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SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
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**ASSESSING OF CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF WOMEN
MIGRATION FROM HALABA ZONE OF CENTRAL
ETHIOPIA REGIONAL STATE TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

MA THESIS

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**ASSESSING OF CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF WOMEN
MIGRATION FROM HALABA ZONE OF CERS TO THE
MIDDLE EAST**

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This is to certify that the thesis entitled " **ASSESSING OF CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF WOMEN MIGRATION FROM HALABA ZONE OF CENTRAL ETHIOPIA REGIONAL STATE TO THE MIDDLE EAST**" submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in in Development Management, the Graduate program of the School of Governance and Development Studies, and has been carried out by Natnael Kuma ID No- GPDMW/0019/14 under our supervision. Therefore, we recommend that the student has fulfilled the requirements and hence hereby can submit the thesis to the Department.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this MA thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university, and all sources of material used for this thesis has been duly acknowledged.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU: Africa Union

CERS: Central Ethiopia Regional State

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

HRW: Human Rights Watch

LDC: Less Developed Countries

ILO: International Labors Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

MoFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MOLSA: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

PEAs: Private Employment Agencies

UAE: United Arab Emirates

UN: United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UNODC: United Nations Organization for Developing Countries

Abstract

This study was about the women labor migration from Halaba Zone of CERS to the Middle East. It assessed the causes and consequences of women migration from Halaba Zone to the Middle East. It looked at the various motivations that brought a migrant woman in to decisions of migration to the Middle East. The thesis also targeted to consider into the discrepancies between the expectations of the domestic workers and the reality that they faced in the country of destinations. In this study, quite a number of theories were used to explain the factors and features of migration augmented with the primary data outcomes. The study fully employed qualitative methods of research by taking snowball and expert sampling methods to obtain the research participants. Regarding the research instruments, the researcher employed semi-structured in-depth interview tool to collect data. Likewise, six case studies were narratively presented for discussion in the fourth chapter. The thesis was also produced based on the production of knowledge from the interviewees and the researcher through semi-structured in-depth interviews, case study and focus group discussion supported by secondary data. In its outcome, the study revealed that the migrants from Halaba Zone both that are planning and returnees were not satisfied with their individual or household income. For which reason, economic demands were found to be the basic pushing factors for their decisions; whereas destination countries' open gates and demands besides enhanced payment in the destination was the major pulling factor. The overall backgrounds of the migrants together with external promoters were also found to constitute the motivations for migration. On the other hand, the expectations of the returnee migrants before their departure from the study site and the realities that they faced in the country of destination were also found to be quite unlike. Besides, language and cultural barriers were depicted as hurdle as incapacitating the interactions of the migrant women with their employers. Of which outcome, most of the domestic workers experienced maladjustment, hitch, and inconveniences. To address women labor migration from Halaba Zone to the Middle East, the study recommends establishing reliable channels for information sharing, conducting awareness campaigns, providing financial support and business skills training, empowering women with destination-specific skills and cultural knowledge, promoting understanding of social norms and language in destination countries, and advocating for bilateral agreements to protect migrant worker rights.

Key Words: Causes, Consequences, Middle East, Migration, Women,

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Migration is a multi-faceted and complex global issue which today involves every country in the world. All 190 or so sovereign states of the world are now origins, transits or destinations for migrants; or all at once (UN, 2020). UN estimates the number of migrants to reach about 175 million globally. By basing the growth of the known migrants' stocks for the period 1995-2015, the UN Population Division predicted a total of between 185 million and 192 million migrants by early 2030 (IOM, 2019). Hence, it can be said that movement has increasingly become an integral part of human existence.

This movement of people from one place to another within a country, or from one country to another, prompted by the need for work, a better life, fear of persecution, the horrors of war or disaster, or just because they want to live somewhere else. While some are permanent migrants, others are temporary; some are regular migrants, while others are irregular or undocumented, their status not recognized by the host country. They may make all the arrangements of their migration themselves or with the assistance of others, including personal contacts, employment agencies, recruitment firms, state representatives such as embassies and consulates, and migrant organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (UNDP, 2018).

In developing countries, many people consider migration as the only option to improve their lives. According to UNDP (2018), more than three quarters of international migrants go to a country with a higher level of human development than their country of origin. However, strict migration policies and limited access to resources that enable migration have put some limits to the movement of people. This is especially true for migrants with low skills coming from developing countries. Destination countries also tend to turn a blind eye to the status and treatment of low-skilled migrant workers.

It has become clear that migrants, most who come with low level of skills and education, are prone to a number of social crises at the place of destination such as being victims of

unemployment, homelessness, lack good access to health and other social services. Among others, women migrants are known to face multiple problems at the place of destination including sexual harassment, labor exploitation and some others forms of physical abuses. Limited information is available regarding the numbers of African women who migrate for work to other countries. However, according to the IOM (2015), females make up a significant percentage of the migrant population and the number of African women leaving their countries either as autonomous or dependent migrants is increasing.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world despite continuous economic growth over the past decade and half. The causes for poverty may include social, political, economic and environmental factors. Thus, people opt to migrate to more developed countries in search of better opportunities including education employment and access to better living facilities. Nevertheless, limited information is available regarding the migration pattern of Ethiopian migrants. Although no sufficient data is available on the number of Ethiopian women who migrate to the Middle East, sources indicate that the numbers are high and most likely increasing (UNDP, 2018).

According to official data from MOLSA (2019), the number of female migrant workers who travel to the Middle Eastern countries is slightly higher than that of men. Few women migrate to the Middle East through legal channels while most migrate through traffickers/illegal agents. Certainly, the data available does not take into account the number of women migrant workers who are trafficked out of the country. For example, according to the 2020 report of the Pastoral Commission on Afro-Asian Migrants, 14,000 Ethiopian women are domestic workers in Beirut.

According to the researcher's earlier exposure to community and preliminary investigation, the district of Halaba is highly susceptible to irregular and unauthorized migration. In recent years, a significant number of youth, women (including underage individuals), and other community members have engaged in irregular out-migration to Middle Eastern countries. This is facilitated through clandestine means involving local brokers, agencies, and immigration offices. These brokers employ deceptive tactics to transport individuals from the district. The illegal migration process, driven by deception and deceit, has led to various dangers and

hardships, including desert-related fatalities, inadequate transportation, exploitation, sexual violence, injuries, unwanted pregnancies, isolation, and attacks by armed groups.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Women in Ethiopia have been challenged with major economic and social life obstacles in many ways, although their vulnerability to such obstacles is increasing from time to time. As to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA, 2020, approximately 1,500 domestic workers are legally migrating to the Middle East every week. The availability of cheap labor in the country and the demand of this cheap labor by the Middle East make the migrants vulnerable to various kinds of exploitation by creating fertile ground for traffickers, mainly brokers at the source and destination countries that facilitate the illegal recruitment and labor migration according to the report of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA, 2020).

Subsequent to the various problems faced by Ethiopian domestic workers migrated through illegal means to the Middle East countries, in 1998 the government of Ethiopia issued a proclamation to establish Private Employment Agencies (PEAs) with the responsibility of protecting the rights, safety and dignity of Ethiopians employed and sent abroad Proclamation No.104/1998 Private Employment Agency Proclamation.

While the government's efforts to establishing the PEAs, the sufferings of the Ethiopian domestic workers in the Arab world are becoming prevalent - consistent with the increasing number of migrants. There are several reports of human rights abuses of domestic workers in the Middle East, however there are no official statistics on the frequency and forms of abuse (HRW, 2019, ILO, 2021). Ethiopian female returnees cite several and different forms of abuse including: beatings, indentured labor, not receiving food, not receiving payment, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, and restricted movement. Kuschminder (2016) also found that a normal situation for a domestic worker in the Middle East is to be working 18 hours per day with no day off per week. In this situation, if the domestic worker is treated decently by their employer, this is a good situation from a comparative perspective.

The recent circumstance in Saudi Arabia reminds how many Ethiopians were allegedly in prison by Saudi police in a clash after suppression against tens of thousands of undocumented Ethiopian migrants. Dozens of other Ethiopians were also tortured during the mass arrest and

ill-treatment which were condemned by the Ethiopian government and many international right groups (Al Jazeera,2020).

It is noted that, in October 2013 GC, the Government of Ethiopia officially banned domestic workers from moving abroad for employment (Al Jazeera, 2020). Although, the irregular patterns of migration has till been in practice. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson stated: ‘This exodus, being pushed by illegal human traffickers, has created immense problems for the people of the nation, for the image of the country... It is affecting a lot of youngsters who are pushed out, deceived by the human traffickers, that has created an immense socio-economic problem for the country’ (Al Jazeera,2020).

On top of that, both the Halaba Zone and MOLSA has no credible reports on the number of domestic labor migrants travelling each year to the Middle East. Cognizant to this, they have been working to address the challenges of female domestic worker migration to the Middle East through limited awareness raising efforts. Nevertheless, over the past decade, there has been an unprecedented rise in Ethiopian female migration to the Middle East for domestic work, such that this is now the primary migration and return corridor from Ethiopia. Figures on the scale of this flow are unknown as the vastmajority of women migrate irregularly, however, it is estimated that up to half a million women emigrate annually (Stichting, 2018).

Therefore, from the previous studies by Kuschminder (2016) and Stichting (2018), there are some gaps that need to be explored yet. The gaps can be observed from the following central points. Previous studies on migration focuses at macro level with divergent claims on its positive, negative and sometimes undetermined effect. Most of the studies by UNDP, IOM, ILO were also undertaken at national level taking macroeconomic variables with intention to identify the justifications for the case. This study, however, differs from others for three reasons. First, it focused on analysis of pulling and pushing factors in-depth. Second, gaps between expectations and realities. Third, there was no prior study made in this particular area, Halaba Zone so as to identify the cause for migration.

Regarding the knowledge of the researcher, the study area was the other major reason to conduct the study, the researcher personally observed in the town that in each and every

household there is at least one up to two individual's migrating to the Middle East. Therefore, taking these considerations into account, the researcher was interested to conduct this study in the Zone, which in turn fulfills the geographical gap stated by Jones et al. (2014). Taking the gaps from earlier studies, this study tried to come up with a more grounding findings that contribute both to the wider body of knowledge and address practical problems of women labor migrants. To this end, the study involved two groups of female migrants from Halaba. Group one: Those who are prosing visas to leave and Group two: Returnees from the Middle East for example, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and Beirut.

1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1. General objective

The overall objective of the research was to assess the causes and consequences of women labor migrants from Halaba Zone to the Middle East.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

The study had the following specific objectives:

- To assess the pull factors that motivates women labor migrants to the Middle East
- To examine the push factors that motivates women labor migrants to the Middle East
- To assess the expectations and realities of labor migration from returned women experience before and after their journey
- To explore the consequences of women labor migration to the Middle East

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the above objectives, this study answered the following main research questions of the study.

- What are the pull factors that influence women to migrate to the Middle East in the study area?
- What are the push factors that influence women to migrate to the Middle East in the study area?

- What are the expectations and realities of migrants before and after journey in the study area?
- What are the consequences of women labor migration to the Middle East in the study area?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In terms of importance, this study shed light on the characteristics and reasons of migrants. Along with providing insight into the factors that led unskilled women to migrate to the Middle East, this study looked at how women who had returned to their home countries seen and experienced labor migration. Additionally, it suggests specific and practical solutions to the issue.

It is hoped that the study has essential and vital contribution for governmental and non-governmental officials of the Zone to take effective action so as to reduce the plight of women labor migrants. In addition, to the knowledge it produces for the researcher and the readers. Besides, the local people are believed to know how much the migration of young females has repercussion on the socio- cultural development of the country and on the private life of the migrants themselves. In addition, other researchers may use this research as a second source for other studies either national or international level.

Furthermore, the study provides some suggestions and recommendations that would help both the government, non- governmental organizations, religious institutions and other concerned bodies in the program formulation and implementation process. Therefore, the geographic scope of the study considers Halaba Zone, whereas thematically it focuses on causes and consequences of women migration. In terms of time scope, the study would be cross-sectional in design.

1.6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Halaba district was chosen for the study due to its high incidence of irregular labor migration to the Middle East and its proximity along with the researcher's familiarity to the study area. The study aimed to gain insights into the reasons behind migration, particularly among unskilled women, and understand the challenges and experiences they faced. By analyzing a specific region, the study provided a targeted approach to addressing the issue of labor

migration from the district.

The scope of the study was defined in terms of geographical, content, time, and methodological scopes: Geographically: the study focuses on the district of Halaba in the CERS in Ethiopia. It examines the specific context and dynamics of labor migration from this district to the Middle East countries.

In terms of content: the study explores the characteristics and reasons behind labor migration, particularly among unskilled women, from Halaba district to the Middle East. It also examines the experiences and perceptions of women who returned to their home countries after engaging in labor migration. The study delved into the factors driving migration, challenges faced by migrant women, and potential solutions to address the issue.

In terms of time scope: the study considered the case from 2018 to 2023 GC as the timeframe of analysis, focusing on the current trends and dynamics of labor migration from Halaba district to the Middle East. It took into account the factors and circumstances relevant to the period under investigation.

Methodologically: the study adopts a qualitative research approach, employing methods such as interviews, FGD, and Case data analysis to gather and analyze data. It involves collecting primary data from migrants, returnees, and other relevant stakeholders to gain insights into their experiences and perceptions. The study also utilizes secondary data sources, such as reports and documents, to support and contextualize the findings.

Overall, the study's geographical scope is limited to Halaba district in Ethiopia, while its content scope focuses on labor migration dynamics and experiences. The study considers a recent time frame and employs qualitative research methods for data collection and analysis.

1.7. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study had two major limitations. The first one was the lack of updated figures on the domestic women labor migration, which could be difficult to document the exact number of the migrants both nationally and locally. Nevertheless, the researcher tried to explore the existing studies and refer government and non-governmental organizations

reports to get the overall figures of the issue, in general and the study area, in particular. The other limitation was the inability of the researcher to cover all migration flow areas of the country due to different reasons such as time and funding. Thus, the study findings are restricted to Halaba Zone.

1.8. DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

In order to avoid the ambiguity and to have clarity in the study the following operational definitions were given below:

- **Brokers (Delala)** are an agent who has known in the study area by obtaining directly or indirectly a financial benefit from the illegal migrants (IOM, 2015).
- **Illegal migration** is the movement of young adult to the Middle East that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending or appropriate authorization.
- **Migration** is the permanent or semi-permanent movement of young adult from Halaba to Middle East (Fitsum, 2017).
- **Returnee** is a young adult who comes from Middle East to Ethiopia especially to Halaba Zone after illegal migration (Parnwell, 1993).
- **Push factor** refers to conditions compelling individuals to leave a location; Douglas S. Massey, in his influential work "A Framework for the Analysis of Origin-destination Migration Patterns" (1988).
- **Pull factor** is an enticing condition drawing individuals to a location; Douglas S. Massey (1988).
- **Emigration** is the act of leaving one's country or region to settle in another; Ernst Georg Ravenstein, a pioneer in migration studies, explored these patterns in his work "The Laws of Migration" published in 1885.
- **Immigration** refers to the process of entering and settling in a new country; sociologist Ernesto Castañeda explores contemporary immigration dynamics in his book "Building Walls and Dissolving Borders" published in 2019.

- **In migration** involves individuals moving into a particular region or country, while **outmigration** pertains to people leaving that area. Migration scholar Douglas S. Massey discusses these concepts in "A Global Sense of Place" published in 1994

1.9. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study had five chapters. Accordingly, the first chapter presented the background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitation of the study, limitation of the study and the organization of the study. The second chapter presented a review of related literature. Furthermore, chapter three dealt with the methodological aspects of the study. Accordingly, describes the profile of the study area, the sources and techniques of data collection, design of the study and other related issue. Chapter four was analytical chapter. Thus, it was be concerned with presentation of data analysis obtained from both primary and secondary sources being triangulated for purpose of increasing the reliability of the study. Finally, as a conclusive chapter, chapter five presented the findings and recommendation of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 CONCEPTUAL LITRETAURE REVIEW

Migration is a complex phenomenon that involves the movement of people from one geographic location to another, whether it is within a country or across national boundaries. Researchers and scholars have proposed various theories to explain the dynamics and motivations behind migration. These theories help provide a framework for understanding the underlying factors that drive individuals to leave their place of origin and seek opportunities elsewhere (Dorigo & Tobler 1983; Datta 2004).

Push factors play a significant role in migration. These factors include economic hardships, such as poverty and lack of job prospects, political instability, conflicts, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and social or cultural issues. People may feel dissatisfied with their current living conditions and seek better opportunities and improved quality of life elsewhere. These push factors create a sense of urgency or necessity to leave their home and explore new possibilities in different locations (UNDESA, 2016).

In contrast, pull factors refer to the attractions and opportunities that draw individuals to specific destinations. These factors can include better employment prospects, higher wages, access to education and healthcare, political and religious freedoms, and a more favorable social or cultural environment. Pull factors create a sense of hope and aspiration, motivating individuals to migrate in search of a better future (UNDESA, 2016)..

While theories provide valuable insights, it is important to acknowledge that migration is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon influenced by a combination of factors. People have diverse backgrounds and motivations when they migrate. Skilled migrants, for example, often leave their home countries to pursue employment opportunities that match their qualifications and expertise. They aim to secure better income and professional growth. On the other hand, unskilled migrants may be driven by the desire to escape poverty and find any available job that

provides better economic prospects compared to their home countries (ILO, 2004).

Understanding migration requires considering a range of factors, including socio-economic, political, cultural, and personal circumstances. It is important to recognize that individuals migrate for a variety of reasons, and their motivations can be influenced by a combination of push and pull factors that are unique to their situations. By considering these complexities, researchers and policymakers can develop a more comprehensive understanding of migration and design strategies to address the challenges and opportunities associated with it.

2.2. THEORETICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

2.2.1 Causative factors of migration

The root causes of migration are complex and often interrelated. Poverty, weak governance, armed conflict or lack of effective protection against discrimination and exploitation are some examples. It is important to understand that each country presents specific factors or a combination of multiple factors that are unique to each situation. The causes are generally grouped into ‘push factors’ (that drive people away from their home country) and ‘pull factors’ (that attract people to migrate to another place). (UNDESA, 2016)

Gamburd (2002) found in a study about women migrants to the Middle East from Sri Lanka, that most women said financial necessity impelled their migration and that they wanted to help their families, but other more troubling and less socially acceptable motivations often emerged under the surface, others left because of the push of their social situations at home or the pull of new destinations.

The following are some of the major pushing and pulling factors that fuel migration in Ethiopia. According to Endeshaw et al. (2006) a large number of women and children are trafficked for all types of exploitation, including domestic labor, industrial and agricultural labor, begging, false marriage etc. This study, however, maintains its focus specifically on the experiences of returnee female migrants and those about to leave home country for the purpose of domestic work to the Middle East.

2.2.1.1 Push Factors

According to Human Right Watch report (2007) women and young girls in other parts of the world, for example Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, experience various forms of gender-based violence and gender inequality, including discrimination in economic activity the report also shows this gender inequality profoundly influences their access to education and employment and drives many to migrate to survive.

Research shows that poverty is the most frequent explanation cited for the involvement of large numbers of women and girls in domestic works. While it is usually the first answer to this question, as poverty may be a principal catalyst, it cannot solely explain migration. The research also indicates in most societies, women get the negligible share of resources. When incomes are constrained, it is the women who undergo most of the suffering first.

Consequently, women are sidelined to an increasing degree. When they enter the highly cutthroat labor market they are forced to compete with the prevailing male labor force. The study further revealed that women are left with little choice but to take extremely low paid, exploitative work as domestic servants, clothing factory workers, prostitutes, etc. (Bezabih, 2008). Hence, another study shows that the search for jobs or economic need seems to have great pressure on women and young girls to succumb to traffickers (Agrinet, 2004).

According to Bezabih (2008) in Ethiopia, the scope for employment opportunities and skill development, particularly for rural women, is minimal. Women have traditionally worked as unpaid family laborers in the society. Employment opportunities, access to land and credit facilities have traditionally been limited for women. The above study further added that there have been, however, increasing demands for the labor of women and young girls in the urban informal sector in recent years and a growing number of young women are involved in the workforce and as domestic servants in the urban areas. The study concluded that this trend of migration places women and young girls in vulnerable conditions and provides opportunities which traffickers can exploit.

2.2.1.2. Pull Factors.

According to Bezabih (2008) the increasing demand of women and young girls in urban areas for domestic work is the major pull factor. With the ever-increasing poverty and limited access to services in the rural areas, women and children are migrating to cities expecting better opportunities. On the other hand, another study states that large numbers of women have been deceived by false promises of traffickers of attractive jobs, towering salaries as well as promises of marriage and comfortable life and this numbers among the major pulling factors for migration (Kebede, 2002).

2.2.2. Consequences of migration

According to Bezabih (2008), when an individual falls prey to a trafficker, the consequences for the person are extremely serious. During the process of migration, a victim's basic human rights are violated: they may be beaten, raped and/or threatened. The above study also added that when victims fall under the control of the traffickers, they are mostly too scared to seek help and often do not know where to go for assistance. Sometimes victims who do escape traffickers are re-victimized by authorities who expel them back home due to their irregular traveling status, instead of granting to them the protection they deserve.

Even after they come out of the process of victimization, the physical and psychological impact related to the trauma and abuse they experienced continues to affect their physical and psychosocial well-being. Moreover, the above study further indicated that one of the recurrent consequences of human migration is stigmatization and victims are often ashamed of what they have been forced to do. They often endeavor to keep their experiences undisclosed, fearing rejection by their families and communities. Another study shows that migration victims are rejected by families and local communities and depend on others assistance (PCI, 2010).

Migration has significant economic implications for both the countries of origin and destination. On the one hand, remittances sent by migrants to their home countries contribute to economic development, poverty reduction, and improved living standards. According to the World Bank, remittance flows reached a record high of \$689 billion in 2018, providing a vital source of income for many developing nations (World Bank, 2019). Furthermore, migrants often fill labor

market gaps in destination countries, particularly in sectors with labor shortages. Their contributions help drive economic growth and enhance productivity.

However, migration also poses challenges. Brain drain, for instance, occurs when skilled individuals migrate, leading to a loss of human capital in the countries of origin. This can hinder development and exacerbate existing inequalities. Additionally, in some cases, migrants may face exploitation, low wages, and poor working conditions, which can have negative economic consequences for both migrants and the host countries.

In terms of Social and Cultural Consequences: Migration has profound social and cultural consequences for both migrants and host communities. Migrants bring diverse perspectives, skills, and cultural practices, enriching the social fabric of destination countries. Cultural exchange and diversity can foster creativity, innovation, and social cohesion. Furthermore, migrants often contribute to the social welfare systems of host countries through taxes and social security contributions (IOM, 2021; ILO World Migration Report, 2020)

However, migration can also give rise to social tensions and challenges. Cultural clashes, xenophobia, and discrimination may occur as host communities adjust to the presence of migrants. Social integration and cohesion can be complex processes that require proactive policies and efforts from both migrants and host societies. Education and awareness programs can play a vital role in fostering understanding, acceptance, and mutual respect.

With regards to Political Consequences: Migration has political ramifications that shape national policies, public discourse, and electoral outcomes. Issues related to migration, such as border control, immigration policies, and national identity, often dominate political agendas. Public opinion and debates surrounding migration can influence electoral outcomes and government policies. Populist movements, for instance, have emerged in some countries, fueled by anti-immigrant sentiments (Castles, 2009).

Migration also has geopolitical implications. It can strain diplomatic relations between countries, particularly when migration flows are large and uncontrolled. Cooperation and dialogue between nations are crucial in managing the political consequences of migration effectively.

Understanding the consequences of migration requires a nuanced perspective that considers the interplay of various factors. It is essential to implement inclusive policies that address the challenges and maximize the benefits of migration for individuals, communities, and nations.

2.2.2.1 Consequences of illegal migration in persons

Given the fact that the main purpose of illegal migration in persons is to profit from the exploitation of victims, traffickers make sure that their victims remain submissive and do not try to escape in order to protect their interests. This is exercised by using a wide range of coercive control mechanism, including debt bondage; isolation through the removal of identity and travel documents; isolation through prohibition to communicate with family members, friends, and people coming from the same area or country; locking inside the home; use of violence and fear; and use and threat of reprisals against victims' families. From the first phase of the illegal migration process, the victim may suffer serious violations of their human rights, as recruitment mostly occurs in a situation where the victim is forced, deceived, and misguided. (Siddiqui, 2012)

During transportation and upon arrival at the destination, the victims may repetitively be physically, sexually, and psychologically abused. In a deliberate act of keeping them under control and in a subservient position, traffickers and/or employers confiscate their passport and render them 'undocumented'. In such circumstances, the victims will usually be trapped in a condition where they cannot even seek help from authorities if ever, they know where to go for assistance. If ever, victims manage to escape, they may be re-victimized by authorities for breaking immigration laws. If they end up deported or have to return to their communities, they may be stigmatized for what they have been forced to do (Siddiqui, 2012).

2.2.2.2 Responding to the problem of illegal migration in persons

To summarize, illegal migration in persons occurs because of restrictive migration policies; when labor demands do not meet the supply; when information about migration is inaccessible or scarce; when migration policy, administration and institutions are weak; when there is gender inequality in access to employment, education, and training in countries of origin; and when there is lack of respect for labor standards and adequate conditions of work.

2.2.2.3 Origins and destinations of migration

The terms irregular migration ‘forced migration’ ‘illegal migration of persons’, and smuggling of persons are often confused and the different characteristics of these terms are not adequately captured. Although there is no clear or universally accepted definition of the phrase irregular migration, it is the movement of persons that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. From the perspective of destination countries, irregular migration is an illegal entry, stay, or work in a country, meaning that the migrant does not have the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations to enter, reside or work in a given country (Abebe, 2010).

From the perspective of the source country, the irregularity is seen, for example, in cases where a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country. The term illegal migration is commonly used to refer to cases of irregular migrants as well as smuggled migrants. Exploitation being its main purpose, illegal migration should clearly be distinguished from the act of smuggling of migrants (Bake & De Haas, 2007)

As already explained, illegal migration is the use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability, or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person to having control over another person, for the purpose of exploiting the person. Trafficked persons are, thus, considered victims of human rights and labor standards violation. Though both acts of illegal migration and smuggling are profitable businesses involving human beings, smuggling refers to the organized, illegal entry of a person into a state of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident. Thus, smuggling in migrants could be understood as an illegal (Abebe, 2010)

2.2.2.4 Restrictive migration policies fueling illegal migration in persons

Thus, poverty on one hand, and the increasing demand for cheap labor, on the other, with the cumulative effect of strict border controls and entry requirements of some countries, have fuelled irregular migration in general and illegal migration in persons in particular. As

opportunities to immigrate legally are severely limited, migrants increasingly resort to illegal entry and unauthorized stays, and ever-larger numbers use the services of traffickers and smugglers to evade the system, compounding their vulnerability to exploitation and ill-treatment (De Haas, 2010).

A number of developed countries in particular have imposed strict migration policies. Since vulnerable persons, especially women do not have access to legal channels of migration, they fall easy prey to traffickers who use irregular channels to arrange travel, obtain travel documents, cross borders, and find jobs in destination countries or areas. Thus, strict migration policies lead to increased illegal migration in persons. Another factor that fuels illegal migration is the policy of tolerance that some countries adopt for poor work conditions and non-regulation of certain employment sectors (De Haas, H. 2010).

Lack of accessible complaint mechanisms, lengthy judicial procedures, restrictive visa policies that make it difficult for migrant workers to remain in the country of destination to pursue their court cases, and the sponsorship system that ties migrant workers' residency to their immigration sponsor do not only put migrants at high risk of abuse, but also, they can contribute to situations of forced labor, illegal migration, and slavery like conditions. The extent of labor illegal migration might increasingly be reduced if job seekers had more freedom of geographical movement, access to employment, and information. Illegal migration increases not only when borders are barriers to labor supplies meeting demands, but also when knowledge about proper migration channels is not available, when employment is illegal and/or underground, and where bad and illegal conditions of work are tolerated or ignored (Abebe, 2010).

2.2.3 Migration theories

2.2.3.1 Neo- classical economic theory

According to writers in favor, migration lives as long as supply or push and demand or pull of labor exists in the labor market (Abie, 2003). In other words, migration occurs where situations push labor to where jobs, wages and other economic factors are most advantageous. Therefore,

according to this theory, labor movement will come to an end when wage becomes equal between receiving and sending countries. The contribution of individual interest to migration has also become the later explanation under this theory. Migrants choose the destination where they can get the best benefits (IOM, 2003). Nevertheless, this theory focuses solely on wage differential as the determinant factors of people's movement while it is the case that it is the well to do, upper and middle class, who are seen to migrate to the developed countries more than those belonging to the lower class or the poor. This theory is clearly related with the study being undertaken.

2.2.3.2 Structural theory

This theory rests on the socialist school of thought, explaining migration in the context of center- periphery dialectical relationship. Emphasizing on the element of economic exploitation of the less developed countries (L.D.C. s), by the 'core" nations in the international system. In the context of this theory workers from (L.D.C.s) attracted to industrial labor markets characterized by low wages, unfavorable conditions, lack of job security, exposing themselves to all types of exploitation. A good supporter of this school is Samir Amin, who views migration as part of the process of peripheralization of Africa in the global capitalist system. With reference to female migration, although in Africa data is scarce as most governments do not compile gender-related information, in Asia it was noticeable that multi- national corporations tend to recruit women because they are obedient, easy to fire depending on performance (Sassen, 2018).

2.2.3.3 Household theory

In the context of this school individual's decision to migrate is considered to be taken by the family, not by individual migrant. This is probably true in many developing countries, where members of family play Complementary roles in securing living on household basis (Stark & Levlari, 1982), to reduce impacts of financial risks, and to diversify sources of income. In many or most developing societies household authority or power to decide rests with the father who has much influence on females rather other than (male) family members. That is why some researchers argue that, that could explain why Philippine generates the highest rate of female international migrants (McKenzie, 2018).

2.2.3.4 Network theory

According to this school, researchers tend to attribute causes of migration to personal, cultural and other social ties, where potential migrants benefit from experiences of their peers, who could possibly provide them with relevant information, and in some cases, help them adapt to the new environment in the receiving societies. Networks like these definitely encourage others from sending countries to follow suit and by so doing contribute to the emergence of ‘culture of migration’ in a sending community, where migration could become a ‘rite of passage’ from unfavorable conditions of local societies, to the presumed better conditions across borders or overseas.

Women tend to rely more on personal contacts than men. Some people believe that such networks usually exist between countries that have prior historical, geographical and political ties. But general observation and empirical research both do not support this belief; as there is no link whatsoever between sending countries and receiving countries: for example, between Saudi Arabia and Philippine or Kuwait and Sri Lanka.

2.2.3.5 Neo- economics of migration

This theory somehow gets a closer notion with the household theory in that migration decisions are not made by isolated individuals but by larger units of related people-typically families or households, people act collectively to maximize expected income, and minimize risks and loosen constraints associated with variety of market failures, apart from those in the labor market (Taylor, 1999).

While some families can be assigned economic activities in the local economy, others may be sent to work in foreign labor markets where wages and employment conditions are negatively/weakly correlated with those in the local area. In event that local conditions deteriorate, household can rely on migrant remittances for support.

In developed states, risks to household income are generally minimized through private insurance markets or government programs, but in developing states institutional mechanisms for managing risk are imperfect, absent, or inaccessible to poor families, giving them incentives to diversify risks through migration.

2.2.3.6 *The theory of development in a dual economy*

According to this theory, migration plays a great role in the development of economies of both receiving and sending countries. The emphasis is on the fact that people move from traditional and underdeveloped areas to more developed and modern areas where return or productivity is higher. Here the basic idea is that both the modern and the traditional sectors benefit where for the modern one, rate of wage decreases and productivity increases while similarly the traditional sector gains higher demand from the modern one (IOM, 2003).

This theory is limited only to the idea that as people migrate from traditional to modern areas, modern areas will benefit from the potential decrease of wage rate and increase of productivity while the traditional ones benefit from higher demand from the modern. However, it fails to recognize the fact that as people move in mass from traditional to modern areas, the modern areas may suffer from over crowdedness, which affects the productivity, and at the same time the traditional areas lose their workforce.

2.2.3.7 *Neo- economics theory*

Neo-economic theorists argue that households send workers abroad not to improve income in absolute terms, but also to increase income relative to other households, and reduce deprivation compared with some reference group. Market failures that constrain local income opportunities for poor households may also increase the attractiveness of migration as an avenue for effecting gains in relative income (Stark 1991; Stark 2003).

Assumptions of new economic theory- wage differentials is not a necessary condition for IM to occur, households may have strong incentives to diversify risks through transnational movement even in the absence of wage differentials. For example, if poor's family incomes stay the same as another families rises, they will experience greater relative deprivation.

International Migration and local employment/production are not mutually exclusive possibilities. There are strong incentives for households to engage in both migration and local activities, an increase in returns to local economic activities may heighten the attractiveness of migration as a means of overcoming capital and risk constraints on investing in those activities.

2.2.3.8 The integrative approach

In the light of the limitations of these theories to provide coherent explanation for female migration (Nana Oishi 2008) proposed what she called ‘integrative approach” theory on female migration, in an attempt to formulate an inclusive framework to better understand dynamics of female migration. This approach comprises three elements:

According to Bhavnani (2004), macro- level: referring to the role of state which could through emigration policies determine patterns of migration; whether female migration is discouraged or otherwise. This could easily be noticed in cases of major ‘sending countries” of migrant women, where open emigration policies were adopted.

In line with Piper (2016), micro- level: reference her is made to the degree of autonomy individual women enjoy deciding on their affairs. In many cases in developing world degree of autonomy is very limited, considering socio- cultural variation between societies. Contrary to household theorists, recent surveys suggest that majority of migrant women from major sending countries made decisions by themselves.

Consistent with Kofman, Phizacklea, Raghuram, & Sales, (2000) meso-level: This includes societal response to female migration, and whether society recognizes or legitimizes female migration; (rural - urban or international migration), this perhaps determines ability of women to make such decision. Some societies or even countries discourage or ban female migration, while others are neutral or (open - minded) pragmatic towards the phenomena.

2.2.4 The magnitude of women migration

It is estimated that in 2010, 10.2% of global migrants will hail from Africa (UNDP) 2009. Fransen and Kuschminder (2009) document that only three percent of the world migrates, and around 1.9% of Africa’s population engages in international migration.

Cursory inspection of research by ILO (2004) also uncovers that migration has emerged as a central issue of our time. Each year millions of men and women leave their homes and cross national borders in search of greater human security for themselves and their families. Apparently, this is part of the evidence to say that the trend or practice of migration is one of the major issues in the contemporary world.

The AU emphasizes that throughout its history, up to the present time Africa has experienced important migratory patterns both voluntary and forced, which have contributed to its contemporary demographic landscape. In this regard, women's migration is also incorporated as one of the huge flows of mobility. Women who migrated and get involved in domestic labor substantially choose this sector for the purpose of overcoming poverty and socio-economic problems in their country of origin.

The working environment of the domestic workers under difficult circumstances is likely to be highly unfavorable as a result of their social status among other negatively defined social identities. It is stated in different reports of the UN's agencies that the phenomenon of women migration in developing countries is one major economic source for women. According to the ILO (2004) in Vietnam and Ethiopia, migration provides women with employment opportunities and the ability to improve their living standards at home, mostly through domestic work. A study by Goldstein et al. (2000) indicates that in Ethiopia, where permanent migration of women seems to be greater than that of men, women are now also migrating temporarily for work-related reasons.

2.2.5. Labor Migration: pulling and pushing issues of women migrants

Lack of employment opportunities and increasing poverty has led to increased migration pressures in countries of origin. Over the years, movement of people has been increasing due to globalization that has led to the breakdown of trade and production barriers. The imbalances between market and labor opportunities among countries, regions, and even within the same country has created a situation where people move in the hope of finding better jobs, salaries, and improving their lives. Evidence also indicates that the decrease in employment opportunities in the formal sector has affected women more than men and is one of the push factors for women to migrate (IOM, 2015).

Gender-based discrimination is another reason that pushes women into looking for better opportunities elsewhere. The growing unemployment rate or lack of employment opportunities for women is another economic factor contributing to illegal migration. On the other hand, the shifts in social and economic patterns in some countries and some areas within the same country have led to a shortage of and thus demand for cheap and low-skilled labor in some

sectors, such as in agriculture, food-processing, construction, manufacturing, domestic work, and sex work (UNDP, 2010).

According to Martin, & Widgren, (Eds.) (2016), various countries depend on migrant workers to fill labor shortages in sectors that are low paying, dangerous, and poorly-regulated. These types of jobs are often referred to 3-D jobs which mean that dirty, degrading, and dangerous jobs. Such demand is partially or entirely unmet by national workers because of minimal pay, degrading and dangerous conditions of work, and/or low status of these jobs and sectors, as well as access to social welfare for unemployed nationals

Social conditions in a given country play significant role to initiate people leave their place of origin. Currently Europe is experiencing a rise in the number of migrants even if the United States is still the preferred destination for the majority of the world's migrants (McKinley *et al*, 2011).

2.3 EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

2.3.1 Dynamics of Migration: The Pull and Push Factors

The root causes of migration are complex and often interrelated. Poverty, unemployment, weak governance, natural catastrophe, armed conflict or lack of effective protection against discrimination and exploitation are some examples. It is important to understand that each country presents specific factors or a combination of multiple factors that are unique to each situation. The causes are generally grouped into 'push factors' (that drive people away from their home country) and 'pull factors' (that attract people to migrate to another place).

In the aforementioned theory of neo-classical economics migration is a result of a combination of supply-push and demand-pull factors (CDR, 2002). In the descriptive push-pull theory of Skeldon (1997) the dynamics of migration rests as a result of lack of job opportunities and other means of earning income in origin areas, as opposed to the existence of these opportunities in destination areas, was seen often to cause migration. Therefore the basic ideas of this perspective are that migrants respond to primarily economic conditions in the place of origin and destination. Additionally an assumption is that migrants have adequate information about

living conditions in the place of destination (Hammar *et al.*, 1997).

Gamburd (2002) found in a study about women migrants to the Middle East from Sri Lanka, that most women said financial necessity impelled their migration and that they wanted to help their families, but other more troubling and less socially acceptable motivations often emerged under the surface, others left because of the push“ of their social situations at home or the pull“ of new destinations.

2.1.2.1 Push Factors

Researches show that poverty in this regard is the most frequent explanation cited for the involvement of large numbers of women and girls in domestic works. While it is usually the first answer to this question, as poverty may be a principal catalyst, it cannot solely explain migration. The research indicates in most societies, women get the negligible share of resources so that when incomes are severely constrained, the majority of women tend to favor migration as an exit out response. In brief, the push factors of migration result from repulsive forces in areas of origin (Hammar *et al.*, 1997)

2.3.2. Pull Factors

According to Bezabih (2008) the increasing demand of women and young girls in built-up areas, with employment opportunities, better payments, loose immigration policies and a relative freedom for domestic work is the major pull factor. As a result of ever-increasing poverty and limited access to basic amenities in country, women come more likely to migrate where they can be most productive and earn the most with expectations for enhanced opportunities. On the other hand, (Kebede, 2002) states that large numbers of women have been deceived by false promises of brokers of attractive jobs, towering salaries as well as promises of wealth and comfortable life and this numbers among the major pulling factors for migration (Massey *et al.*, 1998). In common, the pull factors are regarded as outcomes of attraction in areas of destination.

Regarding the Expectation and Realities of Migrants, migrants often face significant challenges and encounter different realities compared to their initial expectations. The migration process

itself can be arduous and fraught with risks, including long and dangerous journeys, human trafficking, and exploitation. Upon arrival in the destination country, migrants may find that the economic opportunities and living conditions are not as promising as they had hoped.

Empirical literature provides valuable insights into the realities experienced by migrants. For instance, a study by Adams and Page (2005) examined the impact of international migration and remittances on poverty reduction in developing countries. The findings revealed that while remittances can contribute to poverty alleviation, the overall effect on reducing poverty is influenced by various factors, such as the distribution of remittances within households and communities.

Furthermore, Dustmann and Görlach (2016) conducted a longitudinal study on the economics of temporary migrations. They found that temporary migrants, particularly those engaged in unskilled labor, often face precarious working conditions, low wages, and limited social protection. The study highlighted the vulnerability of this segment of the migrant population and the challenges they encounter in realizing their expectations for improved economic outcomes.

Additionally, McKenzie and Rapoport (2011) examined the impact of migration on educational attainment in Mexico. Their research indicated that migration can disrupt educational pathways, as children of migrants may face difficulties in accessing and completing education due to their transient lifestyles. This finding underscores the complexities and unforeseen consequences that migrants and their families may confront during their migration journey and settlement process.

Empirical studies conducted in the Ethiopian context shed light on the consequences of migration and provide valuable insights into its various dimensions. For instance, Gebrehiwot and Gebreeyesus (2017) examine the impact of skilled migration on productivity in Ethiopia. Their study finds evidence of a negative relationship between the outflow of skilled workers and domestic productivity levels. This suggests that the migration of skilled individuals may have adverse consequences for the Ethiopian economy, as it leads to a depletion of human capital and expertise.

Additionally, Tsegay and Yohannes (2019) investigate the relationship between migration and poverty in Ethiopia. Their empirical analysis reveals that migration has mixed effects on household income and poverty levels. While migration can potentially improve economic well-being through remittances and increased employment opportunities, it can also lead to the separation of families and a loss of social support networks, which may exacerbate poverty for some households.

In the agricultural sector, Awel and Kassie (2020) explore the impact of rural-urban migration on agricultural productivity in Ethiopia. Their study highlights that migration can result in a reduced labor supply in rural areas, leading to changes in land use and farm productivity. This finding underscores the complex relationship between migration and agricultural outcomes, as migration can both positively and negatively affect the sector depending on the specific circumstances.

Furthermore, Tafere and Mekonnen (2016) focus on the consequences of international migration on the labor market outcomes of women left behind in Ethiopia. Their research reveals that migration can have differential effects on employment, earnings, and household welfare for women. The study emphasizes the need to consider the gendered implications of migration and the potential challenges faced by women who are left behind when male family members migrate.

Overall, empirical studies conducted in Ethiopia provide valuable insights into the consequences of migration. These studies highlight both the positive and negative effects of migration on various aspects, including productivity, poverty, agricultural outcomes, and labor market dynamics. Understanding these consequences is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to develop targeted interventions that maximize the benefits of migration while mitigating its potential negative impacts.

2.4. Conceptual Framework of the Study

Migration has an evolutionary history with human beings. The concept of migration can be seen from two major levels. The first level is macro level which concerned with explaining migration in terms of measured characteristics of the socioeconomic and physical environment such as

income, unemployment, and climate. This level is rooted within the neoclassical economic theory of migration. The second is a micro level attempt to explain migration within the context of the psychological decision-making process, and is concerned with how individuals choose between alternatives (Cadwallader, 2018).

Women migration has significant consequences for individuals and societies. Understanding the factors that drive women to migrate, such as economic opportunities and sociocultural factors helps policymakers address the root causes. The consequences of migration for women include both opportunities for economic advancement and risks like exploitation. Societally, migration can lead to labor and caregiving gaps in countries of origin, while also contributing to the labor force and cultural diversity in destination countries. By examining these aspects, policymakers can develop inclusive migration policies that protect women's rights and maximize the benefits of their migration.

The following figure showed factors of migration. Push factors influence someone to flee out from the countries origin and pull factors are favorable conditions that attract peoples to flee in to the country.

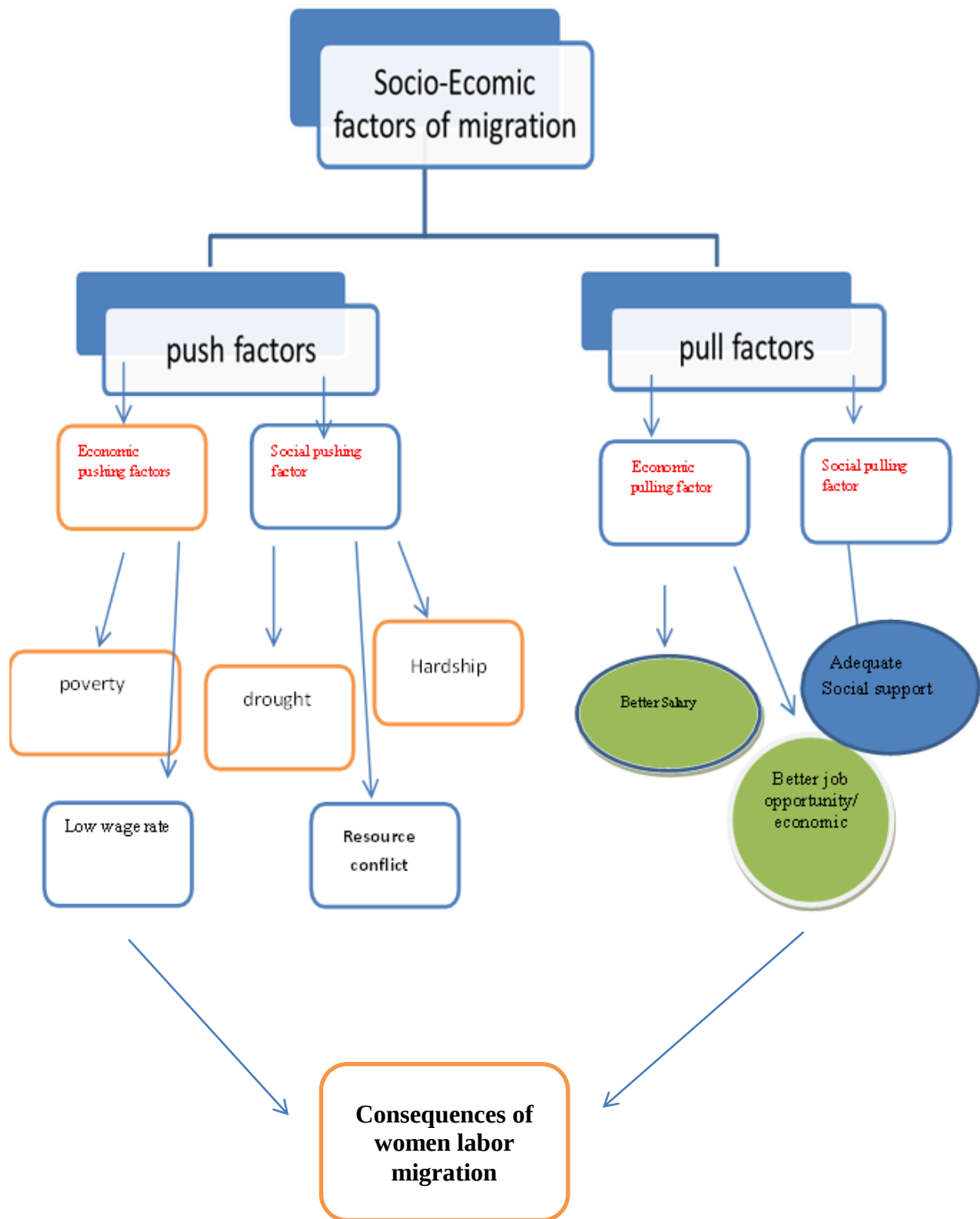


Figure 2:1, Conceptual framework of the Study

Source: Researcher adopted from personal readings (2023)

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODS

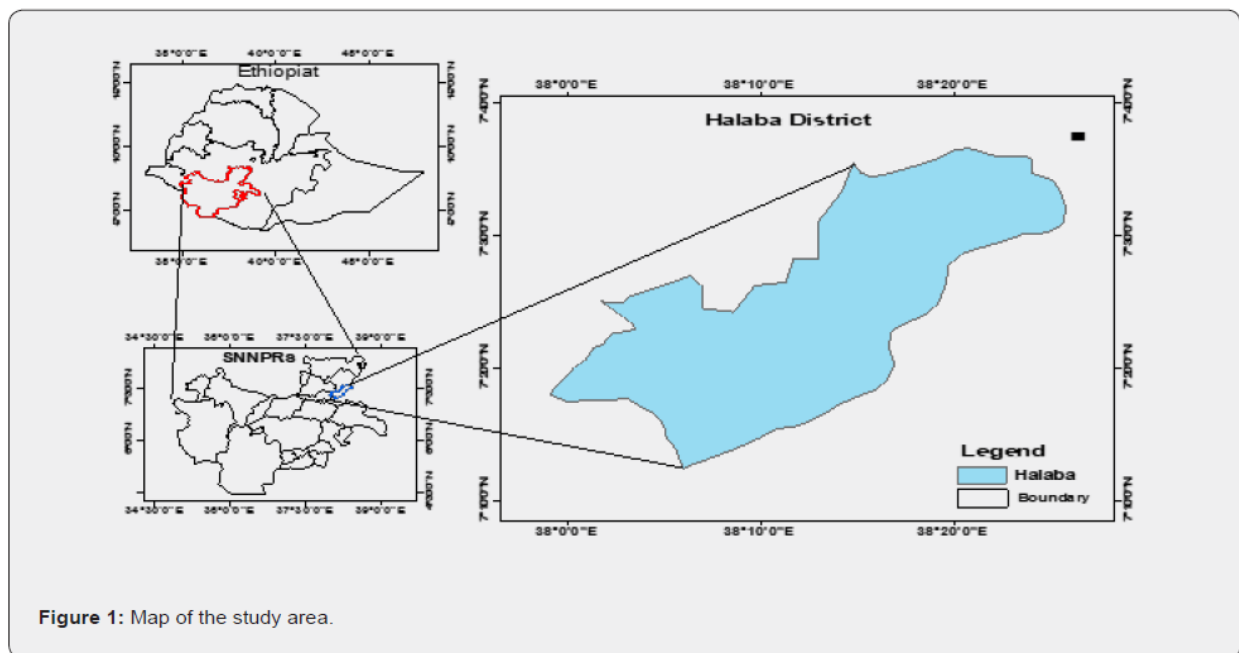
This section presents an overview of the methods that were used in the study. The research was predominantly qualitative case study owing to its objectives and scope, particularly its emphasis to explore causes, analyze gaps between expectations and realities of the issue. Using this methodology made it possible to gather contextual descriptions of why people migrate and to obtain culturally specific information about the values, opinions, perceptions, and social contexts of populations involved and affected by human illegal migration. While some of these data help to gain a better understanding of a specific social context or phenomenon, some of the description and information may be generalized to other contexts or populations as well.

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Halaba Zone is located in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Regional State of Ethiopia. Geographically, it lies between 7°17' to 12° latitude north and 38°04' to 38°47' longitude east. The Zone shares borders with Shala and Aris Negele District of Oromia region to the eastern part, Kedida Gamela, Silte, and Hadya Zone to the western part, Silte zone and Adami Tullu District of Oromia region to the northern part, and Eastern Badewacho District and Siraro District of Oromia region in the southern part. The district is divided into five kebeles and two sub-cities. The average temperature in the district ranges from a maximum of 26°C to a minimum of 35°C (SNNPR's Culture and Tourism Bureau, 2019).

The Halaba community relies primarily on agriculture, livestock rearing, non-farm activities, and natural resource utilization for their livelihoods and income sources. They cultivate crops like maize, teff, wheat, barley, and pulses, while also engaging in livestock rearing for meat and dairy products. Non-farm activities such as small-scale businesses, handicraft production, and local market trading provide additional income opportunities. Moreover, the community benefits from natural resources such as honey production. The specific engagement in these activities may vary among households and individuals based on factors like resource access and market opportunities.

The total population of Halaba Zone according to the District Finance and Economic Development Office is 271,054. Of these, 136,838 are male while the remaining 134,216 are female. Apart from the dominant ethnic group, Halaba, there is a significant number of ethnic Silte, Gurage, Kembata, Hadiya and Amhara residents. The majority of Alaba people are Muslim, followed by some Orthodox, Protestants and a few traditional believers. There are 45,423 households in the district. The total rural dwellers are 89% and urban dwellers are 11%. Population density of the district is 270 person square kilometers (Halaba Zone CBB, 2019).



Source: World Atlas, 2023

3.2. RESEARCH PARADIGM

Kreuger and Neuman (2006) noted that there are competing designs to social work research in regard to explaining the purpose of science and the nature of social reality. Among the existing four paradigms, post-positivism, constructivism, advocacy/participatory and pragmatism, constructivism best explains the stance in doing this research. It helps to identify the standpoint in this particular research and how the researcher is going to interpret the data collected from

the study participants.

Constructivist research paradigm has been applied in social work researches and is described in different books as the basic of social work research techniques that are insightful of contexts. In this research this paradigm also used. This paradigm acknowledges that human beings have different understanding of reality and subjective expression of the situation they are living in and it gives much emphasis for this subjective explanation of issues. Constructivists claim that fact is relative which dependent on one's perspective (Creswel, 2007).

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHOD

Descriptive research design was used for this study. The research also utilized qualitative to clarify concepts, characteristics, descriptions of the issue under question. Data to be presented in the study was obtained from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected directly from respondents using interviews, FGD and case study. Secondary data was collected through review of related literatures.

3.4 SAMPLING AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

It obvious from the definition of the population above that non-probability snow ball or chain sampling was employed to find subjects of interest from those who were most likely to be identified. In this technique, the researcher used subjects to identify other individuals who might be appropriated for the study. This continued with the new subjects and so on until the researcher had a sufficient sample size. Thus, such sampling was feasible in the study. This was mainly the issue related with the participants. The study adopted purposive sampling method to select further participants in the study. This was principally done so as to have reliable information. For qualitative data collection, respondents from Zone administration office, women, youth and children's office, officers from Immigration and media, Kebele and community leaders were selected purposely with respect to their roles in the area.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The qualitative data is collected by employing interviewer and key informants. Fluency in the local language, experience in data collection is considered in recruiting data collectors. The

researcher himself carried out the qualitative data collection as well.

3.6 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

The researcher collected data by using focus group discussion (FGD), case studies and administering an interview.

3.6.1 Interview guideline

According to Denzin and Lincoln, (2011) though there are a variety of techniques that are available for collecting information from primary sources, interview is considered as the most suitable instrument used in qualitative research. Denzin and Lincoln further stated that interview is a rich source of data on people's experience, views, aspirations and thoughts. In this study, interview can be described primarily as a discussion, consisting of a face-to-face verbal interchange in which the interviewer attempts to draw information or expressions of opinions or beliefs from the interviewee.

According to Kvale (2007) qualitative research interview strives to comprehend the world from the subjects' point of view, open up the meaning of peoples' experiences and discover their lives prior to the particular situation or events. Holstein and Gubrium, (2005) also note that telling stories is important in the meaning making process, every word that people use in telling their stories is a microcosm of their experience. Holstein and Gubrium further show that all interviews are interactional events and interviewers are deeply and unavoidably implicated in creating meanings that ostensibly reside within participants.

Hence, the researcher had chosen to use in-depth interviews which were highly appropriate to address such research questions. To this end, an open-ended interview guide was developed to outline questions which made sense to the participants and was easy to respond to in their own terms, thereby allowing for a cross reference to past studies available in the area of migration (such as Agrinet, 2004; Bezabih, 2008; Meshesha, 2007; Tekle & Belayneh, 2000).

The interview 18 questions divided into two sections 'I' and 'II' each section consists of twenty and 15 question respectively seeking to answer the research questions. Question phrasing could be changed by the interviewer if it deemed appropriate. The questions could also be asked in

any order possible by the interviewer.

As it is a qualitative interview, it spotlights on exploring the driving and calling factors that exposes women to migration and the resulted consequences they have faced through the process as gaps and expectations.

3.6.2 Checklist for discussion

To get additional ideas from different parties, the researcher of this study organized focus group discussion. Here two categories of informants were chosen. The first category consisted of the returnee women, while the second constituted those prosing visas to leave. The third those that supported migration and those that never. In total, the focus group discussion estimated to consist at least twelve individuals of which 4 returnees, 4 on the way of departure and 4 selected community members. In brief, the focus group discussion held at least two times so much as possible with opposing or conflicting interests that support and against of migration.

The focus group discussion focused on surveying the driving and calling factors that exposed women to migration and the resulted consequences they faced through the process as gaps and expectations. Hence, it encompasses the following main categories of issues such as life history reason for leaving, living and working condition, provocative factors, expectations and realities (experiences).

3.6.3 Case studies

One of the most popular methods of using qualitative research methods in migration studies is the use of ‘case studies’. A case can be any kind of bounded system of interest: A case can be a person, an event, a program, a time period, a critical incident, or a community. Regardless of the unit of analysis, a qualitative case study seeks to describe that unit in depth, in detail, in context, and holistically. The more a program aims at individualized outcomes, the greater the appropriateness of qualitative case methods. The depth and detail of qualitative methods typically derive from a small number of case studies, too small for confident generalizations. Case studies become particularly useful where one needs to understand some particular problem or situation in great depth, and where one can identify cases rich in information in the sense that a great deal can be learned from a few exemplars of the phenomenon in question. The

qualitative case study employed three to five individuals in collecting data so as to capture apparent and profound experiences on the areas of pushing and pulling matters, expectations and realities, ways of treatments in a state of destination, working conditions, and pay plus employee-employer relationship.

3.7. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

Data collected qualitatively were transcribed and qualitatively analyzed using narrative structuring. This method of analysis focuses on the stories to be told during the interview and worked out their structures and their plots. It contained a temporal sequence, patterning of happenings (Kvale, 1996). The above facts made it relevant for this study. It enabled the investigator to analyze the collected data in a story form including a temporal perspective in the life of the women migrants.

The aim of this study did not generalize about facts but narrating the motivations of migration (the pull and push factors) and their expectations and realities. Therefore, qualitative methods found to be appropriate throughout the study. The overriding themes of the focus group discussions with community members were not be transcribed but outlined for data analysis. Where necessary, certain good points which were differently viewed by a participant in the FGDs are quoted for further analysis of the data.

Data types that consisted of mobile recordings and brief noted passed through a series of steps before producing the required type of knowledge. To this effect, field notes were expanded immediately after interview and recordings got transcribed by listening to the recorder and converting the words into written text.

The second step was to categorize the transcripts according to the relevant themes that emerged across the total collection of responses. The different categories were given topics that reflect the theme of the given category. This being, the case was a piece of the part in the total research process.

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In this study, all the acceptable ethical behaviors are considered. All stakeholders at all levels including the participants and /respondents, are well informed of the purpose of and relevance of the study for the purpose of ethical acceptances. Voluntariness are requested and agreed with the respondents before the data collection. The respondents are selected to participate in the study based on their willingness and seniority. The researcher kept the confidentiality of the information and the respect of the privacy of the participants. The participants are informed that the information recorded and collected would remain anonymous and all the data obtained from different sources are duly acknowledged.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. RESULTS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is about a combined presentation of the results and discussion section of a study on the consequences of women labor migration to the Middle East: Narratives, the findings and the discussion. In the first section, there are pull, push factors, following the expectations and realities of the informants of the study. Then, the consequences were discussed. In addition, six narrative stories of the informants of the study were presented. The first three narratives were about the pre migration stories of the women planning for out migration and are on passport process. The following three are describe both the pre and on migration experiences of returnee women migrants. Every narrative has series of event configurations. The second section is about the finding and discussion. The life history storyline of each informant is translated and presented as it is.

4.1. Characteristics of the Migrants

This share of the overhead section is about the study samples. In this part the characteristics of female migrant returnees in Halaba and women planning for work migration to the Middle East, both who happened to participate in the study, are discussed. Of the characters of migrants, only those that are considered to be important in responding to the research questions are included. The characteristics (background) of migrants can be seen from various perspectives which include geographical, educational, social, religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

4.1.1. The women

The data from the Ministry of Labor and Social affairs (2019) shows that female migrants from Ethiopia often are in their early 20s and single living with their family. But there are cases where women in the age of their 30s, married and even with children are seen migrating. Similar finding, by Kebede (2018), shows that most migrant Ethiopian women are within the 20-30 age groups. The women planning for work migration and migrant returnees interviewed are of similar background.

4.1.2. Educational background

“I was ninth grade when I decided to migrate. I was just fresh in high school.” says Kedija. But there are also others who share a similar story. “I came to a decision to go to the Middle East after I stayed

out of school for three years. I stopped school when I reached eighth grade. I could not resist seeing my family going through the entire problem that comes with poverty.” A migrant, Leyila, says.

Though there are cases like this where migrants stop school at earlier grades, what mostly happens is migrants happen to come from the group of young people who finish high school and fail to get to the university level. Most of the informants I met did not complete high school education while others were graduates of high school which referred as ‘tenth grade complete’. Exceptionally, there was also a respondent who managed to have a certificate from a private college and planning for domestic work in the Middle East. It is the story of Rahima, who used to be a kindergarten school teacher, but economically unsatisfied.

The fact that the migrants did not pursue further education after elementary and high school education was also found to have its own effect in working relationships and communication issues. As opposed to the overhead case of the migrants from HSW, according to the research finding held on the Filipinos in Kuwait, most domestic workers have high school or above qualifications.

4.1.3. Social, Religious and Cultural Background

Religious and cultural similarity or dissimilarity can be considered as institutional and structural factor constraining or enabling migration. As far as the religion of female migrants to the Middle East from HSW is concerned, except those that are from Christian backgrounds, most of the migrants happened to be interviewed were commonly from Muslim religions. According to the returnee migrants, Muslim migrants have additional advantages. The first advantage is that because of the fact that the destination countries are Muslim countries, employers often prefer Muslim workers. They have also the advantage of using religious migration as a reason to stay and work in the Middle East. A similar finding in Sri Lanka shows that for Muslims and those who speak Arabic, it is possible to move to the Middle East with a minimum cost (Brun 2016).

Moreover, there are other important advantages such as minimum degree of religious-cultural difference including their eating habits, choice of food, possibility of addressing religious rituals, and dressing style which is often long dresses with the head covered, etc. It is mostly a requirement that migrants should have their hair covered when they take picture for the application despite the religion of the migrant. And there are also times when Christian migrants changed their Christian names to a Muslim name to increase their chances of employments.

The fact in the Christian religion there are various food specifications and consequent fasting times which make their working relationships difficult for Orthodox Christians whereas for Muslim migrants it presents a good experience to be able to exercise their religion in the area of origin of the religion. In view of this, the following story of a returnee shows the case;

'I was a protestant before I went to Lebanon. As I was there as well, I used to pray and sing songs. This was not a problem until my employer caught me red handed with a bible. That day, I was reading a bible, the daughter of my employer asked me, and I told her that it is a bible I got from one of my relatives during my vacation. The daughter immediately ran out of me and she called my employers. They called each other. They screamed at me. They were very angry. They snatched me the bible and put it in fire. This being a cause, I got fired without my monthly salary. They put a reason that I tried to convert their daughter into Christianity. Thanks God, I remained from jail.'

On the other hand, almost all the planning migrants interviewed had a role of helping with the house work in the family. And sometimes they carry the whole burden of the house work. Aziza tells her story saying "I am the eldest child in our family so I took care of almost all the house work. My brother and sister they were not old enough to help me." Besides their contribution in the house work, some migrants used to work and bring money home for the household even before migration. As will be discussed in the economic section, migrants are mostly involved in a not well-paying job in home country due to lack of education and skills but still manage to contribute to a certain extent. Other women took care of family business like Sitina, spent most of the time running the shop her family owns.

4.1.4. Economic background: Employment and income

"I was working as a messenger in private company before I went to the Middle East, so I had a job. But the money, I get from was not satisfying at all. So, I decided why not try something else" said Kemer. Often the migrants try to check the available means in town before they make the decision to migrate. They compare the advantages they could get and that often determine their decision to migrate as the writers of push – pull theory put it, workers migrate to where they can get most productive. (Chapter two Neo-Classical Economic Theory)

As mentioned above there are cases where migrants dropped out of school and sometimes completing tenth grade prefer to the Middle East. But in most cases migrants had some petty work attempts which often do not pay well. Kasech used to work in a café before work migration "I used to get 100 to 150

Birr per month and that was enough for nothing”.

Often migrants happen to be member of a family where the supporting member of the family gets very low income or there is no main income at all. Fatuma, a mother of four children claims she supports the whole family by the money she gets from selling locally made biscuits and teas; it could never be enough for the household so that she convinced the family and managed to go to the Lebanon in the year 2018. This can infer that almost all the migrants interviewed presented lack of enough income as their reason for migration. Most get access to information from either returnees or people around their circle. Here it further shows below;

4.2. PULL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HALABA WOMEN TO MIGRATE FROM HALABA ZONE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Halaba women from Halaba Zone in Ethiopia are increasingly drawn to migrate to the Middle East due to a multitude of compelling pull factors. One significant factor is the abundance of economic opportunities that await them in the destination countries. Within Halaba Zone, limited income-generating options and prevailing poverty act as push factors, prompting women to seek better prospects abroad. The Middle East, with its booming economies and demand for labor in various sectors, offers higher wages and improved employment opportunities compared to the local job market. Focus group discussions with migrant women reveal that the desire to escape economic constraints and provide a better future for themselves and their families motivates them to embark on this migration journey.

Furthermore, the aspiration for remittances and financial independence plays a pivotal role in their decision-making process. Halaba women perceive migration as an avenue to accumulate financial resources and alleviate their families from the grip of poverty. Through remittances sent back home, they contribute to enhanced living standards, investment in education, access to healthcare, and the establishment of small businesses. This prospect of economic stability and self-reliance act as a powerful pull factor, driving Halaba women to migrate and seek opportunities in the Middle East.

Migration to the Middle East also offers social mobility and empowerment, which are significant factors influencing the decision of Halaba women to leave their homeland. The experience of working abroad exposes them to diverse cultures, new skills, and different perspectives. They acquire valuable knowledge and gain self-confidence, challenging traditional gender norms upon their return. Case

studies highlight that returnees often assume influential roles within their communities, becoming role models and agents of change. Their experiences abroad empower them to advocate for women's rights and challenge societal expectations, contributing to social progress within their communities.

Moreover, networks and information-sharing mechanisms play a crucial role in influencing migration decisions among Halaba women. Successful migrants act as important sources of information and inspiration, sharing their experiences and encouraging others to pursue opportunities in the Middle East. Furthermore, the availability of recruitment agencies and brokers in Halaba Zone facilitates the migration process by providing logistical assistance, information, and connections to potential employers. These networks create a sense of familiarity and trust, easing the transition and decision-making process for aspiring migrants.

While the pull factors discussed above entice Halaba women to migrate, it is crucial to acknowledge the associated risks and challenges. Exploitation, abuse, and the mismatch between expectations and realities are prevalent concerns. Therefore, it is essential to develop and implement supportive policies that prioritize safe migration practices, protect the rights of migrant women, and provide necessary support systems. By addressing these challenges and maximizing the positive outcomes, migration can become a transformative opportunity for Halaba women, empowering them economically, socially, and personally, while also benefiting their communities as a whole.

4.3. PUSH FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HALABA WOMEN TO MIGRATE FROM HALABA ZONE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Halaba women in Halaba Zone, Ethiopia, face numerous push factors that drive them to migrate to the Middle East in search of better opportunities. Economic hardships and limited prospects within their local region create a challenging environment for these women. The prevalence of poverty, high unemployment rates, and a lack of viable income-generating options leave them with few alternatives for improving their lives. As a result, they are compelled to seek employment abroad in the hopes of securing better wages and financial stability.

Financial constraints and the responsibility to provide for their families also play a significant role in their decision to migrate. Many Halaba women bear the weight of supporting their households, and the limited income opportunities available locally often prove insufficient. Migration offers the potential for higher earnings and the ability to send remittances back home, which can alleviate financial

burdens and improve the well-being of their families.

Moreover, limited access to education and skills development contributes to their migration aspirations. Within Halaba Zone, educational resources may be scarce or inaccessible, preventing women from acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for professional growth. By migrating to the Middle East, these women hope to gain access to better educational opportunities and training programs, which can enhance their employability and open doors to more fulfilling careers.

In addition to economic and educational factors, gender inequality and societal norms act as push factors for Halaba women. Within their home communities, they may face restrictions on their autonomy and limited opportunities for personal and professional advancement due to prevailing gender roles and societal expectations. Migration presents an opportunity to break free from these constraints, offering greater freedom, autonomy, and the chance to challenge traditional gender norms. By seeking opportunities abroad, Halaba women can assert their independence, gain new perspectives, and pave the way for gender equality within their communities upon their return.

To address these push factors effectively, policymakers should focus on implementing sustainable solutions. This includes initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment rates within Halaba Zone, creating income-generating opportunities, improving access to quality education and skills development programs, and challenging gender inequalities through awareness campaigns and policy changes. By addressing these underlying issues, the necessity for migration as the primary means of socioeconomic advancement for Halaba women can be reduced, allowing them to flourish within their own communities while still having the option to pursue international opportunities if desired.

4.4. EXPECTATIONS AND REALITIES OF WOMEN MIGRANTS BEFORE AND AFTER JOURNEY

The expectations and realities experienced by women migrants before and after their journey can often reveal a stark contrast. Prior to embarking on their migration journey, women may hold high hopes for economic prosperity, driven by their aspirations for improved job opportunities and higher wages. They envision their migration as a means to uplift their families from poverty and provide a better future. Financial independence becomes a significant goal, as they anticipate sending remittances back home to support their families and invest in education, healthcare, and small businesses. Moreover, women migrants often see migration as an opportunity for social mobility. They anticipate gaining

new skills, confidence, and exposure to different cultures, which can lead to personal growth and an enhanced social status within their communities. Additionally, they believe migration will provide them with the chance to challenge traditional gender roles and societal expectations.

However, once the journey begins and the realities of migration unfold, women may encounter a range of challenges that can challenge their initial expectations. While some women migrants may find the economic prosperity they had hoped for, others may face significant hurdles. Factors such as low wages, exploitative working conditions, and limited employment opportunities can undermine their ability to achieve the financial stability they anticipated. The gap between expectations and the economic realities faced can lead to feelings of disappointment, frustration, and even exploitation.

Financial challenges may also impede the realization of financial independence. The pressures of remittances, coupled with high living costs in the host country, can make it difficult for women migrants to save and invest as they had planned. Additionally, unexpected expenses such as recruitment fees or medical costs can further strain their financial situations, hindering their progress towards economic empowerment.

Furthermore, the process of social integration in the host country can present its own set of complexities. Language barriers, cultural differences, discrimination, and marginalization can pose significant obstacles to full integration and active participation in their new communities. Women migrants may face social isolation, limited access to support networks, and difficulties in challenging traditional gender roles as they had envisioned.

To address these challenges, policymakers and stakeholders must recognize the diverse expectations and realities faced by women migrants. Tailored support systems should be put in place to address their specific needs and circumstances. This may include providing access to fair employment opportunities, ensuring adequate workplace protections, promoting language and cultural integration programs, addressing gender-based discrimination, and offering social support networks. By aligning the realities of migration with the expectations of women migrants, it becomes possible to maximize the positive outcomes and mitigate the challenges they face throughout their journey, ultimately facilitating their economic empowerment, social integration, and overall well-being.

4.5. CONSEQUENCES OF WOMEN LABOR MIGRATION TO THE MIDDLE EAST

The consequences of women labor migration to the Middle East are multifaceted and impact various

aspects of individuals, families, and communities. These consequences can be both positive and negative, highlighting the complex nature of this phenomenon.

On the positive side, women labor migration to the Middle East can lead to economic benefits. By seeking employment abroad, women can access higher wages and better job opportunities, which can significantly improve their financial well-being and that of their families. The remittances they send back home contribute to local economies, enabling investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. This infusion of financial resources can alleviate poverty and create opportunities for socioeconomic advancement in their home communities.

Moreover, women labor migrants often acquire new skills, knowledge, and experiences during their time in the Middle East. This exposure can enhance their personal and professional growth, empowering them with a broader perspective and increased self-confidence. They may learn new languages, gain expertise in specific industries, and develop a global outlook that can be valuable upon their return to their home countries.

However, there are also significant challenges and negative consequences associated with women labor migration to the Middle East. Exploitative working conditions, including long working hours, low wages, physical and emotional abuse, and the withholding of passports, are prevalent in some cases. Women migrants may face discrimination, limited legal protections, and isolation in their host countries, exacerbating their vulnerability to exploitation and human rights abuses.

Separation from families and communities is another consequence of women labor migration. The extended periods spent away from their loved ones can lead to emotional strain, disrupted family dynamics, and challenges in maintaining relationships. The absence of mothers and wives from the household can have a profound impact on children, shaping their upbringing and potentially affecting their emotional well-being and educational outcomes.

Furthermore, the reliance on women labor migrants in the Middle East can perpetuate gender inequalities in both sending and receiving countries. The migration of women for low-skilled work often reinforces traditional gender roles, as men may assume caregiving responsibilities in the absence of female family members. This can perpetuate gender imbalances and limit opportunities for women's empowerment and advancement within their own societies.

To address the consequences of women labor migration to the Middle East, it is crucial to implement

comprehensive policies and programs. These should focus on protecting the rights and well-being of women migrants, promoting fair and ethical labor practices, providing access to support services, enhancing legal protections, and addressing gender inequalities. By creating an environment that safeguards the dignity and rights of women migrants, while maximizing the positive impacts and minimizing the negative consequences, it is possible to foster a more just and equitable migration experience for all.

4.6 Narrations

In-depth interview method was the main data collection tool in qualitative aspects of a research so that the narrations of coming three case studies are made through in-depth interviews. The selection of respondents is done by using the snowball sampling method. Each interview took approximately two hours including the introduction of the research and the researcher. The responses explored in the in-depth interviews were transcribed in English and categorized in the whole content under the subsequent sub sections: - Profile :(age, education level, religion, marital status, number of children & destination country), Reason of Migration, (the role of significant others, means of livelihood and travel expenses), Readiness, Expectations and Realities (language, culture, working situation and work relationships), Challenges and benefits, anticipated encounters as well as views of migration.

4.6.1 Narrations of women planning for work migration to the Middle East and on Passport Process

Case Study - 1

I am from a Christian family in the largest Muslim community there at the center of Halaba kulito; I know the Muslim culture very well. I know the Christian culture very well. I am now 19 years old- the fourth child of my family. I gave up schooling three years ago in grade eight when my father passed away due to lung infections. The death of my father was so heart breaking to me. He had no good life in his entire existence. He just died while he was running ups and downs for the sake of his family. He was suffering a lot to raise us to the better. After his death, there was no one to support the family. I had two elder brothers but their whereabouts are still unknown. They went to Jeddah five years ago, only called twice and disappeared doing nothing to support the family.

Both the first and the last children of our family died before and after birth. My mother is very weak

now that she can even not go out of home alone. For which reason, I have tried all my best to raise my young brothers and sisters selling cereals and cabbages in the market. Every Monday and Thursday, I used to walk seventeen kilometers on foot with our skinny donkey. A year and half passed this way, nothing could change. While we were trying to manage life in our small plot of land, it becomes always the same. We could not help it.

Eventually, to your surprise that our only donkey whom that we consider like part of the family and used to smuggle loads to the market had died of illness. Then, my younger brother, two of my little sisters and I began market travel carrying the loads at our back. This in turn had brought back injury which gradually caused him severe pain. In doing so, I developed a gloomy view of life till I just got married three years after my father's death.

My marriage at the very beginning would have looked somehow better that at least I was able to share a better hand to my beloved family. The matter was that it could not sustain long. My husband was curious of having a baby. I was not able to meet his request due to some harm that I had experienced in childhood. As a result, he came to engage with another woman. As he brought her home, I took divorce and back to my family's home empty handed. He did not do anything. You see, he did not ask or beg me. Because I am from the poor, I could not meet his interest.

After three months at home with my younger brothers, sisters and again with my mom, I came to face stress but nothing. Then, I came to look for some other source of income to win life. I had only sixty-three birr remained out of two hundred twenty birr that I had saved while in my husband's home. By which, I began selling cups of coffee and Tea each cup with 1Birr and 50 cents respectively. It was near to the Municipality. I used to make fifty to twenty birrs but this is not always. Sometimes, it may be less or more than this because there are many women there like me selling coffee and teas.

I had gone through this business for two years and half. In fact, I came to be better to support the family though it was not enough. Finally, to upgrade the business, I joined a local Ekub, thereby with all effort that I had paid. I used to put thirty birr a week. After half a year time, I got seven hundred and twenty birr. I was so excited- I remember the time. Out of this, I spent much to my mother's health and to home expenses. Although this had made me happy, it did not push to improve life.

One day, I narrated all about my life to one of my best customers who is now having love affair with me to be my future husband. Of course, he had nothing to give me but he took pity on me. We

discussed about lots of things. It was he who brought this idea first. And, I completely agreed on his point because I want to change everything. I want to pass any challenges to make life good for my family. I promised this to myself.

Now, I have decided to go abroad or wherever to support my family and to improve my life. One thing that worries me is my mother's unhealthy condition. I have nothing to do here in the same condition. I have to go, send her money and save her life. About her case, I have given all the responsibility to God, my neighbors and to my customer. He is such a kind man that he has shown me all the way here to come and process the visa. I am now even temporary staying at his sisters renting home.

I am not sure; I do not know. But I know that I need to have until eight thousand birr to fly. Actually, I have no money at hand for that matter now. I mean for the travel expense, but after the passport process is over, I am planning to sell a slice of our land to one of our villagers. I agreed on this point with my family. They do not complain because they want change. And, the villager has promised me that he would buy me the land with ten thousand birr so that I am planning to put the remaining money out of my travel process to my mom's affair and leave this country. I am bored; I am bored, very frustrated. Don't ask me!' She irritably narrated.

Case 1 had a hope to send money to her mother and save her lives. She has also a dream to give and have a good source of income both for her brother and her prospecting husband. She neither knows the culture, the language nor the working situation that she is going to have. She presumes that the Arabs are bad if a woman approaches the husband sexually.

She said that she heard about that Ethiopians are suffering, raped, casted away from buildings, murdered and a lot more in Saudi and some other countries. 'But that is what the media exaggerates.' She detailed. There are women whom who can witness back with possible amount of money in my village from Saudi. Even though they had been in challenges, they did it. Here again, I have been in challenges but benefited nothing. So, what can I do here? They went there as I began selling coffees beside the municipality; they got back the same where and the same way as I was doing so. I will go there in every possible way and try my chance. In Jesus name, if okay I will get bright day if not the opposite. I do not know my decision may be right or may be wrong. We will see that when I come back. But if you really ask me, I feel right. Do not ask me why'.

Case Study-2

‘It is only me in the village. Every girl went to Saudi and some of them are sending money for their families. My neighbor who comes from Kuwait brings lots of things; lots of clothes, lots of jewelry, and dolls for her children and many other things. Her family even builds a modern brick house with beautiful painting. When I see all these, even if my parents do not want me to go, I decided for myself. I have to go and bring money and beautiful things for my family. I heard and I know that Saudi is not good. But all Arabs are not like that. Therefore, I want to go and check myself. Look at my neighbor!’ very emotionally stated the twenty years old girl who was in fact looking in mid of sixteen and seventeen but stated that she is eighteen.

She was simple to make communication but avoided recording. She is very young and playful currently living with her family in Mehal arada Kebele, Zala fire Sub City. Here you find her life history below with her profile; (age, education level, religion, marital status, number of children & destination country), reasons of migration; (the role of significant others, means of livelihood and travel expenses), her expectations and readiness (language, culture, working situation and work relationships), and challenges or probably anticipated encounters that she assumes.

Life history

I was a grade seven student before I detained and quit schooling. I despaired in learning because I had brothers who completed high school and still dependent on the family. My brothers are now working on small plots of land that my family has. In hard times when the rain is rare, they also go to the town to get a daily labor. If they are lucky, they will get nice income but often they come back empty pocket. And they share what we have together in love. They are afraid of engaging in daily labors. They scare the culture. They dream to be trader but they have no capital to begin. You see.’ I added, ‘Neither of my brothers is happy now. They are even planning to migrate somewhere there is a job.’

‘I used to go schooling on my par-time after market with my mother and when housing duties are over. Then, when I went to school with often many blank pages in my exercise book and home as well as class assignments undone, teachers used to show my fed up looking, some used to bully me, others yell at me, and still some others took no sense of me.’

‘Gradually, I despaired and totally remained at home. I began fully committed to the market business. My father and my mother were actually unhappy with my way. I did not mind them. I kept on and on. The market business was not that much profiting. It was simply tiresome so that I quitted that and

again started another business; selling fruits beside the main road to passing by trucks and public buses. However, someday, I came to myself; I have thought over my past and my present. I found out that I am still in the same condition. I did not make any good progress. I did not do any good thing to myself, my father, my mother and my brothers in general to our home as I compared myself to my age mates who flew to Dubai and Beirut. So, I came up to this conclusion specifically after I began to spend time with my neighbor who is from Kuwait. You know, after her journey she opened a supermarket in the middle of the town and now she is having stress less joyful life. Think of me.

The following day, I consulted this case to my younger brother he loved the idea. Then, I told to my mom. She was unhappy but I pressed her. I was sure that she could persuade my dad as well. She gave me some words of encouragement but she still looks worried. I know why she is so, it was about the news she heard that some of the women in Saudi were raped and deported. I am a Muslim. I never scare that. Plus, I never react in a seductive manner to the husband if I join in a family so that no one touches me; you got me,' voiced case -2.

My mom having seen that I am very interested and curious of going. She convinced my dad and they both allowed me. Then, I discussed this issue with that of my neighbor. I told her every detail. What I underlined most was if I am lucky that I will join a kind family who even can bonus my salary based on my performance and my character. At that point, she asked me whether I can afford the money. She said I need to have about nine thousand birr. She even told me that she was not sure that any work migrant is allowed to fly to the Kuwait or any other Middle East countries due to government ban.

However, there is a way to systematically arrive there. Do not ask me about that, okay. One of the truck drivers who come to my neighbor told me about that people in some ways go to the Qatar and Kuwait even after the ban. It was him who even arranged to me that. He gave me a phone number to contact to his sister. I did it. She told me that I have to prepare eleven thousand birr for the whole process to end. I told her that I cannot afford all that much. After that, I got back to the driver and explained him everything. He assured me that he would tell her and she could go down of the money at least. After some steps, it came true that his sister agreed with seven thousand and five hundred birr to send me Kuwait. So far, I did not give her any money but I will try to make it ready after the passport. Now, I have come here to this end. I'm waiting, I hope, I will succeed 'Insha'Allah'. It is Arabic which means Allah knows.' She translated it.

‘Regarding the culture,’ Case two freely said, ‘you know I am a Muslim, I told you. I am not changing my religion or my name. I know a little Arabic. I learnt Quran at home. Thanks to mom. I have nothing to worry for. Plus, the one my neighbor who was in Kuwait told me all about their culture. Even if not the case, I will go and learn like the way others did. I am young and energetic. I like to work and change my life. I want to have my own shop, to build a good home for my family and to support my idle brothers. For which reason, nothing will get me back.

Of course, for the moment we do not have that much amount of money. That is the only challenge I feel now. Insha’Allah, I never get back. We have very closer relative who is my father’s old friend. He can give us at least half. And as well, my mom and I have some Ekub which can cover one fourth of it. For the remaining quarter, we will look for every hole possible. You just only pray to me. ‘Dua argilign bicha’ she uttered in an optimistic look.

Case Study-3

These are the twins: both are in the passport process, at Hawassa immigration affairs bureau. They have a sister in Bahrain who is married to a citizenry of the country. One is a bit shy while the other is quite not. Two of them were there after one another in scattered queue of registration for work employments facilitated by their sisters in Bahrain.

First, we smoothly tried to approach them with greetings. After some conversations, with introduction of us, the purpose and objectives of the study, they told us to wait a few hours and came for the interview with some observable hesitations.

As the interview began smoothly, they told me to take away the recorder. They pointed out that they cannot feel comfortable with. They look they were actually in suspicion of us. They presumed that my assistant and I were journalists or people from NGO’s. At this point, they were about to change their mind till we re- explained why and how we were there.

After my assistant (my finance), fortunately who is a student in Hawassa University, and I both took out and showed them the university ID, in addition to the letter, they smiled and came to the point. It was after all such incidences, the interview which focus on their profile; (age, education level, religion, marital status, number of children & destination country), reasons of migration; (the role of significant others, means of livelihood and travel expenses), their expectations and readiness (language, culture, working situation and work relationships), and challenges or probably anticipated encounters they

prospect began as follow.

Life History

The twins said, ‘We are both the last children in the family born consecutively in a moment after each other. We are from a Muslim household currently living with the family. We both are now twenty years old, born in Hosana but raised in Zogche sub city, Merasa Menda kebele. I am married and have one child while she is engaged recently. We completed high school together the in the same grade three years ago. Unluckily, we both scored less than two points in the secondary school leaving examinations so that we could not have any chance to go ahead.

Our elder brother promised to one of us that he would teach us somewhere in private college by the time, but he could not succeed as a result of some bad fortune happened to him. He used to sell used out clothes. However, in one cursed day, while he was on the way from Moyale, huge amount of used out bonded clothes were occupied by revenue securities. His share was not actually that much big. The larger parts were belonging to his colloques.

Before the incidence, he was the one responsibly sent there to facilitate the safe get back (import) of the garments. Unfortunately, he was stuck at check station. Then, he spent six months in jail and went out two years ago. He paid all he had to his colloques as debt of the inherited garments by the securities so that he is beginning from the scratch now again. He is very strong. He passed every encounter of life. He even used to sharp coble stone here in Hawassa He did all the petty jobs. However, it is less possible to tell him lucky. You see, luck matters always. It all these happened to him in fact, while he was thinking of us; he forgot to remind the driver where the securities were. He loves his family so much. He still never gives up like our elder sister in Bahrain. She has sent him some money and he is trying his level best to get up.

When it comes to us again, it is she, our sister, who is now even supporting us to fly there as well. She went to Bahrain two years ago. She is very comfortable in Bahrain. She is recently married to an Arab (the citizen of the country). He is very kind man. She is even the one now to facilitate our visa with the support of him. We are eagerly waiting till the passport process is over. It became far like the sky. The officers inside here are saying, ‘network yelem, and network yelem’.

We have the mini-shop of the family in the town. We both work in shift there. However, after I got

married. I have been dreaming of my own. And my sister as well, she dreams of opening her own business with her spouse. We want to collect enough money and we will get back. We both do not want to stay that much. In this regard, we both agreed with our spouses and family members. No one has ever rejected the idea.

Indeed, we do not know the culture, the language or working situation. However, since our sister is there, we do not have any worry for. Plus, her husband can immediately find us a good job with a good payment. She promised us this. You know, you work here a lot, but you earn a little. We want to work well and earn good. Therefore, for your question, we feel our decisions are correct. We are not that much poor here. Insha'Allah! We can cover our daily breads. So, if it is not fitting, we can come back'.

4.6.2. Narrations of Returnee Women from work migration in the Middle East

Under this subdivision, the responses explored through in-depth interviews were transcribed in English and categorized in thematic flow under the subsequent sub sections: - Profile :(age, education level, religion, marital status, number of children & destination country), Reasons of Migration, (the role of significant others, means of livelihood, family's situation and travel expenses), Expectations and Realities (language, culture, working situation and work relationships plus return), Challenges and benefits, (views of migration).

Case Study-1

A Woman Back from Work Migration in the Middle East- Saudi Arabiya, Riyadh

This case study participant was living with her parents in Halaba, Zala Fire Sub City, Wanja Kebele before migration. She is from an extended Muslim family. Her parents had no income, except the monthly pension funds of her father. Her drive for leaving was to improve her life and win the financial problems of the family. To this end, she travelled to Saudi at the age of twenty-seven having no know how of the language, the culture, the work aspects and back after one year. Currently, this woman is twenty-nine years old and the interview was conducted after about ten months from her return.

Life History

‘‘I dropped out of school while I was in grade seven fourteen years ago due to varied reasons that I did not clearly want to state now. Earlier to my journey of migration to Riyadh, I used to do menial jobs

such as cooking meals and washing clothes as a domestic servant lastly in five groups of unmarried men. As I was working there, earning little income, those men to whom I used to serve moved out of the town as their project phased out. Although I looked for other alternatives to get per-time employments, I could not secure any. Nobody in and out of the residents wanted me to hire with a kid. Thus, I used to collect cow dungs, dry it and sell it as a cooking charcoal for the villagers.

Case-1 stressed 'I never wanted to be dependent on the scarce income of my family or my sisters who are in extreme deficiency like the way I was. As a result, I began facing several problems. In the course of time, I came to gloom as I was unable properly to raise both my nine- and four-years' old daughters whom I have without father. At last, I dropped my kids to my grand mom, who is aged and very ill. Then, I planned for going overseas to get plenty of earnings which I thought could enable me raise my son and support my grandparents. To this ground, I contacted one of my villagers in the area who had sent her daughter to one of the Arab countries, and she introduced me to the same broker who facilitated the travel for her daughter.

The broker told me to have a passport from Hawassa. As I shown up with the passport after a month and two weeks' time, he requested whether I was ready with six thousand birr or not. As I assured him that I never had any single coin. He took my passport to process a visa and promised me that I would be working as a waitress in one of the big hotels in Saudi and would receive a generous salary. Within few days, he managed me to fly to Riyadh where I knew nothing ahead.

Passing after three employing agents, in my first day at work, my employer seemed nice. She gave me working clothes and a clock. A week after, my employer caught me her own husband red handed while he passed by tapping one of my body parts. Of course, he acted and touched me unconsciously. However, since that day, my employer turned out to be very rude. She began to spit, insult and sometimes throw objects at me. Given this, I came to be very frightened by the situation I found myself.

To satisfy my employer and to get the problem solved, while I was doing seemingly endless extent of work; cooking, making up beds, cleaning bathrooms and washing the parked cars in the compound and some others restlessly, my employer could not be happy. I used to go bed every day at 3 a.m. in the morning and woke up at 5 a.m. My employer used to follow every print of my footsteps. She even used to come and see me bedroom in the midnight. Then after all my patience is over, I asked her to take me to the agent's office. I was taken to the agent, but the agent who placed me with my employer

was not there. After a moment the agent came. Soon after he came, I told him that I couldn't stay there. He slapped me in front of them, took me down stair and furiously told me that he was not willing to accept any complaint and grievance then after.

Luckily, I left my first employer with my one-month full salary safely. Then, the next day, the agent linked me with another employer. Here, things were not as overhead as evil, but my employer had a son who was mentally challenged and spent time in chain. He was very huge and so scary when he got ill. He had no toilet culture.

One day, I was severely knocked on my head by my employer's son and soaked with blood from my head which resulted in my fainting. I still have that scar on my head. After medication, upon my request again, I was taken to the agent for the second time. As the agent saw me there again, he got mad with my appeal to get back home. He slapped me on my face again disregarding that I was even with a bandage on my head. He rejected my demand of going home. Instead, he threatened me putting two alternatives either to pay him all the expenses he spent on my travel or to get back work. He also intimidated me by saying if I stopped working, I would be arrested due to my illegal status and the debt I owned.

Then, he took me to my employer's house back for a second time, after which I was beaten almost several times. Besides, my employers began to mistreat me thinking that I was not properly taking care of their son. I lost my appetite due to the mistreatment, overwork and lack of proper sleep. The condition was unbearable. As a result, I had developed frequent illness. After repeated visit to hospitals, my employers refused to pay my salary as a result of the medical expenditures they incurred, and forced me to continue working regardless of my pain. On the other hand, the broker who was in Hawassa kept on persuading my grandmother, pushing her to convince me to keep on working there for the sake of my child. He told her that I am planning to get back home. For which reason, he used to contact my mom with me and mom in turn used to influence me to keep on working there for some time more.

Within such circumstances, I came to feel that I was deceived when I realized the real living and working condition were utterly different from the promises given me by the broker and the real understanding. Everything became frightening to me all the time. I began to feel that my life was in danger and I might die any time. I was depressed and felt helpless and lonely as I felt there was no one

that can help and rescue me from the situation.

In the meantime, Saudi declared and insisted illegal migrants to leave country. At this point as if nothing happened, I drawn back (feared to get back home) thinking how could I have got back home with empty hands. And began working restlessly, bearing the physical assaults. That was a futile attempt at last as my employer handed me over to the police. To the worst, she denied me my salaries as a debt of the medical expenditure. After few weeks in jail, I was deported to Ethiopia.

After my return, I felt hopeless and lonely. I came back with only two thousand and two hundred birr. I sometimes feel myself the most unfortunate as I was not able to meet the expectations of my grandparent and my own. That land is a cursed land! But I tell you migration to the Middle East does mean slavery. There are many things that I do not want to mention because they are secretes of others. They play on you like animals' she concluded.

Case Study-2

A Woman Back from Work Migration in the Middle East- Saudi Arabiya, Lebanon Beirut

Case 2 is from Muslim and middle-income family still living with her parents in the Halaba Kulitio where she was born. After she had completed grade 10 with lower results, she was living with her uncle in Addis Ababa for two years before migrating. She migrated to Beirut at the age of nineteen and got back at the age of twenty-one. After one and half years stay again, she went to Dubai and returned after three years. She experienced migration two times in different countries. She said she is now twenty-seven, single and owner of two large shops. The woman was interviewed two and half years after her return.

Life History

After completing tenth grade with poor results, I could not find a job. Therefore, as promised by my cousin, I planned to go to Beirut. As to the experience of my cousin, I felt it was only migration the better opportunity to improve my life and to support my parents. My cousin told me that I would have gotten a work as a baby sitter with good salary. So, I had to get a passport and get ready to travel Beirut, I got my passport ready and started waiting for my cousin to send me air ticket and process my visa. She had promised me that I would be working as a baby sitter. So, as I recounted my direct flight, my cousin told me that someone will be waiting for me at the airport.

Upon my arrival there, I noticed that no one had shown up. After waiting for hours, I became worried and called my cousin for help. She picked up the phone and insisted me that someone would be there to pick me up. I was haunted with the thought that no one would come to pick me up. Later, a certain agent came and took me to his office without any formal process undertaken and a day after he linked me to my employer.

As soon as I arrived at my employer's house and unlike my expectations started my job which often lasted until midnights. When things were not done as perfectly as requested, my employer (the wife) would scornfully shout at me. Although I tried to work fast and finish early assuming I would have more rest, I was always given additional work to do. My employers forced me to stay all night long and serve them with food and drink. They thought that I could work like a machine that functions 24 hours. After I served for ten months, my agent in Beirut told me that my cousin had become seriously sick and was expelled back home. In addition to the work, I had at my employers, I was then forced by the agent to cover my cousin's place tentatively.

Although I started serving two employers, one of my employers refused to pay me the salaries of both homes. At that time; I realized that everything had gone wrong. I noted that I was not expecting such things to happen to me. I thought they would pay me both my cousin's and my salary together. I did not know that the agent was taking advantage of me. I did not pay attention even that I was forced to work for two employers for nothing. I was confused and did not know what to do as I realized that my employer and the agent would not help me.

I was puzzled on how to get help; I dared to disappear from my employer's home with my passport. Some night I took my passport from where she hides and managed to escape out of my employer's home and directly went to one of the nearby Ethiopian restaurants. There, I told to the restaurant owner lady all my grievances and pains tearfully. The Ethiopian woman took pity and promised me to buy a ticket and send me with one of the Arabs she is familiar with. The Arab man having noted my circumstance and to satisfy the requests of the restaurant owner explained the situation to the immigration officials at the airport and gave the officials something that I did not remind as a guarantee. It was after all these that I arrived back home. Everything was frustrating. No one would understand what kind of hardship I had gone through.

Then, after I came back home with insufficient money, I was not satisfied. I spent little I had in shopping home objects and clothing. Then, my cousin recovering from her illness encouraged me to

re-migrate to Dubai. I did think over it and agreed to. I heard from one of their friends as Dubai was a safer and better place for better payments. As a result, having a contact with one of agents with support of our friend there, we decided for the travel.

Then troubling families with credit, we went to Abu Dhabi. I had good time there. My cousin and I used to work in the same neighborhoods where we used to visit each other. Of course, our employers were very nice as compared to the previous. My employers used to pay me three thousand five hundred birr. Besides, I was additional to one of the Filipino employees so the work was not that much tough. A blessed family, after my stay there for three consecutive years, I missed my home and my family dearly. After lots of conversation with my cousin, while she has left there, I managed to get back home safely. If I cannot succeed for sure I have a plan to go back. But I do not think so here after.’

Of course, migration has good and bad sides. People mostly tell you the bad sides. But I want to say there are countries that are safe to work and the reverse as well. I cannot generalize. In fact, there are some situations where country is good, some employers are bad and countries are bad luckily that some employers are good. It depends; but I can surely tell you that there is nothing like a home land’.

Case Study-3

A Migrant Woman Back from Work Migration in the Middle East- Saudi Arabiya, Jeddah

Both her father and mother were petty traders in nearby market in Zogche Sub City, Menda Kebele. She migrated to Saudi, Jeddah at the age of twenty-six. Currently, she is thirty-one, single and working as a plastic shop owner. The interview with this respondent was conducted about two years after her return. Below you can find her Profile :(age, education level, religion, marital status, number of children & destination country), Reasons of Migration, (the role of significant others, means of livelihood, family’s situation and travel expenses), Expectations and Realities (language, culture, working situation and work relationships plus return), Challenges and benefits, (views of migration).

Life History

I am from family of eleven affiliates and I am a Muslim. I attended school until 6th grade. After that I gave up and began selling beans and potatoes in the village market with my mom. After two years, I was abducted and married to an old man in the village. He had three wives and I was the third by the

time. However, I gave him six children all in difficult conditions. Then, I came back to market to keep on selling beans and potatoes again. I tried a long way for about six years but I could not fit like before. So, to improve my life and the life my children as well as to support my mother who was working on the street as a petty trader, I thought I had to leave the country. I felt every little girl even going to Saudi and Beirut and sending money to their families. It was me who was left here. I was always thinking like that and obsessed with.

Then, I consulted the case to my mother. She hesitated while I insisted her and told her all about the rewards that I would capture. She became a little lose but she looked she was scared to miss me. Afterwards, I made a discussion with one of my closer relatives in the village. She even came to the point and decided to go with me. Next, I contacted to one of our neighbors who had a sister in Saudi. He told me all the procedure and the way to. I came to Hawassa and introduced with a broker around Piasa. The broker promised that he would get me a good job and attractive salary. I did not sleep that night. I considered that it was an opportunity that should not be missed. To process the travel, I was asked by the broker to pay 12,000 Birr in two phases. My closer relative due to the problem with the money stuffs, she got delayed. But I agreed to pay him six thousand birr first and pay the remaining eight six thousand birr from my salary. I paid the money which my parents have borrowed and got from selling both a cow and two donkeys.

After a month time I completed the passport process without any notification to my husband. Then, I gave passport to the broker. He told me to get ready travel at any time. My trip to Saudi was arranged via Yemen and there were other Ethiopian women traveling with me who had arrangements with agents as I did. After my arrival, the next day, an employer came and took me to his house without any written or verbal agreement. But I presumed that as the agent and I were discussing they might have agreed on certain conditions regarding my employment. Of course, there was language problem as well.

Case 3 says; I was not expecting such a heavy workload. And as it turned out, I noted I was not able to cope with the work and the weather condition. Few weeks later, I asked my employer to take me to the agent's office. He was a nice man that he accepted my request. However, the agent refused to send me home claiming that I owed him some money. So, he took me to a new employer. I remember that my new employer had a large family with many children but no wife. His daughters were very complaining that telling to my employer I was not fit to them, I was ugly and unattractive.

The elder daughter used to throw her eating plates to me and insult me. In bearing all these challenges, I worked for two years. As the Saudi officials warn that illegal immigrants to leave their country, I did not have a work permit. However, without suffering a lot in jail, I was deported to Ethiopia- my home land. I am the only female child for my parents. Thanks God! I have now opened my little shop with the money that I earned from my last employer. He was a good man! If I re-immigrate, I wish I could join his home. However, I do really not want that life. I say migration in general is bad. It has no respect and honor full of frustrations and stress especially when I think of the work load the daughter of my last employer.

4.7 The Driving Forces: Push and Pull Factors

In responding to the question what produces migration, migrant motivation and facilitating factors are important things to consider (CDR 2016). In this section the reasons for migration; the role of significant others, means of livelihood, family's situation and travel expenses, and other features of motivations behind migration will be treated.

The narratives of all of the informants show that all of them share similar push factors. The major push factors mentioned by the informants include absolute poverty and their ambition for economic freedom. All the informants except case- 3 among the planning migrants are living below the poverty level. Hence, economic reason or ambition to get /earn better income is the principal objective of the returnee or the planning migrant domestic workers. Out of the the women who went to the Middle East for enhanced income, one of them in case study 1 explained her condition as follows:

I was living with her parents in Halaba, Zala Fire Sub City, Wanja Kebele before migration. I am from an extended Muslim family. My parents had no income, except the monthly pension funds of my father. My drive for leaving was to improve my life and win the financial problems of my family. To this end, I travelled to Saudi at the age of twenty-seven having no know how of the language, the culture, the work aspects and back after one year.

4.7.1. Economic factors

As various writers have concluded, major causes of migration are economic (see Chapter 2). Similarly, most interviewees present economic reasons for migration. The below average economic status of the people in the district or in the country as a whole, as opposed to the economic status of the people in the Middle East can be seen as presenting the necessary differentials between the country of origin and destination preparing the economic motivations for migration. (Neo Classical-Economic Theory)

Most migrants present financial problem before migration. And most migrants have a similar economic background. As already seen very few happened to have enough money only for daily food for the family; doing different activities like selling little stuffs or being involved in ‘Gulit Nigd’ which is a small-scale marketing of vegetables.

A migrant, Fatiya, said “We are 10 in the family, only my two sisters have menial jobs. I used to prepare and sell ‘berbere’ to support the whole family. Our father is not around to help us. Whatever we get we use it in the house. Our house was very narrow. We do not have enough space to sleep whenever a guest comes. We did not even have electricity at home. That is why I am planning to leave”. Their economic status has surely been a motivation for considerable number of migrants. Most interviewees certainly had an economic push. Though it is not possible to conclude all are part of the poorest of the poor that certainly had severe financial problems.

There are also migrant returnees who are in a better economic status now as compared to their previous situations. Success stories of these migrants are a source of motivations initiating other members of the household or the society to migrate to the Middle East. In complement with, the focus group discussion showed that the majority of the migrants’ and their families’ interest towards migration was motivated by financial problems.

4.7.2. Individual freedom and power

Gamburd (2016) has clearly shown that there are other important motivations for migration that are often covered by economic reasons. In this discussion, the roles of the migrant in the household are found to be important issues to consider as causes for migration. Almost all the interviewees are found to be unemployed. These migrants are mostly helping at home and are usually supported by other members of the family. Neima says “my mother supports the family. I tried very hard to get a job but it was not possible. So, I decided to leave this country and go to wherever better payment is available.”

The focus group discussion reflections as well also showed that some migrants though they have someone to support them and cover their economic needs they still favor something of their own. They want the power over the money and they want an extended role in the family.

4.7.3. Decision making and mediators

Although migrants make decisions on their own, decisions are often influenced by mediators and structures. Various institutional and structural factors shape the decision of women to migrate. (Messo

–level Integrated Approach, Nana Oishi, 2018) But the actual decision takes place at levels ranging within the household. According to the data collected migrants tend to make decision to migrate in following major ways: decision is made by the individual migrant and the household in general, households happen to have great role in making decision over migration. Many households make the decision in initiatives with the migrant. “We talked about it together and we also made the decision together.” says Hanan, a migrant to the Middle East.

There was decision made by individual migrant themselves despite the disagreement of the household in general. In other cases, decisions are made without the agreement of the household, where migrants refuse to consider the idea of the members of the household, or totally without the knowhow of the household members. A migrant said “My family tried hard to make me stay. They were totally against it. But I refused and I went on my own decision”. Another migrant said “My family did not support me going there but I refused to listen. I said I will take my chances to go work and bring money to the family”. (Micro –level Integrated Approach, Nana Oishi, 2018)

Decision made by the household despite the disagreement of the individual migrant was rare. Some households look at the other families and force their daughter to go and work in the Middle East. Kerya is a good example of such a decision. After she graduated in high school, she had no way to learn more or have a job. But she said her brothers and cousins were tempted to force her into going by looking at change in other families. “‘what you are doing does not bring any money’ they said and forced me to go.” As shown in the new economics of migration (Chapter 2), a meso level analysis, migration decisions totally rest on the consent of the household. What is important here is whether the act of migration serves the interest of the household as a whole.

Decision by the individual migrant but with encouragement from the household, yet some households influence the decision of the migrant in different ways though they leave the decision to the migrant. This category subscribes to the thought of structuration theory where migration decision is considered as an individual choice though that it might be made by consulting members of the household. ‘At the time of my decision of migration to the Middle East, no one was discouraging me to go. My family members especially my brothers and my sisters encouraged me but my father and my mother didn’t force me to go. It actually was my decision.

There is nothing here for me, no employment. Some households make the decision to migrate together with the migrant herself. But often when the household participates in deciding whether the migrant

should migrate or not, then the expenses for travel shared within the household. (Chapter two, Household theory)

Thus, migration process must be understood in accordance to various factors initiating migration. People decide to migrate for individual and structural reasons. As discussed in chapter 2, in the discussion of structuration theory, structures social norms and values restrict behavior and create possibilities for people’s actions but people also question and challenge what the structures have presented them with.

The following table summarizes the push and pulls factors on the basis of the findings.

Table 1: The push and pull factors of women migrants in Halaba Zone

Push Factors	Pull Factors
Economic Matters	Better Payments
School Dropouts	Demand of cheap domestic labor
Unemployment	Loose emigration Structures
Families, Friends and Neighborhoods	Cheap and Accessible Transportation
External Mediators	Religion familiarity
Success of Other Migrants	And Others

Source: (Researcher’s findings, 2023)

In common, success stories of migrants as well resulted in initiating other members of the household or the society to migrate to the Middle East. The decision of most women planning for domestic work migration was affected by the success of other migrants. (Chapter two Network Theory) Tough most of the returnee migrants interviewed managed to support their families though that was not enough to change their life. As stated above, some did not appreciate their previous migration experiences, however would still consider going back for various reasons mainly due to failed expectation during their first migration.

4.8 Expectations and Realities

While making a decision to migrate, migrants often have a goal they desire to meet in the future through migration. Sometimes migration leads to the meeting of expectation or goal or even more and it all ends up with a success story. But in some situations, migrants fail to meet their expectations and possibly face undesired consequences which affect their life in a negative way. Labor migration to the Middle East is seen as bringing positive consequence to the life of migrants and their families in Ethiopia though success stories are often not talked about. And much concentration is given on the negative consequences which often come with bad stories telling the damage done on the migrant and creating a bad picture on the labor migration to the Middle East.

But obviously, migration may have both positive and negative impacts both for the migrant and country of origin. Expectations and realities can be seen from various perspectives. A migrant can be affected in a various way by migrating to the Middle East both positively and negatively. We have seen migrants failed of expectations and rarely met with. In some extreme cases, migration might claim the life of the migrant as well.

Remarks given as a reason for leaving the country and reasons indicated by the majority of the respondents are included in this subcategory: financial problem, lack of job opportunity, seeking for better opportunity to support oneself and family. In this respect, all the women in the study mentioned that when they faced financial problems and lack of job opportunities, then they were thought of migrating and mentioned these as the core factors for leaving. All women in the six cases indicted that they had plans and expectations of improving their life, support their family and were expecting things to go according to their plans. In this part, I will discuss the expectations, realities and readiness came out of the interview with migrant returnees and those planning for.

4.8.1. Settled Versus Unsettled Expectations

Migrants have different plans and goals. And often these plans and goals shape their decision to migrate. Some returnee migrants I interviewed were able to meet their expectations of ensuing their primary causes of journey; remitting families. Fatiya an ensued migrant woman said that she used to refer home to her family half of the money she got every five months. That was what she promised before her flight. She said her families living style and circumstance is totally changed. She states to herself she is lucky to meet her expectations among many that failed. Her families had now a mini bus car that her brother drives so that no worries of life like earlier. The amount of money that migrants are paid varies from 2,500 to 3,500 Birr in most cases. 2500 birr is the starting amount of salary for many

migrants though there are others who are paid a little more or a little less. Fatiya used to get 3500 Birr as many other migrants.

Correspondingly to Fatiya, Zahara was also a returnee who managed to succeed with some min-investments that is bringing visible changes in her life subsequent to her travel. “I was in the UAE. So, I used to save all my money to my capacity and when I came back here, I did not spend it all here and there for petty things. I bought a house” said Zahara who is now running cosmetics shop and a little tea room with her husband after her return from Doha. (Chapter two, the theory of development in dual economy).

On the contrary to this, not all migrants happen to find their dreams of aspiration. In this regard, the point by which the study happened to realize is that most of the migrants are from poor families. And as an outcome, the economic background of the migrants and their household are observed while determining the way the money they remit is saved or left-over. Tsehay voiced her opportunities in the Abu Dhabi did not make tangible change in her life. She said she had a dream of having own restaurant prior to UAE. Yet while she was there, she used to remit the family every two and three months as a result it took her a lot to capture her dream. She says “when you send money to poor family, things do not happen the way you plan them. Poor families just spend the money on the day-to-day activities. My brother was responsible to receive the money I used to send. But he spent it nonetheless in daily expenses.”

Gamburd (2014) in her study of Sri Lankan migrants to the Middle East, finds that migrants spend the majority of their remittance on consumption instead of investing in productive resources or commerce and in cases where families depend on remittances for daily consumption, little or nothing remained of the migrant’ wage except for what is invested on purchased goods. In the economically poor households’ remittances that find their way to the household are often used for day-to-day expenses that the household needs to pay for. This might include payment for the provision of basic necessities like food, clothing for all the family members, school payments and payment for other school facilities like uniforms.

According to Gamburd’s finding in Sri Lanka, many families turned to migration as main source of income. And therefore, money sent to the economically unstable households finds its way out through different minor expenditures and is often difficult to see a significant change. The use of the remittance money does not have wise way. And due to this unwise consumption, when the migrants come back,

they might end up getting nothing. As a result, expectations of the migrants for significant life change fail. However, in some case, it is seen that the money sent to the family from migration met for the planned purpose. As in the case of Phosia, she said “my father works real hard so my family does not expect money from me. Therefore, the money I sent was saved for me.”

A parallel finding of Gamburd (2014) shows unlike many only a few women in domestic work succeed with the attainment of their exodus expectation. The case of many Sri Lanka women migrants who left their family for economic freedom after several years of stay found themselves with nothing when they come home. This was mainly due to the fact the majority of the migrants and their families were incapable of managing the little earnings gained through hardships. Similar to the results of Gamburd, most of the migrants in the study explained as their expectations did not meet to the reality they have now.

They said they have no money now that they anticipated getting and changing their life once and for all ahead of journey. One of the other returnees by the pseudo name explained her expectations before her journey to the Middle East and after are poles apart. She puts a reason that her family did not manage to save the money that she tried to send while she was in Saudi. While this was the case, after her one year stay as she was deported due to the Saudi announcement and arrived here, she said she ended up having the same life like the one before journey.

4.8.2 Migration as Empowerment

According to the structuration theory (Chapter 2), migrants are agents of change. The fact that they decide to migrate and actually migrate, results in intended and unintended outcomes on their position within the household and the society they live. Most returnees in the study are though found economically inadequate even after their exodus. Unlike that, some were able to achieve their prospects securing the financial freedom that empowered them in their community. The result of which for the latter brought a new way of seeing things after the experience which gave them the acknowledgment of opportunities in their country.

4.9. Realities of Migration

For the large number of participants in this study, the realities in the destination countries, the manner of their employees, the working environment and setting were paradoxical to the normal and customary way of life they experience in country of origin. They said distinctive social interaction

where they used to sympathize in home land was ironic in the exodus. Aziza in this regard, a returnee from two countries of the Middle East; Bahrain and Kuwait, states, ‘All my stay in both in Bahrain and Kuwait were like a convicted prisoner; I used to spend my whole day confiscated in a single household being inferior to all. I always used to cry alone. As my employers sometimes see while I cry, they don’t mind. They even start yelling at me. Is it life so? There are lots of hardships. It is simple when you speak it but really stressful when actually you are in being out of home with unanticipated losses. Nothing was like my expectation earlier. Please, do not remind me all that shit.’ There are similar findings as well in Sri Lanka where migrants are faced with varieties of abuses as well (Gamburd 2014). Below are visible manifestations of Zeyneba’s realities in contradiction to her expectations after arrival at Doha Qatar:

I had expectations of better work life with bigger payments. Nevertheless, soon after my arrival there, there began problems of communication that I did not speak Arabic and my employers did not speak English that I used to crack even a little. So, think of it how could be there better life and better payments? I suffered a lot out of work for three weeks. Then, I secured work, there again, the food was another problem. It was some kind of food ugly. I missed ‘injera’ where could I get it? I used to spend all my stay at home. No break! No vacation! No fun, No social things! The job moreover was tough. I cook different types of meals three times a day for the whole family; I clean all the rooms including the toilet and the kitchen every hour, and I used to iron clothes. My employer had four houses in a bigger compound. So, I used to clean all the houses. My employer had four children and other extended families; granddaughters and grandsons, and they were all difficult. Each of them gives different orders to be done at a time. I used to work until 23:00 at night and wake up at 06:30 in the morning. Hmmm.... But I am strong. I shouldered all patiently for three years and six months. Amazingly, it just during those three years’ time all the children of my employer got married and culturally my employer considered me as lucky servant and decided to treat me better then on. There are many things, let it be there all. But now actually I do not feel bad about the time.’

In extreme cases, though my interviewees did not happen to be one of them, there are times when migrants return home with disabilities, and sever damage on their body. This might also extend to death.

4.10. Decisions of Migration

Different reasons contributed for the decision the women to migrate to the Middle East. Quite a

number of returnees I happened to interview consider their decision and their migration a mistake. And they claim they did not make a mature decision at the time of migration. Hanan says “when I look back now, I think it was better if I did not go. Because if you live, learn and work hard in your country, you will get what you want. Generally seen my goal was not met. I brought only little below my expectations.” She continues her regret by saying “when I see my friends who stayed here and where they are now what I got in confusion in fact to say all was a total waste. Aziza. She says, “The job is really tiresome, and horrible. But you get paid for it. Then you send money home and spend some yourself and at the end when you come back you realize it was a waste. I do not advise anyone to go.”

During the focus group discussion, the majority of the participants as well reflected that the majority of the migrants’ and their families’ expectation and the realities quite differ as the migrants got returned, as a result most come with feelings of regret upon decisions and influences. One of the residents in Kulito spoke that two of his daughters who returned from Saudi and were still the time curse their choice of hegira as a route to migration.

4.11 Key Informant Interview and FGD Data Presentation and Interpretation

The key informant interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted to collect data on a specific topic or research area. The purpose of these qualitative research methods was to gain insights and perspectives from individuals who possess relevant knowledge and experience in the subject matter. Key informants were selected based on their expertise or position in the field, while FGDs involved group discussions with a diverse range of participants. These methods aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic by capturing a variety of viewpoints and experiences.

During the key informant interviews, in-depth conversations were conducted with selected individuals using a semi-structured interview guide. The interviews were audio-recorded to ensure accurate capturing of the information shared. The key informants were asked open-ended questions that allowed them to express their thoughts, opinions, and experiences related to the research topic. The FGDs involved group discussions facilitated by a skilled moderator. The participants were encouraged to freely share their perspectives, engage in dialogue with each other, and build upon the ideas presented. The discussions were also recorded to capture the richness of the interactions.

The data collected from the key informant interviews and FGDs were transcribed and analyzed to identify key themes and patterns within the responses. The presentation of the data involved

organizing and summarizing the information in a meaningful and coherent manner. Direct quotes and vivid examples were used to illustrate the participants' viewpoints, ensuring the data's authenticity and credibility. The presentation of the data included both quantitative aspects, such as the number of participants or frequency of certain responses, as well as qualitative aspects, such as the richness of participants' narratives and the nuances of their perspectives.

The interpretation of the data involved analyzing the findings in relation to the research objectives and existing literature or theories. The themes and patterns identified were examined to draw meaningful conclusions and generate insights. The interpretations considered the context in which the data was collected, the participants' backgrounds, and the limitations or biases that may have influenced the responses. The interpretations were presented in a clear and coherent manner, highlighting the implications of the findings and their relevance to the research topic. Recommendations for further research or practical applications were also provided based on the interpretations of the data.

Overall, the key informant interviews and FGDs provided valuable qualitative data that shed light on the research topic. The data presentation and interpretation allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the perspectives and experiences shared by the participants. The insights generated from these data sources contribute to the existing knowledge base and may inform future decision-making or research endeavors in the field.

This research discussion presents an analysis of the causes and consequences of women migration from the Halaba Zone of Central Ethiopia Regional State to the Middle East based on data gathered through focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews. The aim is to explore the factors driving women's migration and examine the resulting implications, providing insights for policy development and interventions to ensure safer migration and protect women's rights.

Participants in the FGDs and interviews identified economic factors as a primary driver of women migration. Limited employment opportunities, low wages, and poverty within the Halaba Zone were cited as key factors pushing women to seek better economic prospects in the Middle East. The desire to improve their financial situation and support their families served as a strong motivation for migration.

Gender inequality emerged as another significant cause of women migration. Participants highlighted limited access to education, employment discrimination, and unequal opportunities as barriers

hindering women's socioeconomic advancement within the Halaba Zone. Migration to the Middle East was seen as an opportunity for women to overcome these challenges and achieve economic independence.

Social and cultural factors were also identified as influencing women's decision to migrate. Participants mentioned societal pressure, family expectations, and traditional gender roles as factors that shaped women's migration choices. Cultural norms that prioritized male migration or imposed restrictions on women's mobility within the community were seen as contributing to their choice to seek opportunities abroad.

FGD participants and interviewees highlighted the positive impact of women's migration on the local economy through remittances sent back to their families. These financial contributions were found to improve the living conditions of their families, stimulate local economic growth, and support community development initiatives.

Migration experiences were seen as providing opportunities for women's empowerment and skills development. Participants noted that living and working abroad exposed women to new environments, cultures, and skill acquisition. The knowledge and skills gained during their time abroad were perceived as valuable assets upon their return, enabling them to contribute to local development and empowerment initiatives.

Participants emphasized the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women migrants in the Middle East. They discussed issues such as exploitative working conditions, human rights abuses, cultural and language barriers, and limited access to social protection. Lack of awareness, inadequate pre-departure training, and insufficient support systems were identified as exacerbating these vulnerabilities, leaving women susceptible to exploitation and abuse.

The migration of women was found to impact social and family dynamics within the Halaba Zone. Participants observed that women's absence from their families disrupted traditional gender roles and responsibilities, leading to changes in family dynamics and community structures. While these changes were seen as potentially positive for gender relations and women's empowerment, they also introduced social tensions and challenges.

The causes and consequences of women migration from the Halaba Zone to the Middle East, as revealed through FGDs and interviews, highlight the interplay of economic, gender, social, and

cultural factors. While migration offers economic benefits, empowerment opportunities, and remittances, it also poses challenges and vulnerabilities for women migrants. Policymakers and stakeholders should address the root causes, provide pre-departure training, and ensure the protection of women's rights to foster safer migration and create an inclusive environment that safeguards their well-being.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This is the concluding chapter of the thesis. As aimed at the beginning of the study, women migrants to the middle East with analysis of their characteristics, the push and pull factors plus expectations and realities in terms of age, education level, religion, marital status, number of children & destination countries, reasons of migration, the role of significant others, means of livelihood, family's situation and travel expenses. In addition to reasons of migration, expectations and realities are also viewed from the perspectives of working situation and work relationships, language, culture, views of migration and moreover challenges and benefits have also been assessed at different levels have been treated in the previous chapters. In this chapter the major findings of the study are discussed. The chapter also aims at answering the research questions of the study in trying to fulfill the purpose of the study. At last, some recommendations are made for policy makers and practitioners.

5.1. SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Knowledge of the background of the women labor migrants was found to be necessary for the later explanation of the decision and act of migration and the consequence it has on. The majority of the migrants have average of junior school education and prior to migration. They check on the opportunities of employment in the country and most of them participated in low paying jobs.

Various motivations serve as driving forces for their migration. Looking at the economic and social backgrounds, migrants decide to be involved in the act of migration. There was a range of motivations that the main area where the action of mediators is visible extends from neighborhoods, family; friends level motivations to individual levels of motivation. The decision to migrate is often made in different ways based on the participants in the decision-making process. Depending on the socio-economic relationships in the household decisions are either made by migrant individuals without the consent of the household, together with the household, only by the household members without the willingness of the migrant and by the migrant and with a push from the household.

The expectations of migration had also both positive and negative consequences of its effect both on the migrant. In this regard, a few came to capture their expectations while most failed to meet. In addition to this there were several costs that include mainly the challenges and the benefits gained in the real settings.

What triggers migration? What are the pull and push factors? This study aimed at responding to the two major questions concerning the pull and push factors of migration line with the expectations and realities. The overall background of the migrants together with the external mediators adds up to give the motivations for migration. It is not possible to categorize migrants under one category of one factor. Rather, there exist various reasons for women to come for a decision of going for domestic work to the Middle East.

In the case of the target group of this study, dissatisfaction with individual income level or the household in general has been a major cause for migration. Obviously, it is the poor that mostly migrate. The poor position to make mini-investments lack initial opportunities. Therefore, the study found out that there are migrants motivated by factors that exist at the different levels in their life ranging from surrounding to individual pushes besides to destination countries open gates and demands.

As far as expectations and realities are concerned, women labor migration to the Middle East has undeniable impact on the migrant's living situation. As shown at the overhead, the expectations and realities of the migrants' situation is also overshadowed by both the positive and negative out puts of migration. In terms of met expectations, the issue of attractive salary, economic and social empowerment, contented work set and remittance is an important point considered in the success of migration. On the other hand, abuse in different forms and the use of remittance for consumption purposes, which is mostly a characteristic of economically unstable households, that result in no significant change in the life of the migrant are found as failed expectations.

Moreover, most migrants are confronted with a difficult working situation in the Middle East. The working situation of the migrant has a profound negative impact on their expectations. In extreme cases physical damage were in existence. In addition, the lack of significant change in the life after migration put many migrants in a state of regret and plan for return though they still claim they have had a positive expectation of change in their view towards their capability to change their lives.

In fact, that the experiences and life styles of all returnee and planning migrants have been discussed thoroughly based on their own stance and stand point. The finding and the discussion of this study revealed that the foremost objective of the migrants is to support their family financially and their second ambition is to fulfill their economic needs. However, according to the finding of this research, what they have intended prior to their departure and what they have gone through in the country of

destination are quite paradoxical.

In sum, there are various factors that stand in the way of the success or the failure of migration. And there are also various factors that contribute in the pull and push aspects in line with expectations and realities. Doing away with these setbacks is expected to have a much greater effect. It is also an option to strengthen the labor market with balanced payments in their area of origin so that women would prefer to stay home and work.

5.2. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study sheds light on the motivations, expectations, and realities of women labor migration to the Middle East and its consequences. The majority of women migrants had an average level of education and sought low-paying jobs in their host countries. The decision to migrate was influenced by a range of factors, including economic and social backgrounds, and involved various levels of decision-making within households.

Expectations of migration varied among the migrants, with some achieving their desired outcomes while others fell short. Positive expectations included higher salaries, economic and social empowerment, and the ability to send remittances back home. However, some migrants faced abusive working conditions and found that remittances were primarily used for consumption, leading to limited positive changes in their lives.

The working situation in the Middle East was often challenging for women migrants, with instances of physical harm and a lack of significant improvement in their overall well-being. This led to feelings of regret and a desire to return home, despite initially having positive expectations of changing their lives.

The study highlights the complex interplay of factors that contribute to the success or failure of migration. It emphasizes the need to address the push and pull factors that drive women to migrate, as well as the importance of managing expectations and ensuring better working conditions for migrants in destination countries. Creating balanced employment opportunities in their countries of origin could also provide an alternative for women to stay and work closer to their families.

In order to improve the migration experience for women, it is crucial to implement comprehensive policies that protect their rights, enhance labor market conditions, and promote economic opportunities in their home countries. By addressing the underlying factors that drive migration and providing support systems, it is possible to create a more favorable environment for women labor migrants in the Middle East and beyond.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

To effectively address the consequences of women labor migration to the Middle East, a set of recommendations has been proposed, each outlining the responsible body for implementation.

- **The District and Regional governments** should collaborate with financial institutions and NGOs to provide financial support in the form of grants or low-interest loans, empowering potential migrant women. This assistance will enable women to access the necessary funds to start their businesses or pursue entrepreneurial ventures.
- **Vocational training centers**, along with district and regional governments and NGOs, should collaborate to offer business skills training programs. These initiatives will equip potential migrant women with the necessary skills and knowledge to enhance their entrepreneurial abilities and minimize the likelihood of business failures.
- **Language training centers and NGOs** supported by District and regional governments, should prioritize providing cultural awareness and language training to migrants. This training will help women understand social norms, cultural practices, and the language spoken in their destination countries, facilitating effective communication and integration within the employee-employer relationship.
- **National governments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and international organizations** should engage in bilateral agreements with destination countries. These agreements should explicitly recognize work migrants as employees entitled to fundamental labor rights and protections. By establishing and upholding these agreements, responsible bodies can ensure freedom of movement, fair compensation, paid leave, and safeguards against exploitation or abuse for migrant women.

By elaborating on these recommendations and assigning the respective responsible bodies, a comprehensive approach can be implemented to promote safer migration and improve outcomes for women labor migrants in the Middle East. Collaboration between district and regional governments, financial institutions, vocational training centers, language training centers, NGOs, national governments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and international organizations is vital to ensure the effective implementation of these measures. Through their collective efforts, an environment can be created that upholds the rights and well-being of women labor migrants.

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Guideline

General Information for Participants

Welcoming Message: The researcher welcomes and appreciates the participant for their willingness and giving time for the study.

Introducing the purpose and topic of study:

Then, informing the participants about the purpose and topic of the study.

Guarantee of Confidentiality:

I would also like to assure you that, the information you are going to give us during the interview will be confidential.

In case of Discomfort during the Interview:

In case you feel some discomfort during the interview, you can be free to withdraw the interview.

Signing Consent Form:

Your willingness of participation in the study will be confirmed by signing the consent form of participation.

Informed Consent Form

■

For the participant:

I hereby confirm that the interviewer has informed me about the nature, conduct and purpose of the study. I have read (or have had someone read to me) the above information regarding this study, and have had enough opportunity to ask questions. I declare myself willing to participate in the study.

Name of participant: _____ Participant's signature: _____

Date: _____

■

For the Researcher:

I hereby confirm that I have informed the above participant about the nature, conduct and purpose of this study.

Interviewer's name: _____ Interviewer's signature: _____

Date: _____



Appendix I: Interview Guide for Caste Study for Returnee Women **Migrants**

This interview guide has a total of twenty questions. All the questions are open-ended, thereby allowing for participants to freely tell their stories.

Interview Guide Part I

1. Could you tell me your age, religion and which country of the Middle East you are from?
2. In what grade (education level) are you?
3. Are you married, divorced, spinster or other? If married, how many children do you have?
4. Why did you leave your country?
5. Did you have any means of livelihood before migration? If yes how much did you earn?
6. How did you find out about the chance to work in the Middle East?
7. Tell me the role of other people in your decision. (Family, Friends and Relatives)
8. How was your living situation before migration, and your current status?
9. Tell me about your family situation and means of income before and after migration?
10. How was your preparation ahead of your journey to the Middle East? Did you know the culture, the language and your work situation?
11. Tell me about your working situations and relationship with your employers.
12. Tell me the challenges and advantages you have experienced in your stay.
13. How did you manage to return home?
14. What were your expectations before you migrated? What actually did happen?
15. How were the reactions and reflections of your family and friends when you decided to move?
16. Could you tell me your views and attitude towards illegal migration?
17. Do you believe change is possible working at home?
18. Do you have a plan to return to the Middle East?
19. What is your advice to potential migrant women?
20. Can I call you if I need to ask you further questions?

Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix II: Interview Guide for Case Study for Women prosing visas for a journey to the Middle East

1. Could you tell me about yourself: your age, educational level and religion?
2. Are you married, divorced, spinster or other? If married, how many children do you have?
3. What is migration to you? What do you know about it?
4. Have you decided to migrate to the Middle East?
5. How did you come up to this decision?
6. Is there any one that encourages you? Tell me the role of other people in your decision.
7. How are the reactions and reflections of your family and friends when you decide to move?
8. Did you have any means of livelihood before migration? If yes how much did you earn?
9. How much money does the whole travel process need? Where is the source of your expenses for travel?
10. How are your arrangements ahead of your journey to the Middle East? Do you know the culture, the language and your work situation?
11. What are your expectations in place of destination?
12. Tell me the challenges and advantages that you prospect in Middle East.
13. Do you feel change is possible working at home?
14. Do you feel your decision of Migration to the Middle East is correct?
15. Can I call you if I need to ask you further questions?

Appendix III: Topic Guide for Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Selected Community Members

1. What is migration? What do you think of its good and bad sides?
2. What are the driving forces for women migration in your locality?
3. What do you think could be the roles of families, friends and community in the decision of women migrants?
4. What should be done to reduce done to reduce the extent of unskilled women migrants?
5. Do you have anything to explain, which you think is relevant to the focus group discussions?

Appendix IV: Literal Transcription of Interviews and Case Study

The transcribed interviews and Case Study is translated from English into Amharic, or the local language (which participants are comfortable speaking to).