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**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC RURAL URBAN LINKAGES IN SIRE TOWN AND
ITS HINTERLANDS: EAST WOLLEGA ZONE, OROMIA REGION**

ALEMU ESHETU

ADVISOR: SOLOMON MULUGETA (PROFESSOR)

**AUGUST, 2024
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN
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Approval Sheet

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Alemu Eshetu entitled "Socio-economic urban rural linkages in Sire town and its hinterlands: East Wollega Zone, Oromia Region," submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for degree of masters Arts(Geography and Environmental studies) complete with the regulation of the university and meet the accepted standard with respect to originality and quality.

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| Examiner | Signature | Date |
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| Examiner | Signature | Date |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Advisor | Signature | Date |

Chair of Department or Graduate Program Coordinator_____

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------|--|
| CSA: | Central Statistical Agency |
| EEA: | Ethiopian Economic Association |
| EMWUD: | Ethiopian Ministry of Work and Urban Development |
| ERA: | Ethiopian Road Authority |
| FUPCBE: | Federal Urban Planning Coordination Bureau of Ethiopia |
| HHs: | Households |
| MDGs: | Millennium Development Goals |
| NGOs: | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NUPI | National Urban Planning Institute |
| SSA: | Sub-Saharan Africa |
| TVET: | Technical and Vocational Educational Training |
| UN: | United Nations |
| UNDP: | United Nations Development Planning |
| UNHSP: | United Nations Human Settlements Program |

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to assess socio-economic rural-urban connections between Sire town and the hinterlands in Western Ethiopia's Sibu Sire area. Being a daily resident of the district, the researcher had the idea to undertake this study due to saw discrimination and ineffectiveness between urban and rural inhabitants. Therefore, one of the researcher's goals when starting this study was to investigate and make recommendations to the relevant agencies. The researcher used a purposive sample strategy to choose the Sibu Sire district in order to conduct the study. The researcher chose a sample of residents from Sire town and surrounding rural areas, as well as employees of the Sire town management, the district offices for rural development and agriculture, and the district administration offices, in order to achieve the study's goal. They were chosen using systematic simple random sampling procedure since they were important in supplying the data required for the investigation. Thus, 49 workers from the district's offices of agriculture and rural development, Sire town administration, and district administration office, as well as 155 residences from Sire town and its hinterlands of rural areas . Through questionnaires, interviews, and observation, the researcher gathered the necessary data from this demographic. Descriptive statistics were used for analyzing the data acquired using these tools, taking into account both qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques. Based on the analysis, the researcher noticed that there was little rural - urban linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. The only connections between the two hinterlands were related to agriculture and politics; there was little to no linkage in terms of social services, infrastructure, transportation access, and others. The results also showed that the development of urban-rural linkages between Sire town and its hinterlands was hindered by elements connected to communities, the environment, economic situations, and administrations. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommended the government, the community, other researchers and others on ways of reversing the factors hindering implementation urban-rural linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands.

Key words: rural, urban, urban rural linkage, Sire town and its hinterland

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

This part of the study shows the background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, objective of the study, significance, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, with the world and society becoming more interconnected due to globalization, relationships between individuals, regions, countries, and the global community are essential. This connection is necessary for a number of reasons, with political, social, economic, intellectual, and religious considerations (Steing, 2014)

As Gelan (2008) points out, connections between rural and urban areas must be made locally when they are connected by the movement of people, production, commodities, capital, income, and market information, among other factors. This is why rural-urban links are crucial for local economic development and poverty reduction. According to Steinberg (2014), strong links between rural and urban areas would foster new prospects for livelihood through diversification, agro processing, and other social issues.

According to the idea of dichotomy, which holds together urban and rural regions organize and carry out actions that enhance their common benefits, there can be links between urban and rural areas both inside and outside of one's own country. This further suggested that local economic growths are influenced by the relationship between rural and urban areas (Gelan, 2008).

The above idea has been argued that "separateness" of rural and urban areas, this common development is expressed through urban-rural linkages because both "rural-based" and "urban-based" resources, as well as interactions between the two areas, are essential to the livings of rural and urban households (Chowdhury et al., 2005; IFS, UNHSP, 2005; Tegegne, 2001). These researchers discovered that relationships between rural and urban areas enhance the standard of living for both (Mohammed, 2007).

The "virtuous circle," in which rural and urban development are interdependent and linked, summarizes the beneficial effects of rural-urban links on rural and urban livelihoods as Tegegne (2005) defined it. Different urban activities would arise with an increase in agricultural revenue.

As a result, these endeavors may draw in excess labor and raise consumer demand for agricultural and rural goods. The connections between rural and urban areas are essential for economic development and help reduce poverty by giving households and individuals more choices for revenue-generating activities. Through these connections, metropolitan areas may act as hubs for wage work or unofficial sector operations, and individuals may travel home or send money home with the implication (Adebayo, 2005).

Although the specific context and priorities may differ, the flows (flow of people, goods and services, information, finance), interdependencies and interactions between the two spatial units and across sectors are a reality in both developing and developed countries. In response to economic, political, and environmental factors, the type and degree of these rural-urban links differ throughout the world and even within individual countries (Julio, 2002).

However, relatively few migrants in Latin America who settle in large cities decide to retire out of the city, away from their friends and children. Because of this, many people who live in big African cities, for example, have close relationships to their rural birthplaces and sometimes even go back there when they are elderly and retire (UN Habitat, 2015).

Comparably, in many parts of the world, rural families keep close relationships with their urban relatives because it makes it easier for their kids to get employment and secondary education, and it gives senior citizens access to specialist medical care. For rural relatives who frequently correspond by sending produce from the land and handcrafted gifts, cities are also the source of cash remittances (including capital for machines) (Julio, 2002).

Additionally, the significances of urban-rural linkages as it is stated by Imai (2017) are essential to encouraging growth in both rural and urban areas. Yet, with increased urbanization, the emphasis on development has a tendency to favor Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Urban-rural connections and sustainable development are impacted in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by growing

urbanization as well as issues with population expansion, climate change, food insecurity, unemployment, and sluggish economic growth (Showers, 2002).

The nation's development history, like that of most emerging nations, showed that urban and rural areas had been viewed as distinct spatial units, with little regard for how these units interacted. Therefore, it is evident from Ethiopia's development plans and programs that there are biases towards either rural or urban areas, which both undermine and reinforce the two spatial units' separation. Therefore, until recently, the topic of encouraging balanced economic growth and reducing poverty through enhancing rural-urban linkages has not received enough attention (Tegegne, 2005).

The development history of the nation demonstrated that, like in the majority of emerging nations, urban and rural areas have been viewed as distinct geographical units, ignoring the interactions between these units. Ethiopia has thus been adhering to development plans and policies that blatantly display biases toward either the rural or urban areas, undermining balanced development between and reinforcing the two geographical divisions' separation. Therefore, it has not received the attention it deserves until recently to promote balanced economic growth and reduce poverty through developing rural-urban linkages (Tegegne, 2005).

An investigation into the degree of urban-rural linkages that exist in Ethiopia between small towns and their hinterlands is necessary because this is a significant issue that can address the development of both urban and rural areas. In order to expand access for rural populations to urban services and to more widely distribute social and economic service delivery, there has to be a close relationship between urban and rural areas (UNHSP, 2005).

All the above definitions and discussions clearly indicated that urban-rural linkages or interconnections play paramount role in enhancing communities' economic, social, political, literacy and illiteracy issues and others with specific attentions of encouraging communities' well-being. However, in Ethiopian contexts, there is a time that urban is separated from the rural spatial settings in infrastructure and other accessories. Nonetheless, it is inevitable to inhabitants of the urban areas to live isolately without interconnection of rural settings.

Thus, the current study tried to assess the socio-economic urban-rural linkages with hinterlands of Sire town and recommended what has been found important and those in need of improvements to the concerned bodies. It was this particular juncture that motivated the researcher to conduct a study on rural - urban connections of Sire town with its rural areas.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Tegegne (2005) contended that, up until recently, Ethiopia's growth history has been skewed toward the city. These uneven policies, strategies, and links between urban and rural areas restrict the socioeconomic exchange and interdependence of these two spatial units. Furthermore, poor economic development, road transportation, the integration of poverty reduction initiatives, food insecurity, and limited access to employment opportunities among urban and rural areas have all had an impact on the implications of urban-rural linkages in economic development and poverty reduction in developing countries, particularly in Ethiopia.

Rural-urban contacts are extremely limited in most developing nations (including Ethiopia) due to the inability of rural areas to generate enough food and raw materials and urban areas to produce enough commodities and services to meet the demands of rural hinterlands (Showers, 2002).

Factors like the manufacturing and delivery of commercial and farm products have an impact on relationships between urban and rural areas (Tegegne, 2001).

Likewise, the above definitions and elaborations clearly indicated that rural - urban linkage plays paramount character in maximizing economic development of the nation and the areas interlinked. To these effects, this study mostly concentrated on the linkage between rural and urban spatial places of Sire town.

The researcher was motivated to conduct this study due to two reasons. The first reason was that as a resident of the Sire district, the researcher observed that much attention had not been given for linking the Sire town with the other of its hinterlands in several dimensions. Thus, it was the researcher's pace that studying and recommending the merits and demerits of linking urban to rural with particular reference of Sire town and surrounding hinterlands.

Secondly, the researcher read at some of prior studies conducted on similar concepts and tried to fill in the gaps they left untouched with this topic. Though it was impossible to find coherent study on urban-rural linkage with its hinterlands in Sire town, the researcher looked at some of the studies conducted by other researchers on similar topic and filled in the gaps they left unstudied.

Some of the studies referred which were conducted on multifaceted issues of urban-rural linkages. For instance, the studies were conducted a collaborative study on determinants of urban- rural linkage in Jimma town and found that factors like credit accessibilities, distance from town and others affected the implementation of urban-rural linkages and urban-rural linkage in Seru town and found out that there was poor linkage that existed between urban and rural areas around Seru town (Sintayehu, Teka, Tesfaye, Debela, Amin and Abadiga, 2003; Duguma, 2019 & Megersa, 2010).

As far as the facts of the investigator was concerned, none of the researchers above have studied on the nature, types as well as characteristics of rural - urban links in Sire town and its hinterlands. Hence, this study filled in these gaps by addressing issues left untouched by the above researchers in varying direction from them.

Conversely, however,, in the previous studies directed at other parts of the region, country or continent without considering Sire town. Therefore, this study shrank the empirical gap on this aspect. In general, this study attempted to fill the overall gaps by carrying out studies on the aspects of connections between urban and rural areas in Sire town and the surrounding rural areas.

Accordingly, this research was conducted to assess rural - urban linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands in varying directions from the past studies conducted on different issues in different areas with exception of town.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study was to examine the nature and patterns of rural - urban linkage between Sire town and its immediate hinterlands.

1.3.2 Specific Objective

1. To identify how Sire town and its hinterlands are linked.
2. To examine the nature of migration linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.
3. To identify the factors affecting rural – urban linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands

1.4 Research Questions

This investigation provided answers to the following questions.

1. How are Sire town and its hinterlands are interlinked?
2. What was the nature of migration linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands?
3. What are the factors affecting rural – urban linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study would be important for education as well as policy. The study's findings would give relevant authorities at various levels a plan for enhancing the role of urban and rural linkages and provide some insight into the limitations that already exist. Additionally, the study would raise awareness about the need to create an effective plan to improve urban-rural linkage. In terms of education, the study would also serve as a guide for researching relevant problems.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted to assess rural – urban linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands. The study's scope and concept were specified. Conceptually, the study addressed the type of connection that existed between the two areas, the status of migration from rural to urban around Sire town and factors affecting rural - urban linkages. Additionally, the study was conducted in Oromia regional state, East Wollega zone, Sibule Sire woreda. Methodologically, the study employed descriptive study design along with mixed research approaches/qualitative and quantitative/. The time scope of the study was from September up to August 2016 E.C.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

This research only touched on rural-urban linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands. If the study's focus was expanded to include other districts within the Oromia regional states, that was significant. Unfortunately, the researcher was only able to focus on the Sibu Sire Woreda of the East Wollega zone due to time constraints and workload.

The researchers studied only on how Sire town was linked to its hinterlands, the nature of migration from the rural areas to Sire town due to linkages and factors affecting urban-rural linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands.

On the other hand, it would have been beneficial if the study had focused on additional rural-urban linkage with hinterlands. On the other hand, the researcher used random sampling system to select the kebeles in the Woreda . However, the researcher acknowledged that other sampling technique could be used.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter covers the introduction of key ideas related to the topic, including the definition of linkage, different kinds of urban-rural links, theoretical underpinnings of the problem, and conceptual underpinnings of the problem together with the study's purpose, goal, and extent. The topic of referencing literature with conceptual and theoretical frameworks is covered in the second chapter. In the third part of the study, the methods and procedures of conducting the study was presented. The data collected for this study using various technologies is analyzed by the researcher in the study's fourth chapter. The conclusion and recommendation based on the study's key findings are covered in the fifth chapter.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

This part of the study deals with references of literatures having conceptual, theoretical, empirical relationships with the objectives of the study.

2.1 Conceptual Literature Review

Under this subtopic, the conceptual frameworks guiding and indicating the study components were briefly presented and discussed in terms of scholars' perspectives and definitions.

2.1.1 Definitions of Urban and Rural Areas

Depending on factors including population density, economic activity, administrative role, and infrastructure development, different nations define urban-rural zones differently. The predominant criteria for classifying rural and urban areas as democratic and economic domains with demarcated boundaries are presented by UNDP (2000). There isn't a universally applicable definition for these fields. Tacoli (2004) asserts that distinguishing between two geographical units rural and urban areas presents three key challenges. First come demographic and economic activity. There are problems with utilizing this standard as the basis for classification because different countries do have different needs. The second problem is figuring out where two sites border one other.

The last issue relates to the urban areas' smaller area coverage than that of their inhabitants' and businesses' coverage. This suggests that cities are dependent on the biological processes and resources of a much larger region than themselves.

Furthermore, an urban area is defined by the UN as a location where the majority of workers are employed in non-agricultural production sectors like manufacturing and services. Add a city or urban area to this, which is generally understood to be a place with a low population density and an economy predominately centered on agriculture, as well as a site associated with a specific administrative framework and a legal status granted by the national government.

Ethiopia uses population size to distinguish between its counterparts in the rural and urban areas. Because of this, an urban center is defined as any place where 2000 people or more live (Tegegne, 2005). 15% of the nation's total population lives in urban areas, which is less than in other African countries (EEA, 2005).

Urban regions have historically been major centers of opportunity as of religious and commercial activity. However, cities are also the source of a number of new problems, such as homelessness, poverty, and crime. This holds true for Ethiopia as well. There are numerous facets of urban poverty that are concealed from earlier observers in rural areas, such as the large number of beggars that may be seen on every street corner in cities and along major thoroughfares. But as the farmer is now the back driver, urbanization brings benefits (EEA, 2005).

2.1.2The Concept of Rural -Urban Linkage

Different concepts are used to conceptualize rural-urban connectivity. The notion is described in terms of the mutually reinforcing and recurring flows of people, products, financial services, environmental services, and general information between particular rural, peri-urban, and metropolitan places. The definitions in the UN Habitat (2019) document are comparable to the conceptualizations mentioned above. The meaning of rural-urban linkages provided in this document also covers the movements of agricultural and other commodities from producers in rural areas to urban markets for local consumers as well as for export to regional, national, and international markets, as well as the movements of manufactured and imported goods from urban centers to rural settlements. Links between segments (such as those between farming and fabricating) can be used to communicate with them.

Furthermore, linkage between rural and urban areas might involve "rural" activities occurring in urban centers (like urban agriculture) as well as activities that are typically categorized as urban (like manufacturing and services) but are located in rural towns.

They also include streams of people traveling who commute regularly to metropolitan administrations and authority centers or who move between rural and urban areas, either permanently or temporarily.

Information about market dynamics resulting from cost fluctuations and information on job prospects for prospective migrants are among the types of information that are shared between urban and rural areas. According to Satterthwaite and Tacoli (2003), financial flows mainly consist of remittances from migrants to families and communities in sending areas, pension payments to migrants going back to their rural homes, investments, and lending from urban-based institutions.

2.1.3 Perspectives on Urban and Rural Settings and Urban-Rural Linkages

Urban centers and rural areas are the two spatial entities that are closely associated with the knowledge of rural-urban relations. According to Worku (1995), early research on the relationship between urban and rural areas noticed them as distinct entities with differing characteristics in terms of occupation, environment, population size, density, and mobility of the inhabitants.

In order to distinguish between urban and rural areas, Luis (1938) postulated mutually exclusive criteria such as heterogeneous versus homogenous population, densely versus sparsely settled people, and industrial versus agrarian economy. As he believed that the characteristics of urban and rural milieus were significantly different, Mitchell (1956) analyzes the early stages of the urbanization process in Africa and labels African urban migrants as a separate entity from his childhood experiences, areas of origin, neighborhoods, and tribe.

Additionally, he contended that the lifestyles of urban migrants differ from those of their rural counterparts since the interactions among tribesmen in their rural homes are significantly different. The aforementioned traditional interpretation of the urban-rural divide has been contested since the 1960s on the grounds that the initial urban-rural study models concentrated on the static and skewed aspects of the two spatial contexts (Mitchell, 1956).

The dynamic changes in the migratory population as well as in the urban communities of destination and origin were not taken into account. According to later regional development studies, there is a process of linkage and change brought about by the urbanization of the rural setting and the realization of urban life. Urban and rural areas are two ends of a single continuum of social life connected through migration (Mitchell, 1956).

According to Abu-Lughod's 1961 study, there are no absolute dichotomies between urban and rural areas since a significant portion of the population in both spatial settings integrates a variety of environments and revenue sources into their daily lives.

This study marked a watershed in the field of social science research. Increased integration and contact as a result have the potential to skew the conventional lines separating urban and rural areas.

When urban-rural links started to be included in regional development planning and implementation strategies, the idea acquired greater acceptance. The use of the growth center and rural services center methodologies to establish the urban-rural linkage was first presented by Hinderink and Titus (1988). The rural service center plan concentrates on the development of small urban centers for both their own and their hinterlands' development, whereas the growth center strategy promotes an urban industrial expansion in a few chosen growth centers with rising effects of "modernizing" rural areas.

Since they act as local markets for food from nearby farmers, gathering places for exported produce, and vital hubs for interacting with customers throughout the world, both the market and service center approaches are regarded as growth engines. In addition, between canter and hinterlands, service canter can act as a conduit for the introduction of new agricultural supplies and technology as well as a point of contact for social services like health, education, extension, administration, and legal support.

However, the experiences of a number of emerging nations suggested that smaller canter and the growth of rural areas seemed to be less affected by the spread effects of growth canter. When the growth canter take advantage of chances by sustaining solid economic links with clients and suppliers outside of their immediate region and around the world, this condition becomes evident (Funnel, 1976; Hinderink & Titus, 1988).

The influence that rural areas have on the dynamics of urban centers and non-agricultural activities is considered to be another component of connection in the interaction between rural and urban areas. This is defended by the argument that, in stable macroeconomic environments, higher food grain output would spur expansion in industries, trade, transportation, and services associated to agriculture (Dunham, 1991).

This is specifically achieved through the following: forward consumption linkages, which result from using farm incomes to purchase locally produced goods and services; backward production linkages, which are expressed in the absorption of agricultural inputs like machinery and fertilizer; forward production linkages, which result from local processing of agricultural outputs; and commercial forward linkages, which result from marketing agricultural outputs, diversifying crop production, and optimizing technological choices (Raneis, 1990).

An absolute contradiction between development planning in rural and urban areas, as noted by Ellis and Harris (2004), undermines the interconnected points of production, consumption, and market that lead to higher gross national output. The premise of this research stems from the fact that the size and purposes of settlements do not provide a clear separation between urban and rural locations. Different standards have been used by nations to differentiate between urban and rural areas.

However, a large portion of the most current data available to us regarding urbanization in Ethiopia is predicated on the working definition that the CSA established and what the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing deemed appropriate for the MDGs Needs Assessment research.

Ellis and Harris (2004) also emphasized that an urban center must meet the following requirements. If it has a population of 2000 or more, if it is an administrative center with a population of 1000 or more involved in non-agricultural activities, and if it has an urban dwellers association with a population of 1000 or more .

It is crucial to remember that the above-mentioned criteria have, in theory, been superseded with stronger or simpler standards that were created by the National Urban Planning Institute (NUPI) and authorized by the Council of Ministers in 2005.

In order to meet this definition, a settlement must meet two requirements in order to be classified as urban: it must have a minimum population of 2000 people and, non-less than 75% of its work force are engaged in non-agricultural activities.

2.2 Theoretical Literature Review

2.2.1 Theoretical Perspectives of Rural Urban Linkages

The spread of wealth, technology, institutions, political ideas, and values was to bring about the shift from traditional to modern society, according to modernization theory. This perspective held that the West's industrialization was a good example to follow. The concept of rural-urban dualism originated with the literature on urban trends, which viewed rural areas as areas of cultural tradition and economic regression and metropolitan areas as the epicenters of urbanization and development (Slater, 1986, cited in Tegegne, 2005).

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, industry focused on exports in Conversely, the approach emphasizes the importance of universal primary school coverage and access to basic necessities. This suggests that rural impoverished people's needs ought to be satisfied. By implication, these are the growth engines for agriculture.

In addition to supplying food, this increase is boosting the need for urbanization and industrialization. Thus, the expansion of rural development may have been facilitated by metropolitan centers, according to modernization theory. This is the process that led to the concept of urban and rural links growing as a means of achieving social and economic development.

The growth engine of large cities is predicted to have a trickle-down effect that will increase agricultural productivity (Tegegne, 2001). But the outcome isn't what was expected. Thus, throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s, agriculture served as the primary engine for the growth of impoverished rural economies.

The central place hypothesis was developed by Walter Christaller in 1933 to describe how urban settlements are created and distributed in relation to one another.

The most important principle of Christaller's idea was that urban settlements can be compared to an elementary kind of order if the concentration of mass around the nucleus is a type of order. The types of goods and services that a center produces determine its size. Large settlements, which are few in number, produce "higher order" goods and services (which require large markets in terms of both income and population, hence the method of specialization), while smaller settlements produce "lower order" goods and services.

According to Davis (2004), prevailing theories and plans from the 1950s have been influenced by the nature of the relationship between urban and rural areas. This analysis identifies two causes for the policymakers' rekindled interest. The growing emphasis on export-oriented agricultural output and the need for an effective economic connection between producers and external markets as well as the relationship between urban and rural areas are hallmarks of the market-based strategy.

2.2.2 Aspects of Rural - Urban Linkages

Various studies on the connections between urban and rural areas demonstrate how the classification and dimensions of these links depend on the goals and parameters of the research. The following categories represent the division of urban-rural links by Tacoli (1998).

I. Linkages in space: It is the movement of people, money, goods, and information throughout the rural - urban areas. These movements serve as some pointers of the connections that exist across the nation's rural and urban areas. For instance, the amount of grain that is sold could be a sign of the grain movement. A study conducted in 1996 suggested that there were around 28.2 million quintals of marketed grain; however, estimations from the CSA, which do not include oil crops or pulses, showed that the marketable surplus for 2001–2002 was only 14 million quintals (Wolday and Elleni, 2003).

The latter accounted for 17% of the whole output. This suggests that the potential grain flows to markets (urban areas) are significantly smaller. The majority of the crop is still used in rural regions for feed, seed, and consumption. Of course, a number of factors, including subsistence farming, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of understanding and traders' low storage capacity, limit the marketing of grains (Tegegne, 2005)

II. Sectoral Linkage: It was predicated on the being of farm operations in urban areas and the accessibility of non-farm activity in rural areas. The assumption that the lives of the people alive in urban rural settlements can be evenly separated into two primary categories that are mutually exclusive is a harsh dichotomy.

Consequently, manufacturing and service sectors belong in urban areas, while agriculture belongs in rural ones. Nonetheless, a number of studies have demonstrated that a growing proportion of rural and urban households are receiving their income from sources other than agriculture (Tacoli, 1998). Satterthwait and Tacoli (2003) claim that the sectorial distinctions between urban and rural professionals and policy often do not represent reality and lead to problems.

Urban-rural links were categorized into seven categories by Kammeier (2002). Additionally, he acknowledged that certain connections are interdisciplinary and difficult to categorize. He also makes note of the factors that need to be examined and the infrastructure needed to improve the particular connections. Demand Linkage: Businesses, homes, and persons that are involved in an economic sector purchase and sell goods and services to and from other sectors' connected partners. We call these transactions "demand linkages" since they result in certain product flows. Production and consumption links are the two main categories into which demand linkages may be divided. Production connections, as their name suggests, are input-focused and come in two varieties: forward and backward. Producers' input demands within a sector are represented by backward production connections, whereas forward linkages capture

Input-output interrelationships, also known as values, serve as a scientific assessment of the direction and degree of these connections. Contrarily, the consumption connection summarizes the pattern of demand for (or expenditure on) consumer goods and services by family and person.

To return to the agricultural example, the demand for agricultural products by both farm and non-farm families as well as the demand for non-agricultural goods and services by farm households include the consumption connections associated with agriculture. Demand linkages continue to be of relevance due to two uses.

Both have to do with the idea that connections between production and consumption are essential elements of any economy. Demand linkages are hence a useful tool for characterizing the structure of any economy. That is the initial use of that. A similar, but more scientific, function is defining and quantifying growth connections using demand linkages. In the latter instance, determining and quantifying the effects of a sector's growth on the overall economy is essential jobs. It is well known that the direction and significance of this kind of growth linkage are greatly influenced by patterns of production and consumption.

2.2.3 Various Forms of Rural-Urban Connections

2.2.3.1 Physical linkage

The expression of spatial or physical connectedness happens as infrastructure is developed. The road system supports the majority of 95% of the volume in tons kilometers and passenger kilometers. As a result, a measure of a country's connectedness is the extent to which its different regions are interconnected and have urban-rural linkages (Tegege, 2005). Walking, animal back transport, and head-and-back loading are among the low-burden, frequently time-consuming traditional forms of transportation that are used by almost 80% of Ethiopia's population (ERA, 2002).

2.2.3.2 Economic linkage

The linkage's economic components are related to production systems and the diversification of livelihoods. These include a variety of resource flows, such as those involving labor, natural resources, agricultural commodities, financial flows, and the transfer of industrial goods and services (Baker and Pedersen, 1992). In this instance, industrial goods and services migrate from urban to rural areas, whereas agricultural raw materials flow from rural to urban places.

Moreover, metropolitan regions allow the processes needed to increase livelihood diversification, which include manufacturing in urban areas and extractive activities in rural areas.

Because the towns give access to markets and give the rural residents a means of sustenance, the sale of goods and services produced in one community to another thereby identifies trade and commerce relationships between rural communities and the towns that surround them (Tostensen, 2004).

Additionally, connectivity between rural and urban areas promotes the diversity of sources of income in both urban and rural areas. Accordingly, Hazell and Haggblade (1990) discovered a strong connection between the expansion of agriculture and the increase of rural non-farm income and employment. Improvements in agriculture will result in the development of high-value agricultural products like livestock and gardening, which are labor-intensive and can help those who are poor.

There are three main ways that agriculture can impact non-farm activities: through production, consumption, and labor market connections. An increase in input usage is necessary for agricultural productivity. These inputs include chemicals, fertilizers, irrigation and farming equipment, sprayers, and other items that are either produced or supplied by non-farm businesses. Increased agricultural output also encourages forward production connections since it provides raw materials that non-farm businesses must grind, process, and distribute.

2.2.3.3 Social linkage

The interaction between urban and rural residents explains the social aspects of urban and rural connections. Based on the current relationships in terms of employment, familial connections, friendships, marriage, and religion, this can be determined. While rural households provide food, firewood, and building materials to their urban family members, urban households usually send money and other goods to their rural family. Sometimes urban households relocate to rural areas where they form friendships (Tostensen, 2004).

2.2.3.4 Environmental linkage

The environment, which supplies the means of production, water supply, and clean air necessary for a healthy living, is impacted by urban-rural linkages, which in turn affects the livelihood system of the community. Urban regions' environmental pollution of the rural landscape, water, and air is a defining feature of the urban-rural nexus. Waste from metropolitan regions commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential is frequently dumped there directly or released into the atmosphere, ending up somewhere in rural areas (Abdel-Ati, 1992, cited in Zeleke, 2006). By utilizing agricultural chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers, rural areas also contaminate the atmosphere and sources of drinking water, contributing to urban pollution (Kemete,2000).

2.2.3.5 Services Delivery linkage

Services in urban regions vary in type and availability. The nearby rural areas are drawn in by the services' availability. In terms of the connections between rural and urban areas for the delivery of services, Rondineli and Ruddle stated that these connections are necessary for the broad distribution of social and economic services as well as for facilitating the access of rural residents to metropolitan facilities. Improved accessibility to urban areas enables rural areas to enjoy high-quality service in urban areas, and when transportation and communication networks between urban and rural areas are developed, the rural areas adjacent to urban areas can benefit from enhanced and specialized services in urban areas.

2.2.4 Elements That Impact Urban-Rural linkage

Numerous variables, such as government regulations, the built environment, rural production, the organization of the agricultural economy, social-economic ties, the natural environment, resource endowment, and geographical connectedness, all have an impact on the connection between rural and urban areas (Tegegne & et al, 2005). Government strategies may impact urban-rural connections in a variety of ways.

According to Chowdhury (2005), government involvement in developing countries has regulated grain markets, set grain prices, restricted regional grain mobility, and restricted private sector participation through license limitations.

Many developing country leaders are now implementing decentralization. Although decentralization offers many advantages, it can also seriously harm the interconnection between urban and rural communities (Bajracharya, 2005).

Due to restrictions on movement and job diversification, the various land tenure systems have weakened the bonds between urban and rural communities (Tegegne, 2005). The degree of the built environment has an impact on urban-rural connectedness as well. The development strategy for urban-rural connections must include enough infrastructure, such as a road network for communication, energy sources, water supplies, etc. The presence or absence of these facilities affects the connections between rural and urban areas (Douglass, 1998).

The third important factor is the composition of the rural production regime. The relationship between urban and rural areas will then be impacted by the production structure within a certain industry. According to Douglass (1998),

compared to commercial cash crop production, which employs low wage labor and might not show much demand for the local town services, small holder production regimes are relatively stronger urban rural economies because they heavily rely on the town for markets, supplies cooperatives, and consumer shopping.

In multiracial and multilingual nations, social exclusion from the job market, credit, and educational opportunities, for instance, is a critical issue that tends to differentiate between urban and rural linkages (Chowdhury, 2005). Lastly, asset endowment and the natural environment are other elements influencing rural-urban links. (Deforestation can cause ongoing droughts and floods; this could improve access patterns and the kinds of functions that support the hinterlands).

Unnecessary migration is one of the other elements influencing the connectivity between urban and rural areas. Migration is an ephemeral and dynamic phenomena that involves individuals moving across territory for varying lengths of time, such as a few days to several years, as well as seasonal and permanent relocation.

Despite its variety, migration requires some level of dedication on the side of the migrant to both the place of origin and the place of destination. This indicates the nature of the migration-whether it is permanent or not.

In light of networks and information technology, non-permanent types of migration are becoming more and more significant (Magersa, 2007).

One of the main factors behind the rapid urbanization that is typically linked to better levels of development and productivity is migration. By connecting people with spaces, moving them from areas with less opportunity to those with more, and then transferring resources, migration also plays a significant role. People migrate between urban and rural areas for a variety of reasons.

As the example of Bangladesh (J. Garrett & Sh. Chowdhury, 200), cited in Magersa (2007), shows, one of the pushing variables from rural areas is financial challenges in the place of their heritage, while some of the attracting factors from the urban part are the possibility of employment possibilities and better education in the cities.

Migration is one of the primary causes of the fast urbanization that is usually associated with higher levels of development and productivity. Migration also has a big impact because it links people with spaces, moves them from places with less opportunity to ones with more, and then transfers resources.

There are many different reasons why people move between urban and rural settings. As the example of Bangladesh (J. Garrett & Sh. Chowdhury, 200), cited in Magersa (2007), shows, economic hardship in the place of origin is one of the forceful factors from rural areas, while some of the attractive factors from the urban part are the possibility of job chances and better education in the cities.

In contrast, data from other research shows that the majority of migrants felt their living conditions had improved and they were happy with their relocation. This study has led to the development of migration strategies in many rural communities.

These strategies are based on the experiences of migrant families who have stayed in touch and returned, but they fail to take into account the cultural and social factors unique to each village, which are important in determining the type and direction of movement (Tacoli, 2002).

One of the main indicators of urban-rural interactions and connections is rural-urban migration, or urban-rural migration. Long-term rural-urban circular migration and reverse urban-rural migration connect rural and urban areas. In contrast to the former, which is linked to economic progress, migration from urban areas to rural ones is frequently linked to economic decline and increased poverty (Tacoli, 1998 & 2004).

Age and gender play a role in migration. The composition of the migrant flow, which reflects broader social-economic dynamics, is equally complicated as the direction and length of movement. In terms of labor availability, remittances, household structure, and agricultural production system, the age and gender of those who relocate and those who remain can have a big influence on the source of area (Tacoli, 1998).

The labor market in destination countries is also divided into segments based on gender, age, and ethnicity; the last category typically reflects the influence of migrant networks over particular segments of the labor market (Tacoli, 2002).

2.3 Empirical Literature Review

2.3.1 Urban- Rural Linkage in Ethiopia

Tegegne (2001) said that Ethiopia is primarily an agrarian nation, with development possibilities dependent on rural advancement. Historically, efforts to boost agricultural production and promote rural development have concentrated on addressing structural issues. Land tenure, a lack of input, the size and pricing of insufficient and scattered land, and national regulations all play a role in these issues. Price changes have caused the policies to become more narrowly targeted; institutional and technological advances by themselves will not result in the intended change.

Access to off-farm possibilities and supportive services may provide challenges for farmers. For instance, the latter allow farmers to shift the risk-taking in by employing inputs and technological breakthroughs and offer revenue diversification. Households, as well as producers and consumers. While urban families demand farm products, rural households demand urban commodities and services. While urban families demand farm products, rural households demand urban commodities and services.

The ministry of labor and urban development's 2006 report, carried out by German Technical Cooperation, outlines how economic development is managed across spatial areas. The study also demonstrates that Ethiopian towns and cities lack effective management in all facets of the town as well as strong collaboration with their rural hinterlands. Since there is no institutional structure for organization, regional institutions handle their particular sectors on an autonomous basis.

2.3.2. Ways of Enhancing Rural Urban Linkages

Weak links between the country's rural and urban sectors indicate that they have evolved independently of one another. As a result, it is crucial that the two units assist one another and work together more closely in order to fully utilize their potential. In this regard, some studies recommend a range of legislative actions to improve the relationship between the two divisions. We go over a few of these measures here.

2.3.2.1 Strengthening Physical and Market Infrastructure

Collaboration between urban and rural areas is greatly facilitated by the development of physical infrastructure. Infrastructure is seen as simply removing barriers that would otherwise prevent and skew the emergency and growth of rural-urban connectivity and exchange. Infrastructure pertaining to trade, small manufacturing, and agriculture could have a significant effect. For example, the construction of roads and communication infrastructure could improve rural residents' mobility and, in turn, their access to jobs, markets, and other services.

Consequently, improving agricultural output and household income is impacted by the physical infrastructure connecting urban areas to rural ones (Tegegne, 2005). Since most towns lack these amenities, providing them should be a top priority when it comes to marketing in order to boost the performance of both private companies and farmers. Examples of these facilities include storage facilities and market places and so makes the Rural-Urban Linkage stronger.

2.3.2.2 Promoting Seasonal and Circulatory Rural Urban Migration

Seasonal and migratory movement is an important coping and diversification strategy for the family economy since it increases labor income. Thus, it is critical to address the primary barriers to these kinds of workforce flows or migration movements, including high transportation costs, a dearth of labor market information, and the spread of malaria in the majority of immigrant destinations (Mulat, 2001).

2.3.2.3 Strengthening Off-Farm Activities and Micro Enterprises

For poor rural households, activities take place away from farms in small towns and rural areas frequently offer chances for diversifying their sources of income. The majority of small towns around the nation are located in the greatest service centers, meeting the needs of the surrounding population as well as local residents in terms of consumption. Small businesses, mostly operated by a single person, with little connection to the local production chain, define the functional makeup of these communities.

A plan supporting the growth of profitable non-farm employment opportunities in small towns and market centers, particularly in small-scale manufacturing and commercial enterprises, has to be pursued since it will have a better production nexus with the primary sector. Activities that take place off-farm must be connected to agriculture. Diverse off-farm activities are necessary for agricultural diversification.

Agricultural diversification can generate off-farm opportunities and operations in the areas of input distribution, product marketing, processing and packaging, transportation, and item marketing.

Strong government support is necessary for microenterprises in small towns to overcome their stagnation and foster dynamic growth. Credit, extension services, information sharing, consulting, and training should all be considered forms of support (Tegegne, 2005).

2.3.2.4 Industrialization Based on Resources

Resource-based industrialization strengthens ties between urban and rural areas and establishes links in both directions. The agriculture, forestry, and mineral-based sectors that process vegetables, milk, honey, leather and skins, and timekeepers complete the production-marketing-processing chain. These industries promote long-term connections between rural and urban areas. These numerous activities will link small towns, rural places, and large urban hubs. Resource-based industrialization is one of the main objectives of the recently released industrial development strategy; therefore, its successful execution could act as a catalyst for fostering closer linkages between rural and urban areas.

2.3.2.5 A Focus on Agriculture Specialization

To meet the needs of the family is the aim of the country's highly subsistence-based agricultural expansion. The inter sectorial relationship is weakened by the extremely small capacity for producing and exporting industrial raw materials. Development in agriculture will yield excess based on unique advantages, hence fostering trade and interchange. As a result, commerce and exchange will create opportunities for productive dialogue between suppliers, buyers, farmers, and merchants in both rural and urban regions. Developing regional agriculture strategies that take advantage of specialized and cooperative advantages at the regional level is therefore essential.

2.3.2. 6 Enhancing the Private Industry

Strengthening rural-urban links and increasing non-agricultural businesses depend on the private sector's involvement, especially in marketing and distribution. Thus, it is crucial to establish an atmosphere that encourages the private sector to participate in these initiatives.

2.4 Conceptual Frame Work of the Study

The dimensions of current rural-urban linkages with hinterlands are important for households' economic and political harmony. Due to linkage, a cumulative chain of events through time determines economic and political connections. What happened yesterday is reflected in today's status and what happens today influences tomorrow's status. Based on the different empirical review the demographic, economic, political and social harmony is major linkages made among rural and urban in one way or the other. Accordingly, the following diagram clearly indicates the types of rural-urban linkages and the extent to which rural-urban are linked in different dimensions.

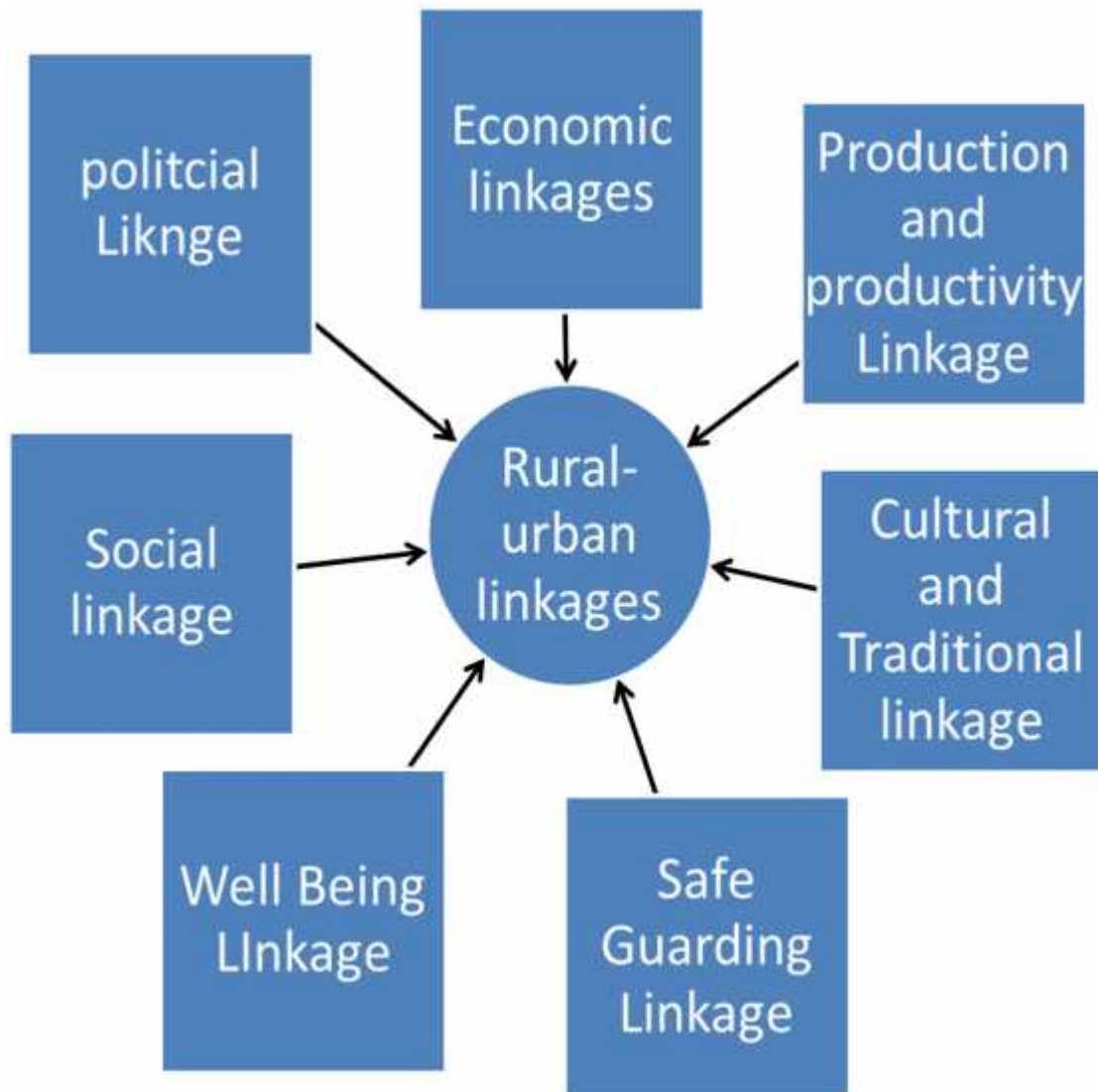


Figure 1: Analytical framework of the study (Own Conceptualization, 2024)

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the steps and procedures undergone to carry out the whole study.

3.1 Description of the Study Area

The research was carried out in the Ethiopian regional state of Oromia's Sibü Sire Woreda in the East Wollega Zone (Figure 1). One of the administrative divisions of the Oromia regional state's East Wollega zone in Sibü Sire Woreda. Sibü Sire is located in the western portion of Ethiopia, approximately 51 kilometers from Nekemte Town, the zone capital, and 281 kilometers from Addis Ababa. Sibü Sire District is one of the Woredas of the East Wollega administrative zone of the Oromia national state of Ethiopia. The Woreda is bordered to the east by the Gobu Sayo Woreda, to the north by the Gudeya Bila and Guto-Gida, to the south by the Wama Hagalo and Billo Boshe, and to the west by the West Wayu Tuqa woreda in East Wollega of the Oromia national state. Astronomical location of Sibü Sire woreda situated between 9°4'59"N latitude and 36°49'59"E longitude (Google Earth).

This woreda's elevation ranges from 1300 to 3020 meters above sea level; its notable peaks are Mount Gordomo, Mount Adere, and Mount Chalsisi. The Aleltu, Ambelta, Gorochan, Indris, Leku, Chekorsa, and Jalele are among the rivers. According to a survey, peasants own 32.8% of the land in this woreda, with the remaining 67.2% being either vacant or part of the Wama State Farm. Of the land held by peasants, 69.8% is agricultural, 12% is pasture, 10.1% is marsh, and 8.1% is forest. Niger seed is one among the cash crops. Another significant revenue crop that is spread across 20 to 50 square kilometers is coffee. There are twelve grain mills in the woreda. There were 6 Farmers Service Cooperatives with 6205 members and 14 Farmers Associations with 11,254 members with 49 all-weather roads and 25 dry weather roads, Sire has an average road density of 65.3 km per 1000 square kilometers. . (Socio-economic in East Wollega zone, 2009).

Drinking water is available to about 18.6% of the population. In this woreda, there are twenty elementary schools: seven serve grades 1-4, thirteen serve grades 1-8, and there are two secondary education institutions serving classes 9–10 and 11-12, respectively. Regarding health services in the town, there is one government hospital, one government health center and four private clinics, four private pharmacies and three ambulances that provide health services. (Source : Sibule District Administration office, 2022)

This woreda had a total population of 102,228 according to the 2007 national census, with 51,511 female and 50,717 male; 10,243, or 10.02%, of the people lived in urban areas. According to the Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia (2007), the majority of the population identified as Protestants (43.85%), followed by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians (41.15%), and Muslims (13.68%).

According to data released by the Central Statistical Agency in 2005, there are an estimated 97,866 people living in this woreda, with 50,302 male and 47,564 female. Of these people, 13,710, or 14.01%, live in urban areas, which is higher than the Zone average of 13.9%. Sire's estimated population density is 86.4 persons per square kilometer, which is higher than the Zone average of 13.9%. The estimated area of Sire is 1,132.51 square kilometers. Sire's estimated population density is 86.4 persons per square kilometer, with an estimated size of 1,132.51 square kilometers.

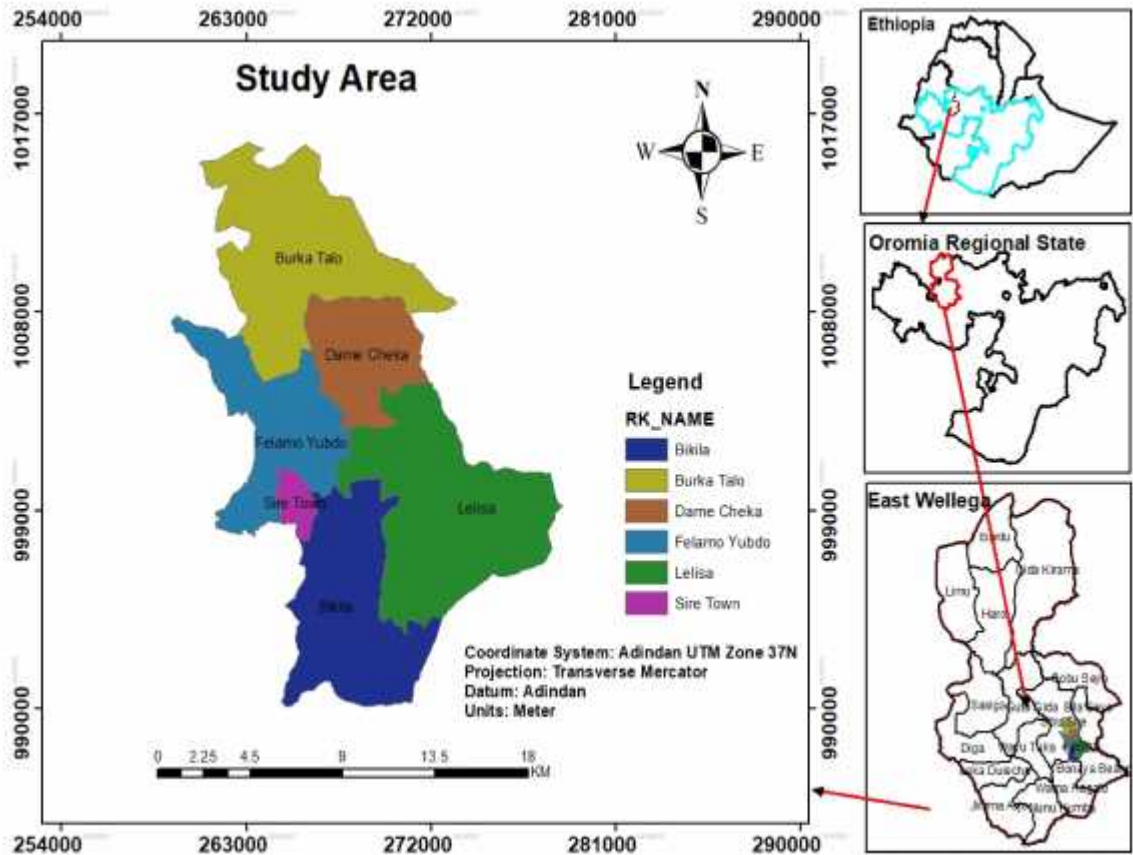


Figure 2: Map of Study Area, Source; Extracted from Arc Map (2024)

3.2 Population

There were 154,000 people living in the Sibu Sire woreda, with 89471 males and 64529 Female. The population's distribution was about 53.9 percent urban and the remaining 42.9 percent rural (Sibu Sire District Administration office, 2022).

3.3 Research Design and Approaches

3.3.1 Research Design

The researcher combined qualitative and quantitative research methods with a descriptive survey study design. This was due to the fact, as Cresswell (2000) noted, descriptive research designs result in descriptions of data using descriptive words and expressions following its collection through surveys, interviews, observations, discussions, and fieldwork.

This suggests that the selecting a research design, the study's audiences, the researchers' individual backgrounds, and the nature of the research topic or issue being addressed are taken into account (Cresswel, 2009).

Based on this concept, the researcher described the information acquired by questionnaire, interview and focused group discussions with the respondents using descriptive words and statistics. Hence, in the first part of the study, how Sire town is connected to its hinterlands and types of connection existed were discussed while in the second phase of the study an elements influencing urban-rural linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands were presented. The two phases occurred sequentially where qualitative data were used to describe and manipulate quantitative ones.

3.3.2 Research Methodology

This investigation used a variety of research techniques to achieve its objectives and address its research issues. Both qualitative and quantitative data are collected and examined in a single study when performing a mixed investigation. At some point during the study process, the data is incorporated, ranked, and obtained either continuously or successively (Gutmann & Hanson, 2012). Put another way, the methodology makes it easier for the researcher to answer questions that can't be answered using just quantitative or qualitative approaches.

The Mixed Method gives a more whole by noting responses from participants thoroughly as well as generalizations and trends.

3.4 Data Type, Data Sources, and Data Collection Techniques

Both qualitative and quantitative data were gathered for this investigation. The types of links that existed in the research area and the ways in which urban and rural hinterlands were linked were addressed using quantitative data. The researcher obtained qualitative data regarding the ways in which Sire town was connected to its hinterland, the kinds of connections people made, and the variables that affected the connection between Sire town and its hinterlands.

There was also usage of secondary and primary data sources. Both official surveys and participatory research methods, such as key informant questionnaires, interviews, and observations, were used to gather primary data.

Seven kebeles were chosen after an initial evaluation was carried out to gather basic data about the research area; two of the kebeles were urban, and the remaining five were rural. Discussions with a woreda development authority expert produced this information.

A survey questionnaire was created and pre-tested for each research area's urban-rural links in Sire Town and its hinterlands in order to perform the official survey. Along with secondary data gathered from published and unpublished sources in the literature, primary data were also added.

3.5 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

The researcher had chosen a residence in the Sibu Sire Woreda since it was easy to get the necessary data there. A two-step sampling procedure was used to select the sample respondents. With the help of Woreda development authority experts, a purposive selection process was used to identify the Sibu Sire Woreda of potential urban-rural linkages in Sire town and its hinterlands agricultural producer kebeles (namely, both urban and rural kebele, Dame Cheka, Burka Talo, Lelisa, Bikila, and Falamo Yubdo and urban kebele Sire 01 and Sire 02) out of 21 rural kebeles and 2 urban kebele administrations in the Woreda.

Using a simple method of random sampling, 204 families in Sire Town and its hinterlands were chosen at random from the designated rural sample kebeles for the second stage (Table 1). Using a simplified formula given by Yamane (1967), the sample size of responders was calculated at a 95% confidence range, 3% precision level, and 2% contingency.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{154,000}{1 + 154,000(0.07)^2} = 204$$

Where e is the degree of precision, N is the size of the population, and n is the sample size.

Table 1: Distribution of sample sizes for Sire town and its surrounding areas.

| Name of Woreda | Rural and Urban kebele | Name of selected kebele | Total households(N) | proportion | Sample(n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Sibu Sire Woreda | Rural kebele | Dame Cheka | 1251 | 0.09 | 20 |
| | | Burka Talo | 2342 | 0.19 | 38 |
| | | Lelisa | 2313 | 0.19 | 37 |
| | | Bikila | 1699 | 0.13 | 28 |
| | | Fallamo Yubdo | 1911 | 0.15 | 30 |
| | Urban kebele | Sire 01 | 1560 | 0.12 | 25 |
| | | Sire 02 | 1652 | 0.13 | 26 |
| Total | | | 12,728 | 1.00 | 204 |

Source: PA administrations and own design, 2024

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

3.6.1 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a list of questions about one topic. It can be described as a systematic collection of questions that are given to a population sample that is chosen in order to obtain the needed information (Barr, Davis & Johnson, 1953). In order to identify the study's focus, the researcher created a questionnaire with both open-ended and closed-ended items and gave it to households. The questionnaire's goal was to collect data regarding the ways in which Sire town was connected to its hinterland, the kinds of connections people made, and the variables that affected the connection between the Sire town and its hinterlands. The researcher designed and modified the questionnaire in part to address the urban-rural connections between Sire Town and its hinterlands.

The responses of participants to the questionnaire were administered precisely for the realization of the issue studied. The researcher translated the questionnaire based on contextual translation theory. In order to analyze the questionnaire alternative nominal and likert scales (statements directly related to urban-rural linkages with hinterlands were given codes as SA, A, U, SD and D

For the reliability of the questionnaire, the researcher made pilot testing before the distribution of the questionnaire to some selected respondents. The pilot testing was made by distributing the draft of questionnaire for selected respondents and their answer was considered for correction for the reliability of the questionnaire.

3.6.2 Observation

The act of clearly recording what is observed, including things, relationships, processes, and events, is the most basic definition of observation. Compared to auditory and vocal organs, observation uses more than one of visual and senses (C.A. Mourse, ND). The study of events as they occur and the cause-and-effect relationship is known as observation.. Using an observation checklist as a guide, the observation was made. In order to cross-check the viability of urban-rural linkages and the kinds of linkages that really exist, the researcher purposefully chose three kebeles for observation. In some of the chosen kebeles, the researcher conducted non-participant observation.

3.6.3 Interview

Furthermore to the questionnaire, a semi-structured interviewing process was utilized to supplement the data collected from questionnaire. Moreover, interview was conducted with Sire town administration and woreda's agriculture and rural development office and aimed at obtaining data on ways by which Sire town was linked to its hinterlands, types of linkage that it made and issues affecting rural -urban linkages of Sire town with its hinterlands. Seven interview question items were conducted in local language with the town's administration and woreda's development officials and transcribed after the data were collected. According to Creswell and Plano (2007), "the purpose of interviewing people is to find out what is in their mind and what they think or how they feel about something". The reason also the researcher used interview that it was flexible and possible to forward new questions to the interviewee.

In order to get more specific information, an expert interview session was held to learn about their implementation experience and strategies for establishing connections between Sire town and its hinterlands in the areas of infrastructure, development, trades, agriculture, and the economy. The investigator took notes and transcribed it after the data were gathered from the interviewees.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

Analysis of the data was done both qualitatively and quantitatively. The responses to the questionnaire, the observation, and the interview served as the basis for the data analysis. First the data were gathered, checked, numbered and arranged/ coded according to their characteristics. Second, they were classified and tallied in the respective of the kebeles from rural and the town. Next to this, the data of each group were arranged, organized in the table and problems areas. Finally, data gathered from an open-ended question, observation and interview was analyzed through description and enumeration.

The data gathered through closed questionnaire was interpreted quantitatively in the form of percentage, frequency and standard deviation using table. The nominal closed questionnaire was put into five likert rating scale as follows: 1= strongly agree (SA), 2= agree (A), 3= undecided (UD) 4 =disagree (D) 5= strongly disagree (SD) and analyzed in terms of meanings being filled into SPSS version 24.0 for analysis and interpretation. Based on this both qualitative and quantitative data analysis method were used to analyze and interpret the data gathered for this study.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The study focused on the ethical problem. According to Louis Cohen et al. (2007), moral and ethical considerations should receive top priority in both qualitative and quantitative research. As a result, the researcher focused especially on the ethical guidelines established by this and other academics, especially with regard to guaranteeing informed permission, fostering secrecy, upholding anonymity, and other relevant ethical concerns.

At the beginning cooperation letter was received from the Department of Geography in Addis Ababa University.

Then, the letter was given to the town administration and woreda development officers and a consent letter was prepared to help respondents make an informed decision. Reports with respondents were encouraged to feel free. In addition, participation in the study was based on the informed consent of the respondents. Above all, each and every source that was used in the study under investigation was dully acknowledged.

APTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The data for the study are analyzed, interpreted, and discussed in this chapter. Frequency distribution tables and percentages were used to categorize, tabulate, and summarize the 44-item questionnaire data. All (100%) of the items were answered by the respondents.

The questionnaire response rate is the first data to be analyzed, and then descriptive statistics on the respondents' demographics, including variable means and standard deviations, are presented. The data were collected from 155 households and 49 officials through questionnaire, observation and interview taken from Sibu Sire Woreda , East Wollega zone. After the data were coded and imported into SPSS version 24.0, the study's findings were presented, examined, and explained.

Descriptive analysis of the respondents' demographic data was the first step, and was followed by the way Sire town was linked to its hinterlands, the type of linkages they made with one another and factors affecting urban-rural linkages of Sire town with its hinterlands. The qualitative data which were collected through observation and interview were thematically analyzed along with quantitative data for triangulation. The inferential statistics particularly correlation and regression analysis of independent variables with dependent variable were computed and inferred under this chapter.

4.1 Background Characteristics of Respondents

The researcher tried to put the background characteristic of households and officials selected from Sibu Sire woreda for this study in the following ways.

Table 2.1 Descriptive Analysis of respondents in terms of Gender (N=204)

| Description type | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| | Households | | Officials | | | |
| Sex | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| Male | 123 | 60.29 | 30 | 14.70 | 153 | 75 |
| Female | 32 | 15.68 | 19 | 9.31 | 51 | 25 |
| Total | 155 | 73.52 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Table 2.1 above illustrated presentation of demographic characteristics of respondents in the study in terms of gender.

As it is indicated on the table above on item one, from 204 participants 153 (75%) of the respondents were males and the rest 51 (25%) of them were females. Here the inclusion of both genders as participants of the study made the results of the study more reliable and valid.

Table 2.2 Descriptive Analysis of respondents in terms of Age (N=204)

| Description type | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Households | | Officials | | | |
| 15 -24 | 23 | 11.27 | 4 | 1.96 | 27 | 13.23 |
| 25-49 | 85 | 41.66 | 36 | 17.64 | 121 | 59.31 |
| 50-74 | 40 | 19.60 | 9 | 4.41 | 49 | 24.01 |
| >75 | 7 | 3.43 | - | - | 7 | 3.43 |
| Total | 155 | 73.52 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Moreover, on the table 2.2 ages of respondents were deployed and from the participants 27(13.23%) of them were in 15-24 age intervals, 121(59.31%) of them were in 25-49 age intervals, 49(24.01%) of them were in 50-74 age intervals and only 7(3.43%) of them were in above 75 years age intervals. From this item, it is possible to see that the respondents could give the data required for the study as they were mature enough to respond to the questions.

Table 2.3 Descriptive Analysis of respondents in terms of marital statuses (N=204)

| Marital Status | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
|----------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Single | 11 | 5.39 | 10 | 4.9 | 21 | 10.29 |
| Married | 139 | 68.13 | 38 | 18.62 | 177 | 86.76 |
| Widowed | 3 | 1.47 | 1 | 0.49 | 4 | 1.96 |
| Divorced | 2 | 0.98 | - | - | 2 | 0.98 |
| Total | 155 | 75.98 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Additionally, on the table 2.3 above descriptions of respondents in terms of their marital statuses was presented. Based on the table 2 21(10.29%) of them were Single, 177(86.76%) of them were married, 4(1.96%) of them were widowed and only 2(0.98%) of them were divorced. The

result verified that the respondents were family responsible and could express what they observed from day to day on urban-rural linkage in Sibuhire woreda.

Table 2.4 Descriptive Analysis of the respondents interms of Education level (N=204)

| Description type | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|---|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Households | | Officials | | Freq | % |
| Education level | Freq | % | Freq | % | | |
| Illiterate | 20 | 9.89 | - | - | 20 | 9.89 |
| Primary education | 27 | 13.23 | - | - | 27 | 13.23 |
| 10 th /12 th complete | 41 | 20.09 | - | - | 41 | 20.09 |
| College Diploma | 45 | 22.05 | 6 | 2.94 | 51 | 25 |
| BA/BED degree | 22 | 10.78 | 40 | 19.60 | 62 | 30.39 |
| MA/MSc, degree | - | - | 3 | 1.47 | 3 | 1.47 |
| Total | 155 | 75.98 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Furthermore, on the table 2.4 above educational backgrounds of study respondents was indicated. Among 204 participants, 20 (9.89%) of the respondents were illiterate, 27(13.23%) of them attended primary education, 41(20.09%) of them were 10th/12th complete, 51(25%) of them had college diploma, 62(30.39%) of them had BA/BED/ degree and only 3(1.47%) of them had MA/MSc. degree in their educational preparations. This indicated that most of the respondents were literate to provide the required level of data on the issue under study.

Table 2.5 Descriptive Analysis of the respondents interms of religion (N=204)

| Description type | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Households | | Officials | | | |
| Religion | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| Muslims | 50 | 24.5 | 6 | 2.94 | 56 | 27.45 |
| Waaqeffataa | 30 | 14.7 | 4 | 1.96 | 34 | 16.66 |
| Protestant | 27 | 13.23 | 23 | 11.27 | 50 | 24.5 |
| Orthodox | 48 | 23.52 | 16 | 7.84 | 64 | 31.37 |
| Others | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 155 | 75.98 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

In the same taken on the table 2.5 the religious aspects of study participants were presented. Out of 204 participants, 56(27.45%) of them followed Muslim religion, 34(16.66%) of them were Waaqeffatas. 50(24.5%) of them were protestants, 64(31.37%) of them were orthodox followers and none of them were other religion followers. This indicated that the respondents could express the data required depending on the religious movements they made in and out of Sire town.

Table 2.6 Descriptive Analysis of the respondents interms of Occupation (N=204)

| Description type | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Households | | Officials | | | |
| Occupation | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| Farmer | 87 | 42.64 | - | - | 87 | 42.64 |
| Government employee | 6 | 2.94 | 49 | 24.04 | 55 | 26.96 |
| Merchant | 41 | 20.09 | - | - | 41 | 20.09 |
| Manufacturing | 6 | 2.94 | - | - | 6 | 2.94 |
| Forestry | 12 | 5.88 | - | - | 12 | 5.88 |
| Others | 3 | 1.47 | - | - | 3 | 1.47 |
| Total | 155 | 75.98 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

On the table 2.6 respondents' occupations were presented. On the table 2.5 out of 204 study participants, 87(42.64%) of them were farmers, 55(26.96%) of them were government employees, 41(20.09%) of them were merchants, 6(2.94%) of them engaged in manufacturing, 12(5.88%) of them engaged in forestry and the rest 3(1.47%) of them engaged in other occupations. From this item, one can infer that since the respondents were from different occupations, they could express data on the nature and type of urban-rural linkage engaged in Sire town.

Table 2.7 Descriptive Analysis of the respondents interms of Residential place (N=204)

| Description type | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| | Households | | Officials | | | |
| Residential place | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| Sire town | 30 | 14.7 | 21 | 10.29 | 51 | 25 |
| Sire rural kebeles | 125 | 61.27 | 28 | 13.72 | 153 | 75 |
| Total | 155 | 75.98 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Additionally, on the table 2.7 respondents' residence places were deployed. Out of 204 respondents 51(25%) of the respondents were from Sire town and the rest 153(75%) of them were from rural kebeles. This indicated that inclusions of respondents from different angles could make the data reliable and valid.

Table 2.8 Descriptive Analysis of the respondents interms of Family size (N=204)

| Description type | | Respondents | | | | Total | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Households | | Officials | | | |
| Family size | | Freq | % | Freq | % | Freq | % |
| Large | >10 Members | 83 | 40.68 | 1 | 0.49 | 84 | 41.17 |
| Medium | 5-10 Members | 65 | 31.86 | 8 | 3.92 | 73 | 35.78 |
| Small | 2-4 Members | 10 | 4.90 | 40 | 19.60 | 50 | 24.5 |
| Total | | 155 | 75.98 | 49 | 24.01 | 204 | 100 |

Source, own Survey, 2024

On the description of family size of the respondents, 84(41.17%) of the respondents held large family, 73(35.78%) of the respondents held medium family size and the rest 50(24.5%) of them had small family size. From this description, it is possible to deduce that family's size also helped the researcher to get data on urban-rural linkage and types of linkage required to them to get services required for their families.

4.2 Descriptive Analysis of Study Variables

Descriptive analysis was used to know the respondents' level of agreement on study variables. The study variables were presented using likert scale and the respondent were asked to indicate their level of agreement with scale such as 1= strongly agree, 2= agree, 3=undecided , 4= disagree, and 5= strongly disagree. The respondents' average level of agreement regarding the presence or essence of variables was represented by the mean value of the response, which was calculated using likert scales.

Respondents indicated their level of agreement on each of the five variables under studied. The variables are how Sire town is linked with its hinterlands, types of linkage it makes and factors affecting urban-rural linkage in Sire town under study. The study variables were put in the forms of tables and described under each table. For the purpose of interpretation, the mean score were treated as 0.05-1.49 (very low), 1.5-2.49 (Low), 2.5-3.49 (Moderate), 3.5-4.49 (high) and 4.5 and above (very high). The results presented and analyzed in the following ways.

4.2.1 How Sire Town Is Linked With Its Hinterlands

The way Sire town is linked to its hinterlands was identified using questionnaire, interview and observation. The results acquired using these instruments were analyzed and described in the following ways

Table 2 .9 How Sire Town is Linked with its hinterlands (N=204)

| No | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | Mean | SD | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | 5 |
| 1. | It is linked with the rural areas in north, south, east and west directions. | F | 24 | 20 | - | 34 | 126 | 1.32 | .782 |
| | | % | 11.76 | 9.8 | - | 16.66 | 61.76 | | |
| 2. | There is a mutual linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. | F | 40 | 50 | 10 | 44 | 60 | 1.628 | .529 |
| | | % | 19.60 | 24.50 | 4.90 | 21.56 | 29.41 | | |
| 3. | There is political linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. | F | 104 | 64 | 21 | 10 | 6 | 3.535 | .481 |
| | | % | 50.98 | 31.37 | 10.29 | 4.90 | 2.94 | | |
| 4. | There is economic linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. | F | 24 | 55 | 21 | 24 | 80 | 1.521 | 0.28 |
| | | % | 11.76 | 26.96 | 10.29 | 11.76 | 39.21 | | |
| 5. | There is infrastructural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | F | 25 | 35 | - | 44 | 100 | 1.535 | 0.025 |
| | | % | 12.25 | 17.15 | | 21.56 | 49.01 | | |
| 6. | There is agricultural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | F | 116 | 88 | - | - | - | 1.524 | 0.42 |
| | | % | 56.86 | 43.13 | | | | | |
| 7. | There is social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | F | 34 | 14 | 6 | 70 | 80 | 1.605 | 0.4 |
| | | % | 16.66 | 6.86 | 2.94 | 34.31 | 39.21 | | |
| 8. | There is good linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | F | 30 | 20 | 23 | 60 | 71 | 1.428 | 0.521 |
| | | % | 14.7 | 9.8 | 11.27 | 29.41 | 34.8 | | |
| 9. | There is moderate linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | F | 40 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 74 | 1.532 | .505 |
| | | % | 19.60 | 14.7 | 4.9 | 24.50 | 36.27 | | |
| 10. | There is high linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | F | 20 | 24 | 18 | 50 | 92 | 1.64 | .82 |
| | | % | 9.8 | 11.76 | 8.82 | 24.5 | 45.09 | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 2.9 above illustrated how Sire town is linked to its hinterlands. On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that Sire town was poorly linkage to its hinterlands in north, south, east and west. Out of 204 participants of the study, 24 (11.76%) of them strongly agreed, 20(9.8%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 34 (16.66%) of them disagreed and the rest 126 (61.76%) of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on whether it is linked with the rural areas in north, south, east and west directions or not.

The respondents' mean score 1.32 and deviated with standard deviation of 0.782 respectively which in turn indicated there was low linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in all directions. From these responses, one can infer that there was low linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in north, south, east and west directions.

On the table item two, 40 (19.6%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, 10 (4.9%) of them responded undecided, 44 (21.56%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 60(29.41%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if there was mutual linkage between the town and its rural hinterlands or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 1.628 with standard deviation 0.529 respectively. From this item, there was low mutual linkage between Sire town and its rural area hinterlands.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if there was political linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not and out of 204 participants, 104 (50.985%) of them strongly agreed, 64 (31.37%) of them agreed, 21(10.29%) of them undecided, 10(4.9%) of them disagreed and 6(2.94%) of them strongly disagreed. The mean responses of participants were 3.535 with standard deviation of 0.481 which indicated that there was high political linkage which the administrators made to link Sire town with its hinterlands just for the purpose of politics.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if there was economic linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 24 (11.76%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 21(10.29%) of them indicated undecided, 24(11.76%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 80 (39.21%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 1.521 and standard deviation of 0.28which indicated poor economic linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

Additionally, on the table item five, the participants were asked if there was infrastructural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 25 (12.25%) of them indicated strongly agree, 35 (17.15%) of them indicated agree, none of them indicated undecided, 044 (21.56%) of them disagreed and the rest 100(49.01%) of them responded strongly disagreed with the mean score of 1.535 and standard deviation of 0.025 which indicated that there was poor infrastructural linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

With the same token, on the table item six, the participants were asked if there was agricultural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 116 (56.86%) of them indicated strongly agree, 88(43.13%) of them indicated agree, none of them indicated undecided, disagreed and strongly disagreed with the mean score of 3.524 and standard deviation of 0.42 which indicated that there was high agricultural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

On the other hand, on the table item seven, the participants were asked if there was social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 34(16.66%) of them indicated strongly agree, 14(6.86%) of them indicated agree, 6(2.94%) of them indicated undecided, 70(34.31%) of them disagreed and the rest 80(39.21%) of them strongly disagreed with the mean score of 1.605 and standard deviation of 0.4 which indicated that there was poor social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

Consequently, on the table item eight, the participants were asked if there was good linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not. From the participants, 30(14.7 %) of them indicated strongly agree, 20 (9.8%) of them indicated agree, 23 (11.27%) of them indicated undecided, 60 (29.41%) of them disagreed and the rest 71(34.8%) of them responded strongly disagreed with the mean score of 1.422and standard deviation of 0.521 which indicated that there was a poor linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

On the table items nine and ten, the respondents were asked if there were moderate and high linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands and for these items majority of the respondents indicated that there was weak linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in general. In general, there was weak linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in several ways except for political purposes and agricultural purposes.

The results obtained from interviews with Sire town administrators, and agriculture and rural development workers and kebele administrators indicated that there was good linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. This in turn highly disagreed with the results obtained from the questionnaire of the respondents.

Similarly, the results obtained from observation made by the researcher indicated that there was poor linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in one way or the others.

4.2.2 Types of Linkages Observed In Sire Town and Its Rural Hinterlands

4.2.2.1Agricultural Linkages

Agriculture is an important phase in an economic activity. During field observation, the researcher identified that some agricultural production and consumption linkage existed between in Sire town and its rural hinterland. The majority of food is produced in rural areas and much of it is consumed by people living in urban centers. Likewise, rural areas of Sire town produced different cash crops, cereal crops, oil crops and others either for home consumption or commercial purpose. Those agrarian people introduce parts of their production to the nearby urban centers.

In turn, they use the income generated from this products to buy other goods and services, clothes and stationary materials for their sons, home utensils etc. and thus, this is what forms and strengthens urban rural linkage in Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

Table2.10: Agricultural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands (N=204)

| No | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | | Mean | SD |
|----|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| 1. | There is linkage in cereals crops production and consumptions between the two areas. | F | 126 | 34 | - | 20 | 24 | 3.32 | 1.78 |
| | | % | 61.76 | 16.66 | - | 9.8 | 11.76 | | |
| 2. | There are oil crops productions and consumptions between the two areas. | F | 60 | 50 | 10 | 44 | 40 | 3.628 | 1.52 |
| | | % | 29.41 | 24.50 | 4.90 | 21.56 | 19.60 | | |
| 3. | There is beef cattle production and consumptions between the two areas. | F | 104 | 64 | 21 | 10 | 6 | 3.535 | .481 |
| | | % | 50.98 | 31.37 | 10.2 | 4.90 | 2.94 | | |
| 4. | There are dairy products productions and consumptions between the two areas. | F | 80 | 55 | 21 | 24 | 24 | 3.521 | 1.28 |
| | | % | 39.21 | 26.96 | 10.2 | 11.76 | 11.76 | | |
| 5. | There is chicken production and consumptions between the two areas. | F | 100 | 44 | - | 35 | 25 | 3.535 | 1.02 |
| | | % | 49.01 | 21.56 | | 17.15 | 12.25 | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 4above illustrated agricultural linkage of Sire town with to its hinterlands. On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that there was strong linkage of agricultural activities between Sire town and its hinterlands.

Out of 204 participants of the study, 126 (61.76%) of them strongly agreed, 34 (16.66%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 20(9.8%) of them disagreed and the rest 24 (11.76%)of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on whether Sire town is linked in cereal crop productions and consumption or not. The respondents' mean score 3.32 and deviated with standard deviation of 1.782 respectively which in turn indicated there was high linkage in cereal crops production and consumptions in Sire town and its hinterlands.

From these responses, one can infer that there was strong linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of cereal crops productions produced by farmers and consumed by others in between of Sire town residents and farmers.

On the table item two, 60(29.41%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, 10 (4.9%) of them responded undecided, 44 (21.56%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 40 (19.6%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if there were oil crops productions and consumptions between the two areas or not.

Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 3.628 with standard deviation 1.529 respectively. From this item, there was high linkage between Sire town and its rural area hinterlands in terms of oil seeds productions and consumptions.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if there beef cattle production and consumption linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not and out of 204 participants, 104 (50.985%) of them strongly agreed, 64 (31.37%) of them agreed, 21(10.29%) of them undecided, 10(4.9%) of them disagreed and 6(2.94%) of them strongly disagreed. The mean responses of participants were 3.535 with standard deviation of 0.481 which indicated that there was high linkage between the town and its hinterlands in terms of beef cattle production and consumption.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if there was linkage in terms of dairy products production and consumptions between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not.

Out of 204 participants, 80 (39.21%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 21(10.29%) of them indicated undecided, 24(11.76%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 24 (11.76%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 3.521 and standard deviation of 1.28 which indicated that there was better linkage of the two areas in terms of diary production and consumptions between the town and its rural hinterlands.

Additionally, on the table item five, the participants were asked if there was linkage in terms of chicken production and consumptions between Sire town and its hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 100(49.01%) of them indicated strongly agree, 44 (21.56%) of them indicated agree, none of them indicated undecided, 35 (17.15%) of them disagreed and the rest 25 (12.25%) of them responded strongly disagreed with the mean score of 3.535 and standard deviation of 1.025 which indicated that there was good linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of chicken production and consumptions.

In general, there was better linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of agriculture productions and agricultural consumptions. The results obtained from interviews with Sire town administrators, and agriculture and rural development workers and kebele administrators indicated that there was better linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of agricultural production and consumptions which in turn is related to the results obtained from questionnaire with households.

Similarly, the results obtained from observation made by the researcher indicated that there was better linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of agricultural production and consumptions.

The researcher observed that there were some infrastructural linkages between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. However, the linkage is not as sufficient as it would be.

Table 2.11: Infrastructural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands (N=204)

| No | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | Mea n | SD |
|----|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| 1. | There is linkage in clean water supply between the two areas. | F | 24 | 20 | - | 34 | 126 | 1.32 . |
| | | % | 11.76 | 9.8 | - | 16.66 | 61.76 | |
| 2. | There is linkage in electric services between the two areas. | F | 40 | 50 | 10 | 44 | 60 | 1.62 8 |
| | | % | 19.60 | 24.50 | 4.90 | 21.56 | 29.41 | |
| 3. | There are road facilities between the two areas. | F | 6 | 10 | 21 | 64 | 104 | 3.53 5 |
| | | % | 2.94 | 4.9 | 10.29 | 31.37 | 50.98 | |
| 4. | There are schools, health facilities and transportation services between the two areas. | F | 24 | 55 | 21 | 24 | 80 | 1.52 1 |
| | | % | 11.76 | 26.96 | 10.29 | 11.76 | 39.21 | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 5 above illustrated infrastructural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that Sire town was poorly linkage to its hinterlands in clean water supply between the two areas. Out of 204 participants of the study, 24 (11.76%) of them strongly agreed, 20(9.8%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 34 (16.66%) of them disagreed and the rest 126 (61.76%) of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on whether there was a linkage in clean water supply between Sire town and its hinterlands or not.

The respondents' mean score 1.32 and deviated with standard deviation of 0.782 respectively which in turn indicated there was low linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of clean water supply as one of the infrastructure.

From these responses, one can infer that there was low linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in providing infrastructure for rural hinterlands.

On the table item two, 40 (19.6%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, 10 (4.9%) of them responded undecided, 44 (21.56%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 60(29.41%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if there was linkage in terms of electric supply between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 1.628 with standard deviation 0.529 respectively. From this item, there was low linkage between Sire town and its rural area hinterlands in terms of providing Sire town with electric services.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if there was linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of road facilities or not and out of 204 participants, 6(2.94%) of them strongly agreed, 10(4.9%) of them agreed, 21(10.29%) of them undecided, 64 (31.37%) of them disagreed and 104 (50.985%) of them strongly disagreed. The mean responses of participants were 1.535 with standard deviation of 1.481 which indicated that there was low linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands in terms of road facilities.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if there was linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in having schools, health facilities and transportation services between the two areas or not. Out of 204 participants, 24 (11.76%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 21(10.29%) of them indicated undecided, 24(11.76%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 80 (39.21%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 1.521 and standard deviation of 0.28 which indicated poor basic infrastructure linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

The results obtained from interviews with Sire town administrators, and agriculture and rural development workers and kebele administrators indicated that there was good linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of infrastructures. This in turn highly disagreed with the results obtained from the questionnaire of the respondents.

Similarly, the results obtained from observation made by the researcher indicated that there were dilapidated roads, poor school infrastructures, inadequate electric services, lack of clean water for the rural residents and health facilities. This result highly agreed to the results obtained through households' questionnaire.

4.2.2.3 Political Linkages

The researcher observed that there were political linkages between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

Table 2.12: Political linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands (N=204)

| No | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | | Mean | SD |
|----|---|-----------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| 1. | There is administrative linkage between the two areas. | F | 126 | 34 | - | 20 | 24 | 1.32 | .782 |
| | | % | 61.76 | 16.6 6 | - | 9.8 | 11.76 | | |
| 2. | There are office services between the two areas. | F | 40 | 50 | 10 | 44 | 60 | 3.628 | .529 |
| | | % | 19.60 | 24.5 0 | 4.9 0 | 21.5 6 | 29.41 | | |
| 3. | There is management linkage between the two areas. | F | 104 | 64 | 21 | 10 | 6 | 3.535 | .481 |
| | | % | 50.98 | 31.3 7 | 10. 29 | 4.90 | 2.94 | | |
| 4. | There is service provision linkage between the two areas. | F | 24 | 55 | 21 | 24 | 80 | 1.521 | 0.28 |
| | | % | 11.76 | 26.9 6 | 10. 29 | 11.7 6 | 39.21 | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 6 above illustrated political linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that there was a linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of administrations.

Out of 204 participants of the study, 126 (61.76%) of them strongly agreed, 34 (16.66%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 20(9.8%) of them disagreed and the rest 24 (11.76%) of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on whether it is linked with the rural areas in terms of administrations or not. The respondents' mean score 1.32 and deviated with standard deviation of 0.782 respectively which in turn indicated there was high linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of administration. From these responses, one can infer that there was high linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in administrative linkage.

On the table item two, 40(19.60%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, 10 (4.9%) of them responded undecided, 44 (21.56%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 60 (29.41%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if there were office services between the two areas or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 3.628 with standard deviation 0.529 respectively. From this item, there was high linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of office services.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if there was management linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not and out of 204 participants, 104 (50.985%) of them strongly agreed, 64 (31.37%) of them agreed, 21(10.29%) of them undecided, 10(4.9%) of them disagreed and 6(2.94%) of them strongly disagreed.

The mean responses of participants were 3.535 with standard deviation of 0.481 which indicated that there was high management linkage which made to link Sire town with its hinterlands just for the purpose of politics.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if there was service provision linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not.

Out of 204 participants, 24 (11.76%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 21(10.29%) of them indicated undecided, 24(11.76%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 80 (39.21%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 1.521 and standard deviation of 0.28 which indicated high service provision linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

The results obtained from interviews with the town administrators, and agriculture and rural development workers and kebele administrators indicated that there was good linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of management and other political services. This in turn highly agreed with the results obtained from the questionnaire of the respondents.

Similarly, the results obtained from observation made by the researcher indicated that there was high linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands in terms of politics and its movements.

4.2.2.4 Social Linkages

The researcher observed that there were some social linkages between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. But, the linkage was not appropriate and poor.

Table2.13: Social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands (N=204)

| No | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | Mean | SD | |
|----|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | 5 |
| 1. | There is ethnic to ethnic linkage between the two areas. | F | 24 | 20 | - | 34 | 126 | 1.312 | .98 |
| | | % | 11.76 | 9.8 | - | 16.66 | 61.76 | | |
| 2. | There is social welfare linkage between the two areas. | F | 40 | 50 | 10 | 44 | 60 | 1.312 | .72 |
| | | % | 19.60 | 24.50 | 4.90 | 21.56 | 29.41 | | |
| 3. | There is social mutualism linkage between the two areas. | F | 6 | 10 | 21 | 64 | 104 | 1.315 | .68 |
| | | % | 2.94 | 4.90 | 10.29 | 31.37 | 50.98 | | |
| 4. | There is good social linkage between the two areas. | F | 24 | 55 | 21 | 24 | 80 | 1.25 | 0.9 |
| | | % | 11.76 | 26.96 | 10.29 | 11.76 | 39.21 | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: *f*= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; *M*=mean; *SD*= standard deviation

Table 2.13 above illustrated social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that there was a poorly linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. From the study participants, 24 (11.76%) of them strongly agreed, 20(9.8%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 34 (16.66%) of them disagreed and the rest 126 (61.76%) of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on if there was ethnic to ethnic linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not.

The respondents' mean score 1.3127 and deviated with standard deviation of 0.982 respectively which in turn indicated there was low linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands in terms of social arena. From these responses, one can infer that social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands was inappropriately addressed.

On the table item two, 40 (19.6%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, 10 (4.9%) of them responded undecided, 44 (21.56%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 60(29.41%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if there was social welfare linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 1.312 with standard deviation 0.729 respectively. From this item, there was low social welfare linkage between Sire town and its rural area hinterlands.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if there was social mutualism linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not and out of 204 participants, 6(2.94%) of them strongly agreed, 10(4.9%) of them agreed, 21(10.29%) of them undecided, 64 (31.37%) of them disagreed and 104 (50.985%) of them strongly disagreed.

The mean responses of participants were 1.315 with standard deviation of 0.681 which indicated that there was very low social mutualism linkage within the two areas of the district.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if there was good social linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 24 (11.76%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 21(10.29%) of them indicated undecided, 24(11.76%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 80 (39.21%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 1.25 and standard deviation of 0.928 which indicated poor social linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

The Sire town administrators, woreda's agriculture and rural development office workers and kebele administrators were also asked on the intensity of social linkage that existed between Sire town and its hinterlands and they didn't deny that there was repulsions between some social strata to the other. However, they indicated that there was moderate social linkage between the two areas. This in turn highly disagreed with the results obtained from the questionnaire of the respondents. The researcher as the resident in the district observed that there was poor ethnic to ethnic linkage in terms of social welfare, social mutualism and enjoying equal social services among the rural and urban areas of the district.

4.2.3 Factors affecting Urban Rural Linkage between Sire Town and Its Hinterlands

To determine the elements influencing the urban-rural relationship between Sire town and its hinterlands, the researcher employed observation, interviews, and questionnaires to get the relevant data. The following methods of analysis and discussion were used with the results that these tools produced.

Table 2.14: Community Related Factors affecting urban-rural linkages (N=204)

| No | Variables | | Alternative Responses | | | | | Mean | SD |
|----|--|---|-----------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| 1. | There are chaos and skirmishes in the district so that the linkages were affected. | F | 130 | 60 | - | 10 | 4 | 3.381 | 0.88 |
| | | % | 63.72 | 29.41 | - | 4.9 | 1.96 | | |
| 2. | There is poor hospitability between the community and other communities. | F | 140 | 50 | - | 4 | 10 | 3.132 | .705 |
| | | % | 68.62 | 24.5 | - | 1.96 | 4.9 | | |
| 3. | There was mismatch between level of technology and modernity access between the two areas. | F | 146 | 34 | 5 | 13 | 6 | 3.28 | .829 |
| | | % | 71.56 | 16.66 | 2.45 | 6.37 | 2.94 | | |
| 4. | Urban area residents put the rural area residents under inferiorities. | F | 124 | 55 | 11 | 14 | - | 3.125 | .681 |
| | | % | 60.78 | 26.96 | 5.39 | 6.86 | - | | |
| 5. | There is a mismatch of demand between the urban area residents and rural area residents in terms of cooperation. | F | 180 | 24 | - | - | - | 3.521 | 0.578 |
| | | % | 88.23 | 11.76 | - | - | - | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 8 above illustrated Community Related Factors affecting urban-rural linkages. On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that chaos and skirmishes in the district affected linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

From the study participants, 130 (63.72%) of them strongly agreed, 60 (29.41%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 10 (4.9%) of them disagreed and the rest 4(1.96%) of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on if there was chaos and skirmishes in the district so that the linkage was affected or not.

The respondents' mean score 3.381 and deviated with standard deviation of 0.88 respectively which in turn indicated skirmishes and chaos highly affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

On the table item two, 140 (68.62%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, none of them responded undecided, 4(1.96%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 10 (4.9%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if there was poor hospitability between the community and other communities or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 3.1312 with standard deviation 0.705 respectively. From this item, it is possible to deduce that there was poor manifestation of hospitability between the communities of Sire town and its hinterlands which affected the linkage between them.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if there was mismatch between level of technology and modern access between the two areas or not and out of 204 participants, 146 (71.56%) of them strongly agreed, 34(16.66%) of them agreed, 5(2.45%) of them undecided, 13(6.37%) of them disagreed and 6 (2.94%) of them strongly disagreed. The mean responses of participants were 3.28 with standard deviation of 0.829 which indicated that mismatch between the two areas in terms of access to technology affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked urban residents put the rural area residents under inferiorities or not.

Out of 204 participants, 124 (60.78%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 11(5.39%) of them indicated undecided, 14(6.86%) of them indicated disagree and none of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 3.125 and standard deviation of 0.681 which indicated there was poor social linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands.

Additionally, on the table item five, the respondents indicated that there was a mismatch between the urban area residents and rural area residents in terms of cooperation. From the study participants, 180(88.23%) of them strongly agreed and 24(11.76%) of them agreed , none of them indicated undecided, disagree and strongly disagree to the question asked to them if there was a mismatch between the urban area residents and rural area residents in terms of cooperation or not. The mean score between the responses was 3.521 and standard deviation of 0.578 which indicated that mismatch of demand highly affected urban-rural linkage between the two areas.

The Sire town administrators, woreda’s agriculture and rural development office workers and kebele administrators were also asked if social related factors could affect urban-rural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not and they indicated that several factors attributed to communities affected the linkage between urban and rural areas in case of Sire town. .

Table 2.15: Environmental related factors affecting urban-rural Linkage in The Study Area (N=204)

| N o | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | | Mean | SD |
|--------|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| 1. | The distance from Sire town and the rural affected linkage between the two. | F | 140 | 40 | - | 12 | 12 | 3.64 | .82 |
| | | % | 68.27 | 19.6 | - | 5.88 | 5.88 | | |
| 2. | Inconveniences of topography of the rural affected the linkage between the two areas. | F | 154 | 50 | - | - | - | 3.532 | .50 |
| | | % | 75.49 | 24.5 | - | - | - | | |
| 3. | Lack of market interconnections affected the linkages | F | 136 | 44 | 2 | 16 | 6 | 3.628 | .52 |
| | | % | 66.66 | 21.56 | 0.98 | 7.84 | 2.94 | | |
| 4. | Lack of transportation facilities affected the two linkages. | F | 120 | 55 | 9 | 13 | 7 | 3.535 | .48 |
| | | % | 58.82 | 26.96 | 4.41 | 6.37 | 3.43 | | |
| 5 | The seasons especially the rainy season affected the linkage between the two. | F | 150 | 54 | - | - | - | 3.521 | 0.2 |
| | | % | 73.52 | 26.47 | - | - | - | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 2.15 above illustrated environmental related factors that affected urban-rural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that the distance from the town and rural areas affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. From the study participants, 140 (68.27%) of them strongly agreed, 40(19.6%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 12(5.88%) of them disagreed and strongly disagreed to the questions asked to them on if the distance from Sire town and the rural areas affected the linkage between the two areas or not. The respondents' mean score 3.64 and deviated with standard deviation of .82 respectively which in turn indicated that the distance between the two areas highly affected urban-rural linkage between them.

On the table item two, 154(75.49%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 50(24.5%) of them responded agree, none of them responded undecided, disagree and strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if inconveniences of the topography of the rural affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 3.532 with standard deviation 0.505 respectively. From this item, it is possible to infer that the topography of the study area highly affected the linkage between Sire town and its rural area hinterlands.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if lack of market interconnections could affect the linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not and out of 204 participants, 136(66.66%) of them strongly agreed, 44 (21.56%) of them agreed, 2(0.98%) of them undecided, 16 (7.84%) of them disagreed and 6 (2.94%) of them strongly disagreed.

The mean responses of participants were 3.628 with standard deviation of 0.529 which indicated that lack of market interconnection highly affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if lack of transportation facilities affected the linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 120(58.82%) of them indicated strongly agree, 55(26.96%) of them indicated agree, 9(4.41%) of them indicated undecided, 13 (6.37%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 7(3.43%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 3.535 and standard deviation of 0.481 which indicated lack of transportation facilities highly affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

Additionally, on the table item five, the participants were asked if the season especially rainy seasons affected the linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 150(73.52%) of them indicated strongly agree, 54(26.47%) of them indicated agree and none of them indicated undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with the mean score of 3.521 and standard deviation of 0.28 which indicated that season highly affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands.

The Sire town administrators, woreda's agriculture and rural development office workers and kebele administrators were also asked on if environmental related factors affected the linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands and they indicated that it highly affected the linkages between the two areas. The researcher as the resident in the district observed that several environmental related problems affected urban-rural linkages in the study area.

Table 2.16: Economic related factors affecting urban-rural Linkage in The Study Area (N=204)

| No | Variables | Alternative Responses | | | | | | Mean | SD |
|----|---|-----------------------|-------|-----------|----------|------|------|-------|-------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| 1. | There is a mismatch between economic status of urban residents and rural residents. | F | 134 | 52 | - | 18 | - | 3.197 | 0.872 |
| | | % | 55.83 | 25.4 9 | - | 8.82 | | | |
| 2. | Unnecessary migration from rural to urban also affected the linkage. | F | 125 | 57 | - | 4 | 18 | 3.127 | 0.990 1 |
| | | % | 60.78 | 27.9 4 | - | 1.96 | 8.82 | | |
| 3. | Lack of fixing the price of sells in urban and rural affected the linkage. | F | 166 | 30 | 4 | 4 | - | 3.133 | 0.982 |
| | | % | 78.43 | 14.7 | 1.9 6 | 1.96 | - | | |
| 4. | Lack of banks and saving institutions in the rural areas affected the linkage. | F | 170 | 34 | - | - | - | 3.166 | 0.746 68 |
| | | % | 83.33 | 16.6 6 | - | - | - | | |
| 5. | The housing styles of urban and rural residents affected linkage. | F | 165 | 25 | - | 8 | 6 | 3.513 | 0.633 8 |
| | | % | 68.75 | 10.4 1 | - | 3.92 | 2.94 | | |

Source, own Survey, 2024

Key: f= frequency; %= percentage; 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= undecided; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree; M=mean; SD= standard deviation

Table 10 above illustrated economic related factors affecting urban-rural linkage in the study area. On the table item one, majority of participants indicated that there was a mismatch between economic status of urban residents and rural residents.

From the study participants, 134 (55.83%) of them strongly agreed, 52 (25.49%) of them agreed, none of them gave undecided responses, 18 (8.82%) of them disagreed and none of them strongly disagreed to the questions asked go them on if there was a mismatch between economic status of urban residents and rural residents or not. the respondents' mean score 3.197 and deviated with standard deviation of 0.872 respectively which in turn indicated a mismatch between urban and rural residents in terms of economic status highly affected urban-rural linkage between the two residents. From these responses, one can infer that there were factors that attributed to economic status that affected urban-rural linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands.

On the table item two, 125 (60.78%) of the respondents indicated strongly agree, 57 (27.94%) of them responded agree, none of them responded undecided, 4 (1.96%) of them indicated disagree and the rest 18 (8.82%) of them indicated strongly disagree for the question asked to them on if unnecessary migration from rural to urban also affected the linkage or not. Additionally, the average mean responses of participants were 3.127 with standard deviation 0.9901 respectively. From this item, unnecessary migration highly affected urban-rural linkage between Sire town and its rural area hinterlands.

Moreover, on the table item three, the participants were asked if lack of fixing the price of sells in urban and rural affected urban-rural linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not and out of 204 participants, 166(78.43%) of them strongly agreed, 30(14.7%) of them agreed, 4 (1.96%) of them undecided, 4(1.96%) of them disagreed and none of them strongly disagreed. The mean responses of participants were 3.133 with standard deviation of 0.982 which indicated that lack of fixing the price of sells highly affected urban-rural linkage.

Furthermore, on the table item four, the participants were asked if lack of banks and saving institutions in the rural areas affected the linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not. Out of 204 participants, 170 (83.33%) of them indicated strongly agree, 34 (16.66%) of them indicated agree, none of them indicated undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with the mean score of 3.166 and standard deviation of 0.74668 which indicated that lack of banks and saving institutions in the study area affected urban-rural linkages in the study area.

Additionally, on the table item five, the participants were asked if the housing styles of urban and rural residents affected the linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands or not.

Out of 204 participants, 165(68.75%) of them indicated strongly agree, 25(10.41%) of them indicated agree, none of them indicated undecided, 8(3.92%) of them responded disagree and the rest 6(2.94%) of them indicated strongly disagree with the mean score of 3.513 and standard deviation of 0.6338 which indicated that variation in the housing styles between the two area residents highly affected urban-rural linkages in the study area.

The results obtained from Sire town administrators, woreda's agriculture and rural development office workers and kebele administrators also indicated that economic related factors highly affected the link between urban and rural hinterland of Sibu Sire district. Additionally, the researcher's own observation also indicated that economic variations between urban and rural residents highly affected the linkage that existed between the two areas.

4.3 Discussions

The main objective of the research was to assess rural - urban linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands. To this end, the researcher used questionnaire, interview and observation in order to gather data required for this study. Accordingly, the following results were discussed along with literatures reviewed. The first objective of the study was to see how Sire town was linked to its hinterlands. To gather the data required for this, questionnaire, interview and observation were used and the data obtained through the three tools were triangulated. From the data analyzed it had been indicated Sire town was poorly linked to its hinterlands.

This finding reversed with the findings extracted by other researchers. For instance, as it is described by Kammeier (2002) Input-output interrelationships, also known as coefficients, should be used to quantify the intensity and direction of these connections. The pattern of household and individual demand for (or expenditure on) consumer goods and services is summarized by consumption linkage, in contrast. To return to the agricultural example, the demand for agricultural products by farm and non-farm families, as well as the demand for non-agricultural goods and services by farm households, comprise the agriculture-related consumption connections. The interest in demand linkages is still motivated by two uses.

Additionally, Tegegne (2005) also elaborated that the urban and rural linkage between urban areas and their hinterlands should be strong, bonded, shared and cooperative.

It should also be dichotomy in which both the urban and rural residents enjoy similar benefits from both spaces. Hence the findings of the study as indicated above highly opposed with the finding generated by Tegene(2005). The study's secondary goal was about the type of linkage that existed between Sire town and its hinterlands. To gather the necessary data in this respect, the researcher used questionnaire, interview and observation. From the data analyzed, it had been indicated that there was no linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands in terms of economy, services, infrastructures and others. However, the study also revealed that there was linkage between urban and rural in terms of politics and agriculture. This result highly contradicted with the findings explained by prior researchers.

For instance, Tostensen (2004), Tegegne (2005), Hazell and Haggblade (1990) identified the type of linkages that existed between urban and rural hinterlands include economic linkage, social linkage, political linkage, physical linkage, service delivery linkage and others which in turn should be strong, facilitated and push forward for further interaction among one another.

According to these scholars urban rural linkage should be vivid, string and beneficial regardless of race, sexes and ethnicity between the urban and its hinterlands. The findings of these researchers highly contradicted with the findings generated from the above study.

The third objective was to identify factors affecting urban-rural linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands. To meet with this objective data were gathered using questionnaire, interview and observation. The data gathered and analyzed indicated that several factors affected urban-rural linkages of Sire town with its hinterlands.

The factors identified were communities' related factors, environmental related factors and economic related factors. These factors highly affected urban- rural linkages of Sire town with its hinterlands.

This finding highly agreed with the findings of prior researchers. Tegegne et al. (2005), for example, found that a variety of factors, including government policies, the physical environment, rural output, the organization of the rural economy, social-economic relationships, the natural environment, resource endowment, and geographical connection, influence the relationship between urban and rural areas. Similar results were also reported by Bajracharya (2005) and Chowdhury (2005) who reported social, economic and environmental factors too.

FIVE : CONCLUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

In this chapter, brief summary and conclusions as well as recommendations are presented.

5.1 Conclusion

This study was undertaken with the intention of examining the pattern and status, types as well as the factors affecting the rural-urban linkage in Sire town and its immediate hinterlands. Finally, the study found that there existed interaction and flows (flows of peoples, ideas, information, capitals, goods, services and others) between Sire town and its rural peripheries. For sure, urban households depend on agricultural products and resources that are originated from rural areas. In contrary to this, its counterpart rural households rely on the processed and semi processed manufacturing and services delivered in urban centers. Hence there is reciprocal flows and interaction between the two spaces and between sectors too

However, the linkage between this two spatiality and sectors were observed to be weak and low as a result of the past development plans/policies. Additionally, the linkage between the town and rural areas was not observed to be effective and efficient compared to the linkages assumed by literatures in the world. The town's linkage in terms of social, infrastructural, economical, trade, service deliveries and others was rated poor because the respondents indicated that there were no such types of linkages.

Additionally, there were poor social linkages, environmental linkages, infrastructural linkages, service delivery linkages and accessibility to transportation linkages. However, the study result indicated that there were linkages in agriculture and politics between Sire town and its hinterlands. Agriculturally Sire town is linked with its hinterlands by buying agricultural products from farmers and meat and dairy products from day to day. Politically, the town was also linked with its hinterland in terms of administration, service delivery of political institutions, police officers and official engagements and others activities.

The study result also revealed that communities' related, environmental related and economic related factors highly affected the linkages between urban and rural hinterlands of Sire town.

5.2 Recommendations

The development of both urban and rural area is only manifested through strong rural urban linkage. This is realized when the biases of the previous development policies are solved from its roots and the burdens of weak rural urban-rural linkage overcomes. For this matter, identifying the status and factors of rural urban linkage and alleviating its adverse impacts, thereby to promote sustainable urban rural linkage which meets the mutual benefits of the two spatial unit is the main concern of all institutions, experts, policy makers and individuals. Therefore, to overcome the existing factors in rural urban linkage in the study area, the researcher forwarded the following recommendations to all stakeholders.

1. Well networked road infrastructure that connects Sire town to its rural areas should be constructed by Oromia regional government & Sibu Sire Woreda administrative.
2. Safe, accessible and affordable transportation mode should be provided by Sibu Sire Woreda administrative for urban and rural households.
3. Small industries which are found in the town should be expanded thereby to create more jobs opportunity for the rural poor by Sibu Sire Woreda administrative & IMX Offices of Sibu Sire Woreda.
4. Different financial institutions, banks and other micro saving and credit associations should be established, and work hard in providing access and sufficient financial services in support of improving the livelihoods of poor rural and urban households through economic diversification.
5. Appropriate policy and strategy that facilitate how rural poor's are well benefited from the urban financial institutions to improve their livelihood should be designed and implemented in the study area by Sibu Sire Woreda administrative.
6. Concerned bodies should consult and create awareness for small scale rural farmers to improve their agricultural productivity and enhance family planning as a means to reduce poverty and improve livelihood by Sibu Sire Woreda agricultural office administrative & Sibu Sire Woreda healthy office.

7. Innovative marketing relationship that help encourage the flow of reliable market information's between value chain actors, including farmers, traders, and small- scale manufacturers, should be developed.

8. Stakeholders from both urban and rural areas should collaborate in planning, designing, piloting, implementing and evaluating of local economic development policies and strategies

9. The provision of the physical infrastructure such as feeder roads and better and more reliable power supplies that would facilitate the flow of resources between Sire town and its hinterlands should be improved by Sibu Sire Woreda administrative.

10. Future researcher are suggested to dig out more findings which were left untouched by the researcher by conducting detailed and comprehensive studies on the issue of rural -urban linkages.

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APPENDICES

Appendix "A": Questionnaire for Urban and Rural HHS

Addis Ababa University

Post Graduate Programs

Department of Geography

First of all, respondents, please accept my sincere gratitude for your voluntary completion of my questionnaire. This questionnaire's primary goal is to evaluate the urban-rural connections between Sire Town and its hinterlands. The research is being done in part to meet the requirements for a master's degree in geography. As a result, your kind comments greatly aid in the accomplishment of my research. I want to assure you that your responses will remain anonymous and that no portion of them will be duplicated, retrieved, or utilized in any other way. As a result, we respectfully ask that you answer the questions honestly.

I appreciate your cooperation in advance!

Section I: private data

1. Gender: A. Male; B. Female; 2. Status of marriage: A. Married; B. Single; C. Divorced; D. Widowed
3. Educational background: A. Bachelor's degree; B. College diploma; C. Master's degree; D. Other
4. Religion: A. Waqeffata; B. Muslim; C. Orthodox; D. Protestant; and others_____
5. Place of residence: A. Sire town. B. Head of a Rural Family. C. Other localities
6. Status of Marital Relationship: A. Married B. Single C. Widowed D. Divorced 7.

Section II: Questions for the Respondents to Answer

- ✓ The questions that follow include the following topics: causes influencing urban-rural connection in the study area; types of linkage formed by urban and rural hinterlands; and how urban and rural are linked. In the section below the possible replies, indicate which of the following statements you strongly agree with, agree with, disagree with, or are undecided

about. Kindly indicate your answers by placing a sign of right under 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in that order. Important information about the substitutes: 1= Very Agree, 2= In agreement 3= Indecisive 4= I disagree 5= Strongly Contrary

Table 11: Urban HHS Questionnaire

| No | Items | Alternative responses | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 1. | How the town is linked with its hinterlands | | | | | |
| 1.1 | It is linked with the rural areas in north, south, east and west directions. | | | | | |
| 1.2 | There is a mutual linkage between the town and its rural hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.3 | There is political linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.4 | There is economic linkage between Sire town and its rural hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.5 | There is infrastructural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.6 | There is agricultural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.7 | There is social linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.8 | There is good linkage between sire town and its hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.9 | There is moderate linkage between sire town and its hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 1.10 | There is high linkage between sire town and its hinterlands. | | | | | |
| 2. | Types of Linkages made | | | | | |
| 2.1 | There is linkage in cereals crops production and consumptions between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.2 | There are oil crops productions and consumptions between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.3 | There is beef cattle production and consumptions between the two areas. | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2.4 | There are dairy products productions and consumptions between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.5 | There is chicken production and consumptions between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.6 | There is linkage in clean water supply between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.7 | There is linkage in electric services between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.8 | There are road facilities between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.9 | There are schools, health facilities and transportation services between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.10 | There is administrative linkage between the two areas | | | | | |
| 2.11 | There are office services between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.12 | There is management linkage between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.13 | There is service provision linkage between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.14 | There is ethnic to ethnic linkage between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.15 | There is social welfare linkage between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.16 | There is social mutualism linkage between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 2.17 | There is good social linkage between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 3. | Factors Affecting The Linkages | | | | | |
| 3.1 | There are chaos and skirmishes in the district so that the linkages were affected. | | | | | |
| 3.2 | There is poor hospitability between the community and other communities. | | | | | |
| 3.3 | There was mismatch between level of technology and modernity access between the two areas. | | | | | |
| 3.4 | Urban area residents put the rural area residents under inferiorities. | | | | | |
| 3.5 | There is a mismatch of demand between the urban area residents and rural area residents in terms of cooperation. | | | | | |
| 3.6 | The distance from the town and the rural affected linkage between the two. | | | | | |
| 3.7 | Inconveniences of topography of the rural affected the linkage | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | between the two areas. | | | | | | |
| 3.8 | Lack of market interconnections affected the linkages | | | | | | |
| 3.9 | Lack of transportation facilities affected the two linkages. | | | | | | |
| 3.10 | The seasons especially the rainy season affected the linkage between the two. | | | | | | |
| 3.11 | There is a mismatch between economic status of urban residents and rural residents. | | | | | | |
| 3.12 | Unnecessary migration from rural to urban also affected the linkage. | | | | | | |
| 3.13 | Lack of fixing the price of sells in urban and rural affected the linkage. | | | | | | |
| 3.14 | Lack of banks and saving institutions in the rural areas affected the linkage. | | | | | | |
| 3.15 | The housing styles of urban and rural residents affected linkage. | | | | | | |

- 1) Mention the types of linkages made between Sire town and its hinterlands? _____
- 2) If you want to add more about urban-rural linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands, please add here? _____

Appendix "B" Interview for Officials

Addis Ababa University

Post Graduate Program

Department of Geography

Welcome to interviewee Firstly, I just wanted to say thank you for answering my interview questions voluntarily. This interview's primary goal is to evaluate the connections between Sire Town's hinterlands and urban areas. This research is being done to partially meet the requirements for a master's degree in geography. Your kind replies so greatly aid in the accomplishment of my research. I want to assure you that your answers will remain confidential and that no portion of them will be duplicated, recovered, or utilized in any other way. As a result, we respectfully ask that you answer the questions honestly.

I appreciate your cooperation in advance!

1. How is Sire town linked with its hinterlands? _____

2. What types of linkages do exist between Sire town and its hinterlands specifically?

3. How is Sire town linked to its hinterlands in infrastructure? _____
4. What are the opportunities for linking Sire town with its hinterlands in different dimensions?

5. What are the factors that affect linkages of Sire town with its hinterlands?

6. What other factors can you elaborate that daunted linkage of Sire town with its hinterlands?

7. Any other thing that you want to add with regard to urban-rural linkage between Sire town and its hinterlands, please indicate here _____

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!!

