

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

**DETERMINANTS OF LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES OF THE
RURAL YOUTHS: THE CASE OF MERHABETE WOREDA,
NORTH SHOWA ZONE**

**BY
ZELALEM ESUENDALE**

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Acronyms

ARD	-	Agriculture and Rural Development
BOFED	-	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CBOs	-	Community Based organizations
CSA	-	Central Statistical Agency
DFID	-	Department For International Development
EYDP	-	Ethiopian Youth Development Package
FDRE	-	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FSS	-	Forum for Social Studies
GOs	-	Governmental Organizations
ha	-	Hectare
HAPCO	-	HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Secretariat
HH	-	Household
ILO	-	International Labour organization
Km	-	Kilo meter
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
MoCT	-	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
MoYS	-	Ministry of Youth and Sports
MoYSC	-	Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture
MWIO	-	Merhabete Woreda Information Office
MYDSP	-	Multi-Sectoral Youth Development Strategic Program
NGO`s	-	Non-governmental organizations
NYP	-	National Youth Policy
NYPIM	-	National Youth Policy Implementation Manual
OWY	-	Organizations Working with the youth
PA	-	Peasant Association
PASDEP	-	Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development Program
PIM	-	Policy Implementation Manual
SLF	-	Sustainable livelihood framework
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
STDs	-	Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- UNICEF - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- USA - United States of America
- WIO - Woreda Information Office
- YOs - Youth Organizations

Abstract

The main objective of this study was to examine the determinants of livelihood opportunities of the rural youths in Merhabete Woreda-North Showa Zone of Amhara Regional State. The study was conducted in the Woreda to look in to access to and control over livelihood capital asset by the rural youths which contribute to improve their livelihood opportunities. The 'Sustainable livelihood framework' was used as analytical framework to understand the livelihood situation of the youth.

A significant number of youths in Merhabete Woreda face difficulties to have access to and control over livelihood capital assets which have a vital role for their livelihood development. One of the most important capital asset for agrarian population is land. However, the youths lack access to and control over land resource. They also lack decision making power on their families' or community's land holdings and other natural resources. More than 65.2 percent of the respondents reported that they have no decision making power on their parents and/or guardians land.

On the other hand, the youth have limited access to youth friendly social services such as credit service, training and health service. Since youths who live with their parents or/and guardians hardly have collateral to loan from local credit institutions, or they don't have access to youth friendly training services such as life skill, leadership ability and entrepreneurial training. They found themselves in a difficult situation to improve the livelihood opportunities. From the total sampled respondent only 9.6 and 12 percent have access to formal credit services and special training; respectively.

The local youths are also having little opportunity to engage in activities other than farming. Non-farm employment opportunities are limited to accommodate insignificant number of youth. Only 10.4 percent of the respondents involve in such activities as a primary or secondary sources of livelihood. This means a great proportion of active labour force mostly the youths are forced to stay on family crop production and livestock rearing which already have a limited capacity to absorb the rapidly increasing excess labour. From several constraining factors forwarded by the respondents; lack of start up capital, having less awareness about the beneficial values and limited know how and skill were mentioned to be the major once. Farm and off-farm wage employment is also accommodating a small number of youths. Only 13 percent of the local youths are engage in such activities. In general the youths in Merhabete Woreda encounter various challenges to improve their livelihood since they have limited job opportunity at local level to diversify their source of livelihoods.

Therefore, based on the study findings some recommendations are forwarded. Short term measures including distribution of mountainous and unoccupied land available at local level for the rural youth individually or in group base to benefit from and conserve the natural resources is essential. In addition the youth should allow having access to use and to fully participate in decision making process at household and community level. Concerned efforts are also required to make the rural non-farm sector youth friendly through policy and strategy formulation at grass root level. Efforts also needed to expand the credit and training services provided at the Woreda towns to all rural Kebeles. There is also a need to formulate all rounded employment policy which aimed at solving the problem of the youth at a grass root level.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Full employment and ability to build reliable and sustainable sources of livelihoods is perhaps the most fundamental challenges facing developing countries like Ethiopia due to various reasons. Befekadu et al (2000:114) say, with the rapidly increasing number of population of about 2.9% per annum, and an even faster growth in the youth population reaching working age, combined with the population pressure on the agricultural sector results in the unfortunate limited job creating capacity of the economy in general, and the agricultural and manufacturing sector in particular.

Major parts of the population of Ethiopia live and depend for its livelihoods on the rural sector. Because of its vastness, it offers the best potential for employment, but it left underdeveloped and becoming more so from time to time. As Getachew (2002: 14) puts it, "Farming has become unproductive for a variety of reasons". Due to pressure on farm land as a result of rapid population growth, the infant nature of non-farm and off- farm sectors to absorb surplus labour force, and other factors; the ability of the peasant to generate reliable income from farm, and related activities in rural sector alone has become questionable.

Rural unemployment and underemployment in Ethiopia is becoming a serious problem that deserves attention. Of economically active population, about 80.2 percent are non-wage earning peasants and unpaid family workers engaged in primary activities for their livelihoods (CSA 2006: 40). Since farming has become less productive and there is only little opportunities to relocate the excess labour force from agriculture to off farm (formal and informal employment) the rate of unemployment and underemployment in rural sector is on the increase.

In Ethiopia, the youth accounts for the major productive force in economic activity. They accounted for 39.7 percent of the total labour force active to engaging in productive (gainful) employment, out of which 80.4 and 19.6 percent were rural and urban youth respectively (Ibid 71-73).

However, because of its greater number and its own socio economic characteristics, the youth suffers more from fundamental ills facing the rural population including livelihood insecurity, HIV/AIDS, emotional distress and poverty.

Better employment opportunity of the rural youth is attributed to various factors. Accesses to livelihood capital assets (such as land, credit, agricultural inputs and technology, training and extension services) are known to have differential effect on the livelihood of the population. In most circumstances the youth claimed to have less access to such resources and services compared to adults.

Therefore, identification and understanding of the determinants of rural youth livelihood opportunities deserves the undertaking of empirical researches at various localities of the country such as the Merhabete Woreda of Northern Showa Zone.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Ethiopia is currently facing varieties of complex problems ranging from environmental crisis to those caused by demographic and socio-economic constraints which adversely affect peoples' livelihoods, and further aggravate the problem of livelihood insecurity. Demographic causes such as population pressure may result in shortage and fragmentation of land which could be a push factor for a peasant to supplement his/her income from sources besides farming and farm related activities. However, because of socio-economic constraints such as lack of financial capital, access to market, infrastructure, and business advisory service etc., the rural households have less opportunities to diversify sources of income from non farm and off farm activities.

Despite government's and NGO's efforts to rise up the condition of the rural poor, the multi-dimensional problem of the rural population particularly the rural youth is aggravating. Unemployment and underemployment becomes a serious challenge for rural communities who usually lack extra arable land to accommodate the growing number of population. Berhanu et al (2007:14) argue regarding the trends of employment creation capacity of the nation's economy in the following manner.

A few features of the Ethiopian labour market stand out. Firstly, more than 80 percent of the labour force is employed in subsistence agriculture. A relatively small increase in productivity and a shift towards industry was observed after the reforms of the early 1990's. The growth rate in the agricultural sector is highly volatile, dependant on weather conditions.... the labour force has grown at a fast pace and is expected to do so in the future projected to double over the next twenty-five years. Despite recent economic growth, there has been insufficient employment creation.

Severe underemployment and limited opportunities for off farm and non farm activities make the rural youth vulnerable to various socio-economic problems. However, lack of comprehensive data regarding the livelihood situation of the rural youth is experienced. In this regard, some studies conducted at a household level fail to address the problem of the youth. This gap in the literature calls for revisiting household employment and livelihoods situation by employing youth centered perspective, to understand the employment and livelihood conditions of the rural youth.

The available studies and ongoing programmes consider the youth problem as sub-sum of the total population problems with homogeneous needs and are not comprehensive enough to explain the conditions of the rural youth to have reliable and sustainable sources of livelihood and better employment opportunities.

Since there is no comprehensive survey with regard to determinants of employment opportunity in the study area, there is no data how deep the problem is. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine the employment and livelihood situation of the rural youth in the study area.

1.3. Objective of the Study

The general objective of the research is to examine the determinants of livelihood opportunities of the rural youth in the study area. The research focuses on the following five specific objectives:-

- i. Identify the major potential employment opportunities and activities for the rural youth in the study area.
- ii. Examine the level of participation of the youths in recent employment generating activities and evaluate its impact on youth livelihood development and wellbeing.
- iii. Examine the major factors which determine livelihood opportunities of the youth such as access to and control over resources, asset possession and decision making power of the youth in the community.
- iv. Investigate the special requirements, needs, preferences and specific problems of the rural youths.
- v. Identify and recommend issues to be taken in to account for policy makers and development strategies.

1.4. Research Questions

To accomplish its objectives the research seeks to answer the following questions:-

- i. What are the major potential employment opportunities and activities for the rural youths?
- ii. What are the involvement of youths in employment generating activities and its impact on their livelihood development and wellbeing?
- iii. What are the major factors that contribute to inadequate livelihood opportunities for the rural youths?
- iv. What are the special requirements, needs, preferences and specific problems of the rural youth?
- v. What should be done to improve the employment opportunity of the rural youth and in turn improve youth livelihood development and wellbeing?

1.5. Significance of the Study

At present, one of the challenges facing Ethiopia is building sufficient job creating capacity for increasing number of population. However, the extent and depth of the problem in connection with the rural youth haven't yet been studied well. This study, therefore, could be considered as being an important step towards bridging information gap existing in the country with respect to the topic under consideration. The findings of the study are expected to contribute to the understanding of youth livelihoods development in general and youth employment condition in particular.

Besides, youths are still perceived by policy makers, development planners and agricultural service providers as homogeneous group who have the same problems and needs as other segment of the population like the adults. For this reason the youth find it more difficult to gain access to valuable resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs and services that would enhance their productive capacity.

As far as the study area is concerned, no study has been carried out to examine the seriousness of the problem under study. It is hoped that the findings would contribute to take appropriate steps to minimize the problem. On top of this, findings of the research would give insight for researchers as well as students interested in similar research theme for further investigation in other areas.

1.6. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research is mainly confined to examine the determinants of livelihood opportunities of the rural youths in Merhabete Woreda of Northern Showa Zone. The research aims to investigate problems and prospect of the rural youth to have decent employment and livelihood opportunities at local level; mainly it focuses on the causes of difficulties to have reliable sources of livelihoods and its impact on the youth development under consideration.

The first and most significant challenge encountered to carry out this research was critical shortage of written materials on the livelihoods or employment situation of the rural youth in Ethiopia. Even though the national youth policy formulated four years ago, and the Ethiopian rural youth development package has two years old, there has been no much research conducted on the subject. Thus, it has been a challenge to enrich the review of literature and to synthesize the analysis of this research with county based research output.

Secondly, indicators of livelihood assets are too many, which are difficult to measure easily and quickly. As a result of this, although using as many indicators as possible is desirable to come up with all rounded and complete picture, selected relevant indicators particularly indicators that are very essential for the rural youth livelihood development were used.

1.7. Structure of the Paper

This thesis is composed of seven chapters. Having the current introductory chapter as a background, chapter two deals with the different methodologies applied to accomplish the research objectives. In this chapter, sampling procedure, methods of data collection and analysis procedure were explained. Chapter three provides a review of literature relevant to the subject of the study, including review of related policies, programs and strategies of the FDRE which are related to youth livelihood development to come up with appropriate conceptual framework vital to analyze the problem under study. Chapter four presented the background information about the study Woreda. Chapter five assesses the socio-economic characteristics and access to and use of livelihood capital assets by the sampled youth respondents. Chapter six is allotted to analyze and discuss the rural youth employment situation and wellbeing. The major issues of this chapter include the level of participation of the rural youth in various sectors and constraints of the youth to fully engage in decent employment. Finally, chapter seven provide the summary of the major discussions of the research which is followed by conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Sampling Procedure

Multi-stage sampling method was used to come up with more representative sampling unit and size. There are about 25 kebeles in Merhabete Woreda, out of which 23 are rural kebeles and 3 of the rural kebeles were purposively considered for the study, with reference to their agro-ecological zones, and proximity to the road and major market centers. This considerations help to analyze the problem and prospect of the youth from various backgrounds.

The problem and prospect of the youths from Kola areas differ from Woyna-Dega zones. It is also helpful to consider the distance of kebeles to the major road roots and market centers, since the two have differential effect on the livelihood activities, opportunities and problems encountered; therefore it is better to select respondents from purposively sampled kebeles based on the aforementioned criteria. As we can observe from table 1 below, two Kebeles namely Kussay and Afezez-Berkato were purposively selected for the study. The two kebeles are characterized by kola and predominantly kola with small proportion of Woyna-Dega agro-ecology, respectively. Geuw Mirgazi was the third purposively sampled Kebele from predominantly Woyna-Dega agro ecology.

Afezez-Berkato and Kussay kebeles are also characterized by relatively having easy access to major towns' market centers namely Alem-Ketema and Fetra towns. The kebeles are also provided with rural roads to be connected with the towns. However, Geuw Mirgazi is located at far distance away from major towns and market centers with 3:30 hours walking distance.

After securing list of youth who registered at kebeles administration for the purpose of implementing the national youth package¹; efforts was made to categorize the list by sex of the youths to separate male and female youths.

Finally, as it shown in table 1 below, 115 sample youths (10% from each kebeles) were selected using a systematic random sampling technique.

¹ According to each kebeles' administrative bodies, an effort was made to register almost all members of youth who live with their parents.

Table 1:- Sample Kebeles and number of youths by sex

Kebeles	Agro-ecology	Access to Market centers	Access to Road	Total Registered Youths	Sample youths		
					Male	Female	Total
Afezez-Berkato	Kola	2:30 hours walking distance from Alem Ketema town Market centre	Available	363	18	18	36
Kussay	Kola	2:00 hours walking distance from Fetra town Market Centre	Available	414	21	20	41
Geuw Mirgazi	Woyna-Dega	3:30 hours walking distance from near by market center	Not available	382	19	19	38
Total				1156	58	57	115

2.2. Methods of Data Collection

Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from primary and secondary sources. Therefore the study use both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Through such a mixed way of data collection, the limitation of one method tried to be minimized by the other. For the purpose of this study one of the quantitative method namely sample survey was used. From qualitative methods both focus group discussion and in depth interview were used to generate qualitative data.

2.2.1. Primary Data

Primary data was collected through both qualitative and quantitative methods to come up with information necessary for the study.

i) Quantitative Data: Sample survey with special focus on the youth

Sample survey was conducted so as to come up with baseline data on the general socio-economic condition of the youth, youth participation in employment and income generating schemes, their access and use of land and other major resources, asset possession, and other related issues.

To generate youth centered information at grass root level; sample survey was carried out using structured questionnaire. Three enumerators were recruited based on their educational background and prior exposure to similar works. Briefings and orientations were also given to enumerators on the content of the schedule and procedures to follow while administering questionnaires. The three

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recruited enumerators (one in each kebeles) went to the house of each of the sampled youth respondents and filled the questionnaires that were pre-tested in advance of the actual data collection period.

ii) Qualitative data

In order to generate qualitative data, focus group discussion and in depth interview were conducted. Using FGD and in depth interview is believed to generate critical information to cross-check and fill the gap of the data collected from sample surveys, rather than being representative consideration.

To carry out focus group discussion and in depth interview, the researcher conducted purposive or judgmental sampling in that the targeted informants selected on the bases of their social and organizational positions, their role in employment generation for the youth, and knowledge of the community in general and the youth in particular.

a) Focus group discussion

Focus group discussion was held in the selected Kebeles. It was conducted mainly to identify youths' common problems, needs and preferences and to analyze and prioritize them. In general the main agendas of these discussions were include the general socio-economic condition of the youth and their families, youth participation in employment and income generating activities, challenges facing the youths to engage in rural income generating schemes and its impact on them, youths access to and use of land and other major resources, asset possession, and youth preferences, special needs and problems. The discussion was held with the local person who falls in to one of the two categories.

The First group discussion was held with people aged between 15-29 who are members of youth organizations, associations, producer cooperatives, youths who are not living with their parents, youths who are married, divorced or widows and school drop-outs. The second group was composed of parents or/and guardians of the youth, elders, religious leaders, Idir leaders, and other popular individuals in community based activities.

Regarding the first category, two group discussions were held in each sampled kebeles based on similarities of age and sex. The number of participants in each group discussion ranges from eight to thirteen. For the second category, i.e. discussion with parents and guardians of the youth, elders, religious leaders, and Idir leaders were held at gathering of religious ceremony which took place at

Afezez-Berkato Kebele while I carried out my field visit. The Kebele leaders and leaders of youth organizations assist me to list popular individuals in the community. I also tried to balance the number of participants from each sampled kebeles. Finally, the discussion was held with 11 individuals who have better understanding about the community's socio-economic activities due to their involvement in various institutions and organizations at community level.

b) In depth interview

In depth interview was mainly conducted with leaders/members of youth organizations, staff of local development office such as micro and small scale industries development office, micro finance institution, rural and agricultural development offices, education office, health office and staff of organizations working with youths like Youth and Sport office and Non-governmental organizations such as Menschen Für Menschen.

A range of issues related to the research topic and research questions was raised and discussed in detail with the appropriate officials working in these different governmental and non-governmental organizations functioning in the study Woreda.

2.2.2. Secondary Data

Secondary data relevant to the research work was collected from local development offices, Woreda information office and organizations working with the youth. Both published and unpublished documents including program and project documents, training and other frameworks, progress reports, and compiled data at national level were also reviewed to get sufficient information about the livelihood condition of the rural youth.

Woreda Office of Youth and Sports, Office of Agriculture and rural development and Micro and Small Scale Industries Development Offices has been the primary sources of secondary data and information. Additional inputs were also got from the Woreda Information Office, Local Kebele Administrative records and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

2.3. Organization and Analysis of the Data

The survey questionnaire was designed in consideration of compatibility to computer analysis and was appropriately coded and recoded. Closed ended questions were ended with variety of possible responses. Effort were also made to exhaustively list the possible responses, based on readings of different empirical literature and own experience. The open-ended questions were summarized and coded after data is collected in compatible way for data entry. The collected data has been entered to and analyzed by statistical software, SPSS, to generate descriptive statistics. The statistical tools, which were applied to analyze and present the research findings, include mean and percentage.

Analysis of the qualitative data collected through focus group discussion and in depth interview was started at the field level. The information has been summarized and reviewed. Major findings was organized and summarized according to list of key issues prepared. Finally, discussions were carried out in relation to the major findings from sample survey.

2.4. Operational Definition

2.4.1. Non-farm Employment/Sector

Non-farm employment includes all economic activities apart from agriculture and wage employment including quarrying, trade, handicrafts, wood work, transport, food and drink processing, services and other related activities.

2.4.2. Off-farm Employment

Off-farm employment includes both local and migratory wage labour activities. It may include employment in return for wage in kind or in cash.

CHAPTER THREE

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

This chapter deals with review of different literature that are related to the subject matter of the study and review of relevant policies and programs of government of Ethiopia to conceptualize and analyze the problem under study.

2.5. Conceptual Issues

2.5.1. Youth

The concept of youth is viewed in different ways by various communities and culture depending on the level of development. This means there is no universally agreed definition of the concept youth. However, most writings view the stage of youth as a stage in life span of an individual whereby young person undergo through fundamental biological, cognitive, and social changes. Others; on the other hand, define “youths” as young persons starting to engage themselves in activities that are considered by the community to be expressions of adulthood (MoYS 2005:4).

For the purpose of this study; age-based definition of the National Youth Policy of Ethiopia is used. The policy set an age limit to define youth by assessing other countries experience and taking in to consideration the objective conditions prevailing in our country. The National Youth Policy (2004: 4) defines youth as to include all people ranging from the age of 15 up to 29 years.

2.5.2. Employment

According to ILO international definition of employment, employment provides separate criteria for persons in paid employment and persons in self-employment in order to accommodate the data that employment covers any work, be it for wage or salary, profit or family gains, including the production of goods for own consumption (ILO 2001: XV). On the other hand the Ethiopian National Youth Policy implementation manual refers employment to being engaged in legal and gainful employment. The manual further stress employment may include wage employment involving employment relationship and conducted and governed by rules and regulations as well as self-employment engaged in any self-initiated legal income generating activities to earn one's livelihood but which doesn't involve employment relationship (MoYS 2005: 12).

There is no significant difference between international definition of employment and the definition adopted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports; a responsible body assigned by the government to coordinate the efforts of various youth serving organizations and alleviates youth problems.

2.5.3. Wellbeing

Individual wellbeing is measured in terms of subjective indicators of mental health, general health status, life satisfaction and job satisfaction.

According to World Bank's definition of wellbeing (2000: 7-8), there are five instruments to measure wellbeing of an individual:

1. The amount of income increased: The capacity to earn enough income to meet the minimum amount of human needs
2. Social and physical wellbeing are improved: The rural population needs access to social facilities such as health care facilities, schools, and other physical infrastructure such as water supply, community centers, possible roads etc.... These infrastructures allow them to become healthy, economic and civic active lives, and to participate in markets and so on.
3. Human development is fostered: The level of health and education received by the individual will be improved.
4. Equity is fostered: The opportunity to improve one's life will be made available to everyone regardless of gender, age or other criteria.
5. Food security is enhanced: Sufficient food should be available to all individuals that people have access to available food, and that individuals receive the proper amount of nutrition. Food security comes down to the individual level. Are individuals receiving enough to be economically active? Are the youth and children receiving adequate nutrition? These are some key questions that need to be answered.

2.5.4. Youth Employment and Wellbeing

Employment provides a multi-functional benefit for youth development in terms of self-identity, physical and mental health and life satisfaction. Pavis et al (2002: 3) state three major contribution of employment to wellbeing development of the youth. First, employment provides young people with the material resources to undertake some key transitions in their movement from childhood dependence to adult independence. Second, employment remains key to identify formulation and

provides many people, young and old alike, with a sense of purpose and a structure to the day. Third, youth has traditionally been a time when individuals acquire the work skills that largely structure they grow up. Finally, it is often argued that labour market participation also promotes social cohesion and integration.

2.6. Factors Affecting Livelihood Opportunities of the Rural Youth

Not all members of the rural population enjoy equal access to reliable sources of livelihood and employment opportunities. Due to gender, demographic factor such as age, culture and other reasons some segment of the population have less access to livelihood capital assets and have a greater probably to become unemployed or severely affected from the consequences of underemployment and livelihood insecurity. The youth is among such groups which suffers more from such phenomenon. "Unemployment disproportionately affects the youth population in Ethiopia". (Berhanu et al 2005: 22)

Better employment opportunities and diversified source of livelihood can only attain through individual access to livelihood capital assets. Therefore, it is helpful to consider the livelihood capital assets based on the analysis of the five types of capital assets that individuals and household seek to build up their assets to improve their employment opportunities and livelihood situations. The capital assets framework also allows for an understanding of barriers in accessing all types of livelihood and employment opportunities because the activities that a particular individual or household chooses to undertake are largely determined by access to and control over livelihood assets.

According to Chambers and Conway as quoted by Degefa and Baudouin (2004: 98) livelihood assets can be grouped under five type of capital: natural capital (land and water), social capital (networks, membership of society), human capital (skills, knowledge, good health, ability to work), physical capital (production equipment, transport, shelter, water supply, energy, and communication), and financial capital (savings, supplies of credit, and regular remittances or pensions). Each of the above mentioned livelihood capital assets is discussed from youth focused perspective under the following section of this research paper.

2.6.1.1. Natural Capital

Natural capital composes the natural resources, such as water, land and common property resources that are central to rural livelihood. Particularly land is the main capital assets that affects youth livelihood in rural Ethiopia and which, this study will focus more on. This is because land is an important capital asset in agrarian communities such as Ethiopia.

According to Bennell (2007: 39) "Access to land and natural resources and land tenure security lie at the heart of all rural societies and agricultural economies and are central to rural poverty eradication" However, Bennell also noted that, "growing populations, declining soil fertility and increasing environmental degradation have all heightened demands and pressure on natural resources particularly on land tenure systems, often at the expense of the poor and vulnerable groups such as women and youth." On going sub-division of land through inheritance has resulted in fragmented and unviable land parcels and increasingly the youth are becoming landless. Villarreal (2007: 5) also argues, "Pressures on land resources and land tenure systems are often managed at the expense of poor and vulnerable groups such as women and youth."

Accesses to land also have positive coloration with other types of capital assets such as the ability to access financial and social capital. Land is not only a primary means for generating livelihood for most rural poor but "land affect...the ability of the poor to access credits, make investments, and benefit from the law in general" (Yigremew 2006: 21). Since the poor and some segment of the population like the youth have limited access to land, they have little opportunity to enjoy the fruits of credit and other related benefits.

Ethiopia is a country of smallholders dependent on agriculture for main source of livelihood. The diminishing of farm size per household has already begun to reach a stage that could not further absorb additional labour. According to Yigremew (2006: 31), "landlessness becomes significant in some part of the country." He also says, "in some communities landless peasants reach up to 50% of the total households in the area. Rural women and young people are also indicated as the most disadvantaged groups in terms of access to land."

In general, the youth have less access to and control over natural resources such as land to improve their livelihood condition. Youths are used to be the victims of unjust tenure system which left them landless or push them to marginal and infertile holdings.

2.6.1.2. Social Capital

Social capital comprises the social resources e.g. networks, membership of groups, relationship of trust, access to wider institutions of society or other cultural factors upon which people draw on in pursuit of livelihoods.

The youth in rural settings have limited opportunities to have social resources. An individual could enhance social resources through membership to informal and formal organizations such as associations, unions, civic and community organizations, saving groups and so on. However due to various reasons, the youth constitute a smaller proportion in such organizations.

Lack of awareness among the youth about the beneficial values of to be organized is mentioned to be the main reason in most writings for the youths to have little initiative to become a member in various organizations.

On the other hand, lack of social trust on the youth is observable in most circumstances. The authoritarian types of child rearing in rural parts of the country consider youngsters as people who are only recipients of the existing societal culture and way of life. There is little room for youths to become creative citizens or participate in decision making process at household or community level.

However, young people forced to contribute to meet rural household livelihood needs starting from an early age without having a power to decide on day-to-day activity of the particular household. "...They tend to lack economic independence or autonomy" (Bennell 2007: 4). Nevertheless, the level of 'autonomy' and independence depend on socio-economic status of the household. "... the participation rate for women and children on the family farm as well as in the open labour market depend upon the social and economical status of the household" (ILO 1978: 106-107). Youth from household with better social and economical status are more 'autonomous' to decide on day-to-day activity of that particular household as a result they can have an opportunity to invest their knowledge and skill on family property and become equal beneficiaries.

It is also argued that the unemployment and underemployment problem is hidden by extended family system. Getachew (2002:14) says "In Ethiopia, the extended family system is still in existence absorbing all kinds of problems, including unemployment, which makes it possible for job seekers to stay for a long time waiting for job opportunities". This phenomenon could be one of the factors for

unemployment and underemployment problem not to become politically critical; since, the unemployed and underemployed stay dependant on their extended family for a long period of time without noticed by policy makers and planners. Therefore, all rounded labour force analysis is vital to identify factors which contribute to enhance youth social capital assets.

2.6.1.3. Human Capital

Human capital comprises the skills, knowledge and ability to labour and good health important to the ability to pursue different livelihood strategies.

It is argued that government and other service providers should focus on delivering basic education of reasonable quality with parallel provision of good-quality post-school skill training. However, as Bennel (2007: 37) argues, "the provision of good quality post school skill training (both pre-employment and job-related) remains very limited in most rural areas". In most instances school leavers tend to lack entrepreneurship and life skill.

The youth requires special training such as life skill training to become more beneficiaries of community development. Such skill development training may help the youth to develop the communication and interpersonal skill, social entry skill, decision making/problem solving and critical skill, coping and self-managing skills. It is also helpful to develop a sense of cooperation, assertion, responsibility and self-control. Training such as business development skill training (BDS) is also vital to enhance the entrepreneurial skill of the youth and become equal beneficiaries from local economic activities.

Health status of the labour force also has direct influence on productivity. However, some health problems such as HIV/HIDS and Malaria have become threatening health problems in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since the youths are the main victims of such health problems they are more likely to become livelihood insecure.

2.6.1.4. Physical Capital

Physical capital includes hard infrastructure e.g. roads, telecommunications, power and water supply as well as production equipment like water pump, plough etc and buildings such as stores which are more likely to be individually owned. Since household heads owns most physical capital assets, youth have less autonomy to decide on how to use or access such capitals; as a result they are forced not to translate their knowledge and skill in to practice to fulfill their livelihoods.

Availability of production equipment at local level is essential to process locally available resources to benefit from value adding extra profit and employ more labour. However, the youth could not have sufficient capital to acquire such assets.

It is also said that the existence of infrastructural facilities tend to create conducive environment for the rural communities to benefit more through creating local employment opportunities and accelerating development. Investment on road, electricity, telephone and other hard infrastructure tend to attract investment at local level.

2.6.1.5. Financial Capital

Financial capital is resource which are available to people (whether savings, credit, regular remittance or pensions) and which provide them with different livelihood options.

Financial capital has a significant role to enhance the livelihood and earnings of the youth. In terms of access to financial capital, "there is a growing interest in the targeted provision of micro finance for youth, because it is recognized that education and training alone rarely lead to sustainable self-employment". (Villarreal 2007: 5) The establishment of rural micro-finance institution is important to provide finance for enterprise development among youth.

Thus for the youths, it is extremely difficult to acquire or accumulate financial assets. This is because, firstly, they are only at the entry point of social and economic activity to accumulate such resources. Secondly, the youth tend to have less access to credit facilities since they have no collateral needed to loan from formal or informal lending agencies.

2.6.1.6. Mediating Processes

Equally important factor for an individual to have a better employment opportunity and reliable livelihood are the mediating processes. According to Degefa and Baudouin (2004: 98) the mediating processes include actions by organizations (both informal and formal-government, private, and non-government) and institutions (policies, laws, rules and incentives), which define people's livelihood options. Mediating processes can enhance or constrain people's livelihood activities. Satge et al (2002: 13) claimed the following:-

People's lives and livelihoods are affected in different ways by a wide range of structures and processes. These might include local institutions or customs that control the access of people to assets. Not everyone will be affected in the same way. Some institutions may favour men and discriminate against women. Other might take the form of policy and law that either enhances or undermines local livelihood strategies-for example, legislation that prevents the subdivision of land or affects the management of natural resources.

Almost all rural organizations and institutions are claimed not to be youth friendly. Paul Bennell (2007: 5) argues, "in most sub-Saharan Africa, youth as a target group is not a major policy priority. Ministries of youth are generally very poorly resourced and are usually subsumed (or combined) with other government responsibilities such as culture, sports and educations." Even though there are some attempts done by Ethiopian government recently, the Ethiopian case is not far from the fact to be poorly resourced, organized and staffed. There is also no well articulated employment policy at county level.

2.7. Livelihood Condition of the Youth in Rural Ethiopia

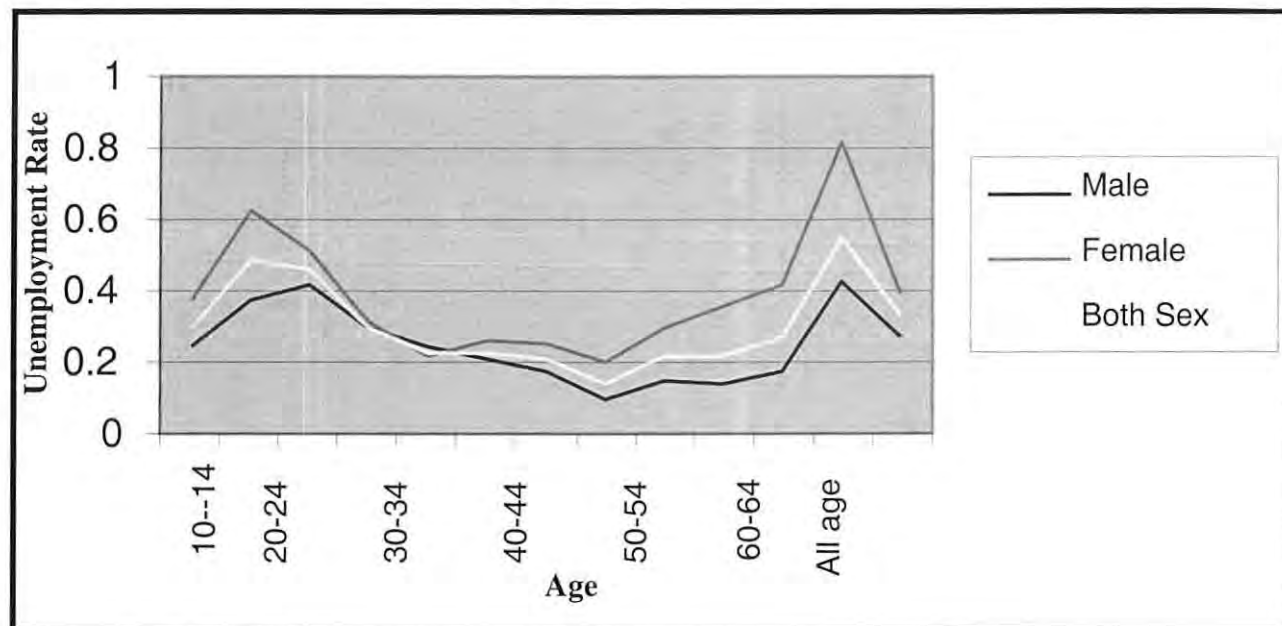
As indicated in the introductory part, the youth constitute the majority of the total population and labour force. Obviously, this large population is a potential resource for country's development, but it at the same time requires a great deal of attention by policy makers, development agents and the community at large to invest and empowering it. There is a need to support the youth for them to become productive and socially, economically and psychologically matured citizens. This means efforts should be made to empower the youth based on their special needs and requirements. However, with its greater share of the youth from the total population and their own socio-economic circumstances, the youth claimed to have less livelihood and employment opportunities.

Despite the lack of comprehensive studies on the employment situation of the rural youth, some findings show that the youth is the major productive force in rural economy. According to the

labour force survey in 2004, the youth accounts for 49 percent of the total labour force. (MoYS 2005: 12) However; due to population pressure on the available arable land and less access to other livelihood assets, the rural youth become more unemployed and severely affected from the consequences of underemployment. Berhanu et al (2007:22) claims, “Unemployment disproportionately affects the youth population in Ethiopia...and the youth unemployment rate was higher than for all other age groups”.

Underemployment is also a widespread, even more significant problem than unemployment in rural areas. Land is becoming scarce and less fertile while the number of labour force engaged in small plot of land keep growing, as a result excess productive labour force engaged in farm and related activities with diminishing economic of scale. Due to their greater number in rural sector and their of special characteristics, the youth suffers disproportionately from underemployment. "The issue of rural youth livelihoods is not so much about unemployment, but rather about serious underemployment in low-productive and predominantly household-based activities" (Villarreal 2007:3). According to Berhanu et al (2007, 27) in Ethiopia, “more than three-quarters of the youth work in agriculture, which is characterized by low product and low per capita income”.

Figure 1: Unemployment rate for Amhara Region



Source: Adapted from CSA 1995:164

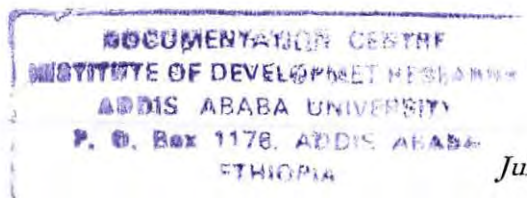
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
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Determinants of Livelihood Opportunities of the Rural Youths: *The case of Merhabete Woreda, North Showa Zone*



***A thesis submitted to the school of Graduate studies of
Addis Ababa University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the Degree of Master of Arts in Development Studies in
Collage of Development Studies***

Zelalem Esuendale



July, 2008

Addis Ababa

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
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Title

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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS:

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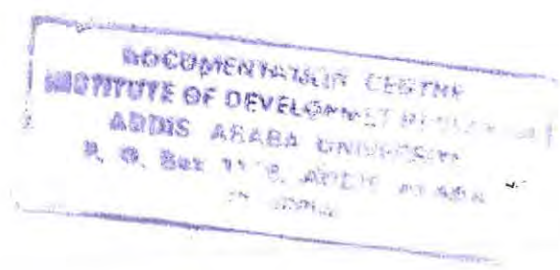
 

Abeje Berhanu
EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Ali Hassen
INTERNAL EXAMINAR



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... labour force in the region's economy. The figure also shows a ...
longst female than male population in Amhara Regional State of

... attributes to sufficient employment and better livelihood situation
... ment and livelihood condition of the rural youth have a direct
... ge and skill. However, the literacy rate among Ethiopian youth is
(2007: 16), "The proportion of illiterate youth population was 62
... teracy rate among Ethiopian youths shows us a greater proportion
... t force lack sufficient knowledge to improve their livelihood.

... which shows the youth are not organized in order to promote and
... ong voice in a collective manner to force policy makers and also
... possible to gain in an individual manner. "Most youths in rural areas
... usefulness to be organized around various goals and objectives"
... s creation, technical, material and financial support for newly
... rganizations is essential so as to enhance their capacity and benefit

... (intensive small scale and manufacturing industries) would provide
... rural unemployed who are divorced from agricultural activities.
... manufacturing industries in rural areas are infant and small in number
... the population, as a result the unemployment problem could not be
... outh are not benefiting from the fruits of rural industrialization.

... and underemployment that arises from sever shortage of land and
... ld also be minimized through expansion of off-farm and informal
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... arce. "...compared to their size rural youth have not taken up the
... ertnative or supplementary sources of livelihoods as would be

It is also known that the youth do not have an opportunity to participate in planning and administrative processes at local, regional and country level.(MoYS 2007: 26) This means ongoing programmes and policies are not well articulated in such a manner to solve youth needs and problems.

2.8. Review of Relevant Policies, Strategies and Programs

As mentioned before, the youth is the potential resource for development since they account the majority of the productive labour force with energetic and less conservative characteristics. The government of Ethiopia has been exerting various efforts to empower and support the youth for their development and the country at large. Policy measures are the first to mention in this regard. This section of the thesis will review the major policies, strategies, programs and packages designed to mitigate the problems of the youth and empower them to help themselves.

2.8.1. The National Youth Policy

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia issued the National Youth Policy in 2004. The policy aimed at achieving enabling environment for Ethiopian youth to fully benefit from democratic administration and good governance. Moreover, the policy aimed at participation and benefiting the Ethiopian youth from economic, social and cultural development of the nation.

The basic principles of the policy include:-

- I. Ensuring youth to be active participants and beneficiaries from democratization and economic development activities;
- II. Bringing about unity through recognition and respect of diversity;
- III. Getting organized freely and make coordinated move to protect rights and interests and;
- IV. Youth capacity building (MoYSC 2004: 21-22).

The FDRE's national youth policy suggests the need to formulation of all rounded and comprehensive employment policy at a national level.

Since unemployment and underemployment also become a rural phenomenon and an increasing segment of the population become unemployed and underemployed in rural sector due to population pressure and other reasons, the need for formulating employment policy is unquestionable. However, there is still no national employment policy at national level.

To create an empowered young generation with democratic outlook and ideas, equipped with knowledge and professional skills, get organized and built on ethical integrity; the youth policy was determined to enable the youth to participate and benefit from the country's development process through various measures. These are:-

2.8.1.1. Organization and all rounded participation

The national youth policy set a strategy to provide the youth with professional, technical and leadership capacity building supports to enable them get organized in their own interests and common goals in order to benefit from the fruits of development and ensure their rights.

Working together and maintain cooperative relationship amongst the youth is believed to pave the way for acquiring skills and gain new experiences which will benefit them later in life. Moreover, it would give them an opportunity to use their limited resources in efficient and effective manner in a collaborative way which could be otherwise impossible to attain in an individual manner.

2.8.1.2. Implementation Capacity Building

The National Youth Policy also set a strategy to carry out the necessary and phase-by-phase efforts to create favorable conditions for active participation and benefit from the country's education and training policies.

The policy aimed at provision of training and education for both in-school and out-of-school youths to develop their skills, knowledge, spirit of self-confidence, creativity and hard work.

Increasing the capacity of the youth to participate and become beneficiaries by enabling them to have access to technologies and services that would help them develop the scope of their creative and research capacities is also mentioned to be an important strategic issues for all rounded youth development.

2.8.1.3. Information, Awareness and Advocacy

According to the policy, efforts shall be made to enable the youth to benefit from the information and communication technologies and services in order to develop their over all competence and capacity, to participate competitively and protect their benefit through having a close access to the ongoing development activities at local, regional, national and international levels.

Awareness creation and advocacy activities are also proposed to bring about behavioral changes and awareness amongst government bodies, civil society, the private sector, the general public, the family and youth on the rights and duties of youth, to have them equally acquire experiences and practices that would enable them to actively participate in and benefit from the development endeavor and other efforts being made at local, regional and national level.

2.8.1.4. Encouragement and Support

Encouragement and support through various award and encouragement programs also planned for the youth who become role models in job creation, scoring outstanding achievements in production and productivity through the use of their special talents and capabilities in order to encourage them to be more devoted to their work, and further develop their participation and benefit.

2.8.1.5. Youth and Economic Development

The national youth policy articulates the youth should participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of existing national development policies, strategies and programs.

Besides participation, enabling them to create new jobs for themselves on their competence and talents is also the major component. It further incorporates creation of favorable condition for the youth to have decent job opportunity in private sectors and enhance their participation in both formal and informal employment opportunities.

In addition, the policy further stresses for the rural youth to acquire farming plots of land and grazing lands on the basis of the Federal Constitution and Regional Laws, in order to enable them increase their products and productivity.

Expansion of off-farm activities and related services and creating condition for the youth to participate in and benefit from such ventures are also proposed as a strategy to alleviate the problems of rural underemployment due to population pressure and labour surplus in rural sector.

2.8.2. Multi-Sectoral Youth Development Strategic Plan (MYDSP)

The multi-sectoral youth development strategic plan was prepared in 2006 in order to address the cross-cutting issues of the youth. The MYDSP main objective was to bring about collective efforts of various organizations and institutions to implement the national youth policy at grass root level in youth friendly manner. The strategy admits that only one independent body can not alleviate the

problems of the youth since the problems of the youth are cross sectional and multi-sectoral in nature. The major rationales for the formulation of the MYDSP includes:-

- i. The creation of an enabling environment in which the Ethiopian youth, public organizations, CBOs and other development partners join or coordinate their technical, material and financial resources with the view to empower the youth.
- ii. Establishment of institutional frameworks and systems which enable youth focused agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and depletion of resources.
- iii. Adaptation of standardized mechanisms in which objective driven and youth targeted activities are performed, resources are mobilized and holistic youth empowerment is realized.
- iv. Integration of youth development and empowerment endeavor in to the MDG program, sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies and other national, Regional and global initiatives.

The main strategic objective of the MYDSP includes tackling the ever-growing unemployment, underemployment and social-vulnerability among young people through a comprehensive, need-based and problem solving youth capacity building interventions.

2.8.3. Ethiopian Rural Youth Development Package

The Ethiopian rural development package was also prepared in 2006 with an intention to alleviate the economic, social, and political problems of the rural youth who are in very difficult situations. The package was formulated to address the rural youth issues through need based and situational approaches. As MYDSP, the Ethiopian rural youth development package (ERYDP) prepared with an intention to implement the national youth policy at grass root level. The package is also has its own goals and objectives driven from the situational analysis of the rural youth.

The Package aims to address the rural youth economic issues through proposing solutions for the youths' land question by ensuring the youth participation in and benefit from the development activities carried out on their families' land plots. It is also stress the need to distribute unoccupied cultivable plots of farmlands located in every Kebeles. Every Kebeles also need to distribute mountainous land for the youth to benefit individually or in group. Moreover, resettlement of the youth to more suitable areas is also put as a last resort to alleviate the land problem (MoYS 2006:12).

Ensuring the rural youth participation in and benefit from rural development activities outside the area of agriculture is also given special attention. In this regard, material, technical and financial support will be rendered to the youth who engage in various activities such as construction work, handicrafts and other activities.

The rural youth would be provided with various supports to enhance their capacity and become fully engage in rural activities. From proposed support by the Package, micro finance and rural credit service that suits the rural youth condition are the major one. In addition, professional and skill upgrading training which enables the youth to become competent economic actors shall be rendered.

According to the package, market arrangement is also important through encouraging the youth to voluntarily become members of cooperatives or associations. Transmission of information to the youth through the information system (network) and promotion or advertising new market opportunities were also proposed.

2.9. Conceptual Framework

There are many theoretical perspectives on the issue of the role of youth in socio-economic development in general, and the role of youth in agricultural production in particular. The Ethiopian youth is the leading productive force in our society. The youth is a primary or secondary source of income in the rural or urban areas of the country (MoYS, 2006: 1). But, such argument could be invalid in areas where youths have limited access to livelihood assets, strategies and activities to have reliable source of livelihood and employment opportunities.

For the purpose of this study, sustainable livelihood approach is developed to show how accesses to the livelihood capital assets determine youth employment opportunities and livelihood development.

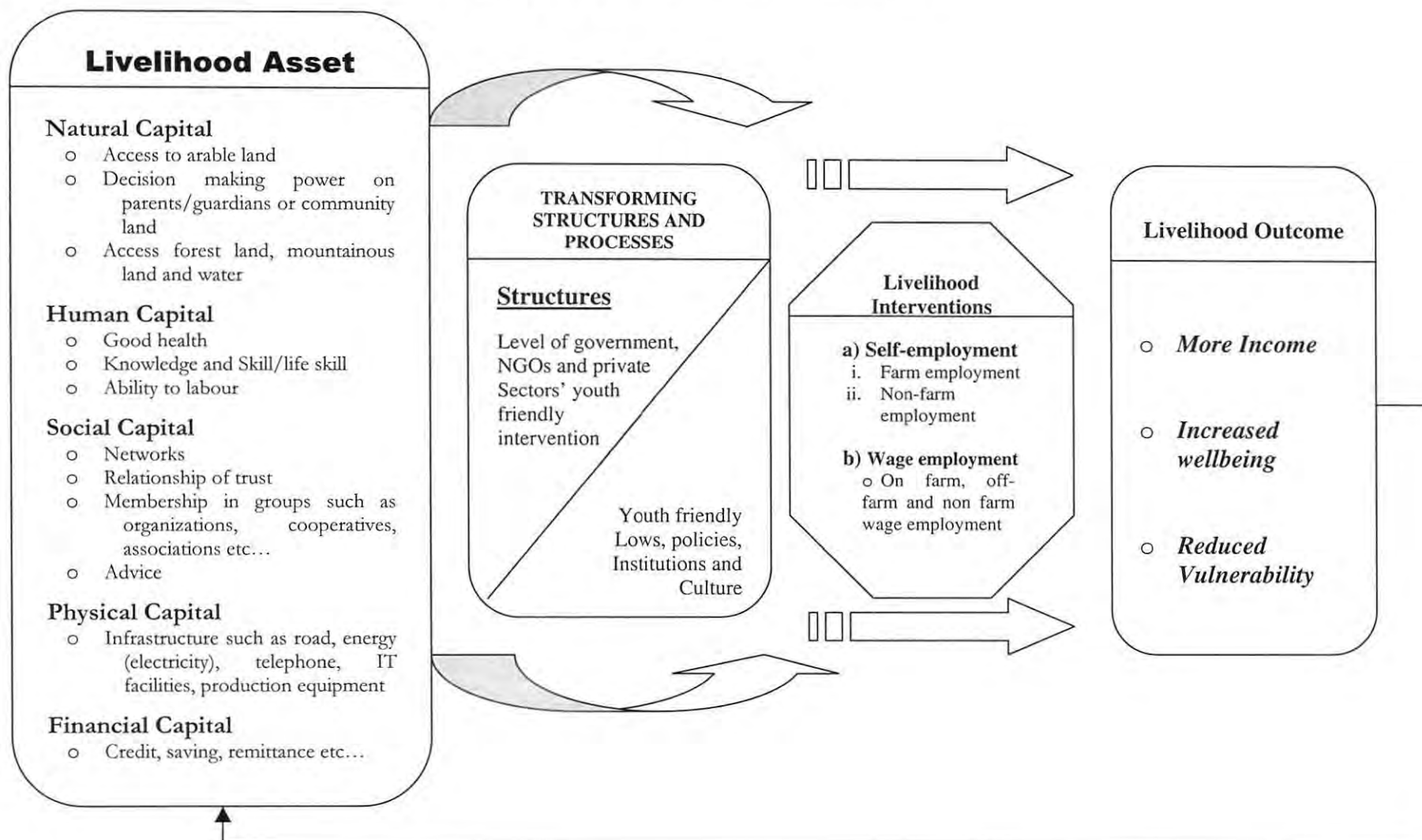
Sustainable livelihood framework analyzes livelihood capital assets, factors which determine access to these assets and livelihood strategies to identify individuals' differential access to livelihood capital assets and resources which have differential impact to enhance employment and livelihood development of the youth.

According to the sustainable livelihood approach, as shown in figure 2 below the livelihood "capital assets" of rural youth can be broken down in to five main types: natural, physical, human, financial

and social. An individual who has better access to these five livelihood "capital assets" would have a better employment opportunities and alternative sources of livelihoods. Less access to such livelihood assets creates a situation for a rural youth to become livelihood insecure, and in turn expose them to become vulnerable to various socio-economic ills including health problem, emotional disorder, food insecurity and also poverty.

Transformation structure and mediating processes have also positive or negative influence on the youths' livelihoods and wellbeing development. GOs, NGOs and private sectors youth friendly interventions and existing laws, policies, procedures, institutions and culture also have a contributing influence on youth livelihood development.

Figure 2: The DFID Livelihoods Framework



Source: Adapted from Satge et al (2002: 5)

CHAPTER FOUR

BASIC FEATURES OF MERHABETE WOREDA

This chapter is concerned with introducing the study area with particular emphasis on the physical resource base and socio-economic features.

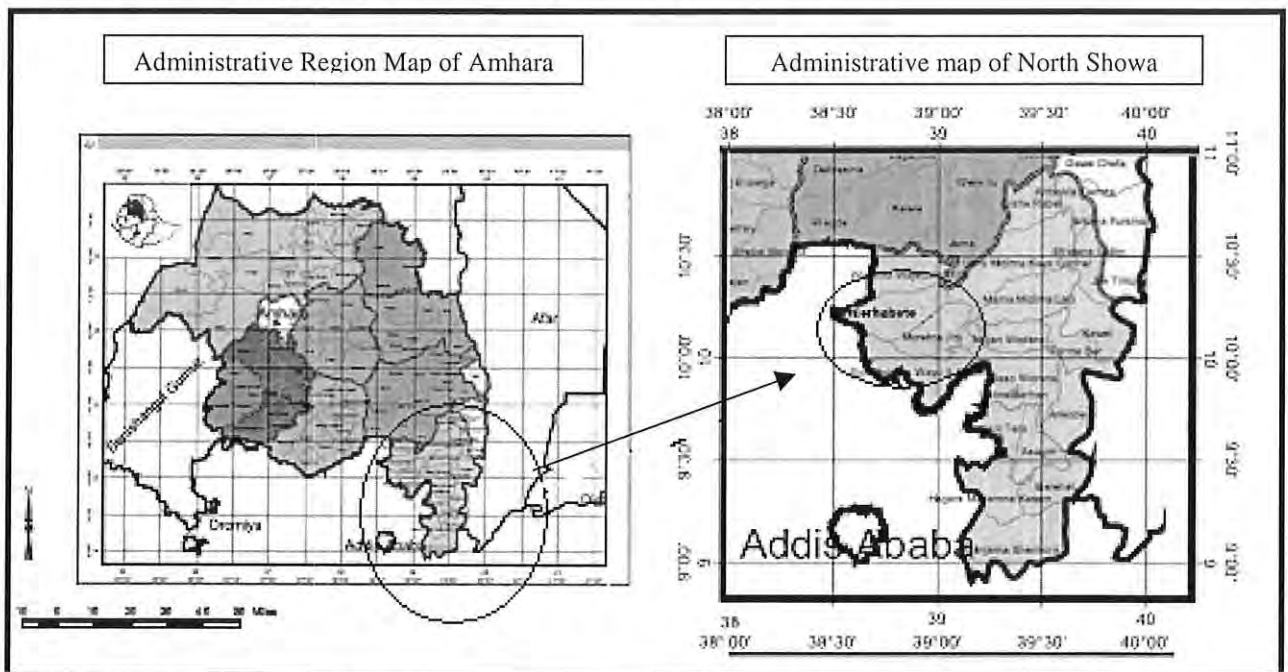
4.1. Location

The study area is located in North Showa Zone of Amhara National Regional State. The Merhabete Woreda capital, Alem Ketema, is located at a distance of 183 km to the north of Addis Ababa and 130 km North-West of the Zonal Capital Debre Brehan. It has a total area of 1,121.53 km². The Woreda is surrounded by two rivers, Jama from the south and Wenchet from the north, the two rivers tributaries to Nile River. (MWIO 2007:2)

Merhabete Woreda is also bounded by the other five Woredas in the Zone. Mida Woremo border it to the north, the west by Dera woreda, to the east by Moretna Geru and Menz Gera Woredas and the south by Ensarona Wayu Woreda.

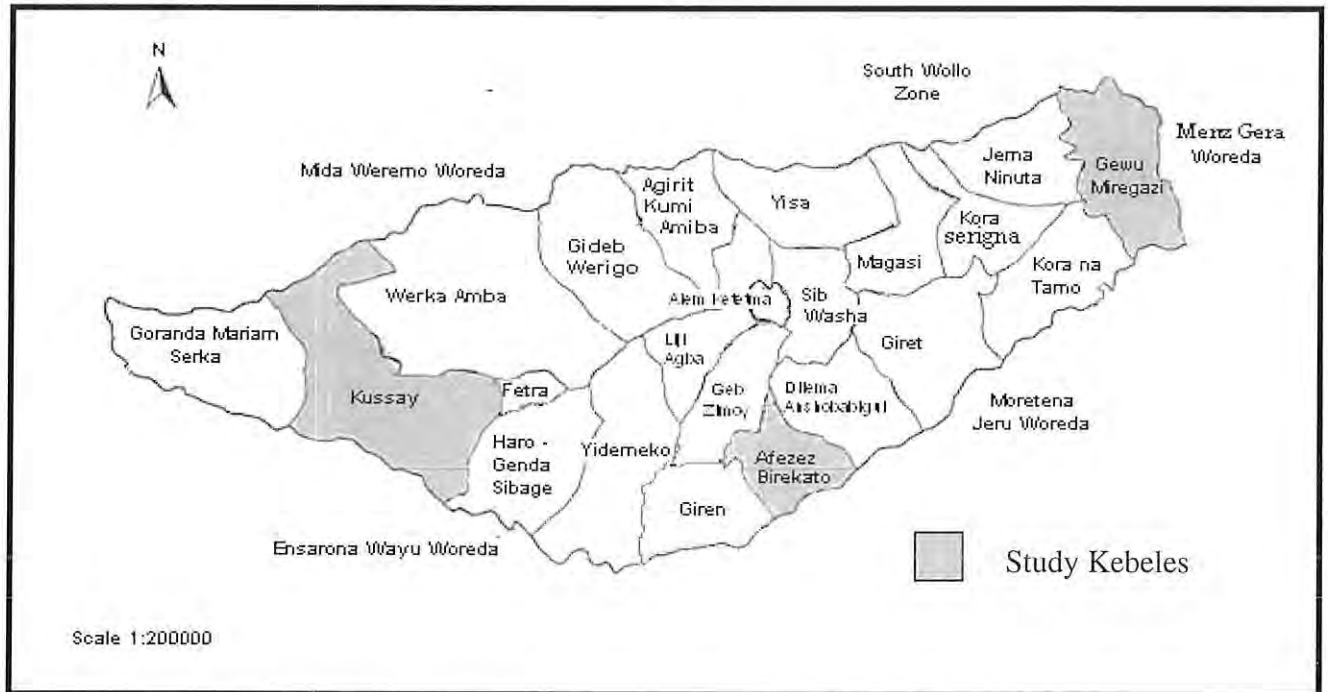
The Woreda formerly known as “Tachbetna Laybet” Woreda has its new administrative structure with 23 rural kebeles and 2 urban kebeles addressed by its new name “Merhabete Woreda”.

Figure 3: Administrative Map of Amhara Region and North Showa Zone



Source: DPPA information Center 2008

Figure 4: Map of the Merhabete Woreda and the Study Kebeles



Source: Adopted from Woreda BOFED

4.2. Topography

The study Woreda is characterized by highly mountainous, dissected and terrain nature; dominated by lots of ups and downs with slopes ranging from steep to almost flat. A considerable range (60%) of the area has a rugged mountainous characteristics and undulating slopes in nature. Only 20% of the area is plain (MWIO 2007:4).

According to the Woreda Agricultural and rural development office, 40% of the land is characterized by hills, 20% as mountainous, 15% as gorge and 20% as plain. These figures could show us how rugged and mountainous the Woreda is.

4.3. Agro-ecology

In general, an agro ecological zone of the Woreda is classified in to three traditionally categorized groups: - (1) Woyna-Dega (Sub-tropical) Zone, which accounts for 35 percent of the area coverage. (2) Dega (Temperate) Zone, which covers 15 percent of the Woreda and (3) Kola (Tropical) zone covers 50 percent of the Woreda area. (MWIO 2007: 4)

The above categorization is complicated by great diversity in ecological zones in areas which are in close proximity to one another, and at time in the same kebeles.

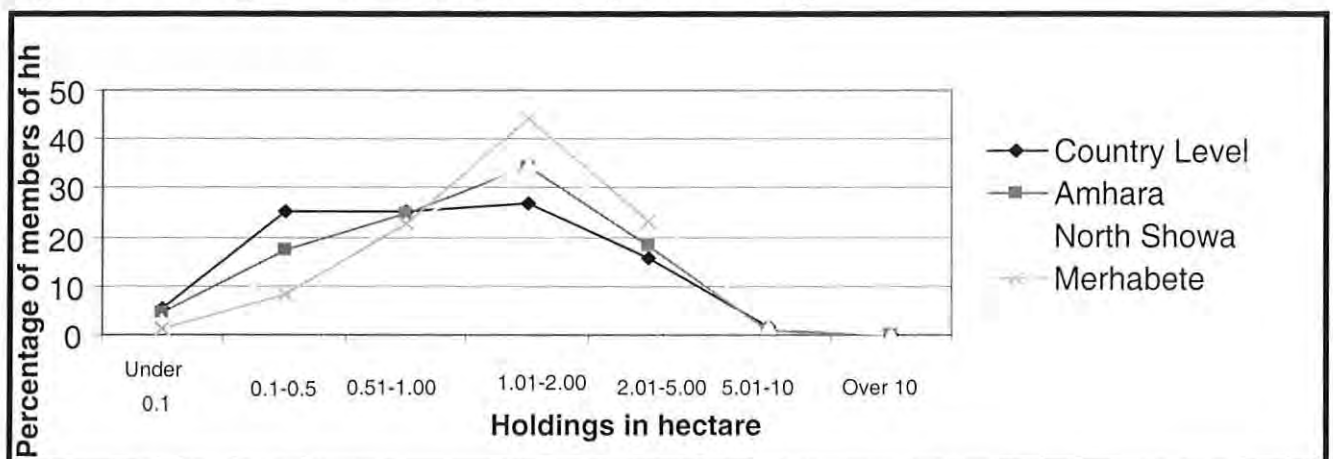
There are three seasons in the Woreda. These include “the dry season” (‘Bega’ from November to February), “the big rainy season” (‘Kiremt’ from June to September), and “the small rainy season” (‘Belg’ from February to May). Merhabete receives its rainfall from the two seasons ‘kiremt’ and ‘Belg’. The average rainfall of the Woreda ranges between 900-1200mm per annum. On the other hand, the temperature of the Woreda varies from place to place due to altitudinal effect. The mean annual range of temperature is higher for kebeles or places along lower altitude and gorges of the two rivers Jama and Wenchet. However, the average temperature of the Woreda ranges from 19°C to 32°C (MWIO 2007:5).

4.4. Land Use and Ownership

According to the Woreda information bureau, from the total area of the Woreda, 40% of the land classified as cultivable land, out of which 98% of this cultivable land is used for ‘meher’ season while the rest 2% left for irrigation from the two rivers Jama and Wenchet. The irrigable land is restricted to this proportion due to hilly nature of the Woreda, utilization of traditional and backward technologies and other reasons.

It is a well known fact that land is the most important livelihood capital asset in most part of rural Ethiopia such as the Merhabete Woreda. However, due to population pressure and other factors land has become very scarce in most instances. According to the Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development Office, land has become very scarce, infertile and fragmented for the last few decades. Moreover, there was no effort made to redistribute and readjust the available arable land since 1991. As a result landlessness becomes aggravating problem in the study area.

Figure 5: Percentage of members of household by size of holdings



Source: Adapted from Ethiopian Agricultural Sample Enumeration (2003:193-194)

In relative terms compared to the Zonal, Regional and National level; land holding size per members of a household is in a better stand. As we can observe from figure 5 above, the percentage of members of household with one hectare or less is smaller in Merhabete Woreda than the zonal, regional and national average. But, a greater proportion of the population (44.3%) has holdings with 1.01-2.00 hectares compared to 34.8%, 34.4% and 27.0% for North Showa, Amhara Region and National, respectively. However, the number of members of household by holdings decreases gradually for size of holding beyond two hectares of land.

Particularly, the rural youth has become seriously affected from the consequences associated with landlessness, land fragmentation, land infertility and related issues. According to planning experts in the Woreda, most youths are either become landless or push to the marginalized, infertile and fragmented land holdings.

However, the local people including the rural youths have access to land to some extent through various ways. The three most important mechanisms are: - (1) *Share cropping*: accessing other peoples' land who can't use their land due to sickness, old age, disability and other reasons. (2) *Inheritance*: having access to parents' or other guardians' land when the youth get married and (3) *Purchasing and renting* are also practiced to some extent. However, the number of youth who can have access to land through the above mentioned mechanisms is limited to a small number.

4.5. Socio economic Condition of the Study Area

4.5.1. Demographic Characteristics

The total estimated population of the Woreda as indicated by the Woreda information bureau accounts 150,498. Out of which 88.7% and 11.3% are residing in rural and urban areas, respectively. The total number of youth who reside in the Woreda is estimated to be 29% of the total population. With its total area of 1121.53km², the Woreda has the population density of 134.1 persons/Km². Compared to the zonal level population density (i.e. 134.4/Km² persons), the Woreda has relatively the same figure. However, it is higher from the regional figure (i.e. 120.1 persons/Km²) (CSA 2005:30).

According to the Woreda Information Bureau, the majority of the population reside in the Woreda are Amhara ethnic group. It also further states that Orthodox Christianity is the dominant religion representing almost all (98.3%) of the population.

4.5.2. Economic Activity

The predominant activity in the Woreda is agriculture employing almost 90% of the population. Out of this 88.98% are engaged in mixed farming, whereby crop production combined with animal husbandry. While, 1.02% engaged in crop production alone. The rest 10% of the population engage in non-farm and off-farm employment (MWIO 2007:4).

In the hilly and sloppy dominant areas of Merhabete, varieties of crop production have been practiced. As we can see from the table 2 below Cereal crops such as sorghum, millet, teff, wheat and barely, oil seeds such as sesame and “nug”, and fruits and vegetables are the major products in the Woreda.

Table 2: Type of crop produce in the study area

<i>Type of Crop</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Cereals	93%
Pulses	3.8%
Oil seeds	1%
Fruits and vegetables	0.77%
Other	1.43%
Total	100%

Source: Woreda Information office

Irrigation is an important source of livelihood for a number of households. From the total arable land of the Woreda almost 2% of the area is cultivable through irrigation. However, there is no data how many youths are benefiting from irrigation activity in the Woreda.

The major Woreda’s crop production constraints include degradation of natural resources, degrading land fertility, small land size, erosion, and erratic and unpredictable rain. Moreover, lack of infrastructural facilities aggravates the problem.

Livestock rearing, with its own constrains, is also practiced in the area. According to the Woreda office of Agriculture, the livestock population in the Woreda is estimated to be 164,702 heads.

Table 3: Number of Livestock in the Woreda

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Cattle	60,928
Pack animals	17,425
Sheep and goat	37,037
Chickens	49,312
Total	164,702

Source: Woreda information office

Since the agricultural activities are constrained by various interrelated problems, including shortage of cultivable land holdings, soil degradation and erratic rainfall, the Woreda has been considered to be one of livelihood insecure area where an ever growing population particularly the rural youths has become vulnerable to various socio-economic problems.

Moreover, the hardly ever development of the rural non-farm and off-farm sectors in the study area have little capacity to absorb the surplus labour from farm activities.

The rural youth in the study area, like other parts of the country, contribute a grater number of labour force in each productive sector. Starting from their early stage of development or childhood, the youth participate in domestic unpaid family work to paid local employment.

4.5.3. Education and Training

Education has a potential to contribute for accelerated and sustainable development of a nation. To have human capital enough in number and quality is vital for developing countries like Ethiopia. However, according to Education Bureau in Merhabete Woreda, a lot of challenges encountered to achieve the required goals and develop the human capital resources.

According to the Woreda information office (2007:9-10) among factors contributing to hardly growing rate in education, are less awareness about the beneficial values of education by the local people, absence of infrastructural facilities particularly road and most importantly the rural population is subsistence farmers who prefer their children to stay at home and work on farm rather than sending them to school. Early marriage is also a contributing factor to hinder the number of young female students to participate in school system (Ibid 12).

Table 4: Literacy level at Woreda, Zonal, Regional and country level

<i>Geographic Area</i>	<i>Percentage of the Literate population</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ethiopia	--	--	34.9
Amhara Region	39.0	19.0	29.3
North Showa Zone	42.8	24.4	33.8
Merhabete Woreda	32.5	16.2	24.7

Source: Adapted from Ethiopian Agricultural Sample Enumeration (2003:101-102)

As we can observe from the above table, the percentage of literate people in the Woreda is lower than the Zonal, Regional and Country level literacy rate. Only 24.7 percent of the population aged 10 years and above who are literate in the Woreda compared to 33.8%, 29.3%, and 34.9% at zonal, regional and country level, respectively. The rate can also categorize among the lowest in the Zone. Literacy level is also lower among female than male at all levels

According to the Woreda Education Office, there are 31 Primary, 1 first cycle secondary, one preparatory and one technical and vocational schools in the Woreda. In 2006, there are about 455 teachers in the Woreda. Even though the education coverage is increasing for the last few years, teacher-student ratio reaches 1:55, while section-student ratio reaches 1:55. But the figure is still lower than 1:66.4 teacher-student ratio and 1:102.5 class room-student ratio at country level (CSA 2005:328).

In general the human capital in the Woreda is low in quantity and quality due to low level of education and lack of awareness by the local communities regarding the use of education, and it may be both the cause and consequence of less employment opportunity and livelihood insecurity particularly for the rural youth.

Training institutions at the Woreda level are low in number. Moreover, the type of training courses rendered to the local peasants confined to crop production and livestock rearing. Even only a small number of peasants have access to such trainings. According to the Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development office, only 1,620 farmers have being trained in milk and meat production, bee keeping and poultry and selection and improvement of hybrid seeds (Merhabete Woreda Information Office 2007: 7) The training is also criticized for not considering the needs and

preferences of the rural youths and only insignificant number of youths have access to training services at local level.

4.5.4. Health

Like education, health has an important contribution for accelerated and sustainable development of a nation. However, health problems such as HIV/AIDS, seasonal outbreak of Malaria epidemic, Tuberculosis, and other diseases disproportionately affect the youth segment of the population who are the potential resources, energetic and productive labour force.

There are 3 health stations, 2 clinics, 20 health destinations and one medium hospital in the Woreda. Moreover, there are 87 health workers working in the Woreda, out of which only 3 medical doctors and 16 nurses are active, most of them at the hospital in the Woreda town-Alem Ketema. The health worker-population ratio is 1:1730. The number of patients who requires health services is so high that the local health service couldn't accommodate.

Even though the newly built hospital contribute a lot to improve the health situation of the community, there is still a higher requirement to raise the number of health workers and provide them with sufficient health facilities.

The service rendered by the health centers, clinics and hospital is also expected to be youth friendly. However, there is only little effort made by the Woreda Health office to train and mainstream the cross-cutting issues of the rural youth at Woreda level. Even though some efforts are made, most young people have no access to information regarding HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, STDs and other health problems.

4.5.5. Infrastructural Facilities

Lack of adequate road network is one of the most serious physical infrastructural constraints in the Woreda. Only 7 kebeles out of 23 can have access to road network which connects them to the Woreda town and Zonal capital. Its development hindered by wide topographical variations and extremely ragged terrain. As a result, the majority of the population has to use pack animals and human portage for the transport of farm and other products and inputs with long distances from their homestead and production sites.

Telephone and electric service is also restricted to few kebeles and towns. From the total 23 rural kebeles in the Woreda, only 12 kebeles have access to automatic telephone service and only the two Woreda towns have 18 hours diesel driven electric power. As a result, the majority of the population doesn't have access to the market, infrastructural facilities and information. Moreover, it makes it difficult to plant small scale industries and factories at the Woreda which require much electric power.

4.5.6. Micro and Small Scale industries

Micro and small scale industry development office is only working in the Woreda's two towns, Alem Ketema and Fetra. There is no institution working with the youth to develop the micro and small scale industries in particular, and non-farm activities in general, at rural bases.

According to the Woreda Micro and Small Scale Industry Development Office, the rural youth have no adequate access to services such as trainings, material support, technical support and even financial support except some efforts provided by the Rural and Agricultural Development Office and other organizations. The support given by such organizations, however, mostly geared towards development of farm and livestock production than non farm activities. Therefore, most youths who have no access to arable land to engage in rewarding farm activities; and have also little opportunity to engage them in non-farm employment to improve their wellbeing.

CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND ACCESS TO AND USE OF LIVELIHOOD ASSETS BY THE SAMPLED RESPONDENTS

Analysis and discussion of findings of the study begins with this chapter on socio-economic characteristics and livelihood assets of the respondents. It starts with presentation of the socio-economic characteristics of the survey respondents, including age, sex, marital and educational status and occupation. Alongside this, youths' access to and control over livelihood capital asset with particular emphasis on the five capital assets which determine the livelihood opportunities of the youth is discussed.

5.1. Socio Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

5.1.1. Demographic Features

As indicated in table 5 below, the ages of the respondents range from 15 to 29, the researcher limit the age interval deliberately from 15 years to 29 years based on the standard definition of the Ethiopian youth as stated on the NYP. Most of the respondents (56.5%) were aged between 19 and 23. The number of female respondent where 57 (49.6%) While the male constitute 58 (50.4%)

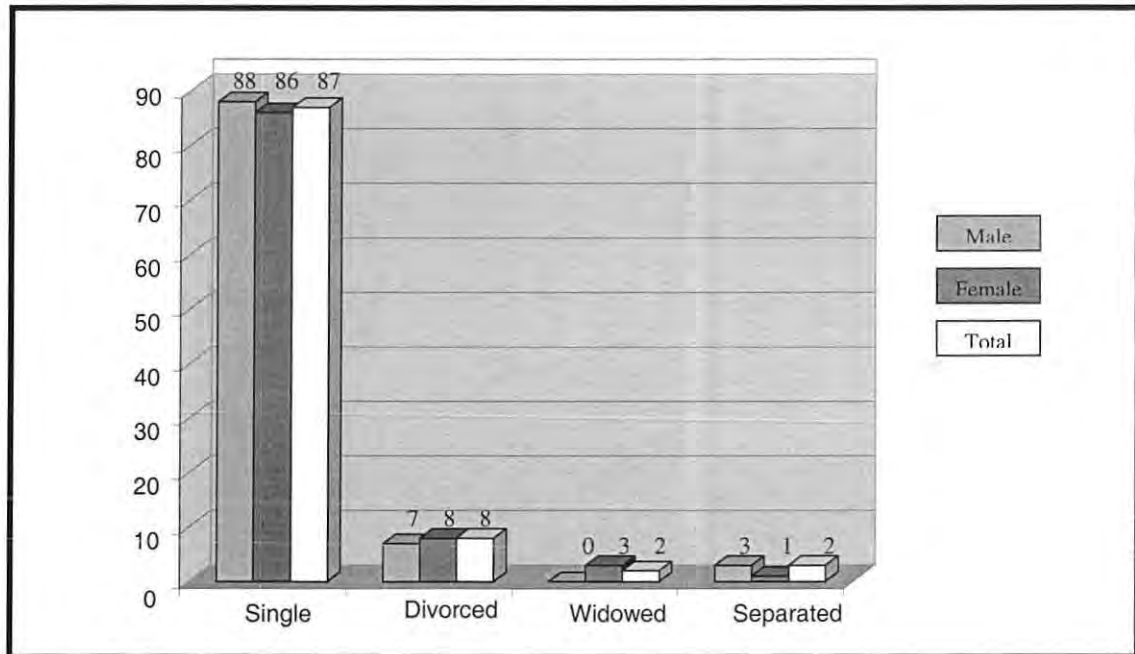
Table 5: Age and gender of sampled respondents

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Sex</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>male</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
15-17	2	16.7	10	83.3	12	10.4
18-20	6	23.1	20	76.9	26	22.6
21-23	20	51.3	19	48.7	39	33.9
24-26	15	88.2	2	11.8	17	14.8
27-29	15	71.1	6	28.6	21	18.3
Total	58	50.4	57	49.6	115	100

Source: own survey

The family size the respondent youth live with ranged from 2 to 14. The average is six. The higher number of family members who live with the respondent youth could be a factor to compute over the available resources such as land owned by the household head.

Figure 6: Marital Status and Gender of the respondent Youths (in percentage)



Source: own survey

From the total respondents; 87% were single, 8% divorced, 3% separated and 2% widowed. All of the respondents were living with their parents. As we can observe from figure 6, a gender disaggregated marital status of the respondents show that most of the divorced and widowed respondents are females who live with their parents/guardians.

With regard to ethnicity and religion the majority of the respondents are followers of Ethiopian Orthodox Church (98.3%) and Amhara (96.5%). Only 1.7% of the respondents are Muslim and 3.5% belong to the Oromo.

5.1.2. Economic Activity

At the time of survey about 59.1% of the respondents have engaged in agriculture as a primary occupation. Most youths tend to perceive education as a secondary priority, while agriculture as a primary task in their life.

Non-farm employment is insignificant both as primary or secondary occupation. Only 10.4% of the respondents engaged in non-farm employment activities such as trade, textile, waving, poultry etc...as primary task, while 3.1% of the youth respondents engage in non-farm employment as secondary occupation.

5.2. Access to and use of Livelihood Capital Asset by the Respondents

Livelihood capital assets, which are the determinants of individual's employment opportunities and livelihood situation, will be analyzed under this section. Access to and use of these livelihood capital assets by the youth and variation in ownership and utilization of the major types of capital assets are identified and discussed.

5.2.1. Natural Capital Asset (Including Livestock capital)

Land is the most important capital asset for community dependant on agriculture for their livelihood. In rural parts of the study Woreda, where there is little opportunity to engage in activities apart from agriculture, access to land is the only option to secure individual's livelihood.

(i) Land ownership

Most youths do not own land at time of survey. Only 14.8% of the youth respondents have their own land through inheritance and renting. According to the Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development Office, land hasn't been redistributed for the last three decades, as a result the young generation have little opportunity to have the available, if there is any, unoccupied arable land.

The youth in the study Woreda have access to land mainly through inheritance from their parents when they get married. However according to the findings from FGDs and interviews, land holding size at household level reaches its lowest level to make it difficult for household heads to proportionally allocate land with fair size to the newly married couples. In most circumstances, female youths may not be allowed to get married by their parents/or guardians with persons who don't have sufficient land holdings. But male youths can marry someone who even has no plot of land. According to participants of FDG, this is because men are mostly stay at the vicinity of their parents'/or guardians' holdings after the marriage. However women will leave her parents'/or guardians' homestead by taking her share of land. Therefore, parents prefer to allow their children to marry a person who have sufficient land holdings and who shall not ask them his wife's share of land.

In addition, there has been no effort made to redistribute unoccupied and mountainous areas for the rural youth to benefit them individually as well as in group, though it has been articulated in Ethiopian Youth Package.

What the researcher found from in depth interview with the local government development workers is, there is little awareness about the Ethiopian Rural Youth Development Package. Most of the respondents do not know about the content and aims of this package. As a result, the main social sector Offices such as Agricultural and Rural Development Office, Micro and Small Scale Industry Development Office and Health Office fail to mainstream fully the cross-cutting issues of the rural youths.

(ii) Access to Parent's or other Guardian's land

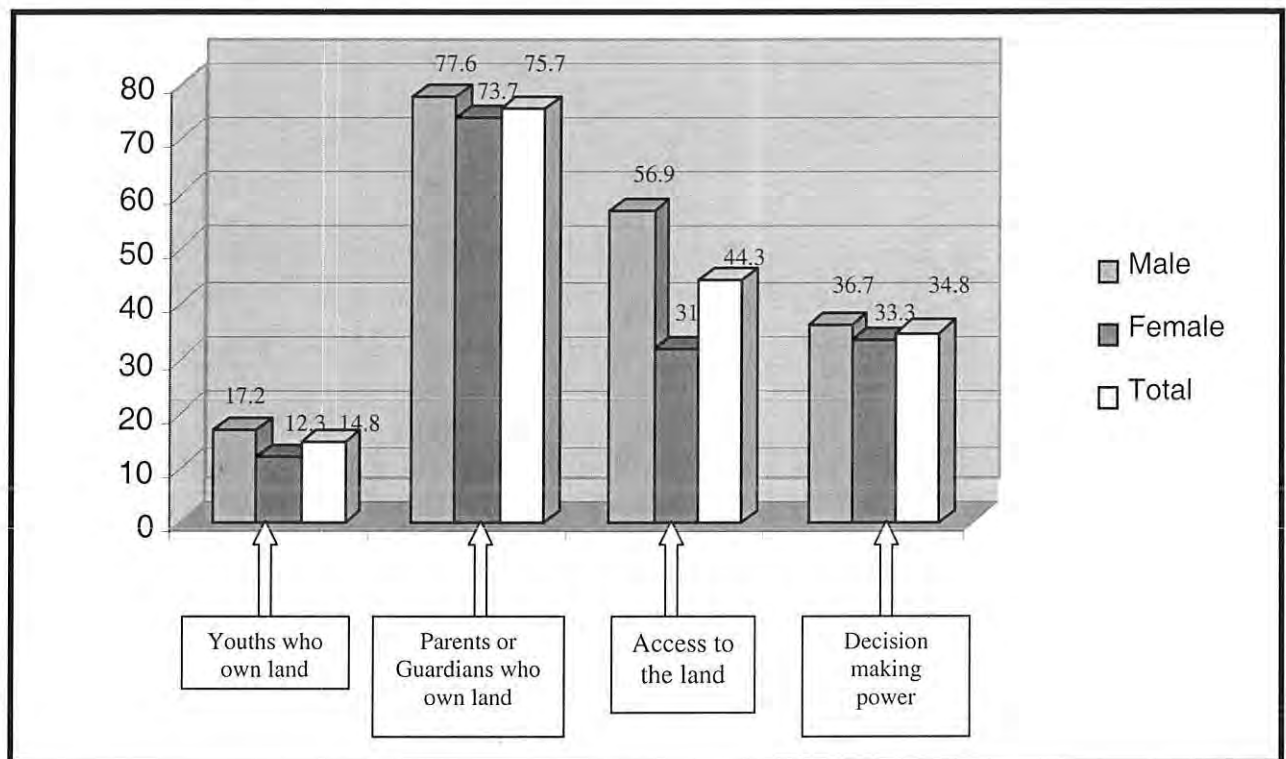
Participation in decision making and utilization of parent's/Guardian's land has an improving contribution to both the youth and parent's/guardian's income through implementing the knowledge and skill acquired from modern schools and other training institutions by the youth. The youth are claimed to be energetic and less conservatives. If they are allowed to participate in family based activities, and to use their parents'/guardians' land, they could be potential resources and become a bridge between local development agents and members of their household.

The youth respondents were asked whether their parents/guardians have own land or not. As we can observe from the graph below, about 75.7% of the respondent said one or more of their parents/guardians² have own land. However, only 44.3% of the respondents have access to use their parents/guardians land. And only 34.8% of the youth have the right to participate in decision making process on how and for what purpose to use the land.

From gender perspective, the female youth have less opportunity than male youth respondents to have access to parents' or guardians' land or to decide on household affairs. They have less chance to participate in decision making process on how and for what purpose to use the land owned by household heads. As we can observe from figure 7 below; 33.3% of the female respondents and 36.2% of the male respondents can participate in household decision making processes.

² Guardians of the youth may include brother(s), Sister(s), Grand Parent(s), Relative(s) or other individual(s) who support the youth.

Figure 7: Percentage of youth and their parents/guardians who own land, access to parents/guardians land and status on decision making process at household level.



Source: Own Survey

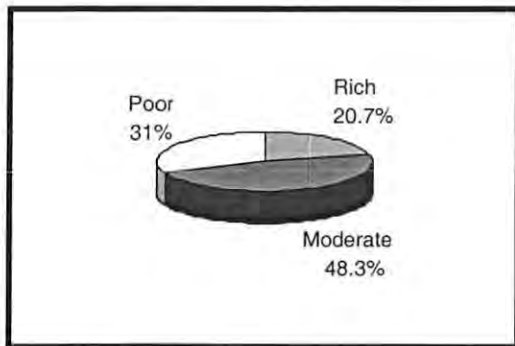
On the other hand, from the focus group discussion and in depth interview the researcher found that there are considerable portion of the population, particularly the rural youths who have no piece of arable land. Moreover, the number of youth who become landless or hardly have access to land is on the increase, and there is a fear among the participants of FGD and key informants that the increasing pressure on farm land and other natural resources may led to negative impact on rural youth livelihood development. According to the participants of FDG, the local government tried to resettle the population to less densely populated and more fertile areas in the region. However, most of the populations including the youths refuse to join the resettlement program because they lack awareness about the benefit gained from such programs or they simply don't want to leave their ancestors land.

The participants also stress for redistributing the mountainous and limited size of unoccupied land in the Woredas. However, no measures have been taken by local government to distribute the land for the local youths to benefit from the mountainous land and conserve the natural resources.

According to the Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development Office planning experts, 300 youths ask for redistribution of unoccupied land, but no measure has been taken by the Woreda administration.

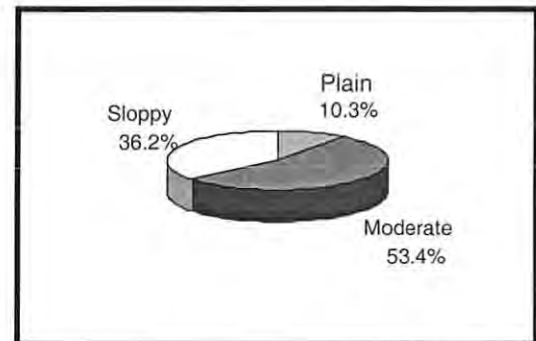
Size, fertility and topography of the available land are also determining factors for individuals to engage themselves in rewarding farm activities.

Figure 8: Land fertility status of farm plots the youth have owned or access to use



Source: Own survey

Figure 9: Topography status of farm plots the youth have owned or access to



Source: Own survey

Regarding fertility status of the farm plots that the youth have access to use as shown in figure 8 above, about 31% have rated the fertility as poor, and 20.7% have rated it as rich, while the rest 48.3% as moderate. On the other hand, figure 9 shows us most of the 53.4% respondents reported that their land topography is moderate and 36.2% characterized the land as sloppy, while the rest 10.3% leveled it as plain.

In general, the exhausted, highly sloppy and small size of land holdings could be taken as constraining factors for rural youth to benefit fully from farm and farm related activities. The problem is also aggravated by hardly having a chance to participate in household and community decision making process on how to use the available land at household and community level. Moreover, the local administration did not make any effort to distribute the existing mountainous and unoccupied land for the rural youth to benefit economically and conserve the natural resources as it has been indicated in National Rural Youth Development Package.

(iii) Ownership and access to Livestock (oxen) by the youth

Livestock is an important livelihood asset particularly for agricultural communities like the study area, which are dependent on animals for draft power and source of food. Particularly oxen have significant value.

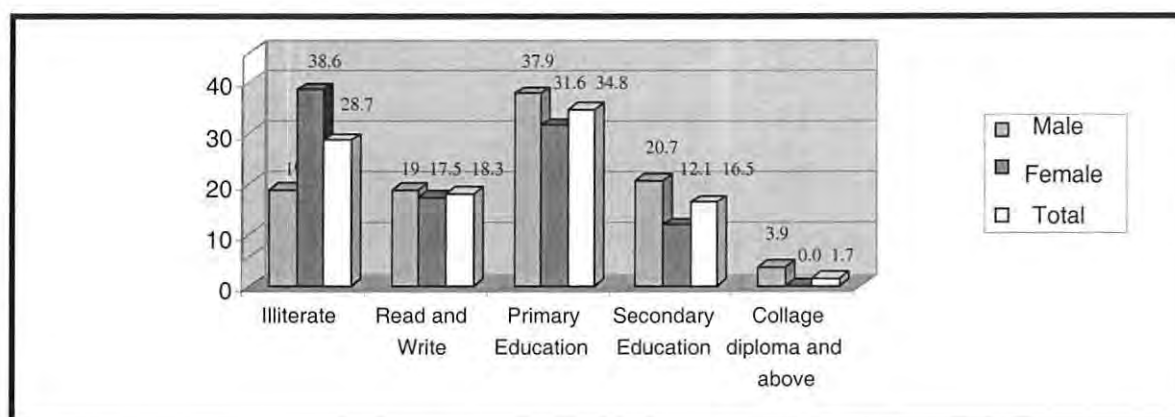
From the total surveyed youth respondents 79% of them don't own oxen. Even though 21% of the respondent claim to have oxen; the percentage of youth who have more than one ox doesn't exceed 7%. That means the majority of the youth don't have at least one ox important to cultivate the land available.

More over, the number of oxen owned by their parents or guardians is not enough to plow land at 'Meher' season, though there is excess labor at household levels. The majority of the household do not have enough number of oxen to use during 'Meher' season. The average number of oxen the respondents' parent or guardian own is 1.33.

5.2.2. Human Capital

Human capital includes the level of education, health status and ability to labour, and it is also include access to social services which enhance human capital such as access to health services, educational facilities, training and youth centers.

Figure 10: Educational status of the respondent youths



Source: Owen Survey

With regard to educational attainment, as we can see from the figure 10 above, the majority of the respondents 40 (34.8%) attain only primary school, 28.7% was illiterate and only 16.5% and 1.7% of the respondents reach secondary school and collage diploma and above; respectively. The above

figure also shows us the proportion of youth who attain education beyond primary education dropped significantly. Moreover, from the above distribution, one can easily observe that women have less access to education, particularly beyond primary education. For example, only 12.1 percent of female youths attained secondary education compared to 20.7 percent for male youths.

Respondents were also asked to highlight the major reasons which limit their access to have educational and training facilities and other important facilities which would help to enhance their psychological, social, biological, and mental development such as health services and youth centers.

Table 6: Major reason not to have access to primary education

<i>Major reasons</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Not available	8	15
Do not know their use	6	10
Expensive	35	65
Other reasons	5	10
Total	54	100

Source: own survey

As we can see from the table 6 above, from the total youths who don't have access to primary school 65% said they have no sufficient income to cover for their education expense(i.e. expenses for buy books, pencils and food), while 15% of them responds the school is not available at near distance to their homestead or work place. The other 10% of the respondents said they don't know its use while the rest 10% of the respondent replied they do not attain primary education because of work load at home, sickness, not allowed by their parents or other reasons.

Participants of FDGs also claimed youngsters are forced to stay on family plot instead of attending school. This is because most of the households are subsistence peasants unable to cover their children's basic needs or prefer their children to keep their herds or work at farm plot to gain extra income.

Table 7: Major reason not to have access to Secondary education

<i>Major reasons</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Not available	5	31.5
Do not know their use	1	7.1
Expensive	8	45.7
Other reasons	3	15.7
Total	17	100

Source: own survey

With regard to secondary education, as we can see from table 7 above, from the total youth respondents who were unable to continue their secondary education, 45.7% of them said they have no sufficient income to cover for school expenses, while almost 31.5% of the respondent claimed the school is located at far distance away from home to reach. The other 15.7% of the respondent youths do not attain secondary school because of domestic work load, forced by their parents or guardians to stay on household farm activities, sicknesses and other reasons.

In general, lack of sufficient income and location of school at long distance from respondent localities forward to be the major reasons not to have access to primary and secondary education. Especially young girls forced to stay home in fear of abduction and rape, since they have to travel long distances away from home. Moreover, findings from in depth interview and FGDs show that most girls drop-out of school due to early marriage. On the other hand, participants of FGD said that most youths who complete their primary education were unable to continue their secondary education at the only school located in the Woreda town Alem-Ketema. This is because; their parents or guardians can not afford to provide them with the necessary school expense including renting a house at near by school, food expenditure and expenses to buy books, pen, pencils and other educational material.

Table 8: Major reason not to have access to health services

<i>Major reasons</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Not available	8	11.1
Do not know their use	1	1.4
Expensive	61	84.7
Other reasons	2	2.8
Total	72	100

Source: own survey

The respondents also asked whether they have easy access to health service or not. Almost 62.6% of the youth responded that they have no easy access to health services. As we may observe from the table 8 above, out of the 62.6% who do not have easy access to health services about 84.7% of them claimed a health service at local level is too expensive. Participants of focus group discussion said that they are expected to pay 100 birr in advance before they get service at Alem Ketema hospital. As a result most youths prefer to go to traditional healers and churches instead. The other 11.1% of the respondents said health centers are located at far distance to reach easy. 1.4% of the youth responded that they did not go to the modern health centers at times of requirement. However they prefer to go to traditional healers because they don't have awareness about the use of modern health centers. In general, the local health services are criticized for being youth unfriendly by the majority of sampled respondents and participatory of focus group discussions.

Table 9: Major reasons not to have Special Training

<i>Major reasons</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Not available	72	71.3
Do not know their use	6	5.9
Expensive	19	18.8
Other reasons	4	4
Total	101	100

Source: own survey

With regard to special trainings such as entrepreneurial skill, life skill, leadership skill and other trainings, only 12% of the respondents have an opportunity to get such trainings at local level. As it

has been illustrated by the figure table 9, almost 71.3% said there are no training facilities targeting the special needs of the local youth. Moreover, about 5.9% of the respondents do not even know the use of such special training for their livelihood development.

According to the Woreda information bureau, only 1,620 farmers have been trained since 1998 in farm and farm related activities to improve their productive activities. The training have been criticized by focus group discussion participants as not to be youth friendly, and almost all the trainees are adults and heads of the household. On the other hand, training rendered by the Woreda Micro and Small Scale Industry Development office is restricted to the towns only.

Besides their recreational values, youth centers provide the youth with information and all rounded knowledge important for their biological, psychological and social development. However, no significant efforts have been made by local government to build all rounded youth friendly centers at local level. As a result, only 4.3% of the youths have access to the youth centers mostly located at nearby towns.

5.2.3. Social Capital Asset

One has more opportunity to enhance the livelihood and employment opportunity, if he/she possesses the social capital essential to develop their wellbeing. Social capital asset such as membership in local organizations, having more social network, and having an opportunity to give opinion on local community affairs allow the youth to participate and benefit equally from community development.

i. Membership in local formal and informal organization

The aggregate number of youth, who participate in formal and informal organizations and associations, as illustrated in table 10 below, is 22.6%. Almost 89 (77.4%) of the youth do not participate in any organizations or associations. Findings from in depth interview and FGDs show that the local youths have little awareness about the benefit they can get from being organized.

Table 10: Membership in local formal and informal organization

<i>Type of organization</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Youth organizations/clubs	12	10.4
Producers/consumers cooperatives	3	2.6
Idir	5	4.3
Eiqub	3	2.6
Church group	3	2.6
I don't participate in any organization	89	77.4
Total	115	100

Source: own survey

It is also found from the interview with the local development experts that technical, material, and financial support is provided to youth organization active in the two towns of the Woreda. Even though the national rural youth development package stress the need to support youth organization at all levels, the rural youth in the Woreda has limited access to such support from local development agents.

ii. Participation in local community affairs and social network

Ethiopia is a country where authoritarian culture is exercised, that public awareness about child need, rights and participation is low. Many writers consistently shown that obedience, conformity, and dependency are behaviors highly valued and, hence, young members of a family must be obedient and his/her opinion is rarely sought, or allowed to be expressed. In most circumstances a child is not expected to talk in front of adults and not to look at people straight. This authoritarian type of culture may cause the youth not to participate in family and community affairs.

In the case of the study area, findings from group discussion shows that facts are not differ from the aforementioned explanations. Most youths are not allowed to participate in household and community affairs. As a result, most youths depend on their friends for advice instead of more experienced adults and their parents. This trend may expose the youth to peer pressure to become vulnerable to various risks including HIV/AIDS.

Even if some efforts have been made to participate the youth at grass root level in planning and implementing policies and programs, there is still administrative and cultural constraints that hinder

the youth from full participation. Social exclusion of young people would seriously compromise their potential for development and, on the other hand, predispose them to a wide range of risk factors including livelihood insecurity.

5.2.4. Physical Capital Asset

Access to physical assets such as road, electricity, telephone service, market arrangements, drinking water etc...have an enhancing contribution for the rural youth to engage themselves in rural employment opportunities. Access to the main physical capital asset by the respondents is discussed as follows.

i. Access to Road and Transportation

Recently there is some progress to build rural road network in the study Woreda. However, due to mountainous and rugged character of the topography, it is difficult to make all the road construction needed to have sufficient network. As a result, almost all of the respondents forced to use human labour or pack animal to transport their product to the market.

Table 11: Access to road and transportation

<i>Means of Transport</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Human labor	70	60.9
Using pack animal	39	33.9
Using vehicle	3	2.6
Total	115	100

Source: own survey

Particularly young girls from households with no sufficient income travel by foot for at least a day to collect fuel wood and sell it to the near by market.

ii. Access to the Market

Most youths responded that they experience market problem to sell their products and buy the required inputs. Ranging from lack of infrastructural facilities such as road and provision of information to administrative problems such as double taxation has been raised as important barriers.



Figure 11: The newly built rural road from Alem-Ketema to Afezez-Berkato Kebele

Since there is no transportation service available to transport their products to the near by market places, most of their products particularly perishable goods such as fruits and vegetable tend to lose some values or even become wasted. As a result most of them tend to sell it at low prices at time of harvest seasons.

On the other hand, participants of FDG said they have to pay taxes more than one time to sell a single herd. This is because taxing is done at the gate way of the market and if the herd is not sold on the first day, the seller expected to pay the same amount of tax for the next day. Taxing the same herd may continue on each marketing day until he/she sells the herd.

iii. Access to telephone and electricity

Provision of digital telephone service and electricity at Woreda level is only concentrated on the two towns in the Woreda. Expansion of such infrastructural facilities to the rural areas is just a binging process. As a result, the newly flourishing micro and small scale industries hardly acquire the electric power needed for the production process. Moreover, the rural youth have less access to radio and telephone, important for their livelihood development by providing them with information like vacancies and market information.

5.2.5. Financial Capital Asset

Financial capital asset could be accumulated in various forms. Gift, remittance, savings and credit are the major forms to accumulate financial capital asset. The status of the Woreda youth respondents in relation to access to financial capital asset is illustrated as follows.

Gifts and remittance include financial and material capital acquisition from relatives, friends, government, NGOs and other parties for some intended purposes. As it is shown on table 12 below

the majority 81.7% of the respondents have secured no gift or remittance for the last two years. Only 18.3% of them secure remittance or gift from friends or relatives. However, almost all of them use the gift/remittance to cover the expenses for their basic needs and requirements. The tendency to establish or expand their business using the secured gift or remittance is low.

Table 12: Number of youths who have secured financial or material support for the last two years.

<i>Response</i>	<i>Youths who secure financial or material support in the last 2 years</i>					
	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	10	17.2	11	18.3	21	18.3
No	48	82.8	46	80.7	94	81.7

Source: own survey

On the other hand as we can observe from the table 13 below, almost all 104 (90.4%) of the respondents have no access to credit service at local level.

Table 13: Access to credit services.

<i>Response</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	11	9.6
No	104	90.4

Source: Own survey

Table 14 below illustrates the reasons forwarded by the respondent youths for having no access to formal credit services at local level. According to the majority 72 (69.2%) of the respondents, this is because there is no credit facilities for the youth at local level. 24(23.1%) of the respondent said that they have no awareness about its benefit to develop their activity. While the rest 6.7% responded that they haven't been in need of loan for the last two years.

Table 14: Reason not to have access to credit

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Not interested	7	6.7
I have no awareness about its use	24	23.1
Due to short pay back period	1	1.0
There is no credit facility for the youth at local level	72	69.2
Total	104	100

Source: own survey

According to heads of the Woreda Micro and Small Scale Industry Development Office and Office of Youth and Sports heads of representatives, efforts has been made to communicate with the Zonal and Regional Bureaus and other responsible governmental and non-governmental bodies such as the Amhara Credit and Saving Institution to launch a new program which could benefit the rural youth from youth focused credit and loan services. However, there is no loan service is provided by formal financial institution at time of the survey for the rural youth in the study area. This phenomenon put the rural youth in difficult situation to secure the minimum financial requirement to start up or expand their business.

CHAPTER SIX

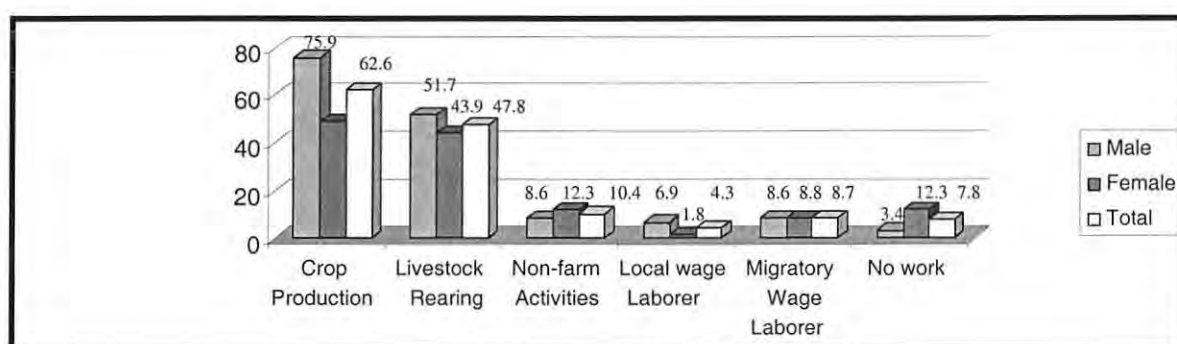
RURAL YOUTH LIVELIHOOD AND WELLBEING

This chapter dealt with identification and discussion of rural livelihood opportunities at the study area, assessing constraints that hinder the participation of the youth from rural sectors that in turn affect their livelihood situation and also discuss the well-being status of the respondent.

6.1. Participation of the Youth in Rural Sectors

Figure 12 below shows that to what extent the rural youth is participating in each sectors i.e. rural farm, off-farm and non-farm activities for their livelihoods as sources of employment.

Figure 12: Percentage of the youth respondent participating in rural sectors.



Source: own survey

The majority of the respondents engage in crop production (62.6%) and livestock rearing (47.8%) as compared to the other three, i.e. non-farm employment, local and migratory wage labor. Only 10.4% of the respondent supplements their income from non-farm activities such as trade, textile, and so on. Local and migratory wage employment accounts 4.3% and 9% respectively. The rest 7.8% of the respondents do not engage in any one of these sectors.

Gender sensitive analysis of the response unlashes that the number of female youths participating in each sub-sector is less than male youth respondents. On the other hand, the proportions of female respondents who do not participate in any of the sub-sectors exceed the male respondents. Only in non-farm activities such as trade, fuel wood selling and related activities that the number of female exceeds that of male.

The non-existence of infrastructural facilities such as road, electricity, transportation, etc, little effort made by the local government to support the micro and small scale industries at rural bases and

other related factors hinder the local communities to engage in activities other than farming and livestock rearing.

6.2. Constraints of rural youth to engage in decent employment and reliable sources of livelihood.

Constraints that hinder the rural youth to participate in decent employment vary from natural to policy issues. The respondent youths were asked the factors that hinder them from participating in rural sector as a source of employment. The problem identified from focus group discussion, in depth interview and sample surveying is discussed in relation to each sector as follows:-

6.2.1. Constraints of the youth to engage in crop production.

Figure 12 above shows the majority of the respondents (62.6%) engage in crop production as a source of livelihood. The rest 37.4% of the respondents do not involve in crop production due to various reasons. As we can also observe from the following table (table 15) lack of sufficient arable land to employ extra labor force is forwarded to be the main reason not to engage in crop production by the majority 27.9% of the respondents. Lack of spare time due to domestic work particularly for female youths, not being allowed to use parents/guardians land, and lack of draft power are also mentioned to be the main factors by significant proportion of the respondent.

Table 15: Reason for not to participate in crop production (In percentage)

<i>Reasons</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Lack of time due to schooling	6	14
Lack of time due to domestic work	8	18.6
Lack of draft power	5	11.6
Unable to purchase technological and other input	1	2.3
Not allowed to use parents or guardians land	8	18.6
Small size of the land	12	27.9
Not interested in such activity	3	7
Total	43	100

Source: Own Survey

The respondent youths and participants of focus group discussions forwarded the following constraints as a bottleneck for participating fully in crop production activities as a source of employment and livelihood. These are:-

- Lack of arable land;
- Shortage of land;
- Fragmentation of land;
- Less fertility of land;
- Lack of decision making power on parents'/guardians'/ households'/community's land;
- Lack of spare time due to domestic work;
- Not allowed to use parents'/gardens'/households'/community's land;
- Lack of storage and market arrangement particularly for perishable products and;
- Unstable price for agricultural output were mentioned to be the major problems.

However, small and fragmented holdings, infertile nature of the soil and lack of decision making power by the youth are claimed to be the three most important constraints, in order of significance, to hinder youth involvement in crop production.

6.2.2. Constraints of the youth to engage in livestock rearing

Nearly half (47.8%) of the respondents engage in livestock rearing. Since mixed farming is practiced by the majority of the rural households in the study area, most of the youths involve in either household or own activity. However, as it has been illustrated on table 16 below, 60 (52.2%) do not participate in livestock rearing because 33.3% of them lack start up capital, 25% due to lack of water and fodder, 13.3% due to lack of spare time because of domestic work and crop production and the rest 5%, due to schooling and other reasons.

Table 16: Reason for not to participate in Livestock Rearing (In Percentage)

<i>Reasons</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Lack of time due to schooling	3	5.0
Lack of time due to domestic work	8	13.3
Prevalence of animal diseases	11	18.3
Lack of start up capital	20	33.3
Lack of water and fodder	15	25
not interested in such activity	3	5.0
Total	60	100

Source: own survey

The respondent youths forwarded the following constraints as a bottleneck for participating fully in livestock rearing as a source of employment and livelihood. These are:-

- Lack of additional fodder and water;
- Disease prevalence;
- Lack of sufficient veterinary services;

- Lack of decision making power on parents' or other guardians' activity;
- Not allowed to use parents'/gardens/household/community land for grazing;
- Lack of storage and market arrangement and;
- Unstable price were mentioned to be the major problems.

However, Shortage of grazing land, Lack of additional fodder and prevalence of animal diseases are claimed to be the three most important constraints in order of significance, to constrain youth involvement in livestock rearing.



Figure 13: Local youth feeding the livestock (Source: Own survey)

6.2.3. Constraints of the youth to engage in rural non-farm activities.

The infant nature of rural non-farm sector only allows absorbing insignificant number of the youth as a source of employment.

Due to lack of start up capital, having less awareness about its uses, transportation problem, inaccessibility of market places, absence of market arrangement, busy with domestic work particularly by female respondents and absence of rewarding activities are identified to be the major factors why the youth are not participating in non-farm activities. As it has shown on table 17 below, 32.0% of the youth have no awareness about the beneficial values of non-farm activities. The other 19.4% lack the minimum amount of financial requirement to start or expand such scheme. While the other 16.5% have no interest to engage in such sector due to various reasons including due to negative attitude by the community towards such activities.

Table 17: Reason for not participating in non-farm activities

Sex	Reason for not participating in Non-farm activities															
	Lack of spare time		Have no awareness for its value		Lack of skill and knowledge		no profitable job opportunity at local level		Lack of start up capital		Not allowed by parents/guardians		Not interested and other reasons		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Male	4	7.5	16	30.2	6	11.3	3	5.7	11	20.8	3	5.7	10	18.9	53	51.5
Female	2	4.0	17	34.0	7	14.0	4	8.0	9	18.0	4	8.0	7	14.0	50	48.5
Total	6	5.8	33	32.0	13	12.6	7	6.8	20	19.4	7	6.8	17	16.5	103	99.9

Source: Own Survey

On the other hand, individuals who involve in non farm activities face varieties of problems to enhance their benefit from this sector. Findings from survey respondents, participants of FGDs and interview show that the following major constraints are the reasons to hinder the youth to benefit fully from non farm activities. These are:-

- Shortage and high cost of input;
- Lack of production material;
- Lack of start up capital;
- Lack of credit services;
- Absence of market arrangement;
- Small profit;
- Caste-low status of individuals who engage in activities such as poultry and;
- Lack of skill and knowledge are mentioned to be the most important barriers to scale up their activities;

According to the ranking order from survey respondents, the three most important constraints in order of significance are high cost of input, lack of skill and knowledge, and small profit.

6.2.4. Constraints of the youth to engage in rural off farm wage employment

Off farm activities include wage employment both at local and migratory labor bases. These forms of employment also involve selling individual labour in return for wage in terms of cash or in kind.

Small proportions (4.3%) of the youths are involved in local wage employment. This figure shows us that there is little opportunity for the local youth to engage themselves on off farm activities at local level. From total local wage employees, the majority are involved in share cropping.

On the other hand, migratory wage employment, particularly in slack season, is an important source of employment for some 10 (8.7%) of the youths.

6.2.4.1. Constraints of the youth to engage in local wage employment

The respondents were asked to indicate the constraints that hindered them from involvement in local wage employment.

Absence of decent wage employment opportunities at local level is recognized to be a factor for local youth to have difficulties to diversify their sources of livelihood. As we can see from the following table (table 18) the majority 42.7% of the respondents reported absence of local wage employment opportunity at local level is the most important constraints to engage in such activities.

Table 18: Constraints to have decent wage employment

Sex	Constraints to have wage employment											
	Low wage rate		Higher work experience requirement		no job opportunity at local level		no youth friendly job opportunity at local level		Other reasons		Total	
	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	N ^e	%
Male	6	11.1	18	33.3	23	42.6	2	3.7	5	9.3	54	49.1
Female	2	3.6	16	28.6	24	42.9	3	5.4	11	19.6	56	50.9
Total	8	7.3	34	30.9	47	42.7	5	4.5	16	14.5	110	99.9

Source: own survey

On the other hand the above table shows us 30.9% of the respondent claimed local wage employment requires higher work experience. The other 7.3% says, low wage rate is the reason not to involve in such activities but stay on small size of farm plot. While 4.5% said no youth friendly job opportunity exist at local level. The rest 14.5% of the respondent said other reasons including lack of spare time due to domestic work and having no permission by their parents or guardians are the main constrains to involve in off farm employment.

6.2.4.2. Constraints of the youth to engage in migratory employment

Table 19 below illustrates the main reason forwarded by the respondents of sample survey as a reason to involve in migratory employment. According to the majority 40% of youth respondents who engage in migratory employment lack of arable land is the major push factor to involve in such activity. The other 20% said they engage in migratory employment to have extra income after farm season or slack season. While 10% forced to engage themselves in migratory wage labor to satisfy

their basic needs. The rest 30% are engaged in migratory employment because their parents/guardians forced them to or other reasons.

Table 19: Reasons for migratory employment

Sex	Reasons for migratory employment									
	Lack of arable land		To have extra income after farm season		To satisfy basic needs		Other reasons		Total	
	N ^o	%	N ^o	%	N ^o	%	N ^o	%	N ^o	%
Male	3	60	1	20	0	0	1	20	5	50
Female	1	20	1	20	1	20	2	40	5	50
Total	4	40	2	20	1	10	3	30	10	100

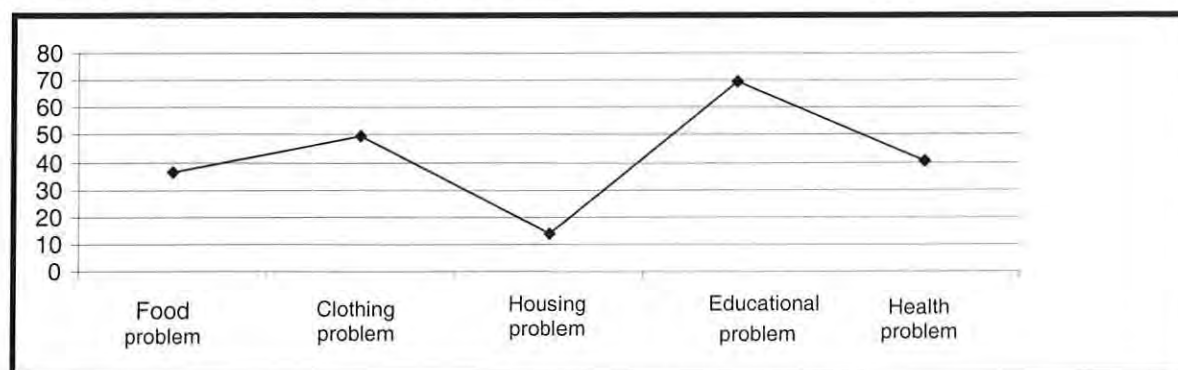
Source: own survey

Individuals who migrate to other places for wage employment face a varieties of problems. Housing problem is claimed to be the significant problem by the majority (30%) of the respondent. Transportation problem and lack of health services are also reported to be the problems for 20% and 10% of the respondents, respectively.

6.3. Wellbeing Status of the Rural Youth

Employment tends to enhance the wellbeing of individuals through improving the living standard. An individual may have a better probability to fulfill its basic needs such as food, clothing and housing requirements. However most youths in the study area are unable to fulfill their basic needs due to insufficient income they get from rural activities.

Figure 14: Problem encountered by the youths



Source: own survey

Figure 14 above tells us almost 36.6% of the youth do not cover their food expenses by themselves or their parent's income. About 49.6% face clothing problem and 13.9% housing problem. The other 69.5% and 40.4% experienced problems associated with health and education.

According to survey findings and focus group discussions, shortage of arable land, lack of decent and better paying job opportunities and lack of credit facilities are reported to be the three most important factors that hinder the youth to participate in and benefit from rural sectors and enhance their wellbeing. In depth interview with the Woreda Agricultural and Rural Development Office, Micro and Small Scale Industries Development Office and Office of Youth and Sports also claim the non-existence of independent institutional arrangement working with the youth, particularly at Kebele level, is mentioned to be a weak link to fix the problem of the rural youth at a grass root level and improve their wellbeing.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. Summary

The study Woreda is characterized by its mountainous, dissected and terrain topography with scarcity and fragmentation of arable land. Even if land is the most important livelihood capital asset in the Merhabete Woreda, it has become very scarce and exhausted. In addition, no redistribution and readjustment were made for the last two decades. As a result, landlessness has become an aggravating problem.

The predominant activity in the Woreda is agriculture employing almost 90% of the population. The majority (i.e. 98.8%) of the population who engage in agriculture depends on mixed farming whereby crop production combined with livestock rearing.

Crop production is highly constrained by a host of problems including small and fragmented land holdings, degrading land fertility, erosion, etc... Livestock rearing on the other hand is also practiced in the Woreda with its own constraints.

The hardly ever development of the rural non-farm and off-farm sector in the study area have little capacity to absorb the surplus labour from agriculture.

With regard to social services rendered at Woreda level; even though some progress have been observed in their development, education, training facilities, health services, infrastructural facilities and other services are claimed to less developed and youth unfriendly.

Regarding the study population, youths who are aged between the ages of 15-29 years were considered. The number of family members who live with the respondent youth ranges from 2 to 14. The average is 6. The majorities 87% were single and a gender disaggregated view of the marital status shows that most of the respondents who are divorced and widowed are females. But all of the youths live with their parents or guardians.

At time of the survey, about 59.1% of the respondents have engaged in agriculture as a primary occupation. Non-farm and off-farm employment plays insignificant role as a primary occupation.

The youth in the study Woreda also have a limited access to the five livelihood capital assets. Land, which is the most important capital asset for the community is very limited to be accessed by increasing number of population. Particularly the local youth have limited access to land. In addition, the youth have limited access to major services such as health, training and educational services in youth friendly manner to improve their personal and livelihood development.

The youth also have limited access to social capital assets. The percentage of youth who are a member of formal and informal organization do not exceed 22.6 percent. They are also face administrative and cultural constraints to participate in family and local community affairs. To have a wider social network is also slim for the majority of the youth due to authoritarian nature of child rearing practiced in the community.

Even if there are some efforts made at local level to provide the local community with sufficient infrastructural facilities, market arrangements and other services, the Woreda youth still experienced varieties of problem like transportation, marketing, information, financial and other problems.

The majority of the respondents engage in crop production (62.6%) and livestock rearing (47.8%) as a primary or secondary source of livelihood. Non-farm and off-farm wage employment contribute a small share to employ the local youth. Only 10.4% of the respondents supplement their income from activities outside agriculture. Moreover, a gender based analysis of the responses shows that the number of female participating in each sector, except for non-farm activities, is less than that of male.

From the total respondents who do not engage in crop production, the majority 27.9% forwarded lack of sufficient farm plot is the reason not to employ themselves in such activities. Lack of spare time due to domestic work particularly for female youth and not allowed by their parents or guardians to engage in such activities are also mentioned as reasons.

Among constraints forwarded by youths who employ themselves in crop production, small land size and fragmentation of farm plots, infertile nature of the soil and lack of decision making power by the youth on family or community plots is said to be the major problems.

Nearly half (47.8%) of the youth have engage in livestock production. However shortage of grazing land, lack of additional fodder and prevalence of animal diseases are claimed to be the most

important constraints to benefit fully from such sector. Lack of start up capital, lack of water and fodder and lack of spare time due to domestic work also mentioned to be the major reasons for the local youth not to employ themselves in livestock production.

The infant nature of rural non-farm sector only absorbs insignificant number of youth. There is no fertile ground for the youth to diversify their sources of livelihood outside agriculture. According to the survey respondents, high cost of input, lack of skill and knowledge and small profit mentioned to be the main constraints to benefit fully from non-farm activities. Lack of start-up capital, having less awareness about its benefit, transportation problem, absence of market arrangement and lack of spare time due to domestic work are mentioned to be the main barriers to enter in to and benefit from non-farm sector.

Off-farm employment opportunity is also slim for most of the youths. Absence of decent wage employment opportunities at local level is recognized to be the main factor for local youth not to diversify their source of income. Even if migratory wage employment contributes small share to accommodate the excess labour from agriculture especially at slack season, it is also constrained by varieties of problems including transportation, housing and health problems.

7.2. Conclusion

Ethiopia is facing difficulties to provide the growing number of people with sufficient and reliable sources of livelihood for the last few decades. Particularly the youth segment of the population, who are the potential resources for the nation's development, is becoming more and more livelihood insecure. Unemployment and underemployment disproportionately affect the youth in most circumstances. Even though some efforts have been done by the national government and regional administration to alleviate the problems of the youth including promotion of livelihood opportunities for the rural youth; unfortunately, an increasing number of youth becoming marginalized and vulnerable to various socio-economic problems including psychological and emotional problem, lack of income to fulfill their basic needs, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

The rapid population growth rate and unfavorable climatic conditions put a pressure on the rural communities who are dependent on agriculture for their subsistence to become livelihood insecure, since land has become small in size and infertile. The livelihood condition of the rural population is

also complicated by the small or hardly existence of infrastructural facilities and other social services at local level.

The rural youth are also disproportionably affected from the consequences of unemployment and underemployment, because they lack the basic capital resources important to develop their sources of livelihood. Therefore, the objective of this study was to investigate the problem and prospect of the rural youth to have reliable and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The conceptual frame work of sustainable livelihood framework was used to help to analyze data and information required to assess the rural youth access to the basic livelihood capital asset. The SLF is known to have an important role to investigate the livelihood development condition of a community from holistic perspective. It envisages access to the basic livelihood capital assets, i.e. natural capital, financial capital, human capital, social capital and physical capital. Access to such asset may pave the way for an individual to achieve better employment and livelihood opportunities. Mediating processes such as policy instruments, organizational capacity and institutional support, and other legal measures could also promote individual's livelihood.

The Woreda rural youths are in a difficult situation to have access to the basic livelihood capital assets such as access to the land which has a vital role to improve their livelihood. Crop production and livestock rearing do not enable the youth to fully participate in and benefit from the sectors return due to various reasons including limited access to farm plot, grazing land and other natural resources. Moreover, due to limited non-farm and off-farm employment opportunities, the number of rural youths who engage in activities outside of agriculture is very small. Hence, limited access to the basic livelihood capital asset coupled with absence of decent off-farm employment opportunities constrained the rural youth to participate in and benefit from rural sectors. As a result, they have become more and more vulnerable to psychological, social, and economical problems including emotional distress, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

A host of interrelated problems associated with demographic, social, environmental and economic issues are the causes for the youth to face difficulties on livelihood development. The major problems mentioned by the sample youth respondents and participants of focus group discussion includes shortage of grazing land, lack of credit facilities, market problem, lack of awareness by local youths to participate in various organizations, associations and cooperatives, lack of awareness about

the beneficial values of non-farm activities and absence of youth friendly rural off-farm employment opportunities to accommodate the excess labour force from agriculture.

Regarding land problem, effort hasn't been made to redistribute the available mountainous and unoccupied land to the local youths so as to benefit from it as it indicated on the national rural youth development package. There were complaints by the Woreda youth for being neglected by the local administration to allocate the unoccupied and mountainous land available in the Woreda. The rural youths particularly female youths also have faced difficulties to use their parents/guardians or community land. They are not allowed to participate in and benefiting from the local available land at household or community level in most circumstances. Even if they do, they can not participate in decision making processes on family or community activities.

The youth are also constrained to employ themselves in and benefit from livestock production. Even if a significant number of youths engage in livestock production, they have no power to decide on how and for what purpose to use the livestock production. In addition, shortage of grazing land, lack of start up capital, existence of animal diseases and absence of veterinary services at local level constrain the youth from fully benefiting from such activity.

In general, the study Woreda is no longer can depend on crop production and livestock rearing to secure livelihood for the coming new generations-the rural youths. In fact, the ever growing population and scarcity and fragmentation of farm plot and grazing land at rural areas result in diminishing return in crop production and livestock rearing as a result of excess labour. It is therefore, essential for the rural communities, GOs and NGOs to make concerted efforts to use the labour intensive technologies and strengthen off-farm and non-farm activities at rural areas.

Even if the role of non-farm and off-farm activities are significant to absorb the excess labour force from agriculture and provide the youth with better employment opportunity and reliable sources of livelihood, the youth have a fraction of opportunity to employ themselves in such activities. Therefore, it is essential to investigate the problems and prospect of the rural non-and off-farm sectors.

The non-farm sector employs insignificant number of rural youths in the study area. Some of the barriers for the rural youth from participating in non-farm activities include lack of start-up capital,

lack of skill and knowledge, lack of awareness about the beneficial values of non-farm activities and negative attitude towards such activities including handicraft, food and drink processing and trade.

Off-farm activities on the other hand also can be criticized for being youth unfriendly. Even though a small number of youths engage in share cropping and livestock production, there is a slim chance for the youth to employ themselves in decent wage employment at local level. Evidence from the study shows us the opportunity to have decent wage employment by the rural youth is very low due to various reasons. The most important factors include absence of youth friendly job opportunities which do not require higher work experience and better paying activities.

7.3. Recommendations

Based on the analysis of the study, the following recommendations were forwarded.

- In Merhabete Woreda, the size of population particularly the number of youth is increasing at an alarming rate. The fast growing population and the associated pressure on land resources have put the livelihood situation of the youth in jeopardy, since the majority of the local communities depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Unless some short term and long term concerted efforts is made to intensify and/or diversify the sources of livelihood of the rural youth, the problem of the local youths will become more complicated.
- Short term measures may include distribution of mountainous and unoccupied land available at local level for the rural youth individually or in group base to benefit from and conserve the natural resources. Moreover, it is important to advocate and create awareness among the communities and household members about the need to involve the rural youths in household and community activities. There is a need to create trust and know the benefit of the youth to participate in family and community activities. The authoritarian type of child rearing should be altered through involvement of the local communities, FBOs, and other community based institutions. There is also a need to make awareness about the benefit of voluntary resettlement among the youths.
- Even though lots of efforts have been done to promote the micro and small scale industries at the Woreda towns, according to the study findings, the Woreda is still hardly have conducive ground for the rural youths to involve in non-farm activities. There is no legal organization or policy framework to support the rural youth to involve them and benefit

from such activities. Consequently, it appears that concerned efforts are required to make the rural non-farm sector youth friendly through policy and strategy formulation at grass root level.

- As it has been indicated in Ethiopian youth policy which was formulated four years ago, the need to formulate national employment policy is essential to alter the employment condition of the Ethiopian youths. However, there has been no effort to formulate the policy until recently. Therefore, the government of Ethiopia should establish an independent responsible body to formulate and execute the policy.
- The rural youth should acquire the basic skill and knowledge in order to improve their sources of livelihoods. Trainings such as life skill training, business development skill training, entrepreneurial skill training, leadership ability skill training and other trainings should be provided both for in-school and out-of school youths in order to shape their personality and become confident to enter and succeed to benefit from community's economic activities.
- Financial capital is the most important ingredient to start up and scale up non-farm and agricultural related activities. However the Woreda youths have no access to credit and loan services from local formal institutions. Therefore, efforts are needed to expand the credit services provided at the Woreda towns to all rural Kebeles.
- Market is also a fundamental problem. There should be market arrangement to buy and sell the product and inputs with faire price and distance. Creating awareness to establish or join producer cooperative could also solve the problem associated with market arrangement.
- Provision of infrastructural facilities such as road, electricity, telephone, etc... have and enhancing condition in rural sectors. Efforts should be continued to link all rural Kebeles with each other and with the Woreda towns. Provision of electricity also important to attract investment and establish small and large scale industries at the Woreda. The Woreda is said to be rich in natural resources including construction raw materials. Therefore, the Woreda could benefit more by investing on infrastructural facilities.

- Awareness creation is also important concerning the benefit of non-farm activities including micro and small scale industries. The rural youths should alter the negative attitude towards activities like trade, food and drink processing, pottery and so on. Efforts should also be made by the responsible local and regional governmental bodies and NGOs to study and identify the rewarding and youth friendly non-farm activities at Woreda level and disseminate the findings for all development agents and the rural youths.
- The local youths also should provide with material, technical and financial support to organize themselves and work in collective manners. Efforts also should extend to create awareness among youth about the advantage from being organized. Successful organizations should be motivated and become a role model. Development of Human Capital through provision of various youth focused trainings including entrepreneurial, life skill, leadership skill and other related trainings are essential.
- Federal, Regional and Local Governmental organizations and other responsible non-governmental organizations should extend their efforts to provide the youth with the necessary information on issues related to job opportunities, marketing, health related issues, the availability and procedures of accessing credit services and other support available at local level and so on.
- The Ethiopian youth policy and National youth development package implementation should not be restricted to cities and big towns. Efforts are needed to make awareness among development agents and the community at a grass root level to mainstream the cross-cutting issues of the youth in their development plan.
- The National Youth Policy and Ethiopian Rural Youth Development Package set an instrument to work with the youth at a grass root level. However, there is no clear institutional arrangement working with the youth at grass root level to implement the policies and strategies. There is no office or focal person at Kebele level who is responsible for such tasks. Therefore, the National and Regional government should give emphasis to build the capacity of regional and Woreda youth offices with clear institutional arrangement.

- More efforts are also required to control the rapid population growth. It is also important to abolish early marriage which still practiced at the Woreda and cause both for longer reproduction time which contributes to high rate of population growth and its associated problems. A significant number of young girls taken their dreams and become economically dependent due to early marriage. They suffer emotional, social and economic problems including STDs, health problems associated with reproductive system (Fistula problem), and poverty disproportionately than male counter parts.

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ANNEX I

Survey Questionnaire on Determinants of Employment Opportunity of the Rural Youth

PART ONE: - Basic information regarding the youth respondent

1.1. Date of interview _____

1.2. Kebele Name _____

1.3. Agro ecology

Kola=1	
Dega=2	
Woynadega=3	

1.4. Respondent's ID _____

PART TWO: - Some Background information and characteristics of the respondent.

<i>Name of the respondent youth and other relatives who live with the respondent</i>	<i>Relations with the respondent youth</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Religion</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Marital Status (Those over 10 years)</i>	<i>Educational Status (Those over 7 years)</i>	<i>Economically Active?</i>	<i>If not, why?</i>	<i>Two main occupations</i>	
										First	Second
2.1.	2.2.	2.3.	2.4.	2.5.	2.6.	2.7.	2.8.	2.9.	2.10.	2.11.	2.12.
	Respondent=1 Father=2 Mother=3 Guardian=4 Brother=5 Sister=6 Grand parents=7 Non-relative=8 Other, specify=9	Male=1 Female=2		Orthodox=1 Muslim=2 Catholic=3 Protestant=4 Other, specify=5	Amhara=1 Oromo=2 Gurage=3 Other, Specify=4	Single=1 Married=2 Divorced=3 Widowed=4 Separated=5	Illiterate=1 Read and write=2 Primary education=3 Secondary education=4 Collage diploma and above=5 Special trainings=6	Yes=1 No=2	Sick=1 Disable=2 Schooling=3 Other, Specify=4	Farmer=1 House wife=2 Daily laborer=3 Weaving=4 Pottery=5 Student=6 Trader=7 Other, Specify =8	

PART THREE: - Respondents access to Capital Assets

3.1. Do you own land?

Yes=1	
No=2	

3.2. If no for Qⁿ 3.1., what is the reason?

<i>Reasons</i>	
There is no vacant arable land=1	
I have no land because no land redistribution was made recently=2	
I haven't inherited from parent's=3	
Other, Specify=4	

3.3. Dose your parents or other guardian of yours own Land?

Yes=1	
No=2	

3.4. If yes, do you have access or participate in decision making how to use or for what purpose to use the land?

Yes=1	
No=2	

3.5. Would you tell us about the characteristics of your and other members of your family farm plot (guardians farm plot) you have access to use?

<i>No</i>	<i>Plot Identification</i>	<i>Relief (Topography)</i>	<i>Soil Fertility</i>	<i>Land Size in Timad/Hectare</i>
		Plain=1 Moderate=2 Slopping=3 (a)	Poor=1 Moderate=2 Fertile=3 (b)	
3.5.1.	Father's Land			©
3.5.2.	Mother's Land			
3.5.3.	Brother's Land			
3.5.4.	Sister's Land			
3.5.5.	Grand Parent's Land			
3.5.6.	Relative's Land			
3.5.7.	Other Guardian's Land			
3.5.8.	Own Land (Respondent youth Land)			
3.5.9.	Others, Specify_____			

3.6. Would you tell us the number and type of stock and farming tool that you own or have access to use?

No	Type	Number	
		own by the youth himself/herself	own by parents and other family members but have access to use
		(a)	(b)
3.6.1.	Oxen		
3.6.2.	Cows		
3.6.3.	Bulls		
3.6.4.	Heifers		
3.6.5.	Calves		
3.6.6.	Sheep		
3.6.7.	Goats		
3.6.8.	Horses		
3.6.9.	Mules		
3.6.10.	Chicken		
3.6.11.	Donkeys		
3.6.12.	Bee hives/Colon		
3.6.13.	Poultry		
3.6.14.	Mofer and Kenber		
3.6.15.	Maresha		
3.6.16.	Doma		
3.6.17.	Water Pump		

3.7. Do you have easy access to the following social services, if not why?

No	Social Services	Yes=1 No=2	If no, why not?
			Not available =1 Too expensive=2 Do not now their use=3 Other, specify=4
		(a)	(b)
3.7.1.	Primary school		
3.7.2.	Secondary schools		
3.7.3.	Special training		
3.7.4.	Health centers		
3.7.5.	Market arrangement		
3.7.6.	Youth centers		

3.8. If you participate in one of the following organizations or associations, please indicate which one you take part(s)?

Organizations/Associations	
Youth organizations/clubs=1	
Cooperatives=2	
Idir=3	
Eiqub=4	
Church groups=5	
I don't participate in any of them=6	
Other, Specify=7	

3.9. Where did you get advice or information for your business or daily activities?

<i>Advisee</i>		<i>Advisee</i>	
Friends=1		Teachers=6	
Father=2		Grand parents=7	
Mother=3		Relatives=8	
Brother=4		Government and NGOs Advisory service=9	
Sister=5		Other, Specify=10	

3.10. Have you secure financial or material support from other individuals or institutions?

Yes=1	
No=2	

3.11. If yes for Qn 3.10 Please indicate what kind of support you get? Where did you get the support? How much support you secure during 1999 and 2000E.C? And for what purpose you use the support?

<i>No</i>	<i>Support in Kind</i>	<i>Yes=1 No=2</i>	<i>Individual/ Organization you ask</i>	<i>How much support</i>		<i>For what purpose use the support</i>
			Father=1 Mother=2 Sister=3 Brother=4 Friend=5	Grand parents=6 Other relatives=7 Non-relatives=8 Government=9 NGOs=10 Other, specify=11	In cash (birr)	In kind (mention the kind)
		(a)	(b)	©	(d)	(e)
3.11.1.	Cash (in terms of remittance or gift)					
3.11.2.	Cash in terms of Loan or credit					
3.11.3.	Raw material					
3.11.4.	Equipment					
3.11.5.	Market arrangement					
3.11.6.	Storage facilities					
3.11.7.	Other, Specify					

3.12. Did you apply for credit to secure financial capital during the year?

Yes=1	
No=2	

3.13. If you do not apply or do not have access to credit, why?

<i>Reason</i>	
Do not have awareness about its use=1	
Do not need the credit=2	
Lack of guarantee=3	
Due to high interest rate=4	
The income from credit service is too low to pay for intended purpose.=5	
Due to short pay back period=6	
There is no credit facility for the youth at locality=7	
Other, Specify=8	

3.14. If you receive credit, what were the source, what was the guarantee and how much interest rate you pay?

<i>Source</i>	<i>Guarantee</i>	<i>Interest rate</i>
(3.14.1.)	(3.14.2.)	(3.14.3.)
Informal source=1	House=1	
Micro Finance=2	Expected Harvest=2	
Cooperatives=3	Expected return from Small industries=3	
Banks=4	Group grant=4	
Other, Specify=5	Other, Specify=5	

PART FOUR: - Questions related to Crop production

4.1. Do you participate in crop production?

Yes=1	
No=2	

4.2.If no, what is the reason?

<i>Reason(s)</i>
Lack of time due to schooling=1
Lack of time due to domestic work=2
Lack of draft power=3
Lack of seed=4
Unable to purchase technological and other input=5
Not allowed to use Parent's land=6
Parents' Farm land is not sufficient to employ additional labour force=7
Not interested to carry out such activities=8
Other, Specify=9

4.3.Do you have access or participate in decision making on farm activity? (For individuals who engaged in family or other's activity)

Yes=1	
No=2	

4.4. Which of the following are the constraints to farm activity in order of importance?

<i>Constraints</i>	<i>Rank</i>		
	First	Second	Third
(4.4.1.)	(4.4.2.)	(4.4.3.)	(4.4.4.)
Lack of arable land=1			
Shortage of land=2			
Fragmentation of land=3			
Less fertility of land=4			
Lack of water=5			
Lack of farm implements and other inputs=6			
Lack of decision making power on land use and other inputs=7			
Unstable price for agricultural output=8			
Other, specify=9			

PART FIVE: Questions related to livestock rearing

5.1. Do you participate in Livestock rearing?

Yes=1	
No=2	

5.2. If no for Qn 5.1., what is the reason?

<i>Reason(s)</i>
Lack of time due to schooling=1
Lack of time due to domestic work=2
prevalence of animal diseases=3
Lack of Start up capital=4
Unable to purchase technological and other input=5
Lack of water and fodder=6
Lack of veterinary service and medicine=7
Not allowed by parents or other guardians=8
Not interested to carry out such activities=9
Other, Specify=10

5.3. Which of the following are the constraints to rearing livestock? Identify the three most important bottlenecks according to order of importance.

<i>Constraints</i>	<i>Rank</i>		
	First	Second	Third
(5.3.1.)	(5.3.2.)	(5.3.3.)	(5.3.3.)
Shortage of grazing land=1			
Lack of additional fodder=2			
Disease prevalence=3			
Lack of sufficient veterinary services=4			
Shortage of water=5			
Lack of decision making power on parents' and family activity=6			
Unstable price for livestock product=7			
Other, specify=8			

**PART SIX: Questions related to Non-farm employment opportunities
(Only for Self-employed youths)**

6.1. Do you participate in activities apart from crop production and livestock rearing?

Yes=1	
No=2	

6.2. If no for Qn 6.1. What is the reason?

<i>Reasons</i>	
Lack of spare time to engage beside farm activities=1	
Do not have awareness about such activities benefit=2	
I don't have sufficient knowledge and skill=3	
There is no profitable activity to engaged in the locality=4	
Health problem=5	
Lack of start up capital=6	
Not allowed by parents/guardians to engage in such activities=7	
Other, specify=8	

6.3. If yes for 6.1., would you tell us about the types of activities, in what manner you perform the activities, how much you earn and for what purpose you use the income?

No.	Activity Type	Are you engaged?	How youth perform the activities?	How much income you earn per annum?		For what purpose you use the income
		Yes=1 No=2	Individually=1 In a group manner=2 Producer Cooperatives=3 Other, specify=4	In cash (birr)	In kind (mention)	School fee=1 Food=2 To buy farm implements=3 To buy cloth=4 To build house=5 To pay loan=6 Wedding ceremony=7 To support parents or relatives=8 Other, specify=9
		(a)	(b)	©	(d)	(e)
6.3.1.	Quarry and Mining					
6.3.2.	Fuel wood gathering and selling					
6.3.3.	Food and drink processing(selling)					
6.3.4.	Construction					
6.3.5.	Textile/Tailoring					
6.3.6.	Trade					
6.3.7.	Spinning/weaving					
6.3.8.	Carpenter					
6.3.9.	Other, Specify					

6.4. What problem did you experience to perform your non-farm activities? Give rank order.

<i>Constraints</i>	<i>Rank</i>		
	First	Second	Third
(6.4.1.)	(6.4.2.)	(6.4.3.)	(6.4.4.)
Shortage of raw material=1			
High price of raw material=2			
Lack of equipment=3			
Lack of capital=4			
Lack of skill and knowledge=5			
Lack of profit=6			
Lack of access to non-farm job opportunities=7			
Cast: Lack of respect for some activities=8			
Unable to work(disability)=9			
Lack of market=10			
Poor infrastructure=11			
Absence of rural credit=12			
Health problem=13			
Other, specify=14			

PART SEVEN: Marketing questions

7.1. Who are customers of your product?

<i>Customers</i>	
Local rural consumers=1	
Self=2	
Neighboring peasant associations=3	
Producer Cooperatives=4	
Traders=5	
Other, Specify=6	

7.2. Do you face a marketing problem for the product?

Yes=1	
No=2	

7.3. If yes, what do you do?

<i>What do you do?</i>	
Cease producing=1	
Minimize the production=2	
Sell with unfair and non profitable price =3	
Travel long distances to find better market=4	
Store it for long time=5	
Other, Specify=6	

7.4. How do you transport your product to Market?

<i>Means of transportation</i>	
Human Labour=1	
Using Pack animal=2	
Using Vehicles=3	
Other, Specify=6	

7.5. How do you get information about the market price?

<i>Source of information</i>	
From neighbors=1	
Radio=2	
Traders=3	
Extension workers=4	
Other, Specify=5	

PART EIGHT: Wage employment related questions (For youths who engaged in wage employment)

8.1 On local wage employment

8.1.1. Are you engaged in any rural wage employment?

Yes=1	
No=2	

8.1.2. Can you tell us the problem you experienced to have wage employment opportunities?

<i>Constraints</i>	
Payment is insufficient=1	
Most vacancies require work experience=2	
There is a difficulty to have wage employment opportunities=3	
Wage employment at local level doesn't consider the needs and preferences of the youth=4	
Other, specify =5	

8.2 On Migratory Employment

8.2.1. Is there any youth family members including you who seasonally migrate to other place for work?

Yes=1	
No=2	

8.2.2. What was your and your youth family members' reason to migrate for seasonal employment?

<i>Reason for seasonal migration employment</i>	
Absence of land=1	
To find seasonal work during agricultural off time=2	
To buy agricultural and other inputs=3	
To supplement income to fulfill basic needs=4	
Other, Specify=5	

8.2.3. What kind of problems have you (your youth family member) faced at the place you migrate?

<i>Problems</i>	
Transportation problem=1	
Shelter problem=2	
Disease problem=3	
Lack of medical care=4	
Other, Specify=5	

PART NIN: Income and Wellbeing

9.1. How much income does you or your family members generate from the major three occupations for last year?

No	Income earner	Income earned	
		in Birr (a)	In Kind (b)
9.1.1	The youth respondent		
9.1.2	Father		
9.1.3	Mother		
9.1.4	Brother		
9.1.5	Sister		
9.1.6	Grand parents		
9.1.7	Other relatives		
9.1.8	Other, specify _____		

9.2. Which of the following factors do you think have a significant impact on your livelihood and wellbeing development?

Factors	Rank		
	First (9.2.2.)	Second (9.2.3.)	Third (9.2.4.)
(9.2.1.)			
Lack of land tenure security for the youth=1			
Frequent rural policy change=2			
High turnover of land administration=3			
Unstable price for agricultural commodities=4			
Unstable price for processed goods=5			
Less employment opportunities at local level=6			
Less support from micro and small scale industries development office=7			
Less Credit provision=8			
Other, specify=9			

9.3. Does the income you or your parent's earn enable you to pay for the following basic needs? If no, how do you cop-with the problem?

No	Basic Needs	Yes=1 No=2 (a)	Copping Mechanism	
			Reduce expenditure=1 Drop out of school=2 Begging=3 Ask support from relatives=4 Ask support form friends=5	Migrate to other places for wage labour=6 Sell of animals and properties=7 Fire wood and charcoal selling=8 Rely on NGOs, GOs and other supports=9 Other, specify=10 (b)
9.3.1	Food			
9.3.2	Cloth			
9.3.3	Shelter			
9.3.4	School fee			
9.3.5	Health expenditure			
9.3.6	Recreation			

9.4. What should be done to improve source of income and wellbeing of the rural youth?

ANNEX II

Checklist for Focus Group Discussion

1. Does your kebeles have sufficient employment opportunity for the youth? If no, how severe the problem is?
2. What are the main constraints for the youth to participate in farm and non-farm activities? What do you think are the reasons for the youth not to have decent employment opportunities?
3. Do the youth participate in decision making processes how to use land and other resources available at family and community level?
4. Do the youths have easy access to social services such as youth friendly health services, youth centers or personality development centers, education facilities and other services? If not why?
5. Do the youths have easy access to get trainings to develop their life skill, entrepreneurial skill, leadership ability and other skills and knowledge?
6. Is there a local credit and saving institutions in the Woreda? Does the services rendered by such institutions are youth friendly? What are the rules and regulations to loan money? What is the interest rate? Are the youth equal beneficiaries? What should be done to make them equal beneficiaries?
7. Is there a marketing problem to buy and sell product input and output at nearby locality? What are the major marketing problems faced by the youth in relation to crop production, livestock rearing and non-farm activities? What should be done to solve the problem?
8. Does the income generated form local employment activities is enough to fulfill the basic needs of the rural youth? If not what are the copying mechanisms to fulfill the basic needs?
9. Is there youth focused programs and policies targeting the youth to alleviate livelihood related problems of the youth
10. How do you assess the local administration and NGOs effort to alleviate youth related problems particularly livelihood and employment related problems?
11. What are the special requirements of the rural youth in the community? What must be done to avoid youth employment problem and to develop their livelihood and in turn improve the wellbeing of the youth?

ANNEX III

Checklist for in depth Interview

1. Does your kebeles have sufficient employment opportunity for the youth? If no, how severe the problem is?
2. What are the main constraints for the youth to participate in farm and non-farm activities? What do you think are the reasons for the youth not to have decent employment opportunities?
3. What are the major potential and actual employment opportunities for the rural youth?
 - 3.1 Farm employment (crop production and livestock rearing)?
 - 3.2 Non-farm employment?
 - 3.3 Wage employment?
4. How many economically active youths are living in the Woreda? How much of these participate in each of the three categories mentioned above?
5. How many youths are participating in micro and small scale industries and trade?
6. How do we assess the willingness of the rural youth to participate in producer cooperatives? How many youth are participating in the established cooperatives? Does the number of youth participating in such cooperatives increasing or decreasing for the last three years? What must be done to encourage youth to join collective effort to help them to develop their livelihood?
7. Do the youths have easy access to get trainings to develop their life skill, entrepreneurial skill, leadership ability and other skills and knowledge? Is there a training centers are at nearby locality?
8. How many male and female trainees are participating in the training program during 1999 and 2000E.C? Was there any support in terms of financial, technical and material support for the trainees?
9. Is there a local credit and saving institutions in the Woreda? Does the services rendered by such institutions are youth friendly? What are the rules and regulations to loan money? What is the interest rate? Are the youth equal beneficiaries? What should b done to make them equal beneficiaries?
10. Is there a marketing problem to buy and sell product input and output at nearby locality? What are the major marketing problems faced by the youth in relation to crop production, livestock rearing and non-farm activities? What should be done to solve the problem?

11. Is there employment policy, programmes and strategies targeting the youth effective in the Woreda/kebeles? For how long these instruments are effective? How many youths are benefiting from local administrative and NGOs effort?
12. What type of support is given for the youth by local administrative offices and NGOs?
 - Credit facilities
 - Material support
 - Technical and advisory support
 - Marketing arrangement
 - Provision of available arable land and mountainous areas.
13. What must be done to avoid the problems and improve the prospect of the youth employment and livelihood conditions?

Declaration

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

Declared by:

Zelalem Esvendale
Zelalem

Candidate

Confirmed by:

Cetnot Alemu
Cetnot Alemu

Advisor