

## CONSEQUENCES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: THE CASE OF AMBOTOWN, OROMIA, ETHIOPIA

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### ABSTRACT

An abnormal state of youth unemployment is one of the basic improvement issues confronting Ethiopia. The lacking job circumstance of youth has various financial, political and moral outcomes

Unemployed young people are more likely to abuse illicit substances than employed young people. Youth unemployment also contributes for the prevalence of crime and violence in societies where employment opportunities are limited.. Unemployment is a distressing life occasion that makes individuals despondent. Youth unemployment likewise encourages the improvement of young people. Unemployment has driven many young women and girls into sex work in Africa. Like other towns of the country, Ambo town also displays and witnesses the problem of unemployment. The after effects of youth unemployment in this area till now was not well understood. In this stand, this study was conducted to examine the outcomes of Youth Unemployment in the study area. A sample of 140 respondents from three kebeles namely Kebele 01, 02 and 03 with high unemployment rate, was selected. The structured interview schedule was prepared to collect information on the consequences of youth unemployment. The study was supplemented by subjective information gathered through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Direct Observations. The most important consequences of unemployment as perceived by the youth were migration from rural to urban and urban to urban or increase in migrants. The other important consequences as perceived by the respondents were as follows: Moral failure of youth, Exposed to physical and sexual abuse, Exposed to mental and psychological depression or hopelessness, Lack of emotional attachment to the family, Drug addiction or expose to local drinks and illegal gambling and Fighting with each other or with group of relatives may attack others. Therefore, the experiences of localized efforts of connecting trained youth with private employers should be expanded to include more diversified skills of youth. In some way, it can be altered to be a plat form for job search or labor supply market.

**KEYWORDS:** Consequences of Youth Unemployment, Youth Unemployment

### INTRODUCTION

An abnormal state of youth unemployment is one of the basic improvement issues confronting Ethiopia. Berhanu et al (2005) expressed that adolescent unemployment rate is reliably higher than some other age group of the population in the nation. Likewise Guracello and Rosati (2007) showed that youngsters living in urban communities and towns are more inclined to be unemployed than rural youngsters.

A study conducted by Getamesay (2009) found that the problem of unemployment highly affect the young population of Dessie town in Ethiopia. Currently, 24.5 per cent of youth unemployment rate was estimated in urban centers of the country. The declining of youth unemployment was attributed to the adoption of youth policy in 2004 and the efforts made by the government in making the young people actively participate in the development activities of the country. The factual evidence indicated that youth unemployment in urban areas is a serious problem. It reflects that efforts have been made to address the problem, in which a 10 percent decline was observed in the last eleven years. However, the issue requires further intervention from the concerned body in order to benefit from the human resources, individually and nationally. Otherwise, the social and economic costs would affect individuals and societies in particular, and the country in general (Source: Computed from CSA data: 1999, 2010, 2014).

The deficient work circumstance of youth has various financial, political and moral results (Berhanu et al. 2005; Toit, 2003). Unemployed young people are more likely to abuse illicit substances than employed young people. As indicated by UN (2003) report, unemployed youth are the fundamental drug users in Sub Saharan Africa, which accounts 34 million youngsters speaking to 7.7 percent of the mainland's youth population. Youth unemployment additionally contributes for the pervasiveness of wrongdoing and viciousness in social orders where business opportunities are constrained. Okojie (2003) and Haji (2007) found that numerous unemployed youth run criminal endeavors occupied with brutality, furnished theft, auto grabbing, illicit fuel deals, and unlawful importation of arms. Unemployment is an negative life occasion that makes individuals despondent. Increases in the unemployment rate lower the happiness of everyone, particularly the unemployed (Bell and Blanchflower, 2010). Consistent to this, Toit (2003) also found that experiencing depression is the consequence of unemployment. Moreover, Berhanu et al (2005) stated unemployment results social exclusion and a sense of hopelessness on youth.

Youth unemployment likewise encourages the advancement of street young people. Moreover, Echebiri (2005) noticed that unemployment has driven numerous young ladies and young ladies into sex work in Africa. Attempting to bolster their families and give consideration to individuals from the family unit, they are regularly limited in their chances for instruction and preparing. The absence of openings for work and their disadvantageous social part make them more prone to wind up as sex laborers. Okojie (2003) likewise clarified that absence of vocation open doors has added to expanding feminization of neediness, furthermore supported prostitution as a method for survival in a few African towns and cities. Further, ILO (2004) expressed that in Ethiopia, youthful unemployed ladies are without knowing drawn into prostitution.

Ambo is one of the towns in Oromia Regional State with an aggregate population of 107,980. Out of this, 29% were youth (CSA, 2014). Like different towns of the nation, Ambo town additionally shows the issue of youth unemployment. Youth unemployment rate was discovered 16 %, having 6.63 % male and 9.37 % female (CSA, 2014). The actualities showed that young population is one of the fragments of the town population influenced by the problem. While these general truths are clear, the particular outcomes of youth work in the town have gotten little research consideration. The results of youth unemployment in the town so far were not all around surveyed (Ambo Town Youth and Sport Office Final Report, 2014). In this stand, this study was directed to inspect the outcomes of Youth Unemployment in the study zone.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted in Ambo town, West Shoa Zone of Oromia region. The reason why Ambo town was purposively selected by the researcher is that first, among the towns in West Shoa zone, the unemployment rate was more in Ambo town (Table 1).

**Table 1: Youth Unemployment Rate of Some Towns in West Shoazone**

Name of Town	Youth Unemployment Rate (%)
Ambo	29
Ginchi	25
Gudar	24

Source: West Shoayouth and sport office (2015).

The study utilized multistage inspecting. Stage 1: Ambo town was purposively chosen for this study. Stage 2: The essential inspecting units are kebeles. Three kebeles in particular Kebele 01, 02 and 03 out of the 6 kebeles in the town are purposively chosen. The purpose of selecting these three kebeles was that the unemployment rate was high when compared with other three pre-urban kebeles (AwaroKora, SankalleFarisi and KisoseOdoliban) (Table 2).

**Table 2 Unemployment Rate of Six Kebeles of Ambo Town in 2014**

Kebeles	Number of Unemployed Youth
01	786
02	784
03	498
AwaroKora,	234
SankalleFarisi	231
KisoseEdoliban	206

Source: Ambo Town Youth and Sport Office (2014)

Stage 3: For the motivation behind this exploration, the subjects considered were young people enrolled with office of the Youth and Sport Affairs, Ambo, matured between 15-29 years. Utilizing straightforward irregular inspecting strategy, the young people were chosen from the distinguished kebeles.

The aggregate number of unemployed youth enlisted with the workplace of the Youth and Sport Affairs, Ambo Town, from those three kebeles viz., kebele 01, kebele 02 and kebele 03 were 2068. The specimen size was controlled by utilizing the recipe given by Kothari (2004).

$$n = \frac{z^2 \cdot Npq}{e^2 (N-1) + z^2 p \cdot q}$$

Where n= required sample size

N= size of the population (2068)

e=8%

P=0.5

q=0.5

Z= Confidence interval at 95% which is 1.96

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 2068 \times 0.5 \times 0.5}{(0.08)^2 \times (2068-1) + (1.96)^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5}$$

$$n = 140$$

The number of respondents to be selected from each kebele was determined by probability proportion to population size method. The respondents were selected using simple random sampling technique. The details of the respondents selected from the three selected kebeles are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Selected Respondents from Each Kebele**

S. No.	Selected Kebeles	Total Number of Respondents	Selected Respondents
1	Kebele 1	784	53
2	Kebele 2	786	54
3	Kebele 3	498	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>140</b>

Source: Own sketch

Additionally, key informants such as expert of youth and sport office, expert of MSSED office, community leaders and kebele managers were included. The details are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Details of the Sample Size and Methods of Data Collection (n=140)**

S. No.	Section	Sample Size	Methods of Data Collection
1	Selected respondents	140	Interview schedule
2	Key informants (KIIs):		Checklist
	a) Expert of youth and sport office	1	
	b) Expert of MSSED office	1	
	c) Community leaders	9	
	e) Kebele managers	3	
3	Focus group discussions (FGDs)	3	Checklist

The structured interview schedule was prepared to collect information on consequences of youth unemployment. The study was supplemented by qualitative data collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Direct Observations. Checklist was designed to collect the required data during FGDs and KIIs. In addition, secondary data obtained from records of administrative offices, publications, journals, books and other sources relevant to this study were also used to enrich the investigation.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Consequences of Youth Unemployment

The inadequate employment situation of youth has a number of socio-economic, political and moral consequences. Therefore, the consequences of youth unemployment as perceived by the respondents were studied and the results are presented in the Table 4.

**Table 4 Perceived Consequences of Youth Unemployment**

S. No	Consequences of Youth Unemployment		
		Frequency	Percent
1	Migrate from rural to urban and urban to urban or increase migrants	140	100.00
2	Drug addiction or expose to local drinks and illegal gambling	123	87.90
3	Fighting with each other or with group of relatives may attack others	118	84.30
4	Engage in prostitution that expose his/her to various disease	129	92.10
5	Increase in cheap human labor	127	90.70
6	Expose to physical and sexual abuse	130	93.60
7	Domestic servant in the home	123	87.90
8	Expose to mental and psychological depression or hopelessness	129	92.10
9	Expose to human trafficking of immigration	128	91.40
10	Moral failure of youth	131	93.60
11	Lack of emotional attachment to their family	129	92.10

Source: Survey data (2016)

The most important consequences of unemployment as perceived by the youth were migration from rural to urban and urban to urban or increase in migrants (100.00%).

In addition, they additionally express that adolescent regularly move to institutions for instruction and training, however numerous transients move for work related reasons took after by their families. In accordance with this, Okojie (2003) delineated that movement of youth has brought about centralization of youth in urban communities and towns where there are few occupations accessible in advanced area establishments. In expansion to this, Todaro (1994) and Mlatsheni and Rospabe (2002) expressed that provincial to urban relocation of youthful and instructed individuals is the very main driver for the high and always rising levels of urban unemployment.

A statement obtained from the FGD participants also support the underlined argument. They stated that:

*“Due to the expansion of socio-economic sectors and various advantages young people migrated towards the town in search of better employment opportunities, better life, education and other services. These days it is common to see new faces in the center of the town referred as ‘jibat’, which is the area of daily laborers. These new job seekers definitely had come from the surrounding areas in particular from rural kebeles to look for jobs”.*

The other important consequences as perceived by the respondents were as follows:

Moral failure of youth was reported by 93.60 per cent of the youths as the next most important consequence of youth unemployment. In UNAIDS (2004) report, it was reported that unemployed young people are at a much higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS than employed young people.

Exposed to physical and sexual abuse (93.60%) and Engaged in prostitution that expose his/her to various disease (92.10%,) were the other consequences stated by the youths, Okojie (2003) also explained that lack of employment opportunities has contributed to increasing feminization of poverty, and also encouraged prostitution as a means of survival in several African towns and cities. Further, ILO (2005) stated that in Ethiopia, young unemployed women are without knowing drawn into prostitution.

Unemployment is a stressful life event that makes people unhappy. Expose to mental and psychological depression or hopelessness and lack of emotional attachment to the family were indicated as consequences by 92.10 per cent

of the youths. This finding is supported by the findings of Toit (2003), Berhanu et al (2005) and Bell and Blanchfl(2010).

Unemployed young people are more likely to abuse illicit substances than employed young people. Drug addiction or expose to local drinks and illegal gambling was reported by 87.90 per cent of the respondents as one of the consequence of unemployment. This finding is well supported by the findings of Curtain (2000), Chigunta (2002), UN (2003) and Haji (2007).

Youth unemployment also contributes for the prevalence of crime and violence in societies where employment opportunities are limited. Fighting with each other or with group of relatives was reported as the consequence of unemployment by 84.30 per cent of the respondents. The findings of Chigunta (2002), Okojie (2003), Echebiri (2005) and Haji (2007) are in line with the finding of this study.

### Age and Sex Based Discrimination Consequences

Data was collected concerning the age and sex based discrimination from each respondent. The data were analyzed and presented in Table 5.

**Table 5 Age and Sex Based Discrimination Consequences (n=140)**

S. No	Consequences	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%
1	Lack of fairness may happen	-	-	-	33.6	66.4
2	Lack of confidence may happen	-	10.7	-	52.1	36.4
3	Lack of equality may happen	-	0.7	-	40.7	58.6
4	Lack of positive attitude may happen	-	9.3	-	41.4	49.3
5	Lack of equal participation may happen	-	5.7	-	33.6	60.7
6	Lack of transparency may happen	-	6.4	-	55.0	38.6

**Strongly agree (SD), disagree (D), neutral (N), agree (A) and strongly agree (SA).**

**Source: Survey data (2016)**

All the respondents perceived “lack of fairness may happen” due to age and sex discrimination. The other consequence perceived by them were: “lack of equality may happen, lack of equal participation may happen, lack of transparency may happen, lack of positive attitude may happen and finally, lack of confidence may happen”.

### CONCLUSIONS

The most important consequences of unemployment as perceived by the youth were migration from rural to urban and urban to urban or increase in migrants. The other important consequences as perceived by the respondents were as follows: Moral failure of youth, Exposed to physical and sexual abuse, Exposed to mental and psychological depression or hopelessness, lack of emotional attachment to the family, Drug addiction or expose to local drinks and illegal gambling and Fighting with each other or with group of relatives may attack others.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The problem of migration should be addressed: As shown in the finding, the most important consequence was the migration of youth towards cities. The continuous drift of youth may worsen the unemployment situation in urban areas, and the social and economic costs would be high.

Therefore, the experiences of localized efforts of connecting trained youth with private employers should be expanded to include more diversified skills of youth. In some way, it can be altered to be a plat form for job search or labor

supply market. A mechanism to benefit the local people from local development should be given attention. In particular reference to youth, they should be more engaged in the development efforts of their environment for a better and sustainable result.

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