

Exploring Challenges and Coping Mechanisms of Rural-Urban Migrant Street Vendors: The  
Case of Damot Sore Woreda Migrant Street Vendors in Addis Ababa

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

- AIDS      Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- DFID      Department for International Development
- HIV      Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- IOM      International Organization of Migration
- NPUSV    National Policy on Urban Informal Sector
- STI      Sexually Transmitted Infection
- UNCHS    United National Center for Human Settlements

Abstract

The study explored Challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant vendors in Addis Ababa. Qualitative case study design was employed. To collect data, in-depth interview was made with fourteen individuals. The finding of the study depicted challenges migrant vendors encounter. Migrant vendors encounter challenges of finance, livelihood insecurity, physical insecurity, problem of shelter and health. They cope with these challenges employing social, economic and cultural capitals. Implication of the research to social work profession is that social workers can play the role of intervention through advocating for the study participants based on the finding of the study.

Chapter one

Introduction

Background Introduction

Rural-urban migration is the difference of population distribution inside territory of a country with in a period of time (Ammasari, 1994). It began to occur in Europe when European countries witnessed industrialization. Now a day pattern of residence changed in Europe. Following pollution of environment, people prefer to live in environmentally better areas of countryside. Workers commute to cities seeking various services . (Kojima, 1996). In developing countries, there is a different pattern of population distribution. In developing countries, people migrate to urban areas at faster rate than it is in Europe. The migration of labor from rural to urban areas in developing countries attribute to the growth of cities (Chen,Valante and Zlontnik,1996).

Rural-urban migration plays significant role in its momentous effect of paving the way towards economic betterment. It is a vibrant social phenomenon playing crucial role for many people across Asia to flee destitution. It is important for growth and also impacts peoples' livelihood and well-being (Anh, 2003). Similarly, a study in Azerbaijan entails the positive impact of migration. In rural-urban migration, rural areas benefit from creation of new stream of income by rural-urban migration. It facilitates integration of society both in economic and social aspects. Migration has also positive implication for destination areas because of its contribution to urbanization (Aliyev, 2008).

Rural-urban migration is an opportunity to the poor in Africa. It played role of ensuring economic betterment. The remittance sent back by migrants to their families supports their economic situation owing to the reason that the remittance is used for different purposes such as

buying agricultural inputs. Sustainable development in turn reduces the level of poverty (Laczko and Agrazarm, n.d.).

As to Bhattacharya (2002), educational background of migrants dictates their livelihood at destination areas. Migrants having skill and knowledge join formal sector. Migrants lacking skill and knowledge join informal sector.

The elusive nature of informal sector made it difficult to have exact number of numerical data of people engaged in informal sector. However, there is general agreement that informal sector has increasing role in economic activity, particularly in less developed countries (Gottdiner and Budd, 2005).

Rural-urban migration is observed to have significant implication to the development of urban informal sector in India. Rural –urban migration and urban informal sector have strong linkage. The migrants with less skill cannot make bread in urban formal employment. This renders them engage in urban informal sector ( Chackroborty and Kuri,2013).

The rural-urban migration and informal sector nexus in African countries is explored by some studies. Study conducted in South Africa shows that rural-urban migrants have greater possibility of joining urban informal activities (Cornwell and Inder, n.d.). The informal business sector is of paramount importance to the Ethiopian economy. It absorbs the huge labor surplus in the agricultural sector (Becker, 2004).

This study explores challenges and coping mechanisms of rural- urban migrant street vendors: the case of Damot Sore Woreda migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa.

### Statement of the problem

Jagular (2009) indicates the preconditions of rural-urban migration in India using qualitative method. Migrants should be ready to fulfill economic demand of migration. They also need to fulfill mental and emotional readiness to migrate.

Studies conducted in Ethiopia indicate pushing and pulling factors of rural-urban migration. Poverty in rural areas featured through lack of access to good housing and lack of access to income generation activities push people to migrate to urban centers to mitigate the problems. The anticipated city life which encompasses opportunity of income generation activities pull people to migrate to urban centers as a remedy to escape rural destitution (Mohamed, 2006; Fework, 2007; Gudina, 2008).

Studies examined impacts of rural-urban migration. Beneberu (2012) studied economic impact of rural-urban migration in Southern Ethiopia using qualitative method. Accordingly, the impact of migration is reflected on both migrants and migrant sending households. Economic gain by migrants at destination areas is the major impact of rural-urban migration. Remittance sent back to migrant sending households is the other opportunity of rural urban migration. However, Adamnesh, Oucho and Zeitlyn (2014) points out remittance has no considerable implication. Migrants do not remit much in cash or kind to their household.

Albeit rural-urban migration has positive implications, it is not free from undesirable consequences. Okankhuele and Opatundo (2013) attested a couple of negative impacts of rural-urban migration in Nigeria employing mixed method. These are; absence of work force of the productive age that is vital for agricultural activities, inability of parents to get professional assistance of their children and abandoning rural areas with aged population. Belete (2006)

manifested negative impact of rural-urban migration on women in Chenchu Woreda of south Ethiopia using mixed method. Accordingly as male households migrated women left at home are affected by the labor gap. The social, cultural and institutional barriers which constrain women's effort to improve and diversify their livelihood and came out of poverty.

The findings of some studies depict the interplay among policy, development and migration. Guterres (2003) explored internal migration and development in east Timor using qualitative method. Governments in East Timor were introducing rural development policy with expectation of rural development would be solution to stop economic rural-urban migration but people continued to migrate. Seeger (2012) studied similar issue of the nexus among migration, public policies and economic growth in China through reviewing documents. Domestic policy in China effected to control migration. Despite the introduction of the policy, people continued to migrate being enticed by pull factors of migration. The domestic policy to control migration compounded with determination of people to migrate shaped economic failure and success in China.

Studies conducted on the rural-urban migration in Ethiopia focused on the cause and impact dimension of the phenomenon. The researcher did not identify studies that made investigation on challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors. Challenges and Coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors should be studied for different reasons. First, there is research gap on challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban Secondly, as literatures indicate most of rural-urban migrants after reaching their destination areas engage in informal sector more specifically in street vending activity that entails rural-urban migrant street vendors form significant portion of rural-urban migration. Hence, this study

explores challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors: the case of Damot Sore Woreda migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa.

### Objectives of the study

#### General objective

The study explored the challenges and coping mechanisms of Damot Sore Woreda migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa.

#### Specific objectives

- To explore challenges rural-urban migrant street vendors encounter
- To explore coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors against challenges

### Significance of the study

The study explores challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors. The studies conducted previously have emphasized on the causes and impact of rural-urban migration. The researcher did not identify researches that investigated challenges and coping mechanisms of migrant street vendors. Therefore, exploring challenges and coping mechanisms can have contribution in filling the knowledge gap in the area. The role that street vending plays as employment opportunity for people cannot be undermined. The scholarly scrutiny about challenges and coping mechanisms of street vendors can play its role for better understanding of street vending particularly by policy makers. In addition, the study will have social work implication to advocate for vendors.

#### Limitation of the study

The study is prone to limitations. Qualitative method employed for the study make it difficult to generalize the finding. The other limitation of the study is that though there are different street vending activities, the study due to time and money constraint encompassed only cloth vendors.

#### Delimitation of the study

Delimiting the study is necessitated due to different factors. Mainly owing to time and resource constraint, it is difficult to include all migrants from different areas engaged in street vending in Addis Ababa. So, the research is delimited to Damot Sore Woreda migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa.

## Literature review

### Introduction

This chapter includes definition of basic concepts. These are resilience and street vendors. Review of related literature on: challenges and opportunities of rural-urban migration, rural-urban migration and informal sector, reasons why people engage in street vending, challenges street vendors face and their coping mechanisms against the challenges are discussed. Theory that discusses about informal sector; the dualist theory and a theory that discusses about coping mechanism; multi-layered social resilience frameworks are also included.

### Definitions of basic concepts

#### Coping mechanism

Coping mechanism is closely related to the idea of survival and threat. It is a key concept of emergency management. It is also capacity to respond to and recover from something stressful (WHO, 1999).

#### Street vendors

Street vendors are people that are engaged in the activities of self-employment in the unorganized sector of urban centers. They use their labor for selling goods and services in the streets without fixed place (Bhowmik and Saha, 2011).

### Opportunities and challenges of rural-urban migration

Gravard and Aide (2007) show communities of migrants' origin obtain various opportunities from rural-urban migration. Migrants transfer knowledge to their communities on

how to utilize natural resources. In addition, they create awareness among their communities about the preservation of cultural inheritances using the knowledge they acquired from destination areas of migration. Migrants provide their communities with new ideas of conserving natural resources and cultural heritage. Gravard and Aide (2007) continues explaining that rural-urban migration reduces population pressure on scarce natural resources. It reduces pressure and minimizes the intensity of hunting and fire wood collection. This eventually gives rise to positive impact over ecological recovery in mountainous areas. The ecological recovery as the result of rural-urban migration is witnessed by expansion of forest coverage across myriad of Latin American mountain region. Thus, rural-urban migration in Latin America is compatible phenomenon with natural resource conservation. Gravard and Aide (2007) further elaborates the opportunity gained from rural-urban migration. The expansion of urban centers is highly dictated by rural-urban migration. The movement of people from rural areas to urban areas contributes to urbanization. The aggregate effect of migration and urbanization is economic development.

Gravard and Aide (2007) also portray the negative implication of rural-urban migration. It poses challenges particularly on migrant sending communities. The migrant sending areas suffer from loss of productive age group of society who are enticed by opportunities of education and work in urban centers. The absence of productive age highly affects agricultural production.

As Mosses,(2000) shows, rural-urban migrants are prone to different wobbly situations in the migrant life in India. These are lack of access to basic services such as water, shelter, fuel, sanitation and working in hazardous situation for long period. Authorities also chase them from their dwelling areas and their dwelling is demolished.

David (n.d.) reveals some consequences of rural-urban migration on urban areas in India. The rate of rural-urban migration has surpassed the rate of job creation in urban centers. The capacity of industries to provide job opportunities is also superseded by the number of job seeking migrants'. Rural-urban migration is also posing influence on urban social services that were not developed considering the influx of people to urban centers. Rural-urban migration has also contributed to saturation of labor in urban centers. This in return catapulted joblessness and economic problems.

As Olajide and Udoh (2012) describe, migrants attain knowledge and skill in destination areas. The knowledge and skill acquired through migration contributes to migrants to manage their life in a better manner and it makes them to be productive in their activities in Nigeria. Ajaro and Onokala (2013) entail the experience in Nigeria, rural communities sending migrants benefit from remittance sent. The remittance helps the community to withstand the environmental degradation on which the community relies for its livelihood. Remittance can appear in cash or in kind. The migrants can support their families through sending money, cloth and food. The support of migrants is not confined to finance and material; they also participate in different developmental schemes in their respective sending areas for their successful execution. Adebayo, Ouchou and Zeitlyn (n. d.) indicate destination areas of migration stake benefit of availability of cheap labor. The domestic activities, labor work at construction sites are the streams of livelihoods largely done by migrants. Rural-urban migration in Nigeria also has significant impact on expansion of prostitution on urban centers. The migration implication is witnessed for its contribution of income for local government. The migrants are taxed for their activities that plays its role as source of income. Migrant receiving communities share the

opportunity of migration because migrants pay rents to proprietors for the land they used that in turn positively affects the revenues of the area.

As Gimba & Kumshe (n.d.) show, in Nigeria services such as housing becomes difficult to access in urban centers because of pressure exerted by migrants. Rural-urban migration also poses challenge on environment. In urban centers owing to rural-urban migration, population grows at faster rate than the capacity of government to serve. Population growth leads to reduction of quality of life and augmentation of crime rate are also witnessed as effects of out migration. Adebayo , Oucho and Zeitlyn (n.d.) also point out that, provision of basic services such as water supply, transportation, health facilities and sanitation are challenged by rural-urban migration. Urban residents may lose jobs because they cannot compete with migrants who are willing to work at relatively lower payment.

Kwarkye and Anarfi (2007) indicate child migrants' health is threatened by engaging in activities that are beyond their physical strength in Ghana. In order to win their bread ,they carry heavy load that affects their health. The migrant children face challenge of in accessing shelter. The alternative for them is spending night in streets, which exacerbates risk of their fragile health conditions. The challenge has gender dimension in that female migrants suffer additional problem of exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) including HIV AIDS.

Munishi (2013) indicates challenges encountered by Massai migrants in Tanzania. The migrants encountered challenge to cover the cost of their basic needs such as food, shelter and transportation fare. The financial strain even makes them unable to support their families. Exploitation and oppression by their employers is also part of migratory life of the Massai because they either over work or payment do not match the level of their work. The migrants also suffer from health threats.

## Rural-urban migration in Ethiopia

### Opportunities of rural-urban migration

Hunnes (2012) indicates the rapid growth of Addis Ababa is partly related to rural-urban migration. The exodus of people from rural areas to Addis Ababa contributed a lot for the growth of the city particularly in feeding the city with cheaper labor and consumer..

The contribution of labor supply to areas of destination is the positive implication of migration. Areas of origin of migration benefit from income sent back by migrants. There is also skill transfer from migrants to areas of origin (Devereux et al., 2003; Degefa, 2005).

The Guraghe out migrants engage in different activities of their sending communities. Organizing social clubs that would facilitate the society's effort to deal with various social issues is one of the contributions of migrants. Migrants also engage in various developmental roles like, building schools and churches. They also play their part in taking care of communal areas. Supporting their families through providing oxen and farm equipments are also witnessed (Worku, 1995).

### Challenges of rural-urban migration

Rural-urban migration brings about population pressure on the urban centers that is incompatible to the capacity of local government to provide the necessary service. The rate of unemployment in urban centers also escalates following unmanageable rural-urban migration. In addition, social services of migrant destination urban centers cannot be provided to the society to the level of demand. The migrant sending communities face challenges such as depletion of work force that can engage in agricultural activities. The migrants coming back to their

homelands pose risk of exposing the community to sexually transmitted diseases, in most cases HIV/AIDS (Birru, 1997).

Women migrants in the hosting urban centers are victim of exploitation of sex and labor. The working environment of women is unsafe and they earn meager payment that cannot make them fulfill their demand. In addition, the human right of migrant women is violated since they engage in gender specific and unregulated livelihood activities such as, domestic work, entertainment and prostitution. Rural urban migration contributes to the increment of street children, growing rate of prostitution, criminality and unemployment ( Nigatu and Ansha,2009). The rural-urban migration is escalating the Addis Ababa's already existing problems of health, infrastructure and sanitation (Hunnes, 2012)

#### Rural-urban migration and informal sector

The livelihood of rural-urban migrants in most cases is confined to informal sector. They primarily trace work in informal sector owing to the fact that they do not possess adequate skills that are required to get jobs in organized sector. The increment of rural-urban migration over the years is positively related to expansion of urban informal sector. The majority of employment for the migrants is provided from informal sector. There is high tendency of migration of people to economically underdeveloped states in India subsequently engaging in informal sector (Pushindra and Alan,2014).

### Street vending

As Deshigkar and Grimm (2005) states migrants engage in self employment activities of informal sector. Self-employment makes significant portion of employment compared to wage employment in Asia. McCarty (2004) states that, street vending includes sex industry, selling different types of goods and engaging in labor activities. As Timalsina (2007), points out migrant street vendors in Nepal encounter challenges such as lack of fixed place to sell their goods and constant eviction from their selling areas by police.

#### Reasons for people to engage in street vending

People join street vending in Lesotho to have a source of income. Street vending is also employed as means of avoiding depending on others for economic purposes. Street vendors use their personal saving as start-up capital to begin street vending. They also buy smaller stocks on daily or weekly basis. Unfortunately, they cannot possess formal capital to buy large stock. (Tonga, n.d.).

Most of street vendors in Ethiopia had other livelihood activities previously. Women were domestic servants and men were daily laborers. They were compelled to leave their former jobs because of lack of good relationships with their managers. In addition, they joined street vending because they were doing heavy tasks that were compounded with lack of freedom; and they have motive of economic independence, responsibility of supporting family with different needs and lack of support from anybody to help them engage in organized sector. Absence of opportunity of formal jobs, illiteracy and lack of skill and also contributed for their engagement in informal sector (Girma, 2009).

People join street vending either because of lack of formal employment or inadequacy of income they generate in other livelihood activities. Some also engage in street vending due to the aggregate effect of the two factors (Akinboade, 2005; Cohen,2010 ; Fleetwood,2009;Fonchingong, 2005; Madichie & Nkamnebe, 2010 ;Onyenechere, 2009;Skinner, 1999) .

The informal sector activities in the urban centers proliferate due to inflation, insufficiency of wages for workers and the inability of formal sector to employ surplus job seekers. People engage in informal sector to use it as a means to transform to formal sector (Hart, 1973).

#### Challenges street vendors face

Competition for market among street vendors negatively affects their potential to work together. This eventually endangers their capacity to augment their income (Companion, 2010, Lithelm &Masuku, 2003). The challenge of informal trade has gender implication. Women face gender specific challenges in streetvending (Akharuzzaman & Deguchi, 2010; Akinboade, 2005; Bohmik, 2005; Fleetwood, 2009; Fonchingong, 2005; Onyenechere, 2009).Lack of skill for street vendors is the other challenge that street vendors face. This hampers them from transforming from informal sector to financiers (Cichello, 2005; Soetan, 1997).

Politics and policies pose challenge against informal trade. South African policies banned informal business activities, the sector that needs political and policy support and facilitation. Restriction against informal trade was very prevalent during apartheid era. The absence of policies that can appropriately support the sector in past and present may expose the sector to high taxation rates, increase income instability and limit trading partnership (Skinner, 1999).

### Coping mechanisms against challenging situations

Social networking provides pivotal contribution to cope with urban life for migrants in Dhaka. The urban section of population found at the bottom of economic pyramid perpetuates kinship tie to cope with urban life. The urban poor utilizing blood network is comprised of 12 %. In addition, marital network is employed as coping strategy comprising 7.4 % in the city of Dhaka. Community participation, grouping, factionalism and feud are characteristics of urban poor. When disagreement arises, they resolve it using the committee set up for the purpose of dealing with it. Most of the times they do not want intervention from judiciary bodies particularly the police to normalize situations. (Hossain, 2005).

To cope with competition and maximize opportunity of selling goods regularly, traders used different mechanism. They sale goods on loan without guarantee of repayment. They also sell their products at lower price in order to mitigate the problem (Companion, 2010; Neves, 2010). The traders also use politeness to withstand competition for market in Indonesia and Cambodia. Provision of quality goods with affordable price is also utilized. They also try to use numerical advantage by selling more goods. In addition, diversification of goods is the other mechanism (Suryadarama, Poesero, Budiyatis, Suryahadi and Rosfadhilam, 2010).

Munishi (2013) points out that Massai migrant in Tanzania employ different coping mechanisms against exploitation and operation. They constantly search for their employers to have their salary paid on time without deduction. In addition, they would call their masters on phone to get their wage. The Massai migrants also have coping mechanism against physical insecurity. They employed running away from working areas and hiding to cope with the threat. Economic capital such as livestock, land and agricultural products are used in order to cope with the challenge of unemployment, income insufficiency and shelter. As World Bank (2001)

states, due to the absence of organized social protection mechanisms in Africa, the poor use variety of informal coping strategies to cope with challenges. The coping mechanism is organized at individual or household level whenever exposure to shock happens. The strategy can be reactive or proactive to the shocks.

Tollossa (2008) shows that the urban poor in Addis Ababa change style of meal to cope with economic problem. The number of meals eaten on a day may be reduced to help them mitigate the problem. They also get support from their relatives to withstand different precarious situations.

Odulana and Olomajeye (1999) indicate coping mechanism of urban poor in Nigeria. Accordingly, they change the style of eating and dressing to cope with financial quandary. They also diversify their livelihood in order to widen possibility of earning more. Stopping support to their families, seeking for alms, stopping schooling their children, getting loan from their friends are the other coping strategies against economic shocks. UNCHS (2000), when the poverty level elevates to its climax the poor employs coping mechanisms that are against the societal norms such as begging and prostitution

## Theoretical framework

### Dualist theory

According to dualist theory, the existence of informal sector is related to slow rate of economic development. This retards the opportunity of labor to be employed in the formal sector and hence remain in the informal sector (Tokman, 1978).

It is believed that industrial flourishment could result in widening the base of formal employment on the basis that there is positive correlation between production, employment and productivity. In addition, the output of industrial growth would result in trickling down its effect in the form of redistribution of income and resource throughout society (Moser, 1978).

The theory explains formal and informal sector have no linkage with each other. They are contrary to each other. Informal sector is defined in contrast as businesses in the formal sector (Wahnschafft, 1982). The informal economy is base for formal sector with its feature of having no registration, regulation, taxation and with its existence of outside the modern economy (Tokman, 1989). The urban informal sector provides job opportunity for rural-urban migrants. The informal economy is known by its dynamism and its potential to provide more jobs given it gets policy support from government (Teltscler, 1994).

### The Multi- Layered Social Resilience Frame Work

According to this framework, resilience encompasses a threat and competence that is developed against that threat. In the resilience building process there is involvement of different social actors. These are individuals and social actors. These actors strengthen both reactive and proactive capacity of resilience ultimately bringing about competence against the threat. These

actors capacitate the resilience building process through transforming economic, social, cultural and symbolic capital (Obrist, Pfeiffer and Henley, 2010). In the resilience building process, it is imperative to understand two important concepts. These are 'proactive' and 'reactive' capacities. Reactive capacity involves simultaneous action against a threat happening or has just happened. Proactive capacity involves readiness to react to a threat before it happens through anticipation. Replacing the past rule of doing things by the new ones, creating new alternatives to deal with a threat that will happen in future either to minimize its impact or prevent entirely (Giddens, 1984).

The multi layered social resilience framework entails economic, cultural and symbolic capitals as precondition for resilience building (Bourdieu, 1984; DFID 2000). The economic capital encompasses access to and ownership of economic resources that could be in the form of cash or asset. Cultural capital connotes knowledge, skill or education (Bourdieu, 1984). Cultural capital is further sub divided in to three forms, notably embodied aspects such as personal dispositions, habits and objectified aspects such as knowledge and tradition stored in material forms, e.g. art as well as institutionalized aspects such as educational qualifications (Bourdieu , 1984, ).

Symbolic capital portrays the role of power relations in facilitating resilience building. The respect and acceptance possessed by actors such as individuals, and institutions or systems in the resilience building process facilitate the actors' ownership and access to capitals. (Bourdieu, 1984).

The Multi layered social resilience framework is strength based approach, redirecting attention to actors' personal strength and support emanating from institutions surrounding them (Turner, Roger and Pamela, 2003).

## Chapter Three

### Research Methods

#### Research Design

The study employed qualitative case study design. The sources of data for this particular study were both primary and secondary ones. The primary source were Damot Sore Woreda rural urban migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa. Damot ore woreda . Secondary data was also used to support the primary data. Sample selection was made using snowball sampling. Finally, data gathered were analyzed by transcribing and changing the transcribed data into themes.

#### The rationale for employing case study design

Qualitative case study assumes that social reality is a human creation, it interprets and concretizes meaning from peoples' beliefs and practices (Denzin and Lincoln,2011)

As it is indicated above by the reviewed literature on case study, the investigator also believes in subjective reality of things. The information for the phenomenon to be investigated that is challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrants can be gathered through involving the study's participants to express their practices and experiences without restriction. Hence, this study employed case study design.

#### Participant selection

Purposely Damot Sore Woreda which is situated in Wolaita zone south Ethiopia is selected in order to delineate the origin of migrant vendors in Addis Ababa. In addition, the researcher has experience of working in the woreda that rendered him to know the phenomenon of rural urban migration in the community.

The study employed snowball sampling in order to select study's participants. According to Flowerdew and Martin (1997), the term snowball describes using one contact to help you recruit another contact, which in turn can put the researcher in touch with someone else. The initial contact may be a friend, relative, neighbor or someone from a social group or formal organization.

This research employed snowball sampling because it would be hard to get migrant street vendors more specifically migrant cloth vendors from Damot Sore Woreda in Addis Ababa who are needed to participate in the study without somebody who can play role to get the researcher connected with other vendors. Hence, through a migrant cloth vendor with who the researcher already had acquaintance, other migrant cloth vendors were reached to be interviewed.

#### Method of Data collection

Data sources for case study method includes: documentation, archival records, interviews, physical artifacts, direct observations and participant observation ( Yin,2003). However, this study employed in-depth interview for primary data collection

#### In-depth interview

In-depth interview is important for a detailed collection of information about a phenomenon under study. It also provides a comfortable situation between the researcher and the study's participant because information is gathered through conversation. (Neale and Boyce, 2006)

In-depth interview was used for primary data collection. In depth interview was guided by open-ended interview guidelines that were prepared in compliance with the research question. The researcher did not pre-determine the number of participants in in-depth interview. The researcher continued dealing with the study participants until the sufficiency of data to answer

research questions or until data saturation reached. Hence, the researcher continued to interview fourteen interviewees (9 males and 5 women) who are cloth vendors.

#### Secondary data sources

In this study, secondary data were collected from different published and non published materials which include research works, books, internet sources, journals regarding migration and street vending and other issues which appeared to be imperative for the completion of the study.

#### Data analysis

Powell and Renner (2003) pointed out qualitative data analysis methods. Getting to know the data is an important point in qualitative data analysis. This includes transcribing the data and to read and re-read the text. In addition, identifying themes and organizing them in to coherent categories is also included.

The data were tape-recorded using Wolaitigna that is vernacular language of the interviewees. Then, the researcher made transcription and translation of the data. The investigator made effort to keep the originality of the information during translation and transcription. Then, he read and re-read the data in order to have deep understanding on it. The transcribed data was then organized and analyzed through careful interpretation of meanings and cross checking of associations between categories. In addition, coding technique was used to check for the pattern of frequencies on specified categories.

### Trustworthiness of data

In qualitative research, the investigator can be biased in the collection and interpretation of data. Therefore, there should be techniques to confirm the credibility of findings (Bowen, 2009). Therefore, in order to confirm the rigor of the data, the researcher used the following strategies:

**Expert judgment:** The researcher consulted persons having experience on the topic. Their professional involvement in the study happened throughout the study, during the interviewee transcription, emerging categories from those transcripts and the final report.

**Data triangulation:** Primary data were collected from interviewing the rural-urban migrant street vendors. The data collected from interviewing were triangulated among themselves.

**Note taking:** The investigator was taking notes. The points that the researcher observed were written based on the observation checklist. Note taking was undertaken before, during and after interviews.

### Ethical considerations

The study participants were told in advance that there would be no immediate benefit they would get from the study. They were also informed about the purpose of the study that was to provide some inputs for policy making and action intervention. The interviewees were also told about the confidentiality of their information. Their right to stop participating in the study at any time made integral to the study. Therefore, the research was conducted with the consent of the participants.

## Chapter Four

## Findings

In this chapter, major findings of the study are presented. The reasons why migrants engaged in street vending, challenges migrant vendors encounter and their coping mechanisms against the challenges are stated.

## General background information of the study's participants

A total of 14 migrant street vendors were interviewed. Thirteen respondents educational background did not exceed primary level. Two of them were diploma graduates. All respondents are single. The age composition of the participants is found between the ranges of 21-35. The summary of the general background information is presented in the table below.

Table 1 General background information

Name of Participants	Sex	age	Educational level	Marital status	Number of children
Bakalo	male	22	Dropped out in grade 4	single	-
Aymalo	male	21	Grade 6 complete	single	-
Bapite	female	33	Dropped out in Grade 6	single	-
Dalgite	female	25	Grade 3 complete	single	-

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Fishale	male	27	diploma	single	-
Ishale	female	26	Grade 2 complete	single	-
Aykale	female	32	Dropped out in grade 5	single	-
Aymalo	male	23	Dropped out in grade 4	single	-
Chinasho	male	35	diploma	single	-
Galaso	male	26	Grade3 comp.	single	-
Martane	female	29	Grade 4 comp.	single	-
Arba	male	30	Grade 5 comp.	single	-
Seta	male	29	Grade 3 complete	single	-
Fosha	male	28	Grade 5 complete	single	-

### Challenges migrant street vendors face

In this section, constraints that migrant street vendors face are presented. Financial constraint, livelihood insecurity, constraint related to shelter, physical insecurity and health challenges of vendors are presented based on the finding from the interview.

#### Financial constraint and livelihood insecurity

Participants of the study pointed out that there are occasions of facing financial problems. Income they generate some times does not cover different necessities, particularly the sporadically increased house rent and expenditure of food. The financial predicament is caused by confiscation of their goods and lack of fixed place to sell their goods.

One of the participants pointed out the following perspective on financial constraint: “I sometimes face money shortage. This causes problem to cover cost of food and house rent. The money problem becomes worst when my goods are confiscated (Chinasho).”

Another migrant vendor narrated the following point:

I have been struggling with problem of money. I could not so far get customer that buys cloth from me in regular basis because of absence of fixed place of selling. I change place of selling cloth regularly in order to escape security workers who chase street vendors; because of this, I face problem of money (Martane).

All of the interviewees also told that they face livelihood insecurity. Some vendor who goes to street can get him empty handed after awhile if what he or she vends is confiscated. Confiscations of vending material are not the only source of uncertainty of their activity. There are occasions that vendors are not fortunate to sell something particularly when the patrol of

security workers is tight. Sometimes their duty becomes running away from security workers not selling. The researcher also observed that street vendors were running away to escape from security workers.

One of the interviewees uttered his experience about insecurity of street vending as following:

It was after three days since I started vending that I was confiscated. I did not despair and continued vending .Then I managed to vend for only a month without being confiscated. Having no alternative I maintained vending but I was confiscated for me third time since I began vending a week ago. Now also, I do not know what will happen in the future (Galaso)

A vendor narrated about his experience of livelihood insecurity as: “Street vending is one of the most insecure livelihoods. Sometimes I manage to sell and sometimes I remain selling no piece of cloth. Usually, I come to street with fear I may go back selling nothing.”

#### Constraints of Shelter

Frequently soaring house rent: the study participants told that they are anxious about untimely augmentation of house rent. According to them, owners of the house increase monthly house rent very frequently which is so disproportionate with the income they can generate.

An interviewee talked about the problem of shelter in relation to its soaring price:

I rented a room with other comrades. Initially, the rent was not expensive. However, the owner has been increasing the rent frequently that is becoming hard to afford. I am trying maximum effort to cover it but sometimes it becomes difficult (Bakalo).

A participant confirms the price related problem of shelter:

The problem is that the rent is increased with in short period. Some times within two months, the other time within three months. When it becomes very hard, I with others who rent together change the house but the same challenge await( Seta).

Physical insecurity

The empirical evidence indicates that there is a challenge of physical insecurity. Security workers, those in charge of controlling street vending pose physical challenge. Sometimes the security workers do not go away only confiscating the cloth they vend; they also inflict physical attack. The challenge does not end in physical insecurity sometimes it goes beyond that to the extent of costing life amid the effort of running away to avoid confiscation of goods and physical threat.

An interviewee in this regard uttered the following experience:

When I was vending, security workers came to confiscate my property but I did not allow them to take it away easily, then they beaten me. Physical attack is not that much hard, sometimes, vending costs life. Ones a women street vendor was vending cloth on the street. When she was selling, security guards approached her. When she saw them, she

ran away. Unfortunately, when she tried to cross the other side of the road she collided with a car and died immediately ( Aykale).

Another participant expresses his experience of physical insecurity as the following:

Two months ago, I was vending on the street of Yeka sub city. After I started vending for a few minutes, security workers arrived to confiscate the cloth I vend. Then I tried to struggle, with them in order to avoid confiscation. Nevertheless, when I was trying to struggle they kicked me very badly which turned to wounds on my body. Finally, I recovered being medicated by the help of my friends (Arba).

#### Health challenge

Some interviewees have unveiled situation of health threat. There are different dimensions of health threat. These are renting a narrow room in-group, the nature of livelihood consuming much energy and financial constraint for medication.

Migrant vendors rent rooms in-group. They do so to deal with rent of the room. However, sharing a room beyond its capacity of accommodation risks their health because it gives rise to suffocation. As the result, they are exposed to catching communicable diseases from one another as the interviewees below point it out.

The study participant revealed that:

Due to financial reasons, I rented a narrow room together with other six friends. I did so to reduce the burden of paying house rent. The crowded nature of living in a class attributes to transmittion of diseases from one another. Because of the problem if someone among us catches small cold, most of us usually contract it (Fosha).

Vending needs constant movement from place to place for different reasons. One of the reasons is to make oneself out of scene of security workers chasing the vendors. The researcher observed that vendors were changing place of vending regularly which also evidenced by information got from interviewee.

An interviewee said the following regarding this point:

The nature of my work needs frequent movement from place to place and running. In order to lessen the possibility of being caught by security workers, I change places of vending regularly within hours, which consumes energy very much. Movement does not always need walking but also some times running a way in cases of seeing the security workers who if catch me would confiscate the cloth I vend. Frequent movement in the sun exposes me regularly to headache (Seta).

As far as health threat is concerned, it is not only exposure to diseases that migrant vendors are suffering. Shortage of money to medicate oneself after contracting a disease is also the other dimension of the challenge.

One of the interviewees articulated the following confirming the health threat:

Once I was profoundly sick having sever fever and headache. The problem during then was that I had no money to be medicated .I have a friend who borrows me some amount of money when I need .Unfortunately, this time he himself had no enough money for my medication. With the severity of the disease, I had no opportunity of medication until my friend got enough money two days later (Fishale).

To conclude, the study unveiled different constraints that the migrant street vendors grapple with. Financial constraint is one of those challenges. Financial problem is caused mainly by the nature of the livelihood. Street vendors do not have fixed place of selling their goods which results in financial deficit to cover different expenditures. As street vending is an outlawed activity vendors are confiscated of their goods when they are arrested by security workers in charge of street vending which exacerbates the already fragile situation of vendors. Livelihood insecurity, constraints of shelter, physical insecurity and health challenge are also found out to be major problems.

### Coping mechanisms against challenges

This part of the finding encompasses the coping mechanisms employed by vendors against different challenges that were listed in previous pages. These are, coping mechanisms against financial constraint, livelihood insecurity, physical insecurity, problem of health and problem of shelter.

#### Coping mechanism against financial constraint and insecurity of livelihood

Migrant vendors practice various coping mechanisms in order to deal with financial constraint and livelihood insecurity. They save money individually and collectively. The individual basis saving is practiced when ever vendors they have money more than their consumption. Collective saving is done through membership in a traditional saving institution called 'ikub'. Changing the style of meal by reducing three meals per a day to two and one is the other coping mechanism against the challenge. This helps them deal with food expenditure. Sometimes buying cows and grains in the countryside to sell back at the time of financial and livelihood quandary is the proactive coping by vendors. Moreover, engaging in labor work

helping each other are also found out by the empirical evidence as coping mechanism against the aforementioned challenges.

Saving: They save irrespective of the amount, how little it could be in order to deal with the challenge of financial constraint and livelihood insecurity.

An interviewee pointed out the following in this regard: “I cannot survive unless I save to cope with the problem of financial problem and livelihood insecurity. I try to save some money from what I get no matter how little it could be to use when I run short of money” (Aymalo).

Another interviewee perpetuates the saving mechanism:

I save some amount of money from what I get in order to use when I face shortage of money. I do not always sell. There are days where I lack opportunity of selling because of different constraints. For instance, police chases regularly that hinders me from selling. Therefore, for this kind of problem I save money (Bapite).

Ownership of assets: One of the resilience used by some migrant vendors is owning asset. Owning some property at countryside is indicated as coping mechanism against the problem of finance and insecurity of livelihood. They own assets like cows and oxen. Buying grain during harvesting season is the other coping mechanism of migrant street vendors against the financial problem. The reason for choosing harvesting season is that usually the price of grain drops down during this season which maximizes the possibility of profitability when it is sold.

A migrant vendor in this regard stated the following experience:

When sometimes I get income more than my consumption, I go to countryside in order to buy something that can be sold back to use when I face financial problem. I buy animals like ox and cow because as they reproduce I expect I can get more profit when I sell them (Dalgite).

A migrant vendor attested the following point on the matter:

When the harvesting season arrives, I go to rural area where my family lives .There I buy some amount of grain as per my financial capacity. I sell the grain back mainly when I need money and considering profit advantage compared to the initial price of buying it (Chinasho).

Changing the habit of eating: Migrant vendors in order to deal with the problems, skip one or two of the meals and eat less. They reduce three times a day meal to two and one and even when they eat three times, the amount of food that is assumed to be eaten by a single person is to be eaten by people more than one in order to share price so that payment may not be difficult.

As far as eating less is concerned, a migrant street vendor said the following:

Usually because of the financial problem I face, I eat only breakfast and dinner. Even breakfast and dinner is not up to the amount I have to eat. I know regularly eating less can weaken me physically but since financially I am incapable of eating to the extent it should be, I could do nothing except this (Aymalo).

Engaging in labor work: The interviewees spoke that engaging in labor work is the other solution used by migrant vendors in order to cope with the problem of finance and insecurity of vending. Labor work is easily accessible work. It does not demand qualification. It nor needs skill and knowledge that makes migrant vendors use it as alternative solution.

One of the interviewees in this regard said the following:

The income I get from vending does not suffice my demand always. When I run short of money or vending is difficult because of tight security, I look for alternative solution, which in most cases is labor activity, like carrying bags for passengers from and to bus station and working in construction sites, which demand labor (Fosha).

An interviewee strengthens engaging in supplementary activities as coping mechanism: “I engage in construction works. There is demand for laborers in Addis Ababa. To get solution for money shortage I go there. Without much tire, I get this opportunity. Labor work helps me fill the financial gap (Seta).

Migrant vendors indicated that they use collective reaction as coping mechanism against the problem of finance and job insecurity. They organize themselves in traditional saving institution called “ikub” to save money weekly. A member who faces very critical and urgent problem can be prioritized to use money but out of this case, lot is casted to identify who can get the money each week. Another coping mechanism against financial and livelihood insecurity is helping each other through aid and loan.

An interviewee on the issue of “*ikub*” said the following:

I used to suffer from financial constraint very much since I started vending. My friend advised me to be member of traditional saving association called *ikub* established by migrant vendors as solution for my frequent problem of finance. I became member paying the initial payment. Even though it has not mitigated the problem totally, it has positive influence in my financial needs (Galaso).

Getting help and borrowing from friends is attributed to coping mechanism of migrant vendors against financial constraint. When somebody faces the problem of finance, he or she can request a friend who can help either as loan or aid.

A migrant street vendor evidences this:

The cloth I was vending one day confiscated by security workers. Then, I had no money to re start the business. I requested my friend to borrow me money who is street vendor too. Fortunately, he gave me the money and I restarted the business again using that money. After I began generating income, I repaid the loan (Arba).

Coping mechanism against the problem of shelter

The interviewees attested that because the house rent is difficult to be managed by an individual, they rent a room in-group. This reduces the difficulty of affording house rent. The collective reaction of migrant vendors attributed to cope with challenge related to shelter.

On this issue, an interviewee spoke the following:

Initially I tried to rent alone because I had some amount of money that I got selling two oxen and grain. Despite the initial sense of capability, gradually my financial capacity depleted that it became very problematic to manage monthly payment of the house rent. Then, I decided to search for someone who lives together sharing the price of rent. Fortunately, I got someone and then we became two in number but now the number grew into five (Fosha).

An interviewee confirms the necessity of togetherness to deal with the problem of shelter:

The main problem with regard to shelter in Addis Ababa is difficulty to afford it. To overcome the problem I rent together with others. We pay the rent together. Renting a room in -group is much better than renting alone because I cannot pay alone (Aymalo).

Coping mechanism against physical insecurity

Running away: Migrant vendors stated they run away when they notice the arrival of security workers at their vending areas in order to avoid physical threat. When they run away, they avoid possibility of being physically attacked that in most cases happen when they struggle against security workers not to be confiscated.

An interviewee has the following testimony in this regard:

I run away when I realize security workers come to area where I vend. Unless I run away, I know that they would confiscate my vending cloth and at this time, I might struggle to avoid confiscation that would result in physical attack against me (Arba).

### Coping mechanism against the problem of health

Self-medication: Self-medication is one of the coping mechanisms against the problem of health. Some of the migrant vendors clarified they prefer pharmacies to other health facilities, like clinics. The reason is that in pharmacies there may not be diagnosis which escalates the price of medication. They go to pharmacies determining which drug to buy. In order to cope with their financial inability to be medicated in health centers that offer full service including diagnosis, they only buy drugs based on the symptom they feel from drug stores.

A migrant street vendor said the following in this regard:

When I get sick, it is usually headache that I suffer from. When I feel it, I go to drug store and buy paracetamol. If I go to clinic, they would charge me with a lot of money that I cannot afford ( Galaso).

Using garlic: Using garlic is also manifested by some migrant vendors as coping mechanism against health challenge. Migrant vendors indicated that traditionally they know eating garlic prevents disease. Therefore, in order to exploit the advantage they use it either with meal or without meal.

An interviewee narrates his experience as the following: “My parents usually use garlic believing that it prevents disease. For me also it has become a habit. Most of the time when I eat my meal, I use garlic. I believe it prevents disease as my parents do (Ishale).

An interviewee confirms using garlic as coping mechanism against health threat

Garlic is believed to be protective spice. Mostly, I use it when I eat my meal. In our society, it is nice when it is served with traditional coffee prepared from the leaf of coffee. Here in Addis, I cannot do that because there is no coffee leaf to be sold. The alternative is to use it with other dishes (Fosha).

In conclusion, migrant vendors devised different coping strategies against constraints. They cope with financial constraints and livelihood insecurity through saving, changing the style of meal, labor work through support from friends and owning assets such as grain and animals at countryside. They cope with health threat through self-medication and using garlic. Their coping mechanism against problem of shelter is renting in-group.

## Chapter Five

### Discussion

The study explores, challenges and coping mechanisms of Damot Sore Woreda migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa. Hence, this section of the thesis presents the discussion of major findings in relation to what prior studies have shown and in line with selected theories.

#### Challenges migrant street vendors encounter

The research result shows financial constraint encountered by migrant street vendors. The magnitude of financial constraint escalates to the level of inability to fulfill basic needs such as food and house rent. Absence of fixed place of selling exacerbates the financial constraint of migrant vendors. Migrant vendors change place of selling frequently to avoid eviction, which results in problem of accessing customers who buy goods in permanent manner that in turn negatively affects financial situation of vendors. The financial challenge that migrants suffer is also attested by studies reviewed. (Kwarkye and Anarfi, 2007 Munishi, 2013 and Timalsina, 2001).

The study reveals a sense of uncertainty of migrant vendors about their livelihood. The prevalence of confiscation of their property by police caused sense of insecurity about their livelihood. The insecurity of livelihood can pose the vendors to anxiety that could in turn result in psychological problem. Though no livelihood can have certainty in its absolute sense the insecurity of vending livelihood is maximum. This can be related to the illegality issue of vending that exposes vendors for confiscation.

One of the principal setbacks that migrants face at the destination areas is related to shelter. Based on the unaffordability of houses in the city of Addis Ababa, the problem of

shelter became part and parcel of migrant hood life. The shelter problem of migrants is supported by previous studies (Mosses, 2000; Kwarkye and Anarfi ,2007 and Munishi ,2013). Mistreatment by house owners is identified as dimension of shelter problem in this study. The shelter problem is not confined to individuals engaged in street vending but situations such as confiscation of goods and livelihood insecurity worsen shelter problem of vendors.

The study unveiled physical insecurity of migrant street vendors. The security workers who are in charge of controlling street vending inflict physical attack on vendors. Physical threat against migrant street vendors is supported by a previous research. Munishi (2013), for instance, shows the physical threat of migrants in Tanzania.

The investigation shows that migrant street vendors encounter health threat. The health threat of migrants is ascertained in previous studies (Kwarkye and Anarfi,2007; Munishi 2013).

### Coping mechanisms against the challenges

#### Coping mechanism against threat of financial constraint and job insecurity

**Economic capital:** The multi-layered social resilience framework elaborates people use economic capital as prerequisite to cope with shocks. This entails command over economic resource either in the form of cash or asset. Migrant vendors confirm this by using economic capital through saving and ownership of assets.

**Cultural capital:** The multi layered social resilience framework accounts for cultural capital as prerequisite for coping mechanism. Habit that is the specific facet of cultural capital is established as precondition for resilience building in multi layered social resilience framework. This is maintained by empirical evidence of the study. Migrant street vendors addressed that in

order to cope with financial and job insecurity constraint, they change the habit of eating by reducing the the number of meals per a day from three to two and one. In addition, they engage in labor activities to cope with the problems. With regard to changing the style of eating, there are previous researches corresponding to the finding indicating that migrant people in cities change the style of eating in order to cope with financial constraint ( Tollosa, 2008 ; Odulana & Olamajiye,1999).

Migrant vendors engage in labor work when they encounter financial problem and work insecurity. As soon as they ensure money they have cannot fulfill their demand and they cannot carry out their vending activities because of security patrol, and hence, they engage in labor work, which will have immediate solution for their problems. This finding is perpetuated by empirical evidence of study in Nigeria depicting that people engage in different supplementary activities like labor work in order to cope with financial problems ( Odulana & Olamajeye,1999).

Social capital: multi –layered social resilience framework ascertains the importance of social capital for resilience building .Migrant vendors cope with financial constraint and livelihood insecurity using social facet of resilience building and livelihood insecurity which included membership in traditional saving institution called ‘ikub’ and getting help from friends in form of loan and aid.

Migrant vendors utilize traditional saving institution called “Ikub” to cope with the financial problem and livelihood insecurity. They save in the association no matter the amount of saving. Traditional saving institution called ‘ikub’ is actually not saving mechanism practiced by street vendors rather it is common means of dealing with financial issues in the entire community in Ethiopia. Ikub as social capital cannot be perceived only in terms of financial

dimension it can play positive role to strengthen togetherness among vendors so that they can help each other and discuss over different issues.

The other social capital is getting support from friends. Accessing financial support from friends either as loan or as aid is used as coping mechanism against the challenges. A study in Bangladesh, Dhaka Hossain (2005) supports this finding in that migrants in employ networking to cope with challenge of urban life.

#### Coping mechanism against the problem of shelter

Social capital: Multi-social resilience framework portrays social capital as a precondition for resilience building. The empirical evidence from the study further evidences this. Migrant vendors rent in-group to cope with the problem of shelter. This ultimately helps them to reduce the burden of payment that could become more difficult if it is rented at individual basis. Migrant vendors rent house in groups despite its side effects like suffocation, conflict of interest and exposure to disease. This indicates deviation of the coping mechanism of migrant vendors from the notion of multi-layered social resilience framework that does not entail a coping mechanism against a problem should result in another constraint so that the individual is chained in the vicious circle of problems.

#### Coping mechanism against physical insecurity

Cultural Capital: Migrant vendors uncovered that security guards pose the physical threat. . Multi layered social resilience framework explains cultural capital is prerequisite for coping mechanism. In order to cope with physical threat, they run away as soon as they notice arrival of security guards to their vending area. Multi layered social resilience framework explains this finding in that it attests cultural capital is prerequisite for coping mechanism. The study's result

perpetuates a study in Tanzania indicated Massai migrants run away to cope with physical insecurity (Munishi, 2013).

#### Coping mechanism against health challenge

Cultural capital: The empirical evidence indicates that migrant vendors use self-medication ( buying drug from pharmacy without medication) and using garlic as coping mechanism against health threat. Multi-layered social resilience framework explains this particular coping mechanism in that it recognizes cultural capital as one of resilience building processes. Cultural capital includes the habit people develop towards a threat. A study in Ghana supports the finding in that migrant children in Ghana self medicate themselves at the time of ailment (Kwarkye and Anarfi, 2007). Migrant vendors also use garlic as coping mechanism against health threat. Nevertheless, this finding is not supported by any of previous researches.

There are coping mechanisms that deviate from the tenet of multi-layered social resilience framework. Migrant vendors to cope with the problem of financial insecurity and livelihood insecurity use reducing the frequency and amount of food intake. This can trap them in the other challenge of health risk. Minimizing meal to cope with the financial and livelihood insecurity just shifts from one sort of challenge to the other. However, the concept of resilience does not connote with this kind of effect. In the other parlance, coping mechanism developed against a threat should not yield another challenge. Migrant vendors in order to cope with the challenge of shelter rent room in-group, which brought side effect of risking their health because of suffocation. The other paradoxical connotation of the vendors coping mechanism in light of multi-layered social resilience framework is purchasing medicine without diagnosis. As the

mechanism has possibility of making vendors use medicine in a mistaken way, it can even worsen their health situations.

### Conclusion

This study is designed to study challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors. In order to gather information on the issue the investigator used in-depth interview with 14 rural-urban migrant vendors. Based on the finding of the study the following concluding points are forwarded.

The migrant vendors encounter various challenges. The financial constraint is found to be one of problems of migranhood life of street vendors. The income generated through vending does not suffice their need. The challenges related to shelter are also pointed out in the study.

More specifically rural-urban migrant street vendors suffer from frequently soaring house rent. The challenge of shelter exacerbates the fragile economic situation of migrants. The rural-urban migrant vendors are exposed to physical insecurity. The empirical finding witnesses they are attacked by security officers who control vending. The illegality of street vending according to informants exposes them to physical attack. According to the finding, there is health risk of rural-urban migrant vendors. Renting a narrow room in-group exposes them to health problems. In addition, the financial constraint for medication is also found as the problem of health. The empirical evidence indicates the challenge of insecurity of livelihood. The interviewees evidenced that they are uncertain in their livelihood activities because of confiscation and lack of fixed place to sell their goods.

The study unveiled that rural-urban migrant street vendors employ different coping mechanisms against the challenges. In order to cope with financial constraint and livelihood

insecurity, vendors save money, engage in supplementary activities, get help from friends, change the style of meal, own assets like grain and animals at countryside and they rent rooms in-groups. In order to cope with the problem of health, they buy drug without diagnosis in order to solve the problem of cost of medication. The vendors cop with physical insecurity by running away.

Stakeholders such as government and NGOs should support the coping mechanisms employed by the migrant vendors particularly coping strategies that have no side effect on vendors. The planned action from concerned bodies will not only play its role in consolidating the coping mechanism of rural-urban migrant vendors but also be transformative intervention shifting migrant vendors from informality to formality. If vendors are provided with access to credit schemes and specific area to vend, street vending may not be their lifelong livelihood rather vendors can evolve from illegal street vending to legal business activities.

## Implications

### Implication for social work

The social work profession is highly concerned with helping people facing constraints. The profession follows asset-based approach to support people facing challenges. In the other parlance, it helps people to help themselves based on the asset or capital they possess, which could be economic, social and cultural. In this case, strength or asset of rural-urban migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa is manifested through the study's finding. The study indicated what kind of capital or asset is used by them to cope with problems.

Based on the finding of the study, social workers can play the role of advocacy. The advocacy of social workers can build linkage between migrant street vendors and different

organizations that can stake their share to support migrant vendors to win their challenge or reduce the magnitude of constraints they are suffering. Doing so plays crucial role for enhancing the coping mechanism of migrant vendors. If an advocacy work results in facilitation of business skill training, they can have a better knowhow on how to deal with their livelihood activities.

### Policy implication

Street vending is widely seen as wreak of havoc, which encompasses the problem it causes to the morphology of cities and grievance felt about it in taxed legal business sector. However, experiences in some countries indicate that street vending can be supported in policy framework so that vendors continue to survive without posing much damage on legal business activities and morphology of cities.

In some Asian countries street vending is given due recognition by governments. Bhowmik (2005) shows support given to street vendors by governments in a couple of Asian countries. The municipal authorities in Bangkok, Thailand have provided specific area where vendors can carry out their activities. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1990, the government formulated the national policy on Hawkers (vendors). The plan was intended to deal with social and economic problems caused by street vending. This is a comprehensive plan to tackle the social and economic problems associated with street vending. The framework encompasses facilitating access to credit and training for street vendors.

In Ethiopia, street vending can get similar support as it is done in Asian countries of Thailand and Malaysia. Street vendors can be provided specific area to carry out their activities so that the problem it creates against the city morphology can be alleviated. In addition,

providing credit schemes and training should be applied that would make vendors shift to formal business activities.

The implication of street vending is not confined to being livelihood of vendors. Street vending is closely linked to the lives of poor in the city. The poor cannot visit shops having quality cloths to buy. They cannot afford it. The opportunity they have in most cases is buying from street vendors. In this case, it is possible to say that the livelihood of street vending subsidizes the poor in the city.

However, street vending being connoted with un taxation and un regulation, has not got recognition about the role it plays, rather street vendors are chased out by security workers from their vending areas. In order to minimize the challenges that street vendors are facing and support their coping mechanism there should be policy framework that recognizes street vending as one of actors in the country's economy.

#### Research implication

This study explored challenges and coping mechanisms of rural-urban migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa. The data were collected from fourteen-study participants through-depth interview. The study focused cloth vendors for participating in the study because of time and money constraint that to include migrant street vendors from different services and goods. Migrant street vendors from other activities such as selling fast and other foodstuffs can be focus of further study because they can have different challenges and coping mechanisms from cloth vendors.

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## Annex I

### Introduction

The purpose of this interview is to collect information for the fulfillment of Master of social work thesis, which is on coping mechanism of rural-urban migrant street vendors. Please not that the information you will provide will remain confidential and your participation is on voluntary basis.

## Annex II

### Interview guide

#### A. Challenges street vendors face

What are challenges you face? Please probe the following:

- Financial constraint
- Insecurity for your livelihood
- Problem related to shelter
- Physical insecurity
- Health problem
- Tell me if there is any other constraint that you face

#### B. coping mechanisms against challenges

- How do you cope with financial constraint?
- How do you cope with livelihood insecurity?
- What is your coping mechanism against the problem of shelter?
- What is your coping mechanism against physical insecurity?
- How do you cope with health constraint?

Annex III

Statement of informed consent

I am requested to be part of a study conducted by Degu Paulos, on exploring the coping mechanisms of Damot Sore Woreda migrant street vendors in Addis Ababa. I am aware that my opinions and views will be used only for this study and will be kept confidential meaning any of my personal identification will not be disclosed in the report. I am also aware that my participation in this study is on voluntary basis. I am told that I have the right to with draw from the interview process at any time. Signing this document, I have voluntary consented to be interviewed as participant in this study.

Signature of participant

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Date

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Signatures of researcher

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Date

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