in place. Firstly, it has been found that the primary pushing factor of young emigrant women to the Arab world was economic hardship. However, there are various possibilities to tackle this cause of migration if reliable strategy is created that helps the local people to develop hard working culture, to rely on their own resources, to be confident of domestic job opportunities, to properly utilize their property, and to be aware of the consequences of emigration to the Arab world. It is, therefore, recommended that a system be established for closing down causes of young emigrant women to the Arab world.

Secondly, the research found the amount of money paid for the travel, which has been attached with usurers and brokers. It is, therefore, important that all responsible bodies of the local government as well as the concerned religious fathers should involve in containing the problem. It has also been found that the role of brokers in facilitating the route of illegal travelers by boat across the Sea. It is, therefore, recommended that a coordinated network of controlling mechanism should be established to put to an end the unlawful and inhuman acts of brokers.

Thirdly, regarding the challenges facing emigrants during and after their travel to the Arab world, it is recommended that the necessity of governmental and non-governmental organizations which play a decisive role in the arrangement of regular and consistent awareness creation program for those who are ready to move outside their native country. With respect to emigrants' economic aspect, it has been found that the obliging character of their money and its insignificant contribution for the development of the town. Therefore, conducting a coordinated campaign by all

responsible bodies of the government and community based organization is available to create and maintain conducive environment and thereby provide situations that the remittance either to be appropriately utilized by emigrant families, or to be responsibly used by the emigrants themselves, or to be an auxiliary means towards the enhancement of the town's socio-economic development.

According to the findings, emigrants have great contribution for the increasing number of female students dropout. It is, therefore, recommended that forum should be created for a regular gathering of all responsible bodies that can discuss and then produce practical solution to alleviate the problem. The study has also shown young emigrants impact on the cultural and religious life of their families and the local population. It is, therefore, important that local government agents should follow the condition and religious fathers of Islam, who have an impressive power, should preach the historical co-existence of the two grand religions as well as the mutual interdependence of the local people.

With regard to the impact on marriage the research discerned that young emigrant women's divorce. It is recommended that a regular local committee consisting of government bodies, religious leaders, women affairs' office and elder people, who have the potential to create awareness for alleviating the divorce problem, should be established. Lastly but not least, importantly, it has been found that the absence of proper care for emigrants' serious problem. It is, therefore, suggested that introducing and implementing a strategy, increasing awareness of the local people and strictly supervising families for protecting and ensuring the overall rights and needs of the emigrants' children.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the process of working the research, I have been encouraged, helped and advised by many people. At the outset I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Dr Assefa Balcha, President of Wollo University, and Dr Anegagregn Gashaw, Dean of Social Science College of Wollo University, who gave me constructive criticism in the preparation of this research. I also wish to express my thanks to Ato Abebe Muhammad, the then head of Geography department in the University. I thank all respondents who filled the questionnaire. I thank my employer Wollo University which covered the financial and material expenses incurred in the research work.

REFERENCES

- Adnew, T. (2003). *Trafficking of Human Beings: With Special Emphasis on the Problem of Ethiopian Women Trafficking to the Middle East*. Department of Political Science and International Relations. Addis Ababa :Addis Ababa University.
- Appleyard, R.T. (n. d.). *Migration and development: Myth and reality*. International Migration Review.
- Beyene, J. (2005). "Women, Migration and Housing: A Case study of Three house holders of Ethiopian and Eritrean Female migrant Workers in Beruit and Naba'a". Master Thesis. Beruit: American University.
- Birikis, J.S. and Sinclair, C. A. (1979). "Migration and Development: The Changing Perspective of the Poor Arab Countries "; Journal of International Affairs, 33(2).
- Bodley, J. H. (2008). "Culture." Microsoft Encarta2009. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation.
- Castles, Stephen and Mark J. M. (1980). *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. 2nd ed. Guilford.
- Castles, S. (2002). *Migration and Community Formation under Conditions of Globalization*. International Migration Review36 (4).
- Cohen, R. (1995). *The Cambridge Survey of World Migration*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dumon, W.A. (1989).*Family and Migration*. Journal of International Migration 27.
- Elens, F. (1990). "Sri Lankan Women in the Middle east", the United nations expert group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the status of Female Migrants, San Miniato, Italy.
- Emebet, K. (2001). *Ethiopia: An Assessment of the International Labour Migration Situation: The Case of Female Migrants Geneva: ILO*.
- Fargues, P. (2004).*Arab Migration to Europe: Trends and Policies*. Florence: European University Institute, 38(4)
- Hondaneu-Sotelo, P. (2001). Immigrant Workers cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence. Barkeley: University of California press.
- Hurlock, E. (1978). *Child Development*. New Delhi: Tata Mc Grow-Hill Publishing Company Ltd.
- International Labor organization (2004). *Gender and Migration in Arab States: The Case of Domestic Workers*. Beirut: ILO.
- Ismail, H. F. (1989). "The Socio-Economic Experience of Families of Emigrant Workers in Jordan." Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation .East Lansing: Michigan State University.
- Kamiar, M.S and Ismail, H. F. (1991). *Family Ties and Economic Stability Concerns of Migrant Labor Families*

- in Jordan. Jacksonville: Florida Community College.
- Kifner, J. and Miller. (1985). "Wave of Arab Migration Ending with Oil Boom", New York Times.
- Kothari, C.R.R. (2008). *Methodology, Methods and Techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International Ltd.
- Laura, A. (2005). *Migrants in the Mistress's House: Other Voices in the "Trafficking" Debate*. Journal of Social Politics 12(1).
- Lewis, J. J. (1991). "Ethiopia- Role of Women". Encyclopedia of Women's History.
- Mariana, D. (2006). "Ethiopian Women Increasingly Trafficked to Yemen". Journal of Social Politics 12 (1).
- _____ (2007). *Ethiopian Women in the Middle East: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers in Yemen*. Amster Dam: University of Amster dam.
- "Migration". Microsoft Encarta. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2008.
- Momsen, Janet Henshall (1999). *Gender, Migration and Domestic Service*. London: Routledge.
- Moors, Annelies (2003). *Migrant Domestic Labor: Transnationalism, Identity politics and family Relations*. Comparative studies in Society and history 45(2).
- Mussen, P. H. et al (1956). *Child Development and Personality*. New York: Harper and Row, Publisher.
- Nath, Y. (2005). *Research Methodology*. New Delhi: A.P.H. Publishing Corporation.
- Perruchoud, R. (1989). *Family Reunification*. Journal of International Migration 27.
- Schlein, Lisa (2002). "Ethiopian Women Warned of Dangers When Working Abroad", Geneva.
- Rampel, H. and Lobdell, R. (1977). *Urban to Rural Remittances: Investment in Rural Development or Insurance Premium. Paper presented at the Canadian Association of African studies*. Quebec
- Russell, S. S. (1986). *Remittances from International Migration: A Review in perspective*, World development, 14(6).
- Skolnick, A. (2008). "Marriage", Microsoft Encarta. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation.
- UNCJIN-Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking 2000-[http://WWW.Unejin.Org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final documents...](http://WWW.Unejin.Org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/finaldocuments...)