

**CHALLENGES OF SHOE SHINERS AND THEIR OPINION TOWARDS FORMING
COOPERATIVES IN HAWASSA CITY, ETHIOPIA**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS IN
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MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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June 4, 2024

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this MA thesis is entitled '**Challenges of Shoe Shiners and Their Opinion Towards Forming Cooperatives in Hawassa City, Ethiopia**' is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university, and all sources of materials used for the thesis have been appropriately acknowledged.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

CSA	Central Statistical Agency
EEA	Ethiopia Economic Association
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
GDP	Growth and Development Program
GER	Gender Enrollment Rate
KII	Key Informant Interview
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MSEs	Micro and Small Enterprises
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Scientists
UN	United Nations

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the challenges faced by shoe shiners and their opinion on forming cooperatives in Hawassa City, Ethiopia. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach with a concurrent embedded design. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to ensure the representation of all sub-cities. The quantitative data was collected from 299 shoe shiners through structured questionnaire survey and 5-point Likert scale questionnaires. The qualitative data from 14 interviewees enriched the quantitative data. Data analysis was performed using statistical software for social sciences (SPSS-27), applying both descriptive and inferential statistics. The finding revealed significant disparities in the distribution of sex and age among sample respondents, with a noticeable dominance of young male participants, particularly in the 18–25 age brackets, which account for 74.6% of the sample. Furthermore, the educational levels among participants predominantly range from illiteracy to primary education. Factors contributing to shoe shiners' engagement in the job are working to be self-reliant, assisting their parents, having no one to support them, being forced to work by guardians, and the demand for shoe shiners. The result shows that shoe shiners have a low to moderate degree of knowledge, with a mean knowledge score of 3.18, but they have a good attitude towards creating cooperatives, with a mean attitude score of 3.59. Regression analysis showed that knowledge regarding cooperatives was a significant predictor, with a one-unit increase in knowledge associated with a 2.34 times higher likelihood of having a favorable view towards creating cooperatives. Younger shoe shiners showed higher odds ratios compared to older ones, suggesting that younger individuals were more likely to have a positive opinion of forming cooperatives. The study recommends various actions to promote cooperative formation among shoe shiners in Hawassa City, such as establishing a cooperative support center, and developing supportive policies and infrastructure to lawfully operate their businesses in the city and accessing different credit and financial services.

Key Words: Cooperatives, Hawassa City, Informal, Opinion, sector, Shoe-shiners, Socio-economic challenges

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The informal economy is a widespread and global (Breman, 2023; ILO, 2018). About 60 percent of the world population participates in the informal sector (Bonnet et al., 2019; ILO, 2018; C. Williams et al., 2019). In developing nations and rising markets, the impoverished frequently rely on informal economic activities for their subsistence. In low- and middle-income countries, the output of this economy typically makes up around one-third of the GDP (ILO, 2018; World Bank, 2018).

The informal economy is expanding in cities especially in areas where urbanization is rampant (Tshofuti et al., 2016). According to Sourou & Agossou, (2018) and Woodhill et al., (2022) it makes up more than half of all non-agricultural employment and considerably more in regions experiencing fast urbanization, such as 82% of South Asia, 66% of sub-Saharan Africa, and 65% of East and Southeast Asia. Studies further pointed out that this industry is the primary employer in sub-Saharan Africa (M. T. Ruel et al., 2017; Sourou & Agossou, 2018).

Apart from its economic significance, the informal economy is evident in other critical facets of social and human advancement (Padgham et al., 2015). This industry frequently functions as a safety net, giving underprivileged populations a means of survival and resilience against economic shocks in addition to being a source of income. In this sense, the industry supports the larger social objectives of eradicating poverty and promoting gender equality. Studies revealed that the adaptable informal economy and community-based relationships foster social cohesiveness by providing people with a sense of mutual support and belonging (Atienza, 2019; Tomich et al., 2018).

In Ethiopia, the informal sector employs 50.6% of the total urban labor force (ILO, 2018; Wossen et al., 2019). Research has demonstrated that young people are more likely to work for pay in a variety of jobs, such as small-scale trading, roadside coffee shops, and providing wage labor for jobs like construction and shoe shining (Erulkar & Mekbib, 2007). Particularly, the shoe-shining sector is quite important to Ethiopia's informal economy and provides a job for a large number of young people living in the country's cities (Mamo, 2020).

Even-though the informal sector has multi-dimensional contributions, the findings from research show that acquiring correct statistical data is problematic due to its unregistered and diversified character in Ethiopia (Yimam et al., 2023). This sector's covert operations and various activities make it challenging to trace through standard methods, resulting in gaps in knowing its complete contributions. The policy creation and implementation are being impacted by the difficulty in data gathering and this demonstrates the necessity for comprehensive research methodologies that integrate quantitative and qualitative methods (Tamirat & Nega, 2015). Workers in the informal sector also confront many obstacles, including limited access to financial services, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of legal protection. They generally operate under inappropriate conditions with poor earnings, hard hours, and minimal social security. Moreover, they also confront stigma and discrimination, as their contribution is typically underestimated or neglected. These difficulties make it difficult for them to maintain their economic stability and overall well-being, which highlights the necessity of implementing tailored interventions and support measures (Ferejo et al., 2018).

In Ethiopia, and more especially in Hawassa, attempts have been made to address problems such as irregular revenue, little knowledge of formalization programs, and obstacles to financial services (Alemu, 2017). For instance, the study highlighted the government's initiatives to enhance financial inclusion and access to formal financial services for informal workers. Similarly, according to (Yimam et al., 2023) there have been programs aimed at improving the business environment for informal enterprises, including efforts to streamline registration processes and provide training on formalization. These efforts align with broader national strategies to promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty by integrating informal workers into the formal economy (World Bank, 2018).

To this end, the cooperative concept has emerged as a potent tactic for addressing the complex issues those individuals in the unorganized sector face (Kruss, 2020). Cooperatives, which are collective businesses run and owned by their members, offer a workable framework that enables people to start joint operations. Within cooperatives, the participants can combine their resources and utilize common knowledge that can improve their inclusivity and economic resilience (Lorato et al., 2023a; Reinders et al., 2019). Cooperatives thought as a solution for challenges in the informal sector is supported by various researchers. The role of cooperatives in improving access to markets and resources for the informal sector in

Ethiopia is highlighted by different studies (Anania et al., 2017; Sisay, 2017; Wanyama, 2016). Similarly, Anania & Sambuo, (2018) discussed how cooperatives can enhance financial inclusion and provide a safety net for vulnerable workers. The findings from different studies also suggest that cooperatives can indeed address issues of the informal sector in general and the shoe-shining sector in specific.

Several factors contribute to the significance of the current research, which aims to investigate the difficulties encountered by shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia, as well as their attitudes toward the formation of cooperatives (Demisew & Degefu. 2018). It is expected to close the knowledge gap regarding the informal economy, one of the areas that are often understudied in developing nations. One may get insights into the more general challenges faced by workers in the informal sector by learning about the issues faced by shoe shiners, who are an integral element of this industry. Secondly, by evaluating their mindset towards forming cooperatives, the study offers a potential solution to these difficulties. The provision of workers in the informal sector with collective bargaining power, access to resources, and chances for skill development and capacity building has been recognized as a manner of contributing to the empowerment of these workers through the establishment of cooperatives (Degefu, 2018; Zeweld et al., n.d.).

As a result, this study is believed to have the potential to provide policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners with information regarding the issues faced by informal workers, specifically, shoe shiners in Hawassa City. This, in turn, will contribute to economic development strategies that are more inclusive and sustainable.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In Ethiopia, urban centers are suffering a great deal of stress due to the country's rising urbanization and rural-urban migration. Studies reveal that, as a result of rural-urban migration in Ethiopia, the unemployment rate is rising in towns and urban centers (Demisew & Degefu, 2018). As one of the fastest growing urban areas and the majority of the people are youthful, Hawassa City is facing a high unemployment rate. There are 48,864 jobless people in the city of Hawassa overall, and 51.55% of them are women (Lorato et al., 2023b). Many young people are turning to the informal sector in search of work since the official sector is unable to accommodate their rising population, despite efforts to address the problem of unemployment.

The informal economy is becoming a major source of employment and income for a large number of individuals in Hawassa City. Despite this, the sector has many obstacles, including insufficient operational capital, deficient infrastructure, limited market accessibility, and a scarcity of staff and technical assistance (Degefu, 2018). Additionally, the lack of formal training, funding, new technology, structured markets, and government services presents challenges for people employed in the unorganized sector (Lorato et al., 2023b). They usually work in transitory or informal settings, such as home-based businesses, street sellers, and little stores. In addition, they are at risk of being evicted by municipal authorities and do not have access to bank funding (Zeweld et al., n.d.).

The literature on the informal sector in Ethiopia, including the shoe-shining sector, exhibits several notable gaps and limitations. Firstly, many studies present a general picture of the informal sector without digging into the specific characteristics and challenges of unique sectors, such as shoe shining (Alemu, 2017). This absence of sector-specific analysis reduces an in-depth understanding of the unique changes within each sector. Second, there is a dearth of reliable statistical information on Ethiopia's informal economy, which makes it difficult to assess the sector's size, economic output, and effect on livelihoods (Yimam et al., 2023). Without reliable data, policymakers and academics confront difficulty in designing effective plans and responses. Thirdly, while some studies acknowledge the informal sector's significance in revenue generation and poverty reduction, there is minimal study on how the sector helps to improve livelihoods, especially in urban centers like Hawassa. Understanding these processes is critical for devising specific strategies that maximize the sector's positive outcomes (Fenta Kebede et al., 2015).

Moreover, studies generally focus on the macro-level consequences of the informal sector, overlooking the day-to-day issues encountered by informal workers (Dejene, 2018). Addressing these micro-level difficulties is vital for improving the working conditions and livelihoods of informal laborers. Additionally, there is a need for greater investigation into the informal sector activities, including the effectiveness of existing policies and the need for new measures to support informal workers (Tekle, 2021a). Understanding the policy landscape is crucial for implementing equitable and sustainable economic policies. Addressing these gaps requires thorough study that goes beyond assumptions about the informal sector. Future studies should use a sector-specific strategy, incorporate reliable data collection methods, and focus on the micro-level dynamics of informal sector activities to

give practical insights to policymakers and practitioners (Lorato et al., 2023a; Mengistu et al., 2020).

According to some unpublished journals and observations, youth migrants from rural areas to Hawassa city in quest of better economic opportunities and a better way of life have faced potential risks, exposing them to a variety of vulnerabilities. Particularly youth shoe-shiners who are undertaking shoe-shinning activity in Hawassa City challenged with problem related to survival and livelihood conditions. Furthermore, they are affected by a lack of recognition and are often prohibited by the Hawassa City municipality from conducting their day-to-day shoe polishing business in public places and on roadways. In general, most of the sector workers were most influenced by access to the safety net, social programs, credit, and other financial services to sustain in their business.

Hence, based on the gaps indicated in the literature, this study attempts to evaluate the issues faced by shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia, and their opinions towards joining cooperative groups. The study is driven by the need to fill the gap in sector-specific research within the informal economy, specifically focused on the shoe-shining sector, which has received scant attention in prior studies.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to assess the challenges of shoe shiners and their opinion towards forming cooperatives in Hawassa City, Ethiopia.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were:

- i. To trace out the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia.
- ii. To assess reasons for engaging in shoe shining business in Hawassa City, Ethiopia
- iii. To examine the challenges of shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia.
- iv. To evaluate the knowledge of shoe-shiners about cooperatives.
- v. To examine the opinion of shoe-shiners towards forming cooperatives.

1.4 Research Questions

The following are basic research questions guided the study:

- i. What are the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia?
- ii. What are the reasons behind shoe shiners engaging in shoe shining job in Hawassa City, Ethiopia?
- iii. What are the challenges of shoe-shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia?
- iv. What is the level of knowledge among shoe-shiners regarding cooperatives?
- iv. What are the opinions of shoe-shiners regarding the formation of cooperatives?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research gives unique insights into the shoe-shining industry in Hawassa City, Ethiopia, a section of the informal economy that has been understudied. It focuses on the specific obstacles encountered by shoe shiners and their perspectives on building cooperative alliances. This sector-specific study is vital for establishing tailored interventions and policies to enhance the lives of informal workers. The research also adds to the literature on the function of cooperatives in the informal sector by studying shoe shiners' attitudes about creating cooperative groups. This knowledge may impact the formulation of policies that support and empower informal workers, leading to more inclusive and sustainable economic development techniques.

Practitioners and development organizations may utilize the data to create tailored interventions. Training and capacity-building assistance may help improve their livelihoods and access to vital services. The study's sector-specific examination of the shoe shining industry gives a better understanding of the dynamics within the sector, underscoring the significance of such research in studying the informal economy more generally. The research seeks to empower these people and boost their working conditions and lives. This research may go beyond academic relevance to have real-world issues for policy, practice, and the lives of informal workers in Hawassa City and comparable scenarios.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study's focus was on evaluating the difficulties experienced by shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia, as well as their attitudes on creating cooperatives. Geographically, Tabor, Menehariya,, Misrak and Haikdar Kifle-ketema were the four distinct sub-cities under Hawassa City Administration that were the subject of the study. These sub-cities were chosen because of the high concentration of shoe shiners and their significance to the city's unofficial economy. Conceptually, the study was limited to challenges of shoe shiners and their opinion to form cooperatives.

In terms of methodology, the study collected data using a mixed research techniques approach. This used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a thorough grasp of the difficulties shoe shiners confront and how they feel about starting cooperatives. Furthermore, the research took into account the wider socioeconomic background of Hawassa City and the Sidama Region in order to provide a thorough examination of the difficulties encountered by shoe shiners.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

There were some issues with the research that might affect the conclusions and results. First of all, there were few previous studies that were specifically related to the subject of the research, especially when it came to the difficulties experienced by shoe shiners and their attitudes about creating cooperatives in Hawassa City. This restriction limited the amount of material that was already available for a thorough literature study and the creation of theoretical frameworks.

Second, the study's analysis lacked depth and breadth due to restricted access to pertinent secondary data. The study's capacity to appropriately interpret its results within the existing research environment was further limited by the scarcity of recent literature in the field. In addition, time and budget limitations restricted the study's sample size and geographic reach.

Regardless these limitations, the investigator tried to mitigate them by using a mixed techniques approach to gather extensive and detailed data. The study also used triangulation of data sources and procedures to increase the validity and reliability of the findings.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study was organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, the delimitations, limitation and operational definition of terms. The second chapter presents a review of relevant and related literatures. Chapter three focuses on research design and methodology including the sources of data, the study population, sample size and sampling technique, procedures of data collection, data gathering tools, validity, reliability, method of data analysis and ethical consideration. The fourth chapter is about data analysis and interpretation and finally, chapter five presents about summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Definition of the Informal Economy

There is no single definition that is commonly accepted for the informal economy since it is a complex and diverse phenomenon. Generally speaking, however, it refers to commercial endeavors that are not subject to government protection or regulation. These operations are defined by their unregistered nature, small size, and dependence on low-skilled labor (ILO, 2018). They also often operate outside of official legal systems. A broad variety of occupations are included in the concept of the informal economy, such as collecting trash, street selling, housework, and small-scale business ownership. These pursuits are often distinguished by their adaptability, flexibility, and strength in the face of financial difficulties (Chen & Alter, 2012).

The informal economy has a long history and has existed in many forms in a variety of countries and eras. Its roots lie in the colonial and post-colonial economic institutions that restricted certain groups' access to formal economic possibilities and excluded others in emerging nations (ILO, 2018). Urbanization, technology developments, and globalization have all influenced the modern informal sector. These elements have contributed to the growth of the informal sector, especially in cities where it often provides disadvantaged persons with a stable source of work and income (M. A. Chen & Alter, 2012b). The nature and relevance of this sector have been a matter of debate among academics and policymakers. While some consider it as a source of vulnerability and exploitation, others see it as a source of entrepreneurship and creativity. Opponents contend that since workers in the informal sector are not able to receive social security benefits and formal labor safeguards, poverty and inequality are perpetuated (Elder et al., 2016a; Palmer, 2017)

On the other hand, many who support the informal sector contend that it serves communities who would not otherwise get necessary products and services. They also draw attention to the tenacity and inventiveness of informal laborers, who often show exceptional resourcefulness in overcoming financial difficulties (M. A. Chen & Alter, 2012b)

Varied views of the informal economy have given birth to varied judgments regarding its nature and relevance. Although perspectives differ, the general agreement among experts and

decision-makers is that the informal sector is a complicated and crucial component of many economies, particularly those in developing countries. The dominant perspective underlines how many individuals globally, particularly in developing countries, depend on the informal sector as their principal source of income. This position claims that people who would not have had as much access to formal employment due of factors like discrimination, education, or skill sets, could find job and income possibilities in the informal sector (Chen, 2012).

Furthermore, it is considered that the informal economy plays a key role in addressing the needs of communities, especially those in urban regions, by delivering items and services that the formal sector is unable to (ILO, 2018). This approach respects the persistence and spirit of entrepreneurship of informal workers, who frequently display inventiveness and flexibility in their economic pursuits (Chen, 2012). This viewpoint is prevalent owing to a variety of characteristics. First off, empirical evidence reveals that the informal sector contributes considerably to job creation, income generation, and economic growth in many countries (ILO, 2015). Furthermore, because of the complicated and diverse structure of informal activities as well as the socioeconomic circumstances that impact people's involvement in the informal economy, efforts to formalize it has frequently faced problems (Stuart et al., 2018). Studies suggest that, rather than seeking to destroy the informal sector, the prevalent stance underlines the necessity of policies and actions that support and manage it. This policy tries to address issues of exploitation, vulnerability, and informality while also emphasizing the relevance of the informal sector in maintaining livelihoods and serving the needs of disadvantaged people (ILO, 2015).

2.2 Criteria for Defining the Informal Economy

The criteria for labeling an economy as informal are many and vary across various circumstances and nations. However, some essential traits are widely utilized to characterize the informal sector. Firstly, the absence of official registration and regulation is a distinguishing aspect. Informal economic activities are generally unregistered with government agencies and operate outside the legal system. This may include enterprises that do not comply with labor rules, tax restrictions, or licensing requirements (ILO, 2015). Secondly, these activities are often defined by their dependence on human talents and resources rather than traditional commercial organizations. Workers in the informal sector frequently operate autonomously, without official contracts or defined working hours. This flexibility and autonomy are recognized as fundamental elements of informal economic

activity (Chen, 2015). Additionally, the industry is generally identified by its omission from official statistics and national accounts. This implies that the contributions of informal economic activities to the general economy are not completely recorded, leading to an underestimating of their size (ILO, 2018).

While these criteria are relevant for recognizing the informal sector, it is vital to remember that the idea differ greatly among nations. The criteria may be implemented differently dependent on the country's degree of development, legal system, and cultural setting. For example, in various nations, informal economic activities are more common and socially acceptable, leading to differing criteria for categorization (Bonnet et al., 2019b). Moreover, the borders between the informal and formal economy are not always clear-cut, and there are gray regions where economic activity reflect traits of both. This complexity underscores the necessity for a deep knowledge of the informal sector that takes into consideration the distinctive environment and dynamics of each nation (Chen, 2012). This illustrates that the criteria for designating an economy as informal are varied and context-dependent. While some features such as absence of official registration and dependence on personal talents are often employed, the implementation of these criteria might differ among nations. Understanding the informal sector needs a detailed examination that examines the particular socio-economic circumstances and legal framework of each country.

Ethiopia defines the informal sector based on numerous characteristics that reflect its distinct socio-economic setting (Berhanu et al., 2022). The Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia defines the informal sector as containing all economic operations that are not legally registered and do not keep regular accounting records. This definition stresses the absence of official registration as a crucial condition for defining economic activity as informal (CAS, 2019). One of the reasons for this definition is to capture the considerable amount of the Ethiopian economy that works outside the official sector. Ethiopia has a big informal economy, with a high number of individuals involved in informal economic activities. By categorizing the informal sector based on registration status, the government intends to better understand the dynamics of this sector and establish policies to help informal workers (World Bank, 2020).

Additionally, the term reflects the barriers experienced by informal workers in reaching formal job prospects. Many persons in Ethiopia participate in informal economic activities owing to limited formal work possibilities, lack of education or skills, or other hurdles to

official employment. Recognizing these issues, the government defines the informal sector to recognize the contributions of informal workers to the economy and provide them with assistance (CSA, 2019).

2.3 Shoe Shining as the Informal Economic Sector

Shoe shining in the context of the informal economy refers to a popular practice where people provide shoe cleaning and maintenance services for a charge. This behavior often takes place in public locations such as streets, markets, or transit hubs. Unlike established enterprises, shoe polishing in the informal sector works without official registration, regulation, or legal recognition. Instead, it focuses on the personal abilities and resources of the persons engaged. This informal character separates shoe shining from official corporate structures, underscoring its importance as a flexible and adaptable source of income for many (Chen, 2012).

The designation of shoe polishing as part of the informal sector arises from its features and operating structure. Shoe shiners frequently operate individually, without official contracts or defined working hours. They may lack access to social security or other benefits connected with formal work. This categorization underlines the informal character of shoe shining and its significance as a livelihood strategy for persons seeking economic possibilities outside the official sector (ILO, 2018). Shoe polishing is a prevalent informal economic activity that involves a substantial number of individuals internationally. Particularly in urban areas, shoe shining provides as an important source of income for persons facing challenges to official work, such as low education or skills. Often, shoe polishing is a multi-generational vocation, handed down within families or taken up as a means of survival under hard economic situations. This practice illustrates the resilience and flexibility of people in handling economic challenges (M. A. Chen & Alter, 2012a).

In Ethiopia, shoe polishing is prominent due to cultural and economic causes. Increasing urbanization and limited official work possibilities drive people to participate in informal enterprises like shoe polishing for subsistence. In Hawassa City, the increase of tourism and the presence of institutions and different government offices generate a need for shoe shining services. The city's prominence as a regional commercial center and its diversified population further contribute to the strength of the informal economy, particularly the shoe shining

industry. These variables underline the relevance of shoe shining as a livelihood option in urban Ethiopian environments (ILO, 2015; ILO, 2018).

2.4 Factors Contributing to Youth Engagement in the Informal Sector

Factors leading to youth participation in the informal economy, including shoe shining occupations, are complex. These variables are explored in the following sections.

2.4.1. Economic Factors

Economic reasons are major drivers of youth participation in the informal sector, impacting the decision-making processes of young people seeking work prospects. One significant economic aspect is the restricted availability of formal work opportunities, especially in developing nations. High levels of unemployment and underemployment force many young people to seek alternate paths for earning a livelihood, driving them to the informal sector (ILO, 2019).

Additionally, the informal sector frequently provides fewer hurdles to entrance compared to the official sector, making it more accessible to young individuals with inadequate education or skills. This is especially crucial in nations where official education systems may not effectively educate youngsters for the job market, driving them to seek possibilities in the informal sector (Chen, 2012). Moreover, the instant revenue creation potential of the informal sector is enticing to youngsters suffering economic challenges. The informal sector offers a mechanism for young people to earn money rapidly, which may be vital for covering basic requirements such as food, housing, and education (Zeweld et al., 2018). This component of the informal sector is particularly enticing to young people who may not have the luxury of waiting for long-term, formal work possibilities to arise.

However, although economic incentives promote young involvement in the informal sector, they also reflect wider structural difficulties within the economy. The frequency of informal work might be symptomatic of a lack of formal job creation, poor social protection systems, and restricted access to education and training possibilities for young people (ILO, 2018). Addressing these underlying economic difficulties is vital for building more equitable and durable routes to decent jobs for youngsters.

2.4. 2 Social Factors

Social variables also play a key role in shaping young participation in the informal economy. One significant social component is the effect of family and community networks. In many cultures, informal sector activities are handed down through generations, with families and communities offering support and direction to young individuals pursuing these jobs (Vanek, 2020). This social support may make informal sector job more desirable and accessible to kids, since they may get training, resources, and opportunities via these networks. Additionally, societal norms and cultural practices might impact young people's impressions about informal sector jobs. In certain communities, some jobs within the informal sector may be perceived as more socially acceptable or prestigious than others, impacting young people's propensity to participate in these activities (UNFF et al., 2019). These societal norms might impact young people's hopes and expectations for their future career prospects, influencing their decision to choose informal sector jobs.

Furthermore, the impression of employment stability and rewards in the informal sector might be a key social element encouraging young involvement. While informal sector occupations may provide immediate income possibilities, they generally lack work stability, social safety, and access to benefits such as health insurance and retirement plans (ILO, 2018). Despite these limitations, the apparent flexibility and autonomy of informal sector labor might be enticing to young people wanting more control over their work life (Chen, 2012).

Overall, social variables such as family and community networks, social norms, and opinions of employment stability and perks may considerably impact young involvement in the informal sector. Understanding these social dynamics is vital for policymakers and practitioners attempting to promote good job possibilities for young people and solve the obstacles they experience in the labor market.

2.4.3 Educational Factors

Educational considerations have a major influence in determining young participation in the informal economy. Limited access to education and vocational training may greatly impair young people's capacity to acquire formal work, prompting many to resort to the informal sector for livelihood options (ILO, 2019). In many developing nations, educational institutions may not effectively educate youngsters for the job market, leaving them with few

alternatives outside of the informal sector (Chen, 2012). Furthermore, the applicability of formal education to work market needs might impact young people's judgments about their professional pathways. In other circumstances, young people may think that the skills they obtain via formal schooling do not fit with the needs of the labor market, prompting them to seek alternate routes in the informal sector (ILO, 2018). This mismatch between education and work needs might prolong the cycle of young participation in the informal sector.

Additionally, the skills mismatch may be worsened by variables such as fast technology breakthroughs and changes in market expectations. Young people who lack access to up-to-date skills training may find it tough to compete for formal work possibilities, causing them to explore informal sector occupations where formal schooling is less of a prerequisite (Rob et al., 2019). Moreover, the quality of schooling might significantly impact young involvement in the informal sector. Inadequate education systems that fail to equip young people with the required skills and knowledge for meaningful work may lead to high levels of youth underemployment and informal sector participation (ILO, 2019). Addressing these educational elements is vital for developing routes to decent jobs for young people and ending the cycle of poverty and informality.

2.4.4 Policy and Regulatory Factors

Policy and regulatory issues have a crucial influence in determining youth involvement in the informal economy. The absence of enforcement of labor rules in the informal sector is a crucial policy aspect that impacts young people's choices to seek work in this sector. In many countries, informal sector workers not get the same legal protections and benefits as formal sector workers, prompting young people to consider informal sector labor as a less dangerous alternative (ILO, 2018). Government actions that limit official work options might also lead young people into the informal economy. Factors such as restrictive labor regulations, high taxes and fees for formal firms, and restricted access to credit and financial services might create hurdles to formal employment, driving young people towards informal sector activities where such barriers may be lower (Bank, 2020).

Furthermore, the absence of assistance for informal workers to transfer to the formal sector might contribute to the persistence of informality among young people. Policies that offer incentives for formalization, such as access to social security benefits, training programs, and financial assistance, may help young people make the shift to formal work (ILO, 2019).

However, although legislative and regulatory variables might encourage youth involvement in the informal sector, they can also be utilized to create good job possibilities for young people. Policies that encourage entrepreneurship give access to education and skills training, and assist the creation of formal sector jobs may help decrease young informality (ILO, 2018).

2.4.5 Psychological and Sociological Factors

Psychological and social variables play a major influence in influencing youth participation in the informal sector. These elements cover a broad variety of effects, including individual motives, societal conventions, and cultural customs. Psychological variables relate to the internal motives and beliefs that drive individual behavior. One significant psychological component encouraging young participation in the informal sector is the desire for autonomy and independence. Many young people cherish the flexibility to make their own choices and govern their own work life, which the informal sector typically gives (M. Chen, 2014). This need for autonomy might cause young individuals to choose informal sector job over formal employment, where they may have less control over their work environment and schedule. Additionally, the impression of social status and identity associated with informal sector job might be a key psychological component driving young involvement.

In certain communities, some informal sector jobs may be considered as more prestigious or socially acceptable than others (Elder et al., 2015). This view might impact young people's hopes and expectations for their future career pathways, influencing their decision to choose informal sector jobs. However, although these psychological variables might stimulate young involvement in the informal sector, they can also bring obstacles. For example, the absence of job stability and benefits associated with informal sector labor may contribute to stress and worry among young people, harming their mental well-being (ILO, 2018). Moreover, the stigma associated with informal sector job might damage young people's self-esteem and social integration, leading to sentiments of marginalization (Palmer, 2017)

Sociological factors, on the other hand, relate to the external influences from society and the surrounding environment that determine individual behavior. One significant sociological aspect affecting youth involvement in the informal sector is the impact of peers and role models. Young people are typically impacted by their friends and role models, who may be involved in informal sector activities (D. Research, 2014). This impact may alter young

people's opinions of the informal sector and influence their choice to seek informal sector work.

Additionally, societal norms and cultural practices may have a substantial impact in determining young participation in the informal sector. In many communities, informal sector activities are strongly established in the cultural and social fabric, with particular jobs being handed down through generations (Igwe et al., 2018). This societal acceptability of informal labor effects young people's views and attitudes towards informal sector employment. However, although social factors might stimulate young involvement in the informal sector, they can also create difficulties. For example, young people from marginalized or poor groups may encounter social stigma and prejudice, restricting their access to formal work prospects (ILO, 2019). Moreover, the absence of social protection and assistance for informal sector workers may worsen social disparities and prolong cycles of poverty (ILO, 2018).

2.4.6 Geographical and Environmental Factors

Geographical and environmental variables also have a key impact in shaping youth participation in the informal sector. These variables involve a broad variety of effects, including geography, urbanization, economic circumstances, and market demand for informal sector services. Understanding these characteristics is critical for policymakers and practitioners attempting to reduce youth unemployment and enhance young livelihoods. One significant geographical element impacting youth involvement in the informal sector is location and accessibility to informal economic activity. In metropolitan settings, informal sector activities are generally concentrated in certain places, such as street markets, transit hubs, and commercial districts (Toit et al., 2017). Young individuals living in these locations more likely to participate in informal sector labor owing to the closeness of possibilities and the impact of their surroundings.

Moreover, urbanization and migration trends significantly impact young involvement in the informal economy. As more young people travel to metropolitan regions in pursuit of better possibilities, they may find themselves lured to the informal sector owing to the lack of official work options or the high cost of living in urban centers (ILO, 2019). These factors further promote the rise of the informal sector in metropolitan areas, producing both obstacles and possibilities for young people. Economic circumstances and market demand for informal sector services are also major elements affecting youth involvement. In many circumstances,

young people may be lured to the informal sector because of the need for specific items or services in their local market (Chen, 2012). For example, in locations with a large concentration of visitors, there may be a considerable demand for services such as street selling or shoe polishing, generating chances for young people to participate in these activities.

2.5 Challenges Faced by Shoe Shiners

Challenges confronted by informal sector, particularly shoe shiners, are diverse and may considerably harm their livelihoods. These problems are discussed in the following sections.

2.5.1 Access to Resources

Access to resources is a critical difficulty experienced by informal workers, especially shoe shiners, and severely affects their capacity to retain their livelihoods and improve their working situations. Participants in this sector always operate in highly competitive settings with fewer profit margins, making it difficult for workers to create a stable income (Chen, 2012). Shoe shiners, for example, experience fluctuations in demand based on variables such as weather conditions, economic cycles, and seasonal changes, which may impact their earnings. Moreover, they often lack access to standard financial services, such as loans and savings accounts. These challenges impede their capacity to invest in their organization, acquire new equipment, and expand their actions.

Additionally, informal enterprises incur impediments to accessing legitimate markets and distribution channels, which may further limit their development and profitability (ILO, 2018). Furthermore, informal enterprises sometimes operate without legal registration or protection, exposing them to hazards such as exploitation, harassment, and arbitrary eviction. For example, shoe shiners face challenges in negotiating suitable price for their services or may be subject to arbitrary regulations that limit their capacity to act freely (Kraemer-Mbula & Wunsch-Vincent, 2016). These economic constraints hinder the development and sustainability of informal firms and contribute to the cycle of poverty and informality.

Despite the significance of recognizing these economic difficulties, there are huge gaps in the study that motivate additional exploration. Firstly, there is a need for more extensive research to examine the distinctive income dynamics of informal firms, including the factors that lead to revenue unpredictability and techniques for boosting income stability. Secondly, there is a lack of study on the financial habits and demands of informal enterprises, such as their use of savings and credit mechanisms and their preferences for financial services. Additionally,

there is a need for greater study on the influence of economic policies and interventions on informal companies, specifically the effectiveness of measures meant at strengthening their economic standing (ILO, 2019).

2.5.2 Social and Legal Issues

Working circumstances for informal workers, especially shoe shiners, are typically challenging and have substantial repercussions for their well-being and livelihoods. One of the biggest challenges is the lengthy and unpredictable hours that informal laborers generally suffer. Shoe shiners, for example, work long hours each day, generally in poor weather situations, to earn a respectable salary (ILO, 2018). These extended hours may lead to physical and mental tiredness, hurting their health and quality of life. Additionally, informal laborers generally lack access to basic utilities and infrastructure, such as clean water, sanitary facilities, and housing. This lack of access may further exacerbate the barriers of working in the informal sector, especially for those engaged in outside professions like shoe cleaning (Chen, 2005). Moreover, informal laborers experience restricted access to healthcare services, placing them at heightened risk of disease and harm.

Furthermore, informal laborers, including shoe shiners, generally lack job security and social protection. They have no access to benefits like as health insurance, sick leave, or retirement plans, leaving them subject to financial shocks and crises (ILO, 2019). Additionally, informal workers experience discrimination and stigma in society, further marginalizing them and reducing their access to support networks and resources (Tomich et al., 2019).

2.5.3 Health and Safety Risks

Health and safety issues are among significant challenge for informal workers that may have an impact on their quality of life and well-being. They are exposed to a variety of health and safety risks at work including harmful chemicals that affect their well-being and ability to perform. These chemical substances may pose serious health risks if they are not treated appropriately (ILO, 2018). In addition to chemical contact, shoe shiners experience physical strain from long hours of standing and repetitive movement.

The nature of shoe shining job requires them to bend, kneel, and utilize manual equipment for lengthy periods, which may lead to musculoskeletal disorders and other physical diseases (Igwe et al., 2018). Moreover, shoe shiners generally operate in outdoor settings, exposing them to adverse weather conditions such as heat, cold, and rain, which may further impair

their health and well-being. These health and safety hazards have significant consequences for shoe shiners, including accidents, diseases, and impairments that may stop them from working and earning a livelihood. For example, exposure to toxic chemicals may cause skin irritation, respiratory troubles, and other health concerns, while physical strain may lead to back discomfort, joint problems, and other musculoskeletal diseases (ILO, 2018).

Despite the significance of addressing these health and safety problems, there are considerable gaps like shortage of recent research to study the particular health and safety difficulties encountered by shoe shiners and the effect of these dangers on their well-being and capacity to operate. Additionally, there is a need for further inquiry on the experiences of shoe shiners with disabilities and the problems they meet in receiving health and safety measures (ILO, 2019).

2.5.4 Limited Access to Education and Skills Development

Limited access to education and skills development is a major difficulty encountered by informal workers, including shoe shiners and hinders their capacity to enhance their abilities, increase their earning potential, and access formal career opportunities. Shoe shiners, like many other informal laborers, frequently have insufficient formal education, which might restrict their capacity to access education and skills development opportunities (Chen, 2012). One of the greatest hurdles to education and skills development for shoe shiners is the expense. Many shoe shiners are unable to pay their school expenses and are from families with low incomes. Their lengthy work hours additionally hinder them from attending courses or engage in training programs (ILO, 2018).

Moreover, shoe shiners experience social and cultural barriers to education and skills development. In many regions, there is gender or caste-based discrimination that restricts access to education and training for particular groups of shoe shiners. Additionally, shoe shiners confront stigma or unfavorable opinions connected with formal schooling, which might prevent persons from seeking higher education or skills development opportunities (Kraemer-Mbula & Wunsch-Vincent, 2016). Despite these constraints, there are several efforts focused at increasing access to education and skills development for informal laborers, including shoe shiners. For example, various governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have launched vocational training programs specifically directed at

informal workers, supplying them with the skills they need to enhance their lives and acquire formal job prospects (ILO, 2019).

2.6 The Role of Cooperatives in Addressing Challenges Faced by Informal Workers

The informal sector, covering a broad diversity of economic activity outside established legal systems, is a substantial contributor to livelihoods in many developing nations. Among these tasks, shoe polishing stands out as a frequent vocation, particularly in metropolitan areas. Despite its popularity, shoe polishing, like other informal jobs, is generally characterized by poor salaries, lack of job security, and restricted access to social safety. In Hawassa, Ethiopia, where increasing urbanization has led to a growth in informal economic activities, including shoe polishing, the obstacles encountered by informal workers are especially visible.

Cooperatives have emerged as a viable way to address these difficulties by offering a platform for informal workers to organize themselves, access financial services, and strengthen their collective bargaining power. By combining their resources and abilities, informal workers, including shoe shiners, may enhance their economic and social well-being. One significant advantage of cooperatives for informal workers is access to financial services. Informal workers frequently struggle to obtain credit, savings, and insurance services via established financial institutions. Cooperatives may provide a viable alternative by delivering these services to its members. For shoe shiners in Hawassa, access to finance might allow them to invest in better equipment and supplies, eventually boosting the quality of their services and raising their revenue (ILO, 2018,).

Moreover, cooperatives may offer social support and a feeling of belonging for informal workers. In Hawassa, where many shoe shiners operate individually, establishing a cooperative might provide them a supportive environment and access to social services like as healthcare and education. This social integration may enhance the mental health and well-being of shoe shiners, who may otherwise feel alienated or stigmatized (CAS, 2019; Melka et al., 2023). Additionally, cooperatives may provide training and skills development opportunities for informal workers. In Hawassa, where access to formal education and training programs are restricted, cooperatives may offer a platform for shoe shiners to acquire new skills and enhance their production. By engaging in cooperative training programs, shoe

shiners may better their competitiveness in the market and raise their earning potential (ILO, 2019).

Despite these potential advantages, there are hurdles to consider in the development of cooperatives for informal workers. One such problem is the necessity for strong leadership and governance mechanisms inside the cooperative. Without good leadership, cooperatives may struggle to fulfill the different demands of its members and accomplish their goals. Moreover, cooperatives must traverse legal and regulatory systems that may be unfriendly to informal labor. In Hawassa, where informal workers confront legal impediments to founding cooperatives, campaigning and legal help will be important to guarantee that cooperatives may function successfully and deliver benefits to its members. Additionally, cooperatives must comply with labor laws and regulations, which may need extra resources and experience (ILO, 2019).

2.7 Cooperative Models for Informal Workers

Cooperative approaches for informal workers, including shoe shiners, are meant to solve the particular issues encountered by this sector while harnessing their strengths. One typical type is the worker cooperative, where the workers own and democratically run the cooperative. This approach is well-suited for informal workers since it enables them to pool their resources, share risks, and collectively profit from their effort (ILO, 2015). It might give shoe shiners with a structured framework that enables collective ownership, decision-making authority, and shared advantages, overcoming many of the issues they confront in the informal sector.

Research shows that worker cooperatives might be especially successful in empowering informal workers. A research by ILO (2015) indicated that worker cooperatives may enhance the economic and social well-being of informal workers by providing them with a feeling of ownership and control over their job. This might be especially advantageous for shoe shiners, who generally lack employment stability and experience difficulty in obtaining social safeguards. It might help solve the difficulties of low income and restricted access to resources experienced by shoe shiners. By combining their resources and sharing risks, shoe shiners might strengthen their negotiating power and access to markets. Additionally, worker cooperatives offer training and capacity-building opportunities; enabling shoe shiners enhance their skills and production (UNDESA, 2019). Furthermore, worker cooperatives

correspond with the ideas of social inclusion and empowerment. By providing shoe shiners a role in decision-making processes and a stake in the success of the cooperative, worker cooperatives may help empower people and enhance their socio-economic position (ILO, 2015).

Producer cooperatives are another interesting model for shoe shiners. In this scenario, shoe shiners might get together to collectively sell their services and negotiate lower costs with clients. This might help them reach wider markets and strengthen their negotiating power. Producer cooperatives might also offer support services, such as training and marketing assistance, to help shoe shiners develop their abilities and attract more clients (UNDESA, 2019). Service cooperatives might also be useful to shoe shiners, especially in offering access to common services such as training, marketing, or financial services. By forming a service cooperative, shoe shiners might obtain services that they may not be able to buy individually, enabling them enhance their skills, promote their services, and access financial resources (ILO, 2015).

Hybrid models, such as multi-stakeholder cooperatives, might also be useful to shoe shiners. These cooperatives engage many stakeholder groups, including as workers, customers, and producers, and may offer a variety of advantages, including access to varied markets and resources. For example, a multi-stakeholder cooperative for shoe shiners might engage not only the workers themselves but also customers who demand ethically produced and ecologically sustainable shoe shining services (UNDESA, 2019).

Among these models, worker cooperatives seem to be the most applicable for shoe shiners in Hawassa City. Worker cooperatives would give shoe shiners with a defined framework that allows group ownership, decision-making authority, and shared advantages. This approach coincides with the concepts of social inclusion and empowerment, which are essential to this thesis, and might help alleviate many of the issues experienced by shoe shiners in the informal sector.

2.8 Cooperative Values and Sustainability in the Informal Sector

A set of beliefs and standards known as cooperative principles regulate the actions of cooperatives, especially those in the unorganized sector. These ideals-self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity-were formed by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Comprehending these fundamentals is vital when analyzing the

probable effect of cooperatives on the lasting character of the unorganized sector, including shoe shining services. Democratic control is a basic idea that provides every member an equal say in the cooperative's decision-making process. Democratic governance, in the context of shoe shiners founding a cooperative, would involve providing every shoe shiner an equal say in selecting the cooperative's rules, services supplied, and division of revenues. This notion assures that every member has a voice in the operations of the cooperative and fosters variety.

Member economic engagement is another key concept that highlights members' financial dedication to the cooperative. This idea would compel shoe shiner members to make monetary contributions toward the capital and operations of the cooperative. This idea makes sure that members have a stake in the cooperative's sustainability and are dedicated to its success. The autonomy and independence concept highlights the fact that cooperatives are independent, member-run self-help businesses. Because it enables shoe shiners in the unofficial sector to function independently of other forces and make choices that are best for their members, this idea is especially pertinent to them.

Furthermore, the education, training, and information concept emphasizes how crucial it is to provide members the abilities and information they need to contribute to the cooperative in an efficient manner. To assist shoe-shiners, operate their cooperative more profitably and sustainably, this idea may include providing them with training in marketing, financial literacy, and business management.

In general, the viability of cooperatives in the unorganized sector including those established by shoe shiners is greatly aided by cooperative principles. Cooperatives may provide democratic governance, independent operations, and the resources members need to thrive by upholding these ideals. As a result, shoe shiners and other informal workers may see an improvement in their standard of living and the long-term viability of the informal sector.

2.9 Shoe Shiners' Knowledge and Opinion towards Formation of Cooperative

The development of cooperatives among informal workers has been a subject of attention in recent studies, notably in the setting of Ethiopia. Cooperatives are viewed as a viable solution to the issues encountered by shoe shiners, including poor income, lack of access to resources, and limited negotiating power.

Researches support the concept that shoe shiners have a good attitude towards creating or joining cooperatives. For example, the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2015) argues that shoe shiners realize the potential advantages of cooperatives, such as better access to financial services and improved working conditions. Similarly, research by Hoeltl et al., (2020) revealed that shoe shiners in Ethiopia indicated a desire for improved pay and working conditions, which they felt cooperatives might supply. Moreover, cooperatives are considered as a mechanism for shoe shiners to combine their resources and abilities, leading to higher production and competitiveness in the market (Baye et al., 2020). This communal approach to business is especially advantageous for informal workers who may lack individual negotiating power.

Despite the favorable characteristics emphasized in some research, there is also conflicting literature that shows shoe shiners have qualms about founding or joining cooperatives. One typical issue is the fear of losing autonomy and independence by becoming part of a cooperative. Shoe shiners regard cooperatives as placing limits on their ability to manage their enterprises as they see appropriate (Dube, 2021).

Additionally, there is lack of information or understanding about the advantages of cooperatives among shoe shiners, leading to uncertainty about their efficacy (Semma, 2020). This lack of information may arise from limited exposure to cooperative principles or a lack of awareness of the advantages of cooperative participation. Overall, the research on shoe shiners' knowledge and attitudes towards cooperative formation in Ethiopia is equivocal. While some studies reveal a favorable attitude towards cooperatives, highlighting possible advantages such as better working conditions and greater income, others emphasize issues such as loss of autonomy and lack of information about the benefits of cooperatives. Addressing these issues via focused education and awareness-raising programs should assist enhance shoe shiners' knowledge and attitudes towards cooperatives, possibly leading to higher involvement and the realization of cooperative advantages.

2.10 Theoretical Frame Works

2.10.1 Social Exclusion Theory

Social Exclusion Theory, anchored in sociology and social policy, offers a framework for understanding the mechanisms by which people or groups are marginalized or excluded from full participation in society (Room, 1995). The idea highlights that exclusion is not merely

about poverty or lack of resources, but also about the social, cultural, and political forces that cause and sustain marginalization (Parent et al., 2002). Social exclusion is considered as a multi-dimensional notion that impacts people' access to resources, opportunities, and social networks (Cass et al., 2005; Social, 1998).

In the context of informal workers, Social Exclusion Theory gives insights into the obstacles they encounter in creating cooperatives. These issues might be regarded as indications of exclusion from formal economic systems and social networks. Informal workers generally lack access to official financial institutions, social protection, and legal recognition, which are vital for their economic and social integration (Room, 1995). Social marginalization Theory also underlines the importance of institutions and policies in sustaining marginalization. Informal workers may confront institutional impediments, such as restrictive legislation or lack of government assistance, that hamper their capacity to organize cooperatives and access formal opportunities (Allan & Phillipson, 2017) Moreover, cultural views and stigmas towards informal workers might further marginalize them, restricting their social and economic mobility.

By using Social Exclusion Theory to the study of shoe shiners and their perspective towards creating cooperatives in Hawassa City, researchers may analyze the fundamental reasons of their issues and devise methods to overcome them. This theory implies that interventions targeted at aiding informal workers should go beyond addressing urgent economic needs to also address the underlying structural and institutional reasons that lead to their exclusion (Room, 1995). Social Exclusion Theory offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing the problems encountered by shoe shiners and other informal workers in creating cooperatives. By contextualizing these difficulties within wider patterns of exclusion and marginalization, academics may design more effective measures to improve the economic and social inclusion of informal workers in Hawassa City and beyond.

2.10.2. Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) provides a good framework for researching the attitudes and intentions of shoe shiners in Hawassa City towards creating cooperatives. The theory shows that an individual's conduct is affected by their attitudes towards the activity, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control (Conner et al., 1988). In the context of constructing cooperatives, this theory can help explain why some shoe shiners may be more willing to join or start a cooperative than others.

Attitudes towards joining cooperatives among shoe shiners in Hawassa City may be affected by several aspects, such as their opinions of the benefits of cooperative membership, the practicalities of creating a cooperative, and their past experiences with cooperatives or similar organizations (Bosnjak et al., 2020). For example, shoe shiners who regard cooperatives as a technique of boosting their economic well-being and gaining social advantages may have more positive attitudes towards founding cooperatives than those who do not. Subjective norms, or the perceived societal pressure to do or not do a behavior, could also play a part in shoe shiners' intentions to create cooperatives. If shoe shiners perceive those significant individuals, such as family members, colleagues, or community leaders, support the concept of creating cooperatives, they may be more motivated to explore joining or founding one themselves.

Perceived behavioral control, which refers to the perceived ease or difficulty of executing an activity, could also affect shoe shiners' tendencies towards establishing cooperatives. Factors such as their perceived potential to contribute to a cooperative, their grasp of the cooperative formation process, and the availability of resources and support may all impact their perceived behavioral control. By bringing the Theory of Planned Behavior to the study of shoe shiners in Hawassa City, researchers may acquire insights into the components that affect their intentions towards building cooperatives. This may aid identify probable hurdles and facilitators to cooperative formation and impact the establishment of tailored interventions to support cooperative growth among shoe shiners. Overall, the TPB provides a detailed framework for researching the attitudes and intents of shoe shiners towards creating cooperatives in Hawassa City.

2.10.3 Knowledge-Attitude-Behavior (KAB) Model

The Knowledge-Attitude-Behavior (KAB) model gives useful insights into the views and actions of informal sector workers towards creating cooperatives. This approach indicates that information about a specific topic or action may change attitudes towards that issue, which in turn can impact behavior (Li et al., 2023; Yi & Hohashi, 2019). In the context of founding cooperatives, the KAB model may assist explains how shoe shiners' knowledge of cooperatives impacts their attitudes and intentions towards cooperative formation.

Knowledge of cooperatives among shoe shiners in Hawassa City may vary greatly, based on their education, exposure to information, and prior experiences. Those with higher

information of cooperatives, especially their advantages and how they function may have more favorable views about starting or joining a cooperative. Conversely, persons with inadequate information may be more dubious or reluctant regarding cooperative development. Attitudes towards creating cooperatives among shoe shiners may be impacted by their understanding of the advantages of cooperatives, such as greater access to financial services, social support, and collective bargaining power. Shoe shiners who are educated of these advantages may be more motivated to regard cooperative formation favorably and perceive it as a feasible alternative for enhancing their economic and social well-being.

Behavioral intentions, and eventually conduct, may also be impacted by information. Shoe shiners who are informed about the process of organizing a cooperative, the rights and obligations of cooperative members, and the possible obstacles and rewards of cooperative membership may be more inclined to take steps towards forming or joining a cooperative (Yi et al., 2018).

By adopting the Knowledge-Attitude-Behavior (KAB) model to the study of shoe shiners in Hawassa City, researchers might get insights into the role of knowledge in molding attitudes and behaviors towards cooperative formation. This might assist develop tactics for improving information about cooperatives among shoe shiners and resolving any misconceptions or impediments that may exist. Overall, the KAB model offers a good framework for analyzing the complex interaction between knowledge, attitudes, and actions towards cooperative formation among shoe shiners in Hawassa City.

2.11 Literature Gap

The literature on the informal economy generally misses the unique issues encountered by shoe shiners, concentrating instead on larger elements of informal labor. Studies such as those by Chen (2012) and the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2018) give useful insights into the informal sector but fail to address the particular issues and experiences of shoe shiners. This lack in the research hampers the knowledge of the particular economic, social, and environmental aspects that effect shoe shiners and inhibits the creation of interventions to help this vulnerable population.

Additionally, although some studies recognize the impact of social exclusion in developing attitudes towards cooperative formation, there is a dearth of research that particularly explores how social exclusion effects shoe shiners. Socially excluded persons, particularly

shoe shiners, may consider cooperatives as a tool to address their exclusion by offering social support, economic possibilities, and a feeling of belonging (ILO, 2015). Understanding the processes via which social exclusion affects shoe shiners' beliefs and actions towards cooperative formation is vital for devising effective interventions to encourage them in founding or joining cooperatives.

Furthermore, applying behavioral models, such as the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and the Knowledge-Attitude-Behavior (KAB) Model, to the setting of shoe shiners are helpful frameworks for understanding behavior change. Despite there is a shortage of research that applies these models, particularly to shoe shiners' attitudes and actions towards cooperative formation, some studies that employ these models to analyze the attitudes and actions would give significant insights into the elements impacting shoe-shiners decision-making processes towards cooperative formation.

Moreover, much research on cooperatives and informal workers is based on studies undertaken in Western settings does not adequately represent the particular issues encountered by shoe shiners in Ethiopia, notably Hawassa City. More study that is contextualized to the unique socio-economic and cultural environment is required to produce more relevant and applicable results for shoe shiners in this setting (M. Chen et al., 2017). Additionally, while some studies discuss the potential benefits of cooperatives for informal workers, including shoe shiners, there is a gap in research that evaluates opinions of workers in informal sectors to form cooperatives and the effectiveness of interventions aimed at supporting them in forming or joining cooperatives. Studies that analyze such treatments and examine views of shoe shiners' to create cooperative are required to fill this gap.

2.12 Conceptual Framework

In the conceptual framework, social exclusion may be considered as a factor that encourages people towards the notion of founding or joining cooperatives, notably among socially disadvantaged shoe shiners in Hawassa City. Socially excluded persons may consider cooperatives as a viable solution to their marginalization, affording them social support, economic opportunity, and a feeling of belonging. However, the actual attitude towards cooperative formation may be modified by two parallel mediators: the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and the Knowledge-Attitude-Behavior (KAB) Model.

The TPB implies that attitudes are affected by individual opinions about the results of an activity and the perceived societal norms about that conduct. In the context of cooperative formation, socially excluded persons may examine variables such as the advantages of cooperatives, their personal abilities to join, and the support or pressure from their social milieu. Similarly, the KAB Model stresses the significance of information in determining attitudes and eventually behavior. Socially excluded persons who are more aware about cooperatives may have more favorable views about founding or joining them, perceiving them as a feasible option to change their condition.

Therefore, social exclusion may lead to a desire for cooperatives, but the actual attitude towards cooperative formation is influenced by the concurrent mediation effects of the TPB and KAB Model. These theoretical frameworks give a complete explanation of how social exclusion, individual attitudes, and knowledge interact to impact cooperative formation among shoe shiners in Hawassa City.

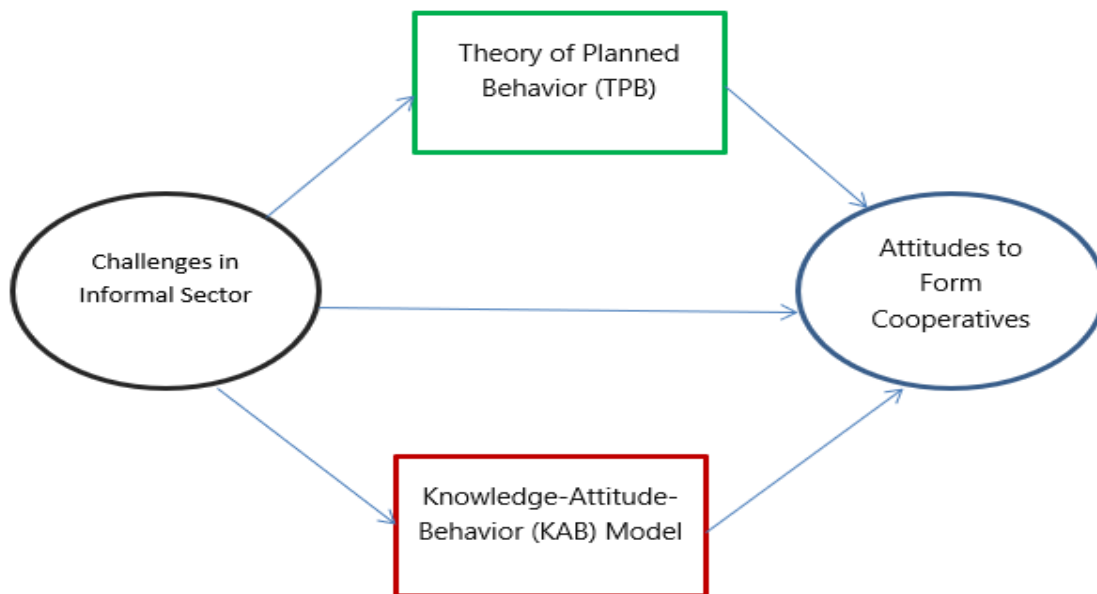


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area Description

Hawassa City is the administrative headquarters of the Sidama Regional State in Ethiopia, which is located on the shores of Lake Hawassa in the Great Rift Valley. It has a comfortable environment, defined by an average annual rainfall of roughly 950 mm and an average temperature of 20°C. The city is located to the south of Addis Ababa at 270 kilometers, the capital of Ethiopia. The city is undergoing fast urbanization and serves as the principal hub for government, trade, manufacturing, and tourism in the Sidama and Southern districts.

According to projections of the central statistics authority of Ethiopia, Hawassa city population is estimated to be 436,992 in 2020. The City's population gender breakdown will be relatively evenly split between male (224,907 /51.4 %/) and female (212,085 /48.6%). Out of the total number of the Population of the city administration 292,525 people live in urban area, while the remaining 144,467 peoples live in the rural area of the administration.

Hawassa has a young population. Around 65% of the people are under 25 years of age, and only about 5.5% of the population is over 50 years of age. The annual population growth rate 4.02. 4.8% growth rate in urban and 2.8% growth rate in rural areas of the city (CSA, 2020).

The city has eight sub-cities, each with distinct geographical and demographic attributes, under administrative authority. The sub-cities include Addis Ketema Kifle-Ketema, Hayk Dar Kifle-ketema, Bahil Adarash Kifle-ketema, Misrak Kifle-ketema, Menehariya Kifle-Ketema, Tabor Kifle-ketema, Mehal Ketema Kifle-ketema, and Tula Kifle-ketema. Hawassa City, despite its increasing population and economic importance, is confronted with notable obstacles such as elevated unemployment rates and a swiftly rising informal sector.

The informal sector is of essential importance in the economy of Hawassa City, since it sustains the livelihoods of many inhabitants (Alemu, 2017). Nevertheless, informal enterprises, like shoe polishing, sometimes encounter obstacles such as a lack of funds for operations, insufficient facilities, and restricted opportunities to reach customers and get necessary resources. Additionally, informal laborers generally lack access to financing, contemporary technology, formal training, and public services. These issues are further amplified by the fear of eviction by metropolitan authorities and the lack of structured marketplaces (Yimam et al., 2023).

Despite the considerable contributions of the informal sector to income production and poverty reduction, there is insufficient study concentrating on the sector's unique issues and dynamics in Hawassa City. Existing studies tend to present generic overviews of the informal sector, neglecting the particular peculiarities of various sectors within the informal economy. This research tries to fill this gap by studying the obstacles encountered by shoe shiners in Hawassa City and their views towards joining cooperatives. By concentrating on a single sector within the informal economy, this study intends to give useful insights that may guide policy and actions targeted at assisting informal workers and encouraging equitable economic growth in Hawassa City.

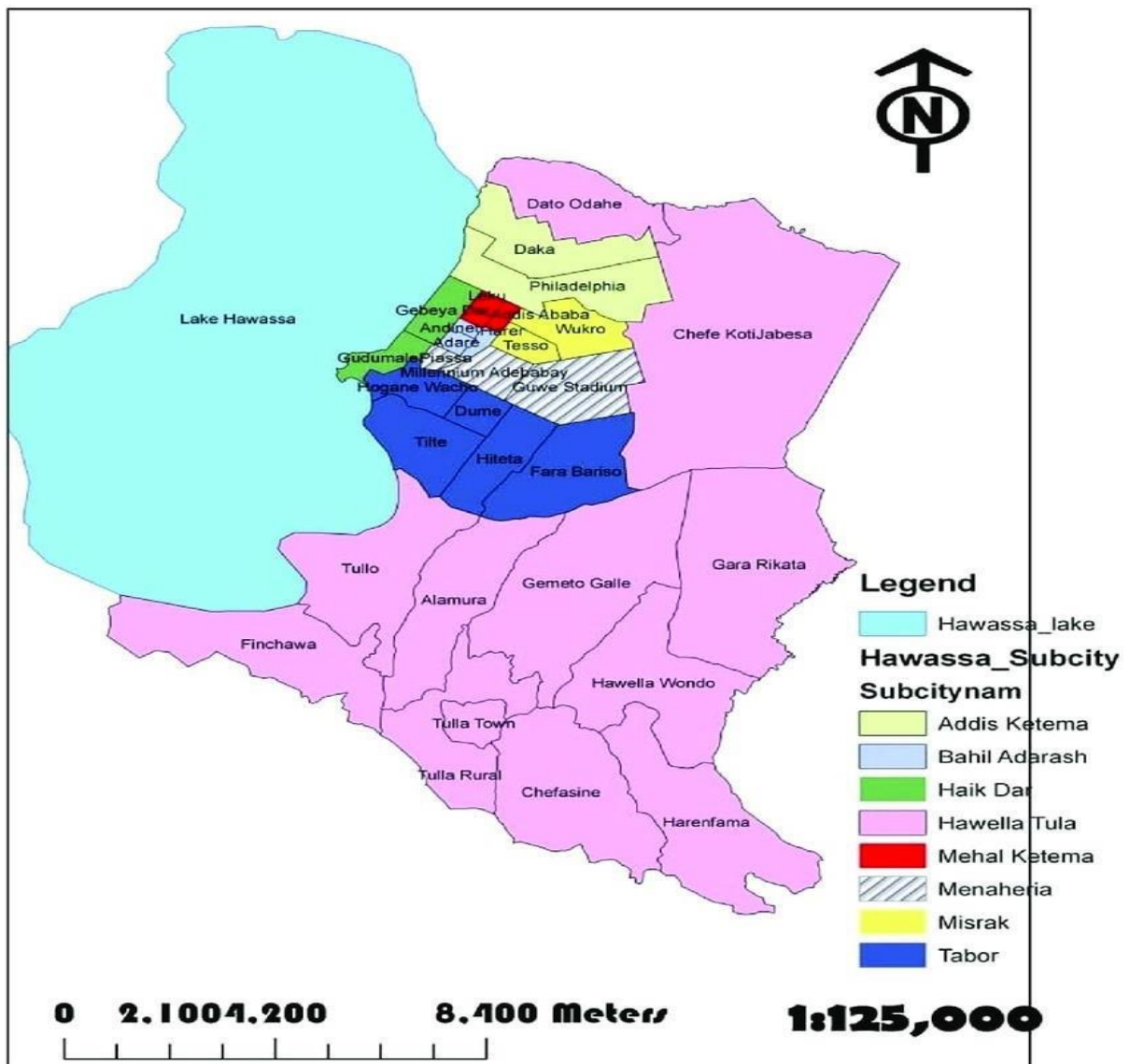


Fig.2: Map of Hawassa City Administration showing the study sites

Source: Finance and economic development department, Hawassa city administration

3.2 Research Design

This study employed mixed research approach with concurrent embedded design. Using a mixed research approach with a contemporaneous embedded design is vital for capturing the intricacies of the study issue from different viewpoints. Using this method helped the researcher to collect and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data, providing broad information on the challenges of shoe-shining. The researcher collected both qualitative and quantitative data and this method enabled triangulation as it increased the credibility and validity of the study combining the quantitative and qualitative data (work, 2009). The researcher collected and analyzed both types of data at once and the quantitative data played a major role as the qualitative data played a supporting role in the study (Ashatu & Hussein, 2009).

This methodological technique is especially ideal for studies trying to study complex social phenomena, such as informal companies and cooperative formation, since it helps researchers to acquire a comprehensive picture of the issue (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004). By employing a mixed research technique with a contemporaneous embedded design, researchers may benefit on the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative methods, resulting to a more deep and comprehensive examination of the research topic (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

3.3 Sampling Procedure and Techniques

The study used multi-stage sampling techniques, which is a combination of purposive, stratification, and simple random sampling methods. In the first stage, among the cities found in Sidama Region, Hawassa city was selected as the focus of the study by considering the existence of high youth involvement/engagement in various informal enterprises, providing a means of livelihood for a significant portion of the urban labor force and migrants from the surrounding rural areas. In the second stage, using a stratified sampling technique, the eight sub-cities found in Hawassa were classified into three strata based on shoe shining business activities concentration as low, medium, and high. In the third stage, a simple random sampling technique was applied to select sub-cities from each stratum based on the high concentration of shoe shining business in the sub-cities. Accordingly, Hayek Dar, Tabor, Menehariya, and Misrak sub-cities were considered and all of their eleven kebeles were selected for the study.

Accordingly, from each selected kebeles the main sheds that serves as business area for shoe shiners were registered and the number of shoe shiners were estimated. To determine sample size, a formula developed by Cochran which is for unknown population at 95% confidence level and population proportion of 0.5 was used and then, adjusted for finite population (Cochran, 1977) .Accordingly, the sample size for infinite population is given as:

$$S = Z^2 * P * (1 - P) / M^2$$

Where,

S= sample size for infinite population

Z = Z score (at 95% confidence level Z = 1.96)

P = Population Proportion (Assumed to be 50% = 0.5)

M = Margin of Error (Assumed to 5% = 0.05)

Hence, Sample size for infinite population

$$S = Z^2 * P * (1 - P) / M^2$$

$$S = (1.96)^2 * 0.5(1 - 0.5) / (0.05)^2$$

$$S = 3.8416 * 0.25 / 0.0025$$

S = 384.16, then this sample size was adjusted for finite population.

Now, adjusted sample size to 955 populations is:

$$\text{Adjusted sample size} = \frac{S}{1 + [(S-1)/P]}$$

$$\frac{384}{1 + [(384-1)/955]} = 275$$

Table 1: Sampled Sub cities and Proportional Allocation of Samples

Name of Sub-Cities	Number of Kebeles	Number of main Sheds	Number of Shoe Shiners	Proportional Sample size
Tabor K/Ketema	4	8	356	104
Meneharia K/Ketema	3	11	316	91
Misrak K/Ketema	2	8	170	49
Haik Dar K/Ketema	2	3	113	31
Grand Total	11	30	955	275

Finally, 8% of the samples were included, and a total of 299 selected. The samples were allocated proportionally to the specified sub-cities. In addition, 8 shoe shiners and 4 experts/officials from micro and small business enterprises in each of the selected four sub cities participated in semi-structured interviews.

3.4 Source of Data

Primary and secondary source of data were employed by the researcher. The main sources were gathered from the field using tools such as surveys and interviews. Secondary sources of data were acquired from public and unpublished sources. These secondary sources of data were utilized to link and triangulate the study issue of the past with conditions on actual grounds which were collected from primary sources of data.

3.5 Tools for Data Collection

For the gathering of thorough socio-demographic data, the research included fully structured interviews and survey questionnaires. The survey questionnaires attempted to collect thorough information on the shoe shiners' backgrounds, including their age, gender, education level, marital status, and home status. These characteristics give a complete perspective of the shoe shiners' socio-economic profiles, which is vital for understanding their problems and views towards joining cooperatives.

To test the knowledge of shoe shiners regarding cooperatives and their opinion towards creating cooperatives, Likert scale questionnaires were employed. The knowledge section consisted of eight questions meant to measure the shoe shiners' awareness of cooperative concepts, benefits, and operational methods. The opinion part had 10 questions that evaluated

the shoe shiners' attitudes and views concerning the creation of cooperative partnerships. The Likert scale allowed for thorough replies, allowing the researchers to measure the depth of knowledge and the intensity of opinion among the shoe shiners.

Additionally, multiple-response questions were added to the surveys to capture the numerous issues encountered by shoe shiners in Hawassa City. These questions helped the shoe shiners to identify and prioritize the obstacles they confront in their everyday activity. By integrating multiple-response questions, the research was able to obtain extensive data on the varied obstacles encountered by shoe shiners, offering a thorough knowledge of their conditions.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

For this research, data were obtained utilizing a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data-gathering approaches. Qualitative data were acquired via in-depth interviews. These interviews gave insights into the experiences, perspectives, and obstacles experienced by shoe shiners on founding cooperatives. The qualitative data served to contextualize the quantitative results and gave a greater knowledge of the shoe shiners' opinions.

Quantitative data were acquired by standardized surveys utilizing a Likert scale and several answer elements. The surveys were meant to obtain information on the shoe shiners' knowledge of cooperatives, their views towards creating cooperative groups and to analyze the problems they confront in the field. The Likert scale allowed for the measurement of replies, allowing statistical analysis of the data to find trends and patterns. The questionnaire distribution was undertaken methodically to achieve a representative sample of shoe shiners in Hawassa City.

3.7 Validity and Reliability of Tools

The research performed extensive testing on the validity and reliability of data-collecting technologies to guarantee correctness and consistency in outcomes. The instruments were assessed by three specialists from Hawassa University, ensuring they were relevant, clear, and fit with the study's goals. The reliability of the instruments was verified using Cronbach's alpha coefficient for both knowledge and opinion measures (Agbo, 2010; Bland & Altman, 1997; Christmann & Van Aelst, 2006; Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). A pilot test was done with 10% of shoe shiners from non-participating sub-cities, indicating strong reliability with a Cronbach's alpha

value of 0.82 for the knowledge scale and 0.88 for the opinion scale (Agbo, 2010; Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). The test also indicated possible flaws with the clarity or language of the questions, which were rectified before full-scale data gathering. The comprehensive process of creation, review, and pilot testing confirmed the validity and reliability of the tools, boosting the credibility and trustworthiness of the study's conclusions.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

After collecting the necessary data from different sources, analyzing data was started by checking the uniformity, accuracy and completion of the research instruments (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). The aim of checking the instrument was to increase the researchers' understanding and for the presentation of the data. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically while quantitative data was computed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS version 27) to generate statistical evidence. Descriptive statistics; frequency, percentages, means, and standard deviation were used to show the demographic, social and economic characteristics and the reasons behind shoe shiners engaging in shoe-shining jobs in Hawassa City. To see the associations of demographic, social and economic characteristics of the respondents, Chi-square test was employed.

In the objective to analyze the opinions of shoe-shiners in Hawassa City towards forming cooperatives; the dependent variable, Opinion of Shoe-shiners towards Forming Cooperatives, was measured on an ordinal Likert scale with categories ranging from *Strongly Disagree* to *Strongly Agree*. The independent variables included in the analysis were Age, Marital Status, Level of Education, Monthly Income, and Years Involved in Shoe-shining, Nature of Job, and Place of Birth. Age was categorized into five groups: 10-17 years, 18-25 years, 26-35 years, 36-50 years, and over 50 years. Marital Status was classified as Single, Unmarried, Married, Divorced, and Widowed. The Level of Education variable was segmented into Illiterate, 1-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12, Diploma, and Degree. Monthly Income was divided into less than 500 Birr, 501-1000 Birr, 1001-1500 Birr, 1501-2000 Birr, and more than 2000 Birr. The Years Involved in Shoe-shining variable included categories of less than 1 year, 1-2 years, 2-3 years, 3-4 years, and above 5 years. The Nature of Job was defined as either Full-time or Part-time, while Place of Birth was categorized as In Hawassa, Out of Hawassa (Urban), and Out of Hawassa (Rural).

An ordinal logistic regression model was specified to examine the relationships between these independent variables and the dependent variable. The model estimates the log-odds of the dependent variable, being in a certain category or lower versus being in a higher category. The regression coefficients for each independent variable indicate the direction and magnitude of their relationship

with the dependent variable. The model includes multiple thresholds corresponding to the number of categories in the dependent variable.

The model was expressed as:

$$\log \left(\frac{P(Y \leq j)}{P(Y > j)} \right)$$
$$= \alpha_j - (\beta_1 \cdot \text{Age} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{Marital Status} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{Level of Education} + \beta_4 \cdot \text{Monthly Income} + \beta_5 \cdot \text{Years Involved in Shoe-shining} + \beta_6 \cdot \text{Nature of Job} + \beta_7 \cdot \text{Place of Birth}).$$

Where:

- $P(Y \leq j)$ is the cumulative probability of the dependent variable Y being less than or equal to category j .
- α_j are the thresholds (cut points) for the j -th category.
- $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_7$ are the regression coefficients for the respective independent variables.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

In connection with the study on assessing the challenges of shoe shiners and their opinion towards forming cooperatives in Hawassa City Ethiopia, the researcher obtained supportive letter from Department of Cooperatives, College of Business and Economics, Hawassa University. This enabled the researchers to visit the research sites. In the current study, the confidentiality and anonymity of the respondents were emphasized to protect their privacy and dignity. Further, the researcher informed them that involvement in the study was voluntary and free of any intended risk. Thus, as much as possible all the efforts were made to consider all the ethical issues in conducting this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is about the analysis and interpretation of the data that have been gathered for the research which is the challenges faced by the shoe shiners and their attitudes toward the formation of cooperatives in Hawassa City, Ethiopia. The chapter starts with the demographic and socio-economic features of the respondents' descriptions. Next, it conveys the research results with main themes emphasizing along with the core patterns found in the data. The chapter finishes with a discussion on each sub topic.

4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics

4.2.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Participants

This section of the paper deals with the demographic backgrounds of the respondents. It discusses the sex, age, marital status, level of education, income, place of birth, years of involvement the nature of job, and sources of livelihood for the respondents. The following table summarizes respondents by sex and age in years of sample respondents.

Table 2: *The Sex and Age of Sample Respondents*

Sex	Age in Years					Grand	
	10 - 17	18-25	26-35	36-50	> 50	Total	Percentage
Male	17	222	49	4	2	294	98.33
Female	2	1	2			5	1.67
Grand Total	19(6.4%)	223(74.6%)	51(17.1%)	4(1.3%)	2(0.7%)	299	100

Table 2 shows a breakdown of the sample respondents by sex and age categories. It reveals that the majority of the respondents are male, with 294 out of 299 respondents (98.33%). In terms of age categories, the highest percentage of respondents comes within the 18-25 age brackets, with 223 respondents (74.6%). The age group with the second biggest number of responses is 26-35, with 51 respondents (17.1%). The other age categories (10-17, 36-50, and >50) had fewer responders, with 19 (6.4%), 4 (1.3%), and 2 (0.7%) correspondingly.

The distribution of respondents by age and sex may give insights into the demographic features of the sample. The larger number of male in the sample may reflect the gender distribution in the population being researched or may suggest disparities in participation rates between males and females in this sector in the study region. The predominance of respondents in the 18-25 age range also shows that this age group is more likely to interact with the topic being researched. This is consistent with results from previous research that have shown young individuals to be more involved in community and economic activities. The comparatively a smaller number of respondents in the older age categories (36-50 and >50) implies lower participation rates among older persons or disparities in the distribution of age groups in the population.

The preponderance of male respondents in the survey, as demonstrated by 98.33% of the sample being male, coincides with the general pattern found in informal economies throughout Africa, where specific forms of informal employment are more typically undertaken by males. Studies on informal economies in Africa generally emphasize the gendered aspect of informal employment, with men and women often partaking in different sorts of activities owing to various socio-cultural and economic circumstances (Chen, 2012; ILO, 2018).

In Ethiopia, similar trends are seen, with males commonly engaged in street selling, shoe shining, and other types of informal labor, while women are more likely to be involved in activities such as petty trade or domestic work (ILO, 2015). This gendered division of work in the informal sector is impacted by variables such as social norms, access to education and resources, and cultural expectations on gender roles (World Development Report, 2019).

The predominance of respondents in the 18-25 age bracket (74.6%) also represents a general tendency in informal economies, as young individuals are more likely to participate in informal labor owing to limited formal job prospects and the necessity to support themselves or their families (Chen, 2012). This demographic trend is generally linked to causes such as lack of education and skills, urbanization, and the informal character of the work market (ILO, 2015).

The decreased representation of older age groups in the research (36-50 and >50) implies that shoe polishing is less frequent among elderly adults in Hawassa city. This conclusion is consistent with research that has demonstrated that older adults in informal economies may

encounter challenges such as physical constraints, lack of access to resources, or the existence of alternative sources of income (ILO, 2015). Overall, the sex and age profile of the shoe shiners in Hawassa City, as reported in the research, coincides with general patterns documented in informal economies throughout Africa and Ethiopia.

Table 3: *Level of Education of Participants*

Level of Education	Sample	Percent
Illiterate	43	14.4%
1-5	118	39.5%
6-8	55	18.4%
9-10	28	9.4%
11-12	20	6.7%
Diploma	26	8.7%
Degree	9	3.0%

The table 3 presents the level of education among the participants, with the majority having completed primary education (1-5 years). Specifically, 14.4% of the participants were illiterate, while 39.5% had completed grades 1-5. A smaller proportion had completed grades 6-8 (18.4%), grades 9-10 (9.4%), or grades 11-12 (6.7%). Additionally, 8.7% of participants had a diploma, and 3.0% had a degree. This is shown on the following Figure 2 below.

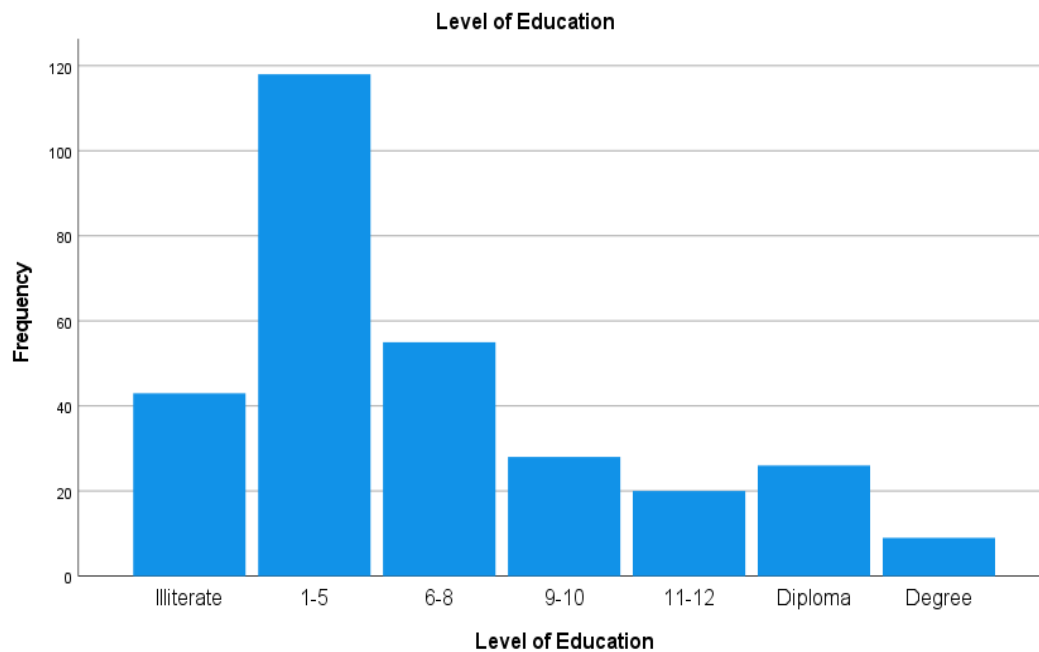


Figure 3: *Educational background of shoe shiners in Hawassa city.*

The distribution of education levels among the participants gives insights into the educational background of shoe shiners in Hawassa city. The large number of participants with basic school or lower levels is the broader trend in informal economies, where persons with minimal formal education commonly participate in informal labor owing to limited prospects in the formal sector (Tshofuti et al., 2016). The comparatively low number of participants with a certificate or degree shows that higher education levels are less frequent among shoe shiners in the research region. This conclusion is consistent with research that has demonstrated that persons with greater levels of education are less likely to participate in informal labor, since they may have better access to formal job alternatives (ILO, 2015). The distribution of education levels among the participants also has implications for their socio-economic standing and capacity to access resources. Individuals with greater levels of education may have better access to knowledge, skills, and networks that might help them improve their livelihoods and transfer to formal employment (Atienza, 2019).

Overall, the chart demonstrates the relevance of education in determining the possibilities and problems encountered by shoe shiners in Hawassa City. Policies and interventions targeted at improving the livelihoods of shoe shiners should recognize the educational background of this demographic and address the challenges they encounter in accessing education and training opportunities.

Table 4: *Place of Birth of Participants*

Birth Place of Respondents	N	%
Hawassa	52	17.4%
Out of Hawassa (Urban)	79	26.4%
Out of Hawassa (Rural)	168	56.2%
Total	299	100%

Table 4 shows the information on the birthplace of the participants, showing whether they were born in Hawassa (the urban center of the research) or outside Hawassa, defined as either urban or rural. The majority of participants (56.2%) were born outside Hawassa in rural regions, whereas 26.4% were born outside Hawassa but in metropolitan areas. Only 17.4% of participants were born in Hawassa City.

The distribution of birthplaces among the participants gives information on the migratory patterns and urbanization trends in Hawassa City. The high percentage of participants born outside Hawassa, particularly in rural areas, suggests that there is significant migration from rural to urban areas, which is a common phenomenon in many developing countries as people seek better economic opportunities and living conditions in urban areas (Chen, 2012). The relatively low proportion of individuals born in Hawassa itself implies that the city may be drawing migrants from other regions of the nation, which might have ramifications for the city's infrastructure, economics, and social services. Studies have demonstrated that fast urbanization may lead to difficulties such as overpopulation, insufficient housing, and demand for public resources (ILO, 2015). The distribution of birthplaces also has ramifications for the socio-economic condition of the participants. Migrants from rural regions may confront problems such as lack of access to education, healthcare, and formal work prospects, which might limit their capacity to better their lives (Angrist et al., 2018)

Overall, table 4 emphasizes the necessity of knowing migration patterns and urbanization trends in Hawassa City for resolving the issues encountered by shoe shiners and other informal laborers. Policies and initiatives aimed at aiding migrants and encouraging sustainable urban development should take into consideration the different origins and demands of the people.

Table 5: Marital Status Respondents

Marital Status	N	%
Single	245	81.9%
Married	46	15.4%
Divorced	6	2.0%
Widowed	2	0.7%

The majority of shoe shiners in the research are single, totaling 81.9% of the sample. This data implies that unmarried adults are more likely to participate in shoe polishing as an informal activity. This conclusion is consistent with research demonstrating that single persons are more likely to participate in informal labor, since they may have less family obligations and greater freedom in their job choices (ILO, 2015; Chen, 2012). The percentage of married shoe shiners (15.4%) is quite low compared to the single population. This might be related to the added family duties and financial demands that come with marriage, which may restrict people's capacity to participate in informal labor (Chen, 2012). The minor

numbers of divorced (2.0%) and widowed (0.7%) shoe shiners mirror the general demographic structure of the sample. These categories may be less represented in the informal sector owing to several variables, such as age, social support networks, and availability to alternative types of income (ILO, 2015).

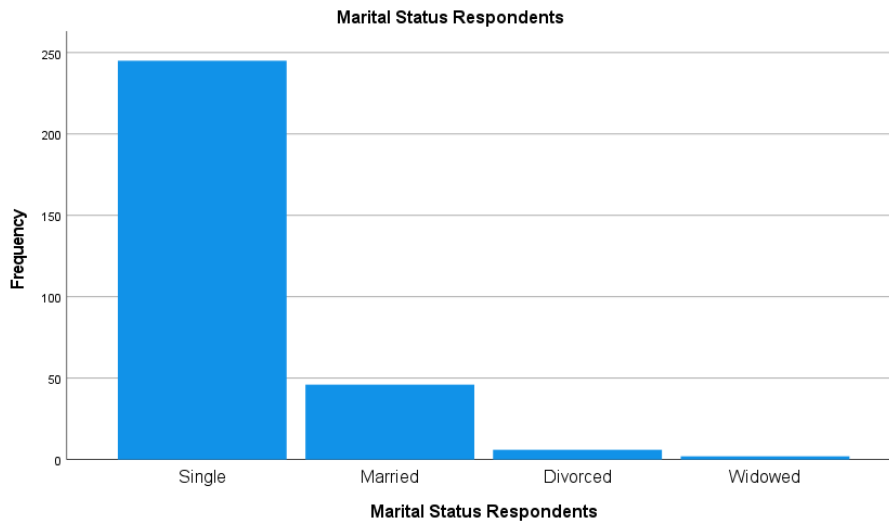


Figure 4: Marital status among shoe shiners

Overall, the distribution of marital status among shoe shiners in the study reflects broader trends observed in the informal sector, highlighting the importance of demographic factors in shaping individuals' engagement in informal work.

Table 6: Years of Involvement and the Nature of Job Cross-Tabulation

Years of Involvement		The nature of job		Total
		Full time	Part time	
How long have you been involved in this job (Shoe shining)?	Less than one year	32	29	61
	1-2 Years	61	21	82
	2-3 Years	50	15	65
	3-4 Years	40	6	46
	Above 5 Years	37	8	45
Total		220	79	299

Table 6 represents a cross-tabulation of shoe-shiners years they served and the status of their employment (full-time or part-time). The cells are placed in the matrix from left to right with durations of involvement, less than one year, one to two years, and two to three years, three to four years, and more than five years, ordered in rows, while the columns indicate the nature of the position, full time or part-time. On the other hand, for those in the "less than one year" category, the count of full-time shoe shiners is 32, while those working part-time are

29, making a total of 61 individuals. Just like in the '2-1 year' interval, there are full-time and part-time documentations of 61 and 21 laborers, respectively. Therefore, this is a total of 82 people. The table provides a comprehensive overview of the distribution of shoe shiners based on their years of involvement and employment nature, allowing for further analysis of potential associations between these variables. This analysis was further verified by using statistical methods the chi-square test to determine if there is a significant relationship between the duration of involvement and the nature of the job among shoe shiners.

Table 7: *Chi-Square Result of Years of Involvement and the Nature of Job Cross-tabulation*

Chi-Square Tests	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	20.36	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	19.60	4	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	14.56	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	299		

Table 7 shows the data obtained from the two-way chi-square test cross-tabulated to study the shoe shiners engagement in shinning businesses and the nature of their jobs as full-time or part-time revealed significant results. The calculated Pearson chi-square value was 20.36 upon 4 degrees of freedom which proved to be a statistically significant relationship between the study and the concern ($p = .000$). To sum it up with these outcomes, the likelihood ratio was 19.60 with 4 degrees of freedom and the p value is .001, and the linear-by-linear association was 14.56 with 1 degree of freedom and the p value is .000, which shows a clear correlation. This implies that the length of engagement in the shoe shining profession is connected with the type of the employment, whether full-time or part-time. One alternative meaning here may be that when shoe shiners get more experience in the industry, they may shift from part-time to full-time work. This conclusion resonates with prior research that has demonstrated a similar tendency in other informal industries, where people frequently start part-time and progressively change to full-time work as they become more established (M. Ruel et al., 2017; Sourou & Agossou, 2018).

However, further study is required to understand the underlying reasons explaining this connection among shoe shiners particularly. Factors such as economic circumstances, work satisfaction, and possibilities for professional progression may play a role in affecting the type of employment in the shoe shining industry. Understanding these processes may guide

policies and initiatives targeted at improving the lives of shoe shiners and other informal laborers.

Table 8: *The Years of Involvement and Average Monthly Income*

Years of Involvement		What is your average monthly income?					Total
		Less than 500	501-1000	1001-1500	1501-2000	Above 2000	
How long have you been involved in this job (Shoe shining)?	Less than one year	1	15	26	6	13	61
	1-2 Years	1	20	21	13	27	82
	2-3 Years	1	16	14	2	32	65
	3-4 Years	0	8	6	5	27	46
	Above 5 Years	0	0	5	6	34	45
Total		3	59	72	32	133	299

Table 8 displays a link between the years of engagement in shoe shining work and the average monthly salary of shoe shiners. It reveals that as the years of engagement rise, there is a trend for shoe shiners to earn larger salaries. For instance, among those active in the work for less than one year, just 13 respondents get over 2000 Birr per month, whereas among those involved for 1-2 years, 27 respondents earn above 2000 Birr. This tendency continues, with a higher percentage of shoe shiners earning higher salaries as they acquire more expertise in the profession. This shows that expertise in the shoe-shining sector may lead to improved financial results for shoe-shiners. However, it is crucial to highlight that the link between years of engagement and income is not linear for all categories. For example, among shoe shiners working for 2-3 years, there is a drop in the number of respondents earning over 2000 Birr compared to those participating for 1-2 years. The finding of this research shows that there may be other variables impacting income levels, such as geography, customers' circumstances, or company methods, which are not represented in our research.

The chi-square test was used to analyze the relationship between shoe shiners' years of involvement in the job and their average monthly income. This statistical test is appropriate for categorical data, which is the case with both the years of involvement (categorized as less than one year, 1-2 years, 2-3 years, 3-4 years, and above 5 years) and the income levels (categorized as less than 500, 501-1000, 1001-1500, 1501-2000, and above 2000). The aim was to establish the existence or otherwise of a strong relationship between the parameters. If such a correlation exists, it would show that the amount of time a shoe shiner has been in the profession effects their pay level. This approach is vital for understanding the dynamics of

the informal sector and may give insights into measures to enhance the economic well-being of shoe shiners and similar informal workers.

Table 9: *Chi- Square Result of Years of Involvement and the Monthly Income Levels*

Chi-Square Tests	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance
			(2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	55.15	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	65.55	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	38.37	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	299		

The chi-square test results in table 9 indicate a significant association between shoe shiners' years of involvement in the job and their average monthly income ($\chi^2(16) = 55.15, p < .001$). The Likelihood Ratio and Linear-by-Linear Association tests also show significant results, further supporting the relationship between these variables.

The high chi-square value suggests a strong association, indicating that the length of time a shoe shiner has been in the job is related to their income level. This finding aligns with expectations, as more experienced shoe shiners may have developed skills or acquired regular customers that contribute to higher earnings. Understanding the factors influencing income levels can help design targeted interventions to improve the economic well-being of shoe shiners and similar workers. For example, training programs or access to financial resources could be tailored based on the number of years individuals have been in the job.

4.2.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Family of Shoe Shiners

In this part, the researcher analyzed the family history of shoe shiners to acquire a greater knowledge of their socio-economic setting. Examining aspects such as the status of their parents (whether they are living or dead), their parents' educational background, financial status, and their function as the breadwinners of the family may give useful insights into the present situation. This information helps identify the support structures and resources available to shoe shiners and sheds light on the factors driving their admission into the informal sector. Understanding family dynamics is vital for contextualizing the issues encountered by shoe shiners and may influence policies and initiatives targeted at improving their livelihoods.

Table 10: *Cross-tabulation of Shoe Shiners' Parents' Status*

		Is your mother alive?			Total
		Yes	No	I don't know	
Is your father alive?	Yes	242	17	2	261
	No	28	9	0	37
	I don't know	0	1	0	1
Total		270	27	2	299

The cross-tabulation (cross tabs) analysis of the participants replies about the status of their parents (living or dead) gives extra insights into their family history. Table 10 reveals that out of 299 respondents, 261 stated that their dads were living, while 37 reported that their fathers were dead. Regarding mothers, 270 respondents claimed that their moms were living, while 27 said that their mothers were dead. Only one responder revealed doubt regarding their father's status. The data further reveals that out of 299 respondents, 242 claimed that both their father and mother were living. Nine respondents said that both their father and mother were dead. These data illustrate the different family conditions of shoe shiners in Hawassa city. While the majority of respondents have at least one surviving parent, there are considerable minorities who have lost one or both parents. This might have ramifications for their support networks, as well as their economic and emotional well-being. Understanding these family dynamics is critical for establishing tailored treatments that meet the individual requirements of shoe shiners depending on their family origins.

The results from the cross-tabulation study of the participants' parents' status match with larger research on informal laborers and disadvantaged communities. Studies have demonstrated that persons from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as those with little education or low-income families, are more likely to participate in informal labor (Mamo, 2020). The large number of shoe shiners in Hawassa City who have at least one surviving parent highlights the significance of family support networks in informal economies, when access to institutional social safety systems is restricted (Erulkar & Ab Mekbib, 2007). However, the existence of shoe shiners who have lost one or both parents highlights the fragility of this demographic. Research has emphasized the effect of parental loss on people's socio-economic outcomes, including their educational achievement, health, and general well-being (Clark & Royer, 2013). In the case of shoe shiners, parental loss might worsen existing

issues, such as restricted access to education and healthcare, and increase their dependence on informal employment for survival.

The results also indicate to the necessity for specialized treatments that address the individual requirements of shoe shiners depending on their family origins. For example, initiatives that offer assistance for orphaned shoe shiners, such as access to school and healthcare, might help minimize the effect of parental loss on their socio-economic outcomes (Portes et al., 1989). Additionally, measures to build family support networks and community-based social protection systems might offer a safety net for vulnerable shoe shiners, boosting their resilience in the face of economic shocks (ILO, 2015).

Table 11: *Total Family Income per Month in Birr*

Total family income per month in birr	N	%
< 1000	78	26.1%
1000-2000	106	35.5%
2000-3000	63	21.1%
3000-4000	24	8.0%
>4000	28	9.4%

The 11 table presents an overview of the total household income per month in Ethiopian Birr (ETB) among sampled shoe shiners. Regarding their family income, the majority of respondents (35.5%) stated that it was between 1000 and 2000 ETB, followed by those who earn 1000 ETB per month (26.1%), and those who indicated earnings of 2000–3000 ETB (21.1%). The survey results showed that the lowest total family income level was 3000-4000 ETB which was reported by 8.0% of the respondents and accounted while 9.4% of the respondents reported the highest total family income which was higher than 4000 ETB.

These statistics serve as evidence of the economic position of the shoe shiners in the city of Hawassa comprising mainly of low-income workers. The largest proportion of the dwellers of that community makes less than 1.90 USD a day, which is equal to the proverbial poverty. In Ethiopia, the Poverty Line is defined as such (World Bank, 2021). This highlights that shoeshine workers go through a range of economically related challenges that could be made worse when factors such as inadequate education and healthcare and absence of social security come into their lives simultaneously are involved. The distribution of total family income also has ramifications for shoe shiners' living standards and quality of life. Those

with lower wages may struggle to satisfy their fundamental necessities, such as food, housing, and clothes, and may be more exposed to economic shocks and swings. On the other hand, persons with higher wages may have better financial stability and access to resources that increase their well-being.

The following table 12 offers a cross-tabulation of the size of families and the viewpoint of shoe shiners on the adequacy of their family income in Hawassa city.

Table 12: The size of Households and Amount of Money of their Family Cross-tabulation

		Do you think your family income is sufficient to your family?		
		Yes	No	Total
The size of your households	<4	7(18.4%)	31(81.6%)	38(12.7%)
	4-7	12(8.5%)	129(91.5%)	141(48.16%)
	8-10	4(4.3%)	89(95.7%)	94(31.44%)
	>10	6(24.0%)	19(76.0%)	25(8.36%)
	Missing	0	1(100.0%)	1(0.33%)
Total		29(9.7%)	269(89.6%)	299(100%)

Among shoe shiners living in homes with fewer than four individuals, 18.4% claimed that their family income is adequate, while 81.6% indicated that it is not. In families with 4-7 individuals, 8.5% of respondents saw their family income as adequate, while 91.5% thought it was insufficient. Similarly, among homes with 8-10 individuals, 4.3% viewed their family income as adequate, while 95.7% thought it was insufficient. In homes with more than 10 people, 24.0% assessed their family income as adequate, while 76.0% thought it was insufficient.

The majority of shoe shiners across all household sizes (89.6%) thought that their family income was inadequate. This implies that a considerable number of shoe shiners in Hawassa city struggle to satisfy their financial demands, regardless of the size of their homes. This research illustrates the economic issues encountered by shoe shiners and shows the need for initiatives that increase their income levels and financial stability. The impression of inadequate income among shoe shiners is consistent with larger research on informal workers, which underlines the insecure nature of informal employment and its effect on livelihoods (Chen, 2012). Shoe shiners' dependence on daily earnings and the absence of job

security in the informal sector add to their susceptibility to economic shocks and volatility (ILO, 2018). Addressing these difficulties needs a holistic strategy that includes boosting access to education and skills training, fostering entrepreneurship, and enhancing social safety measures for informal workers.

Table 13 below is about the cross-tabulation of parental educational level. The educational levels are classified as follows: No education, a little bit of education, elementary level, junior high and high school, diploma and above levels.

Table 13: Parents Educational attainment level Cross-tabulation

		What is your father's educational attainment level?					
		Illiterate	Read and Write	1-6	7-12	Diploma	Degree and Above
What is your mother's educational attainment level?	Illiterate	88 (29.4%)	20 (6.7%)	24 (8.0%)	20 (6.7%)	4 (1.3%)	0 (0.0%)
	Read and Write	5 (1.7%)	11 (3.7%)	6 (2.0%)	17 (5.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)
	1-6	4 (1.3%)	6 (2.0%)	17 (5.7%)	27 (9.0%)	2 (0.7%)	1 (0.3%)
	7-12	5 (1.7%)	3 (1.0%)	9 (3.0%)	22 (7.4%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.0%)
	Diploma	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)
	Degree	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)

Analyzing the data on the educational attainment levels of shoe shiners' parents gives insights on the educational background of the respondents' families. The table presents the educational attainment levels of shoe shiners' parents. For fathers, the highest percentage falls under the illiterate category (29.4%), followed by read and write (6.7%), 1-6 years of education (8.0%), 7-12 years (6.7%), diploma (1.3%), and degree and above (0.0%). For mothers, the highest percentage also falls under the illiterate category (29.4%), followed by read and write (3.7%), 1-6 years of education (2.0%), 7-12 years (5.7%), diploma (0.0%), and degree and above (0.3%). These results indicate a significant portion of shoe shiners' parents have low levels of formal education, with illiteracy being prevalent among both fathers and mothers.

The results indicating the educational attainment of shoe shiners' parents accord with current evidence on the link between parental education and children's outcomes. Studies imply that greater parental education is connected with better educational outcomes for children, including higher academic success and an increased chance of completing higher levels of

education (Fanta & Megento, 2019). This is because educated parents are more likely to offer a supportive home environment, participate in educational activities with their children, and advocate for their educational needs (Davis-Kean, 2005). However, other studies emphasize the complexities of this connection. Some research shows that the influence of parental education on children's results may differ based on characteristics such as socioeconomic level, cultural background, and the quality of the educational environment (Ferejo et al., 2018). For example, whereas greater parental education is typically linked with better educational achievements, this association may be less in impoverished neighborhoods where access to quality education and other resources is restricted (Research, 2018).

Additionally, some studies question the concept that parental education is the only driver of children's success. Research suggests that other variables, such as parental participation in school, family structure, and socioeconomic position, also play key roles in determining children's educational results (Tekle, 2021b). This implies that although parental education is significant, it is one of numerous variables that impact children's educational trajectories.

4.3 Reasons for Engaging in Shoe Shining Business

Understanding the factors that contribute to shoe shiners' engagement in this job is crucial for developing targeted interventions to improve their livelihoods. Table 14 provides insight into the main reasons that motivate individuals to start shoe-shining work.

Table 14: *The Main Reason that Made Start Shoe Shining Work*

The main reason	N	%
To be self-reliant	160	53.5%
To assist my parents	75	25.1%
I have no one to support me	18	6.0%
Forced to work by guardians	26	8.7%
Demand for shoe shining	13	4.3%
Others	7	2.3%

Table 14 provides the major reasons claimed by shoe shiners for commencing shoe-shining employment. The majority of respondents (53.5%) answered that they began working to be self-reliant, demonstrating a high drive for independence and self-sustainability. Another considerable number (25.1%) indicated that they began working to help their parents, demonstrating a feeling of family obligation and support. A lesser number of respondents (6.0%) said that they had no one to help them, suggesting a lack of external support or

dependency on oneself for financial requirements. Some respondents (8.7%) claimed that they were compelled to labor by guardians, implying possible external pressures or duties. A tiny minority of respondents (4.3%) stated the need for shoe shining as a reason for beginning to work, suggesting a reaction to market possibilities. Finally, a few respondents (2.3%) stated additional reasons not covered in the selections presented.

Qualitative results also gave further insights into the aspects that lead to shoe shiners' participation in the shoe shining work. Several themes arose from the interviews, offering insight on the motives and conditions that inspire people to follow this line of employment. One of the primary topics was the yearning for independence and self-reliance. Shoe shiners participated in interview revealed a great desire to be self-sufficient and not depend on others for their livelihood. One participant commented, "I wanted to be my own boss and make my own money. I didn't want to rely on anybody else for my life." This attitude was repeated by numerous others, underscoring the value of autonomy in their choice to become shoe shiners. Another recurring topic was the need to assist family members, especially parents. Many shoe shiners claimed that they began working to support their parents financially. One person remarked, "My parents are becoming older, and I wanted to assist them with their expenditures. Shoe shining sounded like a wonderful opportunity to make some additional money." This feeling of family obligation was a strong incentive for many shoe shiners.

Some shoe shiners said that they had no other alternative than to labor owing to their conditions. One participant related, "I lost my parents at an early age, and I had no one else to take care of me. I had to start working to live." This lack of external assistance forced them into the shoe polishing industry as a way of survival.

Overall, these qualitative results complement the quantitative data, offering a greater knowledge of the elements influencing shoe shiners' participation in the shoe-shining work. The desire for independence, the necessity to assist family members, and the lack of other possibilities emerged as major themes, emphasizing the complex interaction of personal, societal, and economic variables impacting people's decisions to follow this line of employment.

The reasons shoe shiners start employment, as indicated in the research; match with wider trends noted in the literature on the informal sector. The large number of respondents stating self-reliance is consistent with research identifying economic concerns as significant

motivations for persons joining the informal sector (Bezu et al., 2015; DEJENE, 2018). This research underlines the economic risks and lack of official job possibilities that drive people towards informal labor.

The incentive to support parents demonstrates the significance of family duties in the decision-making process about work (Chen, 2012). Studies have demonstrated that in environments where formal employment is limited, people commonly resort to informal labor to support their families (ILO, 2015). The results also correlate with the research on forced labor and exploitation in the informal sector. The proportion of respondents who felt compelled to work by guardians indicates the existence of vulnerable populations, notably minors, who may be pushed into informal employment owing to different situations (ILO, 2018). The modest but considerable proportion claiming the demand for shoe shining as an incentive is consistent with research stressing the significance of market factors in creating informal work patterns (DEJENE, 2018). This data implies that some people may join the informal sector in response to perceived economic possibilities.

Overall, the study's results on the major reasons for shoe shiners commencing employment fit with current research on the informal sector, demonstrating the complex interaction of economic, societal, and individual variables that impact people' choices to participate in informal labor.

4.4 The Challenges of Shoe-Shiners

This section aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges encountered by shoe-shiners, shedding light on the factors that contribute to their economic vulnerability and social marginalization.

Table 15: *The Challenges of Shoe-Shiners in Hawassa City*

Challenges of Respondents		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
Challenges of Shoe Shiners in Hawassa City	Job is not lucrative	107	8.8%	35.9%
	Inability to remit home	232	19.1%	77.9%
	Restrictions from City Administration Office for use of space	228	18.8%	76.5%
	Stressful job	88	7.2%	29.5%
	Diseases (Malaria, Cholera.)	74	6.1%	24.8%

Ill treatment by the customers	84	6.9%	28.2%
Low wage rate	231	19.0%	77.5%
Others	170	14.0%	57.0%
Total	1214	100.0%	407.4%

Table 15 summarizes the challenges experienced by shoe-shiners in Hawassa City, as described by the participants. The table provides both the number of replies and the percentage of instances for each challenge. The challenges include job not being lucrative (8.8%, N=107), inability to remit home (19.1%, N=232), restrictions from the City administration office for the use of space (18.8%, N=228), stressful nature of the job (7.2%, N=88), diseases such as malaria and cholera (6.1%, N=74), ill-treatment by customers (6.9%, N=84), and low wage rates (19.0%, N=231). Additionally, a category for "others" (14.0%, N=170) contains various obstacles not expressly stated. The overall percentage surpasses 100% owing to the multiple-answer aspect of the question, where respondents might pick more than one problem they experienced.

The challenges experienced by shoe-shiners, as stated in Table 10, are consistent with current research on informal laborers in metropolitan contexts. The conclusion that employment is not profitable, reported by 35.9% of respondents, coincides with research showing the poor income and economic vulnerability of informal workers (Mengistu et al., 2015). The inability to transfer money home, stated by 77.9% of respondents, illustrates the financial burden encountered by many informal workers, which may increase poverty in their home areas (Lorato et al., 2023). Restrictions from the city administration office for the use of space, an issue identified by 76.5% of respondents, emphasize the challenges experienced by informal workers in accessing and utilizing public places for their companies (Tamirat & Nega, 2015).

The qualitative data obtained from shoe-shiners and key stakeholders further clarify these difficulties. In discussions with shoe-shiners, several voiced unhappiness with the lack of assistance from local authorities, noting difficulty in acquiring licenses and encountering harassment from municipal officials. For example, one shoe-shiner remarked, "We are constantly harassed by the city police who threaten to take our tools and materials." This qualitative perspective confirms the quantitative conclusion about constraints from the City Administration Office.

One recurrent element that arose from discussions with shoe-shiners was the stressful nature of their profession. Many described the long hours spent standing in the sun, frequently without access to basic conveniences like clean water and bathroom facilities. As one shoe-shiner remarked, "We start early in the morning and work until late at night. It's stressful, and we don't even get sufficient breaks."

Another key difficulty indicated in the qualitative data was the ill-treatment by customers. Shoe-shiners claimed incidents of verbal abuse, refusal to pay for services provided, and occasionally even physical assault. This component of their profession adds to the overall stress and leads to a hostile work environment. One shoe-shiner bemoaned, "Some clients treat us like we are not human. They criticize us and occasionally refuse to pay, even after we have done our work."

Additionally, the qualitative data suggested that shoe-shiners typically confront issues relating to health and safety. Many highlighted the absence of protective gear, such as gloves or masks, which exposes workers to dangerous chemicals and infections. Moreover, the continual exposure to dust and filth from shoes may contribute to respiratory difficulties and skin diseases. Despite these problems, access to healthcare services is typically restricted for informal workers, thus compounding their health issues.

Overall, the qualitative data complement the quantitative results by giving a clear insight of the issues encountered by shoe-shiners in Hawassa City. These observations underline the need for specific interventions and policy initiatives to enhance the working conditions and lives of informal workers in urban environments.

The problem of poor earnings and job instability is a recurring subject among informal laborers internationally. Studies by Erulkar et al., (2022) and Kasseye & Dar, (2018) show how informal laborers, including street sellers and shoe-shiners, typically receive modest salaries that are inadequate to cover their fundamental requirements. This economic vulnerability is further worsened by factors such as lack of access to social protection and restricted chances for skills development and upward mobility (ILO, 2018). The qualitative data's focus on the stressful nature of shoe shiners' labor coincides with studies on the informal economy's health repercussions. According to research by Ferejo et al., (2018) informal workers are more likely to encounter occupational health risks owing to poor working conditions and restricted

access to healthcare. This research underlines the need for programs that address both the physical and emotional well-being of informal workers.

The qualitative data also offered insight on the issues of ill-treatment by consumers, reflecting results from research on informal workers' social isolation and stigma. Research by Williams et al. (2012) and Moser (1998) illustrates how informal laborers, especially shoe-shiners, are typically excluded and encounter prejudice in metropolitan environments. This component of their profession not only impacts their mental health but also hampers their capacity to express their rights and receive support services.

Furthermore, the qualitative data's mention of constraints from local administration offices underscores wider challenges of governance and urban development. Studies by Roy and AlSayyad (2004) and De Soto (2000) describe how informal laborers typically operate in a legal gray area, encountering objections from authorities who regard them as intruding on public space. This underlines the necessity for inclusive urban policies that acknowledge and promote the lives of informal workers.

In conclusion, the obstacles experienced by shoe-shiners in Hawassa City are not unique and mirror wider concerns faced by informal laborers nationwide. Addressing these difficulties needs a holistic strategy that addresses the economic, social, and governance components of informal labor. By recognizing these difficulties within the framework of current research, policymakers and stakeholders may devise more effective measures to enhance the lives and livelihoods of informal workers in urban settings.

4.5 Knowledge and Opinion of Shoe-Shiners about Cooperatives

In this section, the focus is on exploring the knowledge about cooperatives and opinions of shoe-shiners in Hawassa City regarding the formation of cooperatives. The formation of cooperatives among informal workers, including shoe-shiners, has been proposed as a potential solution to address various challenges they face, such as low income, lack of access to social protection, and limited bargaining power. Understanding the level of knowledge and opinion of shoe-shiners towards cooperatives is essential for designing effective interventions to improve their socio-economic conditions. This section aims to provide insights into the awareness, understanding, and attitudes of shoe-shiners towards the formation and benefits of cooperatives.

Table 16: *Knowledge level and Attitude of Shoe shiners to Form Cooperatives*

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Knowledge Level	299	2.00	4.13	3.18	.57
Opinion to Form Cooperatives	299	2.10	4.60	3.59	.51

Table 16 displays the findings of the knowledge level and perspective of the shoe shiners towards founding cooperatives. The knowledge level spans from 2.00 to 4.13, with a mean of 3.18 and a standard deviation of 0.57. This shows a low to moderate level of understanding among shoe shiners concerning cooperatives.

The study suggests that a considerable majority of shoe-shiners lack appropriate information regarding cooperatives. This is obvious from the comments demonstrating a poor awareness of the idea, its advantages, and the procedures involved in creating and maintaining cooperatives. Moreover, the research reveals a deficit in understanding the potential benefits of cooperatives. While some shoe-shiners understood the potential benefits in terms of greater revenue, better access to resources, and stronger negotiating power, others were oblivious to these advantages. This highlights a need for focused educational programs to raise knowledge of the advantages that cooperatives may bring.

On the other hand, the attitude towards creating cooperatives ranged from 2.10 to 4.60, with a mean of 3.59 and a standard deviation of 0.51. This shows that shoe shiners often have a good attitude towards creating cooperatives. The greater mean for attitude relative to knowledge implies that although shoe shiners may have an excellent grasp of cooperatives, they also have a positive tendency towards joining or founding one. This is a hopeful conclusion, since good attitudes are typically a forerunner to action, such as cooperative formation, which might assist shoe shiners in numerous ways.

Qualitative research from shoe-shiners demonstrates a varying knowledge and impression of cooperatives. One responder voiced doubt, adding, "I have heard about cooperatives, but I am not sure how they work." This doubt suggests a lack of information about the operational elements of cooperatives, suggesting a need for educational activities to define the idea and its advantages. Another responder displayed an optimistic attitude, stating, "I believe cooperatives can help us improve our income and living standards." This favorable image correlates with the potential advantages of cooperatives, indicating that awareness-raising

activities should leverage on such sentiments to stimulate cooperative formation among shoe-shiners.

However, there were also doubts exposed, with one responder remarking, "I am not sure if forming a cooperative would be successful here." This anxiety might originate from a perceived lack of support or knowledge of the cooperative model's application to their setting. Addressing such concerns needs tailored interventions that present real examples of successful cooperatives in comparable circumstances, highlighting their significance and potential benefit. Overall, the qualitative data suggests a need for specialized training programs and support mechanisms to promote shoe-shiners' knowledge and opinion of cooperatives, eventually generating a more favorable climate for cooperative formation and sustainability.

4.6 Factors Determining the Opinion of Shoe-shiners to Form Cooperatives

Further, to determine if there is a correlation between shoe-shiners' opinion, knowledge about cooperatives, and other variables, correlation analysis was carried out. This analysis helped the researcher to understand how these variables collectively influence shoe-shiners' opinion to form cooperatives. Specifically, the variables included were opinion, knowledge about cooperatives, and background variables such as age, marital status, level of education, monthly income, years involvement in shoe shining job, nature of job (full time or part time), and birth place of the respondents.

Table 17: *Correlation among Variables*

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1. Knowledge	1.								
2. Opinion	.69**	1.							
3. Age	-.04	-.14*	1.						
4. Marital Status	-.05	.05	.25**	1.					
5. Level of Education	.13*	.06	.09	-.05	1.				
6. Monthly Income	.43**	.56**	-.05	.04	.07	1.			
7. Years Involved	.19**	.29**	.14*	.14*	-.07	.36**	1.		
8. Nature of Job	-.25**	-.34**	.1	-.04	.02	-.38**	-.22**	1.	
9. Birth Place	.23**	.07	.01	-.07	.05	.02	.09	-.16**	1.

Note: $N = 299$; * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$

Table 17 depicts the correlation matrix among the variables in the research, illustrating the correlations between numerous variables connected to shoe-shiners and their views towards joining cooperatives. The study indicates some fascinating correlations:

Knowledge of cooperatives and perspective towards forming cooperatives demonstrate a substantial positive association ($r = 0.69$, $p < 0.01$), suggesting that a larger degree of knowledge is related to a more favorable attitude towards forming cooperatives.

The age of the participants exhibits a negative correlation with opinion ($r = -0.14$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that younger shoe-shiners may have a more positive attitude towards founding cooperatives compared to geriatric persons. However, marital status demonstrated a positive correlation with opinion ($r = 0.05$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting that married shoe-shiners may have a somewhat more favorable attitude towards creating cooperatives than single individuals. Level of education indicates a positive link with knowledge ($r = 0.13$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that shoe-shiners with higher education levels likely to have greater knowledge regarding cooperatives.

Monthly income was the other variable tested in the current study. It exhibited a moderate positive association with both knowledge ($r = 0.43$, $p < 0.01$) and opinion ($r = 0.56$, $p < 0.01$), suggesting that shoe-shiners with greater earnings are more likely to have superior knowledge and more favorable attitudes towards creating cooperatives.

Additionally, the researcher observed the correlation between the years' shoe shiners engaged in the profession with their opinion of forming cooperatives. This indicated a positive association with both knowledge ($r = 0.19$, $p < 0.01$) and opinion ($r = 0.29$, $p < 0.01$), demonstrating that more experienced shoe-shiners are more likely to have greater knowledge and more favorable attitudes about creating cooperatives.

The other variable, the shoe shiners' working conditions as full-timer or part-timer indicated a moderate negative association with opinion ($r = -0.34$, $p < 0.01$), suggesting that shoe shiners with full-time jobs may have a less favorable attitude towards creating cooperatives compared to those with part-time occupations.

Finally, their birthplace indicates a weak positive link with knowledge ($r = 0.23$, $p < 0.01$), indicating that shoe-shiners born in Hawassa city may have greater knowledge of cooperatives.

The correlation analysis shows substantial insights into the elements impacting shoe-shiners' knowledge and attitudes towards creating cooperatives, agreeing with current research on cooperative formation and informal sector workers. The high positive association between knowledge and opinion underlines the significance of education and awareness-raising activities in establishing good attitudes towards cooperatives (Mesele et al., (2019). This data shows that treatments concentrating on enhancing knowledge about cooperative principles and advantages might boost attitudes towards cooperative formation among shoe-shiners.

The weak positive connection between monthly income and both knowledge and opinion is consistent with research demonstrating that higher income levels are related to increased involvement in and support for cooperatives (Zou et al., 2022). This shows that economic empowerment plays a vital role in promoting good views towards cooperatives among shoe-shiners, underlining the potential of cooperatives in improving the socio-economic status of informal workers.

The weak negative correlation between age and opinion contradicts some previous findings (Mesele et al., 2019) but aligns with others suggesting that younger individuals may have more favorable attitudes toward cooperatives due to their openness to new ideas and willingness to take risks (Alam & Islam, 2015). However, greater study is required to grasp the complicated link between age and attitudes towards cooperative formation among shoe-shiners. The modest negative association between the nature of the work and opinion shows that the type of employment may impact sentiments towards cooperatives. This conclusion is consistent with research demonstrating that the kind of employment and job stability might affect people's desire to engage in cooperatives (Kumar & Satapathy, 2016). Shoe-shiners with full-time work may feel less need for cooperative formation owing to their steady employment, whereas those with part-time jobs may view cooperatives as a method of boosting their income and job stability.

Overall, the finding emphasizes the multidimensional nature of variables impacting shoe-shiners' knowledge and attitudes towards joining cooperatives. Addressing these variables through focused interventions, including educational programs, income-generating activities, and job security measures, might boost the feasibility and effectiveness of cooperatives among shoe-shiners in Hawassa city.

In correlation analysis, although certain correlations were observed, suggesting possible relationships between specific characteristics, however, to understand more about the degree to which these variables influence shoe-shiners' views and actions towards creating cooperatives, the researcher utilized a regression analysis. Regression analysis was undertaken to analyze the predictive potential of different demographic, social, and economic aspects on shoe-shiners' opinions and knowledge about cooperatives. This gave a more thorough knowledge of the elements impacting shoe-shiners' attitudes towards cooperative formation.

Before doing a regression analysis, it is crucial to evaluate whether the data fits the assumptions of parametric or non-parametric regression models. For parametric regression models, such as linear regression, the data should fulfill assumptions of normality, linearity, and homoscedasticity. Normality indicates that the residuals (the discrepancies between the actual values and the projected values) are regularly distributed. Linearity presupposes that there is a linear connection between the independent factors and the dependent variable. Homoscedasticity requires that the variance of the residuals is consistent across all levels of the independent variables.

Table 18: *Test of Normality for Shoe-shiners Opinion towards forming Cooperatives*

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
<i>Opinion</i>	.179	299	.000	.926	299	.000

The outcomes of the normality tests showed that the data for the opinion of shoe-shiners towards founding cooperatives is not normally distributed, as demonstrated by significant p-values ($p < 0.05$) for both the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests. This indicates that the assumption of normality essential for parametric regression models, such as linear regression, may not be fulfilled. When the data is not normally distributed, it could lead to skewed regression results and erroneous conclusions. In such instances, non-parametric regression models or adjustments to the data may be more suited.

Hence, in this inquiry, due to the non-normal distribution of the data, ordinal logistic regression was found suitable for assessing the connection between the variables. According to Agresti (2018), ordinal logistic regression is a robust technique for analyzing ordinal

outcome variables, especially when the assumptions of parametric regression models are not fulfilled.

From the correlation analysis conducted in Table 17 above, the variables that showed significant correlations with the dependent variable (opinion of shoe shiners towards forming cooperatives) were knowledge level, education level, monthly income, years involved in the job, and the nature of the job. These variables would be suitable for inclusion in the ordinal regression model to predict the opinion of shoe shiners towards creating cooperatives among shoe-shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia.

Table 19: Ordinal Regression Model Fitting Information

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	1418.19			
Final	1181.35	236.84	10	.000

Link function: *Logit*.

Table 19 indicates that, the ordinal logistic regression model was fitted to investigate the connection between many independent variables and the attitude of shoe-shiners towards creating cooperatives in Hawassa City, Ethiopia. The model greatly improved the prediction of attitudes towards joining cooperatives compared to an intercept-only model, as indicated by a statistically significant chi-square value (Chi-Square = 236.84, df = 10, $p < .001$). The -2 Log likelihood value was reduced from 1418.19 in the intercept-only model to 1181.35 in the final model, demonstrating a better fit of the final model to the data. These findings imply that the independent variables included in the model are relevant predictors of attitudes towards joining cooperatives among shoe-shiners in Hawassa City.

Table 20: Ordinal Regression Goodness-of-Fit

	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Pearson	3196.66	3554	1.000
Deviance	1038.45	3554	1.000

Link function: *Logit*.

The goodness-of-fit tests for the ordinal regression model suggest that the model fits the data effectively. Both the Pearson chi-square test (Chi-Square = 3196.66, df = 3554, $p = 1.000$) and the Deviance chi-square test (Chi-Square = 1038.45, df = 3554, $p = 1.000$) indicate no significant difference between the observed and anticipated frequencies, showing that the

model gives a good fit to the data. The link function employed in the model is Logit, which is ideal for ordinal regression analysis.

Table 21: Ordinal Regression Pseudo R-Square

Cox and Snell	.547
Nagelkerke	.549
McFadden	.143

Link function: Logit.

The ordinal regression model yielded pseudo-R-squared values of 0.547 for Cox and Snell, 0.549 for Nagelkerke, and 0.143 for McFadden, implying a moderate to strong fit of the model to the data. The Nagelkerke pseudo-R-squared, being the highest among the three, suggests that the predictors in the model explain approximately 54.9% of the variance in the ordinal outcome variable. This indicates that the model provides a reasonable explanation of the relationship between the predictors and the ordinal outcome. The McFadden pseudo-R-squared, although reduced, still suggests a meaningful level of explanatory power. Overall, the model demonstrates a reasonable fit, but there are other factors not included in the model that could further explain the variance in the outcome.

Table 22: Ordinal Logistic Regression Parameter Estimates

	Estimate	OR(EXP B)	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
							Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Knowledge	2.337	10.352	0.239	95.401	1	0.000	1.868	2.806
[age=10- 17 yrs]	3.491	32.819	1.293	7.291	1	0.007	0.957	6.025
[age=18-25 yrs]	2.561	12.949	1.274	4.041	1	0.044	0.064	5.058
[age=26-35 yrs]	2.781	16.128	1.295	4.613	1	0.032	0.243	5.318
[age=36-50 yrs]	3.204	24.640	1.558	4.231	1	0.040	0.151	6.258
[age=> 50 yrs]	0 ^a				0			
[income= <500 ETB]	-0.986	0.373	0.896	1.209	1	0.272	-2.742	0.771
[income=501-1000]	-1.738	0.176	0.328	28.109	1	0.000	-2.380	-1.095
[income=1001-1500]	-1.843	0.158	0.310	35.296	1	0.000	-2.452	-1.235
[income=1501-2000]	-0.828	0.437	0.356	5.404	1	0.020	-1.526	-0.130
[income= > 2000]	0 ^a				0			
[nature of job= Full time]	0.244	1.276	0.255	0.915	1	0.339	-0.256	0.743
[nature of job= Part time]	0 ^a				0			

The ordinal logistic regression analysis in table 22 showed numerous key results on the determinants of shoe shiners' perspective towards creating cooperatives. Firstly, knowledge regarding cooperatives was shown to be a significant predictor (OR = 2.337, $p < 0.001$),

meaning that for every one-unit increase in knowledge, the chances of having a favorable view towards creating cooperatives rose by a factor of 2.337, compared to the reference group. Secondly, age was also a significant predictor, with age groups 10- 17 years, 18-25 years, 26-35 and 36-50 years showing higher odds ratios (OR = 3.491, 2.561, 2.781, and 3.204 respectively, all $p < 0.05$) compared to the reference category > 50 years, suggesting that younger shoe shiners were more likely to have a positive opinion towards forming cooperatives.

However, income categories less than 500 ETB are not significant negative predictors of perspective towards creating cooperatives as compared to the reference group which is over 2000 ETB. However, income groups between 501-1000 ETB, 1001-1500 ETB and 1501-2000 were significant negative predictors ($p < 0.05$ for all categories), demonstrating that income level strongly affects attitude towards joining cooperatives compared to the reference category which is above 2000 ETB. This suggests that as income level grows, opinion towards creating cooperatives increases. On the contrary, the nature of the employment (full-time vs. part-time) was not a significant predictor (OR = 0.244, $p = 0.339$), demonstrating that the kind of job did not affect the perspective towards joining cooperatives compared to the reference group. These findings indicate the relevance of knowledge, age and income level in influencing shoe shiners' perspectives towards creating cooperatives, whereas the nature of the profession does not play a major impact in this respect.

The fact that information about cooperatives greatly impacts shoe shiners' perspective towards creating cooperatives agrees with current research. Studies by Zou et al., (2022) stress the impact of knowledge in changing people's attitudes towards cooperative creation. They claim that increasing knowledge and comprehension of cooperative principles and advantages are significant drivers for good sentiments towards cooperatives. Therefore, interventions aiming at boosting knowledge, such as educational campaigns and training programs, might be useful in fostering cooperative formation among shoe shiners.

Regarding age, the findings imply that younger shoe shiners are more likely to have a good perspective toward creating cooperatives. This conclusion conflicts with study by Vanek et al., (2014) which implies that older adults may have higher experience and maturity, leading to a more positive attitude toward cooperative projects. Additionally, older adults may have a higher feeling of community and collective action, which are key features of cooperative activities (Stuart et al., 2018). On the other hand, the significant effects of income and the

nature of the job on opinion towards forming cooperatives are consistent with the previous studies (Anania et al., 2017) that have indicated that income level and job stability can influence individuals' willingness to engage in cooperative activities.

In conclusion, the data imply that interventions to encourage cooperative formation among shoe shiners should concentrate on boosting knowledge, and income and targeting older persons. However, greater study is required to understand the particular processes by which these variables impact sentiments towards creating cooperatives in this environment.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this chapter, the findings of the study are summarized and conclusions were drawn based on the findings. Furthermore, based on the finding's recommendations were forwarded so that the concerned stakeholders can play their respective roles.

5.1. Summary of Findings

Hawassa City, the capital of Ethiopia's Sidama Regional State, recognized for its pleasant environment and fast urban expansion has issues including high unemployment and a rising informal sector, where enterprises like shoe polishing are crucial but face numerous obstacles. Despite the sector's prominence, there's scant study on its issues. This research intends to address that gap by analyzing shoe shiners' problems and perspectives towards founding cooperatives, utilizing a mixed-methods approach with a contemporaneous embedded design. Sampling was done using multi-stage approaches, with 299 shoe shiners chosen. Data collecting techniques included thorough interviews, questionnaires with Likert scale questions, and multiple-response items. The validity and reliability of the instruments were carefully verified. Data analysis comprised theme analysis for qualitative data and statistical analysis using SPSS for quantitative data. Ethical issues were stressed, assuring anonymity and voluntary involvement of respondents.

Concerning the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, full overview of important aspects such as sex, age, marital status, level of education, income, location of birth, and years of engagement in the work, and the type of the employment were studied. Statistical analysis found that the majority of respondents were male (98.33%), with the biggest age group being 18-25 years old (74.6%). Most respondents had finished elementary school (1-5 years) (39.5%), while the majorities were born outside of Hawassa, with 56.2% born in rural regions. Regarding marital status, the majority of respondents were single (81.9%). Chi-square tests demonstrated a substantial correlation between years of engagement in the shoe shining profession and the nature of the work, indicating that as shoe shiners acquire more experience, they are more likely to transfer from part-time to full-time employment. Additionally, the data demonstrated a propensity for shoe shiners to earn greater

wages as they get more expertise in the work, but the association between years of engagement and pay was not linear for all categories.

The investigation also confirmed that the family history of shoe shiners, indicating that a considerable number had suffered parental loss, with many hailing from low-income families earning below the poverty line in Ethiopia. The educational level of shoe shiners' parents varies, with a considerable percentage being illiterate, revealing a serious lack of basic education among parents. This might damage their capacity to fund their children's education and general family well-being. Furthermore, the research of variables leading to shoe shiners' participation in the shoe shining profession found that the majority began working to be self-reliant or to aid their parents, underlining themes of independence and family support as crucial motivators.

Qualitative results reflected similar themes, stressing the intricate interaction of economic, societal, and personality variables impacting people's choices to choose informal labor. Concerning the knowledge and views of shoe-shiners the survey found a reasonable degree of understanding among shoe-shiners regarding cooperatives, with a mean of 3.18 (on a scale of 1 to 5) and a standard deviation of 0.57, suggesting space for development via educational initiatives. However, there is a favorable attitude towards organizing cooperatives, with a mean of 3.59 and a standard deviation of 0.51, showing a propensity to join in such projects. Qualitative evidence from shoe-shiners further demonstrates a varied knowledge and impression of cooperatives. While some express doubt, others exhibit a favorable attitude, showing possibilities for awareness-raising activities to boost cooperative development. Nonetheless, there are also raised concerns, underlining the need for specific training programs and support systems to strengthen shoe-shiners' knowledge and opinion of cooperatives.

Further study was undertaken to examine the association between shoe-shiners' perspective, knowledge of cooperatives, and numerous demographic characteristics. The research identified some significant correlations: Knowledge of cooperatives and perspective towards creating cooperatives demonstrated a substantial positive association ($r = 0.69$, $p < 0.01$), showing that a greater degree of knowledge is connected with a more favorable attitude towards forming cooperatives. Age revealed a modest negative link with opinion ($r = -0.14$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that younger shoe-shiners may have a more positive attitude towards joining cooperatives compared to older ones. Marital status exhibited a modest positive link

with opinion ($r = 0.05$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting that married shoe-shiners may have a somewhat more favorable attitude towards creating cooperatives than single persons. Level of education revealed a slight positive link with knowledge ($r = 0.13$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that shoe-shiners with higher education levels likely to have greater knowledge of cooperatives. Monthly income revealed a moderate positive association with both knowledge ($r = 0.43$, $p < 0.01$) and opinion ($r = 0.56$, $p < 0.01$), showing that shoe-shiners with higher earnings are more likely to have greater knowledge and more favorable attitudes towards founding cooperatives. The nature of the employment (full-time vs. part-time) was not a significant predictor (OR = 0.244, $p = 0.339$), demonstrating that the kind of job did not affect perspective towards creating cooperatives compared to the reference group.

These results stress the relevance of expertise, age, and income level in molding shoe-shiners' views towards creating cooperatives, whereas the nature of the employment has a less important influence in this respect. Interventions to encourage cooperative formation among shoe-shiners should therefore concentrate on expanding knowledge, targeting younger persons, and improving income levels, with additional study required to examine the precise processes via which these variables impact attitudes in this setting.

5.2 Conclusions

This research gives useful insights into the issues encountered by shoe shiners in Hawassa City and their views towards building cooperatives. The data suggest that shoe shiners, mostly young guys with less education, frequently originate from low-income households and they are experiencing numerous socio-economic obstacles in their shoe shine work. Despite these limitations, there is a modest amount of awareness of cooperatives among shoe shiners, suggesting a possibility for educational initiatives to expand their understanding. Moreover, shoe shiners often have a good attitude towards organizing cooperatives, demonstrating a propensity to join in such projects. However, there are also fears and ambiguities raised, highlighting the necessity for specific training programs and support structures to address these challenges.

The research also highlights the role of knowledge, age, and income level in affecting shoe shiners' views towards creating cooperatives. Younger people and those with greater incomes and education levels tend to have more favorable opinions about cooperatives. These results imply that interventions targeted at increasing cooperative formation among shoe shiners

should concentrate on expanding knowledge, especially among younger participants, and raising income levels. Overall, this research adds to the current literature by giving a complete overview of the issues encountered by shoe shiners in Hawassa City and providing insights into how cooperative formation might be supported within this vulnerable population.

5.2 Recommendations and Future Implications

Shoe shining is one of the informal economic sectors that provide income to youth shoe-shiners and others who may be unemployed and facing various challenges. It greatly assists them in fulfilling their basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, and other necessities. Based on the study's findings and observations, the researcher would like to make the following recommendations to various Hawassa City government sectors and other relevant stakeholders.

- The study highlights and provides insights into the large number of shoe shiners with basic school or lower levels of education who engaged in shoe polishing business in Hawassa City. In this regard, the City Administration's education office should collaborate with other relevant sectors and stakeholders to provide all shoe-shiners with free, compulsory and good quality basic educational services and transferrable life skill development training to assist them in finding creative ways to run their businesses and shape their future life.
- Based on the study findings, the majority of shoe-shiners were born outside of Hawassa, primarily in rural areas, and moved to the city in quest of work. The main factors driving youth migration to Hawassa City are the low income and living conditions of rural households as well as the desire for financial independence arising from local youths. In this regard, the Sidama regional state, zonal and district governments, kebele administrations, and other NGOs working in the area should play an important role in providing families in need with access to safety net, social programmes, credit service, and other financial supports to prevent youth migrations to the city.
- Local governments at the zonal and woreda levels, as well as other relevant parties, should also be aware of and assist local youth in forming cooperatives at the district and kebele levels. They should also be given access to credit services, financial support, and capacity-building trainings so they can be financially independent, fulfill

their basic needs, avoid migrating to the city and positively contribute to the development of their local communities.

- The study shows that there are also considerable number of shoe-shiners and minorities who have lost one or both parents which might have consequences for their support networks, as well as their economic and emotional well-being. Hence, Hawassa City administration and other local and international organizations should prioritize orphaned shoe shiners and offer them support, such as access to basic education, healthcare; housing facilities, food assistance and others social protection services to reduce their vulnerability and economic risk.
- According to the survey, a significant number of shoe shiners are routinely banned by Hawassa City administration from using public locations and streets to conduct their day-to-day shoe shining business. Since these shoe-shiners have already created their own jobs in the informal sector, the administrations of Hawassa City, municipality, sub-cities, and kebele administration should collaborate together to provide them with better work spaces, including shade, containers, and other material support to enable them sustaining in their businesses. The city government should design guidelines that will allow shoe-shiners to lawfully operate their businesses and contribute to the city's economy.

In general, all shoe-shiners in Hawassa City should form cooperatives that will benefit them and motivate them to excel in their shoe-shining business. The City administration, micro and small enterprise institutions, credit associations, and other concerned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should focus on providing shoe shiners with capacity development trainings on fundamental street business management methodologies, as well as ways to solve their financial problems through forming cooperatives and accessing different credit and financial services. Furthermore, the concept and benefits of cooperatives should be frequently promoted to shoe shiners and other informal sector workers through awareness-raising workshops, as well as other forms of communication such as government mass media and social media channels.

Apart from the above mentioned recommendations, the following ones are proposed, specifically for Hawassa University, the Department of Cooperatives, Hawassa city government, shoe shiners, and other pertinent parties:

i. Hawassa University, Department of Cooperatives, and City Government:

- ✓ Establishment of Cooperative Support Center: Collaborate to establish a cooperative support center within the university or city government premises. This center would provide training, advisory services, and resources to shoe shiners interested in forming cooperatives, helping them navigate the process effectively.
- ✓ Incorporation of Cooperative Principles in Education: Integrate cooperative principles and practices into relevant academic programs at Hawassa University. This would include courses on cooperative management, governance, and entrepreneurship to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to support cooperative development in the city.

ii. City Government:

- ✓ Policy Support: Develop and implement policies that recognize and support cooperatives in the informal sector, including those formed by shoe shiners. These policies should provide incentives for cooperative formation and facilitate access to resources and markets.
- ✓ Infrastructure Development: Improve infrastructure in areas where shoe shiners operate, such as providing designated working spaces or sheds. This would create a conducive environment for cooperative activities and enhance the visibility of the sector.

iii. Shoe Shiners:

- ✓ Formation of Cooperatives: Encourage shoe shiners to form cooperatives to collectively address common challenges, such as access to finance, markets, and skills development.
- ✓ Participation in Training Programs: Actively participate in training programs organized by stakeholders to build capacity in cooperative management, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

iv. Other Stakeholders and NGOs:

- ✓ Financial Support: Provide financial support to cooperative initiatives through grants, loans, or crowd-funding campaigns. This would help shoe shiners overcome financial barriers to cooperative formation.
- ✓ Advocacy and Awareness: Advocate for the recognition of cooperatives in the informal sector and raise awareness about their importance in promoting inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction.

These recommendations are aimed at promoting cooperative formation among shoe shiners in Hawassa City, ultimately contributing to their socio-economic empowerment and the overall development of the informal sector.

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APPENDIXES A: DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

HAWASSA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES

Dear respondents,

I am collecting data for my study in the way for a master's of art degree in community development. To fulfill the requisite of the qualification, my research study is targeted on **Challenges of Shoe Shiners and their Opinion towards Forming Cooperatives in Hawassa city, Ethiopia.**

Therefore, you are kindly requested to read all questions and complete the questionnaires with genuine response freely without any psychological doubtfulness on social, cultural and political issues. Besides, I assure you that your response will be used only for the purpose of this research study.

- ✘ The outcome and success of the study will be influenced by the quality of your responses.
- ✘ **Before you start to fill the questionnaires please note the following General Directions:**
 1. Do not write your name on the paper of questionnaires
 2. Please read all the questions before trying to answer.
 3. Please provide appropriate response by using a tick mark (√) to choose one of the suggested scales.
 4. Please write your answers to all listed questions
 5. Please, be sure your response will be used for this research study purpose only.
 6. If you want to change any of your provided answer, please make sure that you have cancelled the uninterested one.

I thank you for your generosity in spending your precious time!

Kindly,

Adugna W.

Part I: Demographic, social and economic characteristics of the shoe shiners

1. Sex: A). Male B). Female
2. Age: A). 10- 17 B) 18-25 C). 26-35 D). 36-50
E). > 50
3. Marital Status: A).Single B).Unmarried C).Married D).Divorced
E). Widowed
4. Level of Education: A). Illiterate B). 1-5 C). 6-8 D). 9-10 E. 11-12
F). Diploma G). Degree
5. Place of birth
A) In Hawassa
B) Out of Hawassa (Urban)
C) Out of Hawassa (Rular)
6. If you are a migrant, from where did you migrate? _____
7. Do you have parents? A). Yes B). No
8. What is the size of your household?
A) <4 B) 4-7 C) 8-10 D) >10
9. Who earns the main source of income for the family?
A) Father B) Mother C) Children D) Grand parents
E) Combination of above F) Others (specify)_____
10. What is the job of the bread winner of the family?
A) Farmer B) Civil Servant C) Daily labourer D) Small trader
E) Others (specify)_____
11. What is the total family income per month in birr?
A) < 1000 B)1000-2000 C) 2000-3000 D) 3000-4000 E) >4000
12. Do you think this is a sufficient amount of money to support your family?
A) Yes B) NO
13. Is your father alive? A) Yes B) No C) I don't know
14. Is your mother alive? A) Yes B) No C) I don't know
15. What is your mother's educational attainment level?
A) Illiterate D) 7-12
B) Read and Write E) Diploma

C) 1-6 F) Degree G) Others (specify)_____

16. What is your father's educational attainment level?

A) Illiterate D) 7-12

B) Read and Write E) Diploma

C) 1-6 F) Degree G) Others (specify)_____

17. What is you parent's marital status?

A) Married D) Widowed

B) Divorced F) Others (specify)_____

C) Single

II. Reasons for involving in this job

1. Who introduced you to this activity?

A). No one (self) C). Relatives

B). My parents D). Friends E). Others (specify)_____

2. What was the main reason that made you start to work?

A). To be self-reliant C) I have no one to support me

B). To assist my parents D). Forced to work by guardians

E) Demand for shoe shining E). Others (specify)_____

3. Have you ever been engaged in other work activities before starting the current one?

A) Yes B) No

4. If you were engaged in other work activity before starting the current one, please describe the kind of work you were engaged in?

5. Why did you leave your previous employment?

A). For better working condition C). Permanent closer of enterprise

B). For better income/payment D). Disagreement with employer

E) For better satisfaction of work F) Others (specify) _____

6. How long have you been involved in this job (Shoe shining)?

A). Less than one year C). 2-3 Years

B). 1-2 Years D). 3-4 Years E). Above 5 Years

7. Your nature of job is

A). Full time B). Part time

8. What is your average monthly income?
- A). Less than 500 B).501-1000 C). 1001-1500 D). 1501-2000
 (E). Above 2000

III. Nature of the work of child shoe shiners

1. Do you face any problems or difficulties with your present shoe shinningjob?
- A) Yes B) No
2. Describe the main reasons for the problems of difficulties with your shoe shining job?

3. What are the challenges faced by you in this job?
- A). Job is not lucrative
 B). Inability to remit home
 C). Accommodation challenges, rooms are expensive
 D). Restrictions from City Administration Office for use of space
 E). Stressful job
 F). Diseases (Malaria, Cholera.)
 G). Ill treatment by the customers
 H). Low wage rate
 I). Others, specify_____
4. What are the challenges faced by you in procuring materials?
- A). Non availability of some materials
 B). Irregular supply of materials
 C). High cost of materials D) Others _____
5. Have you ever intended to quit this job? A). Yes B). No
6. If Yes, What are the reasons?

- A) Low income
- B) Insecure job
- C) Unable to save
- D). Other reasons, specify_____

IV: Opinion towards forming a cooperative among shoe-shiners

1. Is there any association among shoe shiners in Hawassa City? A). Yes B). No
2. If Yes, Are you a member of the association? A). Yes B). No
3. If No, Why didn't you become a member of the association?
 - A) Not interested
 - B) Not believing such association
 - C) No use
 - D) Others, specify
4. If you are a member of the association, what are the activities undertaken by the association for the welfare of shoe shiners?
 - A) Mutual help at times of financial crisis
 - B) Fixing the wage for shoe shining and repairing
 - C) Purchase and sale of shoe shining related materials such as brush, shoe polish, gum, thread, etc.
 - D) Representing the problems of show shiners to the government authorities
5. Is there any fees for membership of the association? A). Yes B).No
6. If Yes, what is the minimum amount to be paid for membership? Birr_____
7. Are you satisfied with the activities of the association? A). Yes B). No
8. Do you know any cooperatives functioning in the vicinity of Hawassa City?
 - A) Yes
 - B) No
9. Do you know the purpose and benefits of cooperatives? A). Yes B). No
10. Are you really interested in joining as a member of shoe shiners cooperative society?
 - A). Yes
 - B). No

II. Shoe Shiners' Knowledge about Cooperatives

What is your Knowledge about Cooperatives?

SD = Strongly Disagree

N = Neutral

DA = Disagree

A = Agree

SA = Strongly Agree

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	I am familiar with the concept of cooperatives.					
2	I understand the principles of cooperative ownership.					
3	I am aware of the benefits of joining a cooperative.					
4	I know the role of cooperatives in promoting democracy.					
5	I understand the economic impact of cooperatives.					
6	I am familiar with the legal framework for cooperatives.					
7	I know the process of starting and managing a cooperative.					
8	I am familiar with the types of services provided by cooperatives.					

III. Shoe Shiners' Opinions towards Forming Cooperatives

What is your opinion towards cooperatives?

SD = Strongly Disagree

N = Neutral

DA = Disagree

A = Agree

SA = Strongly Agree

S. No	Statements	SD	DA	N	A	SA
1.	Cooperatives improve the working conditions for shoe shiners					
2.	Cooperatives promote leadership					
3.	Cooperatives develop social cohesion					
4.	Cooperatives help to negotiate better prices for their services					
5.	Cooperatives are meant for marginalized groups					
6.	Cooperatives are beneficial to the shoe shiners to their					

	living standard					
7.	Shoe shiners will gain bargaining power if enrolled in cooperatives					
8.	Shoe shiners will procure the necessary materials through cooperatives					
9.	Joining a cooperative would help shoe shiners access new markets					
10.	Cooperatives are a viable option for addressing the challenges faced by shoe shiners					

The following are basic research questions guided the study:

- v. What are the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the shoe shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia?
- vi. What are the reasons behind shoe shiners engaging in shoe shining job in Hawassa City, Ethiopia?
- vii. What are the challenges facing shoe-shiners in Hawassa City, Ethiopia?
- viii. What is the shoe-shiners future plan for business and their opinion and need to organize themselves as cooperatives?
- ix. Is there statistically significant difference in opinion of shoe shiners towards the need for organizing themselves as cooperatives based on their background?

Part V: Interview Guideline for Selected Officials

- 1. What do you know about child labour?
- 2. What kind of families do child shoe shiners have?
- 3. What makes children to engage in shoe shinning?
- 4. What social and economic support do you have?
- 5. What are the working conditions of child shoe shiners in Hawassa City?
- 6. What are the risks faced by children engaged in shoe shinning in Hawassa city?
- 7. Where do the majority of child shoe shiners in Hawassa city come from?
- 8. What are work related health hazardous child shoe shiners face in Hawassa city?
- 9. What is the impact of shoe shinning on children's education in Hawassa

city?

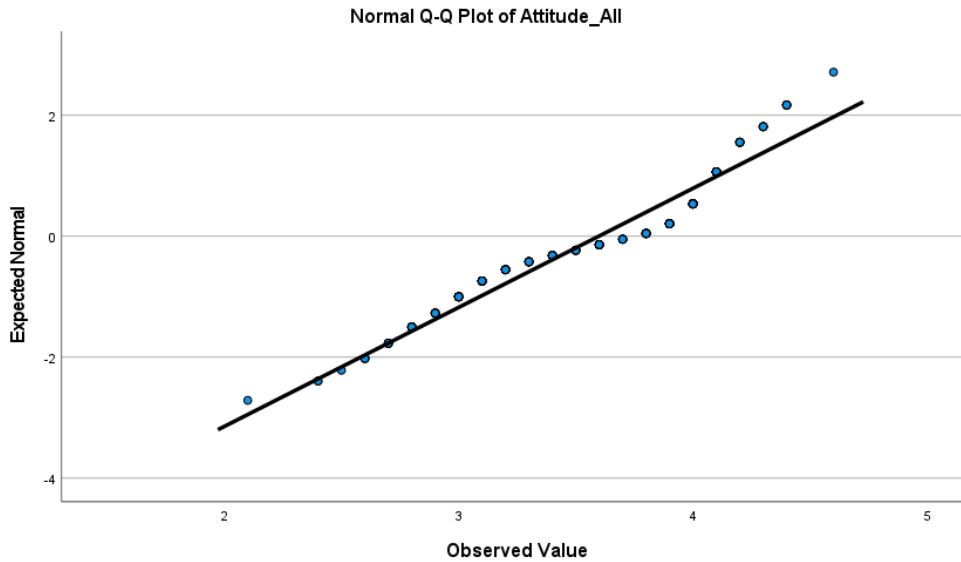
10. What are the common problems experienced by child shoe shiners in Hawassa city?
11. Are there any initiatives/ organizations working to reduce the problem of child labor in Hawassa sub city?
12. What should be done to solve the problems faced by child shoe shiners in Hawassa city?

Appendix B

Test for Normality of Shoe-shiners Opinion to form Cooperatives

Descriptive

			Statistic	Std. Error	
Attitude_All Mean			3.5980	.02938	
1	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Lower Bound	3.5402	
			Upper Bound	3.6558	
	5% Trimmed Mean			3.6126	
	Median			3.8000	
	Variance			.258	
	Std. Deviation			.50805	
	Minimum			2.10	
	Maximum			4.60	
	Range			2.50	
	Interquartile Range			.90	
	Skewness			-.438	.141
	Kurtosis			-.956	.281



PLUM - Ordinal Regression

Case Processing Summary

		N	Marginal Percentage
Age of the Respondents	10- 17	66	22.1%
	18 -25	179	59.9%
	26-35	48	16.1%
	36-50	4	1.3%
	> 50	2	0.7%
What is your average monthly income?	Less than 500	4	1.3%
	501-1000	58	19.4%
	1001-1500	72	24.1%
	1501-2000	32	10.7%
	Above 2000	133	44.5%
The nature of job	Full time	220	73.6%
	Part time	79	26.4%
Valid		299	100.0%
Missing		0	
Total		299	

Ordinal Regression Model Fitting Information

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	1418.19			
Final	1181.35	236.84	10	.000

Link function: Logit.

Ordinal Regression Goodness-of-Fit

	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Pearson	3196.659	3554	1.000
Deviance	1038.450	3554	1.000

Link function: Logit.

Ordinal Regression Model

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Null Hypothesis	1181.353			
General	148.826 ^b	1032.527 ^c	210	.000

The null hypothesis states that the location parameters (slope coefficients) are the same across response categories.

a. Link function: Logit.

b. The log-likelihood value cannot be further increased after maximum number of step-halving.

c. The Chi-Square statistic is computed based on the log-likelihood value of the last iteration of the general model.

Validity of the test is uncertain.

End!