

Assessment of Challenges of Development Induced Displaced Households: In Case of Dambi Dollo University and Airport Project, Qellem Wollega Zone of Oromia Regional state, Ethiopia

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Abstract

Displacement of people may be due to various reasons development activity being one of them. This study is intended to assess challenges encountered by households displaced from Dambi Dollo University and Air Port Project site. The data was collected using questionnaire, interview, focus group discussion and document review. Descriptive method is used to analyze the data. The major findings are that compensation is in cash only and there is no resettlement as well as rehabilitation activity undertaken. Households faced challenges like homelessness, joblessness, social disintegration, difficulties of access to infrastructure and conflict among family members. Displacement worsened the life of vulnerable groups. The loss of farmland resulted in youth unemployment which in turn caused migration to urban where they are addicted to kchat, cigarette and alcohol. Proper Implementation of resettlement program, rehabilitation schemes, provisions of infrastructures and facilitating employment opportunity are recommended.

Keywords: Displacement, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, Compensation, Household

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1. Introduction

Displacement is uprooting of people from their place of habitual residence (Cernea, 2005). It could be associated with variety of reasons like conflict, natural disasters and development activities (Terminski, 2012) and (Maru, 2017). Study by Yigzaw et al (2019) shows that Conflict takes the Primary share in causing displacement in Ethiopia being followed by Climate driven factors and development induced displacements. Conflict induced displacement is mostly rooted in ethnic, religious, national and racial discrimination (Terminski, 2012). Natural disaster induced displacement are those caused by earthquake, landslide, flooding and drought (Grazia et al, 2014). Development induced displacement, on the other hand, is the outcome of government action which happens when government confiscate a certain land area for the construction of development projects and displace peoples (Gellert and Barbara, 2003) and (Wakessa, 2017).

Development project has been universally recognized as one of the most important inputs for economic growth and human development particularly projects which focuses on education and service sector expansion (Hull, 2009). It benefits the world population by enhancing accessibility and promotes sustainable development of the country (Dawit, 2004). Projects like higher education, airports, irrigation, urban expansion, dams, mines, industrial estates, large scale housing developments and tourism development needs considerable land and could cause large displacement (Vanclay, 2017). The construction of such project has important role in promoting poverty reduction and social justice yet such activities often results in involuntary displacement of vulnerable people. It imposes costs like loss of livelihood, homes, indigenous culture, social disintegration (Courtland, 2003) and (Terminisk, 2013). Though the displacement of the people could be justifiable in light of the country's struggle to ensure sustainable development and reduce the long lasting poverty, the life of the displaced people who are subject to relocation deserves close attention from researchers and practitioners (Mesay & Bekure, 2011;

Getu & Assefa, 2015).

In most developing countries, development projects have been noted to increase vulnerability leaving the affected people displaced, disempowered and destitute. It is highly risky especially for vulnerable categories of people such as the women, poor households and the elderly (Nabanoga et al, 2019). Women and girl suffer a lot during relocation because they are more responsible to ensure that water and food are always available for the family (Global Rights Alert, 2015). The study by (Bugaliski et al. 2013) on Vietnam found that displaced households had reduced crop yields partly due to shrinking in land sizes.

Ethiopia is undertaking a massive development projects in the construction of road and rail ways, hydroelectric and irrigation dams, industrial parks and urban projects which includes urban renewals. These projects have caused a number of displacements in Ethiopia. In 2015/2016, a total of 17,127 households were relocated due to development of the Slum areas in the inner city of Addis Ababa. Similarly, 7,947 farmers were displaced due to the expansion of the boundaries of Addis Ababa City (Ambaye and Abelieneh, 2015). The construction of Gibe III hydroelectric dam project has displaced more than two hundred thousand people in the Omo Valley (Abbink, 2012). Because of large commercial farms and other investments, a massive number of peoples are displaced from different areas of the country like Gambella, Benshangul-Gumuz (Cochrane and Skjerdal, 2014).

Displacement has also caused a number of sufferings for those displaced. The study by Nebiyu (2000) shows that relocation from inner city to another area due to construction of Sheraton Addis brought break up of former neighborhood ties, economic and cultural disruptions. Ambaye and Abeliene (2015), studied *Development induced displacement and its impacts on the livelihoods of Poor Urban Households in Bahir Dar*, found that relocation caused a loss of shelter, lack of road, electricity, lack of job opportunities, potable water and separation of social groups. Mefekir (2017) assessed the impact of urban expansion on surrounding peasant land in Areka town, SNNPR, Ethiopia and found that urban expansion causes a loss of agricultural land, expansions of crimes, urban pollution and housing problems. The research by Wakessa (2017) indicates that displaced households as a result of *Adama II* Wind Project have faced challenges such as landlessness, inability to use farm land because of erosion, lack of re-location land, inadequacy of compensation and a lack of rehabilitation schemes. Bikila (2019) studied resettlement practice in case of displaced households by Addis-Djibouti railway corridor construction in *Dukem* area and found that compensation is inadequate, delayed and made in money. He also found that vulnerable groups have suffered from homelessness and started to live in rented house where they faced problems of taking their live stocks with them and forced to sell them due to lack of own compound.

However, studies that have seen above were focusing on different development induced displacement issues like urban based displacement, road, and dams and others. Households may also be displaced due to expansion of Airport and higher education. The construction of Dambi Dollo Airport and Dambi Dollo University both in *Riphaa Guutee Soyoyoma* and *Anno Mikayel* villages of *Sayyo* Woreda has resulted in the displacement of about 206 households. The construction of the former started in 2007 E.C while the latter is in 2008 E.C (Sayo Woreda Land Administration, 2020). Both projects occupy large area of land which is green and fertile farm land. Only Dambi Dollo University project has used 138 hectares of land within the boundary of the project. The area of land taken for airport project is about 161.46 hectares. The total land use for the construction of the two projects is about 299.46 hectares. The projects located in Western part of the country at 652 km west of Addis Ababa. They are built in Seyo Woreda of Qellem Wollega zone and located respectively at 5 km and 7.5 Km distances from Dambi Dollo town (Sayo Weroda Land Administration office, 2020).

Since there are complexities of economic and social problem around development activities, enhancing development without costing the life of others needs professional intervention. Thus, assessing challenges encountered by displaced families is crucial input for government intervention. The primary objective of this research is to assess challenges faced by households displaced from Dambi Dollo University and Dambi Dollo Airport Project site. In line with this, the specific objectives are:

- ✓ To assess the challenges that displaced households face because of displacement.
- ✓ To understand whether or not displaced households participated in decisions affecting their life
- ✓ To identify displacement related issues those need intervention from resettlement agency
- ✓ To know coping strategies exercised by the displaced households to overcome the challenges

2. Literature Review

2.1. Basic Concepts

Compensation, resettlement, rehabilitation, Asset valuation and coping strategy are among common terms in the issues of displacement particularly if it is caused by development activities. Compensation is a Payment in cash or kind to which the Project Affected Persons are entitled. It is calculated based on the value of the land rights, building and improvements to the land. The principle of equivalence is crucial in paying compensation to ensure that households are neither enriched nor impoverished. However, determination of equivalent compensation can be difficult particularly when land markets are weak or do not exist, held communally, or when people have only

rights to use the land (FAO, 2008). There is a need to come up with gender sensitive approaches such as joint land ownership and titling to ensure that women are not so much impoverished (Global Rights Alert, 2015). Development-induced displaced persons need adequate compensation for the restoration of their capacity to generate income (Courtland, 2004). Nevertheless, too much resettlement practice has only been concerned with providing cash compensation without giving adequate attention to all the other dimensions of life that are affected by being resettled (Cernea, 1999). According to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia proclamation in 2005, a land holder whose land has been expropriated for public use is entitled to compensation for his property and improvements he made on the land. The proclamation states that the power of expropriation of landholdings rests on Woreda or urban administration.

Rehabilitation is assistance provided for displaced to supplement their income losses so as to improve or at least achieve full restoration of their pre-displacement living standards and Resettlement is part of rehabilitation schemes (Terminski, 2013). Resettlement programs should have appropriate restoration programs to avoid the challenges that affect households in relocation areas (Koenig, 2014). Oliver-Smith & Sherbinin (2014) argue that inadequate resettlement processes from planning to implementation have contributed more to failure than success of involuntary resettlement. For successful resettlement, the role of state, agencies and international community is a fundamental (WB, 2016). In Ethiopia, administrative entities only consider the property value and disregard social aspects. But Developed countries give priority to social capital because they think stable social capital can create economic opportunities (Wakessa, 2017). It is not unusual to find two or more families, occupying a plot of land registered to only one of the occupants. Registration does not provide detailed information about the number of people dwelling on the land. The relocation process recognizes only one landholder as legitimate and those without legal documents of ownership do not receive compensation (Maru, 2017). Ethiopia's legal frameworks, lacks clear provisions with regard to rehabilitation after displacement, resettlement schemes, fail to consider vulnerable group and focus on monetary compensation (Bikila, 2019).

Coping strategy is the processes by which those displaced adapt with the consequences and changed circumstances after resettlement (Eddie and et al, 2017). It refers to the ability of an individual to take action in order to avoid any adverse consequences of displacement (Kelly & Adger, 2000). Livelihood diversification strategies through non-farm activities such as petty businesses could act as main sources of income for displaced rural households (Sayatham and Suhardiman, 2015). People can develop coping strategies at personal, household and community level. Individual coping strategy might include acquiring new skills or diversifying one's income stream. Household level strategies are developed with members of the household, such as deciding to remove children from school to increase the number of income earners. Community-level coping strategies are created between household units and contribute to joint benefits, such as using donated funds for a shared library or public space (Eddie and et al, 2017).

2.2. Types of Displacement

Based on the reason behind it, displacement may be classified as the one induced by conflict, natural disaster and the need for development projects and hence we can have conflict, environment and development induced displacement. Conflict induced displacement is mostly rooted in ethnic, religious, national and racial discrimination. Peoples may leave their home land due to environmental factors like flood, landslide or earth quake, persistent desertification, environmental contamination by radioactive material, volcanic eruption, hurricanes, tsunamis, drought and other climatic changes. These displaced people are called environmentally induced displaced people. This type of displacement occurs following a permanent or sudden change in environmental conditions (Terminski, 2012). In Ethiopia, there is sometimes forceful displacement of Pastoralists as a consequence of drought, famine, conflict, flooding and etc. which could cause conflicts over land incursions, competition on access to water, pastures or grazing land (Maru, 2017). Another type of displacement is development induced displacement. Development activities aim at welfare increment of the society in every aspect. But the process of development, the world is proceeding with, had created sufferings to a vast sections of population (Raouf, 2012). Displacement may take places when large investment project is implemented for development purpose and those affected by these processes are called development-induced displaced persons (Terminski, 2012).

2.3. Impacts of Displacement

Displacement has social, economic and psychological impact on displaced person and causes economic vulnerability and social integration (Cernea, 1996). It disturbs social intimacy, brings economic hardship and psychological violence which in turn could lead to death (Yigzaw et al, 2019). Displaced households face several challenges such as social disconnectedness, reduced access to economic generating opportunities, worsened health conditions, reduced access to housing and lack of access to infrastructural facilities such as roads, markets, schools, and health centers in relocation areas (Aboda, 2018). They could also lose things they value profoundly like memories, particular landscapes, sacred sites, cultural assets, natural resources that have important connotations

for which no amount of remuneration can compensate (Frank, 2017). Most relocated households could not run the same businesses in the new settlements as they were engaging in before. Displacement impacts a life of relocated households because it causes the decline of income, loss of job and increasing costs of living in the new areas. These reduced income-earning opportunities limit their children's schooling options (Abebe and Hasselberg, 2013). Thus, displaced peoples usually suffer from socio economic impoverishment because it is difficult to adapt new environment. They lose their traditional livelihoods, their neighbor and social capital (Abebe and Hasselberg, 2013). Displacement breaks up living patterns and dismantles existing modes of production causing the impoverishment of many of those uprooted, threatens their cultural identity and increases the risks of epidemics and health problems (Cernea, 1995).

There are a number of inherent and interlinked potential risks to displacement. These risks are landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, increased morbidity and mortality, loss of access to common property and social disintegration (Cernea, 2000; 1996). Land is foundation for production, livelihood and commercial activities and hence displaced people lose both natural and human made capital when they are dislocated from their home land. The risk of losing job is also very high for those employed in enterprises, services or agriculture because creating new jobs is difficult and requires substantial investment. Loss of shelter tends to be only temporary for many resettles but for some homelessness or a worsening in their housing standards remains a prolonged condition. Marginalization occurs when families lose economic power. Many individuals cannot use their earlier acquired skills at the new location and their human capital is lost or becomes obsolete. Economic marginalization is often accompanied by social and psychological marginalization, expressed in a drop in social status, confidence in society and in themselves, a feeling of injustice, and deepened vulnerability. Forced uprooting increases the risk that people will fall into temporary or chronic undernourishment. Displacement causes serious decline in health levels. Displacement-induced social stress and psychological trauma are sometimes accompanied by the outbreak of relocation related illnesses.

Poor people may lose access to the common property assets such as pastures, forest lands, water bodies, burial grounds, quarries, and etc. which in turn could result in significant deterioration in income and livelihood. Social disintegration is another risk of displacement. It dismantles long established residential and settlements as well as social organizations (Cernea, 1996 and 2000). Expropriation with respect to Indigenous peoples should be implemented with their consent. Article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (United Nations 2007b), which the majority of the countries of the world have endorsed, states that: Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return. The strong attachment of Indigenous and tribal peoples to land and territory makes land especially important to them, and therefore they are particularly at risk of poor outcomes when they are involuntarily displaced (Hanna & Vanclay 2013).

3. Research methodology

3.1. Description of Study Area

This particular study is conducted in *Galano Meti, Riphaa Guutee Soyyoma and Annomikael villages of Sayyo Woreda, Qellem Wellega zone, Oromia region* and south western parts of Ethiopia. The Dambi Dollo University and Airport project is a relatively large scale project covering 138 hectares and 176 hectares of land respectively that touches three *Keblles*. The construction of the two projects has resulted in the displacement of 208 heads of households. The Dambi Dollo University and airport project under study occupies large area which was fertile farm land and conducive for agriculture. They are located in the ever green Western part of the country at 652 km west of the capital city, Addis Ababa. Dambi Dollo University and Airport project are planted in *Sayyo Woreda* at 5 km and 7.5 Km distances from Dambi Dollo town respectively (Sayo woreda Land Administration Office, 2020).

3.2. Data Type and Sources

The type of data used in this study is both primary and secondary. Primary data collected from respondents through questionnaires, depth-interview, and focus group discussion. Secondary data collected through reviewing documents from the Sayyo Woreda land administration and all other concerned offices as well as reading different related books, directives and proclamations.

3.3. Method of Data collection

Participants were selected purposefully based on the seriousness of their challenges and the strengths they have showed to survive in the new resettlement site for interview. The researchers use judgment to select informants who are familiar with and can describe the existing problems of the relocated community. Moreover, six key informants from development sectors were take part in the study. Key informants are selected based on their work experience with the dislocated community. Based on the objective of the study, structured questionnaire was

prepared in English and translated to *Afaan Oromoo* language and distributed to sample households through trained data collectors. The participants of the study were informed about the objective of the study prior to the actual interviews, questionnaire and focus group discussions. In addition, probing questions were asked in line with the interview guides. The information which is obtained from household heads was an input for the focus group discussions.

3.4. Sampling Techniques and sample size determination

Random sampling technique is used to select respondents among 208 target population of the study to participate on questionnaires. The survey should be designed to provide estimates with minimum sampling error (meaning, with maximum precision) when the total cost is fixed; and a sample size that fulfills these conditions is called the optimal sample size. Thus, it is very important to determine optimal sample size to reduce costs. The following formula is employed to calculate the sample size (Kothari, 2004) when population size and population proportion of major interest are available.

$$n = \frac{z^2 \cdot p \cdot q \cdot N}{e^2 (N-1) + z^2 \cdot p \cdot q}$$
 Where, n = optimal sample size, p = proportion of the population containing major interest, $q = 1 - p$

z = number of standard deviation at a given confidence level 1.65, N = size of target population, e = acceptable error
Accordingly, $N =$ (total number of populations of) = 208, $p = 0.5$, $e = 0.08$ and $\alpha = 0.05$.

$$n = \frac{1.65^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 208}{0.08^2 (208-1) + 1.65^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.5} = 107$$
 selected randomly for questionnaires.

Moreover, six professionals from education, youth and sport, health, agriculture and land & natural resource management office have taken part in the focus group discussion. They were selected based on their work experience with the dislocated community.

3.5. Data analysis technique

Before the data is analyzed, the researchers transcribe all the information recorded from the questionnaire, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Interviews and focus group discussions were sorted for conceptualizing, coding, and categorizing the data. In constructing meaning, the researchers make an intentional effort to analyze the data in its context rather than relying solely on a word by word interpretation.

4. Findings and Discussion of the results

4.1. Introduction

For the purpose of construction of Dambi Dollo University, which started in 2008, the total of 167 households is displaced leaving the total land area of 123 hectare. From these households, 18 of them lost both land and house but the remaining 149 lost their land and properties on it rather than house. Due to Dambi Dollo Airport project, 106 households are displaced and the land area taken was 64 hectare. The total of 36 households lost their house and farm land while the remaining 70 households lost only their farm land (Sayo Woreda Land Administration, 2020). Data is collected from 107 sample household heads and six representatives from government bureaus of *Seyo Woreda*. Seventy nine of the households are male and twenty eight of them are female. The age composition is dominated by adults between 35 and 45 and thirty four are young while the remaining 27 participants are aged above forty six.

4.2. The impact of displacement on the displaced households

4.2.1. Economic impact of the displacement

For agrarian society like Ethiopia, land is the source of entire life. It is used for farming, grazing, as a source of wood, charcoal and etc. Since households were compensated in cash only, they are landless and perceive themselves lifeless. The loss of farmland for farm household is the loss of means of production and source of income. Households put their response; "My agricultural production has declined because I have lost large hectares of fertile farm land. I have lost my banana, avocado and coffee tree which had been the sources of my income and living. I have no farm and could not even find anyone who gives me a share on production of a farm". The displaced households used to produce varieties of agricultural products like maize, fruits, vegetables, coffee and other cash crops. However loss of land caused reduction in their production and productivity.

Displacement has also caused increase in unemployment among displaced families. Losing a job can be the most distressing economic event in a person's life. Most people rely on their labor earnings to maintain their standard of living. A job loss means a lower living standard in the present and anxiety about the future. Construction of the project has brought employment opportunity to some extent. Some of the families of displaced households and surrounding communities could get both permanent and temporary employment opportunity as gardener, construction workers and others. However, most households respond that the displacement has caused huge unemployment especially in agricultural sector. Those who used to farm and engage in animal breeding

became jobless when displaced.

The worst thing is that there are large numbers of youth who became idle when their family's land is taken away. Such unemployment which is caused in the name of development project is the cost to the society and a problem to the government. One of our participants in focus group discussion stated; "Some households lost both their home and farm land but some others are left with only home losing their farm land. Because of this, unemployment has increased. Youth are idle, landless and jobless". Similar responses are made by households and they put "Most of us had our own job or occupation before displacement. However, now we are idle and jobless." Whether the land was taken entirely or partially from the household, it has contributed to increase in unemployment.

Another challenge associated with displacement is shortage of food, high price and famine. About 89 percent of household heads responded that their life is getting worse and worse since the displacement. The summary of their response is; "The supply of food has declined. The money they gave me could not benefit me in the market. Displacement worsened the life of poor widows. I used to produce surplus. Our expenditure was low before displacement and now we buy all from market. The price of everything has increased. The life is getting worse and worse. I had never seen the shortage of food in my life before displacement and I even used to sale my cash crops and fruits whenever I need money." The information from focus group discussion confirms the above response by households. They stated; "Most of displaced households especially those from Dambi Dollo Air Port Project were exposed to serious famine and shortage of food the next year after their displacement". This continues price rise experienced by household is probably due to decline in agricultural production in the area and increase in money balance caused by compensation made by cash. Compensation was directly paid through deposit to their account in bank.

The price of land and other property was increased because of involvement of illegal brokers. The payment of compensation in cash without any training harmed households and benefited brokers. Their intervention increased the price of land and worsened the life of displaced households.

"Households received money without training and some of them used it unwisely. Using knowledge gap of households, brokers inflated the price of land and other property. A plot of land that used to worth two hundred birr became double and households could not buy land for construction of house and farm. One household head bought automobile with 750,00 birr and resold it for 500,000 birr three months latter losing 250,000 birr due to lack of entrepreneurship skill" Key Informant.

4.2.2. Social impact of the displacement

For indigenous peoples, like the Oromo, land is more than a resource; it has spiritual and mystical value and their way of life is highly connected to it. Many of our informants overly articulated the worrying events of their displacement from their land while narrating of their suffering. They emphasize the significance of their land of the ancestors, a place where they originate and "life" is plentiful. One of the informant puts is responses: "I would be happy if could be able to recover from the forced dislocation I experienced under the coming of this project. Had it been like my desire, I seek to reestablish the pre-existing unity, order and the previous way of life with my neighbors on the land by reviving our deep-rooted accustomed practices". From this quote one can understand that the people value their land more than anything and their life and work is vastly related to it. This is the principal reason why indigenous peoples are endowed with special rights to land under international human rights law, including protection against relocation without their free and full consent but for limited exceptions. Hence, physical displacement from their ancestral land carries more weight and highly disrupts their way of life.

The communities are reliant on their neighbors for collective labor to build houses. Displacement eroded useful reciprocity practices (*daboo*, *daadoo*) of households that contribute to social cohesion. It has caused loss of neighbor and social life. Such problems are serious challenges especially for elders who had been living together for long years. Displacement also dismantled established social organizations (*iddir* and *mahiber*) of the displaced households. The construction of the project displaced some of them to far location and closed main road and forced even those who left around not to meet each other. It separated relatives from relatives; friends from friends. As they resettled in different areas traditional collective neighborhood is devastated.

Rural urban migration is another consequence of displacement. Because of lack of available farm land and other issues, some of the youth from displaced families moved to Dambi Dollo and this lead to breakdown in household relation. In most of our interview sessions with the informants they argue that their previous way of life has been changed negatively in most cases. That means how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis has been changed. Their children have changed; some fled to town. Migration brought the villages closer in a cultural and social sense to urban life and opened up a whole new range of products, fashion and lifestyles.

The displacement has also made some households hopeless and fearful. During our interview sessions with the displaced people we were able to understand they have negative perceptions about their safety, they have fears about the future of their children and successive generation and their community at large. Recognizing the importance of land, their aspirations for their future and the future of their children has been always acquiring

'land-for-land' meaning, 'like-for-like' not in cash. They worry much about their successive generations. Indigenous people typically have strong cultural and spiritual attachments to their territories and to specific sacred sites. Relocation inherently disconnects them from their land and sacred sites.

Some displaced households are also harassed and intimidated. This challenge is often extend resulting in chronic impoverishment of those affected. Most of the displaced families distributed the money they got for their youth. These youths, after gaining their share, use the money for daily expenditure and finally left nothing for their future life. The following case is taken from one of informal conversations with such youths;

"My father received the compensation and distributed the money among my brothers. The asset we have as a family is our fathers' land and the land is the property we have even for our succeeding generation. Accordingly, I received seventy thousand ETB as my fair share. After getting the money I was very much confused what to do with money since I have no plan what to do with it. I began to use the money for daily consumption leaving our home. I came to Dambi Dollo town, where I became addicted to chat, cigarette and drinking. After a year, I finished the money. I have no home, no food to eat, no job, no profession to work. Since I have no option, I began to carrying goods in Dambi Dollo in market place. People who knew my story used to harass and intimidate me and laugh at me; they call me with derogative term 'Seba shi' (seventy thousand). It is very painful, it harms me emotionally. I am in a very despair, I feel hopelessness and lonesome. It is now common to hear 'Warra Kaasaa' literary means 'the people of compensation'. Such terminology has very negative connotations. Even those of them who have little property or business suffers from such pejorative and negative given to them by the community."
Interview.

This means that the property they have at hand is not the result of their effort, it is gained not by their creativity and competition; rather it is the property they found fortunately. Therefore, they are not an able to make money and run business on their own effort and they will fade out as they are not the fittest to survive in the business world. There are also some cases when conflict triggered between family members. Youths ask the families to get their share and when the family refused conflict rise. In some cases, since the father/ mother are illiterate, the youth mislead their family and access their bank account through automatic teller machine.

4.2.3. Challenges with Physical environment, access to infrastructure and Social Services

Construction of the projects has caused the physical splintering and fragmentation of the landscape. Majority of those living around the airport project have been suffering from dust and heavy flood. Lack of proper handling of land by project experts has created serious environmental degradations. The surrounding communities are being exposed to flood, dust and pollution. The rivers are polluted resulting in water borne diseases. The projects also caused the problems of lack of access to education, health station, electricity, water, etc. for the displaced households and the surrounding community. It blocked the road and made access to health station difficult. Pregnant woman and Patients could not get access to health service. Students are forced to walk long distance around the compound of the project to reach the school. One of our participant in focus group discussion state; "The project has increased distance to school and contributed for decline in enrollment, increase in absenteeism and late coming to school."

Similarly, some household state; "The Airport Project is still not functional and no one is benefiting from it. Rather it has polluted our rivers and exposed us to big holes, floods and dusts. It blocked the main road and made the distance to social services longer." With regard to Provisions of social services and basic infrastructures, households blame government for not making any attempts to provide them. According to information from participants in focus group discussion, Households displaced from Dambi Dollo Air Port project used to have water and electricity for which they contributed. However, they suffered from shortage of clean water and lack of electricity after displacement.

4.3. Compensation for lost Asset

The assets of the households are land, plants, their home and etc. The value of households' asset was estimated during the time of harvest by estimation committee in order to take the productivity of the land into account. According to household's response and information obtained from participants of focus group discussion, compensation was made in cash for all those displaced. The responses by households are given as follows: "The compensation paid for us did not take in to account fertility of our land. It would have been better if the family size is taken in to account while estimating. I left my land because they promised me to give compensation by land. It benefited those who had large hectare of land and plants like coffee tree, avocado, banana and others. Those who had planted many plants could obtain better compensation. But, poor widows, poor elders with large family size whose land holding is small or had only residential house were extremely affected because the compensation for them was small. My land was small and I got small compensation. Compensation was not enough."

4.4. Displaced households' satisfaction

The result from empirical data shows that displaces are not equally satisfied. The major aspect of the displacement process with which households are dissatisfied is the type of compensation. As already discussed, compensation

was paid in cash for all households. Some households put their response; “The administrators deceived us promising that they would give us land. I have lost my farm land which had been source of my life. I have lost property that cannot be exhausted and stolen. They paid me cash which can be stolen and exhausted.” Another thing that created problem among the households is the payment of compensation without any prior training. Demographic information of the household shows that more than 8% of them are illiterate, 37% of them are with range grade one to four and none of the displaced household is first degree holder. Some of them used their money unwisely, for drinking alcohol, adultery and etc. which in turn has made them vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases. The payment of Compensation in cash harmed those who have no experience of business and no know how of using money.

There are those who are unsatisfied with the amount of the compensation and estimation of assets’ value. The response of some households with regard this is given as: “The compensation was not enough. Estimation was not fair. The compensation paid and the price of our resources was not balanced. Compensation should take family size in to account because confiscation of land has made all family members jobless. My land was small and I got small compensation”. Households are also not happy with how the government peoples were dealing with the issues of displacement. The response of some of the households is presented as follows: “Compensation was not fair and administrators were bribing. The estimation they told us and the actual cash they paid was not the same. Compensation was not enough and kebele administrators were insulting us. There was corruption. Those who have relationship with estimators have benefited but some peoples like me are extremely harmed. Households complain was not heard.” The actual displacement was made hastily and construction of the Project was started before peoples are resettled.

The project was not participatory and the focus was not given to ensure the benefit of the youth. Government treated all those who lost farm land alone with those who lost both residential house and farm land. Some households reported that they had discussion on the issue of displacement once and did not reach on an agreement. There are also those who had never participated on discussions regarding displacement. With regard to this, households state; “We had discussed about relocation with government peoples but they did not show us were we would be relocated to. After they told us that they would give a replacement farm lands we left voluntarily but they deceived us and doesn’t keep their promise. No discussion was made on future resettlement area and means of life. Finally they took my land without my interest and ordered me to find another residential house or land within a short period of time.” Displacement was not participatory and transparent.

4.5. Coping Strategies exercised by displaced households

Majority of the displeased households could not continue their former agricultural practices. Some of them started a new way of life like shopping, building house for rent and other petty business. There are also those who bought farm land from other area and land for residence from those around projects but not displaced in order not to lose the social relationship and neighborhood they had developed over a long years. As a mechanism of coping with challenges of unemployment, there are those who bought assets like Bajaj and mill using compensation and improved their life. There are also few people who have changed their life buying residential house and getting rental income from it. All displaced households are not in the same condition after displacement. Some households are able to cope up with new way of life while some others are in a difficult condition.

4.6. Resettlement and Rehabilitation scheme

Rehabilitation scheme include training households and helping them in adapting livelihood strategy after displacement. All most all households responded that the role played by government bodies to resettle and rehabilitate the displaced households was very poor. Little emphasis is given to non-financial compensation and rehabilitation of affected households. No government bodies did visit/come back/after displacement. There was a promise by kebele administrators to create job opportunity but nothing is done for them. The key informants, on the other hand, argue that government encountered with a number of problems like absence of relocation land, the prevailing instability and unrest at the time.

“From those who lost their home and farm land, A household head who had seven family members faced serious challenges due to displacement and lack of resettlement scheme. He received compensation for his small plot of land in the form of money and refused to leave the land because he had nowhere to go. He left his family and married another woman till he finishes his money. Finally, he passed away. His wife and five children are now in a serious problem” Key Informant.

Compensation was not successful in terms of restoring the life of displaces because it was paid only in cash.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Conclusion

Displacement may be caused by various natural and man-made reasons development activity being one of them. Regardless of its type, displacement is most often associated with risks of losing homeland, neighbor and the

former livelihood. The challenge of adopting new environment and new way of life is also inevitable. This study is intended to assess challenges faced by households displaced from Dambi Dollo University and Airport Project site. Data is collected using questionnaire, key informant interview and focus group discussion. Accordingly, semi structured questionnaire are distributed to sample households. Similarly interview with key informants and focus group discussion is used. Documents review is also undertaken for the same purpose. Descriptive method is employed to analyze the data.

Empirical data reveals that displacement has adversely affected the socio-economic life of the displaced households. Economically, displaced families are affected because of losses of agricultural land which led to decline in employment, production in the area. Most households are in working age and confiscation of their fertile land made them landless and jobless. Households are being challenged by shortage of food and high price of products. Majority of the displaced households experienced deterioration of their economic bases, decline in productivity and increase in food insecurity. The social life of household is also disturbed due to displacement. Members of social organizations such as *Ikub*, *Iddir* and *mahiber* that were formed based on the geographic proximity of neighbors are affected by displacement. Lack of proper resettlement program made some households homeless. Lack of knowledge to engage in productive investment caused households to finish their compensation for vain. Conflict on fair share from compensation created conflict among family in some displaced households. There are those who divorced their wife. Youth unemployment resulted in rural-urban migration to Dembidollo town where most youth are addicted to Cigarette, alcohol and kchat.

Displaced households faced challenges with regard to access to social services because construction of the project blocked the main road and made access to school, hospital and market difficult. Lack of water supply, electricity and housing problem are also the main challenges. Government promised households to provide them roads and other services yet failed to fulfill any of promises made. There is a major dissatisfaction in the process of displacement, resettlement scheme, types and amount of compensation paid. The efforts from government to resettle and rehabilitate households are very poor. Compensation was paid in cash and estimators considered only land size and plants on it. Majority of the respondents claim that the compensation was not fair and equivalent because their land is fertile and productive. Poor households with large family size, widows and elders are negatively affected. Vulnerable groups were neither identified nor were attention given to their inherent needs. This perpetuates already existing vulnerabilities creating further disadvantages and marginalization. Moreover, the situations of displaced households were not the same. Some of them had land from other area while others are not.

Government failed to take in to account demographic information because households with large family size are not equally vulnerable as compared with those who have lower. Compensation was paid to households and nothing is done to create jobs opportunities for youth. There was no rehabilitation program implementation after the displacement to restore the life of displaced households. The process of displacement was not fair and participatory from the very beginning. All concerned stakeholders did not participate and discuss on issues. Everything is done at administrative level and grass root participation was undermined. The actual displacement was hasty and some households were not informed a head of actual displacement and the period given was not enough for households to prepare for resettlement. The youth are not incorporated in the discussion about displacement decision. There is unfair treatment in payment of compensation because some households are compensated both in cash and in kind while some others are paid only in cash. Another critical challenge is with regard to the faller of government in making situational analysis before displacement, failing to identify vulnerable groups and absence of rehabilitation scheme. That is why households surrounding the project site are being suffering from heavy flood, dusts and other difficulties caused by the projects.

5.2. Recommendation

Government should identify vulnerable households those in a serious social-economic problem due to displacement and help them in their rehabilitation and resettlement endeavors. Providing necessary social services like electricity, road, school, water and health for displaced households is recommended. The issue of unemployment caused by loss of farm land should also get proper attention to reduce risks of joblessness. Collaboration among sectors is paramount to mitigate unemployment and other socio-economic problems challenging displaced households. Micro and small scale enterprise office together with other government may facilitate opportunities to ensure employment.

Asset valuation committee needs to be skillful, free from corruption and bias in the process of estimating property of households. There should be external body that supervise or cross check whether the entire process of displacement specially estimating the value of households' property is undertaken in line with the existing proclamation or not. There should be clear resettlement and rehabilitation scheme after displacement and the responsible organ should check its proper implementation. There should also be compliant hearing body in the process of displacement and after to solve problem at its infancy. Amount and type of compensation should also take into account education, demographic information and the level of vulnerability of the displaced households.

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