

The Sociological and Cultural Factors for The Prevalence of Ilgal Trek to Republic of South Africa: The Case of Shone Town, Hadiya Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia

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Abstract: *This article examines socio-cultural factors for the prevalence illegal migration to RSA. So, as to attain the intended objectives, both qualitative and quantitative method of data collection was used. The quantitative data was collected through questionnaires and interview schedule from 141 registered returnee and 175 HHMs respectively. A total of 316 respondents were participated during qualitative data collection. Furthermore, the qualitative data was collected through in-depth interview and FGD. The collected data were analyzed by SPSS version 20 that was presented in detail using frequency and percentages. Qualitative data obtained from in depth interview and FGD were analyzed through careful interpretation and content analysis. The findings of the study indicated that socio-cultural factors like: identified social network between migrants, the social value attached to migration to RSA, the role of religion migrants affiliated and surrounding communities on individual decision to migrate as a socio cultural factors which drive youth to migrate illegally to RSA. This study also investigated the process and system of migration from the place of origin to final destination. Based on the research findings, conclusion and recommendations were mentioned that would help to minimize the existing factors which motivate people to migrate illegal.*

Key words: *Scio-cultural factors, remittance, social network, HHs of migrants, returnees, transit countries, destination countries.*

INTRODUCTION

Migration is considered as the movement of people from one geographic region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis. The reasons for it vary from one person to another depending on the situation that brought about the decision [1] (Adewale, 2005).

Although it is difficult to calculate the number of migrants worldwide with precision, recent estimations suggest that globally one in seven people today are migrants: 232 million people are international migrants, or 3.2% of the world population, from this more than 50 million people are illegal migrants in the world over one fifth of all international migrants [2] (IOM,2013).

Countries in Africa tend to experience both inflows and outflows of illegal migrants, due to their geographical position. Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia are primarily countries of origin, which rely on labor out migration to Gulf States and Jordan, Italy, Spain and Republic of South Africa, [3] (ILO, 2012).

Regarding labor migration from Ethiopia to Republic of South Africa scholars tried to investigate the beginning of Ethiopian migration to RSA through historical events. Accordingly, Ethiopian migrates in small number to RSA during the military government because it is illegal to leave the country.

However the fall of military government in 1991 and the end of a partied in South Africa increases the movements of people from Ethiopia to RSA which is currently dominated by two ethnic groups namely Hadiya and Kambata [4].(Cherstoper, 2009).

Furthermore, study conducted by Asanke and Zerhahun [5] (2015) pointed out two important historical events which played vital role for the current flow of people from Ethiopia to Republic South Africa particularly from Hadiya and Kambata ethnic group .i.e. involvements of government officials from Hadiya ethnic groups during Ethiopian diplomatic mission in South Africa and the flight of large number of Ethiopian soldiers from aforementioned ethnic group to South Africa following the overthrown of derg regime in 1991. Accordingly, these two events opened the door for current flow of labor migration from Ethiopia to Republic of South Africa. In line with this, study conducted by Teshome [6] (2013) argued the Ethiopian Ambassador in South Africa for two consecutive years (2001-2002) from Hadiya ethnic group created job opportunities for some youth from his birth place during his diplomatic mission in

South Africa embassy. Following this they were returned to the place of origin and engaged in investment activities. Accordingly this dynamic change within short period of time motivated the remaining community decision to migrate to South Africa. This indicates the present labor migration from Ethiopia to Republic of South Africa has historical root cause.

Nowadays, a significant number of labor powers have been migrating from Hadiya Zone to RSA. According to the study conducted by Ethiopian Embassy in South Africa estimated that approximately 45,000 to 50,000 Ethiopians live in South Africa which is dominated by two ethnic groups from Southern region namely Hadiya and Kambata[3] (ILO, 2012).

Furthermore, there are various factors for people decision to migrate from the place of origin to new destination. The purpose of this study was to investigate the socio economic and cultural factors for the current flow of migrants from the Shone administrative town to RSA. The study area is highly experienced in labor migration to South Africa. Returnee from final destination and transit countries and household heads of migrants were the target population of this study. Returnees were selected as a unit of analysis in order to identify the motivating factors for illegal migration. Were as, household heads of migrants chosen as unit of analysis due to the significant role they play during decision to migrate.

The researcher, motivated to conduct this study for various reason of this, due to the illegal nature of the journey migrants from the study area encounter several challenges during travel to destination countries including, staying long time in prison, lack of basic needs violation of human right countries and death. Migrants were informed about this challenge before they start the journey. Despite this, decision to migrate was made by household heads of migrants or migrants itself. The focus of this study was on socio economic and cultural factors which motivate for decision to migrate illegally. As long as the researcher of this study observed, these factors were not rigorously studied by pervious researchers. This was the key rationale for conducting the study. Thus, in this study, the researcher investigated socio economic and cultural factors for the prevalence of illegal migration to RSA.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, mixed research approaches were used. The descriptive research method from quantitative research approach, especially cross-sectional design was employed. The quantitative research approach was used to utilize statistically specific data that was representative of the target population as a whole, and to make the research more objective, accurate and generalizable.

Beside this, questionnaire was used to collect the quantitative data. To use the advantages of both quantitative and qualitative data, employing the quantitative and qualitative research approach together were very preferable and powerful. Hence, the qualitative approach was used to obtain in-depth data about the research problem. Focus group discussion and key informants interview were used to collect the qualitative data.

This research employed mixed approach i.e. qualitative and quantitative research methodology in order to achieve intended objective. FGD and in-depth interview was used to collect data qualitatively. Quantitative data collected from interview schedule.

Focus Group Discussion

This tool was used to get an ample and timely data through an interactive mode of information exchange. This data collecting instrument is believed to be very important since it gives freedom for the discussants to express their ideas, opinions, views and understanding of the situation of the study area.

The participants of FGD were different from the sample taken to conduct interview schedule and questionnaires. Accordingly, unregistered returnees from RSA, and HHMs who were not included in interview schedule were participated in this study. The participants were selected through snow ball sampling technique. By using this technique of sample determination registered migrants' asked in order to identify those migrants' who were not registered when they returned to the place of origin within the year interval which taken as eligible criteria in this study. Accordingly, FGD discussants were in 2 groups and each of the groups had 6 discussants which mean there were a total of 12 discussants participated in this study.

The discussion was held in the proper place for FGD participants and for the discussion itself. Permission was obtained from Keble administrator for a place to conduct focus group discussion. Finally, the researcher had moderated the discussion based on guiding questions in the Amharic language and all records were translated to English during the time of analyzing the data.

In-depth Interview

The main purpose of conducting in-depth interview in this study was to dig the detail information on the topic researched. The informants were returnee migrants' from Republic of South Africa to the place of origin and house hold heads of migrants.

In order to select returnee judgmental (purposive sampling) technique was employed. The researcher used this sampling technique due to prior information regarding unregistered returnees who were deported from transit countries to the place of origin particularly those who arrested in transit countries when they try to cross the border illegally during journey to Republic of South Africa.

Returnees who were assumed to be more experienced in shearing their life experience under the issues were selected purposively from the rest of unit of analysis. Accordingly, 6 in-depth- interview was held with returned migrants'. The above sampling technique was also used to select household heads of migrants for in-depth interview.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Muslim | 1 | 0.7 | 4 | 2.2 |
| Traditional religion (Fandano) | - | - | 3 | 1.7 |
| Total | 141 | 100 | 175 | 100 |

Source; own survey, 2016

As indicated in table 1, respondents were asked to specify their socio cultural backgrounds. Accordingly, 73% of respondents were belong to Hadiya ethnic group followed by Kambataa ethnic group 15.6%, respondents who were from Wolayita ethnic group constituted 5.63% .The rest three ethnic group namely Amharaa, Aalaba, and Guraage constitute 5.65%.

The above data clearly indicates significant number of returnee to the place of origin from RSA were from Hadiya ethnic group, followed by kambataa. In line with this majority of household heads of migrants were from Hadaya ethnic group. it implies majority of illegal migrants from the study area to RSA were from Hadiya ethnic group.

It is known that Ethiopia is a country of more than 86 ethnic groups But labor migration from Ethiopia to RSA were dominated by Hadiya and kambata ethnic groups Since, the pioneers of this migration path were from the aforementioned two ethnic groups the current flows of people to RSA were primarily dominated by them.

According to reviewed literatures there are two historical root causes for the high number of migrants from this ethnic group's .i.e. the role of Ethiopian Ambassador in South Africa who created job opportunity for youth from his place of origin (Hadiya) during his stay in Ethiopian embassy which found in South Africa. Secondly, the flight of huge number of Ethiopian soldiers who were ethnically from this group to various African countries including South Africa following the fall of Derg regime .This two historical events identified as the reason for the current flow of people from Ethiopia to RSA.

As observed from table 1, (85.5%). respondents were affiliated to Protestants religion, followed by Orthodox (8.51). Respondents who were affiliated to Catholic religion were (4.96%).The lowest proportion of respondents (0.7%) were followers of Muslim religion.

Based on the data presented highest number of respondents were follow protestant religion at place of origin. This implies religion respondents were affiliated play significant role on decision to migrate which is discussed in Scio cultural factors motivates individual decision to migrate.

Regarding to sex of the household heads of migrants 86.8% were male headed household were as the remaining 13.2% of the respondents were female headed household. The data imply that the study community is highly male headed household.

Socio-cultural factors for labor migration to RSA

These parts of result and decision attempted to identify the socio cultural factors which motivate individual and family decision to go abroad .particularly the role of religion institutions, family relative and friends influence, social value attached to going abroad, and existed social networks between pervious migrants, aspirant migrants and non-migrants discussed based on the data collected.

Table 2 Returnees view on the role of religion they affiliated in their decisions to migrate

| Variables | Categories | N | % |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Assisted by religion affiliated | Yes | 121 | 85.5 |
| | No | 20 | 14.2 |
| Total | | 141 | 100 |

| Variables | RRSA | | DRJ | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Assistance provided | | | | |
| Financial support | 7 | 5.8 | 14 | 12 |
| Prophesied the successful journey | 16 | 13.3 | 23 | 19 |
| Pray for successful journey | 22 | 18.2 | 39 | 32 |
| Total | 45 | 37.2 | 76 | 62.8 |

*RRSA refers returnee from final destination (RSA) *DRJ refers deported returnee from journey

Source own survey, 2016

As shown in table 2, from the total 141 registered returnee with year interval between ,2013-2015, 85.5% of respondents were get assistance before starting the journey to RSA from religion they affiliated. Whereas, 14.2% of respondents were don not get any assistance from religion they affiliated at place of origin.

Assistance provided for RRSA observed in table, 2 , accordingly, 18.2% of respondents were assisted by pray for successful journey and safe travel to destination countries, 13.3% were assisted by the religion affiliated via Prophecy of successful journey. The remaining 5.8% of respondents were assisted by money at the initial stage of journey to RSA.

Regarding assistance provided for DRJ 32.2% of respondents were assisted by pray for successful journey, 19% of respondents were assisted by prophetic words about the journey, whereas, 11.6% of respondents were assisted by money intended to cover travel cost.

According to Scio-cultural survey data of the returnee majority of the respondents were protestant religion followers. Respondents who were affiliated to protestant religion have high propensity to get assistance during the process of migration rather than other religion followers. Furthermore it implies point out the existence of unsuccessful travel to destination countries whose migration had been prophesized to be successful.

In similar way in-depth informant interview informant from HHMs explained that as travel document are prepared and money is secured , they look to religious leaders to pray for their succeed and to interpret the will of God in the journey. Besides, in-depth interview informant explained prophesying the successful journey is common for the person who decided to migrate .There is a common saying among the community member “*Amen yuukenee afaa dawalakoo lamen yuukane laase dabaalakoo*”. In Amahric version to mean “አሜን ነጋሥት ደረሰው ደውሉ፤ ለምን ያሉ ነው ዳሳ ተመለሱ! ፣ meaning those who receive the prophesy without hesitating safely arrive to RSA, whereas those who do not certain about the prophesy return home before reaching RSA. In connection to this in-depth interview informant from household heads of migrants share the migration experiences of family member as follows:

.....First we prepared the travel documents like passport and transportation cost together with my son, we look to religious leaders to pray for my son success in the journey and infer the will of God .And God tells us the journey will be safe one on behalf of our spiritual father .Then my family member certain about the safe arrival of my son , we sent him thorough local broker as agent .But the long march from Ethiopia to RSA is difficult and often dangerous one .Death along the journey is common ,through this period my family member and religious leader continued to prayer meeting at home and formal church program time . After 25 days of journey my son safely arrived to RSA. Then we celebrated and worship God with religious leaders at home Immediately after 3 month he sent 5,000ETB to support the local church at place of origin and remind them to pray for him to be safe in RSA”.

The data indicates, religious institution at place of origin were playing pivotal role in deciding the future fate of migrants journey through spiritual belief and practices like pray and prophecy for successful journey .In connection to this (Finkeand Stark,1988) stated that religion makes claims about metaphysical elements and universal truths. Such claims, which concern interaction with this supernatural, are a powerful source and shaper of values and, consequently, a motivator for calculating social action).

The Role of Social Network on Individual Decision to Migrate

The social network operationally defends in this study as the link between migrants, non-migrants, returned migrants, and aspirant migrants both in sending and receiving country through bonds of kinship and sheared community at place origin. According to key informants interview with returnee the existed networks facilitate and encourage the process of migration by producing resources in the form of information and assistance to aspirant migrants. In line with this in depth interview informant at *arancha kefel ketema* explained his experiences as follows:

.....before I start the journey I contacted my childhood friend who live in dabube Africa in order to get adequate information about the journey process and the entire work condition in debube Africa .He give me sufficient information and decided to go. The information I got from my friend lowers the cost of my movement including direct money cost and I get expected benefit from debube Africa(returnee migrants from RSA) ‘.

This notion indicates. Previous migrants play significant role on individual’s decision to migrate to RSA from the place of origin. Furthermore, this study identified various ways of approaching the role of migrant’s networks in migration process. Accordingly the presence of relatives in RSA play significant role in influencing migration intention and actual migration behavior alike.

FGD discussants also argue that relatives who live in RSA motivate and direct migration by assuring the migrants aid or support in RSA. Accordingly, everyone in the community under claim some tie with RSA migrants through kinship, friendship, or shared community at place of origin. In connection, to this study conducted by Massey, *etal*(1990) argue that more migrants move to a particular place because that is where the networks lead, and because that is where the social structure affords them the greatest opportunities for success. As more migrants arrive, the range of social connections is further extended, making subsequent migration to that place even more likely.

Table 3 Household heads of migrants perceptions towards destination country

| Variables | Response | N | % |
|------------|----------|-----|-------|
| Perception | Positive | 127 | 72.57 |
| | Negative | 48 | 27.42 |

| Total | 175 | 100 |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Primary reason for positive perception | | |
| Expectation of high remittance | 64 | 36.6 |
| Successful story of pervious migrants | 85 | 48.5 |
| Offer high social status in the community | 20 | 11.4 |
| Secured place for living | 6 | 3.42 |
| Total | 175 | 100 |
| Primary reason for negative perception | | |
| Challenges migrants face during travel | 25 | 14.28 |
| Story of unsuccessful migrants | 12 | 6.8 |
| Frequent story of illegal migrant's death | 3 | 1.7 |
| Absence of freedom to move in RSA | 8 | 4.5 |
| Total | 48 | 27.4 |

Source; own survey, 2017

As indicated in the table 3, from the total 175 household heads of migrants who participated in this study 127(72.57%) had positive perception for family member migrations to RSA, whereas 48(27.42%) of respondents were negatively perceived RSA as destination country towards their family member migration to RSA.

This implies the majority of the household heads of migrants positively perceived labor migration from the place origin to RSA this is due to the success story of pervious migrants from the study area .Returnees from RSA in the study area engaged in investment activates by the money they accumulated through hard working in RSA. For instance, they constructed hotels and deluxe house in town. Thus, household heads of migrants positively perceived family member migration to RSA. (See table 3).

Furthermore, in the study community, people positively perceive labor migration to RSA due to, expectation of high amount of remittance, it offers better social status and it is secured place for living (see table, 3).In line with this response from focus group decision and in-depth interview confirmed that expectation of high remittance by the household member and migrants itself pointed as reason for positive perception in the study area.

On the other hand, respondents who were negatively perceive destination country were presented in table 11, accordingly, from the total 175 participants of this study 48(27.42%)of respondents were negatively perceived destination country during their family member migration to RSA of this respondents 14.28% negatively perceived their family member migration to RSA due to prolonged and harsh condition of the journey, followed by 6.8% of the respondents who were negatively perceived destination country due to bad story of previously deported migrants to the place of origin before reaching the actual destination .The remaining 4.5% and 1.7 % of respondents negatively perceived destination country because of lack of security at destination and frequent story of death during journey on previous migrants.

Community Role on Individual Decision to Migrate

According to FGD, discussants' surrounding community play vital role on individual decision to migrate. Accordingly, the main scenario community member participation demonstrated on accompany program (የሽንት ፕሮግራም). This social event used as one mechanism to cover transportation cost for aspire migrants. Aforementioned preprogram practiced through different ways which is intended to collect money for travel cost characterized by different ways preparing a pray ceremony for successful journey with very small amount of cost. The participants were invited, using invitation letters. The invited people may be relatives, friends, and people from religion they affiliated, government workers and others.

This indicates, the strong ties among the community members regarding the social issue and the support each other during the time of challenges. Moreover, it implies community member used as source in founding the travel cost for aspirant migrants.

In line with these findings, Messye (1993) argue that people should be more likely to migrate abroad if they come from a community where many people migrated or a large knowledge of migration is available.

Table 4 Assistances provided by pervious migrants'

| Variables | Response | N | % |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Do you get any assistance? | Yes | 128 | 90.8 |
| From pervious migrants' | No | 13 | 9.2 |
| Total | | 141 | 100 |
| Assistance provided | To easily access <i>dalalaa</i> at place of origin | 31 | 22 |
| | Information about destination countries | 57 | 40.4 |
| | Promise to get job RSA | 19 | 13.47 |

| | Contributed money during travel | 21 | 14.89 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Total | | 128 | 90.8 |

Source, own survey, 2016

As indicated in the table 4 respondents were asked to answer whether they get assistance from previously migrated person or not. Accordingly, 90.8% of respondents get assistance during the time of migration from previous migrants'. Whereas, 9.2% of respondents were don't get any assistance from previous migrants which is constituted the lowest proportion when compared to the sample population.

The data indicates majority of the respondents' were assisted by previous migrants' during the process of migration. Besides, it implies the significant role of past migration on the current flow of labor from the study area. Previous migrants from the study area assist aspirant migrants in various ways as it is observed in the in table 12, 40.4% of the respondents were get valuable information regarding destination countries, followed by 22% of respondents who were assisted to easily access *dalaala* at place of origin. The remaining 14.89% and 13.87% of respondents promised by previous migrants' to get job in RSA and assisted in terms of money which required to cover travel cost respectively.

The data presented above clearly indicate that aspiring migrants' have high access to family, friends, and other previous migrants in RSA. This access to previous migrants' play significant role in diving individuals from the place of origin to new destination through the assistance they provide. In connection to this in-depth interview with returnee from *kanchara* kebele explained the assistance provided from previous migrants' in his own words as follows;

--- "I had a childhood friend in South Africa and he told me about his life and the money he earns. Listening to his success, I decided to go *dabube* Africa and asked him to contribute money in order to cover my travel cost. He accepted my request and sent some amount of money. Then I started the journey to South Africa due to the assistance provided from my friend.

Therefore, destination contacts with a person who had migrated earlier from the home area have a positive effect on deriving individual decision to migrate. In line with this findings (Faist 1997; Pries 2004) pointed out the role of earlier migrants' on individual decision to migrate in terms of social network. This network which is created between previous migrants' and aspiring migrants' help migrant's to finance their travel, to find a job or accommodation in final destination. Thus, earlier migrants' from the place of origin provide assistance for aspiring migrants' who decided to come RSA in terms of providing information, how to get *dalala* in the place of origin, finding job, and financing their travel.

Conclusion

The findings of this study revealed that illegal migration to RSA was mainly attributed to socio - cultural factors. Based on the research results and discussions made so far the following conclusions can be drawn:-

Based on socio-demographic data majority of migrants from the study community to RSA were male. Accordingly, age and marital status of the study community determine the decision to migrate

Migrants from the study community to RSA were mainly from Hadiya ethnic group who were the followers of protestant religion. In terms of occupation majority of migrants were students at place of origin who failed to succeed in educational endeavors.

Furthermore, there are also socio cultural factors in the study community which motivate the decision to migrate i.e. religion individuals affiliated, the social value attached to migration, , perception towards destination countries were identified as socio cultural factors which motivates people to migrate from the place of origin to Republic of south Africa.

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