

**Addis Ababa University**

**College of Social Sciences**

**Department of Social Anthropology**

**The Socio-economic Implications of Rural-Urban  
Migration: on Yeka sub-city *woreda* 08, Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia**

By: - Mikiyas Nega

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**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

# **The Socio-economic Implications of Rural-Urban Migration: on Yeka sub-city *woreda* 08, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Mikiyas Nega, entitled: *The Socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration on Yeka sub-city woreda 08, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia* and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Social Anthropology) complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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## **Acronyms**

AU	African Union
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
ETUMS	Ethiopian Urban Migration Study Survey
ID	Identification Card
RUM	Rural Urban Migration
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

## **Abstract**

*This study explored the socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration in the selected Woreda of Yeka sub-city, Addis Ababa. The study employed a qualitative method. In-depth interviews and observation were used to collect data. In contrast, secondary data was collected from different kinds of literatures and documents. A total of 25 participants have participated in the study, including urban residents, rural migrants, and local officials. The study participants were selected based on three sampling methods: purposive sampling method, snowball sampling method, and extreme or deviant case sampling method. Data analysis was made according to the objective of the study. The findings of the study reveal that rural-urban migration has positive and negative implications on Addis Ababa, Yeka sub-city. The favorable implication of rural-urban migration is that it will introduce migrants to new lifestyles and technologies. In addition, rural migrants also contribute to positive development outcomes, and they also play a vital role in fostering the country's economy. On the contrary, some of the negative implications of rural-urban migration are overpopulation, unemployment, shortage of transport services, expansion of crimes, etc. The study indicates rural-urban migration is responsible for the city's population growth. The study also focuses on measures government should take to curb the issue. Rural-urban migration has affected many people's lives, including urban dwellers and rural migrants.*

*Key words: Rural-urban migration, Urban residents, Rural migrants.*

## Chapter one

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Migration from rural to urban areas is a common phenomenon that occurs in many countries throughout the world, especially in developing countries (Malik 2015). In developing countries, the movement of people from rural to urban areas is increasing from time to time (Malik 2015). Most people in rural areas often move away from their original place of residence due to man-made disasters such as violence, armed conflicts, political instability, and war (Adewale, 2005). People are forced to move to urban areas due to many factors; in most cases, they are forced to abandon their hometown as a result of natural disasters in rural areas such as floods, landslides, drought, and so on (Adewale, 2005). According to Nwokocha (2007), for youths in rural areas' rural-urban migration is one of the best strategies to escape poverty, violence, and drought.

Nwokocha (2007) contends that most young boys from rural areas carry a significant responsibility on their shoulders when they come to big cities. Rural-urban migration refers to the permanent movement of people from rural areas to big cities searching for a better life and better living condition. Bhattacharya (1993) stated that rural-urban migration in developing countries is mainly associated with, overpopulation, and economic development. Many factors force people to migrate to urban areas, such as poverty, poor employment, political instability, etc. In Ethiopia, migration is not a new phenomenon, and like many developing countries, large numbers of people continuously migrate to urban areas (Mefekir 2017).

Mefekir (2017) further discusses that migration to cities and towns exacerbates the already existing problems, and it will ultimately lead to unemployment, increasing pressure on basic social services such as housing services, schools, health, etc. Rural-urban migration has a number of impacts on the place of destination, and it is also responsible for overpopulation (Malik 2015). Addis Ababa is receiving many migrants from different parts of the country, and rural-urban migration has been a significant issue of concern these days. Nowadays, Addis Ababa is one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa. The city is home to a large number of towers, industries, and newly built condominiums.

The main idea is that many things in the city force the migrants to abandon their original residence, such as technology, better living conditions, better job opportunities, etc. Addis Ababa is receiving many migrants from different parts of the country; thus, the population in the city is overwhelmingly growing. The Ethiopian Urban Migration Study Survey (ETUMS) indicates that 37% of Addis Ababa's registered residents were migrants, most of whom came from rural areas (Moller, 2012). The study will investigate the social, economic implications of rural-urban migration on Addis Ababa, Yeka sub-city *woreda* 08. The study will specifically deal with the negative and positive impacts of rural-urban migration on urban living.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Globally, various scholars have been writing on rural-urban migration. As Todaro (1976) stated, rural-urban migration is responsible for urban population growth in many developing countries. Over 50 percent of the rapid urban growth in many developing countries occurred due to the fast flow of rural migrants to urban areas (Todaro, 1976). According to Jahan (2012), rural-urban migration (RUM) is the most crucial component of internal migration of many countries throughout the world. He argues that despite this, the rapid growth of rural migrants in urban areas has been a common feature of less developed countries for the past few years. Byerlee (1974) noted that the urban growth rate in Africa is among the highest in the world, averaging about 7 percent of the total growth rate. In some, African cities the growth rate is higher than 10 percent (Byerlee 1974). Africa's high population growth rate is one of the major causes of rapid urbanization. Rural-urban migration is one of the responsible factors for the rapid population growth of most African cities (Byerlee, 1974).

The issue of rural-urban migration in the Ethiopian context has been studied by different researchers, including Lipton (1980), Lemawork (2002), Habtamu (2015), and Alemante and Waktola (2006). For instance, Lipton (1980) defines Addis Ababa as one of the rapidly urbanizing cities, which has been experiencing continuous population growth due to rural migrants. According to Lipton, rural-urban migration is one of the major factors responsible for urban poverty in Addis Ababa. Lemawork (2002) characterizes Addis Ababa as a city experiencing problems such as shortage of housing, unemployment, increasing cost of living, lack of access to social services, and increased crime rate, mainly because of the high rate of

rural-urban migration.

The author studied rural-urban migration using mixed research approaches. Nevertheless, the significant impact of rural-urban migration on both urban residents and rural migrants was not the focus of his study. According to Habtamu (2015), a researcher conducted his study in Hawassa city; rural-urban migration puts pressure on basic social services in Hawassa. He further contends that the flow of rural migrants to the city will lead to overpopulation, and it will be difficult to access jobs and other related urban facilities. Alemante and Waktola (2006), other researchers who conducted their study in Hawassa, argue that an increasingly urban population has brought increasing problems in urban areas. According to their findings, the residents couldn't access essential social services due to an increasing flow of rural migrants to the city. They argue that if migrants continue to arrive in the town, it is challenging to control criminal activities like, murder, robbery, and theft.

The literature review reveals that the implication of rural-urban migration on Addis Ababa, in particular, has not been adequately studied. In fact, most researchers in the past focus on the causes of rural-urban migration rather than the implications on the place of destination. The researchers mentioned above have studied the major impacts of rural-urban migration from a different point of view. Nevertheless, to the level of my knowledge, most of them have not adequately described the current characteristics/trends of rural-urban migration and its implications on the lives of urban residents and rural migrants in the context of Addis Ababa. The major purpose of the study is to fill the research gap by exploring the implications of rural-urban migration on the lives of urban residents and rural migrants, focusing on Addis Ababa Yeka sub-city.

### **1.3 Objective of the study**

The general objective of the study was to explore the implication of rural-urban migration on the lives of urban residents and rural migrants in Addis Ababa, the case of Yeka Sub-city.

**Specifically, the study intends to address the following objectives:-**

- To investigate the urban residents perception on rural migrants.

- To examine whether the migrants are involved in illegal or other criminal activities.
- To identify how rural migrants cope with the city life.
- To explore the major impacts of rural-urban migration particularly on transportation, housing and employment.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What are the perspectives of urban residents on rural migrants living in Addis Ababa?
2. Can we say that rural migrants are responsible for the increased crime rate in the city?
3. How rural migrants cope with the city life?
4. What are the major implications of rural-urban migration particularly on transportation, housing and employment?

## **1.5 Significances of the Study**

This study has played an essential role in identifying the major implication of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa; it also plays a significant role in filling the gap concerning rural-urban migration and its impacts on cities. This study was necessary for the concerned bodies like (planners and policymakers) to be aware of the possible consequences of rural-urban migration. It will also widen their knowledge in the process. Most importantly, this study has tried to assess the perception of both migrants and urban resident's living in the sub-city. Furthermore, this study intends to provide relevant information about rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa, and it could also inspire other researchers to conduct further research on this issue.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This study aimed to identify the implications of rapid rural-urban migration from different parts of the country to the host city Addis Ababa. This study mainly focused on the effects of rural-urban migration on urban residents and rural migrants living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. The study was conducted in Yeka sub-city, and it is one of the eleven sub-cities in Addis Ababa, is located in the northeast part of the city. Yeka is the second biggest sub-city in Addis Ababa, next to Bole sub-city in terms of size. The study was specifically conducted in one of the *woredas* of the sub-city, which is *woreda* 08. Many urban residents and rural migrants are living

in the *woreda*. This study has identified the socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration in Yeka sub-city and its impact on the area's basic social services. The study was also concerned with the demographic implications of rural migrants on the place of destination. The study focused on rural migrants who are engaged in formal and informal sector jobs.

### **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

This research was conducted during the time of the global pandemic, coronavirus. Since the government prohibited social gatherings to slow down the spread of the virus, it was difficult for me to go out and gather data for the study. I was scared for my life, and it was also challenging to find informants during the pandemic. Collecting data in the current context was a challenging exercise as some informants were unwilling to participate in the study. The study was also limited to one selected *woreda*; due to time constraints, I could not cover additional *woredas* in Yeka sub-city. Lack of materials to review as literature was one of the challenges faced in this study. The situation mentioned above had negative implications for the data collection process.

### **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into five different chapters. The first chapter deals with an introduction, which includes the study's background, the study's objectives, statement of the problem and significance, the scope of the study, and the limitation of the study. The second chapter outlines the literature review and deals with the basic concepts, theories, and empirical literatures. The third chapter deals with the study area's description, methodological details, such as data collection methods, sampling method, and ethical consideration. The fourth chapter presents data interpretation, and analysis and the last chapter deals with the conclusion.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Review of Related Literature**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter deals with the review of related literatures focusing on empirical studies on rural-urban migration and theories related to rural-urban migration. The empirical literature review begins with the global context and narrows down to Africa and then to the Ethiopian setting. The first part of the chapter deals with the definitions of basic concepts, which will be followed by a review of the empirical literatures and selected theories of migration.

#### **2.1 Definition and Basic Concepts of Rural-Urban Migration**

Rural-urban migration refers to a movement of people from rural areas to urban center's either for a permanent or temporal basis; it is a movement that usually takes place in a particular country without crossing its borders. As Tacoli and Mcgranahan (2015) noted, rural-urban migration is becoming the central issue of concern among people nowadays. Many people point their fingers at the rural migrants for the rapid urban population growth. The authors' main points are that, in most cases, internal migration to urban areas will raise the urban population, ultimately resulting in urban poverty and rapid overall population growth. Furthermore, the authors argue that, like the urban poor population, rural migrants work for long hours in low-paying dangerous jobs, and in the process, they will put their lives in danger.

The authors mentioned above suggested that, in developing nations especially, rural-urban migration is primarily responsible for overcrowding and it will also put pressure on basic social services. This, in turn, could affect the residents of the city. The main point is that a rapidly growing urban population will undoubtedly affect national and local governments. In particular, in low-income urban areas, rapid rural-urban migration might result in a shortage of essential social services like transportation, infrastructure, and housing services (Tacoli and Mcgranahan 2015). As Kochar (2004) stated, that rural migrants, in most cases, invest in schools and other amenities before deciding to migrate to urban areas, after they arrive in the city believe that it is easy to get a job and earn a lot of money.

Most rural migrants usually gather information about jobs and other facilities in urban areas from their close relatives and, in some cases, from their neighbors (Roberts, 2001). One of the main assumptions that many urban residents had towards rural migrants is the perception that they increase urban poverty (Tacoli and Mcgranahan 2015). The authors note that rural migration ultimately exacerbates urban poverty and increases the number of the urban population, negatively affecting the entire urban population. As stated by the authors, a collaboration between civil society and the local governments is essential to reduce urban poverty. Rural-urban migration could sometimes have a favorable implication on host cities, and it could also improve the life of the rural migrant's in so many ways (Tacoli and Mcgranahan 2015).

## **2.2 Empirical Literatures**

### **2.2.1 Rural-Urban Migration in Developing Countries**

Rural-urban migration in developing countries occurs as a result of economic and social factors and other basic social services in urban area (McCatty 2004). McCatty (2004) further stated that the rapid flow of rural migrants to urban areas in developing countries is primarily responsible for urbanization. In many developing countries, rural migration is seen as one of the best strategies to escape poverty (McCatty 2004). McCatty (2004) argues that upon arrival, many rural migrants in developing countries struggle to find a job in the formal sector, and most of them are employed in low-paying jobs. Rural-urban migration is mainly responsible for the rise of many unemployed youth residents in urban areas, especially in developing countries (McCatty 2004). As Malik (2015) stated, the rural-urban movement in Pakistan impacts the socio-economic and cultural aspects of the place of destination and the life of the rural migrants in many ways. Malik's (2015) work indicates that Pakistan's rural to urban migration rate has grown due to the massive expansion of the country's urban centers. He also argues that the main reason people are forced to abandon their hometowns and migrate to urban areas is due to the unstable political situation in the country.

According to Malik (2015), a researcher who conducted his study in Lahore, Pakistan, one of the impacts of rural-urban migration is that it will create an opportunity for criminals to come to the city. He further argues that people from rural areas could intentionally travel to urban areas to be involved in many city crimes. *“Some migrants will increase the city's level of crime rate, and*

*they will eventually be part of an organized criminal group recruited into various mafias”* (Malik 2015). Rural migrants could eventually become successful entrepreneurs; besides, rural migrants will have the chance to adopt the cities lifestyle, and their living standards could improve in the process (Malik 2015).

According to Mahdi (2014), a researcher who conducted his study in Iran argues that rural-urban migration in developing nations, including Iran, is considered one of the factors responsible for overpopulation. He argues that the migration of young people from rural areas in Iran reduces the rural development goals and increases social and economic problems in the city. In Iran, many factors are responsible for the influx of rural migrants to urban areas, and they are poverty, lack of jobs, insufficient educational facilities, and lack of public transportation systems (Mahdi 2014). He stated that the influx of many people to urban areas would decrease Iran's rural population, and eventually, it will put pressure on urban areas. Mahdi (2014) further illustrated that due to rural-urban migration the crime rate is rapidly growing, and it is affecting many residents.

On the other hand, Jahan (2012), a researcher who conducted his study in Dhaka city, Bangladesh, rural-urban migration is primarily responsible for the city's rapid and unplanned population growth. Moreover, his findings show that rural-urban migration has a negative impact on the place of destination and the rural origin. These days the population of many cities in Bangladesh is rapidly growing due to the influx of rural people. *“In recent times millions of citizens from rural areas in Bangladesh are migrating to Dhaka city”* (Jahan 2012). Compared to other cities in Bangladesh, Dhaka is the most preferred destination for many migrants, and the migrants usually come from the Northern and southern parts of the country (Jahan 2012).

Since Dhaka offers better economic opportunities, many rural migrants select it as their final destination. In addition, the author argues that the majority of the migrants who come to Dhaka city are uneducated, and they don't also possess any skills. He further indicates that most rural people expect that they will have a better life in the city and also want to fulfill their needs and desire. Rural migrants usually fail to get a job in the city, and most struggle to cope with urban life (Jahan 2012). Due to rural-urban migration, the city's crime rate is increasing from time to

time; it has also led to overpopulation and shortage of housing (Jahan 2012). The author contends that the rapid flow of migrants to Dhaka has put pressure on basic social services.

### **2.2.2 Overview of Rural-Urban Migration in Africa**

Rural-urban migration in developing countries has affected the economy and peoples way of life in many ways (Mahdi 2014). Similarly, Beate (2017) stated that the urban population in many Africa cities is expected to increase over the coming years. Many cities and town's population in sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly growing due to rural-urban migration. The urban population increase in many African countries is predicted to outnumber the population of rural areas in the coming years (Beate, 2017). According to Jonas (2015), a researcher who conducted his study in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, rural to urban migration is responsible for rapid population growth and urbanization. Despite previous studies on rural-urban migration in Africa, there is still an inadequate understanding of it and its impacts on rural and urban areas. Moreover, Byerlee (1974) stated that in Africa, rural-urban migration has been significant in the development process in colonial and present times.

During colonial times, people were allowed to move across colonial boundaries. *“The imposition of taxes by colonial governments is also responsible for the movement of people from rural to urban areas”* (Byerlee, 1974). Byerlee further contends that contemporary African rural-urban migration is selective because migrants generally have specific characteristics that distinguish them from their population. Many previous studies in Africa migration show a high proportion of men in the rural-urban migration streams. However, Byerlee (1974) argues that the proportion of women migrants is increasing from time to time. Most of the author's findings in the past indicate that migrants usually originate from poor and low-income family households. *“Many rural migrants are school dropouts who depart within a year after finishing school”* (Byerlee 1974).

Furthermore, the author argues that many rural migrants in Africa are inspired by their relatives and neighbors success stories; their family members and friends will influence the migrant's life in many ways. Many pieces of evidence show that migrants usually follow a step migration pattern, which means migrating to the nearby city and then eventually relocating to their

destination (Byerlee 1974). In Africa, studies in the past, such as Byerlee (1974) in Nigeria, Jonas (2015) in Burkina Faso, deals with the economic motives of the rural migrants in the decision to migrate. In other words, these researchers did not focus on the implications of the high flow of migrants to cities; instead, they focus on the economic motives of the migrants.

### **2.2.3 The Nature of Rural-Urban Migration in Ethiopia**

As Habtamu (2015) noted, the rapid growth of Ethiopia's urban population and many other developing countries has been primarily due to rural-urban migration. According to Beate (2017), the Ethiopian population is growing from time to time. The urban population is predicted to increase from 2000 to 2050; in contrast, the rural population is expected to decrease in the years to come. Ethiopia is one of the most rapidly urbanizing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with a current average annual growth rate of up to 4% (Beate, 2017). The lack of farmlands in many rural areas in Ethiopia and lack of employment opportunities have forced many people to abandon their villages and migrate to urban areas to seek a better lifestyle (Bezu and Holden, 2014).

According to Melesse and Nachimuthu (2017), the implication of rural to urban migration is viewed from two perspectives; on the one hand, it leads to income inequality, overpopulation, unemployment, and so on. On the other hand, migration could also contribute to economic growth and improve people's lifestyles, and in the process, it might even introduce migrants to modern technologies (Melesse and Nachimuthu 2017). As Melesse and Nachimuthu stated, migration is the best strategy to escape from poverty, and it will give people the chance to live a better life. Furthermore, the authors contend that rural migrants could end in disaster and eventually expose migrants to jobs that exploit energy and physical abuse. According to the authors mentioned above, rural-urban migration is the only opportunity for rural migrants to change their lives.

Melesse and Nachimuthu (2017) contend that when a particular government is unable to fulfill people's needs in rural areas, they will be forced to move to urban areas in the hope of living a better life. Habtamu (2015) further argues that rural-urban migration leads to overpopulation and it also put pressure on basic social services like schools, health, and housing services in Ethiopia.

In addition, the author also contends that rural-urban migration could lead to a high unemployment rate; eventually, it could make people desperate and might even lead them to crime in the city. The main reasons that force many migrants to abandon their hometowns and migrate to urban areas are the rapid technological advancement and better living conditions in the urban areas (Habtamu, 2015).

According to the author, a previous study in Ethiopia regarding the implications of rural-urban migration indicates that rural-urban migration has negative and positive aspects. First, when we start with the positive aspect, migration plays a crucial role in bringing back skilled workers, and it will play a vital role in improving people's income. Likewise, on the negative side, migration often puts pressure on the place of destination, and it will ultimately increase the urban population and put pressure on urban social services (Habtamu, 2015).

In addition, Lemawork (2002) contends that Addis Ababa these days is encountering several problems. Among the many, some of the common issues he has listed were unemployment, shortage of housing, increasing cost of living, lack of access to social services, etc. Lemawork's study was mainly concerned with the impact of rural-urban migration on urban dwellers' socio-economic condition in Addis Ketma sub-city. He also argues that rural-urban migration has a severe effect on the socio-economic life of urban dwellers. One of the significant limitations of the study was that he was only concerned about urban dwellers' life without taking rural migrants' life into account. As a result, this study intended to address both groups' experiences as much as possible.

Although the researchers have tried to see the implication of rural-urban migration in Ethiopia from different perspectives, yet the researchers were biased. In other words, they were only concerned about the safety of registered residents without considering the rural migrant's life. The positive implication of rural-urban migration on the place of destination was not the focus of their study rather they were only concerned with the negative outcomes of rural-urban migration. At this stage, I would like to mention that the studies have not focused on the positive and negative implications of rural-urban migration on the place of destination. However, this research intends to fill such gaps and ultimately develops a finding that best describes the current features of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa.

## **2.3. Implications of Rural-Urban Migration**

### **2.3.1 Positive Implications on the Place of Destination**

According to Sosina and Stein (2014), most rural migrants are optimistic, and when they leave their village, they expect to have a better life in the city. As these researchers' finding indicates, rural migrants are generally satisfied with their life in Hawassa city. Most rural migrants in the city are ambitious and eager to be part of urban life. The rural migrants in the city take their jobs seriously, and they have good work ethics (Sosina and Stein 2014). The study indicates that the majority (85%) of rural migrants in Hawassa cemented that they have become successful and were able to achieve their goals.

As M.cCatty (2004) stated, many factors can influence migrants' decisions to migrate to urban areas, and the majority of the migrants are youths from low-income families. Most of them are forced to move to the cities due to many factors. M.cCatty (2004) argues that employment in urban areas can be categorized into two broad categories: the formal sector and the informal sector. The government recognizes the formal sector jobs as legal, such as banking, manager, chief, and supervisors. Compared to the informal sector, these jobs pay their employees much money (M.cCatty 2004). The author further contends that, unlike the formal sector, the informal sector includes jobs that pay less, and in most cases, since they do not pay taxes, they are not recognized by the government. Migrants who move to cities are optimistic; they think it is easy to get a job in the formal sector, but unfortunately, they fail to do so, and to compete with the urban residents for these jobs, the migrants must be educated M.cCatty (2004).

McCatty (2004) further contends that many migrants managed to become successful entrepreneurs, and they could create job opportunities for many employees. The author argues that many migrants have managed to transform into the formal sector by becoming legally registered and licensed residents, and they were able to change their life. The main point of the author's argument is that over the longer term, increased urban growth and urbanization may lead to more outcomes that are positive. Taking McCatty's statement into account, it is imperative to mention some positive rural-urban migration outcomes.

For instance, in Ethiopia, ever since people start migrating to Addis Ababa, they were able to change their lives in many ways. Due to this, many migrants in Addis Ababa have become successful entrepreneurs of the country. They became owners of many large towers in the city, and they have created many job opportunities for many citizens. People would not come or migrate to urban areas for no reason. Many things in the city could attract the migrants to abandon their original residence like better living conditions, improved standard of living, better job opportunities, etc. We cannot blame them because such factors could easily attract people to leave their original residence and migrate to a new destination. Many migrants these days are having a difficult time in the city.

### **2.3.2 Negative Implications on the Place of Destination**

According to Somik (2006), rural-urban migration might worsen the already existing unemployment problem in the city. The author further argues that migration from poor rural areas to urban areas usually increases the number of poor people in urban areas and might even result in a shortage of local public services like transportation and housing. A study conducted by Todaro (1980) shows that soon after rural migrants arrive in urban areas, they may not find a permanent house; instead, they will be forced to live on the street for an extended time. In his study, Adepoju (1991), on the other hand, have stated that rural-urban migration will lead to overpopulation, and this, in turn, will have a negative consequence on urban areas.

He has listed a number of negative consequences like overcrowding, unemployment, shortage of urban social services, rising food costs, water diseases, etc. The main point of the author's argument is that rural-urban migration is indeed responsible for the growing number of street children, an increasing number of prostitutes, an increased rate of crime, and overpopulation in many cities. The more people migrate to urban areas, the more the population grows, making the residents uncomfortable. Another researcher McCatty (2004), has also stated that rural-urban migration in developing countries has increased the population of many cities over the last few decades.

In his work, McCatty has noted that rural-urban migration is indeed responsible for the rise of many unemployed young adults in many developing counties. The author argues that when the

urban population increases, it will significantly affect many urban dwellers' lives. When the urban population grows, there will be insufficient social services like housing, electricity, water supply, and transportation system (McCatty 2004). The main point of the author's argument is that when the number of the urban population rapidly grows, it will undoubtedly put pressure on the available urban public services.

## **2.4 Policy Implications of Rural-Urban Migration**

It is clear that many cities in Africa have been witnessing rapid population growth, and it is essential to invest in rural areas to achieve a sustainable development goal (Mariama, 2015). Of course, for the past few years, many governments in Africa have been enforcing policies to halt people from coming to urban areas. Nowadays, nearly 80 per cent of African countries have enforced several policies to prevent rural migrants from coming to urban areas (Black and Sward 2009). Rural-urban migration will continue to occur as long as there are gaps in rural-urban employment opportunities (M.cCatty 2004). The author states that policymakers must consider that rural-urban migration is an inevitable consequence that cannot be prevented. M.cCatty further suggests that it is up to the government to identify the crux of the problem to determine why people are forced to abandon their hometown and then develop appropriate policies that will help solve the problem. In his work, M.cCatty (2004) has found out that countries heavily impacted by urbanization need to develop various policies to solve the problem. The policies need to target rural-urban migration; it should also reduce the urban population.

The author argues that the policymakers should be aware that rural-urban migration is responsible for the high unemployment rate in urban areas. As M.cCatty (2004) stated, urban bias usually leads people to move to urban areas searching for better income, so to solve these issues, policymakers should prioritize both rural and urban development programs. In order to tackle the problem, rural development policies must be targeted; creating more jobs and incomes in rural areas might help reduce the urban population (M.cCatty 2004). M.cCatty also believes in decentralization; he argues that the government should give decision-making power to the local people, who have a greater understanding of their issues and might make an appropriate decision.

The main point of the author's argument is that to be truly effective, the federal government should give the local government the authority to collect taxes and rule over its people. However, policies that the government implements might have negative and positive implications, and the government should implement policies that include rural and urban development programs to be effective. If the government prioritizes rural and urban development programs and fulfills migrant's demands, they are more likely to reduce urban poverty (Tacoli & Mcgranahan 2015). As Mefekir (2017) stated, the government of Ethiopia should create jobs in rural areas by organizing the youths to work together, and this could help improve people's lives and reduce the influx of migrants to urban areas.

He further argues that if the government can provide the rural community with the necessary facilities in the first place, people would not have been abandoning their village and move to urban areas. Bundervoet (2018) stated that many governments have been trying to halt the flow of people from rural areas to urban areas because they were afraid that it would worsen the urban crime rate and unemployment rate. In this regard, Ethiopia's successive development plan views internal migration as a problem that needs to be solved. For years, the government has been implementing numerous policies to solve the problem (Bundervoet 2018).

## **2.5 Theoretical Frameworks**

### **2.5.1 Todaro's Model of Migration**

According to Todaro (1980), the rural-urban migration rate exceeds the number of jobs available in urban areas in less developed countries. The rapid population growth of urban areas continues to surpass the capacity of essential social services in urban areas. According to the author, rural-urban migration will worsen the already existing unemployment problems in urban areas. Rural-urban migration could negatively affect the rural and urban populations in two ways (Todaro 1980). First, rural-urban migration (RUM) will rapidly increase urban job seekers while it diminishes the human capital of the rural population. Second, he argues that it will be difficult to create jobs in urban and rural areas when the population increases. Furthermore, he argues that knowing more about the root causes and consequences of rural-urban migration is essential. It could also help us develop policies that could help us solve the problem. Todaro also contends that the government needs to develop appropriate policies to tackle the problem.

As Todaro (1980) suggested, we need to understand better why people move to urban areas and what factors influence their decision-making. This, in other words, means, unless we can understand why people are forced to migrate in the first place, we will not be able to implement policies and tackle the problem. According to this migration model, many urban areas are characterized by social and economic issues in less developed nations. Dozens of rural migrants nowadays struggle to find a job immediately upon arrival, and most migrants are forced to be employed in low-paying jobs.

Todaro (1980) stated that when a person decides to migrate to urban areas, the individual must consider the possibility and risks of being jobless for a long time. Todaro further argues that before people migrate to urban areas, they should be concerned about their permanent incomes, and they should also be concerned about the availabilities of jobs in the city. The most crucial point of the Todaro model is that, for every job created in urban areas, more than one rural migrant is forced to abandon his hometown, eventually increasing urban unemployment.

However, we must consider that empirical evidence has criticized the author's arguments by suggesting that this does not have any negative implications on urban unemployment in any way. According to his critics, the model does not consider individuals employed in the urban informal sector; instead, the model focuses on formal jobs sectors. The other area of the model's gap is that the decision to migrate is not only up to one individual, and their family members could influence them in many ways. This, in other words, means the family of the household usually plays a crucial role in the individual's decision to migrate, so it is not only up to the individual.

## **2.6 Anthropological Theories on Migration**

In anthropology, migration is analyzed from a cultural perspective; it is also analyzed from its demographic and economic significances (Portes, 2008). Migration is one of the oldest adaptation measures practiced by humans; without migration, it will be hard to imagine civilizations and interactions (Afifi and Jager, 2010). As Kroeber (1948) stated, migration is a movement that often involves contact between people with different cultural backgrounds and adaptation to a new environment that in turn induces culture change. The following theory in Anthropology can be adapted to migration.

### **2.6.1 Cultural Ecology or Theory of Adaptation**

Steward (1955) explained that culture interacts with its environment through adaptation, portraying an integrated system between culture and environment. According to Steward “*some culture sectors are more prone to a robust environmental relationship than others, calling it culture core.*” Stewards' main argument is that humans must adapt their cultures, technologies, and populations to cope with the environment. Likewise, Portes (2008) argues that migration exposes people to face a new socio-geographic, economic and cultural domain in the destination country. As Portes stated, migrants can easily cope with the economic and cultural environments of the new destination within a short period of time. In this adaptation process, the author argues that a massive change will be introduced to the lives of the migrant and the family they left behind.

# Chapter Three

## Research Method

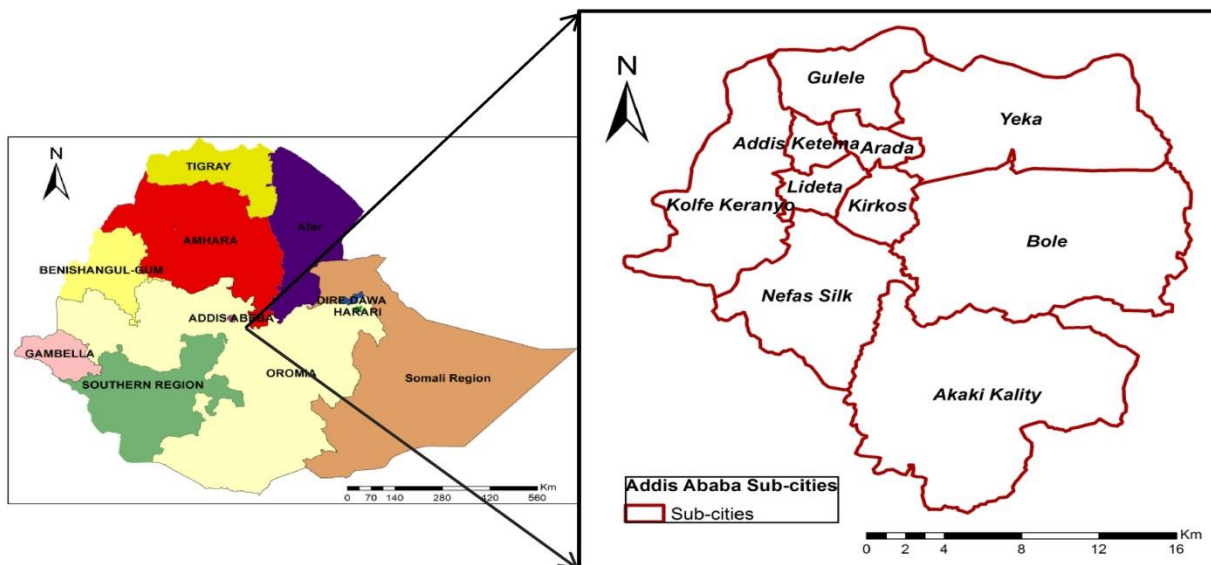
### Introduction

This chapter describes the research method employed to accomplish the study. It includes a description of the study area methodological details, such as data collection methods, sampling method, and Ethical considerations.

### 3. Description of the Study Area

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city and it was established in 1886, and empress Tayitu was the one who named the new capital Addis Ababa (Bahru 2002). The capital city is a diplomatic hub of Africa. It serves as a seat of several embassies, continental and global organizations, including the Africa Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The city is divided into eleven sub-cities; compared to other sub-cities, Bole is the largest while Lideta is the smallest sub-city in terms of its geographical area. Addis Ababa is receiving many migrants from different parts of the country, and this issue is becoming a significant issue of concern among people these days. The study was conducted in Yeka sub-city *woreda* 08. In terms of the geographical area, Yeka is the second biggest sub-city of Addis Ababa. The field study specifically focused on a place known as Lem Hotel.

**Figure.3 Location Map of Addis Ababa and Ethiopia**



### **Source: - A GIS Based Analysis at Sub-city Level Sisay Siefu (2021)**

Like other sub-cities in Addis Ababa, the sub-city embraces several towers, industries, and newly built condominiums. In the hope of living a better lifestyle and accessing different facilities, many rural migrants prefer to come to the sub-city. The main reason for selecting this study area is that the sub-city is characterized by many social and economic problems. In addition, in this study, the two main target populations were registered, urban dwellers and rural migrants.

### **3.1 Research Design**

I have selected a qualitative research design due to its relevance in exploring multiple views and experiences of different categories of study participants. The qualitative research method is fundamental to understanding people's lived experiences as it allows study participants to narrate their own stories. It also helps researchers to be aware of the real contexts and settings on the ground. It creates an opportunity for the participants to share their thoughts and feelings about the issue. The study is intended to explore the implications of rural-urban migration on the host community and rural migrants' lives by applying a descriptive research design. The goal of a descriptive research design is to describe a particular phenomenon and its characteristics. According to Erickson (2017), a descriptive research design is a scientific method that involves observing and describing a subject's behavior without influencing it in any way. Anthropologists, psychologists, and social scientists often use it to observe natural behaviors without affecting them.

### **3.2 Data Collection methods**

In order to meet the stated research objectives and answer the research questions, primary data was gathered through observations and in-depth interviews. And secondary data was obtained from documents and the available literatures.

#### **Interview**

An interview is a popular and widely used method of collecting qualitative data (Burns 1999). Flick (2006) adds that the primary goal of an interview is to identify the existing knowledge that can be explained in the form of answers. I employed an interview method to collect primary data from different categories of participants. I employed two types of interviews: 1) in-depth interviews and 2) key informant interviews. Key informants, in this case, were 2 local police officers and 1 local administrative official who works in the *woreda*, and these informants were

purposively selected. I also conducted in-depth interviews with informants including, rural migrants and urban residents in the study area. I interviewed my informants in Amharic language; while interviewing my informants, I was recording the entire conversation. After recording the interviews, I transcribed the audio data. Finally, after writing it on a piece of paper, I translate the Amharic language into English. The interview was done with at least 25 informants, including 8 rural migrants, 14 urban residents, 2 police officers, and 1 local official. Interviewing these informants, in general, was necessary for the study.

**Table 1 List of Study Participants**

	Male	Female
Urban residents	8	6
Rural migrants	7	1
Local officials	3	–
Total	18	7

### **Observation**

Observation is a pre-planned research tool that is carried out purposefully to serve research questions and objectives (Zohrabi 2013). What makes observation different from other methods is that it involves face-to-face or direct contact with the event. The observation was necessary for this study because it has enabled me to observe what was going on in the study area. An observation was made to identify the effect of rural-urban migration in different city areas, including Yeka sub-city *woreda* 08. I used observation to capture some of the experiences of the study participants. During the observation, I have also taken some photographs from the study area.

### **3.3 Sampling Method**

This study employed three different sampling methods: purposive sampling, snowball sampling, and extreme or deviant case sampling method. A purposive sampling technique was used to select the research participants. Most researchers use this sampling method on purpose to get informants who can provide them the required information (Krueger and Neumann 2003). Likewise, informants who participated in this study were selected based on their knowledge and experiences about the study matter. A total of 14 urban residents were chosen as a sample, including 6 female and 8 male informants.

The informants that participated in this study were civil servants, unemployed citizens, and private employees. While the second informants were rural migrants, a maximum of 8 informants was selected, including 7 male and 1 female informant. I was able to get sufficient data from the 8 rural migrants. The other sampling method that was employed in this research is the snowball sampling method. Naderifar (2017) defines the snowball sampling method as a convenience sampling method usually applied by a researcher to access informants who are challenging to find. The Snowball sampling method has played an essential role in this study because it has helped me identify respondents who are challenging to find, like key informants, victims of a particular crime, and informants who know about rural-urban migration.

Moreover, some community residents have helped me find rural migrants who work near the area. This sampling method has also helped me find some local officials like *woreda* administrators, police officers, and other stakeholders. The last sampling method employed in this study was extreme or deviant case sampling. This sampling method helped me select exceptional cases that demonstrate outstanding successes or notable failures and identify the advantage and disadvantages of rural-urban migration. This includes rural migrants who became successful after coming to the city; on the contrary, it also includes migrants who have a difficult time in the city.

### **3.4 Methods of Data Analysis**

As Krueger and Neumann (2003) stated, qualitative research helps us narrate and present evidence briefly. The data that has been obtained from participants were analyzed using the

qualitative data analysis technique. The qualitative data followed the sequence of specific objectives of the study. The data was gathered through observation and in-depth interviews. The recorded documents were transcribed and translated from Amharic to English and then analyzed in a qualitative description during data collection. During the data gathering, the interviews from the research were audio-taped as a backup to the notes. I have recorded 14 interviews, to be exact.

The ongoing data analysis helped me undo biases and errors that might have crept into the field-work and fine-tuned the research methods to reflect a better understanding of the setting. The analysis was based on the study's findings, and more significant attempts had been made to minimize the researcher's bias in the process of analyzing the data. Evidence and discussions were presented in such a way to provide the reader with a sufficient amount of detail and texture, thereby allowing the reader to trust what they are reading. The qualitative data were obtained from different sources using in-depth interviews, and observation was analyzed through the narrative analysis method. I mainly rely on narrative analysis to summarize and capture some of the experiences of the study participants.

### **3.5 Ethical Consideration**

The informants were volunteered to participate in this study. They were informed about the study's main purpose, and the researcher has ensured the respect, dignity, and freedom of each individual participating in the study. The participants were allowed to share their thoughts and feelings freely about the issue. The informants were notified that they have the right to refuse or terminate the interview at any time. They were also informed that the information they provide would be kept confidential and would not be disclosed to anyone else. Besides, the participants' anonymity (not exposing their personal information to others) is maintained during and after the data collection.

## **Chapter four**

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter deals with the results obtained from interviews and observation. Most of the paper section deals with the implications of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub-city. In this section, I portrayed the findings of the study, organizing them based on the study objectives outlined in the previous chapter. Overall, this chapter provides a data presentation that will include background information and a description of major themes.

#### **4. Rural-Urban Migration in Addis Ababa**

The study basically deals with the socio-economic impacts of rural-urban migration. The main purpose of the study was to identify the positive and negative effects of rural-urban migration on the host city Addis Ababa. The study was conducted in Yeka sub-city *woreda* 8, and in terms of area, it is one of the biggest sub-cities in Addis Ababa. In this study, the three main target groups were: urban residents, rural migrants, and local officials. The data were analyzed using a qualitative research technique. Primarily the data was gathered through observations and in-depth interviews. In addition, a total of 25 informants have participated in this study, including urban residents, rural migrants, police officers, and local officials. The study also employed three different sampling methods: purposive sampling method, snowball sampling method, and extreme or deviant case sampling method.

In most cases, people move from villages to settle in cities hoping to achieve a better standard of living. People's movement from rural areas in Ethiopia is mainly influenced by economic growth and technological changes in urban areas. Moreover, the relative improvement of different facilities and services could be responsible for the flow rural migrants to Addis Ababa. The fundamental reasons for the influx of large numbers of people from rural to urban areas are the relative improvement of different facilities and better living conditions (Habtamu 2015). During rural-urban migration, people with a strong economic motive might come to urban areas, and in the process, it might play a crucial role in fostering the economy. Rural migrants could also help

boost the economy. McCatty (2004) discusses that rural-urban migration is an essential part of economic development, and it helps to foster the economic growth of a particular country.

Moreover, many push factors in rural areas force people to abandon their hometown and migrate to urban areas. The most common problem associated with many people in rural areas in Ethiopia is poverty. The absence of road infrastructure and poverty in many rural regions of Ethiopia is responsible for rural-urban migration (Bundervoet 2018). Addis Ababa has been hosting many migrants from different parts of the country for many years, and the city's population is rapidly growing in the process. And as the year goes by, the population of Addis Ababa doesn't seem to slow down; instead, it is getting worse. Lemawork (2002) stated that rural-urban migration is responsible for the rapid growth of the population in Addis Ababa. It is also responsible for the unemployment rate and shortages of different social services. According to Lemawork (2002), a researcher who conducted his study in Addis Ketama sub-city, with regard to the cause overpopulation in Addis Ababa, 79.6% of urban dwellers believe that rural migrants are primarily responsible for the population growth. Likewise, many of the informants from the sub-city also believe that rural-urban migration is responsible for the rapid population growth.

#### **4.1 Urban Local's Perspectives on Rural Migrants in Addis Ababa**

One of the issues explored in this study was the perspectives of the host community on rural migrants in Addis Ababa. The study findings reveal that study participants (urban residents) had diverse views about rural migrants living in the city. Some urban resident's had a mixed view; they argue that rural migrants make positive contributions, while other urban dwellers interviewed for this study reported that rural-urban migration negatively impacts the place of destination. Some rural migrants in the study also believe that rural-urban migration has both negative and positive contributions to the destination. Habtamu (2015) discusses that most studies in Ethiopia regarding the implications of rural-urban migration reveal both the positive and negative aspects. First, starting from the positive implications, as some of the resident's in this study suggested, rural-urban migration could contribute to the city's growth and development.

In this regard, I had the chance to interview a 42 year's old unemployed female urban resident. She supported the idea that rural-urban migration has positive contributions, and she had the following to say:

*Rural-urban migration will allow rural migrants to access jobs and other related social facilities in the city. Migrants who work hard and take their job seriously overcome poverty and achieve their goals. These migrants will become role models for many people in rural areas that plan to come to Addis Ababa. Rural-urban migration will create an opportunity for migrants with optimistic economic motives to come to the city in the process, which might contribute to the city's growth and development. Rural migrants take their jobs seriously, and unlike some non-migrants, they don't refuse to work in low-paying jobs (Interview March 19, 2020).*

According to my informant mentioned above, rural-urban migration gives people with strong economic motives the chance to come to urban areas and find the job they wanted; such migrants play a vital role in fostering the country's economy. The Movement of people from rural to urban areas could play an essential role in fostering the urban economy (Malik 2015). Furthermore, some rural migrants who participated in this study believe that rural-urban migration plays a vital role in improving the country's economy; among them, one 32 years old male rural migrant who is a civil servant has the following to say:

*I believe that rural migrants are more likely to become entrepreneurs in urban areas. Nowadays, many rural migrants in Addis Ababa have become successful entrepreneurs, and they have invested in many things. These entrepreneurs create employment opportunities for many residents, thereby solving the city's unemployment problem, which could help improve the economy. When rural migrants live in the city, they spend their money on many things such as food, cloth, house, transport; as migrants spend money on products and services, they could boost the country's economy. One of the advantages of rural-urban migration is that it will let people with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds the chance to come*

*and interact in the city; in the process, they could strengthen their relationship. I believe that rural-urban migration will introduce people to a new culture, language, variety of foods, and lifestyle. Furthermore, when different ethnic groups meet for the first time, they will come into contact with different traditions, customs, and lifestyles (Interview April 12, 2021).*

The above quotes indicate that enthusiastic and hardworking migrants will most likely succeed in the city. Rural migrants who put a lot of effort into their work will eventually become successful entrepreneurs, and they will also create employment opportunities for many citizens in the city. Hardworking rural migrants, in most cases, will play a significant role in fostering the country's economy. Rural-urban migration will also give people with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds the chance to share their norms, beliefs, customs, and habits. The study finding indicates, though rural-urban migrants make positive contributions, they also create some problems in the city. The negative repercussions of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa seem to be a significant issue of concern among many residents. Alongside this, one of the major problems associated with rural-urban migration is environmental pollution, and a 42 year's old unemployed female urban resident has the following to say:

*The rapid growth of the urban population might lead to environmental pollution, and these days most of the residents in Addis Ababa have failed to keep the city clean. The majority of the residents are contaminating the city, and these include urban residents and rural migrants. Some of the rural youth migrants are among those who are responsible for the contamination of the city these days. I often see some rural youth migrants defecating on the public street, contaminating the people and their environment. They are unaware of the consequences of having a dirty and unpleasant environment (Interview March 19, 2020).*

The findings of this study indicate that there are many reasons why rural migrants (youths), in particular, are forced to defecate on the street and contaminate the environment. In this regard, Lemawork's (2002) argument better explains why rural youth migrants defecate on the road and why they contaminate the city. He argues that most rural migrants are not allowed to use toilets;

for that reason, they are forced to defecate under the railways and on the street. Therefore, before we keep pointing our fingers at rural migrants first, we should know why they are forced to do it. In this regard, one 25 years old male rural migrant who has participated in this study has the following to say:

*These days many rural migrants, including myself, encounter many difficulties in Addis Ababa, and one of the common problems most migrants face today is shortages of toilets. Even when we rent a house, the landlords would not allow us to use the toilets for no reason whatsoever. Most rural youth migrants rent a house with multiple roommates, and they are not allowed to use the toilets. The impossibility of finding a bathroom will force rural migrants to defecate in public. (Interview March 6, 2021).*

Therefore, one important concept one needs to understand from the informants who participated in this study is that rural migrants and urban residents contaminate the city. The majority of the residents in the city are unaware of the consequences of living in a contaminated and unpleasant environment. The findings of this study also revealed that some landlords in Addis Ababa refuse to let the migrants use their toilets, and as a result, they will be forced to defecate in public. Furthermore, some urban residents who participated in this study have said different things about the rural migrants, and some of the things they have said about them were more or less negative. In this regard, a 47 years old female urban resident who is also a civil servant has the following to say:

*Rural-urban migration could cause economic inequality in the city, potentially affecting the lives of many poor urban residents in the town. Many wealthy people in rural areas still migrate to Addis Ababa to make more money and maximize their income. On the other hand, many residents in Addis Ababa are living in poverty. When they compete for jobs in the city, it will affect the urban poor, exacerbating the already existing unemployment problem. Due to rural to urban migration, many schools in rural areas are getting closed since many students are skipping classes; thus, most rural migrants in Addis Ababa are barely educated. Since they don't*

*possess any skills or education, they struggle to find a job in the city (Interview April 9, 2021).*

In addition, some urban residents had diverse views about rural migrants living in the city. I had the chance to interview a 34 years old male urban resident who is also a teacher in public school, and he has the following to say:

*Most of the rural migrants who live near my neighborhood are homeless. I have a good relationship with rural migrants who live around my hometown. Sometimes I give food to homeless rural migrants, and I even offer them a job. Since they don't have any food to eat, most homeless migrants rely on leftover hotel foods. Some people in the city don't have a good attitude toward rural youth migrants; they see them as thieves and robbers. Some landlords in Addis Ababa even refuse to rent their house to rural youth migrants because they bring many people into the rent house, and some landlords claim they have poor personal hygiene. Most rural migrants don't have a settled life in the city, and they usually move from place to place in search of a better lifestyle. Some rural migrants in the town are not ambitious; they have no goal in life (Interview April 12, 2021).*

In general, the findings of this study revealed that the majority of the study participants (urban residents) had mixed views about rural migrants living in the city. Some urban residents phrase the rural migrants for their determination and efforts. They also believe that rural migrants can contribute to positive development outcomes. On the other hand, some urban residents interviewed in the study reported that rural-urban migration negatively impacts Addis Ababa. Some urban residents believe that rural-urban migration is the leading cause of unemployment in Addis Ababa.

Additionally, the urban residents interviewed in this study have talked about the possible measures government should take to solve the problem. For instance, a 44 years old female urban resident has suggested that the government has to work hard or focus on rural areas, that is, by fulfilling people's demands and needs. The government officials should make this their

number one priority and start instructing the youths in rural areas about the challenges and difficulties they will encounter in Addis Ababa. Improving social services and creating job opportunities in rural areas is essential for many youths to become innovative and involved in better income-generating activities (Mefekir 2017). For instance, the government must teach youths in rural areas about the difficulties of getting a job in the city, and it's also important to let them know how it is difficult to cope up with urban life, especially if they don't have a place to stay in the city. If the rural areas are equipped with essential amenities it is possible to halt the movement of people from rural to urban areas (Ochuko 2016).

Furthermore, the informant mentioned above has stated that parents must also be concerned about their children's future in rural areas. They should at least start looking after them, and if they are underage, they should stop them from leaving. The informant further suggested that if the government cooperates with the children's parents in rural areas, it's possible to curb the flow of migrants from different parts of the country. Likewise, most of my informants have different opinions and points of view about rural migrants living in the city. The informants tried to explain the issue from various aspects. Some informants have attempted to associate rural-urban migration with, economy, and social life. They have tried to explain how rural-urban migration influences the rural and urban economy and how it socially affects people's lives.

#### **4.1.1 Social and Economic Aspects**

The informants who have participated in this study have attempted to explain the socio-economic impacts of rural-urban migration from different perspectives. Among them, a 52 years male urban resident who participated in this study has suggested that rural-urban migration positively impacts rural migrants. In most cases, people from rural areas want to adopt urban life, and they don't want to spend their entire life in a traditional or uncivilized society. McCatty (2004) stated that the most common challenges that many people in rural areas face today is the influence of the industrialized and advanced countries on their culture and way of life. McCatty further notes that, as time goes by, people who live in rural areas will be inspired by the outside world, and eventually they will start to recognize their state of poverty.

Besides this, the informant mentioned above has stated that people from rural areas want to live a better life, and they also want to access education and other related facilities in the city. The only way they will have access to those necessary facilities is by migrating to Addis Ababa. Most rural areas in Ethiopia are not equipped with essential modern irrigation instruments. The urban resident further suggested that, usually, in many rural regions of Ethiopia, ox's and horses are only used to cultivate lands with a single person's help, which is, of course, the farmer. McCatty (2004) discusses that farming is not an easy job, and it is seen as arduous, back-breaking work that exploits the farmer's energy.

Furthermore, the informant argues that relying solely on a traditional instrument will exploit the farmer's energy, so this is not a win-win situation for the farmer or the people around him. Most rural migrants are desperate to live a modern life, and they are curious to know how people in the city make a living, dress, interact, and so on. Many people in rural areas think about the success that they will have in the city before they decide to migrate (McCatty 2004). This indicates that the vast majority of the people in rural areas are eager to live a modern life, and due to many factors, they will be forced to leave their lives behind and migrate to the city to have a better lifestyle. For most rural people in Ethiopia, coming to urban areas is their only option to escape poverty. Most rural migrants prefer to suffer and starve to death in the city rather than return to their previous rural life. Moreover, a 30 years old male urban resident who works in the local supermarket has talked about the outbreak of the plague coronavirus or covid 19 in the interview, and he has the following to say:

*Rural-urban migration could potentially exacerbate the virus's spread since it rapidly increases the population's number. In most cases, youth migrants, in particular, won't be able to find a place to live in the city, and these migrants will be forced to live on the street; in the process, they could be exposed to the virus. Most of them share many things when they live on the street, like cloth, food, drinks, etc. Living on the road might expose them to the virus, plus most of them live in an unpleasant environment, and it's also challenging to find clean water and food on the street (Interview March 19, 2020).*

Besides this, he further suggested that the virus is spreading rapidly, affecting many nations worldwide, including Ethiopia. The virus could easily transmit from one person to another; furthermore, an infected person could easily transmit the virus to hundreds of people around him. Since the spread has no sign of slowing down, many countries worldwide strongly recommend their people to stay at home for a long time to slow down the virus's spread. Moreover, in Ethiopia, the government strongly suggests that people should practice social distancing and avoid any social gatherings. In general, the finding of this study indicates that people come to urban areas to seek a better lifestyle and access basic facilities. Most people in rural areas are not satisfied with their lives, and they move to urban areas to lift themselves out of poverty. The findings of this research also revealed that when many people live in urban areas, they come in contact more often, and thus coronavirus disease could also spread rapidly. In most cases, homeless rural migrants will be exposed to coronavirus since they live on the street.

## **4.2 Rural-Urban Migration and Crime in the City**

When people move from rural areas to urban areas, it will grow the urban population's size, potentially affecting the city. According to the urban residents who participated in the study, Addis Ababa faces many problems such as lack of jobs, homelessness, inadequate services, a high level of pollution, and increasing crime rates. Unfortunately, the crime rate in Addis Ababa has been steadily growing from time to time. Lemawork's (2002) study in Addis Ababa Addis Ketama sub-city indicates that rural migrants in most cases are involved in crimes like robbery, murder, and theft.

In addition, the informants who have participated in this study have raised many important issues about the rise of crime rates in the city. Among them, a 55 years old male urban resident indicates that some youth migrants are responsible for the city's rise in crime rate, and some are involved in many city crimes. Upon their arrival in the town, many migrants struggle to find a job instantly, and some of them succeed while the rest of them failed to do so. In most cases, when rural migrants cannot find a city career, they will be forced to live on the street. Furthermore, for many young rural migrants, life on the streets is not easy, especially if they are female, and most of them go through many things. While living on the road, they often struggle to find a portion of food to eat.

The study's finding indicates that some rural migrants are involved in jobs that the government considers illegal, such as street vending and other street businesses, and street vendors in Addis Ababa are considered criminals. In this regard, a 27 years old female rural migrant who is a street vendor has the following to say:

*Since I came to Addis Ababa, I have been looking for a job, and it turns out finding a career in the city was not easy; eventually, I decided to join the street vending business. Rural migrants who don't possess any skills or education like me are forced to settle in the street vending business. I have been in the street vending business for two years, and while I am working on the street, I have faced many challenges. Since street vending in Addis Ababa is illegal, the local police officers won't let us work on the street, and they often chase us when they see us on the street. When we try to escape from them, we usually put our lives in danger. Some street vendors, for instance, get hit by a car when they try to run away from the police; thus, they could get injured and could even lose their lives in the process. The major problem is the police officers see street vendors as a criminal in most instances. The local police officers claim that street vendors don't have the right to occupy the urban public spaces without permission (Interview April 08, 2021).*

The study's findings revealed that when rural migrants work on the street, they encounter many challenges, and they usually put their lives in danger. Street vending and other informal street businesses in Addis Ababa are illegal, and street vendors, in most cases, are not allowed to work on the street. In addition, rural migrants often struggle to have a career in the city, and when they don't have any other choice, they will eventually be involved in crimes. Rural-urban migration has negative consequences, and it usually leads to overpopulation, thus exacerbating crime in urban areas (Mahdi 2014). Another 32-year-old male, educated rural migrant who is also a civil servant has the following to say:

*Rural migrants encounter many difficulties in the city, and when they are unable to find a job in the city, they will likely be involved in many crimes. Some migrants will do anything to survive on the street. Lack of access to food and other essential social services will force migrants to commit crimes such as theft, pickpocketing, and*

*robbery. When they commit those crimes, they might end up in jail in the process; so it's difficult to fulfill their needs. When rural migrants are frustrated with city life, they will start taking dangerous drugs, which will make them violent. The drugs might push them to commit violent crimes such as murder, kidnapping, rape, and burglary. Especially when they are under the influence of drugs, they may not be aware of their crimes or their consequences; thus, it will affect many innocent people's lives. So I believe the lack of job opportunities in the city will push rural migrants to be involved in crimes, and unemployment could also force many female rural migrants to involve in prostitution (Interview April 12, 2021).*

This indicates that rural migrants will do anything to survive in the city, and they will do whatever it takes to make money. According to the local police station report, the city's crime rate is steadily growing from time to time; the report also shows that rural migrants and urban residents are involved in many crimes. I had the chance to interview an educated 52 years old male urban resident. The person has attended university, and he is also a civil servant. The informant has lived in Addis Ababa for many years. Throughout the interview, he tried to explain the negative consequences of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa. The informant has the following to say:

*Some criminals use the city as a hiding spot, and they are also involved in many crimes, such as robbery, theft, pickpocketing, etc. Rural-urban migration might create an opportunity for some criminals in rural areas to come to the city in the process. Some robbers and thieves in Addis Ababa often rent houses with multiple roommates. Usually, most landlords in Addis Ababa are unaware of the profile of the person who rents their house. I advise landlords in Addis Ababa to be vigilant when they rent their homes to strangers. Most landlords in Addis Ababa are unaware of the possible consequences of renting a house to an unknown stranger (Interview March 19, 2020).*

Moreover, the study finding also shows that many urban residents have a negative attitude towards rural migrants from the southern region. Most of them are seen as thieves and thugs. In

this regard, a 25 years old male rural migrant who is in the shinning shoe business has the following to say:

*Rural migrants are often blamed for the rise of the crime rate in the city. The urban residents don't trust us, and most of them see us as thieves and robbers. Some urban residents even think that almost all rural migrants are involved in crimes, but this is entirely false because many rural migrants in the city are innocent and loyal. We come to Addis Ababa to get a job and change our lives. In most cases, we are treated harshly by the local police officers while working on the street, and they will come after us for no reason whatsoever. Many innocent rural migrants who work on the road are abused and maltreated by police officers (Interview March 06, 2021).*

The study's findings indicate that rural-urban migration is one of the primary factors responsible for the rise of the crime rate in Addis Ababa. A study that Lemawork (2002) conducts in Addis Kitema sub-city also indicates that rural-urban migrants are responsible for expanding Addis Ababa's crimes. I had the chance to interview a 41 years old urban resident, who has been a victim of a crime, and he shared some of his experiences with me. The informant has the following to say:

*When I was walking alone at night, I was stopped by a couple of robbers, and out of nowhere, one of them hit me in the back. I was unconscious for few minutes, but they kept beating me up while I was down. They took my wallet and some pieces of jewelry. I screamed for help, but no one heard a thing. Finally, they took off my clothes and left me for dead. Eventually, I got up and managed to crawl back home. After years of hard work, the police officers were able to arrest the criminals and bring them to justice. The local police station report shows that the criminals were originally from wolayita zone (Interview September 21, 2021).*

The findings of the study revealed that some urban dwellers had been a victim of a crime, and the study also shows that some rural migrants are involved in many city crimes. I went to the local police station to gather information about the rise of crime rates in the sub-city, and I had the chance to interview two male police officers. According to the first male police officer, homeless rural migrants are more likely to commit a crime. The most common crime they

commit is theft and robbery, and the local police officers even struggle to identify their real identities. According to the first male police officer who works in the local police station:

*When rural migrants cannot find a job in the city, they will be involved in many crimes. Most of them are often involved in crimes like robbery, theft, and pickpocketing. According to our report, homeless rural migrants who live on the street are drug addicts. When they take the drugs, they will be unconscious and may not be aware of the situations they put themselves in, and the drugs often make them violent and may even push them to commit a crime. I recommend the parents of young migrants in rural areas to remain vigilant and stop their children from leaving their homes if they are underage, and I urge young people to stay in their hometowns (Interview March 19, 2020).*

In addition, the second male local police officer has stated that it's tough to determine the criminals' real identity, primarily rural migrants. He further illustrated that most young migrants in Addis Ababa do not have an identification card. In most cases, we cannot trace their real identity or discover where the migrants originate from, and most of them usually come up with excuses like; I am too young to have an ID card. Furthermore, when they are in custody, most criminals refuse to cooperate with the police. Bundervoet (2018) discusses that in Addis Ababa, many rural migrants often struggle to obtain ID cards and cannot get any support from the government. According to the study's findings, rural migrants usually struggle to get an identification card from the local *woredas* or *kebeles*. Moreover, I had the chance to interview one local male official who works in the *woreda* about the issues.

The government official who works in the local *woreda* has the following to say:

*Every rural migrant has the right to come to the city, and they also have the right to get an ID card anytime they want; nevertheless, we need to make some background checks before we give them an ID card. Before granting ID cards to rural migrants first, we investigate their backgrounds and past criminal records, and the process could take some time. Sometimes we ask them to bring some witnesses to certify their identity. In most cases, if we don't have any attestation, we don't give them the identification card (Interview April 12, 2021).*

Furthermore, the second male police officer has stated that many youth urban dwellers in the city are charged with many crimes, and most of them also take drugs. The second male police officer further illustrated that most landlords in Addis Ababa often rent their houses to unknown strangers without knowing the person's profile. Alongside this, the police officer further indicates that many criminals in the city rent homes with multiple roommates, and most landlords are not aware of it. The police officer strongly recommends many landlords in Addis Ababa to become vigilant at all times when they rent their house to strangers. If the person who rents their house refuses to cooperate with them, they should report to the local police station right away. The findings of the research revealed that both rural migrants and urban residents are involved in many crimes. In general, the crime rate in Addis Ababa, and Yeka sub-city, in particular, is increasing from time to time. Some rural migrants also use the city as a hiding spot. The police officers often struggle to identify the identity of the criminals, especially if they are rural migrants. The study's findings also indicate that many rural youth migrants don't have an ID card, and they also struggle to get an ID from the local *woredas*. In addition, some rural migrants are also committing a crime in the city, and they also become violent when they are under the influence of drugs.

### **4.3 Rural-Urban Migration and the Lives of Rural Migrants**

The findings of the study revealed that many youths in rural areas encounter many difficulties, and most of them live in poverty. Many of them are desperate to change their lives, and they also want to live a modern life. The majority of the people in rural areas choose to make Addis Ababa their final destination. Many factors motivate rural migrants to come to the city, such as economic and transport infrastructures, job opportunities, housing conditions, etc. In Ethiopia, most migrants move to urban areas searching for a better life and better opportunities and escaping rural areas they describe as a place characterized by hunger and poverty (Bundervoet 2018). Besides this, a 32 years old male educated rural migrant who has also lived in Addis Ababa for many years has the following to say:

*I come from the northern part of the region, and it has been almost seven years since I moved to Addis Ababa. I moved to the city to pursue my degree at Addis Ababa University, and when I moved to the city, I didn't have anyone to look up to. As soon*

*as I finished my education at Addis Ababa University, I decided to stay in the city; I finally got a job and started living a better life. Initially, I was like a stranger in the city: I struggled to cope with the cities' lifestyle, and I was also unable to interact with the urban residents. It took me some time to adapt to the cities lifestyle. As years go by, I start making friends and interacting with my neighbors and colleagues more often; I have also strengthened my relationship with the urban residents. The city's population is growing from time to time, and it is also affecting the lives of many residents in the city. When I moved to Addis Ababa a couple of years ago, life was not difficult as it is right now, and house rent was not expensive either. I used to pay 800 ETB for the house rent a couple of years ago, but now I am paying more than 2000 ETB for the rent. The food price is also increasing from time to time, and since the food price is rising, it is difficult to order and eat food in restaurants and hotels (Interview April 12, 2021).*

The informant mentioned above further indicated that many people in the city encounter many challenges and difficulties; when they deal with their challenges, they won't have the time to interact with each other. He further argues that noise pollution is also becoming a significant issue of concern among many residents in the city. Moreover, many nightclubs in the town play loud music at night, disturbing many residents who live near the area. In general, life in Addis Ababa is challenging these days. This indicates that rural migrants encounter many difficulties when they live in the city, and they also struggle to interact with the urban residents. The cost of living in Addis Ababa is also becoming a major issue of concern among many rural migrants in the city. The study findings also indicate that, throughout time, rural migrants will cope with the city's lifestyle; eventually, they will start interacting with the urban dwellers. Stewards (1955) illustrated that through adaptation, human beings would be able to cope with the culture, technology, and population of the new environment. The study shows that rural migrants struggle to find a job in the city. According to one 26 years old male rural migrant in the shinning shoe business, many migrants are struggling to get a job in Addis Ababa. Upon arrival, most of them are employed in low-paying jobs, such as street business, street vending, and daily labor. In most cases, these kinds of employments exploit energy and require a tremendous amount of potential.

Furthermore, he argues that when they cannot find a job in the city, they will ultimately be involved in criminal activities. A study conducted by Todaro in 1976 stated that rural migrants might not find employment immediately upon arrival in the city. He further contends that when rural migrants finally get a job, it is likely that their salaries will be lower than they expected. Likewise, another male rural migrant in the shoe business told me that many youths in rural areas are inspired by their close relative family members' success stories in Addis Ababa. Eventually, they will decide to migrate to the city. He has also told me that his close family members also inspire him. In most cases, rural migrants often select their destination through their relatives and close friends (Bundervoet 2018). Most of the rural migrants who have participated in this study have suggested that we use to hear many things about Addis Ababa back home, and we have witnessed our brothers, sisters, and even neighbors' life change after migrating to the city. Among these people, a 23 years old male rural migrant volunteered to share his personal experience with me in the interview, and the informant has the following to say:

*I lived with my parents in the Hadiya zone, and I was 18 years old when I came to Addis Ababa. It has been four years since I came to Addis Ababa. Before I came to the city, I was a 6-grade student. Eventually, I decided to skip school and come to Addis Ababa to help my low-income family back home. I was not the only one in my family who migrated to Addis Ababa. My older brother was the first in our family to come to Addis Ababa. My brother had massive success in the city, and he was a big role model for me, and I decided to follow in my brother's footsteps. I finally decided to migrate to Addis Ababa. Unfortunately, life was not easy for me, and at first, I couldn't even find a job in Addis Ababa; since I didn't have any other place to stay in the city, I was forced to live on the street for a long time. But I didn't even think about returning home for a second because I was afraid that I would let my parents down. So I decided to stay in the city and look for a job. I finally decided to join the shining shoe business and start to make a living (Interview March 19, 2020).*

Moreover, a 25 years old male migrant who claims that he comes from Hadiya argues that many people from our town, primarily young adults are not satisfied with the rural life because of the absence of necessary facilities like schools, private colleges, and hospitals. He further suggested

that many youths in our town are unemployed and often struggle to pay their school fees. In addition, some migrants claim that their life was a living hell soon after they came to Addis Ababa, meaning it was difficult for them to cope with the urban environment; life was not easy for them as they expected it to be. The findings of the study indicate that when the rural migrants first arrive in the city, they encounter many difficulties. The study findings show that many rural migrants in Yeka sub-city are associated with employment in the formal and informal sectors. Through time, rural migrants will eventually overcome all challenges and engage in informal and formal sector jobs (Lemawork 2002). For instance, a 21 years old youth migrant decided to share his story with me. Throughout his story, he mentioned some of the difficulties and obstacles that he and his friends faced while living in the city, and the migrant gave the following remark:

*I came from Hadiya. It has almost been five years since I came to Addis Ababa. Soon after I arrived in the city, I have encountered many problems, and I could not find a place to live. Since I don't have anyone to look up to in the city, I often spend the night on the street with my three other friends. All three of them were rural migrants like me, and most of them were homeless. As time goes by, my friends and I start looking for a job. It turns out finding a job in Addis Ababa was not easy. Eventually, we decided to join the shining shoe business and start making money. Before we had the job, we used to sleep on the street. Since we can't afford to pay house rent, we spend the night at a particular motel, and the motel used to charge us 20 ETB just for one night's stay. Ever since I joined the shining shoe business, my life began to change, and I overcame many obstacles in the city (Interview March 19, 2020).*

In addition, some rural migrants in the study area claim that they have been abused by the local authorities and sometimes by urban dwellers. In most cases rural migrants in Addis Ababa are often harassed and maltreated by local police officers (Bundervoet 2018). According to one 25 years old migrant who comes from Hadiya has the following to say:

*We are abused by some local authorities [police officers] while working on the street, and some urban dwellers beat us for no reason. The local community even has a local name for us; they usually call us "Metes" in Amharic, which means*

*newcomers. Some migrants in the town are treated harshly by the local community. Likewise, many rural migrants in the city, including myself, acknowledge the host community's hospitality and kindness (Interview March 20, 2020).*

The finding of the study revealed that most rural migrants migrate to Addis Ababa to overcome poverty. In most cases, they struggle to cope with urban life, and when they come to Addis Ababa, they encounter many obstacles and challenges. Most rural migrants move to the city to improve their lives, and they also flee to the town to seek employment opportunities. The study shows that rural migrants struggle to find a job in the city, and the findings of the study also indicate that rural migrants are often engaged in low-paying jobs. The study also shows rural migrants in Yeka sub-city are engaged in formal and informal sector jobs. Likewise, rural migrants are also subjected to violence when they live in the city, and some rural migrants usually get harassed by the local police officers. The cost of living in Addis Ababa has affected the lives of rural migrants, and they also struggle to cover their housing and food expenses.

#### **4.4 Rural-Urban Migration and Transportation Service in Addis Ababa**

Currently, the majority of residents in Addis Ababa are experiencing a significant transportation problem. The majority of Addis Ababa residents don't own private cars, and most of them rely on public transportation such as taxis, trains, and buses. In many developing countries, including Ethiopia, public transit is the only transportation mode for people to access work, education, health, and other services. Lemawork (2002), findings from his work in Addis Ketama sub-city show that nowadays it is difficult to access buses, taxis, and other related transportation services, due to high influx of rural migrants into Addis Ababa. Nowadays, people struggle to find public transport services such as buses, taxis, and other transportation means in Addis Ababa for many reasons. The findings of the study revealed that, in Addis Ababa, crime in public transport, including in buses, taxis, and trains, is growing from time to time. Alongside this, a 57 years old urban resident who works as a security guard in the local construction site has the following to say:

*Since it increases the number of the population, rural-urban migration will impact the public transport service in the city. Many crimes occur on different transit services, and the most common crimes are theft, pickpocketing, and robbery. Many perpetrators in the town deceive passengers to get into their car to rob them, and if*

*they refuse to give them their money or phone, they will kill them. In fact, a few months ago, one girl who lives around my village was kidnapped and stabbed to death. Later it was found out that she was deceived by one of the minibus taxis in the city. In overcrowded buses and trains, a well-dressed person is more likely to get robbed than a poorly dressed person. The person might be the prime target of thieves, and these thieves might pursue the person until they get what they want (Interview March 06, 2021).*

Besides this, the informant mentioned above has also suggested that the price of taxis in Addis Ababa also rises from time to time. From the research's physical observation, I obtained that, in Addis Ababa, many people are seen on the street stranded waiting for public transport. In most cases, buses and taxis do not arrive on time; thus, people wait for them for a long time. Due to the city's shortage of public transport service, many commuters do not arrive to work on time plus students come late to school, and often miss classes. Furthermore, a 20 years old male urban resident who works as a parking cashier in the local parking lot has the following to say:-

*When passengers wait for a taxi on the street, they encounter many difficulties. Since there is a shortage of taxis in the city, the passengers will be forced to wait for them for a long time, and when the taxi finally arrives, they will start pushing and pulling each other. In the busiest bus and taxi stops in Addis Ababa, especially in places like Megenagna and Mexico, you can see passengers pushing each other to get in the minibus taxi. In this situation, most people are not aware of the pickpockets, and they could lose their money or phone without noticing the theft at the time. I've never been a victim, but I have witnessed some pickpocketing crimes in crowded areas (Interview March 06, 2021).*

During the physical observation of the research, I witnessed a lot of things, and judging from my own experience, waiting for a taxi or other mode of public transport standing for a long time is very exhausting. The findings of the research indicate that rural-urban migration is primarily responsible for Addis Ababa's population's rapid growth, and it also impacted the transportation service. Besides increasing the population, rural-urban migration will also put pressure on urban transportation services in the place of destination (Habtamu 2015). Moreover, some rural

migrants also agree with the urban residents; they believe that rural-urban migration is responsible for the shortage of transportation services in Addis Ababa. In this regard, I had the chance to interview a 32 years old male educated rural migrant, and he has the following to say:

*In my opinion, overpopulation is responsible for the lack of adequate public transport service in Addis Ababa. In addition, rural-urban migration is primarily responsible for overpopulation. In Addis Ababa, the number of buses and taxis is relatively small compared to the population. If the city's population keeps growing, it won't be easy to provide buses, minibus taxis, and other public transport services for the residents. The lack of adequate public transport services could also affect the economy since it will halt the movement of people and prevent them from arriving to work on time. People could also get fired from their job if they don't come to work on time. The shortage of public transport services could force people to enter into crowded buses, and this might expose them to different airborne diseases. Many buses and taxis in Addis Ababa usually carry many passengers, which could ultimately cause a traffic accident. When people cannot find public transport service, they will be forced to travel on foot, and when they travel on foot, they might be exposed to different crimes. In addition, when people travel on foot, they might be exposed to violence, and they could even lose their life in the process; the victim could be a doctor or a teacher, so this could be a significant loss for the country (Interview April 12, 2021).*

This indicates that overpopulation is responsible for the shortage of public transport services in Addis Ababa, and so, as a result, it could affect the lives of many residents. Alongside this, a 34 years old female urban resident has suggested that rural-urban migration could potentially exacerbate transportation problems in the town. When the city's population increases, it will be difficult for the government to provide transportation services for the residents living in the city. Therefore, here one important concept one needs to understand is that dozens of people live in Addis Ababa, and it is difficult to provide a public transport service for millions of people living in the city. Unless the officials find a way to slow down the flow of rural migrants from different parts of the country, it will be difficult to solve the city's transportation problem. If the

government can somehow reduce the continuous flow of people from other parts of the country, it is possible to improve the public transport service in Addis Ababa.

In addition, most public transport services in Addis Ababa are overcrowded, and the most common ones are buses and trains. Due to the lack of public transport service in the city people are forced to use overcrowded buses and trains. Alongside this, a 44 years old female urban resident has underlined that when people enter crowded buses, they face many problems. The most common challenge they encounter on public transit is theft, sexual harassment, and air-borne diseases. During the physical observation of the research, I obtained that people are more likely to be robbed in crowded buses, and thieves intentionally enter into an overcrowded bus to rob passengers. And the sad thing is the passengers are not aware whether the thieves have robbed them or not, and the thieves often get away with it. Dozens of passengers in the city have been victims of this particular crime. According to one 24 years old female urban resident, who is also a student, has the following to say:

*In overcrowded public transport in Addis Ababa, many female passengers experience sexual harassment. Many male passengers (perpetrators) usually take advantage of female passengers in crowded buses, and the victims typically hesitate to confront the perpetrators. Female passengers usually ignore the harassment because they don't want to be publicly humiliated by the people around them (Interview March 19, 2020).*

In addition, a 30 years old man urban resident who works in the local supermarket has suggested that one of the problems people face in overcrowded public transport is air-borne diseases. Air-borne diseases could quickly spread from person to person on a crowded bus, and passengers might be exposed to different diseases. Nowadays, the most common deadly disease in the world is coronavirus. He further contends that this virus could easily transmit from one person to another through respiratory droplets. This virus rapidly spread in crowded places compared to other air-borne diseases. The informant mentioned above further suggested that limiting the number of people in buses and trains might be the best solution to slow down the virus's spread.

Moreover, when the population increases in the city, the number of passengers traveling in public buses and trains will increase, affecting the town's entire transportation system. Therefore,

the concerned body needs to find a way to reduce the number of people entering the city through migration. Unless they can find a solution for the problem, it's challenging to resolve the city's transportation problem. The findings of the study revealed that one of the major problems that many residents in Addis Ababa face today is a shortage of public transport services, and this is due to rural-urban migration. The flow of migrants to Addis Ababa is responsible for the lack of public transport services. In addition, many crimes are also occurring on different transit services such as on buses, minibus taxis, and trains. The study also shows that coronavirus and other airborne diseases could rapidly spread in overcrowded public transport services.

#### **4.5 The Effect of Rural-Urban Migration on Urban Housing**

Rural-urban migration has many impacts on urban areas, and one of the most common difficulties that many urban residents in the city experience are house rent increase. The findings of the study indicate that many residents struggle to pay their house rent. Alongside this, a 45 years female urban resident who is a civil servant has suggested that people who don't have a house of their own are more likely to be negatively affected by rural-urban migration. She argues that nowadays, many tenants, primarily rural migrants, are renting a home with multiple roommates. They pay a large amount of money for it, which seems to benefit many landlords in Addis Ababa. When the number of rural migrants in Addis Ababa increases, the housing demand will also rise.

The informant mentioned above has also suggested that landlords increase house rents since they make more money from it. In the process, this will affect individual tenants, and most of the tenants turn out to be urban residents. Lemawork (2002) discusses that lack of housing and rent increase is among the major problems many residents face today in Addis Ababa. He further contends that due to rural-urban migration and the cost of house rent in the city has doubled in the last few years. In this regard, a 32 years old migrant, a civil servant, has the following to say:

*The rapid flow of migrants to the city would lead to overpopulation, and if the population keeps growing, it will be challenging to live in the city. When the population of the city increases, it affects the lives of many residents in many ways. One of the major problems that many residents in Addis Ababa are dealing with is a house rent increase. When I moved to Addis Ababa 6 years ago, the house rent price was not high. When the population in the city increases from time to time, the*

*demand for housing has also increased. Since the demand for housing is rising, landlords are increasing house rent on their tenants, which seems to benefit some rental brokers in Addis Ababa. In most cases, rental brokers benefit a lot from rent increase because they earn a considerable amount of money from it, and sometimes the price of the house rent could be determined by them. Some rental brokers are taking advantage of poor tenants in the city by charging them a large amount of money. Since it is challenging to find a house for rent in Addis Ababa, most tenants don't hesitate to pay for expensive homes (Interview April 12, 2021).*

This indicates that most landlords and rental brokers take advantage of poor tenants in Addis Ababa. I also had the chance to interview a 35 years old male urban resident who is a tenant in Addis Ababa. He has shared some of the problems that he faced in his life, and the informant has the following to say:

*I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, and I have lived in Addis Ababa for many years. I lived with my parents, and eventually, I decided to leave my parents' house. The first thing I did after leaving my parents' house was rent a house. After renting a home, I have encountered many problems and dealt with many landlords. I often struggle to pay my house rent, and this is because my landlord intentionally increases the house rent. Many landlords have manipulated me. In most cases, many tenants like me often struggle to pay house rents compared to tenants who rent a house with multiple roommates, and most of the tenants who rent a house with multiple roommates are rural migrants (Interview March 20, 2020).*

Therefore, one can conclude that individual tenants are more likely to be affected by rent increases, and most tenants are also struggling to pay their rent. Furthermore, a 45 years old female urban resident who is also a civil servant has suggested that many landlords in the city are taking advantage of the situation by raising house rent on their tenants. The government needs to find and identify landlords who unfairly increase house rents on tenants and bring them to justice. She argues that many landlords in Addis Ababa have been manipulating their tenants for years by increasing rent. For that reason, increasing house rent by landlords on tenants should be considered a crime; the government should start taking strict measures on landlords who deliberately increase house rent on their tenants, and they should also get punished right away.

Moreover, landlords must be accountable for their actions when they raise rents on tenants. The informant mentioned above argued that whenever the population rises in a particular city, the government won't provide a house for every resident living in the city.

Likewise, in Addis Ababa, the government won't fulfill people's housing demand if the population keeps rising. If the government can curb rural-urban migration, it is possible to solve the urban housing problem. In general, the findings of the study indicate that one of the major problems that many residents in the city are facing today is house rent increase, and many tenants are also struggling to pay their house rent. The study also shows that landlords and rental brokers take advantage of tenants. So one can conclude that rural-urban migration is responsible for a rent increase, and it has affected many residents' lives in Addis Ababa.

#### **4.6 Rural-Urban Migration and Urban Employment**

As a result of rural-urban migration, the population of Addis Ababa is increasing from time to time. When the population increases, the demand for a job will increase as well. Moreover, a 52 years old male urban resident who is also a civil servant has suggested that nowadays, in Addis Ababa, many citizens are unemployed, and many city residents struggle to find a job. The first thing that migrants do after arriving in the city is search for a job in the formal and informal sector, and in the process, they might worsen the already existing unemployment problem in the city. In urban areas, the rapid flow of rural migrants has created unemployment problems (Mefekir 2017).

Alongside this, the informant mentioned above indicates that one of the problems that many people in Addis Ababa face is unemployment. When a large number of people live in a particular city, the unemployment rate could rise. He further suggested that jobs will be lost in the city when the population increases, which could ultimately force people to migrate to other countries. In addition, the informant mentioned above has stated that the number of unemployed people in Addis Ababa increases from time to time due to the ongoing rural-urban migration. When rural migrants compete for jobs, especially in the formal sector with urban residents in the city, the unemployment rate will rise, leading many citizens to poverty. He argues that after arriving in the town, many migrants are employed in low-paying jobs, and they often struggle to find a job immediately after they arrive in the city, and they compete with many people to get a job. Todaro

(1976) discusses that the number of rural migrants surpasses the overall job creation rate and it could also affect industries and urban social services.

Likewise, the findings of the study indicate that migrants who are engaged in the informal sector don't make enough money and put their lives in danger. In most cases, jobs associated with informal sectors are illegal since they don't pay taxes, and apparently, many rural migrants do not benefit from these kinds of jobs. Ultimately rural migrants will quit their informal jobs and start looking for employment in the formal sector, and most of them don't quickly get hired in big organizations and companies. In addition, a 23 years old male rural migrant who was struggling to find a job in Addis Ababa shared his experience in the interview, and his story goes as follows:

*I come from the Gondar region, and soon after I graduated from Gondar University, I decided to migrate to Addis Ababa to get a job. After I came to Addis Ababa, I have tried to get hired by many organizations and companies. Many companies and organizations in Addis Ababa often refuse to hire people who don't have an ID card; unfortunately, many rural migrants like me don't have an identification card. Later, I found out that an individual must have an identification card to be employed in well-known companies. I have tried to get an ID card so many times, and the process of getting an ID card from the woredas in Addis Ababa could take up to 6 months. Until they find the real identity of the rural migrant, they will not give them an ID card, and it takes a long time to complete the process. I was unemployed for almost six months in the process (Interview March 19, 2020).*

The study shows that rural migrants are engaged in formal and informal sector jobs in Yeka sub-city, and migrants engaged in informal sector jobs struggle to make enough money from it. Likewise, rural migrants also struggle to find a job in the formal job sector. The findings of the study revealed that some urban residents blame the rural migrants for the rise of the unemployment rate in the city. Furthermore, a 37 years old female urban resident has suggested that the continuous flow of people from different parts of the country is one of the factors responsible for the rise of unemployed citizens. She argues that when rural migrants come and compete for jobs in the city, they will affect the lives of many poor and unemployed citizens in

the town. In other words, the urban residents may not even find the job they desperately want, affecting their lives in so many ways. Rural-urban migration often leads to overpopulation, eventually; it could increase the unemployment rate and it could also put pressure on basic social facilities in the host community (Habtamu 2015).

Therefore, one can conclude that unemployment is becoming a major problem in Addis Ababa, and the unemployment rate is also increasing from time to time over the years. Many youth residents in the city are currently unemployed in the city. The finding of the study indicates that when rural migrants fail to get a job, they would be forced to live on the street for a long time until an opportunity comes along. Unemployment could also force migrants to be involved in illegal activities. The study shows that rural migrants don't easily get an ID card, and migrants who don't have an ID card often struggle to find a job in the city.

## **Chapter five**

### **Conclusion**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter basically deals with the conclusion based on the above discussions, and the conclusion was presented based on the research objectives and the study findings.

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

This research focuses on the positive and negative impact of rural-urban migration on Addis Ababa, Yeka sub-city woreda 08. In general, the study's findings indicate that rural-urban migration has both negative and positive contributions to the place of destination. When we start from the positive implications, rural-urban migration will allow migrants to access jobs and other facilities in the city. Rural migrants could also play a crucial role in fostering the country's economy. Unlike some urban residents, most migrants from rural areas do not refuse to work in low-paying jobs such as street business, street vending, and daily labor. Rural-urban migration will also let people with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds the chance to share their norms, beliefs, customs, and habits. In contrast, rural-urban migration also has negative implications on the host community, and it has become a significant issue of concern among many residents who live in the city.

The study's findings revealed that the negative effect of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa in general and Yeka sub-city, in particular, can be seen from different dimensions. Some of the adverse effects are overpopulation, crime, shortage of transportation services, housing problems, environmental pollution, and a high unemployment rate. Nowadays, many people struggle to find public transport services such as buses, taxis, and other transportation means in Addis Ababa, and crime in public transport, including in buses, taxis, and trains, is growing from time to time. Due to rural-urban migration, the unemployment rate in Addis Ababa is also increasing over the years. Many youths are struggling to find a job, and some urban residents blame rural migrants for the rise of the unemployment rate in the city.

Furthermore, one of the most common difficulties that many urban residents experience is house rent increase, and many residents struggle to pay their house rent. The study shows that many tenants in Addis Ababa deal with selfish landlords and rental brokers. In Ethiopia, many factors force people to abandon their towns and migrate to cities. Some of the common factors are poverty, unemployment, and poor infrastructure. Many youths in rural areas are influenced by the success stories of their family members and neighbors. Rural migrants also face many challenges and obstacles in the city. Some local authorities and city residents harass the rural migrants. Soon after their arrival, rural migrants often struggle to find a job in Addis Ababa.

According to the study findings, many of the rural migrants in the city are employed in low-paying jobs, such as street business, street vending, and daily labour, and the jobs often exploit their energy. Rural migrants in particular struggle to get an ID card, and it could take up to 6 months to get an ID from the local *woredas* in Addis Ababa. The study findings revealed that many companies and organizations in Addis Ababa often refuse to hire people who do not have an ID card. In most cases, when rural migrants are unable to find a job in the city, they may be involved in crimes.

Some rural youth migrants are often involved in crimes like robbery, theft, and pickpocketing. It is also challenging for the local authorities to identify the identity of the migrants since most of them do not have an ID card. Generally speaking, the population of Addis Ababa is steadily growing from time to time, and there are many responsible factors, so it is fair to say that rural-urban migration is one of the factors responsible for the rapid population growth in the city. The population growth is also responsible for the shortage of transportation services, expansion of crimes, unemployment, environmental pollution, etc. So it is fair to conclude that rural-urban migration has both negative and positive impacts on the host community.

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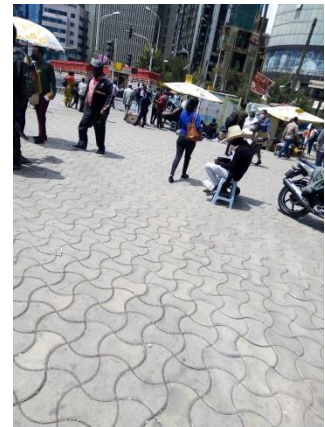
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## Appendices

### Appendix I: Photos from the study area



Population pressure in Addis Ababa Yeka sub-city



Informal business in Yeka sub-city

## **Appendix II: Interview Guide**

**Addis Ababa University, Department of Social Anthropology, Study on: The Socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration on Yeka sub-city woreda 08, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Dear Interviewee,

My name is Mikiyas Nega . I am working on my Masters study in MA regular Program in Addis Ababa University Department of Social Anthropology. I have to conduct research and produce a thesis paper as a requirement to fulfill my study. To this end, I selected the topic entitled "The Socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration on Yeka sub-city woreda 08, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia" This is, therefore, to kindly request you to be my informants. You are chosen randomly to participate in the study and I would like to assure you that everything you are about to tell/disclose will remain strictly confidential. To keep anonymity I don't need your real name or address.

Moreover, some of the questions might be very personal and difficult to answer or to talk about but it might be helpful for many others to change the situation you feel uncomfortable. Therefore, please try to discuss every aspect of the questions. There is no right or wrong answer. You are just kindly requested to share your experience. You may stop the interview or leave to answer questions that might make you uncomfortable.

## **Appendix A: For Local Residents**

1. What do you think about the possible implications of rural-urban migration in Addis Ababa?

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2. Do you believe that rural migrants have any contribution for the growth and development of the city?

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3. What are the possibilities of finding rural migrants around your home town?

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4. What do you think about rural migrants living and working in the city, especially around your residential place?

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5. What kind of measurements should be taken by the government to reduce the high flow of rural-urban migration?

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**Appendix B:**

**For Rural Migrants**

1. What motivates you to abandon your original residence and migrate to Addis Ababa?

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2. Ever since you come to the city have you encounter any problem or difficulty?

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3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of migrating to a big city like Addis Ababa?

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4. Do you think that local residents have positive attitude toward rural migrants living in the?

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### **Appendix C:**

#### **For the local police officers**

1. Any record on rural migrant's involvement in criminal activities in the area?

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2. How many rural migrants are charged with a crime in a day?

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3. Can we say that rural migrants commit more crimes than urban residents in the city?

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## **DECLARATION**

I, Mikiyas Nega hereby confirm that this thesis in the title "The Socio-economic implications of rural-urban migration on Yeka sub-city woreda 08, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia" is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university, and that all sources of material used for this thesis have been acknowledged.

Declared by Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed By

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_