

Patterns of Rural to Urban Migration from Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma Districts of Northwestern Ethiopia

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Abstract: The study is aimed at analyzing patterns of rural to urban migration from Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma Districts. Data were collected from four rural kebeles which are selected based on the relative prevalence of migration. After grouping households into with and without migrant members, questionnaire was administered to 380 households i.e. 190 households each with and without migrants. Key informants interview and focus group discussions are also employed to gather data. The analysis is made using mean, standard deviation and qualitative description. The result reveals that rural to urban migration is prevalent among young, single male and those at the level of secondary education. Migrants bypass nearby small and medium size towns and migrated to the capital city of the country i.e. Addis Ababa. Most of rural to urban migrants have temporary status of migration. Therefore, it calls for policy attention to register patterns of migration and to work with appropriate regional and local development planning.

Key words: Patterns of migration, rural to urban migration, trends of migration, Addis Ababa

1. Introduction

Migration is a widespread phenomenon in Africa. However, there is a non-availability of secondary data related to migration in most of the African countries (Van Dijk, 2001). The African countries in which migration related data is available have reported at least one internal migrants in majority of the households. Most of these internal migrants are males, aged between 15-34 (De Haan, 2000). However, recent trend shows that women have started participating in migration for work as well due to an increase in demand for female labour in industries and services. Therefore, feminization of migration is becoming a recent phenomenon in the movement of population (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2004).

Rural out-migration is common among young people. Young folks are the most active part of the society and are frequently migrating in search of new employment and better livelihood opportunities. In African nations such as Ethiopia, Nigeria and Uganda, internal migration of younger age groups took place as a result of family related reasons (FAO, 2017). Rural out-migration is a common phenomenon in Ethiopia as well. However, quantitative level of migration is still unclear due to the lack of effective registration system. Indeed the propensity of migration is to be linked with some socio-demographic and socio-cultural aspects such as age, sex, marital status, education level and family relationship (Hailemariam and Adugna, 2011). These aspects vary among the migrant population is partially differ from non-migrant population (FAO, 2017).

CSA (2007) documented different patterns of migration in Ethiopia. Rural to urban migration has been the dominant migration stream in Ethiopia followed by rural to rural migration. In Ethiopia, intra-regional migration is common in regions such as Oromia, Amhara and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) of Ethiopia (Tadele et.al. 2006). However, those of smaller regions such as Harari and Afar region have experienced inter-regional migration. According to Central Statistical Authority (CSA, 2007), females dominated migration stream in Ethiopia. Bjerer (1985) found the gender system of migration varies across different ethnic groups in Ethiopia. Thus, the motivation behind migration and place of migration destination may vary among migrants (Regassa and Yusufe, 2009). In Ethiopia as whole, there has not been full data about patterns of rural to urban migration. Specifically, in Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts, no any registration about migrants age, sex, marital status, education level, time of migration, place of destination and type of migration status. Therefore, the present paper is done to fill such gaps. The study hypothesize that rural to urban migration is prevalent among males and young age groups. It also hypothesize that rural-urban migrants migrated to nearby towns and cities. Rural to urban migration increases from time to time and migrants are permanently migrated to urban areas.

2. Study Area

Location: Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma district are located in Awi administrative zone, Amhara regional state. In relative position, Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts are located at 452 and 460 kilometers Northwest of Addis Ababa, the capital city and 141 and 100 kilometers southwest of Bahir-Dar, city and center of Amhara regional state respectively. The absolute location of study area of Ankasha district is between the coordinates of 10°34'00"N to 10°55'20"N latitude and 36°29'40"E to 37°04'41"E longitude and Fagita Lekoma is located between 10°55'01"N to 11°14'05"N latitude and 36°39'05"E to 37°05'21"E longitude (CSA, 2007).

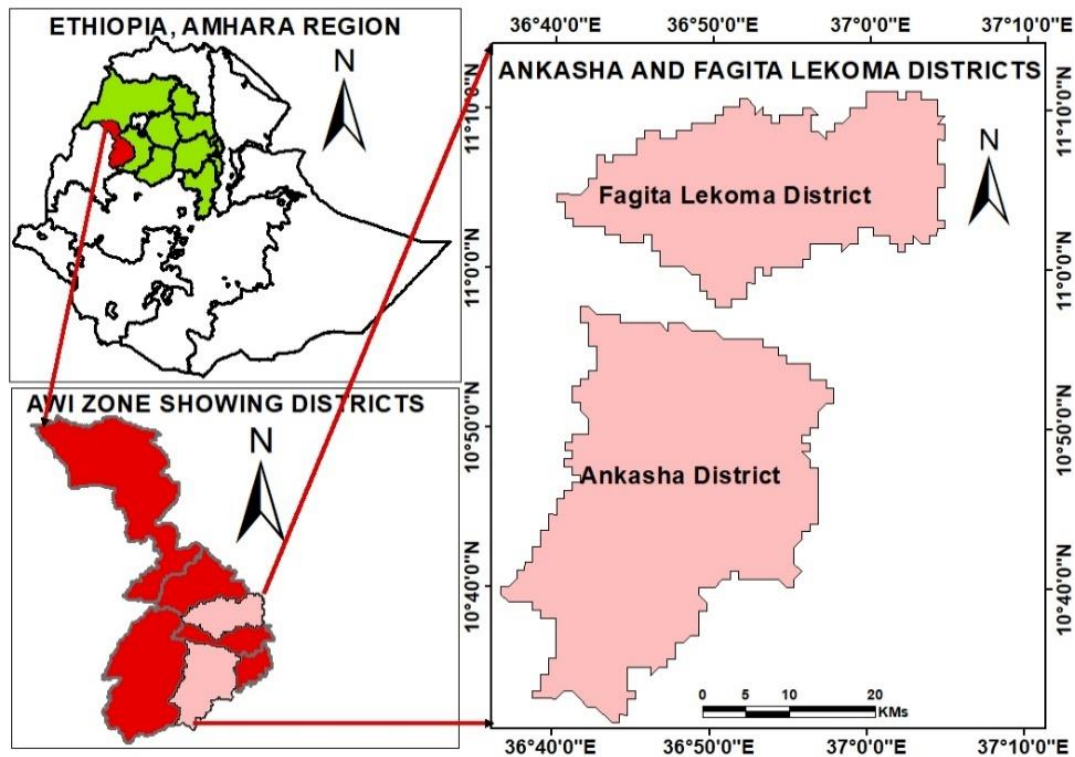


Figure 1: Location map of study area

Source: CSA, 2007

Population size and density: Based on the information obtained from the Amhara Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (ARBOFED, 2016) the population size of Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts was 229,107 and 156, 671 people by the year of 2016 respectively. The population density of Ankaha district is about 221 people per square kilometer and that of Fagita Lekoma district has a population density of 240 people per square kilometer.

Socio-economic condition: Majority of the population in the two districts are living below the poverty line on the basis of the international standard. Landlessness, land shortage, poor farming practice and increase in land degradation resulted in consequent decrease in agricultural productivity. As a result, majority of population are living in poverty (District level socio-economic office report, 2017, unpublished). In general, the two districts are characterized by socio-economic problems like increase in unemployment, migration to cities and towns is prevalent, increase in juvenile delinquency and expansion of begging activities.

3. Methods and Materials

3.1. Sample Selection and Sample Size Determination

A Total of four rural kebeles (smaller administrative units), two from each Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma Districts were purposefully selected based on the prevalence of rural-urban migration. The selected study kebeles are Bekafta and Tulta from Ankasha district and Ayjasta and Gezehara from Fagita Lekoma district. The rural households were stratified into households with and without migrant members. The criteria for selecting households with migrants was based on a household with at least one migrant member who migrated to city or town before one year of the survey time. Then, households with migrant members were identified with the help of local leaders and development agents.

From the total a 6044 households living in four selected rural kebeles, appropriate sample size wad determined using simplified mathematical formula by Yamane (1967) cited in Singh and Masuku (2014).

$$n_0 = \frac{N}{1 + N(\alpha)^2}$$

Where N = sampling frame,

n = sample size, and

α = confidence interval ($\alpha=0.05$)

$$\text{Therefore, } n_0 = \frac{6,044}{1 + 6,044(0.05)^2} \approx 375$$

This number was rounded to 380 households. Finally, based on the consideration of half of the rural household have at least one migrant members in urban, 190 rural households with migrant members were included in the study. After deciding over the sample size, participants were randomly selected.

3.2. Data Sources and Methods of Data Collection

For this study both primary and secondary data has been collected. Primary data were collected via questionnaire, key informant interview and focus group discussion. In the data collection process, questionnaire was administered to the head of households so as to derive information about migrants. The questionnaire was about patterns of rural to urban migration such as age, sex, educational level, marital status, preferred migration destination, types of migration status. Key informant interviews with agricultural development agents and district administrators were also conducted to collect additional information. In addition, two focus group discussions with rural households were held at each rural kebele. Secondary data sources for the study include journal articles and different research works that are used in the literature and as supportive materials to validate the result of the study. Population size of rural areas was collected from respective rural kebele administration offices.

3.3. Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive analysis like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation is used to analyze information about patterns of rural to urban migration from Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts. The results are presented using graphs, tables and map.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1. Gender and Age of Migrants

Gender, which is a social construction that organizes relations between males and females can result in the difference in drivers, processes and effects of migration. It considers the type of migration and related inequalities that makes the difference in migration. Gender analysis of migration also examines how the variations are shaped by the social and cultural settings of an individual (Omelaniuk, 2005).

In the districts of Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma, from the analysis of field work, it is observed that males outnumber females in rural to urban migration stream.

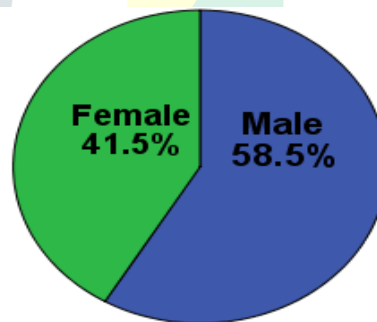


Figure 1: Gender Composition of Migrants
Source: Field survey, 2017/2018

It can be observed from the figure 1 that more than half of the migrants are males consisting about 58.5 per cent of total migrants while the females contribute only 41.5 per cent in the migrant stock. It shows that migration is gender selective, where males dominated rural to urban migration. Chi-square test of goodness of fit was checked to see whether there exist statistical significant differences between the number of male and female migrants.

Table 1: Chi-Square Test of Gender Differential of Rural to Urban Migration

Gender	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	Df	Sig
Male	172	147.0	8.503	1	0.004
Female	122	147.0			
Total	294	249			

Source: Field survey, 2017/2018

As it is shown in the table 1, by considering the observed and expected frequencies, chi-square test indicates that a significant difference between male and female migrants is found in terms of their number, with $P < 0.05$. The study confirms that the proportion of males dominating among the migratory groups from Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts. This result is consistent with the study of Kebede (1994) who pointed out that migration is not only age selective, but it is also sex selective. However, sex selective migration varies from region to region in Ethiopia. In some regions, males dominate the migration stream while in other female migrants are more in number (Bezu and Holden, 2014b). Culturally, men are expected to dominate migration stream (Clarke and Drinkwater, 2001) while women are less migratory than men because of their reproductive and care responsibilities, financial and decision-making constraints (Awumbila, et.al. (2015).

Regarding the age of the migrants, table 2 shows that 88.4 per cent of migrants are in the young and active age group of 16-25 years followed by those who are within the age group of 13-15 years (7.10 per cent).

Table 2: Migrants Age Group

Age group	Frequency	Per cent
13-15	21	7.10
16-25	260	88.40
26-31	13	4.40
Total	294	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017-2018

The minimum and maximum age of the migrants during their migration is found to be 13 and 31 years respectively. The mean age of the migrants is found 19.8 which is approximately 20 years with a standard deviation of 3.34. The analysis indicate that the young population comprises a major share of migrant population in Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma Districts. It can be deduced from table 2 that children and the elderly are less interested in rural to urban migration. The propensity to migrate is higher among young and decreases with age, as a result of the combined effect of cultural norms, traditions and economic opportunities (Adepoju, 1995; Bell and Muhidin, 2009; Bell and Charles-Edwards (2014).

Youth enjoys the capacity to learn new things, acquire new skills and education to achieve their goals in the urban areas. They are also less burdened with various family and other social responsibilities and hence feel free to move. Therefore, the study shows that the youth, who are in productive age group, migrates to cities and towns, leaving the aged and children in rural areas. As a result, agriculture and rural development suffer from migration of active labour force. Participants in focus group discussion also mentioned such issue. They witnessed that those of aged and female headed households remained in rural are affected in a day to day activities including routine housework and outdoor agricultural production because of the absence of their young sons and daughters.

4.2. Number of Migrants per Household

In the districts of Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma the propensity of rural to urban migration is very high. Table 3 depicts the number of migrants per household.

Table 3: Number of Migrants per Household

HHs with Migrant Members	Number of Households	Number of Migrants	Percentage
HHs with at least one migrant	110	110	59.1
HHs with two migrants	53	106	28.5
HHs with three migrants	15	45	8.1
HHs with four migrants	7	28	3.8
HHs with five migrants	1	5	.5
Total	186	294	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2017/2018

Note: HH=household

Among the sample households 59.1 per cent have only one migrant member, 28 per cent have two migrants while 8.1 per cent of the households have three migrants each. The high proportion of more than four and five migrants are found only among 3.8 per cent and 0.5 per cent of households respectively.

4.3. Marital Status of Migrants

Marital status is another important characteristic influencing the propensity to migrate. Migration propensities change with marital status. The matter of being single, married, divorced and widowed has an effect on the decision to migrate. Single persons have less responsibility than married ones. As such, the propensity to migrate is higher among the single than married ones. Table 4 depicts marital status of sampled population.

Table 4: Marital Status of Migrants

Marital status	Number of Migrants	Per cent
Single	184	62.60
Married	61	20.70
Divorced	45	15.30
Widowed	4	1.40
Total	294	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017-2018

As shown in table 4, about 62.60 per cent of migrants are single at the time of migration, 20.70 per cent are married while divorced and widowed constitute 15.30 and 1.40 per cent respectively. The result of this study is substantiated with Kebede (1994) who found that many rural to urban migrants in Ethiopia are single at the time of their migration. Different literatures also state that generally, those of single, who have no family obligation are more prone to move (Mendola, 2006).

4.4. Educational Level of Migrants

Education is another important determinant of rural to urban migration and the level of education is directly related to the proportion of migrants. Table 6 depicts the educational level of the migrants from sampled households.

Table 5: Educational Level of Migrants

Educational level	Number of Migrants	Percentage of Migrants
No education	33	11.20
1-4	51	17.30
5-8	82	27.90
9-10	103	35.0
11-12	13	4.40
Above 12th grade	12	4.10
Total	294	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2017/2018

According to table 6 11.20 per cent of the migrants had no formal education, 17.30 per cent of them attended grade 1-4 in formal schools, 27.90 per cent of migrants studied from grade 5-8 and the majority that is 35 per cent of the migrants have attained education from grade 9-10. Only a very small proportion of migrants that is 4.10 per cent attained advanced level of education, including technical, vocational training and higher educational level. The mode of educational level of migrants indicate that most of the migrants (62.60 per cent) have completed high school/secondary school level.

Therefore, the table 6 shows that the relatively educated migrants moved to the urban areas in search of job and better living conditions because they perceived that education gives them a better chance of being employed than those with no formal education. Ackah and Medvedev (2010) confirmed that education is known to be an important determinant of migration although it varies considerably across countries.

4.5. Trends of Rural to Urban Migration

As it is shown in figure 2, there is an increasing trend of rural to urban migration from 2000 to 2016. The figure shows that, the number of migrants leaving the rural areas for urban are increasing from time to time and it is continuing.

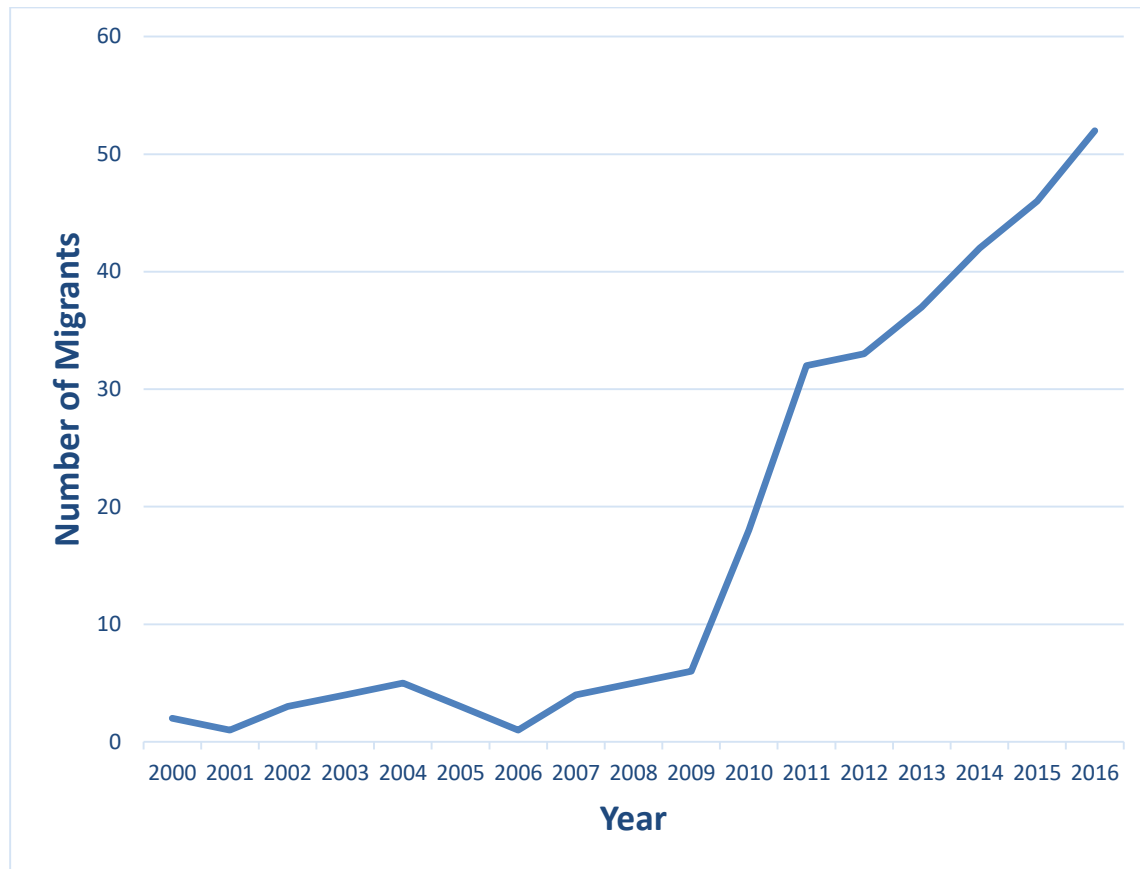


Figure 2: Trends of Rural to Urban Migration (2000-2016)
Source: Field survey, 2017/2018

The survey conducted in *Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts* indicate that the level of migration has been significant and persistently continuing in successive years. The focus group discussants and key informants also agreed that rural to urban migration is a common practice in the study area. Figure 2 shows that except the year of 2005 and 2006 rural to urban migration is showing an increasing trend. The reason for decrement of rural to urban migration by the years mentioned could be because of political instability in urban areas of Ethiopia at that time following the election. Participants of focus group discussion reflect that the youth prefer rural to urban migration than staying in rural areas. This shows that the extent of migration in the surveyed areas of Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma Woreda tends to be high affecting a large proportion of households. While revealing that the trend of migration is increasing, focus group discussants and the key informants tried to consider the extent of migration experiences in their respective areas. According to them, with this increasing magnitude of migration, almost all households will have migrants in one way or the other in a few years to come. Hence, migration is very likely to become part of the life of the rural people in Ankasha and Fagita Lekoma districts. Therefore, it is possible to state that more people are expected to join towns and cities in the coming years. With a decreasing carrying capacity of the rural areas and the increasing attractiveness of towns and cities, it is real that migration of people from rural areas to urban areas is expected to continue. A study conducted by Bezu and Holden (2014a) in rural areas of southern Ethiopia also confirmed this finding as they found that about 90 per cent of interviewed youth in the rural areas are interested to migrate to the urban areas by leaving the agricultural way of livelihood.

4.6. Preferred Destination of Migrants

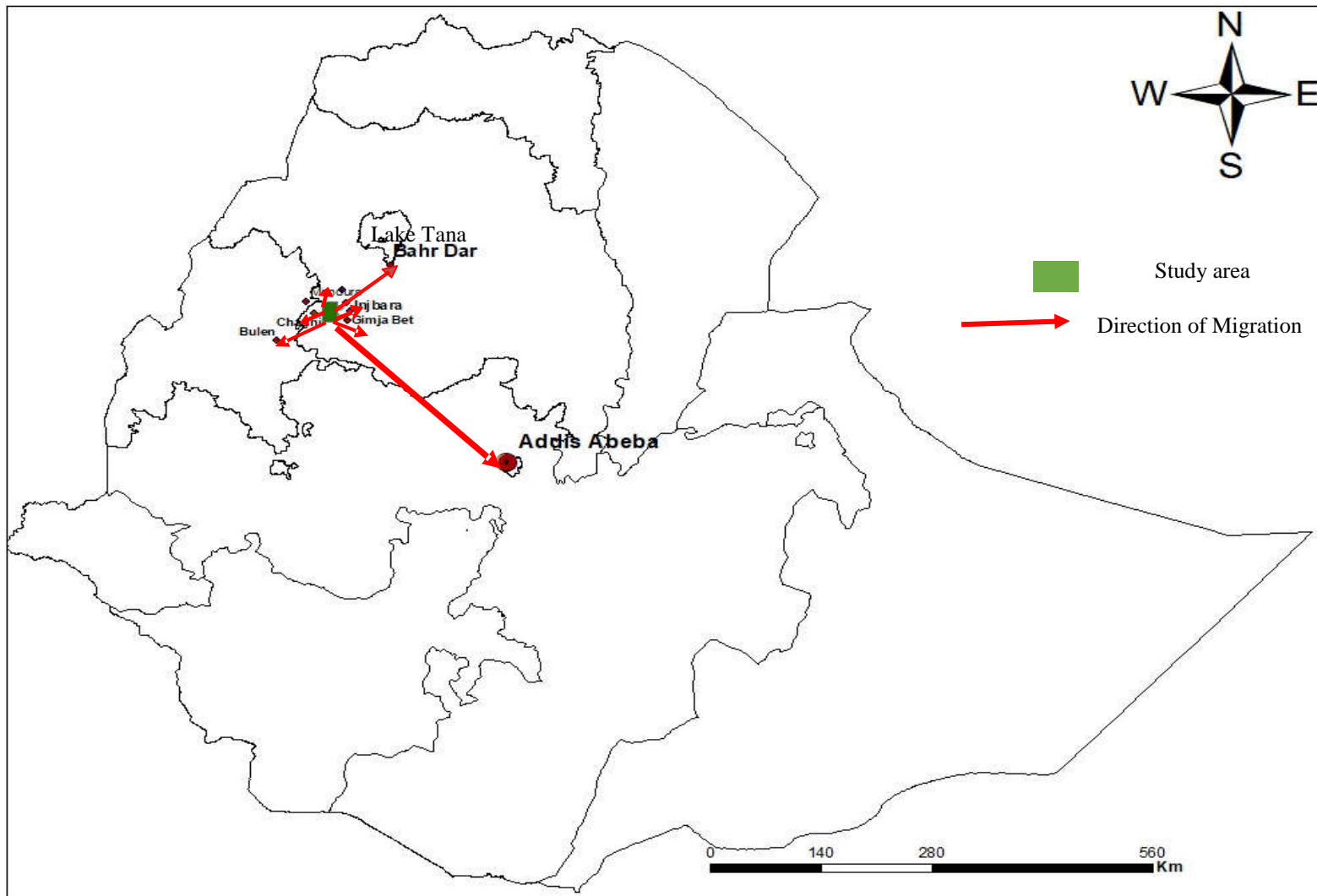
Different studies found that Addis Ababa i.e. the capital city of Ethiopia attract large number of migrants from different corner of the country. The present study also validates this notion. The majority of the migrants i.e. 67.69 per cent moved to Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia than any other nearby regional towns. From the total migrants, 11.22 per cent are migrated to the district towns, 8.16 percent moved to the Zonal town of Injibara and 4.08 per cent moved to the regional city and center i.e. Bahir Dar. Another group of migrants i.e. 8.84 per cent, also migrated to other towns with in the same and across regional state. This result is also consistent with the results of focus group discussion (FGD) and key informants interview. The discussion revealed that most of migrants from these selected rural localities migrated to Addis Ababa. This is because of the previous migrants who informed them about their life, including the available jobs and income they get in the capital city, i.e. Addis Ababa. In addition to the information shared by the earlier migrants,

the potential migrants are motivated by the changes they saw in the lives of earlier friends who have migrated to Addis Ababa. While earlier migrants visit their families, they returned with an evident change in socio-economic status due to their exposure to modernization and urban way of life. Their clothes, shoes, phones and different personal goods demonstrated the quality of life in the capital city and this in turn influence others to make a decision to migrate. This is known as demonstration effect that generates chain migration.

The findings are consistent with the idea of De Haas (2008) who stated that once a certain number of earlier migrants have settled at a given destination, other forces come into play which influence successive migration patterns. The finding of Benti (2007) also related to this result that information flow and personal networks such as friendship and kinship are among the important determinants of rural to urban migration in Ethiopia. In contrast to the findings of this study, Pankhurst, et.al. (2013) found that in Ethiopia due to some of the constraints such as uncertainties of employment prospect, most migrants are finding alternative locations in nearby urban areas within their region. Map 1 is depicting the direction of rural to urban migration from study areas.



Map 1
Destination Areas of Migrants



4.7. Type of Migration Status

Rural households with migrant members in the study area were asked about whether the status of migrants is permanent or temporary. The result reveals that 59.50 per cent of migrants are having temporary status and they intend to come back to their place of origin after attaining their objective. On the other hand, 40.50 per cent of migrants are having permanent status and they will be there permanently.

Besides this, rural households in a focus group discussion reported that most of the migrants are interested to return to their place of origin. The results of this study are substantiated by the work of (Hailemariam and Adugna, 2011) and Hunnes (2012) those found that temporary migration is common in Ethiopia, where migrants are migrated as a response to imbalance of population-resource relationship. They are migrating to fill asset and income gaps in general and when achieved, it results in return migration.

5. Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that most of the migrants are young, single and have secondary school educational level. When the age of migrants was considered, almost all migrants are in the active age group, largely belonged to the age group of 16-25 years. Migration is also gender selective, where males dominated rural to urban migration in the study area. The trend of rural to urban migration has been increasing from time to time and the preferred place of migration for most migrants is found to be Addis Ababa, i.e. the capital city of Ethiopia. This is because of many of the migrants are already impressed with the information coming from Addis, the biggest city in Ethiopia. The booming city of Addis has a capacity to offer jobs in the construction, industry and service sectors. More than half of the migrants have temporary status of residence at the destination and have an intention to comeback after achieved their objectives. Therefore, the study proves the hypothesis that rural to urban migration is dominated by males and young people and it also proves the hypothesis of rural-urban migration is showing an increasing trend. However, the hypothesis that rural-urban migration takes place to nearby towns and cities and migrants are permanently migrated to urban areas is disproved as far as migrants travel longer distances by passing nearby cities and towns and most of them have a temporary status of migration.

Therefore, it is recommended that there is a need to document patterns of rural to urban migration. Because documenting about age, sex, marital status, preferred destination and others is important for socio-economic development planning of both the place of destination and origin. It is understood that migrants bypass smaller and medium size towns and migrated to Addis Ababa, the capital city because of the booming city of Addis Ababa is characterized by concentration of major economy of the country. Therefore, there is a call for appropriate regional and local development planning to influence the policy in order to disperse development into regional and local towns. It has also policy implication for appropriate and timely registration of patterns of migration.

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