

The Causes of Rural to Urban Migrations in the Case of Dire Dawa City Administration, Eastern Ethiopia

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the causes of rural to urban migration in the case of Dire Dawa City Administration, Eastern Ethiopia. The participants of the study were 300 households selected from three major urban kebeles in the city. As such, Kebele 02, Kebele 06 and Kebele 09 were selected. The sample of this study was taken through systematic sampling and simple random sampling technique. To collect data, questionnaire and interview methods were used. The study revealed that the causes of rural-urban migration to Dire Dawa City Administration were mostly related to economic reasons. The main reason that drives migrants to move to Dire Dawa City was attested by both quantitative and qualitative data. As such, migrants move to Dire Dawa for seeking employment and job, to open and extend business, to get better urban facilities and housing, and to maximize income were revealed in the study.

Keywords: Migration; Causes; Rural-Urban; Dire Dawa City; Eastern Ethiopia.

1. Introduction

Migration is as an old concept as human history. As Ashine (2013:1) states it has been integral part of human activity since time immemorial. However, international migration has increased steadily during the past half a century, and is now much more complicated that it was before. Rural-urban migration has been historically connected with industrialization, urbanization, infrastructure, good living condition and economic growth.

According to Birhan (2011:1), rural to urban migration has played a significant role in the urbanization process of several countries, and continues to be significant, even though migration rates have slowed down in some countries. According to a report from the United Nations Population Division (2003), the urban population is estimated to grow at 1.8 percent per annum, while total population rate is projected to be 1 per cent annually. This would result in an urban population of 5 billion, or 61 per cent, by 2030. The rural population on the other hand is expected to decrease from 3.3 to 3.2 billion between 2003 and 2030.

It is estimated that in 2010, 10.2 percent of global migrants will hail from Africa (UNDP, 2009). Only three percent of the world migrates, and around 1.9 percent of Africa's population engages in international migration (UNDP, 2009). This is not surprising, however, as it is well documented in migration studies that the "poorest of the poor" do not migrate, and Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world. Migration flows from Sub-Saharan Africa are thus occurring within a context of extreme poverty, conflict, and the HIV/AIDs pandemic, all of which impact migration dynamics (Adepoju, 2008).

In Ethiopia, the level of urbanization is lower than Sub-Saharan average, but is proceeding at a fast pace. Ethiopia's urban population is estimated at 16 percent in 2007 (CSA 2008), while in Western, Middle and Eastern Africa the urban population share in 2005 already reached 42, 40 and 22 percent, respectively (UN Population Division, 2009). However, in Ethiopia, urban population grew at an average annual rate of 3.8 percent from 1994 to 2007 (1994 and 2007 Population and Housing Census), compared to a growth rate of 2.3 percent for the rural population. The rate of urbanization is expected to further accelerate in the coming years, averaging 3.9 percent between 2015 and 2020, compared to an estimated average growth rate of 3.1 for Africa (UN Population Division, 2009). As a result, the Ethiopian urban population share is expected to increase by 70 percent and to reach about 27 percent by 2035 (UN Population Division, 2009).

In Ethiopia, one important dimension of internal population movement is its link to urbanization. Although it is one of the least urbanized countries of the world where only 15% of the population is urban, Ethiopia is amongst those countries having the highest rate of urbanization. According to Solomon (2005), and Ministry of Federal Affairs and German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) (2003), the average rate of urban population growth for the country is 5% per year and in some individual towns and cites the rate approaches 8% per annum.

Internal migration flows in Ethiopia are currently larger than external flows, but the exact number of people who migrate internally is not known. Internal migration occurs in the form of rural-urban migration, rural-rural migration, and resettlement policies, which are all substantial in Ethiopia. Internal migration in Ethiopia has traditionally occurred at marriage when the wife moves to live in the husband's community. In addition to this traditional internal mobility, urbanization in Ethiopia is a growing trend that puts pressure on urban infrastructure and resources (Ezra. 2002).

The major aim of this study is, therefore, to highlight some of the main causes of rural-urban migration to Dire Dawa City and its potential outcomes on migrants, their families and the city society. It is also aimed at reflecting issues that policy makers should take into consideration in handling the Ethiopian urbanization process. Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world and in 2005 had an emigration rate of 0.6%, which is low in comparison to Africa as a whole. Ethiopia faces complex challenges of food insecurity, overpopulation, drought, political instability, and ethnic conflict. In addition to these issues, Ethiopia faces large challenges with respect to migration flows.

Internal migration flows in Ethiopia over the last few decades have been driven by economic, climatic and political factors, including drought, war, political turmoil, forced migrations and poverty (Berhanu and White, 2000). As stated in (Ashine 2013), women are characterized by marriage instability; i.e., widows and separated women, still contribute significantly to the internal mobility in the country. Dire Dawa is also perceived to be with the highest rate of migration at 16.6 per thousand. Studies of population mobility in general and rural urban migration in particular in Ethiopia are rather limited. There is lack of comprehensive research on the causes of rural-urban migration to Dire Dawa city specifically. The causes of such migration in Dire Dawa remained a core research area. The empirical literature on internal migration in Ethiopia, however, is based on qualitative information and non-representative data, and most studies focus on the return to rural urban migration for those left behind or for specific groups of migrants. This paper gives a contribution to fill this gap by studying rural-urban migration in Dire Dawa. Therefore, the present study tries to address the following basic research questions.

1. What are the causes of rural-urban migration in the case of Dire Dawa City?
2. What are the outcomes of rural-urban migrants in the case of Dire Dawa City?
3. What are the socio-demographic characteristics of migrants in Dire Dawa City?

1.1 Objectives of the study

✓ General Objective

The main objective of this study is to investigate the causes of rural-urban migration in the case of Dire Dawa City Administration.

✓ Specific objectives

More specifically the study has the following objectives:

1. To examine the causes of rural-urban migration to Dire Dawa City
2. To identifying the outcomes of rural-urban migrants in Dire Dawa City
3. To find out the socio-demographic characteristics of migrants in Dire Dawa City

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

The main aim of this part was to state different conceptual framework that serves as a basis for the subsequent analysis and discussion of the study. It discusses the basic concept of migration, the causes and consequences of migration, and the theories of migration.

2.1 The Concept of Migration

Migration is a multifaceted phenomenon which in general involves the movement of people from one place to the other. Migration is a change of residence either permanently or temporarily. Migration can be defined in terms of spatial boundaries as internal and international. Internal migration is the movement of individuals within a country whereas international migration involves the flow of individuals between countries where national boundaries are crossed.

The UN (1970:2) defines migration as: "... a move from one migration defining area to another (or a move of some specified minimum distance) that was made during a given migration interval and that involves change of residence." A migrant is also defined as: "a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one migration-defining area to another (or who moved some specified minimum distance) at least once during the migration interval" (UN, 1970:2).

The focus of the present research is on internal type of migration flows specifically on rural-urban migration. Rural-urban migration is a movement of a rural resident(s) to an urban destination for different reasons. The area of origin (departure) is a place from which a move is made whereas area of destination (arrival) is a place where the move is terminated (UN 1970:2). Rural-urban migration can also be made either permanently or temporarily. Temporary migrants are rural family members who migrate to destination locations for a specific period of time and coming back to their origin. Permanent migrants are migrants who left their region of origin and start to reside in the destination region in permanent basis. In this research, a rural household is called a migrant sending household if at least one of its family member migrates to destination location to earn wage income either in temporary or permanent basis.

According to Birhan (2011:15) migration can be considered as a significant feature of livelihoods in developing countries to pursuit better living standards. Central to the understanding of rural-urban migration

flow is the traditional push-pull factors. “Push factor” refers to circumstances at home that repel; examples include famine, drought, low agricultural productivity, unemployment etc. As stated in Birhan (2011) push factors are associated with the conditions in the place/area of origin of migrants and seem to be more important in developing world. On the other hand, “pull factor” refers to those conditions found elsewhere (abroad) that attract migrants. These are associated with destinations of migrants. There are many factors that cause voluntary rural-urban migration, such as urban job opportunities, housing conditions, better income opportunities, war, drought, pest invention, flooding, and other catastrophes. There is no doubt that, apart from these factors, urban areas also offer a chance to enjoy a better lifestyle.

The provision of services such as electricity, piped water supply and public services make urban areas attractive. While the motives for rural movement are important in themselves, the means of movement are also of important. Improvements in transport systems and increasingly awareness of the urban areas through media, helped by improved educational standards are equally important factors to be taken into account when dealing with rural to urban migration.

2.1.1 Causes of Migration

Basically the, the three main reasons why people migrate and the factors that sustain migration flows are “... demand pull factors in the destination area, supply push factors in the origin area, and network factors that link origin and destination” Martin 2003:10). The most frequently cited motives of migration are: higher wages or employment opportunities; better public services (health or education); family reasons; distance and common languages affecting the choice of destination, and wars or climatic conditions in the area of origin. As stated in (Hunnes 2012:6), the five drivers of migration, also known as the pull and pull factors are economic drivers, political drivers, demographic drivers, environmental drivers and social drivers. It is due to the actual or perceived spatial and temporal differences in these dimensions that influence an individual or household’s decision to migrate or to stay. Incorporating the spatial and temporal aspects of these dimensions, promotes the idea that a unique set of qualities can exist at any one time in any one context to affect each individual’s decision on whether or not to migrate.

3. Research Methodology

In this part of the study, the general methodology, the sample and sampling techniques, the instruments and procedures of data collection, and methods of data analysis are thoroughly be discussed.

3.1 Study Design

This study follows mixed methods research approach (Cresswel 2003:198-199). Making use of this type of approach is due to the motivation that diverse type of data significantly provides a context on understanding of a research problem. Thus, it will be ease for the researcher to confirm findings from different data sources. This is due to the fact that quantitative method provides precise summaries and comparisons, and that of qualitative method provides general elaborations, explanations, meanings, and relatively new ideas. Hence, in this study mixed methods design was employed.

3.2 Population and Sample

The target population for the present study is migrant householders in Dire Dawa city administration. According to different sources (Proclamation No. 416/2004, CSA 2007, and Lykowska 2011), the Dire Dawa Administration has 9 urban and 38 rural kebeles. Among the 9 urban kebeles in the city administration, for the purpose of this study, three kebeles are purposely be selected. These kebeles are those where the majority of the migrant households dwell. In deciding the names of the kebeles administrators were consulted. As such, Kebele 02, Kebele 06 and Kebele 09 are selected. In selecting the participants simple random sampling technique is used. Therefore, 300 households are randomly be recruited for quantitative data. It was tried to get if there could be a readymade list of households. Elders, Kebele administrators, and other concerned authorities were recruited for qualitative data. Thus, 20 individuals are purposely selected for qualitative data. Hence, a total of 320 subjects are participated in this study.

3.3 Tools for data gathering

The present study basically employs questionnaire, focus group discussion and interview for data gathering. The development of these data collection instruments is believed to be useful in triangulation of the data from different sources.

3.3.1 Questionnaire

The present study employs questionnaire as a primary tool for data gathering in view of the fact that it is self administered and can be given to a large group of subjects at the same time. Structured questionnaire are prepared in order to collect valid data since it has high degree of explicitness and it requires subjects to mark on opinions. The questionnaire consists of both open ended and closed ended sets of questions.

3.3.2 Interview

Interviews allow the researcher to gather information about deep feeling, perception, values and views of respondents on past events that are impossible to replicate. The researchers use semi-structured interviews to gather qualitative data from key informants.

3.4 Procedures of data collection

The raw data for the present study was collected in two phases. In the first phase the qualitative data was collected via interview. Then, in the second phase, questionnaire was distributed and administered.

3.5 Methods of Data Analysis

Since the nature of the research demands qualitative and quantitative data, the analysis of the data follows both qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative data obtained through questionnaire are arranged and organized into tables for simplifying and better understanding. To analyze and interpret their similarities and differences, descriptive techniques such as: frequency and percentage was used. The data obtained through interview was also analyzed in narration under each category to support and triangulate with the results of quantitative data.

4. Results and Discussion

As stated earlier the central objective of this study was to investigate the causes of rural-urban migration in case of Dire Dawa city. So this section deals with the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collected from 300 participants selected from three Kebeles. Since respondents attempted all the questions, it was able to get a ground by which the analysis of the data can be substantiated.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Questionnaires were distributed to 300 research participants. Thus, the major characteristics of the respondents in the sample surveyed are presented as follow.

Table-1 Socio-Demographic characteristics of the Respondents

No.	Characteristics	Number	Percentage	
1	Age	20-30 years	4	1.2%
		31-40 years	209	69.6%
		41 years and above	87	29.2%
		Total	300	100%
2	Marital Status	Single	206	68.8%
		Divorced	30	10%
		Married	64	21.2%
		Total	300	100
3.	Educational Status	Illiterate	58	19.6%
		Primary school	113	37.6%
		Secondary school	102	34%
		College and above	27	8.8%
		Total	300	100%

As shown in table one, the majority of migrants fall under the age of 31-40 years. Out of the total surveyed migrants 69.6% were in the age between 31-40 years. Whereas, 29.2% of the surveyed migrants fall under the age of 41 and above. The remaining 1.2% of the surveyed migrants fall under the age category of 20-30. As shown in Table 1, the majority of migrants which accounts for 78.8% of surveyed total population were either single or divorced. As shown in same table, 68.8% of the surveyed female in-migrants to Dire Dawa were single. Similarly 10% of the surveyed migrants were divorced ones. The rest 21.2% of the surveyed women migrants were married. As indicated in table-1, the majority (80.4%) of the respondents are literate while the remaining 19.6% are illiterate. Of the literate female in migrants to Dire Dawa, 37.6% have attained primary level of education, 34% have attained secondary level of education and the rest 8.8% have attained tertiary level of education (that means college and above).

This illustrates that adolescents are more prone to migration than adults. This may be explained by the fact that young portion of the population decide to move as they characteristically easily bitten by the rising ambition; they get more restless about the socioeconomic situations in their rural settings or about searching out newer environment and better chance of life. This might be also because of the young people have more information access than other group of population. Therefore, it would be possible to infer that migration to Dire Dawa is age selective.

Table-1 also presents the marital status of surveyed migrants. Marital status is another important

characteristic influencing the propensity to migrate. Migration propensities change with marital status. That is, the matter of being married, unmarried (single), divorced and widowed has an effect on the decision to migrate. Single persons have less responsibility than married ones.

According to Birhan (2011:63), among the demographic characteristics, age and sex compositions are the one which have influence on migration process. As such, the propensity to migrate is highest among the single than married ones. This is due to the fact that those who are married family commitments which may influence them not to migrate. According to Kebede (1994), many of the migrants were unmarried at the time they migrated. Similarly, the response given by the respondents strengthen this idea. Education is one of the significant characteristics inducing rural-urban migration. The decision to migrate is also more likely influenced by educational attainment. This would mean that those who are better educated are relatively more involved in different migration streams than those who are not.

4.2 The Causes of Rural to Urban Migration

There are several reasons for population mobility from place to place. Reasons for migration to urban centers in particular are more complex. However, the causes of migration are usually identified as two broad categories, namely “pushing” and “pulling” factors. For example, people of a certain area may be pushed off by poverty and other natural factor to move towards towns for employment. On the other hand, better employment opportunities or the need for better facilities in urban areas may also pull people to different urban areas. In addition, the decision to migrate from one place to another may also be influenced by non-economic factors such as the need to join relatives, the need to be free from cultural and family restriction and obligation and so on. In general, however, as to the causes of migration scholars conclude that migration is a response by humans to a series of economic and non-economic factors. In Ethiopia rural-urban migration also takes place largely as a response to economic factors rather than non-economic factors (EEA 1999/2000). The results of the survey regarding the cause’s rural-urban migration are presented in the following discussion.

Table 2: The Causes of Rural-Urban Migration

No	Causes	SA		A		U		D		SD	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	To Seek Employment	107	35.6	93	31	52	17.2	31	10.3	17	5.7
2	Famine and Poverty	90	29.9	103	34.5	39	13.2	34	11.3	34	11.3
3	Poor Facility	97	32.2	90	29.9	31	10.3	56	19.5	26	8

Source: (own survey 2016)

As illustrated in table two above seeking employment opportunity was presented for respondents to rate their level of agreement. Hence, 107 respondents (35.6%) strongly agreed that they migrate to Dire Dawa to seek for employment. Similarly 93 respondents (31%) agreed that they come to Dire Dawa to seek for employment. 52 respondents (17.2%) chosen undecided. This people may have another purpose for their movement to the city. However, 31 respondents (10.3%) choose disagree and 17 respondents (5.7%) choose strongly disagree. Thus, since the majority of the respondents (66.6%) of the total respondents agreed that they come to Dire Dawa in search for employment, it would be possible to infer that the majority of the respondents come to Dire Dawa in search for employment opportunity.

Table-2 further presents famine and drought as another reason for the respondents to move to Dire Dawa. Hence, out of the total respondents 90(29.9%) strongly agreed that they come to Dire Dawa as a result of famine and droughty. Likewise 103 (34.5%) respondents agreed that they come to Dire Dawa as a result of famine and drought. The number of respondents who opt for undecided is 39 (13.2%). These respondents may have other reasons. On the other hand 34 respondents (11.3%) opt disagree, and that of 34 respondents (11.3%) chosen strongly disagree. Therefore, it can easily infer from the table the majority of the respondents agreed that famine and drought are other factors for the movement of women from rural areas to the urban Dire Dawa. The third cause presented in table 3 is lack of facilities. Regarding this, 97 respondents (32.2%) strongly agreed that lack of facilities was another factor for their migration to Dire Dawa. In similar way 90(29.9%) respondents agreed that they came to Dire Dawa as a result of lack of facilities. On the same item 31(10.3%) respondents were unable to decide on the issue. While 56 (19.5%) respondents and 26 (8%) respondents replied disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

Lack of facilities in rural areas was perceived to be a factor as we can see from the quantitative analysis above. This was supported by the qualitative data as one of the interviewed women said the following.

“ገጠር ምን አለ; ንጹህ መጠጥ ውሃ የለ፤ መብራት እንደልብ አይገኝም፤ ያለውም ቢሆን መቆራረጥ ይበዛዋል። የገጠር ኑሮ ርባና የለውም። ስልክ ለመደቀወልም ሆነ ለሁሉም ነገር ከተማ ይሻላል።”

Literally translated as:

“What is there in rural? There is no pure water; electricity is limitedly accessed with lots of on and offs; life in rural is not worthy; urban is better for everything even for telephoning.”

Table-3: The Causes of Rural-Urban Migration

No	Cause	SA		A		U		D		SD	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Land shortage and crop failure	110	36.8	79	26.4	56	18.4	31	10.3	24	8
2	To get education and training	35	11.7	60	20	100	33.3	65	21.7	40	13.3
3	Job transfer	31	10.3	14	4.6	59	19.5	83	27.6	113	37.9

Source: (own survey 2016)

As it can be seen from item 1 of table 4, respondents were asked to rate land shortage and crop failure as a reason for the migration from rural to urban Dire Dawa. Accordingly, 110(36.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 79 (26.4%) of the respondents agreed, 56 (18.4%) respondents were un able to decide, 31(10.3%) of the respondents disagreed, and that of 24(8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. This shows that there is a difference between the respondents in such a way that the majority of the respondents (65.2%) replied (agreed) that land shortage and crop failure as a push factor for their migration to urban Dire Dawa.

Item 3 of table four also asks respondents to rate the level of their agreement on whether education and training was a factor for their movement to Dire Dawa. Accordingly, 35 respondents (11.7%) strongly agreed that they move to Dire Dawa in search of education and training. Similarly, 60 respondents (20%) agree that they come to Dire Dawa in search of education and training. On the other hand, 100 respondents (33.3%) were unable to decide to rate whether education and training was a factor for their movement to Dire Dawa. The total number of respondents who disagree on the item are 65 (21.7%), those who strongly disagree accounted for 13.3%. hence, from the respondents responses we can infer that education and training is not a salient factor for the movement of migrants to Dire Dawa. This is due to the fact that there is no that much significant difference between those who agreed and disagreed. Again, when we consider the level of education of respondents, the majority of the respondents fall under the primary education. This could also be evidence the justification that education and training is not a salient factory for the migrants' movement to Dire Dawa.

However, it could also be stressed that the number of respondents who rated for strongly agree and agree cannot be underestimated. Regarding item 3 of the same table (table four), 31 respondents (10.3%) strongly agreed that they move to Dire Dawa as a result of job transfer. 14 respondents (4.6%) agreed on the issue raised. 59 respondents(19.5%) were not able to decide on the issue raised. On the contrary 83 respondents (27.6%) replied that they disagreed on the issue raised, like wise 113 respondents (37.9%) strongly disagreed on whether job transfer is a factor or not. Form the responses it would be possible to infer that job transfer is not a strong factor for the movement of migrants to Dire Dawa since the majority of the respondents (65.5%) rated strongly agreed and disagreed on the item.

About 29.9 percent of sample in-migrants moved to Dire Dawa as a result of famine, poverty and crop failure. This is due to the fact that the surrounding districts of Dire Dawa are highly food insecure and degraded areas. So, the only opportunity is to move to other areas for economic betterment at places of destination areas. The results of the research also showed that a higher proportion of surveyed migrant populations of Dire Dawa town were either unemployed, or farmer who came from rural agricultural areas to Dire Dawa for looking employment and other better opportunities. This confirms the Lewis Dual Sector model which basically states that 'there is the existence of excess labor in the rural agricultural sector; therefore people migrate to the industrial sector to obtain employment' (McCatty, 2004).

4.3 The Outcomes of Migration

The trend of understanding the consequences of migration is minimal in most researches. This is because the effect of migration on both places of origin and places of arrival is a very complex issue and requires thorough understanding. However, in general as remarked by Birhan (2011:81) the consequences depend on the volume of migration, the degree of flow of remittances, and the type (characteristics) of migrants that dominate the migration flow.

As Oberai (1987) thinks the rural-urban migration is a population movement from relatively low income rural activities to higher industrial and service sector so that the level of income of migrants can be improved. Therefore, it is considered as generating various benefits to the migrants. Contrary to this, migration particularly in the push stream of movement is found to be the major bottleneck for development in both receiving urban and departing rural areas in developing nations. This is because most of urban areas of less developed nations are ineffectively urbanized and hence are not found to have the capacity to fruitfully absorb the rural migrants in gainful jobs, neither to provide housing or various other social services and amenities. Thus, they have limited pull situation but still are perceived by the rural migrants as powerful magnets.

The high rate of overcrowding and unemployment is increasingly causing several social, psycho-social, cultural, political and economic problems in the towns, making them quite unstable social organizations in perpetual tension and stress. In spite of this frustrating state of affairs, the movement of people continues unabatedly to urban areas due to the perceived, though false expectation of better living and working conditions

in urban areas.

In the subsequent section an attempt is made to present the socio-economic status of migrants before and after migration.

Table-4: Comparison of the Socio-Economic Status of Migrants before and after Migration

S.N.	Conditions	Improved		Not improved		Remained the same	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Type of Work	180	60	58	19.4	62	20.6
2	Income	165	55	63	21	72	24
3	Educational Access	232	77.3	9	3	59	19.7
4	Housing Access	106	35.3	142	47.3	52	17.3
5	Urban Transport Access	267	89	5	1.5	28	9.3
6	Health Care	281	93.7	2	0.7	17	5.6
7	General Living Condition	228	76	46	15.3	26	8.7

Source: Own field survey 2016

As indicated in table-4, more than three quarter of the surveyed migrants reported that they have got improvements in different aspects of their life. This can be interpreted, for instance, about 60% of the respondents reported that they had got improvements in work type; about 55% of them had got improvements in their income; about 77.3% of them had got reasonable improvements in their education. Likewise, about 89% of the surveyed migrants reported that they have got improvements in urban transportation. About 93.7% of them told that access to health care services has improved. In Ethiopia, access to education, health care, and transportation in rural areas did not improve much in their quality. Therefore, since most of the migrants are of rural origin, it is expected to benefit from the available social services like education, health service and transportation in better quality and quantity than in rural areas. However, about 47.3% of the surveyed migrants reported that their housing access had not improved. In general, as indicated in the survey data more than half of the surveyed migrants had got improvements in different socio-economic conditions.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

These days the towns of Ethiopia are growing in a rapid rate. Their population is also increasing as a result of rural-urban migration. Dire Dawa city is one of the city in the country with accelerated growth rate of population as a result of frequent in-migration. The present research deals with the theoretical background of migration, review of literature, the nature of migrants, migration processes, the differential incidence of the rural push and urban pull factors regarding women rural-urban migration in Dire Dawa town.

Most in-migrants to the city are of rural origin. Though Dire Dawa attracts migrants from many parts of the country, most of them are intra-regional, particularly intra-zonal. In other words, the stream of migration to the town is dominated by short distance migrants, characterized by their stepped and chained movement following one another. The majority of them are in their most productive ages, both demographically and economically. The town itself hardly seems to be in any feasible way capable of absorbing the excessive inflow of migrants nor has the investment capacity to add to its urban resources. Migrants themselves are too poor to contribute to the investment sector of the capital resources to the town's growth and development. A large number of migrants who come to Dire Dawa were single (unmarried). Most of the migrants had formal education basically primary education.

The reasons for the migration of women to Dire Dawa are also indicated in this study. The main reasons that drive migrants to move to Dire Dawa is basically economic reason. This was attested by both quantitative and qualitative data. As such, migrants move to Dire Dawa for seeking employment and job, to open and extend business, to get better urban facilities and housing, and to maximize income. When we compare the push and pull factors, the pull factors seem stronger than that of the push factors. however, the push factors are also found to be significantly affecting the migration process. As such, rural areas because of lack of investment and economic growth are suffering from lack of agricultural or alternative employment, droughts and famines which were amongst reasons for migration.

The urban pull factors are weak and the urban capacity is low, practically, the rural migrants perceived life chances in the destination town are highly misconstrued and rather exaggerated, based on here-say and wrong information about the opportunities available in the town. Growing unemployment in the rural areas pushes young people, who are also bitten by the rising ambition bug and better life chances in the urban area. It was also tried to analyze the outcome of migration to Dire Dawa. Hence, in most of the socio economic conditions migrants show improvement. But, shortage of housing was found to be the pertinent problem in the town. This may be the result of the increasing rate of the population of the town. In addition to this the k2distribution of water and electricity is somehow improved but not sufficient as manifested by most of the discussants during the group discussion

Most of the migrants have improved their working condition, income, education, schooling of dependents, access to urban transportation and health care. In general, for most of them their general living condition has improved. However, the problem of housing, lack of employment opportunities and sufficient consumption goods, rising cost of living, inadequate social services and others are major problems that migrants currently face. As it was mentioned during the group discussion most of the migrants were found not having interest to return to their home areas. This may be due to the fact that rural living and working conditions are much worse compared to urban areas in the current Ethiopian context.

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made.

- ❖ Rural areas are highly affected by unemployment. Thus, there should be integrated rural development strategy for the betterment of agricultural productivity in those rural areas.
- ❖ The migration to Dire Dawa is dominated by adolescent females. These women reported that early marriage and abduction are of the reasons for their migration. Thus, there should be strong advocacy and awareness creation about the disadvantage of early marriage and abduction.
- ❖ Resettlement on voluntary basis from highly degraded areas to where there are vacant and potentially productive irrigable lands can reduce the flow of people towards urban areas.
- ❖ There should also be the provision of different social services in rural areas such as better medication, education and infrastructure like water and electricity to reduce the push factors.
- ❖ Finally, there should be balanced rural-urban growth in the study area concerned.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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