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Rural-Urban Migration and its Consequence on Urban living: the case in Hawassa City Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract- In some developing countries such as Ethiopia the phenomenon of rural-urban migration which is mainly triggered by rural 'push' factors and urban 'pull' factors is the main cause of unbalanced rate of population growth and distribution between urban and rural areas. This situation in turn affects the healthy development of both urban and rural areas. In spite of this fact, much is not known on many of the aspects of rural-urban migration. As such, this study is mainly concerned with an assessment of the consequence of rural-urban migration on the socio-economic condition of urban living, consequence of rural-urban migration on the environment of urban areas, and consequences of rural-urban migration on the urban labour scenario of the city. In order to find out the problems, household survey was conducted on 197 households sampled through systematic sampling. Primary data had been collected through questionnaire and interview while the secondary one was from different documented sources.

Keywords: *rural-urban migration, consequence of migration, migrant, urban areas.*

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Rural-Urban Migration and its Consequence on Urban living: The case in Hawassa City Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract- In some developing countries such as Ethiopia the phenomenon of rural-urban migration which is mainly triggered by rural 'push' factors and urban 'pull' factors is the main cause of unbalanced rate of population growth and distribution between urban and rural areas. This situation in turn affects the healthy development of both urban and rural areas. In spite of this fact, much is not known on many of the aspects of rural-urban migration. As such, this study is mainly concerned with an assessment of the consequence of rural-urban migration on the socio-economic condition of urban living, consequence of rural-urban migration on the environment of urban areas, and consequences of rural-urban migration on the urban labour scenario of the city. In order to find out the problems, household survey was conducted on 197 households sampled through systematic sampling. Primary data had been collected through questionnaire and interview while the secondary one was from different documented sources. Thus, the data obtained from the participants was analyzed through descriptive statistics. Having analyzed the collected data, the researcher had arrived at the conclusion that rural-urban migration has impact on the socio-economic life of the urban dwellers. Rural migrants came to urban areas in search of employment and to utilize urban services and facilities. Since, the continued out flow of rural migrants is in search for the urban basic facilities, migrants have created pressure on the socio-economic and environmental condition of the host area. Now the cities experiences problems such as a shortage of housing, unemployment, increasing cost of living, lack of access to social services, increased crime rate, expansion of urban informal sectors.

Keywords: rural-urban migration, consequence of migration, migrant, urban areas.

I. Introduction

a) Background of the Study

Ethiopia is one of the least urbanized countries of the world where 18 percent of its population lives in urban areas. However, its rate of urbanization is one of the highest in the world, 4.1 percent (Markos and Seyoum, 1998). The rapid growth of urban population in Ethiopia and in many other developing countries has been largely due to rural-urban migration contributing almost half of their urban population growth. For instance, in 1994, about 44.7 percent of the urban residents in Ethiopia were migrants (CSA, 1998 summary reports). The figures were higher for some towns such as Hawassa, 50.6 percent (CSA, 1995). Hawassa is the capital and center of administration of the Southern Nations and Nationalities and Peoples Regional State. The town has become the major socio-economic and political center of SNNPR. Due to its location on the main road, it receives a considerable number of in-migrants. As a result the numbers of migrants of Hawassa town has grown from 11,325 people in 1994 (CSA, 1995) to 110,834 in 2007 (CSA, 2008). The tide of migration to the town of Hawassa is consistently higher than the capacity of the town to accommodate the new demands posed by the migrants.

It is apparent that the basic reasons for the drift of large numbers of people from rural to the urban areas are the relative improvement of different facilities and better living conditions in the urban areas compared to the rural areas is the main "pulling" factor. The pace of urbanization or the tide of migration to urban areas which is triggered by rural "push" factors is consistently higher than the capacity of new job openings and the provision of housing and others social services and amenities. Its effects are felt in wide spread urban unemployment, over-crowded housing and severe shortage of public amenities. Consequences of rapid urbanization are multi faceted and requires timely responses by development planners and policy makers to deal with pressures created on the infrastructure of large urban centers by the influx of migrants, there is also view that the notion of migration should not only be seen from the view points of its negative implications as it is also seen to play positive role in socio-economic development. The outflow of migrants, for instance, manifests itself in the changing labor market scenario in which migration is source of labour force to the urban economy.

In Ethiopia, much has not been done to study the effect of rural-urban migration on urban living condition. From the available limited literature on the subject a few have attempted to study aspects of urban-ward migration such as Shack (1973) in Addis Ababa, Mullenbach (1976) in Akaki, Bjeren (1985) in Shashemene, Kebede (1991) in Nazareth, Birru (1997) in Arbaminch etc. Some of these studies are from the anthropological point of view and concentrated on Addis

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Ababa and nearby towns. This research is important in providing needed information on the possible effects of migration on the city.

b) Objectives of the Study

i. *Objectives of the study include*

- ✓ To assess the consequence of rural-urban migration particularly on economic aspects (employment, cost of living, urban informal sectors) in the study area.
- ✓ To investigate the consequences of in-migration particularly on social services (education, housing, health and other social facilities) in the study area.
- ✓ To investigate the major pressure that rural-urban 7Xmigrants create on physical environment of the city.

c) Research Questions

i. *Taking the objectives listed above into account, the leading research questions are:*

- ✓ What is the consequence of the rural migrants on the economic aspect of the city?
- ✓ What are the consequences of rural-urban migrants in providing social services and amenities in Hawassa city?
- ✓ Do the rural- urban migration impacted in the urban environment of Hawassa city?

d) Materials and Methods

The study was based on both primary and secondary data. Using more than one data collection approach give opportunity to the researcher to combine the strengths and correct some of the deficiencies of any one source of data. Initially questionnaire which includes open-ended and closed ended types were prepared and administered for 70 migrants and 127 urban natives (non-migrants) of the city. The sample researcher employ this sampling method because these three sub-cities are areas in which expansion of the city takes place and great number of migrants settles in this sub-city. In-depth interview was also conducted to substantiate the responses acquired using questionnaires. The interview was conducted with the city administrators, and other concerned authorities of the city, administrator of sample *kebeles*. The questions concerned with the effect of migration on socio-economic condition of the city. Their responses were interpreted and analyzed using descriptive statistics. In addition to this, published and unpublished literatures were used.

II. Litrature Reviews

a) The Nature of Rural-Urban Migration in Ethiopia

In the sub-Saharan Africa, there is a consensus that improvement in economic circumstances is the primary motivation for internal migration. African migration is fundamentally a family affair rather than an individual activity. Sending of remittances by migrants is identified as one of the strongest and most all encompassing phenomena in Africa's migration systems. Accordingly individual migration enables the household to maximize its chances for survival by diversifying its sources of income and spreading its risks (Stark and Bloom, 1985).

Studies in Ethiopia regarding the implications of migration reveal both the positive and negative aspects. On the positive aspect, migration contributes in meeting the labor demands of receiving areas, bringing back skills, and playing a key role in the diversification and improvement of household income (Degefa, 2005). On the effect of rural-urban migration, different researchers state that migration leads in increasing population exerting pressure on urban social services in the host environment, as well as creating a shortage of farm labor, placing burden of responsibilities on the person who left behind.

b) Consequence of Rural-Urban Migration

The effects of migration are viewed from two directions. On one hand migration causes excessive urbanization, unemployment, income inequalities, ecological stress and population mal-distribution where as on the other hand migration is a necessary part of economic growth, equilibrating tendencies, facilitating industrialization, improving income distribution and introducing technological change in agriculture, and generalize that migration is the human right ensuring choosing one's destination to improve welfare and economic benefit (Lewis, 1982; Standing, 1984). In general, Rural-urban migration has a number of economic, social, cultural, and demographic impacts to both destination and origin areas.

i. *Economic Effect*

In many cases of migration economic gain has been the prime objective. The economic gain acquired by rural migrants from the cities could be an important asset to be transferred to the rural areas (home area or village) in the form of capital, technology, learning awareness, knowledge, trade, goods or services, etc... Tiffen (1995) describes the positive value of migration as any work outside the district brings in capital and information as well as investment in transport or shops which in turn can facilitate agricultural profitability. Migrants are everywhere doing all kinds of jobs mostly in the service and informal sectors. They are mainly engaged in the 3-d jobs – difficult, dirty, and dangerous (Ma & Xiang 1998) jobs that the urban population does not want because they are too hard or disgracing.

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ii. *Demographic Consequence*

migration has significant influence on the population size of both receiving and sending regions. As Standing (1984) pointed out, an increase in migration is expected to reduce rural population growth while urban population can increase because of the majority of migrants are males and females of reproductive age group. As the result, there can be predominance of older age groups with lower fertility rate in the sending rural areas (Khinchuk 1987). The UN (1991) reported that the migration which is caused by population pressure becomes age and sex selective. The result will be a rejuvenation of the population structure of the urban area at destination because the migrants are younger than the resident population. Moreover, some studies demonstrated that the age selectivity nature of rural-urban migration supplies cities with more young adults which in turn increase crude birth rates in cites and urban areas (UNFPA, 1996). In Africa the age selectivity in city ward migration is predominantly non-contraceptive societies; hence it makes the urban population age structure more conducive to high fertility (UNESCO, 1992).

iii. *Consequence on providing urban basic facilities*

Migration has not only impact on demographic and economic aspects, but it has also different impacts on urban basic facilities. The consequences of migration are numerous in the urban areas among which overcrowding and congestion, strain on urban social services, rising food costs, worsening air and water diseases are important (Adepoju 1991). The most visible impact of growing urban population is probably the rise in squatter settlements in the main urban centers. The artificial barriers include high housing costs and regulations making it harder for migrants to rent houses in the cities, pushing them to suburban areas where lack of social services and police protection is pervasive (Zhao, 1999).

iv. *It results expansion of Urban Informal Sectors*

A majority of migrant workers find work in the urban informal sector which then leads to low productivity and limited prospects for exiting poverty (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005). However, there is also compelling evidence that migrants can escape poverty even when they have remained in the informal sector. The majority of the new workers in the urban labor force seemed to create their own employment and start their own businesses. Self-employment comprises a greater and represents 70 per cent of informal employment in sub- Saharan Africa (SSA), 62 percent in North Africa, 60 per cent in Latin America and 59 per cent in Asia (Deshigkar and Grimm, 2005). The self-employed were engaged in a variety of activities such as street vending, prostitution, selling different items. Other migrants found jobs as daily labourers, barbers, carpenters, mechanics, maids, personal servants and artisans (McCatty, 2004). Their main reason for taking part in the informal sector is to use what little skills they have to earn enough income to sustain their daily lives. As mentioned before, urban informal sector activities can be labor intensive, the labor coming from every member of the household that is able to work. The majority of the workers entering the urban informal sector are recent rural migrants who are unable to find jobs in the formal sector and the main reason for taking part in the informal sector is to use what little skills they have to earn enough income to sustain their daily lives (Acharya and cervatus, 2009). The informal sector is connected to the formal sector, since it provides opportunities for people who are unable to find employment in the formal sector. Thus, rural-urban migration results expansion of the informal sector and seen as a cause of rural-urban migration, because it lowers the risk of the individual being unemployed once they move to the cities (McCatty, 2004).

v. *Consequence on rise of urban population*

Migration has increased urban populations significantly over the years. A common view held by policymakers and economists in developing countries is that urban growth rates are excessive. This view is brought about by the large numbers of unemployed or underemployed young people in many Asian, African, and Latin American cities (McCatty, 2004). Rural-urban migration increases the urban population and hence unplanned urban expansion with insufficient supply of social services like housing, electricity, water supply, proper sewerage system, road networks and transportation system. Increased number of people because of rural urban migration certainly puts pressure on available and stagnant public utilities. Health services and education have been particularly burdened with a huge demand, causing overcrowded classrooms in urban areas. The most visible impact of growing urban population is probably the rise in squatter settlements in main urban centers. There are cases of unsafe and overcrowded shanty towns where exposure to pollution and diseases are high at risk. In general, increasing urban population has also brought increasing problems in urban.

It is also difficult for the urban administration to have proper record of urban residents. Lack of proper record concerning residents made it difficult to control certain criminal activities like robbery and attacks on individual property and in some cases life of residents (Alemante, Ansha &Waktola, 2006). Unplanned urban growth further contributes to the displacement of farmers around expanding towns (Alemante, Ansha &Waktola, 2006). This further aggravates production shortfall and family disruption. Displaced family members may decide to join urban where there is no job opportunity. As Alemante, Ansha &Waktola (2006)

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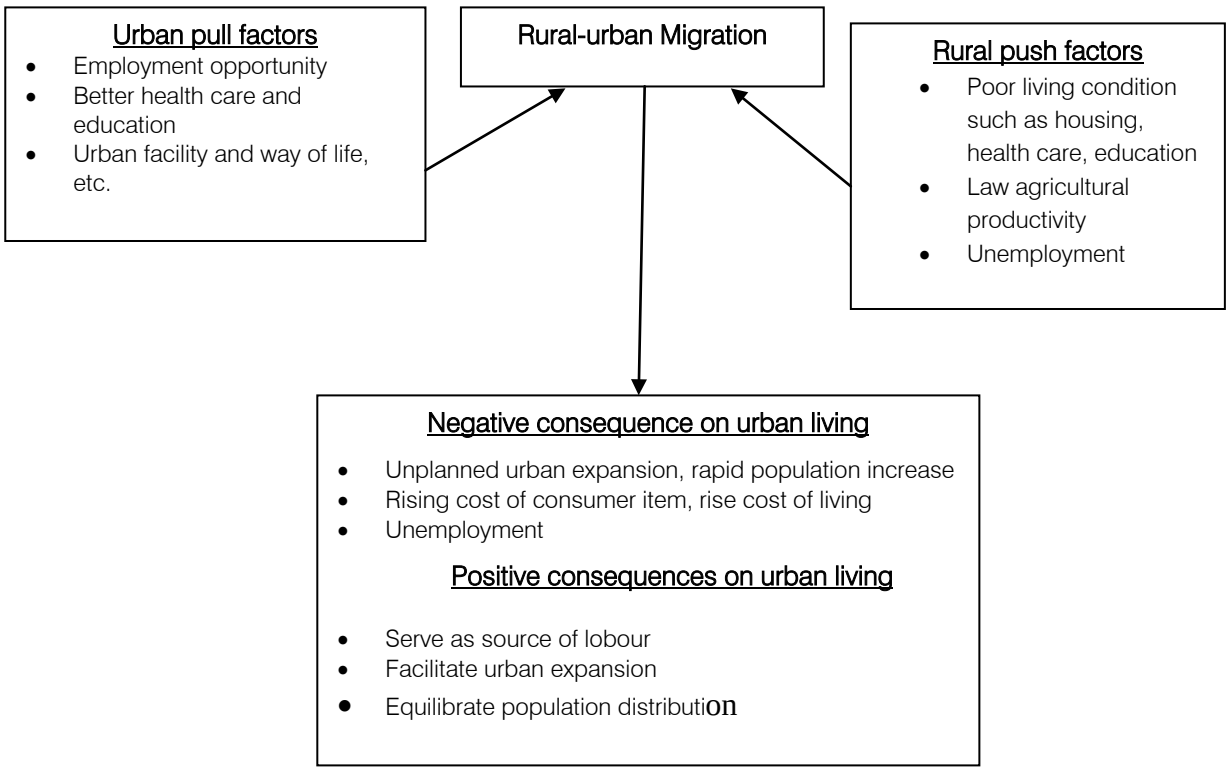
pointed out that, growths of streetism, urban unemployment and higher proportion of unskilled migrants negatively affect the peace and security of the town. In the absence of proper waste management system, environmental pollution is another area of concern for the wider public. Urbanization is connected with a variety of policies, spanning demographic economic and environmental concerns. Growing of cities is often seen as the agents of environmental pollution and urbanization can place stress on the land through sprawl; coincident industrial development may threaten air and water quality (Micheal, 1999).

Most of the migration conventionally linked to behind. these urban issues was seen, as a conventional pattern of migration does not always lead to increase incomes and impacts of migration perhaps, the migrant may face obstacles in availability of job and loss of much human labor and social capital. Many in migrants are not in a position to find space and/or materials to accumulate the necessary resources and materials to build a permanent house and they are forced to erect and live in temporary dwellings on the streets. Cities of developing countries, over one-third of their populations have the possibility of living in squatter and slum settlements (Todaro, 2003)



Source: Adopted from Brihan, 2011

III. Data Presentation and Analysis Descriptive Statistics

a) *Consequence of Migration on Urban Households*

In order to analyze consequence of migration on the urban life of the city an attempt was made to gather information about the problems faced by urban natives (non migrants). As such, problems such as inadequacy of housing, inadequacy of social services like education, health care etc, rise in the cost of living, inaccessibility of job and competition for employment were used as instruments for assessing the impacts of migration on urban life. About 26% of surveyed non-migrants responded that they have encountered with housing problems. In this regard, an attempt was made to collect information through interviews with the officials of the municipality of the city. They stated that the city has been facing chronic problems of housing and shortage of other urban facilities. About 22.8% of respondents reported that rise in cost of living is a problem. The analysis of the key informant's s also strengthened the aforementioned facts that migration results increase of cost of living. During the in-depth interview with labour and social affairs officials of the city, it was stated that: Steep increase of the population in the city results increase in the cost of consumer goods.

The third major problem that non-migrants encountered with was inadequacy of social services. According to information surveyed through key informants from Kebele administrators, there are consequences of migration that the wider public faces. Rural-urban migration increases the urban population and hence unplanned urban expansion with insufficient supply of social services like education, health care,

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proper sewerage system, road networks and transportation system. The inadequacies of social services were highly signaled on education and health care services. Because of high influx of migrants in to the city, the ratio of student to section highly affected. About 18.1% and 13.4% responded that competition for employment and difficulty in getting job is their major problem of urban life respectively. The flow of migrants from surrounding rural areas creates huge access of labor and this results low payment as well as inadequacy of job opportunity in the city.

b) The Consequence of Migration on Socio-Economic Conditions of the City

Migration affects socio-economic condition of the wider public. Rural-urban migration causes for urban poverty, unemployment and expansion of crime in cities (Devereux, 2003).

As survey data indicated 27.6% of non-migrants responded that increased rate of unemployment is a problem in the city resulted from influx of rural in migrants. The analysis of the key informants also strengthened the aforementioned facts that rural migrants increased unemployment. Interview held with key informants from city municipality, for instance indicate that Hawassa city is not driven by industrialization rather it is tourism based city hence, there are no adequate industries or corporate establishments worth mentioning and the Government and the tertiary sectors remains the largest employer in the city. In such a given situation, a large proportion of the rural to urban migrants who come in search of better livelihood and employment remain unemployed. Expansion of informal urban sectors was the second socio-economic problem caused by the rural in migrants and it was reported by 24.4% of the respondents. The main reason that rural-urban migrants taking part in the informal sector is to use what little skills they have and to earn income to sustain their daily lives. In urban informal sector activities, the labor coming from every member of the household that is able to work. Of the overall respondents nearly 21.3% reported that urban congestion is a problem caused by migration. Key informant interview from labour and social affairs office of city administration state that influx of migrants results from simple overcrowded in the city up to pressure on urban infrastructure and amenities.

The rest significant numbers of the respondents (18.8%) state that rate of crime is increased as the rural in migrants continue to flow towards the city. It clear that, migrants most of them come with low level of skills and education, are prone to a number of social crisis at the place of destination such as being victims of unemployment, homelessness, lack of good access to health and other social services. This chronic unemployment leads them to crime, as people need to find ways of putting food on their tables.

c) Demographic Consequence of Migration on Destination Area

Migration has significant influence on the population size of both receiving and sending regions. According to the survey data about 70.1% of the surveyed non-migrants reported that urban problems they encountered with were caused by rapid increase in population of the city. Concerning the cause for this rapid population growth in the city 49.6% of the respondents responded that natural increase (fertility of the urban natives) is the main cause. Whereas 48.8% of non-migrants state that rural-urban migration is responsible rise of population of the city. This indicates that rural-urban migration has equally important with natural increase (fertility of the urban natives) in the growth of population of the city. In conclusion we can infer that problems face urban people is caused by the rapid population growth, and this rapid increase in population highly aggravated by rural-urban migration.

d) Consequences of Migration on Physical Environment of the City

Urbanization is connected with a variety of, spanning demographic economic and environmental concerns. Fast growth of cities which is facilitated by rural-urban migration is often seen as the agents of environmental pollution.

According to the data surveyed through key informant's interview of the city administration officials, there are consequences of migration that the wider public faces. As indicated above Rural-urban migration increases the urban population and hence unplanned urban expansion with insufficient sewerage system, road networks and transportation system. In the absence of proper waste management system, environmental pollution is another area of concern for the wider public. This is evident from most part of the town where street dwellers perform all activities required for human survival in the rod side with the absence of proper environmental concern. Key informant interview with officials of the city municipality sate that, Migration can contribute to the growth of urban squatters and unplanned expansion of towns and cities, with improper environmental management.

IV. Conclusions

Rural-urban migration puts pressure on urban basic facilities like schools, health and housing services. Migration also affects urban dwellers by making food items prices to raise, competition for employment which results work for low payment. Migration has significant influence on the population size of city. The flood of rural migrants to the city results unplanned rise of population and demand of jobs, health, education, and the like urban facilities. Besides, as more and more rural migrants move into this city, there will be soon a point of diminishing returns where the towns will become unable

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to provide even basic social services to the registered residents due to increased migrants' pressure.

Furthermore, rural-urban migrants are polluting the city, as they defecate in public because they have rented rooms without any services except for sleeping. In most part of Hawassa Town Street dwellers erect plastic houses on road side, and perform all activities required for human survival with no concern to the environment of the city. High flow of migrants to Hawassa creates excessive labour and this has accentuated the problem of unemployment. In growing number of street children, growing rate of the prostitution, growing rate of crime and expansion urban informal sectors are the major problems that have resulted from rural-urban migration.

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Appendex I

Structured Questionnaire to be filled by household head

A: Background Information

1. Sex
   a) Male b) female
2. Age
   a) 20-45 b) 46-65 c) >65

B: Economic status of Respondents

4. Employment status
   a) Employed b) unemployed c) pensioned d) Other (Specify)
5. If you are employed
   a) Government employee b) Private Organization employee c) self employee
6. If you are unemployed what are the main reason(s) for being unemployed? Please explain

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7. Do you own the house you live in?
Yes ☐ No ☐
8. If your answer is "No" to question No.7, what kind of arrangement have you made for living in it?
a) Owned b) rented c) Other (specify)

D: Consequence of migration

9. What was your main reason to leave your origin and come to Hawassa?
a) in search of job c) search for urban modern facility
b) To improve family social security d) to open/extend business
e) Failure in agriculture
10. After your arrival here in the town, what were the major difficulties that you have encountered?
a) Difficulty to get job c) Housing
b) Lack of social services(water, electric city) d) food and related consumer item
e) No difficulty encountered
11. What are the main difficulty/difficulties you have faced in the city?
a) Access to housing
b) Inadequacy of social services and other amenities (schools, health care, transportation etc)
c) Rising cost of living results difficulty in accessing consumer goods
d) Competition for employment
e) Difficulty to get job
f) No difficulty faced
12. Do you think that the above problem you faced resulted from rapid population growth?
Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know ☐
13. If the above answer for question no.16 is "Yes" this rapid population growth resulted from
a) Natural increase/fertility of the urban natives
b) rural-urban migration from surrounding areas
c). both
d) Other (specify)
15. What problems are caused by rural-urban migration?
a. Expansion of crime/robbery
b. Increasing of unemployment results urban poverty
c. Expansion of informal urban sectors such as prostitution, Street vendors
d. Expansion of slums and squatter settlements
e. Urban congestion
f. Others (specify)
16. What do you think about the impact of rural in migrants on urban living on the following aspects? Please explain
Access to education (teacher's student ratio)
Access to health care (doctor's to patient ratio)
Opportunity of getting job
17. Do you think that Hawassa city is capable of absorbing all rural migrants to provide gainful jobs?
Yes ☐ no ☐

Appendex II

Check list for Key informant interview

- What do you think are the major changes in urban living that are the result of rural-urban migration in Hawassa?
- ✓ Environment of the city
- ✓ Socio-economic condition
- Do you think that rural migrants are the reason for rapid growth of the population of the city?
- What are the challenges resulted from rural migrants in the aspect of:-

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- ✓ Providing social services(house, electric city, water, roads, schools, clinics, etc)
- ✓ Expansion of informal urban sectors(streetism, street vendors,
- ✓ Rapid and unplanned urban expansion
- ✓ Rise in the cost of consumer goods
- ✓ Expansion of crime
- ✓ Degradation of the urban environment resulted from urban congestion
- ✓ Increase in urban unemployment and urban poverty
- What changes do you observe in the social, economical and environmental aspect of the city over years?
- Do you think that the city is capable to absorb in migrants?

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