

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



**Causes and Consequences of Rural-urban
Labour Migration in Ethiopia: The Case of
Arba Minch Town**

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**Causes and Consequences of
Rural-Urban Labour Migration in
Ethiopia: The Case of Arba Minch Town**

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**By
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Causes and consequences of Rural-Urban
Labour Migration in Ethiopia: The Case of
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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of rural to urban migration more as an incidence of rural 'pushed' type and comparatively much less of urban 'pulled' types has become a 'problematic factor leading to unhealthy imbalances in population distribution, locally, regionally and nationally, and affecting the development of both rural and urban areas, in some developing countries in particular. As such, the present study of the in-migrants of Arba Minch is aimed to find out the major causes and the consequences of the flow of people from rural areas in particular, with a view to provide a researched frame for policy planning in the area.

In order to find out the problems, 725 household heads were selected randomly from seven sample kebeles of the town. Structured interview questionnaires were prepared. The questionnaires are multi-dimensional in structure, incorporating demographic, socio-economic, culture and occupational conditions of the respondents. However, the entire part of the questionnaire is mainly centered around the causes and consequences of migration to Arba Minch.

There are many causes for the movement of people from rural areas to towns. Among them, the findings in relation to Arba Minch indicate that, the search for remunerative income in the town, unemployment rate and the per capita land shortage in some regions or woredas are the most significant and explicit 'pushing' factors of migrants from rural areas. Thus, the study finds that economic differentials as evidenced by the urban centres are the necessary conditions but not by themselves sufficient to 'pull'; which the rate of migration is determined mainly by economic factors, the incidence of migration depends on the 'push' factors of the rural areas. This can be generalized that, the income differential, actual or perceived between rural and urban areas is the core of the reasons for migration. Other factors such as 'search for better educational and health facilities or urban amenities'

seem to be less explicit or sharper and at least less 'activating' factors. However, to lead an urban life is a great 'wish', especially for some youths, but they are hardly educated or skilled for taking up real 'urban' jobs or investible resources to start their own. The life opportunity goals therefore may not be attained.

✶ The consequences of migration on both areas of departure and destination are also points of focus in this regard. Though, detail assessment of the background of the rural areas is not taken into account, it is found that as a whole, migration does not relieve the rural areas of 'populaion' burden; rather, they impinge several negative consequences on the villages/ families. The relatives and families the young migrants leave such as women folk, children and the aged, are less efficient. Hence, the out-flow of productive age group from rural agricultural sector has a negative effect on production.

Therefore, the remedies to mitigate the problem lie on the launching of integrated rural development policy.

Definition of Terms

Most of the definitions of terms that are used in the study, are closely related to the literatures covered in the paper and different census results of CSA.

Administrative Region:- It is the highest sub-division of Ethiopia before 1991.

Area of destination (arrival):- It is the area to which a migrant moves (in this case Arba Minch).

Area of Origin (departure):- It is an area from which a migrant moves (in this case other than Arba Minch)

Emigration:- It is leave one's own country to go and live in another.

Chain Migration:- It is movement of people from the same origin attracted by friends or relatives who have already stationed in the present destination. (in this case Arba Minch).

Immigration:- is an enteranc of a foreign country in order to live their permanently.

Integrated Rural-Development:- is launnching rural development with the cordination of various sectors, Organizations and other concerned institutions to alleviate rural poverty and bost productivity.

Interregional migrant:- is one who changes his normal place of residence from other administrative region to another (in this case Arba Minch), and who has stayed at least for one year in the latter place.

Intra-regional migrant:- Is one who changes his residence from same one sub-region to another sub-region i.e, town Min.

In-migrant:- Is a person who arrived to Arba Minch from rural or other urban areas.

Edir:- Is fund raising voluntary organization to cover the expenses of funeral services and other related affairs to support the relatives.

Kebele:- It is the lowest level or unit of urban and rural organization

Migrant:- Is a person whose area of residence is different from his origin during the field survey.

Native:- (In this case) is a person who is born in Arba Minch.

Permanent Migrant:- Is a person who stayed in Arba Minch for 15 years or more.

Pressure of migration:- Is burden exerted by migrant on urban basic facilities and amenities.

Recent migrants or 'Transitionals':- Are Persons who lived in Arba Minch after 1988.

Redistribution Index:- It is the method in which the evenness or unevenness of population distribution over a given region can be tested.

Rural-Urban Migrant:- Is a person who changes his origin from rural to urban (in this case Arba Minch).

Short distance or local mover:- Is a person who moved only within administrative area.

Stepped migration:- Is a process of migration when migrants stayed in any rural or urban area before reaching the present destination (in this case Arba Minch)

Urban area:- Is human settlement with an agglomeration of 2,000 or more inhabitants mainly engaged in secondary and tertiary activities.

Urbanization Index(H-Concentration):- is the method which enables to know the degree of variation of the first largest city/ town from the rest.

Wereda:- It is the second level of administrative unit or rural or urban areas.

Abreviates

BOPED:- Bureau of planning and Economic Development.

MOE:- Ministry of Education

MOH:- Ministry of Health

SNNP:- Southern Nations, Nationalities and peoples'
Regional Governement.

MONDEP:- Ministry of Natural Resource Development and
Environmenatl Protection.

NA:- Not Available.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Migration has been a constant demographic mobility factor varied in human history and is not wandering around, but denotes more purposiveness, aimed by migrants at certain types of fulfillment of real or perceived goals or objectives. Count Paul Teleki (in Kant, 1953) grasped the meaning of the process of migration in the life of mankind in a very concise philosophical statement emphasizing its pertinent role in the dynamics of population in both space and time.

Migrations are not isolated events. They are accompaniments of human life, which arise from the nature of life. They are as diverse, compounded of as many factors, and as changeable as life itself. They are natural and constant, and not unusual events in the history of the human species. The causes for the movement have been the combination of both "push" and "pull" factors in the origin and destination.

The consequences of migration, therefore, also operate and range between the two ends of positive and negative conditions with respect to the places of origin and those of destinations.

In the ^{landscape} developing countries, such as Ethiopia, the national scene is full of contrasts. The urban areas, relatively speaking, are more developed with somewhat greater prospects of opportunities of jobs and career advancement and comfortable living, while in most of the rural areas living conditions and job opportunities have not shown any improvement. Under such contradictory circumstance, there is an ever-increasing trend of prospective rural migrants to the towns and cities.

Not only the large metropolitan cities like Addis Ababa, but also small towns like Arba Minch have been experiencing high in-migration streams. But the urban areas also are not capable of absorbing these migrants in gainful jobs and are unable to provide adequate living conditions.

In spite of the above described overall prevailing situations, there is lack of adequate understanding of migration in regard to the causes and consequences in both the areas of origin as well as those of destinations. Therefore, the study and analysis of migration patterns appears to be a wide-spectrum opportunity and field for understanding the causes and consequences and providing thereby significant data and analysis for policy evolution for launching suitable planning and response strategies to the emerging challenges and problems squarely. On the basis of this, the present researcher attempted to:

1. collect the necessary primary data, through questionnaires, interviews and participant-observation methods on the migrants to Arba Minch town in terms of:
 - . the causes of migration,
 - . getting substantive information on their home conditions, especially in regard to their socio-economic circumstances, which prompted them to leave their places of origin,
 - . their educational and sex-age specificities including their ambitions,
 - . the impact on Arba Minch in regard to various civic amenities and utilities, housing conditions, civil and law-and order situations, and pressure on job opportunities,
 - . the contribution of in-migrants to the various problems and conditions, including in the town's economy and

- 2) to analyze these informations on the life-chances of the migrants vis-a-vis the emerging socio-economic scene of Arba Minch.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

The movement of people from place to place is an important component of population change which has its own spatial as well as temporal characteristics.

This movement results in a distinct but not easily explicable flow pattern on time and space spectrum due to several factors. It is this spatial characteristic that has a topical importance mainly for geographers.

The rate and magnitude of the movement that occur between the places of origin and destination, the patterns of flow, and the temporal characteristics are also an important concern of geographers.

* There are several causes and consequences of migration. It brings a host of social, economic and political problems to both the sending and receiving communities. It can affect the agricultural productivity and other rural activities in the areas of origin, i.e., rural areas, and supply level of amenities and different social services as well as job opportunities, housing, etc., in areas of destination.

All the spatial patterns of population movements which include mainly urban-urban, rural-urban, urban-rural, rural-rural have got their own special features on the above problems though varying in degree and magnitude in both space and time.

Ethiopia is one of the poor developing nations of the

world that is affected vitally by spatial mobility of people, voluntarily or forced. The country has experienced accelerated movements of population towards the capital city and other provincial towns, as a result of greater inequalities among regions; this trend also disturbs and hampers general development goals in both rural and urban areas.

Lack of social services and economic provisions in Ethiopian towns is also an important issue that requires more attention by social scientists and economists, planners and administrators. There is easily discernible higher pressure of population on limited urban amenities and infrastructures, and higher growth rate of urban unemployment than ever before in any town of Ethiopia.

Similar problems are appearing in Arba Minch town, the present study area. Therefore, the main general problems of the town are:

- a) There is high population mobility from the region towards the town worsening the housing conditions where 47.2 percent (CSA, 1984) of the houses are only single-roomed. This situation has paved the way for mushrooming of slums and the phenomenal rise of shanty houses largely comprising of tukuls which are without any services, especially water and electricity. They also act as shelter for many criminals and vagabonds loitering around.
- B) The area around the town is endowed with wonderful landscape, natural forest, variety of wild animals and natural lakes and parks, has high touristic potential with significant economic value. But unfortunately, these resources are falling in to a highly threatened state because of uncontrolled deforestation mainly caused

by the jobless migrants and in general, there are appearing multiple scars of environmental degradation in both the physical landscape in the environs and the socio-psychological space of the townscape.

- C) The overall site of the town, especially what is known as the Lower Town, is highly undulating and flood-prone. Many parts of the town are subjected to severe erosion in every rainy season, leading to gully formation. This mainly as maps 5 and 6 can reveal is, due to haphazard urbanization and house-building and colonization processes associated ill-drainage and consequent deforestation of the hill-slopes, unplanned developments, irregular land use practices, such as spotty tillage for crop farming and over-grazing. Seasonal floods have become regular phenomenon, causing severe loss of life and property damages, particularly in the lower town.
- D) There is high unemployment rate i.e., 16.65 percent (CSA, 1994) in the town with its associated social evils as compared to the other wereda towns of the region.
- E) Cost of living has been rising rapidly in the town over the recent years resulting in great inflation.
- F) There is significant difference in population density at the wereda level, its administrative region, ranging from 10.5 to 669.3 person per square kilometer (BOPED of SNNP, 1996). This makes a very high Redistribution Index (Stephan, 1977) of 0.03. High density weredas are particularly prone to distress situations leading to agricultural instability, environmental degradation and chronic economic and social problems. These weredas give rise to the incidence of high population mobility, particularly rural-urban migration.

Though it is not yet established, the basic reasons for this crucial problem is expected to be rural population pressure as well as production pressure, consequent up on

large-scale land fragmentation, and resource and environmental degradation in the rural areas creating "push" situation for vulnerable population elements. Conversely, the relative improvement of different facilities and better living conditions in urban areas compared to the rural areas is the main "pulling" factor of rural agricultural labour forces from rural areas of the region.

Therefore, making these points as a bench-mark, a scientific investigation and analysis of the root causes and consequences of rural-urban labour migration is significant issue. Thus the study is basically centered at and around this problem

1.2. Objective of the Study

Identification of factors influencing population's spatial mobility provides an important clue for formulation of direct and indirect population migration policy for regional and urban development.

In line with the problems stated above, the following are the main objectives of the study with reference to Arba Minch.

- i) To examine the factors which force or motivate the rural-urban migrants.
- ii) To identify the dominant migratory groups on the basis of age, sex, educational standards, and other characteristics.
- iii) to identify the rate, volume and spatial pattern of flow of rural-urban migration in the region in a limited time frame.
- iv) to detect the consequences of in-migration particularly on housing, employment, and social.

conditions and other facilities, and amenities in the receiving urban area.

- v) To investigate the negative consequences of migration to the ecology of the town as well as its environs.
- vi) To throw some light on the remedies for the problems caused by rural-urban migration in relation to the study area and to make thereby some pertinent suggestions for policy and strategy formulation.

1.3. Significance of the study

Population growth of most of Ethiopian towns is mainly attributed to net-migration, particularly the phenomenon of rural-urban migration (Taye, 1990:33). As indicated above this situation has multi-faceted problems. This calls for analytical studies on rural-urban migration in different regions of the country with a view to grasping the issues involved and tackling them through suitable time bound strategies. Hopefully, the findings of this study are expected to contribute to the following points.

- i) The study is believed to activate and initiate the attention of the relevant authorities and the society at large about the impacts of rural-urban migration on urban amenities and social services.
- ii) It may help to tackle the problems at the local level in the rural areas from where migrants stream forth, by introducing integrated rural development programmes and balanced growth strategies between rural and urban areas.
- iii) The study is expected to throw some light toward striking out suitable policy to redirect populations from the areas of high population

concentrations to the areas of potentially productive but low population density.

- iv) It may provide some hint to regulate the high growth rate of population in both rural and urban areas to reduce the intensity of population pressure on limited resources.
- v) The study could induce societal awareness of the environmental degradation in both rural and urban areas that causes population mobility from place to place in search of better life-chance environment and living conditions.
- vi) It may make some contribution toward formulating appropriate policies for checking or channelling migration in the overall socially desirable ways and for harnessing its potential role in developing a region.
- vii) The present study is expected to pin-point some of the ways to solve urban problems such as unemployment, shortage of houses and different facilities.
- viii) Moreover, the study is also important because it can be extrapolated for other towns of the region/country with similar problems.

1.4. Hypotheses

Based on the problems and objectives of the study the following hypotheses have been designed.

- 1) The rate of migration to Arba Minch is inversely related to distance and directly related to population pressure of the main areas of origin.
- 2) Education is significant accelerator of the rate of migration to Arba Minch.

- 3) The rate of migration to Arba Minch is the function of percentage of urban population.
- 4) There is significant relationship between unemployment rate and migration to Arba Minch
- 5) There is statistically significant income differential between the rural areas and urban destinations and Arba Minch.

In order to test the hypotheses formulated above, the following variables are selected. The explanatory variables more or less touch the main points that revolve around migration in general and in particular to the study town.

In measuring the causes and consequences of migration in the study area, the dependent variable include:

- all migrants reported from their corresponding weredas (y)

The independent variables that are envisaged include:

- x_1 = Average distance between Arba Minch and the Administrative wereda towns in that administrative region .
- x_2 = Percentage of urban population of regions and weredas of Semen Omo over the total population (CSA, 1994).
- x_3 = Crude population density of Weredas of Semen Omo km² (CSA, 1992)
- x_4 = Agricultural Density per km² of Weredas of Semen Omo. (SCA,1984 and zonal Boped, 1993)
- x_5 = Unemployment rate of weredas of Semen Omo (SCA, 1994)
- x_6 = Percentage of Literacy of weredas of Semen Omo (CSA, 1994).

*Spouse
and*

1.5. Research Methodology

1.5.1. Sources of data

The sources of data of the study include both primary and secondary sources.

Formal questionnaires were prepared to trace the demographic dynamics, causes of migration, economic status of the past and present and other socio-cultural indicators of status of migrants of both inner and outer part of the town. The questionnaire was readjusted later because of some vagueness and ambiguity discovered during the course of the pilot study.

The questionnaire has been conducted with the heads of the household both male or female, or the spouses in the absence of the head. The justification behind this, though it has some limitations, is that the heads of household are often found to be the primary decision-makers in migration stream.

In addition to data collected through the questionnaire, interviews were made with the key personalities of the town on some pertinent aspects: they include the elders who can give their participant experiences of the past and present developments; administrators, planners and other concerned authorities. Secondary data has also been collected from the documents and archives of the municipality in regard to the physical expansion of the town and the type and growth trends of different urban services as well as the future plans to accommodate the fast growing population.

The Master plan of the town also obtained from the municipality of the town and National Urban Planning Institute

is also critically analyzed to assess the projected growth and expansion of the town.

The data concerning the extent of utilization of the basic urban services such as water and electricity from time to time in the town are required to test the population pressure on them in comparison to other similar towns. These data are obtained from Water and Sewerage Authority office and the regional Branch and Head office of Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority (EELPA), respectively.

In order to assess the role of education and educational facilities on migration, the head and branch offices of the Ministry of education have been approached for the relevant information.

Different types of data concerning place of birth, age, marital status and duration of stay of migrants in Arba Minch have also been obtained from the documents of kebeles.

The branch office of the Bureau of Planning and Economic Development, Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant departments in the town and outside have been approached to get additional data.

In addition to these, Head offices of different Ministries and various publications of CSA have contributed substantially by providing information regarding the study.

1.5.2. Sampling Design

Arba Minch is distinctly divided into two settlements, popularly known as the Upper Town and the Lower Town. However, because of the fast expansion of the town as can be seen on the maps and aerial photographs the interstitial

between the two is diminishing and several kinds of built-up nuclei have already appeared on either sides of the main road and other branchings out side the main roads. The town had six "Kebeles" until recently and now the number increased to fourteen. However, administratively actively functioning kebeles at present are ten in namely 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 09, 10, 13 and 14.

The survey of the town is intended to cover almost 50% of the total Kebeles. On the basis of this, the town is divided into two categories of the initial kebeles and the newly expanding sections of the town. From both of these, three and four kebeles respectively are selected randomly as a sampling unit. It is the outer section where overwhelming majority of the im-migrants have settled or squatted. The allocation of four kebeles to the outer section of the town is, therefore, aimed to get a better image of the severity of the effects of migration. As one moves from the inner part to the outskirts of the town the number of the newly intruded migrant population increases and so also the severity of its urban problems. Map 1 illustrates the sample kebeles of the town.

Stratified simple random sampling was employed to select the household heads arbitrarily from the list of each kebele to be included in the sample as a sampling frame for seven selected kebeles. The following table (1.1) indicates the coverage of sample households of each kebele.

Table 1.1 coverage of Sample House Holds by Kebele

Serial No.	kebele No.	Total population	No of Household Heads	Household Head Proportion
1	01	3,112	589	64
2	03*	6,500	828	92
3	05	4,661	945	103
4	06	4,694	948	104
5	09*	4,490	1299	142
6	10*	5,190	1129	123
7	13*	4,132	888	97
Total		32,779	6626	725

* The newly expanding Kebeles.

Within the time and financial constraints, the study encompass a sample size of 725 household heads distributed in proportion to the number of population of each kebele. This covers almost a sample fraction of 2% and 6.3% of the total population and the household heads of the town, respectively.

Taking into account of the sample size and the time schedule for field work, the field assistants with educational standard of twelfth complete and above are recruited from each kebele and trained for one day on how to proceed with the interview and approach the interview.

In order to maintain the quality of data collected, meetings held with enumerators after the end of each survey date. The household surveyed by the enumerators were randomly checked by the researcher in order to prove the validity of the data gathered by the field assistants. The missing interviewees were contacted by making additional visits particularly to the week-ends and other convenient times.

1.5.3. Methods of data analysis

As the sample can indicate, the proportion of migrants from the weredas of Semen Omo is very significant over the migrants from other administrative regions constituting for about 73 percent. Therefore, in order to test of the determinants of migration exists between them, they are treated independently. The migrants from administrative regions are ignored to run multiple regression because of their low degree of freedom. The sources of the data of the variables is different publications of CSA. On the basis of this different statistical techniques are employed. This includes the use of:

- A) Multiple correlation or regression analysis to find out the degree of relationship between the dependent variables (y) i.e. number of reported migrants from their corresponding weredas and the independent variables (X_s). It also enables to test the hypotheses from 1-4 and to know the existence of linear association between the dependent variables (y) and respective independent variable (x_s).
- b) Backward and forward step-wise multiple regression to know which variable is the most influential on the dependent variable.
- c) Todaro's model of income differential indication used by Seleshi to test hypothesis number 5 whether there is the real income difference between the study town and migrants' original home rural areas that "pulled" and/ or "pushed" them.

In addition to these techniques, different tables, graphs, a real photographs and maps are used to illustrate the various aspects of the study.

1.6 Limitation of the study

The objective of making clear policy and strategy formulation with a view to solving the numerous problems arising out of the impact of excessive incidence of in-migration on the civic situation of the town and its general health and welfare, it is essential to assess the rural origins of migrants. However unfortunately because of time and financial constraints the study is mainly restricted to the urban destination (Arba Minch) only, although the researcher feels strongly that field data obtained from the places of origins of in-migrants would have strengthened the present work. This is because the present researcher has got a hunch emerging out of his field work experience among the in-migrant that their home conditions are really very harsh, and rather worse than whatever conditions of living they manage to obtain in the town: this is the reason that even if migrants come for hospital or church services, they want to and do squatter in the town and do not return to their village homes.

The number of the sample size is limited to 725 in-migrants and during the survey, only migrants that are interviewed were the household heads though to be the prime decision makers. Thus, interviews with some other members could have given some more pertinent information, and increasing the number of sample size might have given us a better picture of the study. But raising the sampling number became difficult and could not be managed within the given time frame so that the study could involve only the heads of households and the sample size as indicated above.

The other limitation of the study is because of a great deal of stiff resistance or sheer in difference of some of the

respondents to answer some of the questions correctly particularly their place of origin and ethnicity. Most declare themselves as the native residents of the same administrative region, where as the truth is otherwise.

Similar situation also obtained in responding to some questions on to the reasons for migration, their family size, income , etc., or farm land size, at home, etc. This may be because of political and socio-economic fear of the respondents. Some of the interviewees also fail to recall their experiences of past events or aspects regarding their socio-economic conditions. Therefore, in general obtaining data on migrational information is very difficult and as such the analysis is less complete than the described level.

1.7. Organization of the thesis

The study is encompassed within six chapters. The first chapter covers the introductory part that assesses the entire introductory frame work of the study.

Chapter two deals with the literature review broadly divided into general literature and the nature of rural-urban labour migration in Africa and Ethiopia with the emphasis on the causes and consequences.

A brief geographical background of the study area is discussed in chapter three involving the physical conditions of the site of Arba Minch town as well as its environs, the towns foundation and its demographic and socio-economic conditions.

Chapter four is devoted to the study of the characteristics of the migrants and the causes for departing from their origin where as chapter five is mainly concerned

with the effects of migration on both the area of their origins and destination in Arba Minch.

The last chapter (Chapter Six) provides the summary and the recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

2.1 General Literature

The spatial distribution of population has been of great theoretical and practical interest since long time ago. This is because there is always a dynamism in the distribution of population owing to the people's mobility from place to place. Active interest of various social thinkers, scholars and administrators on questions of dynamics of population in the latter half of the nineteenth century quickly followed the phenomenal rise of industrialization and urbanization. The process of migration became one of the cardinal issues in the spatial dynamism of population (Kant, 1953).

Therefore, human mobility has been a highly interesting phenomenon, setting in pertinent though confusing social and demographic issues particularly in the late twentieth century (Standing, 1984:1). According to Ayiemba (1975:96) generally people move by their perception of environmental utilities in other alternative areas. It is the anticipated utility or disutility that an individual migrant can evaluate based on the information available to him (White and Woods, 1980:8). The causes and consequences of migration on the areas of origin and destination, therefore, require a thorough understanding and investigation.

Theories began to emerge to explain the causes and consequences of migration as the close of the nineteenth century. These theories and relatively "impressionistic migration laws" that were forwarded in course of empirical studies have been briskly discussed, criticized and corrected

in many respects. During the same course or research, the typology of migration has become richer in content, and analysis and methodology, and yet, the literature is still lacking " a generally used or recognized classification of migrational processes which would incorporate all forms of so-called horizontal migration within modern society and provide a foundation for systematic study and description " (Kant, 1953, pp. 349-50).

2.1.1. Causes and determinants of migration

"Push" Factors

"Push" factors are associated with the conditions in the place/area of origin of migrants and seem to be more important in the developing world than the "pull" factors associated with destination areas. Breese (1969:326) states that over-urbanization, caused by rural out-migration is mainly the result of the "push" factors from the countryside rather than the demand for labour in the cities, or what is called their "pull". Bell (in White and Woods, 1980:88) and Gugler, et.al., (1978:53) also emphasized mainly on the "push" effects of rural areas rather than the urban 'bright lights' attraction. However, White and Woods (1980:7) emphasize the migrants' perception of spatial differentiations of opportunities as the crucial factor than any simple "push" or "pull" mechanism.

In many developing countries, rural poverty resulting from low agricultural income, low productivity and under employment as well as strain of farm work is pushing many migrants out of rural areas towards areas with greater employment opportunities (Oberai, 1987:40; Okereke, 1976:94; Charles, 1975:4; Heric, 1965:14).

scholar

✓ Increasing rural population pressure resulting in higher man-land ratios causes relative poverty that induces out-migration in most developing countries since there is a threshold of agriculture to support people within a given technology (Oberai, 1987:41; Breese, 1969:326). Boserup (1965:41) and Goddard, in Amin (1974:272) argue that population pressure may be instrumental to agricultural growth through the adoption of new labour-intensive methods of cultivation and might help to alleviate the problem on the available resources.

Goldscheider (1984:210) argues that population pressure and rural labour surplus is not the single most important factor for migration: rural-urban migration may take place despite labour shortages in rural areas and may result in reduction of agricultural production.

In addition to agricultural problems some blame education as "Pushing" factor from rural areas. Charles (1975:25) in the case of rural Nigerians, states that schooling increases expectations of new and modern urban life so that educated rural people are more prone to migration. However, according to Caldwell (1969:61), the role of education is not absolute as long as some unschooled rural Ghanians move to the towns with their ill qualification to secure urban employment.

"pull" factors Ⓟ

Ⓟ "Pull" factors gravitate the rural workers to migrate to towns. Concentration of educational institutions and the availability of opportunities for jobs and continued upward social mobility pull the rural educated and skilled to urban areas (Joshi, 1976:35; Bogue in Suval, 1972:10). However, in the studies of China, better educated people in the rural

areas hold important technical, managerial and administrative positions and are highly respected and privileged. As such, Wan (1995:179) views that this leads to negative education-mobility relationship to urban areas. (11)

✓ ✓ Byerlee (1976:23) states that the 'rural-urban income differential is highly relevant factor for migration. Although high cost of living in cities leads to reduced real rural-urban income differential (Caldwell, 1969:205), yet it is attractive because, as Fapohunda and Lubell (1978:122) found out in the case of Jakarta, the opportunities for year-round employment in urban areas as against seasonal unemployment in rural areas is highly important. (12)

✓ ✓ Even though there are various "pull" factors, the path is not always smooth for migration and there are intervening opportunities. Therefore, Stouffer (in Suval, 1972:5) hypothesized that the number of persons going a given distance is directly proportional to the number of opportunities at that distance and inversely proportional to the number of intervening opportunities. (13)

✓ In the migration process, caused by the "push" factors, the role of distance is not negligible. In fact, there is inverse relationship between migration and distance (Adepoju, 1991:26; Ravenstein in White and Woods, 1980:34).

✓ According to Woods (cited in White and Woods, 1980:29) and Caldwell (1969:57), the role of distance is to be viewed from two different angles, i.e., cost of transportation and flow of information. The migrant can choose the nearer destination among the two competing regions with equal merits due to low cost of movement, and potential migrants are likely to know less about distant places because of barriers of distance.

However, Pandit (1994:332) argues that distance may not always be an appropriate surrogate for information about a place or the costs of moving. She forwarded the conditions and information flows in the case of chain migration through relatives and friends so that far residing people depending on situations can be more knowledgeable than those people in the vicinity and can be more attracted.

✓ White and Woods (1980:18) also express their doubt on the determining role of physical distance upon migration stream and instead stress the social or cultural distance moved.

Oberai (1987:45) also found out physical distance of less significance and summarized that transportation and communication systems not only reduce the cost of migration but also lessen the psychological and cultural gap between origin and destination areas, thus making migration easier even from long distances.

Therefore, according to White and Woods (1980:35) because of transport and technological development, the acceptance of Ravenstein's theory has less significance because the length of the average migration tended to increase in most technologically developed countries with modernization of communication and transportation.

✓ 2.1.2. Consequences of Migration

Studies of consequences of migration are of equal importance as those of the causes of migration. According to Greenwood (1975, cited in Gleave, 1982:34), migration is well understood at an individual and aggregate levels, but understanding of larger consequences of migration is less well developed. Until recently, according to Oberai, (1987:51), the sociological view about the consequences of migration was

characterized by a negative and pessimistic view, mainly telling upon the difficult conditions and scarcities faced by migrants in their destination areas. But the recent studies show that, in spite of the negative consequences individual migrants have succeeded in achieving their perceived goals.

In general, the effects of migration are viewed from two directions. As Standing (1984:1) pointed out, some people stress that migration causes excessive urbanization, unemployment, income inequalities, ecological stress and population mal-distribution while others accept it as a necessary part of economic growth, equilibrating tendencies, facilitating industrialization, improving income distribution, and introducing technological change in agriculture, and generalize that migration is the human right ensuring choosing one's destination to improve welfare and economic benefit. World Bank (1979:75) also does not blame the rural-urban migration for rural underdevelopment and urban unemployment and poverty: this is because cities are seen to be occupied with rural educated, skilled and motivated migrants where their employment opportunity is higher than for those who stay behind.

Mabogunje (1970) and White and Woods (1980:49) state that the effect of migration is multi-faceted. They adopt a systems analytical structure which indicates a series of inter connected cause-and-effect relationships of rural-urban migration.

ECONOMIC EFFECT

Economic gain has been the prime objective of migration. Multiple surveys corroborate this along with other types of gains. This economic gain acquired by the rural migrants, the

city could be an important asset to be transformed to the rural area (home area or village) in form of capital, technology, learning awareness, knowledge, trade; goods or services, etc. The survey for Jakarta shows that almost two-thirds of the male and female migrants reported to be better off after migration than before; and their success increased with the duration of their stay (Sethurman, 1976:12).

1990
1997
2002

Tiffen (1995:48) describes the positive value of migration as any work outside the district brings in capital and information as also investment in transport or shops which in turn can facilitate agricultural profitability. However, Byerlee et al., (1972:62) have less positive outlook towards the returnee migrants and assume them as economic failures in the town with low potential to contribute capital to the rural areas.

Inducing new ideas and technology to influence the rural economy is also an important issue in rural-urban migration.

According to Byerlee (1976:59) having Sierra Leone experience, the change that the migrant can induce into rural areas is insignificant because most of them acquire the skills only for small rural industries such as tailoring, carpentry and blacksmithy.

In age specificities of migration, migrants are usually young (Todaro, 1985:257; Oberai, 1987:46; White and Woods, 1980:13). As such, Hirst (1975:102) argues that migration of young adults itself is the cause for the loss of the most important rural innovating elements introducing technological changes in the agricultural sector.

Demographic Impact

Migration has significant influence on the demographic structure of population of both receiving and sending regions since it is selective. The separation of husbands from wives, delayed marriage, and postponing births can influence fertility (Oberai 1987:65, FAO 1986:76). However, the seasonal or temporary migrants do not have any constraint on child bearing.

On the basis of case studies of Kenya, Tiffen (1995:48) concludes that migration has no deterrence on population growth because most migrants do return back and forth to the villages, and their wives also visit them frequently. Standing (1984:26) states that the increased female circulatory migrants due to male out-migration may raise rural fertility levels.

From marital point of view in general, labour migration leads to bad effects causing frequent divorces and legally ill-defined marriages (Van Velsen 1960:269). The effect is more clear particularly when the migrant has long residence in the town by establishing his own town family which decreases the rural linkage (Caldwell 1969:52; Pendleton, 1983:996).

→ The in-migrants with wives exert an important influence on the fertility of the receiving region, particularly the urban areas since they tend to be in the prime reproductive age (Goldscheider 1984:6; Standing 1984:25).

As Standing (1984:25) pointed out, an increase in migration is expected to reduce rural population growth while urban population can increase because of the majority of migrants being of reproductive age group males and females. As the result, there can be predominance of older age groups with

lower fertility rate in the sending rural areas (Khinchuk 1987:99). The UN (1991:15) states that if the migration which is caused due to population pressure on the land is age and sex selective, the result will be a rejuvenation of the population structure of the urban area since the migrants are younger than the resident population.

Effects on urban basic facilities

The consequences of migration are numerous in the urban areas among which overcrowding and congestion, strain on urban social services, rising food costs, worsening air and water quality and increasing violence, prostitution and diseases are important (Adepoju 1991:29; Wood' 1994:615). The UN study (1970:15) adds that the high rate of migration adds to the lack of accommodations in the towns to the requirement levels raising serious problems in many urban areas, particularly developing countries where it is very difficult to meet these growing demands because they require huge investments.

✓ One of the major problems of the urban amenities is the housing problem. Migrants usually reside in poor quality area and/or houses because of the nature of irregular and low amount of income that they receive in the urban areas: many find themselves squatting on any vacant land mainly on the periphery of the city (Mabogunje, 1980:191; Hirst, 1975:38; Fapo hunda and Lubell, 1975:36).

✓ According to UN (1970:25) failing construction of suitable houses does not affect only people themselves but it can lead to exhaustion of the natural elements that are useful for human existence in the long run.

These undesirable and undesigned migrant settlements on the fringes of cities where land prices are lower involve them

in high transport costs for journey to work. Also, it is difficult to extend expensive installations to these places (UN: 1970:23). This is one of the major reasons that street surfacing, lighting, and electricity and water supply are usually restricted to elite or central areas. The provision of education and health centres and hospitals is also the major problem, as evidenced in the Serra Leoneian case (Gleave 1982:127).

2.2. The Nature of Rural-Urban Labour Migration in Africa

Africa displays almost identical developing world characteristics of population movement and dynamism, with some peculiarities. The physical conditions of the continent dictated to practice sedentary farming and keeping livestock in limited areas so that they have to move for short distances at best. The extent of the movement increased with extended colonial territory (Caldwell, 1969:201).

Gradually with the development of urbanization the direction of the movement of people from the rural to rural areas became progressively urban oriented. This is mainly caused due to uneven economic development and distribution of basic social amenities between rural and urban areas (Twumasi, 1995:16).

Caldwell (1969:9) also finds out that recurring threat of famine or crop failure resulting from inadequate equipment and faulty method of utilization and cultivation of land and others induce rural out-migration. Additionally, Little (1965:10) expresses that the limitation of cash-earning opportunities of farmers to once or twice during the year forces many men to leave the countryside for the towns even to get a daily labour.

Cash money requirements to pay taxes imposed by colonialist Europeans on African subsistence farmers forced the rural people to migrate to towns to earn cash (Lindsay, 1985:4; Gugler, et. al., 1978:51).

Natural hazards can be also directly responsible for mass population movement (as 1984-85 famine in Ethiopia) and less to mass exodus and displacement, development schemes such as projects of electricity generation and dam construction for irrigation and other purposes pushed many people from rural areas causing wide spread displacement (Wood, 1994:618).

Population pressure and production pressure whatever the causes, do become one of important "push" factor. Mabogunje (1980:108) offers some evidence in the case when land resource decreases and land is not available, for existence in the Kikuyu areas of Kenya. This condition is also true, in particular, to the West African context (Gugler and Flangan, 1978:57; Ojawa, cited in Okereke, 1976:94).

There are multiple effects of migration in Africa both on sending and receiving areas. Bell's study of north Uganda situation finds negative effect of male migrants on agricultural economy because of shortage of labour (cited in White and Woods, 1980:84). However, exodus of male population from the Tonga villages of Zimbabwe (Van Velsen, 1960:265) does not adversely affect the subsistence cultivation, as the same is well managed by the women left behind.

From the economic point of view Zachariah et al. (1982:110) find out that migration improves the well-being of the Gambian migrants they studied. But on the other hand according to Byerlee et al., (1972:57) the significant positive change of the rural relatives and friends by the

✓

remittance generated income by urban migrants is rarely measured in Africa.

In many cases, as in Nigeria, the contribution of migration to the rural development is positive because thousands of schools and other developments were constructed by successful migrants, or by Home Town Improvement Associations organized by migrants (Lindsay, 1985:32).

The enhanced rush of migrants in to cities went beyond the accommodation and absorption capacity of the urban areas in terms of different social services, housing and job opportunities (Todaro, 1982:212). On the basis of this Twumasi (1995:14) stresses that most of the large and expanding cities and towns in Africa face problems in the provision of clean water, orderly development of roads, lighting, and other services.

✓ 2.3 Rural-urban migration in Ethiopia

Studies of population mobility in general and rural-urban migration in particular in Ethiopia is rather limited. Some attempts were made in relation to urbanization and rural settlements by Mesfin (1970), Eshtu and Teshome (1984), Kloos (1982) Kebede (1992).

✓ "Population movement in Ethiopia has been also a common phenomenon throughout its history, but it was mainly subjected to the setting history of peoples in different ecological and ethnic zones of the country, confined to the rural milieu (Befekadu, 1978)."

✓ ✓ Development of coffee and other plantations in particular ecological zones of the country also led to seasonal labour flow (Wood, 1983; Kloos, 1982). As Solomon (1994:29)

investigated later on, about 45 percent of long-distance migrants who moved to Metu area settled there permanently. However, trends of urbanization particularly with the foundation and growth of Addis Ababa, urban demographic pattern and situations altered considerably with the migrant members of different ethnic groups entering the city (Shack, 1973:260).

"Studies indicate that rural to urban migration has been the most significant part of urban growth. Hailu (1983) cited in Kederalah (1991:8) expresses that the share of in-migration accounted for more than 50 percent and in some cases up to 80 percent as noted around 1978 causing high urban population growth."

In general, urbanization has been concomitant of technological development, economic growth and human development (Bejeren, 1985:245; Asrat, 1988). But in poor countries like Ethiopia, urbanization has not been as the result of rapidly increasing productivity either in the agricultural or industrial sector (Befekadu, 1978:190; Mulenbach, 1976). On the other hand, this unabating urban growth occurred mainly as the result of an increase in the level of central control of the available agricultural surplus and extraction of the available resources from south and west (Mulenbach, 1976:65).

The development of urban centres was, thus, at the cost of the rural areas (Taye, 1990:34). This resulted in rural stagnation and increased poverty, forcing the people to leave their villages (Eshetu, 1970). Accordingly, the rural "push" due to the conditions prevailing in the rural areas and not the urban "pull" or attractions has been the main force for migration (Eshetu, 1970; Befekadu, 1979:21). "

Mesfin (1968) stated the difficulty of locating all the various factors causing rural exodus. Yet it is possible to show the dominance of the operation of "push" forces in the rural areas vis-a-vis the "pull" factors of the towns.

Sileshi (1978) specify the "push" factors among the two forces that cause rural out-migration. The evidence according to him is the occupation of the capital city by poorly educated rural youth and untrained peasant farmers that can not be absorbed by the labour market.

✓ These "push" factors are identified as unfavorable land tenure system, lack of rural employment opportunities, seasonality of agricultural work, inadequacy or lack of social and economic services, and natural disasters such as drought leaving to frequent crop damages and failure (Andargachew, 1992:6; Sileshi, 1978:680; Mulenbach, 1976:137-38; Kloos, 1982).

• Desalegn (1984:31), and Kebede (1991:53) add land fragmentation, absence of oxen and population pressure as the factors that force the peasants to leave the rural areas. Befekadu (1978:18) has also similar view and formulated a testable hypothesis as:

"The larger the population of tenants the more would be the migrants from that province".

✓ Woods study (1983:55) of the south-west Ethiopia also indicates that the high population pressure in Eastern Gojam, and Southern Gonder and the seasonality of agriculture in Guraghe areas are the main "push" factors of migrants from the regions. Shack (1983:263) has the same view on the seasonality of migrants of Guraghe. ✓ He specifies that the seasonal migrants usually move between the mid-February to mid-October after harvesting and planting operations.

Although "push" factors predominate, there are some significant "pull" factors that attract rural people to urban areas such as education, health care and specialized medical facilities, security, better job and career-building and advancement opportunities and other urban amenities.

Much better equipped schools and higher education/vocational training and technical centres are mainly concentrated in urban areas, and as the result ambitious young people flock to the towns seeking quality education (Mesfin, 1970:31; Befekadu, 1978).

✓ ✓. However, in the overall analysis both "push" and "pull" factors the economic motive is predominantly important, and hence the economy can be seen an important "engine" of migration (Bjerren, 1985:241). Yet, particularly from economic point of view, most of the urban areas in developing countries are not promising. While job security happens to be the dream of the migrants, prevailing wages and salaries were meager and working as well as living conditions were intolerable in most of the urban areas (Bekure, 1984:615).

Sileshi (1978:681) found that inspite of the open unemployment in Addis Ababa, in-migration continued from rural areas because of the expected income differential between the urban and rural areas. He concluded the existing urban wage for Addis Ababa and found that it was 3.2 times higher than the prevailing rural wage and concluded that as long as the existing urban wage is greater than in rural areas, rural-urban migration will continue. Mesfin (1968) has also similar view.

Though the role of "push" and "pull" factors are important in migration, there are also some intervening opportunities between the origin and destination. Kloos

(1982:165) following Pankhurst's view found the influence of distance and communication subtly operating on the extent of migration flow because of variation in perceived distance and time measures. Bekure (1984:603) also explained that because of variations in the level of urbanization, accessibility, population density and other socio-economic factors, the influence of distance up on migration can be observed.

A study of Akaki Beseka shows that the influence of distance on the level of migration is visible as the majority of migrants are from the surrounding region travelling for short distance (Mullenbach, 1976:154). Kloos, (1982:173) also found the operation of the distance decay function as there is decline in the number of labours who migrated to the Awash valley with increase in distance from the scheme.

In her Shashemene study, Bjerer (1985:215), however, found distance factor to be less determinant since the influence of the surrounding rural people upon the town is very low.

— The other issue in migration is its effect. There are several social and economic effects that migration can induce to both sending and receiving regions.

From the economic point of view, Mesfin ((1968) stressed that for a country like Ethiopia where agriculture is not modernized, taking away of experienced and young farmers can negatively affect agricultural development.

As in the other countries of the world, particularly the developing nations, migration is viewed as a contributor for rural income growth and development. Marakakis (1974:173), Eshetu, (1970:230) and Shack (1973:270) cited typical examples of associations formed by the Guraghe people initially in

Addis Ababa for the construction of roads, bridges, schools, clinics and other basic facilities in their rural localities.

From the point of view of social consequences, the migrants that move to towns in the prospect of education and remunerative jobs can become beggars, prostitutes and other type of trouble makers if they fail in the expected sector (Mesfin, 1970:31; Baker, 1990:215). Andargachew (1992) also stresses that the presence of large proportion of migrant population in Addis Ababa is the main factor for increasing crime and juvenile delinquency. Most prostitutes are also migrants from rural areas displaced because of unstable marriage system.

It is obvious from the above survey of the relevant literature, all the studies of migration are closely related mainly with relatively developed urban areas either commercially or industrially. Rural-urban migration studies in Ethiopia are also focused mainly on Addis Ababa or the surrounding industrial zones and other regional towns with some industries and commercial structures.

The present study of Arba Minch deals with a town which is characterized by different phenomena: there is an occurrence of high unskilled rural migrants flowing to this poor but fast growing town. Therefore, this study enables us to reach at a certain conclusion of rural-urban migration in Ethiopia by studying migrants to Arba Minch.

CHAPTER THREE

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 Location and Physical Set-up

Arba Minch, ($6^{\circ}1'30''$ N latitude and $37^{\circ}33'$ E longitude) literally meaning "Fourty Springs", is a town located in the southern part of Ethiopian Rift Valley, at a distance of about 500 kilometers from Addis Ababa on Sodo-Gidole road. This name is said to have originated from the discovery of fourty springs given by the by-passing Amharic speaking merchants to Gidole and Borena. It is bounded by Ganta hills in the West, the State Farm in the north and, Abaya and Chamo lakes in the east.

Arba Minch is divided into two distinct settlements known by the names of Sikela (north) and Secha (South), each about five kilometers apart. The two are different topographically and in elevation. Secha at 1,500 metres and Sikela at 1,300 metres above sea level have a mean elevation difference of about 200 metres.

The configuration of the town is highly undulating and dissected by deep gullies. The surface run-off originating in the Ganta Ridges and other hills surrounding the town has resulted in the formation of gullies and land degradation in general between the two parts of the town. Thus flood occurrence in the southern town in particular is very common in every rainy season. According to the Ethiopian News Agency (18-4-97), the belg rains of the current season have caused enormous damages to property, widespread collapse of houses and more than twenty deaths, in the lower town.

MAP 2

KEY TO REGIONS

- Reg. 10
 1 Basketo
 2 Murai
 3 Ari
 4 Homer
 5 Arbore
 6 Dasenech
 7 Gngatomb
 8 Tsemal
 9 Mole
 10 Dime
 11 Bodi
- Reg. 11
 1 Keficho
 2 Rufo
 3 Maji
 4 Surma
 5 Zelmam
 6 Sheko/mocha
 7 Main
 8 Chore
 9 Bench
 10 Shaken

- Reg. 12
 1 Agnuak
 2 Nusr
 3 Majengir
- Reg. 13
 1 Harari

- Reg. 14
 Addis Ababa

- Reg. 1
 1 Tigray
 2 Saho
 3 Kunama
- Reg. 2
 1 Afar
- Reg. 3
 1 Amara
 2 Agew Kamir
 3 Agew Awngi
 4 Cromo Kaku
- Reg. 4
 1 Oromo

- Reg. 6
 1 Gumuz
 2 Koma
 3 Berta
 4 Semien Mao
 5 Shinasha
- Reg. 7
 1 Gurage
 2 Hadiya
 3 Kembata
 4 Alaba
 5 Timbaro
 6 Yem

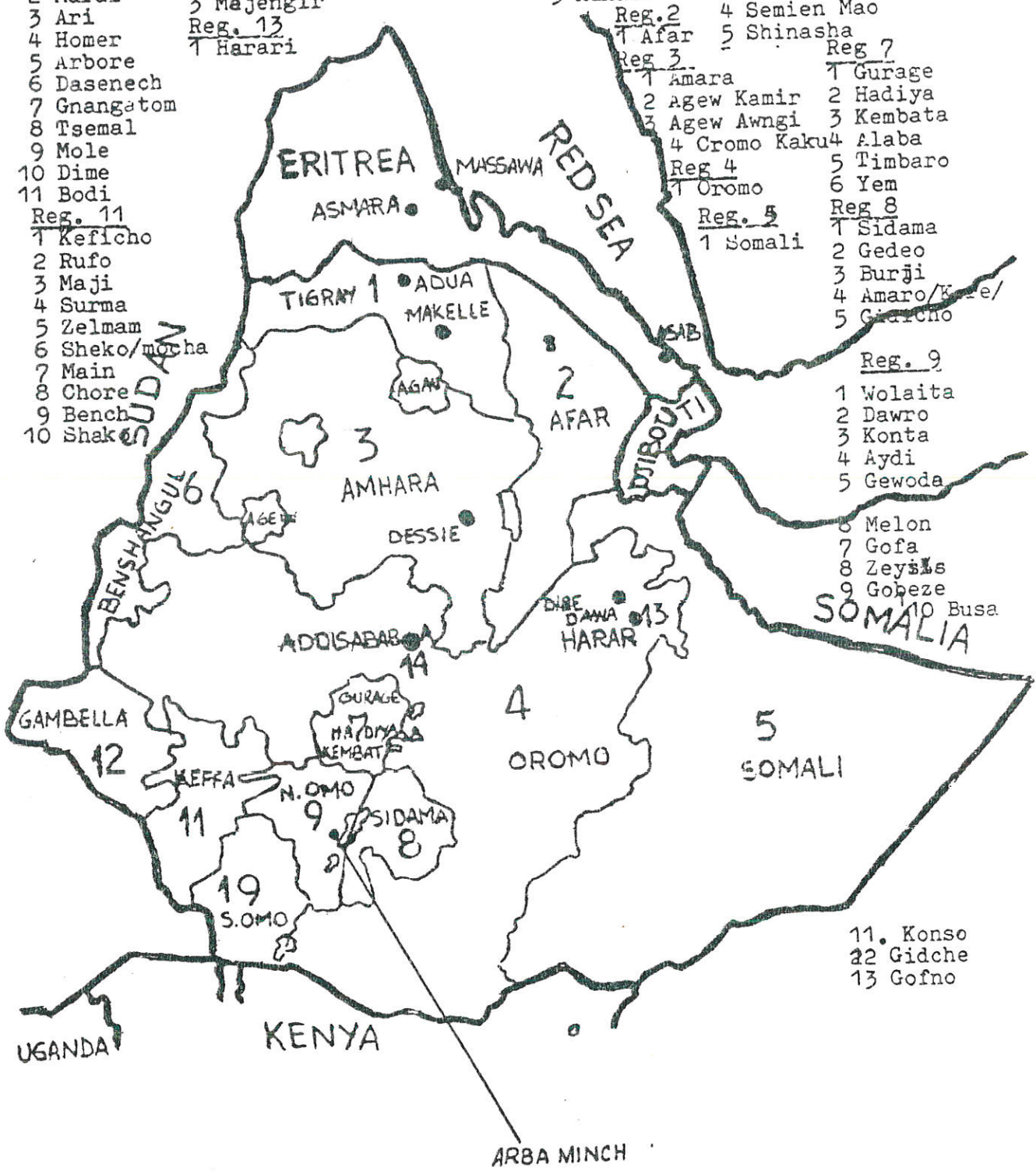
- Reg. 8
 1 Sidama
 2 Gedeo
 3 Burji
 4 Amaro/K...
 5 G...cho

- Reg. 5
 1 Somali

- Reg. 9
 1 Wolaita
 2 Dawro
 3 Konta
 4 Aydi
 5 Gewoda

- 6 Melon
 7 Gofa
 8 Zeys
 9 Gopeze
 10 Busa

11. Konso
 12. Gidche
 13. Gofno



MAP 3



Climatically, Arba Minch receives an annual average rainfall of 800-1,000mm. The mean daily temperature of the town is about 29.7°C. The warmest months are from January to March and the cold season prevails from October to December.

The upper town (Secha) is slightly windy as it is situated on higher elevation whereas Sikela is hotter and experiences whirlwinds since it is exposed to local on-shore and off-shore winds from lake Abaya.

From hydrological point of view, the town has rich water resources. There are two extensive lakes (Abaya and Chamo), the Kulufo river and many springs in the east. The kulufo river is not only used by the urban people but widely used to irrigate the cotton plantation of the state farm located in the north of the town. During the rainy seasons, the surface run-off originating from the Ganta hills of the surrounding and the built up area of Secha flows towards north and south-east to Sikela.

There are numerous springs estimated to be more than fourty of very high yield and good quality water. They exist along the foot of a big fault escarpment.

Historically, except sporadic settlements of the herds men, the whole Arba Minch town was covered by natural forest. But today the forest resource in particular and vegetation cover of the region in general has been depleted alarmingly which causes land degradation and scarcity of firewood and timber supply. As it is observable in the aerial photographs of the area, these rich natural forests are left only around the springs and as gallery forests in the inlets of the kulufo river. The ultimate result will certainly be ecological deterioration which will in turn affect the development of the town and the surrounding area.

There are different types of natural vegetation in the surrounding region. The dominant species are different varieties of acacia including acacia albida. The area produces a variety of crops like oats, dura, lentils, bananas, and all kinds of vegetables. It is also a rich cattle area.

The major out-flowing commodities from the town are skin and hides, coffee, fruits and traditional garment and textile products.

3.2 Foundation and Growth of the Town

Arba Minch was established in 1962 as a capital town of Gamo Goffa with initial population of 1,800. According to the documents of the municipality, there were only 150 tukuls scattered around covering an area of less than 2 km².

The transfer of the town from Chencha by the then authorities was not a planned move and the pre-conditions were not ready for settlement. The town was established on an almost virgin land dotted with few scattered temporary settlements of the herdsman. This beginning makes Arba Minch different than other administrative capital towns of Ethiopia.

The selection of Arba Minch as a capital town by the authorities of the time was to exploit lake Abaya as a means of transportation for the accessibility to Addis Ababa via Sidamo and the potentialities of the surrounding area for rapid development.

Despite its recent establishment, Arba Minch has been one of the fast growing towns of Ethiopia and currently, according to Development Master Plan (1995) the proposed areas stretches up to 21.90 km². As per computation from the aerial photographs, the spatial expansion of the town can indicate that the built up area of the town has grown from 1.83 sq km

to 5.90 km² from 1966 to 1995. The areal expansion of the town was extremely fast, in particular between 1975 and 1985 because of rapid flow of rural people, resulting in the development of squatter settlements near the hospital and the state farm. There are also some sporadic tukuls in other peripheral parts of the town. The following table (3.1) indicates the rate of the growth of the town.

Table 3.1. The trends of areal expansion of Arba Minch

Year	Area of the town (km ²)	Rate of change (%)
1966	1.83	-
1975	3.00	61.00
1985	5.44	55.15
1995	5.90*	92.20

* Arba Minch Development Master Plan (1995)

There are several factors accounting for rather fast growth of the town. It happens to be both the administrative and commercial center for the surrounding region. Its expansion is also attributed to the establishment of the large State Farm on its northern fringe and the recent establishments of different institutions and a textile factory. There has been also quite appreciable governmental and individual construction works that created job opportunities temporarily or spasmodically.

In addition to these, there have been a number of institutions which have functioned as gravitational forces to pull substantial number of migrants in various ways. Church

organizations have been quite instrumental in the provision of material aid and services. Those people who were aided are not interested to go back to their rural origin. Therefore clearly defined neighborhood settlement known as "Konso Sefer" has been created around the Norwegian Church and the hospital (see the map and the aerial photograph). Some part of the region is also inhabited by those people who were released after completion of their prison sentences since they are reluctant to return back having tasted the urban mode of life.

In its adjacent, Kebele 10 known as "Goffa Sefer" and/or "Koirra Sefer", more recent settlement developed after 1986. Thus, in both kebles (09 and 10) in particular, the number of new migrants termed "Transitional" (Harvey, and Brand, 1974) are relatively higher. Migrants with longer duration of 15 years of stay or more referred as "permanent migrants" (Ibid) are extremely low. These kebeles are marginal settlement areas as their housing reflects the poor conditions in the form of thatch-huts from near the hospital across the margin in the northern direction until the hill-slopes.

The other factor for recent expansion of the town is related to the settlement of wealthy peasants of the surrounding and other areas after dismantling of land socialization and collectivization. They have spent the surplus extracted from agriculture not to develop the agricultural sector but have contributed to the urban economy. Thus, the cause of the agricultural development of the countryside has been suffering to an appreciable degree because of flight of the manpower as well as some capital.

3.3. Demographic and Socio-economic Conditions

As in developing countries in general and Ethiopian towns in particular, the population of Arba Minch is young comprising 39.2 percent of population under 15 years of age of the total 40020 (CSA, 1994). Ten years earlier, the 1984 census had given the figure of 47.5 percent of the total population under 15 years of age: this declining trend of the percentage of young people in the population composition shows maturing trend of the population.

According to the study of the Development Master Plan Final Report (1995), the population of Arba Minch has grown at the rate of 8.56 percent annual average during the three decade period of 1961 to 1991. If we compare this with Addis Ababa (5.1 percent) and the national average urban population growth (7 percent), the relative fast growth of the town can be clearly visible.

According to census report (1994), Arba Minch shares 22.7 percent of the total urban population of the zone. As the figure of the urban population of the census report can indicate, the Regional urbanization Index or H-concentration (Mutlu, 1989) of the region is 0.123 which is relatively higher than that of Bale (0.1), Illubabor (0.11) and Semen Welo (0.08). This illustrates the clear deviation of the urban population in the region which can be indicative of immigration of the people from smaller towns as well as rural areas of the region.

From the ethnic point of view, according to the 1994 census, Gamo community is the dominant element in the town's population accounting for about 44 percent of the total followed by the Amhara with about 25 percent. The dominant

religion is Orthodox Christianity sharing more than 75 percent followed by Protestant.

Arba Minch has 15,075 economically active population of which 2,510 are unemployed (CSA, 1994). This brings out the rateio of unemployment to as high as 16.65 percent. But according to the zonal office of Labour and Social Affairs, the unemployed population reaches as high as 5,614 of which about 57 percent happen to be between the age group of 18-22. Out of this 2,174 are the disbanded ex-soldiers after the collapse of the Derg: this element accounts for the abnormally high ratio of unemployment in the town.

Most of the employment sectors that absorb the population are the tertiary or service sectors where petty-traders are the most dominant element. There is fast growth of the tertiary sectors in the town since its very foundation. According to the documents of Arba Mich Municipality, drastic changes in the service sectors is observed between 1975 to 1984 indicating its fast expansion (table 3.2 shows the trends of growth of different business sectors in the town).

Table 3.2 Growth trends of tertiary sector establishments during 1964-1984

Services	1964	1975	1984
Tej houses	8	37	83
Hotels	2	7	18
Restaurants	N.A	41	93
Bars	7	16	27
Tea Rooms	4	11	15
shops	7	45	83
Pharmacy	N.A	4	4
Flour Mills	5	8	12
photo houses	N.A	2	5
bakery	1	6	10
Butchery	-	11	14
Grocery	-	5	5
Wholesale	-	17	39
Smithy	-	4	6

Public service is one most important solid employer in the town. According to the Arba Minch Development plan (1995), 30 percent of the labour force in the town are public servants. They are engaged in various administrative sectors such as civil works, education, health, revenue and tax collection, municipal services, etc.

Of the total employees in both the formal and informal sectors together, there are 2115 regular and 2969 temporary workers, engaged in the production sectors, accounting for only 24.4 percent of the total number of employees in both sectors. The State Farm and the textile factory are on the top of employment opportunity generation to the urban population of the town. Both of them share 5,000 and 935 permanent and seasonal workers respectively.

The remaining sizeable population has to fend for themselves in various odd-job activities. These elements are the poor unskilled peripheral settlers of the town. Their main visible activities are collecting and selling firewood, charcoal and timber, thatch (dried Straw, hay or fresh grass), quarrying and transporting sand and stone, etc., for selling in the town. Some of them are also engaged in fishing, retail trading and selling locally brewed alcoholic drinks and prepared foods. Thus, in general, the major source of their household income lies on unskilled labour works depending on the health conditions of the breadwinners and even their teenage children. One can make a double back-and-forth trip to the surrounding forest area to collect wood either for fuel or some timber for construction purposes. The natural increase in population and fast expansion of the town due to rural-in-migration has led to increased pressure on the local environmental resources particularly the forests and woodland in the region.

Some of the men, the Konso community in particular are also known for such odd activities as portering heavy loads, emptying and cleaning old and full latrine pits, digging new ones and other construction works. Infact, they constitute the core of the low status workers in the town.

Like most of the urban places in Ethiopia, one of the major problems in Arba Minch town is chronic lack of housing. Housing sector is characterized by both inadequacy and poor quality of the units. In the peripheral areas where the recent migrants are the dominant settlers the condition is worst. Most of the houses are made up of thatch and sparsely erected wooden posts of wall. They hardly last for two years. Either the roof or the wall or both begin to fall apart because of termites. The houses inside are filled with fume and the roof is covered with soot and spider webs. As Mesfin

(1970:30) elaborated in association to the problems of Ethiopian urbanization, the houses that are made up of thatch are closer to one another and are often prone to fire accidents.

According to the Population and Housing Census of 1984, the total number of housing units in the town was 4,139 while the number of households was 4507, denoting 1.09 households per housing unit. The 1994 population and Housing census also indicates almost the same condition as the above. The total number of housing unit and households was recorded as 8,776 and 9,208 respectively. This makes 1.05 households per housing unit of the town. The number of housing units is notably below the projection for 1994 units made by the Arba Minch Development Master Plan study in 1995.

The number of houses constructed between the two census years of 1984 and 1994 is not proportional to population increase in the town. The rate of change of population was 50.7 percent during their ten years period while the rate of house construction was only 47.2 percent within this interval.

Similar conditions can be revealed from the documents of Arba Minch Municipality. The number of individuals and organizations who got their house construction permits by paying their plan bill were only 4039 between 1988 to 1996. This also indicates the low level of construction rate in comparison to the natural and migrational growth of population of the town. The following table (3.3) illustrate trend of the housing units construction permits granted between 1988 to 1996.

Table 3.3. The number of house construction permits by year per 1000 population

Year	Population	House construction Permits annually		House construction permits per 1000 population
		No	%	
1988	33,336	361	8.94	10.8
1989	34,367	173	4.28	5.0
1990	37,428	219	5.42	5.8
1991	37,655	387	9.58	10.30
1992	38,819	413	10.23	10.6
1993	39,942	139	3.44	3.50
1994	40,020	370	9.16	9.2
1995	41,221	1520	37.63	36.9
1996	42,457	457	11.32	10.8
Total		4039	100.00	

There is a sizeable number of persons who have no resources to pay for their plan bill or construction of houses are in the waiting list of kebeles to get houses. According to the Arba Minch Development Plan (1989), the total number of house rent requisition cases were 4,583. However the lists of six kebeles indicate that, there are 1,648 applicants currently. The condition, however, is bleak since all kebeles have no capital to invest in not only the construction of new houses but even to the maintenance of the existing ones. So the prospect of getting kebele houses by the waiting applicants is really bleak.

Apart from the dearth of houses, the other chronic problem is the very poor quality of the dwellings. Of the total houses, 45.9 and 32.51 percent (CSA, 1984, 1994 respectively) have no toilet facilities and hence some of the people excrete their faeces in the open-spaces wherever possible. Majority of the housing units also have no direct access to water and electricity facilities. According to Water and Sewerage and Electric Light and Power Authorities, the total number of metres of water and electricity in the

town are 2,156 and 2,801 with the ratio of 3:1 and 4:1 for every housing unit respectively, regardless of the number of households and illegal settlers that share. The number of public water taps are only 23 of which only 18 are normally functioning currently.

Clean tap water supply happens to be very meager in Arba Minch. The average annual per capita consumption of water at present is about 10.04 cubic metre as compared to 49.5 cubic metres (49,530.5 liters) in Africa as a whole for both house and public connections (Bahel, and Unn, 1992:306). The outskirts kebeles suffer particularly because of the shortage. On the basis of the sample study, out of 362 houses only 8 percent and 3.6 percent have shared and own metres of water and electricity respectively whereas the inner kebeles are relatively better. Therefore those that do not own or share the metre of electricity are forced to get illegally from distances of more than 15 metres which can result fire accident. Similarly, they have to travel for long distances to fetch their potable water either from the public tap or private houses. This is the reason why about 1.3 percent (CSA, 1994) of the people close to the river use river water because of easy access which however can result in various water born diseases.

Arba Minch has also highly inadequate intra-urban and interurban transportation facilities. The town has 12 regularly functioning taxis and one on-and-off city bus. There is greater pressure during the peak hours of movement of people for journey to work and back home or on other days especially market days.

The routing systems of the town in terms of external contacts is extremely poor that hinders development of transportation facilities. Arba Minch has a great locational

advantage as an emerging centre. It promises to become one of the main centres of southern Ethiopia, since it could be the starting point for the various routes to reach most of the southern regions. The currently running large and prestigious project of connecting the Sodo-Arba Minch high way (a distance of 115 k.m) in to an asphaltic surface to be soon completed, will naturally provide a great linkage with Addis Ababa, curtailing the journey by a couple of hours or more. In addition it has one air strip that links it with Addis Ababa and Jinka (Dehub Omo) twice or three times in a week. There is also a boat service on lake Chamo.

Other social facilities and amenities are also inadequate. The town has six kindergartens, five primary, two junior and one senior school, one Technical school and a Teacher's Training centre. These institutions serve the local and the surrounding population. There is an exhaustive plan to open a nursing school and an additional Technical School.

Arba Minch boasts of having a centre of great national status, i.e. the Arba Minch Water Technology Institute (A.W.T.I) which provides number of courses in water resource development and use. It has its own planned campus including residential campus in the lower town. From medical point of view, the town has one general hospital, one health center and one clinic and four pharmacies. The hospital acts as a referral center for the weredas and the neighbouring administrative regions and has 107 beds.

There are 37 hotels, 12 restaurants and 69 cafeterias that render services to the people. Among them, there is only one touristic class hotel.

Arba Minch has a textiles factory and its own ginning plant. As expressed above, it employs 935 permanent and

temporary workers. There is crocodile ranching unit that provides an employment opportunity for some people. Arba Minch is a promising recent settlement and got its boost by being the new urban centre and head quarter of Gemu Gofa province in the imperial regime. It retains its status and position at present serving as the capital town of Semen Omo Zone. As the zonal capital city, it has a vast array of administrative functions having several ministerial branch offices and also various Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) at different places with town-scape. Several of these units, when falling expanded, will serve as nuclei for further growth.

On the other hand, the town lacks some of basic urban services such as modern slaughter house, fire brigade, garbage collecting vehicle, public toilets and baths and other essential amenities. The town being quite expanded in space with yet highly scattered units far apart from each other, suffers from lack of adequate supply and distribution of the various amenities and facilities.

From the future developmental point of view, the town has a wide range of potentialities viewed from natural resources particularly water, fishery and wildlife endowment of the surrounding area, which when adequately developed, may give a great boost to the economic development of the town.

The two lakes, Abay and Chamo are known for their immense fish resources. It is believed that the potential can feed the growing demand of the town itself and other urban centers of the country if the method of fishing and the technology is improved. Already large amount of fish, particularly the Nile Perch, a high quality fish, is exported to Addis Ababa.

The agricultural potential of the surrounding of the town in particular is expected to satisfy the food demands of the town and raw material requirement of agro-industrial processing plants. This in turn contributes to the development of the town. Infact, Arba Minch has a very fertile hinterland with rich soil and both abundant rain and sunshine the year round. With the government development projects, the entire area, quite much less utilized and large area almost wild, can be "transformed in to a garden spot." To link this agricultural production economically to the rest of the country, road improvement and road extensions and linkages need to be given top priority.

According to the study of Arba Minch Development planning, the feasible small scale productive activities with local and induced materials include processing dry fish, vegetable oil refining, knit wear and garment, soap industry, bamboo furniture, printing and galvanizing iron-sheet products.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Patterns of flow and the characteristics of migrants, and the causes for Migration

4.1 The Patterns of flow and characteristics of Migrants

4.1.1 The Patterns and Nature of flow

At percent, urban population has been growing at an annual rate of 2.5 globally and 3.5 percent in less developed countries. At continental level, however, it reaches the highest rate in Africa, and particularly in Eastern Africa which records 6.5 percent (U.N, 1996).

The high growth rate of urban population is mainly attributed to rural-urban migration which is still the predominant cause in developing countries to increase the size of urban population.

In Ethiopia, also, the urban population has been growing in recent years at an annual rate of 7 percent mainly because of rural-urban migration accounting for its share of 4.5 percent (Taye, 1990:33). Following the same trend of urbanization, most of the in-migrants to Arba Minch are of rural Origin. According to 1994 census, of the total migrants (24,822) 14,956 or about 60 percent are rural born. The survey also reveals that the rural-born in-migrants account for 75 percent of the total in-migrants of the town. The table (4.1) indicates the volume of migration to Arba Minch.

Table 4.1 The number of migrants to Arba Minch by sex and place of birth

Place of Origin	Male		Femal		Total		Percentage of total
	No	%	NO	%	NO	%	
Rural	415	81.21	151	72.25	566	78.76	74.76
Urban	96	18.79	58	27.75	154	21.24	21.24
Total	511	100.00	209	100.00	720	100.00	100.00
Percentage of total		70.75		29.25		100.00	

The phenomenon of migration in Arba Minch displays a noticeable regional /spatial variation in its source of in-migrants. On the other hand, it is quite natural that the overwhelming majority of migrants to Arba Minch have come from the same administrative region, mainly because of proximity and close links accounting for 72.7 percent of the total. Inter-regionally also, there is great variation. Other regions of the country are naturally less conspicuous as source regions. As the survey can reveal, among the total in-migrants only 193 came from other administrative regions where Shewa share about 15 percent of the total regional migrants followed by Sidamo and Kefa.

Though the survey takes into account only the heads of households, intra-regional in-migrants from the weredas to Arba Minch are the dominant over the inter-regional in-migrants from administrative regions and the natives. This can be seen from two points of view. Firstly, there has been high flow of rural people from the weredas of the region, particularly, accelerated after 1982 which seems to have increased the intensity of indigenous people in the town. This high incidence of recent in-migrants may be closely related with the introduction of cooperativization and

socialization of rural land when distressed peasants started to flock to the town. This is because as Dejene (1990:51) pointed out that, the period was characterized by stagnation and in some cases even decline in production. Secondly, it may be related with the fear of perceived economic and political situations; some of the in-migrants may respond as an indigenous (inborn) of that administrative region in suspicious of out-casting from the region or the town economically or socially. However, the first reason can be more viable and acceptable for high rate increase of the Semen Omo born in-migrants to Arba Minch town.

An important aspects of migration is the nature of the composition of migration streams or flows, depending on the involvement of individuals, families and accompanying children...(Goldscheider, 1984:4). Similarly, migration to Arba Minch has different forms of flow that includes the single migrant, or migrants with families accompanied before and/ or after migration as well as, chained and stepped type movements.

There is clear indication of chain and step-migration reflected by the in-migrants to Arba Minch who glide through various links: the first in-migrants are soon followed by their births and kins, friends, relatives or other co-villages. Such migrants are closely knit units and form ethnically homogeneous sections in some parts of the town: this reflects what Sutcliffe (1984:257) has stated that racial or ethnic homogeneous characteristic can occur in urban areas as a consequence of such rural-urban migration.

Thus, chain migration is very common particularly among the rural people where one gravitates the other on the bondage

of intimacy and/or kinship relationship. The other testification of the chain migration to Arba Minch is the flow of information to the recipient. As the survey indicates, for about 50 percent of the total in-migrants; information has been conveyed through their relatives and friends. So, the role of already settled in-migrants is vital to "pull" their fellows to Arba Minch from their places of origin.

The reasons for the settlement of in-migrants in the present kebeles is also an important factor to test their chained moves. More than 30 percent of in-migrants are chain migrants who moved to well familiarized destination through information by relatives or friends. Thus, the hypotheses that migration increases in volume as per presence of the number of close relatives in the town increased (Caldwell, 1969: 130). This is in particular true to the neighbourhoods of 'Konso sefer' (kebele 9) and 'Gofa Sefer' (Kebele 10) in which the dominant people are from the same origin, i.e., Konso and Goffa areas respectively. There are also some pocket areas in the other old kebeles where identical people from the same area are inhabited.

The overall characteristic of the movement of in-migrants is thus, of both direct and stepped type. Among the sample population, 185 migrants are stepped movers, of which inter regional migrants are the dominant. From intra-regional weredas, about 22 percent of the total in-migrants are of stepped types, moving at the first step to either through their corresponding wereda towns and /or the other rural areas before they settle in the present town as the next step.

Among the intra-regional migrants to Arba Minch, eleven in the sample migrated to the rural Arba Minch Wereda before they entered to the town itself. This is basically related to the high productive potentialities of the Arba Minch rural

environs that attracts significant number of potential migrants to be engaged as daily labourers at the farms collecting sizeable earning and savings from their perceived as sufficient amount remuneration to sustain them in the town, for some eventual lay-off period. They perceive the Arba Minch State Farm to employ them as or they decided to be daily labourers. By the time of their decision to move, they often might have gained some urban experiences exposing themselves to the town life by prior visits, while visiting the acquaintances or relatives in the town, which is in close proximity to their rural work place.

4.1.2. Characteristics of migrants

Age and Sex Structure ✓

Migration is highly selective specific phenomenon interms of such deterring characteristics as age, sex, marital status, family size, skill and education, etc. Among the variables, age is very significant in migration flow. Generally the young people decide to move as they characteristically get easily bitten by the rising ambition "bug"; it is they who get more restless about the deteriorating socio-economic situation in their rural settings or about searching out newer and greener pasture lands of prospective opportunities and life-chances; by their age specific long future; they also enjoy the capacity to learn new trends, acquire new skills, change jobs, get education and work harder to achieve their goals in the newer environment, and enjoy life. The rural-urban migrants in Ethiopia also happen to generally young, confirming the trends cited in the literature. Out of the total migrants to Arba Minch 42.8 percent are between the age groups of 20-39 years (CSA,1994). According to the survey, about 56 and 54 percent of rural and

urban born in-migrants respectively are between 20-39 years of age group yielding an average of 55 percent. The rural originated migrants then seem to be relatively younger than those who migrated from urban areas. This is because, the youth age groups are less satisfied in the agricultural unprofitability and more ambitious to test urban life. Thus, are liable to migrate out of their milieu in their early ages. There fore, according to the survey, since in-migrants in general are young and potentially productive, there is high concentration of number of families between 4 to 7 family size whereas migrants with one and two are proportionally low. The extension of family because of the high fertility rate of most of migrants is related with chain settlement with their rural mentality living as an "urban peasantry" in the town. As the result, they add more population on existing meager urban basic facilities, primarily on housing.

In terms of gender, male migrants are greater than female from rural areas whereas gender position is almost equal for the urban-born counterparts. In general, as stated by Oberai (1987), Zachariah, and Conde (1982) in African context, in-migrants to Arba Minch are male dominated.

Marital status

Population movement has been found to have significant linkage with marital status of prospective as well as actual migrants: the literature states that generally those that have no family obligation are more prone to move. However, the survey of rural in-migrants of Arba Minch have different picture regarding marital status. According to table (4.2) below, the rural originated migrants of Arba Minch in particular are more married than their urban counterparts which might be due to the practice of early marriage in rural settings. The number of married rural in-migrants before and

after migration is also very high, probably because of polygamy in the rural areas. There fore, it is difficult to conceptualize that migration level of single males is higher than for the married ones since married male has a lions share in migration stream to Arba Minch. The high incidence of rural married migrants after their settlement in Arba Minch is basically because, bachlor life in the town with low income is very difficult though it is better than in rural areas. As such, indicated in chapter three, in order to get sustainable income and rather higher to defray the expences and to confront and fight the likely incidence of the urban poverty, having a partiner is probably the only solution and hope for the migrants

Table 4.2. Distribution of respondents by marital status and place of birth

Marital Status	Rural		Urban		Total	
	Before Migration	After Migration	Before Migration	After Migration	Before	After
Maried	386	91	41	26	427	117
Unmarried	132	37	94	65	226	102
Divorced/ Widowed	13	26	5	21	18	47
Not Stated	35	7	14	15	49	22
Total	566	161	154	127	720	288

There is significantly higher incidence of divorces among the rural in-migrants than urban counterparts indicating lower chances of the conjugal ties to hold or restrict migration opportunities.

In general, as stated above since there is significant increase in the rate of marriage after and before migration,

the demographic situation of the receiving urban area in particular can be highly affected. A large number of migrants eventually bring their entire families. Also these migrants have relatively larger number of children. The evidence during the survey indicates that it is not uncommon to see under-nourished, and poorly dressed crowds of children in every street particularly in Kebele 09, 10 and 13.

Educational Characteristic

Educational level of migrants of Arba Minch show variation in accordance to their place of birth and the duration of their stay in the town. There is clear disparity in the distribution of educational level of migrants between rural and urban, and spatially among kebeles of Arba Minch. As table (4.3) indicates, there is high proportion of illiterates as well as those that can only read and write (about 44 percent) among rural migrants than the urban counterparts (8.4 percent). There is high clustering of urban originated migrants between Junior and secondary level education, because of their easy access to schooling opportunities.

Spatially speaking, the proportion of illiterates and those that can merely read and write is more than 50 percent for sample kebeles of 09 and 10.

Table 4.3 Distribution of respondents by educational level, place of birth and residential kebele

Educational level	Rural									Urban								Total	
	Kebeles							Total		Kebeles							Total		
	01	03	05	06	09	10	13	No	%	01	03	05	06	09	10	13	No	%	
illiterate	6	10	2	11	51	34	30	144	25.44	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	2.60	148
Read and write	7	14	17	6	15	39	5	103	18.20	1	-	-	1	3	1	3	9	5.84	112
Primary (1-6)	20	18	24	13	37	12	24	148	26.15	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	22	14.29	170
Jounior (7-8)	11	9	13	7	11	11	7	69	12.19	-	9	9	18	2	3	3	44	28.57	113
Secondary (9-12)	9	3	10	14	5	12	6	59	10.42	6	4	8	12	4	3	4	41	26.62	100
12 th + special Training	7	2	1	4	2	5	4	25	4.42	5	-	8	1	2	-	5	21	13.64	46
Bachlor and above	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not Stated	2	-	5	-	4	2	5	18	3.18	3	-	4	-	2	4	-	13	8.44	31
Total	62	56	72	55	125	115	81	566	100.00	18	17	31	35	19	14	20	154	100.00	720

✓ Occupational Status of in-migrants

The rural-urban migrants in Arba Minch are engaged in different activities and employment status. According to the survey, more than 50 percent, however, unemployed, while none of them, holds the states of employer.

Also the employed in-migrants are very low in status: infact about 16 and 32 percent of the total in-migrants from both rural and urban areas fall in this category. This situation indicates the employment opportunity the town being too bleak to absorb the streaming rural people. Obviously urban situation is not as rosy as migrants perceived and expected.

In terms of employment status, according to the reports of the respondents, majority of the in-migrant are self-employed, constituting more than 60 and 50 percent of the rural and urban-born migrants respectively. Obviously, the rural migrants are proportionally more in self-employment, because they are less capable of getting employment in services owing to lack of education and skill compared to their urban counterparts. The table (4.4) illustrates the activity and employment status of migrants by their place of birth.

Table 4.4 Employment status of respondents by their place of birth

Employment conditions	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Self employed ¹	347	61.31	51	33.12	398	55.28
Govt. employed	73	12.90	39	25.32	112	15.56
NGO employed	17	3.00	8	5.19	25	3.47
Employer	-	-	-	-	-	-
other	71	12.54	35	22.73	106	14.72
Not stated	58	10.25	21	13.64	79	10.97
Total	566	100.00	154	100.00	720	100.00

Migrants are involved in different occupational categories. As per responses of the migrants, about 50 and 42 percent of rural and urban migrants respectively are engaged in informal urban tertiary sector. Most of them lack adequate education or required occupational skills to be absorbed in the formal sector, and hence the only option is to join urban informal tertiary sectors (Okpara, 1986:67; Fapohunda, and Lubell, 1978: 36; Befekadu. 1978:22). The following table shows distribution of respondents by category of occupation and place of birth.

¹Includes unemployed migrants who are engaged in their "survival occupations" in the town.

Table 4.5 Distribution of respondents by main occupational categories and place of birth

Occupational categories	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Primary Activity	203	35.87	24	15.58	227	31.53
Secondary	116	20.49	47	30.52	163	22.64
Tertiary	223	39.40	76	49.35	299	41.53
others	18	3.18	5	3.25	23	3.19
Not stated	6	1.06	2	1.30	8	1.11
Total	566	100.00	154	100.00	720	100.00

As table (4.5) illustrates, the primary sector has also significant share (31.5 percent) for both rural and urban migrants of Arba Minch. It is more important for the rural destitute migrants because, as expressed above, they are less educated, unskilled and have no capital potential to run any form of business of their own in the town. Hence, most of them are employed in forestry, fishery and quarrying. This also indicates that, unlike many other urban areas, the labour force has no possibility to be transformed and absorbed by modern sectors in Arba Minch except the state farm which is almost identical to the rural labour works.

On the other hand, urban migrants have greater share of the secondary sector because of their relatively better educational standards. The rural in-migrants are preponderant in casual construction labour work: it is not uncommon to observe males or females transporting construction materials like stone and sack of sand on their head or back to

individual construction sites. Also seasonal and casual economic activities account for about 44 percent of the total migrants involve. Table (4.6) shows the distribution of respondents by occupational nature and place of birth.

Table 4.6. Distribution of respondents by occupational nature and place of birth

Nature of occupation	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Permanent	67	11.84	35	22.73	102	14.17
Temporary	21	3.71	14	9.09	35	4.86
seasonal	128	22.62	43	27.92	171	23.75
casual	119	21.02	26	16.88	145	20.14
others	168	29.68	24	15.59	192	26.67
Not Stated	63	11.13	12	7.79	75	10.41
Total	566	100.00	154	100.00	720	100.00

The high proportion of seasonal workers is mainly ascribed to the state farm near the town. For example, during the 1971/72 production year, the labour absorption between November and February was about 48 percent of the total work force demanded in different activities at the farm. This is because it was the harvesting time of different crops at the farm. After February, the labour force requirement is reduced until the weeding period between June and August. During these labour slack periods, unlike the West African rural-urban migrants (Caldwell, 1969) and the Tukumán case of Argentina (Kirchner, 1982:145-47) most of the migrants of Arba Minch are not returning back to their rural and/or urban origins. Instead, they shift to other activities such as collecting firewood and timber from the surrounding wood lands ✓

for sale and other similar manual works for all kinds of possible odd jobs to eke out their living until they are demanded again in labour peak seasons for cotton picking and weeding. Thus, they show a great amount of non-specialization of activities, and flexibility and resilience to take up a set of multiple jobs to and make out their livings. ✓

Therefore, in one way or another as Fapohunda and Lubell(1978:122) pointed out in the case of Jakarta, they show an undaunted and remarkable adjustability to make possible access and opportunity for remunerative income all the year-round in and around the town itself. They have a unique strategy in adopting these cyclical activities, and eventually these seasonal migrants start to settle permanently in the town.

The following table indicates labour allocation in Arba Minch State Farm in different seasons by type of crops for 1971/72 production year.

Table 4.7. Labour allocation of Arba Minch State Farm by Crop type and months

Month	Cotton	Maize	Teff	Banana	Vegetable	Other	Total	Percentage
June	144	-	149	2	95	1202	1592	5.64
July	723	-	116	-	133	1371	2343	8.30
August	2183	-	30	2	141	1253	3609	12.79
September	1041	32	30	28	105	854	2092	7.41
October	1083	33	120	-	83	572	1891	6.70
November	1612	8	138	-	64	701	2523	8.94
December	1926	215	444	48	32	644	3309	11.73
January	3274	356	6	63	47	545	4291	15.21
February	2998	145	-	-	12	252	3407	12.08
March	1526	75	33	-	12	285	1931	6.84
April	181	30	-	33	-	398	642	2.28
May	64	156	-	45	-	322	587	2.08
Total	16755	1050	1066	221	724	8399	28217	100.00

Source: Adopted from documents of Arba Minch State Farm.

It is worthwhile to state that the number of seasonal workers at the farm is significantly higher than described in chapter 3. This is because of labour intensive production system of the time. At present, however, there is relative improvement in the farm technology and hence the number of temporary and seasonal workers are curtailed substantially except in the seasons for cotton weeding and picking. There is also significant change in the cropping patterns over recent years: at present the farm is dominated by the production of cotton, maize and bananas.

4.2.2. Causes for migration

There are several reasons for population mobility from place to place. Reasons for migration to urban centers in particular are more complex. However, broadly, it is possible to group the "pushing" and "pulling" factors mainly into the nomenclature of two aspects i.e., the economic and non-economic factors. Some scholars accept the predominance of economic factors for rural-urban migration (Gugler, and Flanagan, 1978:52; Mabogunje, 1980:161; Lindsay, 1985:28; Hear, 1992) while others (AsdiSara, 1984:175; Pryor, 1978; Caldwell, 1969:106) stress on non-economic factors.

In the Ethiopian context, there is wide range variation in resource distribution regionally and even locally. Therefore, economically motivated population mobility in general and rural-urban migration in particular is very much more common phenomenon as stated in the literature rather than non-economic factors.

The economic based movement seems to be the most predominant type for migration of the surveyed people in Arba Minch. Among the diverse factors, "search for job" on account of "failure of crops" in home areas account for about 50 percent of the total for migrational moves. As such, the rural-urban migrants of Arba Minch are basically in search for economic betterment in their destination area.

The following table illustrates the direct reasons for migration from the migrants places of birth.

Table 4.8. Responses stating reasons for migration

Reasons for migration	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
In search of relatives or friends	41	7.24	18	11.69	59	8.19
Education or other training purposes	19	3.36	12	7.79	31	4.31
In search of job	211	37.28	108	70.13	319	44.31
Job Transfer	59	10.42	27	17.53	86	11.94
To open or extended business	43	8.48	21	13.64	64	9.58
Intolerable/uncomfortable living conditions in the original places	47	8.30	17	11.04	64	8.89
Crop production failure	39	6.89	-	-	39	5.42
To get good medical treatment	17	3.00	6	3.89	23	3.19
Divorce or family death	13	2.30	11	7.14	24	3.33
Others	41	7.24	4	2.60	45	6.25
Not stated	37	6.54	15	9.74	52	7.22
Total	567	100.15	239	155.19	806	110.99 ²

Intolerable and unpleasant living conditions at the home areas are significant cause in labour migration which indicates the power of rural "push" factor.

Apart from the rural "push" factors, there are also some strong urban "pulling" factors witnessed by the rural people themselves. Thus, it is not uncommon to hear the songs of the highlanders of the region saying:

"Let us go to Arba Minch
to eat injera with cooked meat"

²It is more than 100 percent due to multiple responses

There fore, on the ground of the above reasons as springboard and others for migration, tempts are made to test the hypotheses by using multiple regression model.

The dependent variable in the regression is:

Y = Number of reported in-migrants from Weredas of Semen Omo.

The independent variables are:

X_1 = Average physical distance between Arba Minch and the Wereda Centers of Semen Omo.

X_2 = Percentage of Urban population of the Weredas of the region to the total population.

X_3 = Crude population density per km²

X_4 = Agricultural population Density per Km²

X_5 = Unemployment rate

X_6 = Percentage of literacy

The indicated variables above are tested using multiple regression and simple correlation coefficient in the case of migrants from 13 administrative regions and Weredas of Semen Omo.

In order to test the hypotheses formulated in particular and the influentials of migration in general, one dependent variables (Y) is used. The role of independent variables can also be uncovered by these variables. As it can be observable in the correlation matrix (Appendix 2) there is no multicollinearity among the independent variables since the correlation coefficients are not almost equal to unity and no increasing standard errors.

In order to detect out the unnecessary and redundant variables, and to know the most influential, for ward and backward step-wise regression is employed.

According to the survey, the intra-regional migrants of Arba Minch from Weredas are the dominant as expressed above in the chapter constituting for about 73 percent of the total migrants. Therefore, treating it with the inter-regional in-migrants jointly may cast some shadow on some critical variables that determine the magnitude of migration to the town. Due to this, disaggregation to the local Wereda level of that Administrative region is an essential to uncover the major causes of migration at the grassroot.

On the basis of this, when 26 Weredas of the region are taken into account, the most significant independent variables are only X_1 and X_5 on the order of their importance in explaining the total variation in the dependent variable. They explain the proportion of 41 percent of the total variability in the dependent variable. The analysis of variance also envisages that, the included variables are statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance in contributing to the total variation.

The following table illustrates the summary of the results of the regression for y .

Table 4.9. Summary of the regression on dependent variable for wereda migrants

Multiple R	=	0.68		
Multiple R square	=	0.46		
Adjusted R square	=	0.41		
Standard Error	=	14.78		
Analysis of variance	DF	sum of squares	Mean Square	
Regression	2	3597.53	1798.76	
Residual	19	4151.92	218.52	
	F = 8.23	Significance	F= 0.0027	

Variables in the Equation

Variable	B	SEB	Beta	T	Sig.T
X ₁	-0.039	0.017	-0.411	2.212	0.039
X ₅	0.838	0.396	0.394	2.119	0.047
Constant	22.753	6.835		3.329	0.003

$$\hat{y} = 22.753 - 03.399 x_1 + 0.838X_5$$

Distance has an important role in determining the rate of migration to Arba Minch. As it is expected and hypothesized, the coefficients have the correct negative signs which implies that the proportion of migrants varies inversely with distance between the rural area origin and the urban destination. The low standard error also indicates the stronger evidence that the estimates are statistically significant. Thus, it is an evident that hypothesis number 1 is acceptable.

The second important variable to influence the incidence of migration to Arba Minch is unemployment rate (x₅) with beta coefficient of 0.394. On the individual level it has also its own share of contribution owing 0.62 correlation coefficient with the probability level of 0.001. Thus, its importance very high to influence migration to Arba Minch. Thus, hypothesis number 4 is overwhelmingly accepted.

As stated in the introductory part, migration is a constant demographic factor and its reasons for leaving ones origin is very complex. Hence, the variables not sufficient by themselves to explain the incidences since the amount of variation explained by both variable is 41 percent. Therefore, there are others that can repel people from their

origins to Arba Minch. The variables that are out of the regression equation at 0.05 level of significance can not be also completely ignored and may have some direct and indirect influence on the dependent variable. For instance, according to the correlation matrix, x_2 and x_5 have some relationship with the dependent variable owing 0.43 and 0.32 correlation coefficient at 0.03 and 0.12 probability level respectively. However, there is no concrete ground to accept hypotheses number 2 and 3.

In general, the Kernel of most of the significant variables above is the income differential between rural origin and urban destination of migrants of Arba Minch. As envisaged, among the various factors that stimulate rural-urban migration; economic factors seem to be predominant. In the rural areas in general, the low earning and few remunerative non-farm occupations are scanty and almost nil. This testifies that, there is concentration of wage employment and high earning opportunities in the towns than the rural areas. Thus, rural-urban migration is inevitable because as Asdisara (1984:175) pointed out that, an individual will move if the value of the expected income at the place of destination exceeds the sum of the value of the expected income at the origin.

On the basis of this, the findings of Sileshi (1978) in the case of Addis Ababa to justify the real existence of rural-urban income differential is examined in relation to Arba Minch.

According to the Regional Labour and Social Affairs Bureau(1996), the town has 8669 and 5,614 employees and unemployed labour force respectively. The survey study of the town shows that the average annual percapita rural income of the in-migrants is 175 birr. On the other hand, according to

Labour and Social Affairs Bureau the unskilled urban daily labourer earns 2.50 birr per day on the minimum though there is casualty of access to work. This amounts to 912 birr annually which is almost five times higher than the rural annual per capita income .

Given 35 percent of probability of urban employment opportunity³ and the five fold rural-urban income differential, the decision to migrate from their origin is the function of:

$$E_{wu} = P_u w_2 \text{ where}$$

E_{wu} is expected urban wage

P_u is probability of urban employment

W_2 is rural income

$$\begin{aligned} \text{There fore } E_{wu} &= 0.35 \times 5W_2 \\ &= 1.75 W_2 \\ &= 2W_2 \end{aligned}$$

The equations above envisages that, the expected urban wage in Arba Minch is about twice higher than rural income. Hence, as stated above, as long as the value of expected income at the place of destination exceeds the value of income at the origin, people will continue to move to Arba Minch. This also makes hypothesis number 5 conceivable and rural-urban disparity and rural poverty practically exists in the region and urban income outrun the rural income which averses the rural people.

In summary, according to the survey, majority of migrants of Arba Minch are rural originated. From the point of patterns of flow, Chain migration is clearly noticeable among

³ The ratio of total number of people employed and the number looking for jobs (Essang, and Mabawonku, 1974)

the rural people and some are stepped before they reach their present destination.

Demographically, migrants are mainly concentrated in the most productive ages and immense number of rural in-migrants are married before and after their migration. There fore, in addition to the migrational increase of the population of the town, the natural increase is also considerable.

In their economic activities, seasonal and casual workers predominate among the migrants. In addition, most of in-migrants are engaged in primary sector. The secondary sector has also significant partition when casual construction workers share the substantial number. The engagement of migrants on primary and secondary sector exclusively have greater impact on the ecology and the overall urban development strategy directly and indirectly.

On the basis of causes of migration and tests of the hypotheses, several variables are used and their significance is realized. In this regard, twenty-Six Weredas of Semen Omo are considered against the dependent variable.

Although there are some expectations of the computational results; in all cases in general, the determinants of migration are the low per capita land, distance, education, unemployment and search for job. When the wereda level in-migrants are particularized, the slight difference lies in exclusion of the influence of urban population as expected. Other wise the influential variables are almost identical.

Therefore, in totality, all the above conditions are the most determinants of population movement in the region and hence requires an important attention by local and regional authorities and policy makers.

Chapter 5
Impacts and Consequences of Migration

Certain attempts have been made in conceptualizing and testing some explanatory models of migration. However, our understanding of consequences of migration in particular so far is less well developed. This is because the effect of migration on both the places of destination and origin is very complex and multiplex, and requires thorough understanding of various behavioral contexts. However, in general, the consequences depend on the volume of migration, the degree of flow of remittance, and the type of migrants that dominates the migration flow.

In developed countries, the flow of labor from areas of low marginal productivity to high marginal productivity is normal and is accepted as an ingredient for development by raising labor efficiency at both ends, i.e., places of origin as well as the destinations. On this ground, Oberai (1987) thinks that the rural-urban migration is a population movement from relatively low income rural activities to higher income industrial and service sector so that the level of income can be increased. Therefore, it is considered as generating various benefits to the migrants.

Contrary to this, migration, particularly the 'push' stream of movement is found to be the major bottleneck for development in both receiving urban and departing rural areas in developing nations. This is because, most of urban areas of less developed nations are feebly urbanized and hence are not found to have the capacity to fruitfully absorb the rural migrants in gainful jobs, neither to provided housing or various other social services and amenities. Thus, they have limited 'pull' situation but still are perceived by the ruralities as powerful magnets. The result is their

numerically speaking 'over-urbanization' and speaking in terms of quality of urbanism and life-chances, their increasing countrification. The high rate of overcrowding and unemployment is increasing causing several social, psychosocial, cultural, political and economic problems in the towns, making them quite unstable social organizations in perpetual tension and stress. In spite of this frustrating state of affairs, the movement of people continues unabatedly to urban areas due to the perceived, though false expectation of better living and working conditions in urban areas.

5.1 Consequences of migration for migrants

Individuals may take 'rational' decision to leave their places with the hope of better life-chances in their destination. This is always a 'decision under risk' and uncertainty taken under certain perception based on the information and knowledge.

According to the survey, (table 5.1) about 50 percent of in-migrants of Arba Minch are made self-decision. The urban migrants were proportionately more in the category. This indicates that, family bondage for decision making is less important for urban migrants than their rural counterparts. On the other hand, family or parents' decision was comparatively more important for rural migrants. The decision for out-migration of respondents, is shown in table (5.1).

Table 5.1. The decision of respondents for out-migration by their place of birth

Decision for out-migration						
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
self	245	43.29	98	63.64	343	47.64
Family / parents	196	34.63	15	9.74	211	29.30
Relatives /friends	51	9.01	11	7.15	62	8.61
Employee	9	1.59	10	6.49	19	2.64
others	38	6.71	8	5.19	46	6.39
Not stated	27	4.77	12	7.79	39	5.42
Total	566	100.00	154	100.00	720	100.00

This decision-making process involves in different proportions with individual cases, a multiplicity of factors such as economic, political, social, psychological and others. The effect of migration upon the individual is generally perceived as positive since as Oberai (1987) argues that, most of rural out-migrants are better off in the urban areas than in their rural origins even if they do not obtain regular employment in formal sectors. However, several studies also conclude about overall negative impacts.

According to the sample survey, there are many problems that the migrants of Arba Mich encountered in the town. Among them the most pressing problems are shelter and employment opportunities and job access in the town. In the chain-type nature of migration to Arba Minch, most migrants do not get a temporary accommodation/shelter in the town initially. significant numbers encountered their serious problem. Infact, this problem ranks first during their initial arrival to the town after food and related consumer items (table 5.2). The overall assistance provided by already settled relatives/friends or villagers is very low compared to the escalating

problems they confront in their destination. Less than half of in-migrants have access to some help from others. Most of in-migrants to Arba Minch remain very poor, they are hardly capable to supply of adequate or prolonged sufficient material aid to the other dependent new comers.

Although, there is very limited provision of some support, those that got some assistance of food and lodging for limited time are significantly higher over the others. The table (5.2) illustrates the problems that in-migrants encounter immediately as they reach Arba Minch and some assistances provided by their relatives, friends and others.

Table 5.2. Problems encountered by respondents during their arrival to Arba Mich and assistance provided

Problems encountered	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Shelter	287	50.71	110	71.43	397	55.14
Food and related consumer items	186	32.86	39	25.32	225	31.25
Social Services	43	7.59	25	16.23	68	9.44
Others	137	24.20	72	46.75	209	29.03
Nothing	-	-	18	11.69	18	2.50
Not stated	36	6.36	15	9.74	51	33.12
Total	689	121.72	279	181.16	968	*160.48
Assistance Provided						
Food and loding	113	62.43	55	54.45	168	59.58
Money	5	2.76	9	8.91	14	4.96
Help in getting work	12	6.63	8	7.92	20	7.09
Others	15	8.29	14	13.86	29	10.28
Not Stated	36	19.89	15	14.85	51	18.09
Total	181	100.00	101	100.00	282	100.00

* More than 100 percent due to triple responses.

As Expressed in chapter 3 and 4, the employment situations for migrants is bleak and the unemployed migrants account for more than 50 percent. Local employment market gets soon saturated and over supplied with too many job seekers competing among themselves for much fewer jobs. According to Hear (1992), since most of migrants are of working age, they increase in the economically active population where unemployment is already at record level.

As table (5.3) points out, the length of duration of stay of majority of migrants under unemployment is very long indicating the severity of living conditions in their destination; infact, about 34 percent have lived under this situation for more than eight years. Being mostly unemployment illiterate and unskilled securing any dependable job is very difficult. Therefore, though they can earn more as a daily labourer in the town compared to the rural cash earning opportunities indicated above, lack of secure job remains a chronic problem for their life.

Table 5.3. Duration of stay of respondents under unemployment by place of birth

Year	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Less than 1	24	7.29	2	3.22	26	6.65
1-2	18	5.47	3	4.84	21	5.37
3-4	23	6.99	2	3.22	25	6.39
5-6	22	6.69	5	8.07	27	6.91
7-8	23	6.99	6	9.68	29	7.42
More than 8	106	32.22	27	43.55	133	34.01
Not stated	113	34.35	17	27.42	130	33.25
Total	329	100.00	62	100.00	391	100.00

The other interesting area from the point of view of employment is self-employment. As table (4.4) in chapter 4 indicates large number of both self-employed rural and urban migrants is in such activities as traditional crafts, petty-trading and locally brewed alcoholic drinks and food selling, etc. However, these activities remain mostly low income-generating even at their bests in most cases. As Mabogunje (1980) points out, this state of occupational instability and absence of social welfare system, lets both the individual migrants and the community as a whole.

Impressionistic information provides some evidences that some of in-migrants are engaged in prostitution, begging and marginal street employment. There are many juvenile delinquencies which includes theft, robbing, homicide, etc. which erodes social security in the town.

It is very difficult to obtain adequate information about income of in-migrants, the impressionistic survey information states that about 60 percent of the respondents of the sample population in Arba Minch earn between 50 to 150 birr per month which ranges between 1.70 birr to 5.00 birr per day. Thus, on the average, an individual earns 3.35 birr per day. If the cost of livings in the urban areas is taken into account, it is barely above the minimum level of sustenance in the town. However, if it is compared to the rural farm and non-farm income, it can be generalized that there is clear deviation between the two on the selection. This enables us to reach into conclusive remarks of the statement of Oberai (1987) that since there is relative increment in the amount of income in testifying the existence of wider gap between rural-urban income which repels the rural peasants in search of better living conditions in urban areas.

The other indicators of the living conditions of the individual migrants in Arba Minch is the ownership of some durable materials. Among the surveyed migrants, only negligible portion has a car and a Television set. Among the total migrants, 302 are the owners of radio with the ratio of 1 to every 2.3 person. Since it is an urban area, though the comparison is very crude, the ratio is better than the national average of one radio per 5.9 persons (The World Almanac, 1997). About 43 percent of the total migrants own a radio/ taprecorder. The possession of the other household materials is meager. This also indicates the low standard of living of the in-migrants of Arba Minch generally.

The standards of living and ownership of the urban basic materials of in-migrants varies from Kebele to Kebele which is an important point of focus for comparison of the living conditions in the initial Kebeles and the newly emerged and expanding kebeles on the outskirts. As figures in table (5.4) indicate, there is clustering of the overall ownership of durable materials in 01, 03, 05 and 06 kebeles, with very low share in 09, 10 and 13 kebeles. Hence, there is higher deviation in income not only between rural and urban areas, but in intra-urban areas too, depending on the length of occupancy of the town. This situation leads us to suggest that improvement in their economic situation increases with the duration of their stay in the town (Sethurman, 1976:110): those migrants who have stayed in Arba Minch for extended duration have better living conditions than those who have been recent migrants. Table (5.4) indicates ownership of durable household materials by kebele.

Table 5.4. Distribution of durable household materials of respondents by kebele

Materials of household		K E B E L E S							
		01	03	05	06	09	10	13	Total
Car	Yes	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	5
	No	62	90	99	103	140	124	97	715
T.V	Yes	2	3	3	9	-	-	-	17
	No	62	88	97	95	140	124	97	703
Radio/ Tape Recorder	Yes	48	57	89	65	15	25	13	302
	No	16	34	12	39	125	98	84	418
Plate (Electric "mitad")	Yes	4	3	5	9	-	-	-	21
	No	60	38	95	95	140	124	97	699
Gas/ electric stove	Yes	12	7	31	13	-	2	-	65
	No	52	84	69	91	140	122	97	655

5.2. Impact of migration on areas of origin and destination

5.2.1 Impact on places of origin of migrants

According to the survey, more than 60 percent of the total in-migrants were employed in agriculture and related activities in their places of origin before their departure to Arba Minch (table 5.5).

Table 5.5. The Working conditions of respondents before their departure to Arba Minch by place of birth

The working conditions	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Employee	29	5.12	27	17.54	56	7.78
Employer or land lord	2	0.35	3	1.95	5	0.69
Farmer	292	51.59	9	5.84	301	41.81
Non agricultural worker (self)	47	8.30	15	9.74	62	8.61
Unemployed but work-in in other's land/-house	65	11.49	14	9.09	79	10.79
Student	28	4.95	23	14.94	51	7.08
Small Child	16	2.83	14	9.09	30	4.17
Pension or disabled	3	0.53	8	5.19	11	1.53
House-Wife	15	2.65	9	5.84	24	3.33
Others	46	8.13	15	9.74	61	8.47
Not Stated	23	4.06	17	11.04	40	5.56
Total	566	100.00	154	100.00	720	100.00

Such a migration of working-age labour force means loss of agricultural labour force in the rural areas, which may lead reduction/ stagnation of agricultural production (Bell, in White and Woods, 1980; Mesfin, 1968). The other effect of migration on the areas of origin is its impact on labour distribution creating labour imbalances particularly in the rural areas. As the result, agricultural production can be hampered and adversely affected because of dominance of labour by old-aged, children and female population in the rural areas.

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Total	566	100.00	154	100.00	720	100.00

Such a migration of working-age labour force means loss of agricultural labour force in the rural areas, which may lead reduction/ stagnation of agricultural production (Bell, in White and Woods, 1980; Mesfin, 1968). The other effect of migration on the areas of origin is its impact on labour distribution creating labour imbalances particularly in the rural areas. As the result, agricultural production can be hampered and adversely affected because of dominance of labour by old-aged, children and female population in the rural areas.

According to table (5.6) below, the left-in families and relatives of migrants in their places of origin are mainly concentrated in the age groups of less than 15 to 19; and 40 to 59, both with low productive potential. On the basis of their report, in gender terms more than 25 percent of the families or relatives numerically are female dominant. Hence, as White, and Woods (1980:53) pointed out, their role in agricultural production in the rural areas is very low and insignificant. Moreover, there can be more unhealthy people who could not work normally and are mostly unfit for tedious agricultural and related works. Cumulatively, these conditions have a negative effect on agriculture which in turn can increase rural-urban gap inducing more migration. This is mainly, as Adepaju (1991:29) pointed out, because in most developing countries, agriculture is still dependent on physical and manual labour emigration input, and of young productive people leaving aside the aged and children and female farm labourers can cause strain on agricultural production.

The table (5.6) indicates the conditions of left-in families and relatives in the migrants' origin.

Table 5.6 The characteristics of the left-in families and relatives of respondents in their rural origin

Age	Relationship to the Head of Household					Health Conditions		Occupations									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
less than 15	-	-	-	94	16	110	-	3	16	11	26	-	-	16	38	110	6.40
15-19	-	-	6	121	119	246	-	16	5	6	12	-	6	147	54	246	14.32
20-24	-	1	11	89	95	196	-	15	17	13	9	-	11	85	46	196	11.41
25-29	3	6	12	14	14	48	1	6	9	1	-	2	12	8	11	49	2.85
30-34	6	3	13	8	12	42	-	10	1	1	1	2	13	1	13	42	2.45
35-39	11	13	45	-	22	91	2	22	7	-	1	3	45	-	13	91	5.30
40-44	13	20	118	-	37	181	7	25	2	1	3	1	118	-	38	188	10.94
45-49	18	22	65	-	74	173	6	26	6	8	3	1	65	-	70	179	11.41
50-54	35	39	12	-	110	196	-	128	10	18	11	-	12	-	17	196	15.66
55-59	25	32	9	-	203	265	4	165	21	15	3	-	9	-	56	269	7.04
60-64	24	18	-	-	79	119	2	31	-	2	3	-	-	-	85	121	1.80
above 64	12	5	-	-	14	25	6	6	-	3	1	-	-	-	21	31	100.00
Total	147	159	282	326	804	1692	26	453	94	79	73	9	291	257	462	1718	

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Father | 6. Full healthy | 11. Handcrafts man |
| 2. Mother | 7. Unhealthy | 12. Employee |
| 3. Wife/husband | 8. Farmer | 13. House Wife |
| 4. Child | 9. businessman | 14. Student |
| 5. Other depends | 10. Weaver | 15. Others |
| | | 16. Total |
| | | 17. Percentage |

The other significant impact of rural urban labour migration upon their places of origin is the role of out-migrants to influence the rural income through remittance. Though, the amount of money remitted happens to be of very low, still few, among the total in-migrants of Arba Minch, only 171 (about 24 percent) are in a position to remit certain amount to their places of origin. Their responses to the question: "About how much money was remitted" is included in table (5.7) below.

Table 5.7. Responses of annual remittance of in-migrants by place of birth

Remittance in birr	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Less than 50	26	26.26	5	6.94	31	18.13
50-100	31	31.31	7	9.72	38	22.22
101-150	7	7.07	8	11.11	15	8.77
151-200	1	1.01	9	12.50	10	5.85
201-250	1	1.01	5	6.94	6	3.51
251-300	-	-	-	-	-	-
301-350	-	-	1	1.40	1	0.58
351-400	-	-	2	2.78	2	1.17
401-450	1	1.01	-	1.48	1	0.58
451-500	2	2.02	3	4.17	5	2.93
greater than 500	-	-	8	11.11	8	4.68
Not limited	5	5.05	7	9.72	12	7.02
Not stated	25	25.26	17	23.17	42	24.56
Total	99	100.00	72	100.00	171	100.00

Accordingly, for about more than 50 percent of the money-remitting migrants annually range between less than 50 to 100

birr. This meager amount can hardly have any worthwhile power to change and influence their families' or relatives' lifestyle, let-alone inducing development to the region. Therefore, unlike the views of Tiffen (1995) and Lindsay (1985) in the case of Nigeria and Eshetu (1970) and others in the case of the Gurage people in Ethiopia, the contribution of in-migrants to their rural families is negligible. Because of lack of any dependable regular jobs and high costs of living in Arba Minch, they have no surplus money even to sustain when they confront being their income generation activities, an incidence which is not uncommon for many of them. In addition to this, most of the migrants have no local money saving voluntary organization except "Idir" to reserve some money to tackle emergency situations on the spot. Infact, most of their life is hand-to-mouth situation indeed.

As table (5.8) below indicates, the lion's share of remitted money at home is utilized for purchasing of consumption items. Only 2 percent respondents reported that their remitted money was used as an ingredient in agriculture and related activities. This situation shows that the role of in-migrants of Arba Minch for inducing development in their home areas is almost negligible (table 5.8).

Table 5.8. Frequency of respondents on the utilization of the remittance

Purpose or Utilization	Rural		Urban		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
For house construction	4	4.04	2	2.78	6	3.51
Taxation payment	9	9.04	6	8.33	15	8.77
For marriage ceremony	1	1.01	-	-	1	0.59
Developing Agriculture	4	4.04	-	-	4	2.34
School fees and purchase of clothes	19	19.19	11	15.28	30	17.54
For purchase of other consumption items	36	36.37	18	25.00	54	31.58
Others	9	9.09	11	15.28	20	11.69
Not stated	17	17.17	24	33.33	41	23.98
Total	99	100.00	72	100.00	171	100.00

5.2. Impacts of migration on areas of destination

5.2.1 Impacts of migration on Urban Basic Facilities and Amenities

As is commonly known, migration has depopulating effects on their home areas and overcrowding of destination areas

thereby disrupting, at least temporarily the existing socio-economic systems in both areas. In particular the problem of pressure on limited urban services and resources is intense and more severe in many poorly endowed and fledgeling towns like Arba Minch.

Arba Minch has been facing chronic problems in housing and other urban basic facilities, and misuse of resources and deterioration of the environment within as well as its environs.

According to the census report (1994), as expressed in chapter 3, there are 8,776 housing units with 9,208 households in Arba Minch which indicates the share of 230 households for every 1000 population. On the average, there are thus more than 4 persons per room, corresponding to the national average of 4 (World Bank, 1995). The housing units with less than three persons per room is accounted only for about 31 percent.

However, as our survey and the 1984 and 1994 census reports, the overwhelming proportion of the households are single-roomed and they accommodate substantial number of population while those with 4 rooms and above accounts for only to 1.6 percent of the total housing units (Table 5.9).

Table 5.9. Distribution of household size by number of rooms of the sample in-migrants, 1984 and 1994 census of Arba Minch Town

Number of rooms	Survey		Number of household size for:	
			1984	1994
	No.	%	%	%
1	370	51.00	47.20	43.60
2	203	28.00	26.30	30.60
3	105	14.50	13.40	14.90
4	35	4.80	3.20	6.86
above 4	12	1.70	7.80	2.70
Not stated	-	-	2.10	1.34
Total	725	100.00	100.00	100.00

The predominance of single-rooms is because of large number of tukuls and poor thatched houses, erected by the poor migrants. Houses made of wood and thatch account for about 27 percent (CSA,1994) of the total housing units. Arba Minch holds second position among the regional capital towns after Baher Dar (12.8 percent). Thus, this is not related only with the problem of the provision of insufficient accommodation but also more serious problem of fire accidents.

The other issue in urban housing is tenancy system. According to the table (5.10), as much as 67 percent of the migrants have their own dwellings. This is surprisingly high but easily understandable because of easy and very cheap construction of thatch tukuls in some parts of the town, particularly in kebeles 09, 10 and 13 where they can squat on the public land without any interference whatsoever. Duration of the time is also important as owner occupations tends to increase with higher duration.

Table (5.10). Duration of stay of respondents by their type of housing tenure

Duration of Stay (year)	Tenancy			
	Owner occupied	Rented	Others	Total
less than 1	-	-	-	-
1-5	59	70	8	137
6-10	88	51	6	145
11-15	97	43	5	145
16-20	108	38	4	150
above 20	131	12	-	143
Total	483	214	23	720

The major point in relation to urban housing is not only the nature of the tenancy but the quality and the content in terms of possession of kitchen, toilet, bathing facilities, water, electricity access and others should also be considered.

Poor quality houses constructed of wood and thatch constitute about 37 percent (table 5.11) of the total houses in Araba Minch. In some parts of the town they are predominant giving the town resemblance of an "urban village". As the construction of these tukuls is relatively cheaper, for many migrants building them illegally for selling has become a source of income. Some of them rent it on cheaper prices in the peripheral areas for new intruders because as Mabogunje (1980) and Hirst (1975) stated in the literature; because of low and irregular incomes of migrants, they reside in poor quality and cheaper rent areas of the town. So, in general, the existing urban slums of in-migrants attract and add other slums and migrants because of easy access of dwellings. But

in the near future, when the construction of thatchy-tukuls is discouraged and illegal settlements are prohibited, the house rent may increase for low income classes which may discourage the flow of migrants to the town.

Table 5.11. Materials of house construction of in-migrants and natives of the survey

Materials of house construction	Migrants		Natives		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Iron-sheet and wood	428	59.44	2		430	59.31
Iron-sheet and Blocket	13	1.80	-		13	1.79
Wood and Thatch	264	36.67	3		267	36.83
Others	3	0.42	-		3	0.41
Not Stated	12	1.67	-		12	1.66
Total	720	100.00	5		725	100.00

Most of these houses have no private separate kitchen so that food is cooked out of doors or in the main house. Therefore, for sizeable number of migrants the main house acts as bed room, kitchen as well as dinning room. In some cases, animals are also sheltered in it. As such, they are no better than their rural livings.

Kitchenless Houses account for about 38 percent of the total housing units, denoting better situation than the reports of the two censuses of 1984 and 1994. Those that own traditional private and shared kitchen account for about 49 and 12 percent respectively.

Toilet facilities, are also great luxury for many. About 31 percent of the total housing units lack modern toilets.

Dry-pit latrine users, both shared and owned, account for about 26 and 39 percent respectively.

In regard to bathing facilities, also, the condition is bleak and unpromising for both migrants and the old settlers. The proportion of houses with no bathing facilities account for more than 66 percent of the total housing units of respondents. The users of private fountain are insignificant compared to the others.

Table 5.12. Housing Units of respondents by Kitchen, toilet and bathing facilities

Type of Kitchen	Migrants		census report %	
	No	%	1984	1994
Modern (private)-	-	-		
Modern (shard)	-	-		
Traditional (Private)	357	49.58		
Traditional (Shared)	84	11.67		
None	279	38.75	43.70	41.40
Total	720	100.00	-	-
Toilet facilities				
modern flush (private)	7	0.97		
modern flush (shard)	-	-		
Dry-pit (private)	284	39.45		
Dry pit (shared)	189	26.25		
none	225	31.25	49.50	32.50
Not stated	15	2.08		
Total	720	100.00		
Bathing facilities				
private Fountain	9	1.25		
shared fountain	-	-		
other rooms and outside in the compound	218	30.28		
none but in the river	482	66.94	92.30	91.40
Not Stated	11	1.53		
Total	720	100.00		

Other significant indicator of population pressure mostly as a result of in-flow, and the quality of houses is the

problem of availability and access to piped water supply.

Initially, with the foundation of the town in 1962, the supply of clean water from the springs was restricted to the upper town (Secha) to support only 7,000 population. The lower town (Sikela) inhabitants depended on kulufu river for their consumption. After 7 years, in 1969, water supply increased to encompass sikela also to cover about 15,000 population and was projected to cover the demands of population till 1994. Unfortunately, the capacity of the supply soon exhausted and became pathetically low because of high and fast population increase ascribed mainly to migration. Thus, in 1982 new project started to raise the amount of supply to satisfy the fast growing population demands aimed to support 100,000 population for the next one decade. However, if the growth of the population increases at the present rate, undoubtedly, the demand will outstrip the capacity. Even at present, on the average, the annual per capita consumption is only 10 cubic metre which is far from adequate standard.

Although the demand for water fast increasing, the problem is more aggravated because of mal-distribution of the supply in the spatial sense. Some of the dwellers, particularly in the newly expanding wing of the town, like the in-migrants are forced to travel for longer distances to get potable water. In some case, they are obliged to fetch it from the river in the lower town.

According to the documents of Water and Sewerage Authority of the region, the total number of meters in the town are only 2156 where 1,000 houses or inhabitants share 246 and 54 metres respectively regardless of squatter settlers. This also reduces the amount of supply and per capita consumption which is worst in consideration of the high all

year round temperature and heat. According to the survey, the newly expanding 09, 10 and 13 kebeles flooded by in-migrants have the lowest number of meters of their own (table 5.13). More than 60 percent of the total sample population depend on either purchases of water from other households or on public taps. However, public taps are limited in number and inadequate so that some of dwellers rely on the river which makes them prone to water-borne diseases such as typhoid dysentery, tuberculosis and others.

Similarly, there are various problems in utilization and distribution of electricity in the town. Greater number of population, particularly, the sample households in kebeles 09 and 10 purchase electricity from other houses. The number of owners of metres is very low and those in-migrants that do not use electricity increases as the number of new comers increase in the peripheral kebeles. Table (5.13) indicates distribution utilization pattern of water and electricity.

Table 5.13. Distribution of households on utilization of water and electricity by kebele

Utilization of water	K e b e l e s								
	01	03	05	06	09	10	13	Total	%
Own metre	8	14	12	13	2	3	1	53	7.31
shared metre	8	18	20	29	1	2	-	78	10.76
public Tap	28	28	37	32	43	40	31	239	32.97
others	-	-	-	1	29	21	24	75	10.34
Not Stated	3	5	3	7	19	11	7	55	7.59
Total	64	92	102	104	142	124	97	725	100.00
Utilization of electricity									
own metre	11	17	16	19	1	3	2	69	9.52
shared metre	17	26	29	34	6	3	5	120	16.55
other house holds	28	38	38	29	82	60	53	328	45.24
Not use	2	2	6	14	28	50	26	128	17.66
Not stated	6	9	13	8	25	8	11	80	11.03
Total	64	92	102	104	142	124	97	725	100.00

Utilization of electricity from other households, which is very common phenomenon in the town has its own negative sides. As it is observed and surveyed, every tukul of in-migrants is interconnected by electric wires from more than 5 to 15 meter distances. According to the report of the Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority (EELPA) of regional office; as the distance from the source of meter increases, the power of the metre decreases to turn-off in the case of accidents, which happen usually since sizeable number of houses are made up of wood and thatch, their exposure to fire accident is very high. Table (5.14) shows the distances

from which quite large proportion of migrant households managed to get electricity illegally from metre sources.

Table 5.14. Distances of obtaining electricity of respondents by kebele

Distances in metres	K e b e l e s							
	01	03	05	06	09	10	13	Total
less than 5	15	15	20	17	18	7	4	96
5-10	12	17	10	12	17	13	6	87
11-15	1	4	5	-	26	23	23	82
more than 15	-	2	3	-	21	17	20	63
Total	28	38	38	29	82	60	53	328

This indicates the high pressure of population on limited metres of individuals reflecting the illegality, inadequacy and misuse of the household facilities all to be attributed to the high influx of the rural population. As a result, the Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority (EELPA) head office sources find higher yearly growth trend of power consumption in Arba Minch as compared to Goba and Gonder (Table 5.15). This trend is also an indication of the outcome of high rate of population increase compared to the two towns. The increase in consumption is more conspicuous between 1991/92 to 1994/95.

Table 5.15 Power consumption as Compared to Arba Minch with Goba and Gonder for the Last Ten Years (1979-1988 EFTY)

Year (EFY)	Consumption (kwh)			Per Capita Consumption (Kwh)		
	Arba Minc	Bale Goba	Gonder	Arba Minch	Goba	Gonder
1979	1,769,054	16,171,000	7,104,654	55	706	78
1980	2,309,857	17,497,000	7,81,107	69	741	76
1981	2,648,086	12,900,000	7,478,039	77	533	78
1982	3,189,755	12,739,274	6,483,493	90	507	65
1983	3,801,943	11,048,901	6,341,896	104	427	62
1984	8,160,550	5,824,794	8,216,088	217	218	78
1985	14,259,323	5,561,501	7,877,918	367	202	72
1986	15,814,068	6,690,871	8,347,774	395	236	74
1987	14,853,335	7,108,489	10,078,15	360	243	87
1988	15,431,487	7,104,262	10,543,244	363	233	88

Notes:- EFFY indicates Ethiopian Fiscal Year.
 Source: Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority (EELPA), 1996, A.A

5.2.2. Impact of migration on environment and social conditions

Arba Minch area is richly endowed with valuable natural resources of thick natural forest, wild lives and games, the two lakes and more than fourty springs, which all are of great aesthetic value to attract potentially large number of foreign and domestic visitors. The area registered 4.5 thousand visitors in 1989, earning substantial amount of revenue. However, the tourism products have not been

developed in a planned and suitable manner so far. The consequence is visible scarce showing environmental degradation by irrespectible tourstic practices in the area. The situation has been acceleratedly worsening all the more disastrously by the unchecked destruction of forest and wood lands stealthily and sometimes through the omission and commission of forest guards because large numbers of migrant squatters have made wood cutting and selling it in the town as the only or main source of livelihood and income-generation for lack of any alternative job. This wanton practice is going unabated because there is high rate of increase in consumption of fuel wood and construction lumber as the result of the fast growth of population. According to CSA (1994), of the total number of households of Arba Minch, about 41.6 percent use wood and charcoal as the source of fuel which, however, is less than the estimate of Ethiopian Forest Action Programme (EFAP, 1993) that raises it to 62 percent on the average for urban areas of Ethiopia. According to the survey of the Forestry Department of Arba Minch Wereda Agricultural Development Bureau (1996), the annual consumption of fuel wood of the town is about 58,379 cubic metre per annum. If the non-fuel utilization of the forest is entailed, the amount and exploitation of the forest can be much more than the figure indicated above. Out of this, about 4.3 percent is utilized by organizations and institutions. Table (5.16) indicates fuel wood consumption in Arba Minch.

Table 5.16. Annual fuelwood consumption in Arba Minch Town

Kebele Or Organization	Population /organizations	Average annual per capita/per organization consumption (cubic metre)	Total
01	3120	1.2	3744.00
02	3244	1.2	3892.80
03	5772	1.2	6926.40
04	14312	1.2	17174.40
05	6080	1.2	7296.00
06	6192	1.2	7430.40
Farm Settlement	6176	1.2	9411.20
Sub Total	44896	-	55,875.20
Backers	36	10	360.00
Restaurants	15	8	120.00
Food houses	43	10	430.00
Tea houses	47	12	564.00
Arba Munch T.T.I	1	630	630.00
Arba Minch W.T.I	1	400	400.00
Sub Total	143	1213	2504.00
Grand Total	-	-	58,379.20

Source: Eskinder, 1996.

The acceleration of deforestation is one direct effect of migration on environmental degradation of the town and the surrounding area particularly because of lack of other fuel sources for the people, and ready supply being made by the migrant squatters. It is not uncommon to observe in-migrants

of various age-groups, men and women carrying fuel and construction woods into the town from all directions every day for sale at various points. As pointed out in chapter 3, the poor migrants make a double back-and-forth trips to the forest sources every day with the average load capacity of 0.17 cubic metre in each trip. According to the survey held in three market sites, there are on average about 150 migrant participants engaged in supply of about 25 cubic meter of fuel wood per day to the urban dwellers. This is with the exclusion of those migrants supplying in the localities of kebeles for their clients so that the number of suppliers per day can be greater. Table (5.17) provides the survey data for the suppliers of fuelwood in Arba Minch town.

Table 5.17. The amount of fuelwood suppliers by in-migrants in Arba Minch Town

Date of survey	Site of the Survey			Total number of suppliers	Total fuelwood supplied (m ³)
	Sikela Market	Konso sefer market	Secha Market		
18-10-95	90	30	20	140	23.80
20-11-95	65	40	24	129	21.93
5-12-95	75	15	35	125	21.25
8-1-96	80	22	18	120	20.40
22-1-96	92	20	30	142	24.14
7-2-96	86	30	33	149	25.33
8-3-96	88	32	25	145	24.65
22-4-96	110	25	22	157	26.69
5-5-96	102	40	54	196	33.32
24-6-96	95	33	42	170	28.90
Total	883	287	303	1468	250.41
average	88.3	28.7	30.3	140.8	25.04

Source: Eskinder, 1996

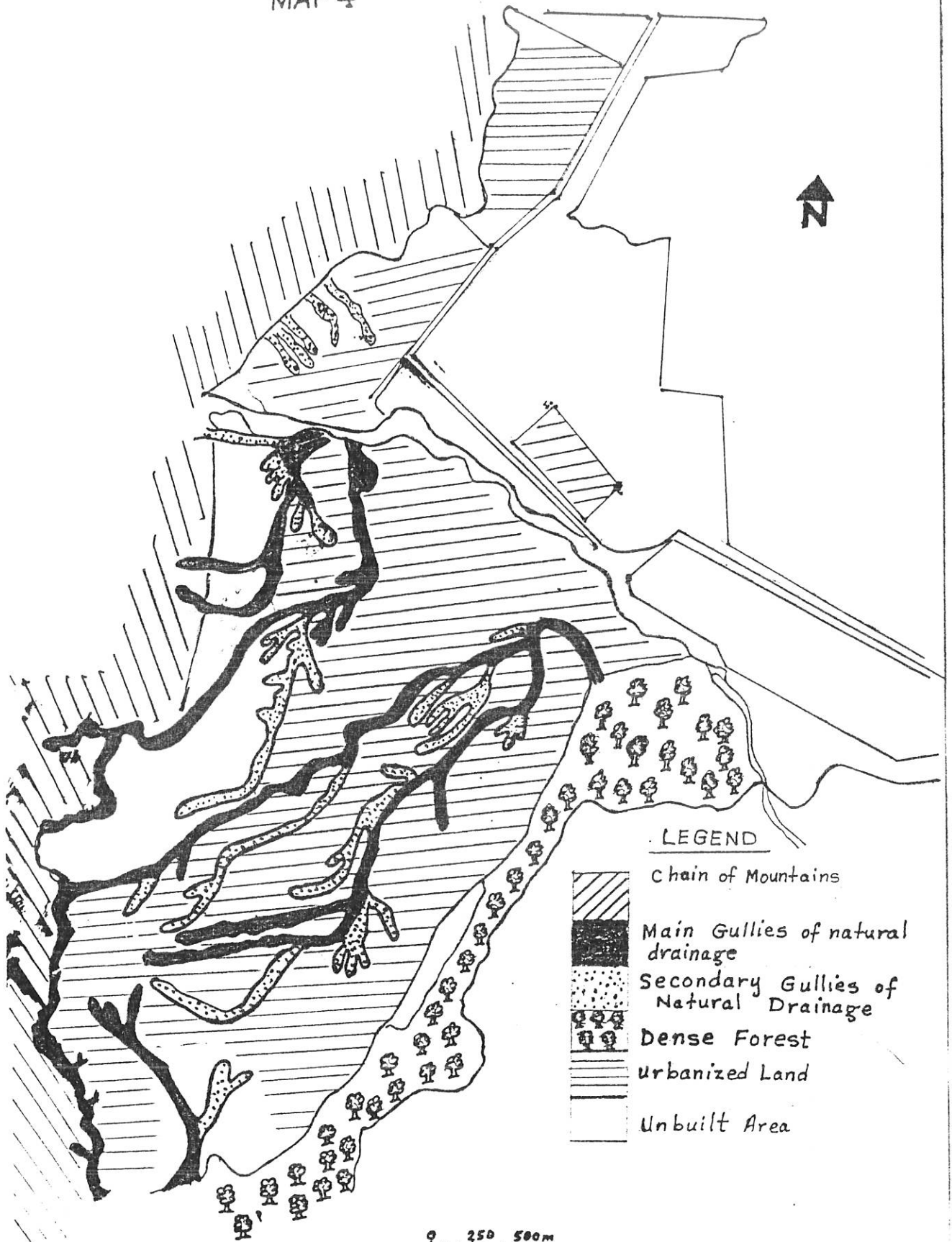
There is noticeable monthly variation of wood supply, with the maximum number of participants between February and early June, the leanest period for the labour requirement at the state farm. Most of the seasonal labourers at the farm in other months usually turn into fuel wood suppliers for the urban dwellers as the source of their livelihood. After a while, some of them return back to farm labourer during the weeding season which causes decline in the supply of fuel wood so that the prices increase. This situation attracts some of the migrants to prefer the continuation of their forestry activity as long as they earn better. As the researcher also observed at market sites, one bundle of fire wood of an adult man costs 15 to 17 birr whereas, a labourer working at the state farm on the average earns only 2.50 to 3.50 birr per day. Obviously, fuel wood suppliers earn more than in any other work in the town or at the state farm. However, as the suppliers report, it is very tiresome and tedious work since they have to negotiate daily distance of more than ten kilometers up to the shores of the lakes. Additionally, it is also insecure and risky work especially for men and usually they are exposed to ambushed forest-killers literally known as "Gujis". Not occasionally, they have to pay to the forest guards or whoever can force them to drop the collected wood.

Though firm data are not available, there are large number of migrants that are engaged in sale of construction wood and thatch grasses which negatively affects the forest, water and animal resources. The sources of the wood and thatch grasses are located in the north western and the south eastern parts of the town environs. As it is observable on the maps and aerial photographs, the north western edges of the town has high gradient slope and rugged terrain and the ridges are the sources of primary and secondary gullies that extend slowly in the built up areas of the town (map 4). The removal of trees and grass cover from the slope of the ridges







accelerates the rate of run-off towards the town. As a result, high rate of erosion and gully formation dissecting the town is very common since the soil is very loose, exogenous and susceptible to erosion. Certain 'groups' have specialized in these exploitative activities. For instance, the high-landers are the main suppliers of fuelwood whereas the konso and Gidole in-migrants are mainly "specialized" in supply of construction materials including timber thatch grass, stones and sand, etc. As pointed out above, 27 percent of the total houses of the town are built up of wood and thatch. Hence, the high rate and frequent construction of wood and thatch houses of in-migrants in the town is also an important cause leading to destruction of the eco-system of the region. Thus, as described in the literature, according to UN (1970), failing on construction of suitable houses by other materials can exhaust the natural elements of the surrounding.

The settlement patterns of the illegal squatters has an important impact on accelerating the removal of the top surface cover from the region because tukuls are mainly located in the sloppy areas that are threatened by floods and erosion. If maps 4 and 5 are examined, there is overlapping of the tukul settlements and the sloppy areas of the town. There fore, the marginal lands that have to be reserved vegetatively or as a green area are inhabited by people. Additionally, some of them are engaged in supplying of sand and stone from the ridges and gullies. So this also contributes to the development of primary and secondary gullies in the entire part of the town as can be seen on the map.

The introduction and continuation of rural living style and occupations of the migrants in to the town has also an important impact particularly in accelerating erosion and

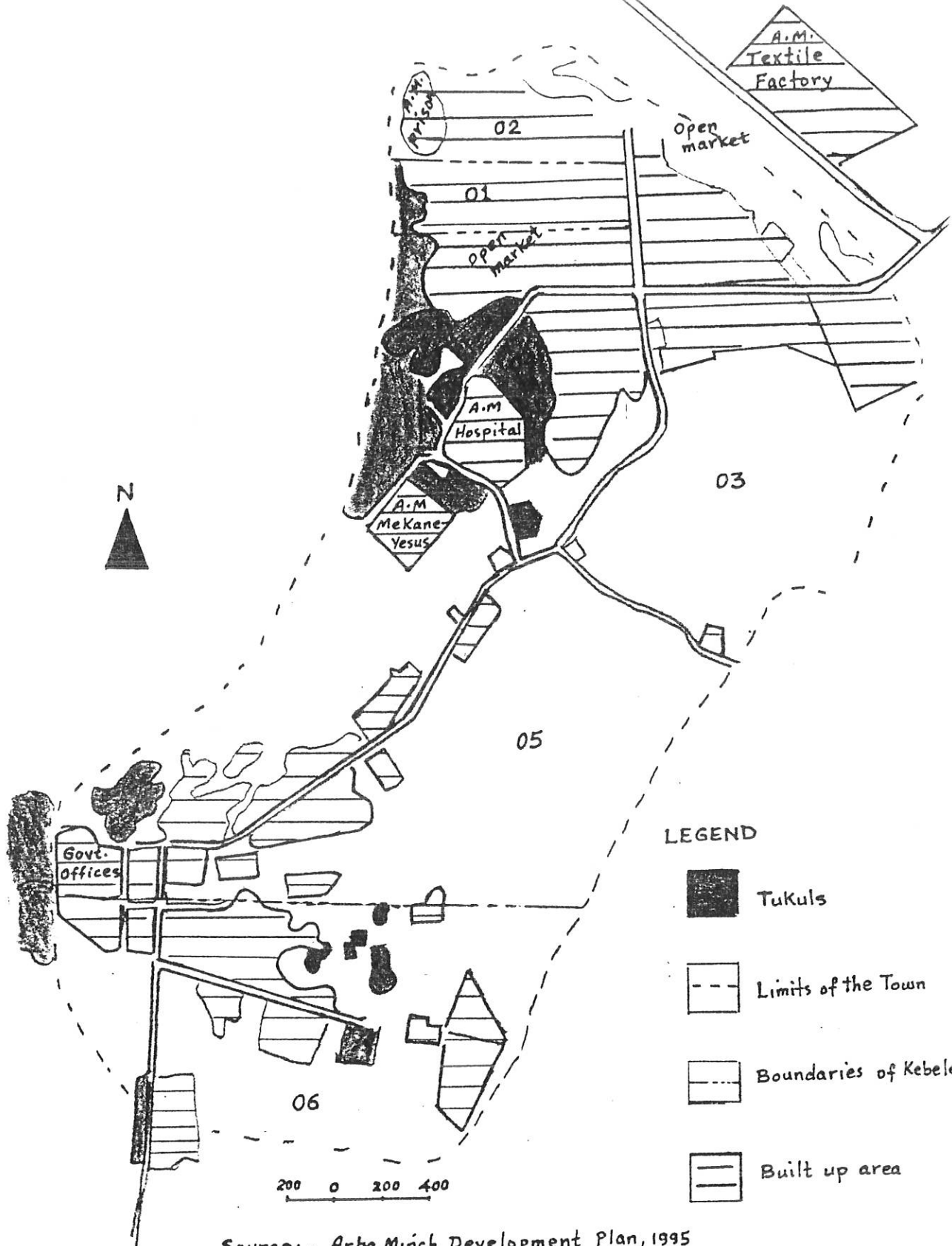


LEGEND

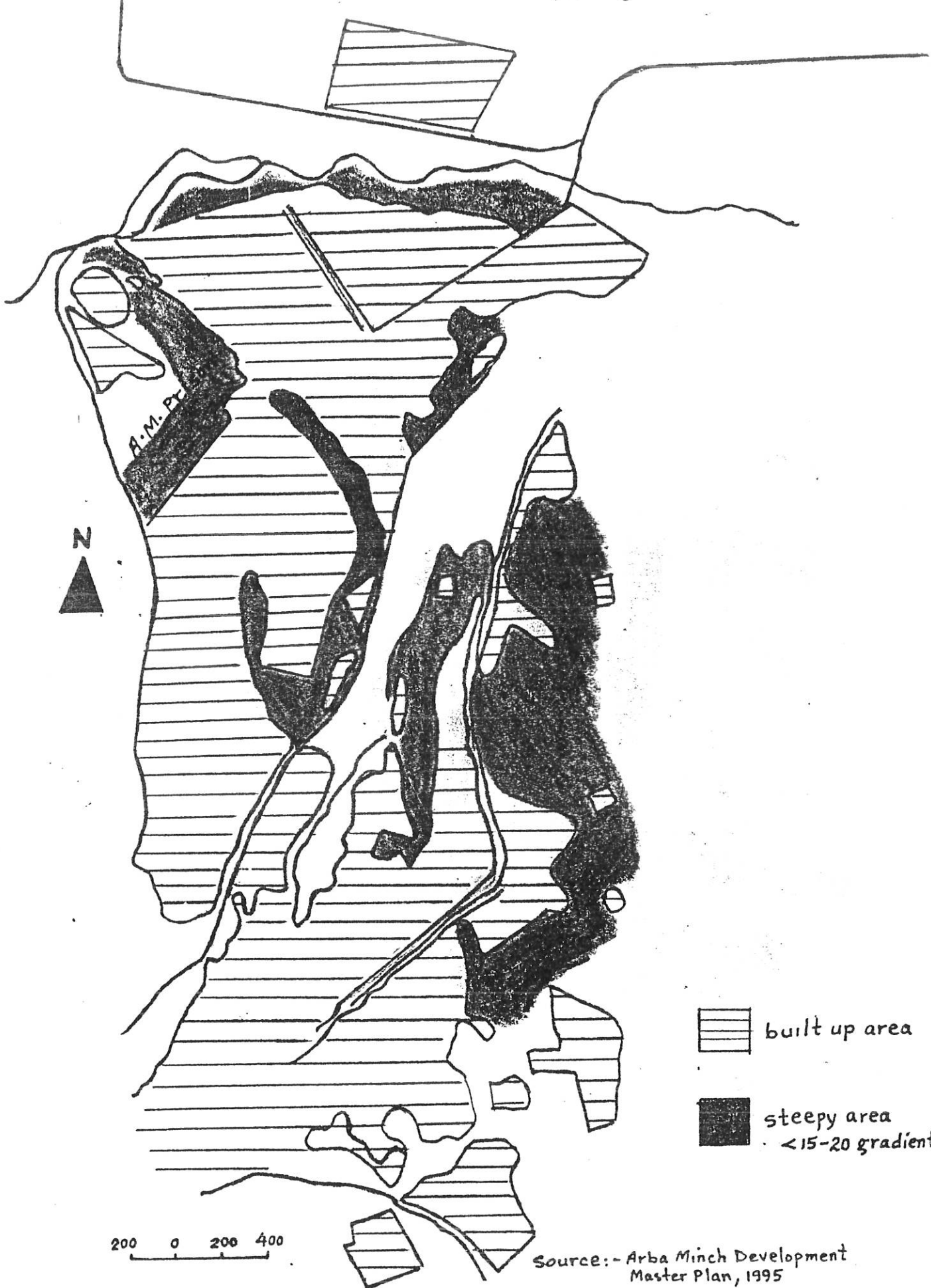
-  Chain of Mountains
-  Main Gullies of natural drainage
-  Secondary Gullies of Natural Drainage
-  Dense Forest
-  Urbanized Land
-  Unbuilt Area

0 250 500m

Source: National Urban Planning Institute



Source:- Arba Minch Development Plan, 1995



deforestation. Animal husbandry is an important or side-occupation of many. According to Umar (1980 E.C), there are more than 4,000 cattle population and substantial number of goat and sheep in the town causing high rate of deforestation and erosion due to overgrazing and grass cutting etc.

The negative effects of unabsorbable migration pressure on the environment sides, forests and associated resources is perceivable and thus, the resources are on verge of loss unless some alternative measures are not launched to halt or slow down the rate of destruction.

Migration also affects the social and cultural fabric of the destination in multiple ways, directly and indirectly. Although firm data are not available on the amount of various crimes due to loss of documents from the police station of the town and related offices during the vacancy period after the withdrawal of the Derg regime in May 1991, crimes and juvenile delinquency cases have generally increased in the town mainly, to the presence of a large portion of in-migrant population. The table (5.18) indicates the monthly crimes reported to police for the last two years.

Table 5.18 The monthly crime commitments in Arba Minch Town

Month	1995		1996	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
September	7	26	9	55
October	10	41	6	38
November	25	19	8	32
December	17	3	20	32
January	14	31	10	25
February	14	24	23	42
March	12	45	32	60
April	19	36	22	42
May	13	38	16	57
June	25	33	28	39
July	9	27	15	31
August	19	44	13	26
Total	184	367	202	479

Source: Semen Omo Police Commission documents.

Accordingly, there is high crime commitments in the town than in the surrounding rural areas. In most cases, as the per police reports, the offenders are urban unemployed migrants and the most common crime committed are theft,, burglary and homicide: more than 50 percent theft and robbery cases.

As a corollary to table (5.17) and conversely to table (4.17), the figures above show that the number of crimes increase in September, October and November and falls during the successive three months when the extra labour is absorbed

in the state farm for cotton picking. After February, it rises again till the beginning of the weeding time. Thus, the unemployment situation has much to do with the crime incidences. In addition to these, there are many criminal cases in different sections of the town that are not reported to police and registered. There fore, in general migration has significant impact in destabilizing the socio-economic conditions of the receiving urban areas.

The other important outcome of high flow of rural population to urban areas is the effect on cost of living. Migration adds more consumers to the existing urban population, and demands on many consumer items outstrip the supplies, raising the prices. In order to test, three common goods are selected which includes teff (mixed), maize, butter (unrefined) and fire wood. Their average prices for successive twelfth years are examined in relation to the total population of the town. However, the trend remains to be weighed vis-a-vis the national as well as regional trends of inflation and rises in commodity prices.

Table (5.19) indicates the inflationary rise in the retail prices of commodities during the period. Significant change is observed specially in the case of fire wood. This is also one of the factors why some of in-migrants prefer to stick to the firewood collection activity for sale. The per kilogram change of prices of other goods is also not negligible if the cumulative effect is taken into consideration.

Table 5.19. Average retail prices of selected goods per kg in Arba Minch (1984-1995)

Year	Population	Average Prices in birr			fire wood per m ³
		Mixed Teff	maize	unrefined butter	
1984	21213	1.18	N.A	8.34	11.51
1985	N.A	1.24	N.A	9.84	6.58
1986	24,236	0.88	N.A	10.73	5.68
1987	26,842	0.81	N.A	11.29	2.17
1988	33,338*	0.98	0.65	12.70	42.49
1989	34,368*	0.04	0.63	11.27	40.02
1990	37,428	1.00	0.61	11.78	51.50
1991	37,655	NA	N.A	N.A	N.A
1992	38,819	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
1993	39,942	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
1994	40020	2.20	0.90	21.17	150.18
1995	41,221	2.49	1.02	34.58	69.27

Source: Different publications of CSA on retail prices of goods and services

* EELPA population estimate

As the figures in table (5.19) show, the relative increase in prices of goods in the town has close relationship with population growth as the function of mainly in-migration. Thus apart from the national/regional inflationary rates and commodity price rises, rising cost of living in urban areas to a certain extent, be ascribed to the negative consequence of heavy migration towards towns, as evidenced by the Arba Minch case.

Therefore, in general, the effects of migration for both the places of origin and destinations is multi-faceted and

mixed. The advantages that the migrant individuals or families can benefit is not highly significant and their economic, social or cultural contribution to their home areas is also negligible. The loss of productive labour from agricultural sector rather has a negative effect on the home areas.

✓ The consequences of migration on the destination is very critical from the point of view of the excessive pressure on the already limited facilities and housing, employment and welfare sector and negative impacts or degradation of physical, social and cultural environment. There is high congestion and crowding per room and the supply of water and electricity is also not sufficient in the town. Because of high rate of unemployment and underemployment, there is excessive exploitation of the resources of the natural environment with an adverse effect on the ecosystem of the region. Social and cultural environment also seems to have been adversely affected. There are evidences to show that certain unemployed migrants are involved in different criminal activities which has an increasing trend from year to year. There is also high rate of increase in the cost of living in the town as an outcome of migrational population increase. Thus, migration has negative effect on both the places of origin and destination, particularly in the case of Arba Minch and the corresponding region of origin of migrants.

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Recommendation

6.1. Conclusion

There are some towns in Ethiopia where population growth has been very fast during recent years not only because of natural increase but as the result of migrational processes. Among them, Arba Minch, essentially a small town, is a typical example which has experienced an accelerated growth rate in population as the result of in-migration. This research deals with the theoretical background of migration, review of literature, the nature of migrants, migrational processes, the differential incidence of the rural 'push' and urban 'pull' factors, the limited absorptive and accommodative capability of Arba Minch and its lack of dynamism for very high growth unless industrial and townism products are developed to its potentials, and the migrational impacts on various dimensions of life and environment on both the areas of origin of migration and destination.

Most in-migrants of the town are of rural origin characterized by their chained movement following one another. Majority of them are in the most productive age, both demographically and economically. Most of them are ill-equipped in terms of awareness, information, education and skills, to be absorbed in the limited and occupationally circumscribed employment market of Arba Minch. The town itself, although new and growing, hardly seems to be in any feasible way capable of absorbing the excessive on rush of migrants, nor has investment capacity to add to its urban resources. Migrants themselves are too poor to contribute

investible or capital resources to the towns growth and development. As such, the total consequential impact on the town is not its growing 'urbanism' but accelerating 'counterfification' and environmental degradation in multiple ways.

By and large, rural 'push' factors are operationally stronger than the urban 'pull' factors causing excessive migration: while rural areas are lacking investment and growth, at the same time suffering from excessive population growth, lack of agricultural or alternative employment, droughts and famines, and lop-sided and unstable rural land reform and distribution policies, the urban 'pull' factors are weak and the urban capacity is low, practically, the rural migrants perceived life-chances in the town destination are highly misconstrued and rather exaggerated, based on here-say and wrong information about the opportunities available in the town. The growing unemployment and underemployment in the villages 'pushes' the young people, who are also bitten by the rising ambition 'bug' and better life-chances in the urban sector, however mis-conceived and mis-perceived the idea of migration to the town for betterment could ever be. Moreover, as the study finds, whatever the hazards, risks and difficulties they could face in the town, whatever the impact on the town itself, the migrants feel individually or family-wise, "better off" in the town than in the village. Once 'go to the town' seems to forever; there is almost no return back to the village!

Formal employment market sector is very limited in Arba Minch. As such, most of the migrants eke out their livelihood in the non-basic sector of serving the town population, mostly self-generated income-generating activities. They generally work as whatever, or as suppliers of fuelwood, construction

materials, i.e., lumber, sand, stone or thatch grasses and sellers of self-prepared foods, etc.

There are also some migrants that are engaged in their private business and agriculture or animal husbandry. In this regard, the informal tertiary sector is more important. However, both primary and secondary sectors are also not negligible from the point of view of effects on influencing the urban environment on one way or another. The primary sector participants change the town and its surrounding negatively by disturbing the eco-system through destruction of the flora and fauna. The removal of the natural vegetation in particular from the slopes of erosion-prone areas has exposed the town for frequent flood and erosion, and has greater effect on changing the urban morphology.

There are several factors that induce flow of population to Arba Minch. The main determinants from both administrative regions and Weredas of the region are the low per capita of land, distance, education and search for jobs because of unemployment.

These are closely related or centered around the low and uncertain earning opportunities and few remunerative income sources in the rural areas. Conversely, the relative wage employments and career advancements are concentrated in the urban areas. In general, there is wider income gaps between rural and urban areas in the region. Therefore, the relevant measures that can be taken on these determinants is expected to halt down the rate of migration and to arrest the people in their rural areas in particular.

One of an important issues in rural labour migration is the net and gross effects on their places of origin. The major sources of employment opportunities and income

generation for our country being agriculture, sizeable depopulation of rural labour forces can hamper agricultural production which in turn can stimulate further withdrawal of people from the region because of low productivity of both land and labour. As the survey reveals, most of the migrants are in the productive age leaving the rural areas for female, children and old-aged people with low labour efficiency and productive capacity. As such, this condition can lead to negative effects on agriculture because of less efficient and low labour input, particularly because subsistence agriculture is hardly mechanized and still requires hard manual labour.

The contribution of urban-generated income to the home remittance sector essentially meager and hence, almost is meaningless and negligible in its impact upon the family in the village. This is because most of migrants are only on the level of self-sustenance and can ill-afford to send any sizeable amount. Moreover, what little goes is used mostly for consumption /ceremonial/ ritual purposes rather, and hardly little for investments in agricultural or other activities, such as housing.

There is also little contribution of migrants on their social and cultural environment. Hardly it contributes to the improvement of quality of life and welfare and well-being.

Because of miserable living conditions in the rural areas, people move to towns almost spontaneously, without much rational decision perhaps under the perceived notion that things must be better than what they are in, and they end up indulged in many problems in their destination. Similarly, in-migrants of Arba Minch also do not move in well planned and rationally decided manner so that they face many problems particularly during their initial arrival. Among the problems, housing is the most pressing. The town has chronic

shortage of housing units compared to the growth of population. The rate of house construction by individuals and organizations is very low and the Kebeles are without any capital potential to maintain and construct houses. Thus, because of scarcity of houses, dwellers live in highly congested dwellings per room and in-migrants are usually forced to build ramshackle illegal squatter shelters in the outskirts of the town.

In addition, there is critical pressure on the supply of different urban basic facilities vis-a-vis the high growth rate of population. Distribution of water and electricity to different parts of the town has become very difficult because of the vast stretches of the town. Large number of migrants have to share water and electricity on high cost and risks, and quite a substantial number have to go without these amenities. Many use open spaces for daily routines.

From the ecological and environmental point of view, as pointed out above, the engagement of substantial number of migrants in primary sector activities such as forestry, animal husbandry etc, substantially affected the town adversely. There is acceleration of deforestation in the surrounding area with an outcome of loss of wild animals and intensive soil erosion making construction very difficult and expensive. The rather forced and persistent rural oriented way of life of in-migrants, in particular, tillage of marginal slopes of heavily eroded areas and animals husbandry have also an important impact in form of facilitating soil erosion in the town itself and its environs.

The high flow of population to Arba Minch has caused increase in the amount of unemployment. As the result, crime commitments and social disorders increase from time to time particularly in times of unemployment. Therefore, except the

supply of unadsorbable cheap labour force to the town, population migration has no greater advantages to the towns economy. Thus, the overall effects of rural-urban labour migration in the region is discouraging and hence the following recommendations are suggested to solve the problems of both the places of origin and destination.

6.2. Recommendations

- A) The low productivity of agricultural sector, chronic un employment and underemployments, and general environment of disincentiveness prevailing in the rural economy as a whole function as the chief "pushing" factors of the rural people. Therefore, integrated rural development strategy is desirable to boost agricultural as well as other associated rural labour productivity by improving farm technology, provision of irrigation and drainage facilities, farm inputs such as fertilizers, high yielding variety seeds, insecticides, adequate agricultural extension services, price incentives and marketing facilities. In order to materialize these it is essential to increase credit facilities and investments in the region. In addition, since raising rural income by agricultural and associated development requires sizeable technical assistance to peasants, increase in number of agricultural extension workers to guide and monitor the activities of peasants on the spot is very vital. Intensification of agriculture and horticulture to induce what are being called 'green revolution' and 'white revolution' (milk and milk products) will go a long way to rural productivity and absorb labour on steadily rising wage levels in holding the people to the rural locality.

- B) One of the factors for rural population mobility is per capita land shortages in the particular locality. Additional reclaimable lands, lying unsettled as yet, could be reclaimed by provision of water and other facilities for extra land colonization and development. Resources for such developments are there. Thus, resettlement on the voluntary basis from densely populated and highly degraded areas to vacant and potentially productive irrigable lands within the localities can promote double or triple cropping providing year-round agricultural activities. So this can be one of solutions for seasonal slacks in demand of labour and thereby, to curbing labour migration to the town.
- C) Lack of remunerative income and job opportunities in rural areas repels many people. Because of this, creating rural non-agricultural job opportunities by introducing local resource oriented agro-industrial establishments including handcrafts other agro-based labour-absorptive small scale industrial establishments can arrest the potential migrants.
- D) Concentration of various elements of modernization in the urban areas and their conspicuous absence in rural localities "pull" many rural peoples to towns. Therefore provision of different social services such as better medical facilities, education, infrastructure, water and electricity to the rural areas and/or their local towns may prevent the flow of population to major towns.
- E) The growth of small towns such as Wereda centers may be made feasible by putting adequate modern institutions and facilities and economic functions in these centers, ushering thereby basic components of rural development can stimulate close interaction with rural economic growth through marketing facilities and exchange of agricultural products and industrial goods. Therefore, if

decentralization policy, in particular government administration and development agent offices could be brought down the grassroot, these towns develop to the capacity to divert educated migrants to themselves for employment and other facilities.

- F) Education is one of the most important components to induce population migration from rural areas. Yet, it is not palatable to discourage educational investments to reduce migration. But the school curriculums should be revised by vocationalizing education or making it more relevant to farming and other rural activities to reverse rural-urban migration to a certain extent.
- G) The vast actual or perceived difference between rural-urban income causes population migration. Since poverty is a pronounced rural phenomenon, migration from rural areas is tied to income gap between rural and urban areas, balancing growth between them through viable regional planning strategy for mutual development of the towns and their hinter lands at different hierarchical scales is recommendable to check or slow down the forced rural out-flows.
- H) On the urban ends, Arba Minch has many problems and shortage of urban basic facilities. Among them the supply of housing, water, electricity, public baths and toilets are in the fore-front. Yet, the Kebeles and the municipality have no financial potential to provide these minimal basic amenities. Therefore mechanisms should be designed to increase public involvement in raising funds for these developments. In addition, private investors have to be encouraged for the housing sector to alleviate the housing problems in the town.
- I) Lastly, among the economic sectors in the town, the self-help informal sectors are very significant in absorbing large number of labour. If measures are taken to improve the conditions through introduction of marketable skills,

establishment of skill training schemes in collaboration with the existing NGOs, by injecting some money, the labour force that is engaged in deforestation and other environmental degradation activities put to production activities which are socially, economically and ecologically more sound and responsible.

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ሰሜን አሞ ዞን ሠራተኛና ማህበራዊ ጉዳይ ቢሮ (1988) በሰሜን አሞ ዞን የሰጧ ሀይል ስርጭት ፤ ያልታተመ* አርባ ምንጭ ህ

የሰሜን አሞ ዞን ፕላንና ኤኮኖሚ ልማት (1987) የአርባ ምንጭ ከተማ ኤኮኖሚና ማህበራዊ እንቅስቃሴ ፤ ስታትስቲክስ ያልታተመ አርባ ምንጭ ህ

አርባ ምንጭ ወረዳ (1987) በአርባ ምንጭ ዙሪያ ወረዳ ላይ ያተኮረ አጭር ታሪክ ፤ ያልታተመ አርባ ምንጭ ህ

ኡመር መሐመድ (1980) ስለ አርባ ምንጭ ከተማ አመ ሠራረት የቀረበ የመነሻ ጽሁፍ ፤ ያልታተመ አርባ ምንጭ ህ

Appendix 1

Nam of the Region	Y ₁	Y ₂	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆
Amaro		0	.	.	48.00.	.06	.6	22.8
Arba Minch		65	0	26.06	107.00	4.27	16.6	39.8
Bolosore		24	150	7.08	5.19	8.78	15.1	22.0
Bonke		53	50	2.24	144	2.79	17.2	15.7
Boreda-Abaya		36	45	4.35	77.00	3.37	25.3	28.2
Burji		0	504	11.47	26.00	.45	1.6	24.2
Chencha		61	49	8.92	360.00	3.00	32.9	16.4
Damot Gale		25	133	6.16	.669.0 0	6.79	8.6	24.4
Damot Woyde		28	143	2.54	244.00	4.48	11.8	26.3
Dita-Daramlo		11	75	1.06	20.00	1.19	10.9	9.6
Esera		5	243	2.71	21.00	2.09	3.1	18.0
Gardula		21	54	9.08	59.00	.53	.6	17.5
Gofa zuria		6	250	11.36	12.00	1.70	23.7	24.3
Humbo		30	97	2.86	135.00	3.20	8.6	43.7
Kamba		40	100	2.16	94.00	2.30	4.7	10.3
Kindo Koysa		11	157	2.59	203.00	3.69	3.3	15.9
Konta		2	930	1.99	11.00	2.00	.0	5.1
Konso		30	87	3.48	51.00	.06	.3	8.1
Kucha		11	177	1.88	75.00	3.05	4.7	15.2
Loma Bosa		7	221	.81	60.00	.	.0	23.9
Maraka Gaena		0	225	5.28	-	6.16	5.1	.
Melo Koza		7	295	.	60.60	.	1	6.7
Mesketo		20	338	4.01	88.60	1.50	.5	12.7
Offa		0	150	2.63	233.80	6.00	7.7	21.7
Sodo Zuria		35	115	18.06	433.00	8.53	12.4	40.7
Zala Ubamale		4	274	3.82	66.40	.85	3.9	13.8

Description

y_1 = Rate of migration

y_2 = Number of migrants

x_1 = Average distance between Arba Minch and administrative capitals, and wereda towns.

x_2 = Percentage of urban population to the total population

x_3 = Crude population density per km_2

x_4 = Agricultural population density per km_2

x_5 = Unemployment rate

x_6 = Literacy rate

Appendix 2 Inter correlation matrix of determinants of migration for wereda migrants to Arba Minch

	y	x ₁	x ₂	x ₃	x ₄	x ₅	x ₆
y	1.00 (.00)						
x ₁	-.58 (.003)	1.00 (.00)					
x ₂	.43 (.03)	-.18 (.41)	1.00 (.00)				
x ₃	.31 (.13)	-.32 (.12)	.16 (.48)	1 (.00)			
x ₄	.20 (.36)	-.22 (.30)	.25 (.24)	.81 (.00)	1 (.00)		
x ₅	.62 (.001)	-.44 (.03)	.35 (.09)	.35 (.08)	.31 (.14)	1 (.00)	
x ₆	.32 (.12)	-.37 (.08)	.60 (.003)	.27 (.19)	.48 (.02)	.34 (.09)	1 (.00)

The figures in the parenthesis are the probability level.

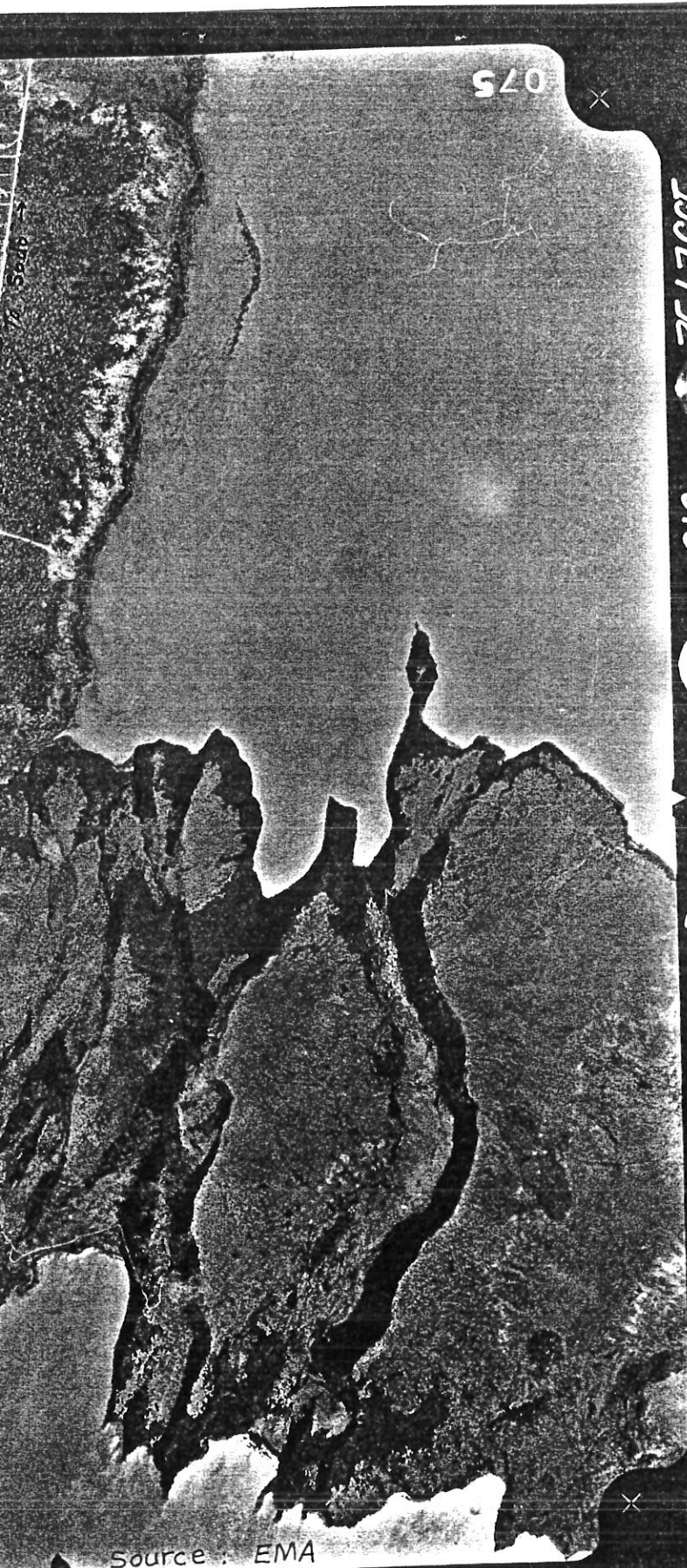


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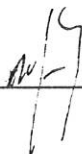
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Declaration

This Thesis my Original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

Name BIRRU BUSHA

Signature _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line across the middle, and a vertical line on the right that curves slightly at the top.