

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

URBANISM AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN DEBRE MARKOS TOWN

BY:

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NOVEMBER, 2014

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY**

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NOVEMBER , 2014

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Acknowledgment

This work would not have been achieved without the contributions of many individuals to whom I owe due recognition. First and for most, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my advisor, Dr. Yeraswork Admassie, for his patience and invaluable guidance at all stages of this work. Without it this study would not have been completed. His rigorous and challenging criticism and advice has enabled me to criticize my initially dispersed thoughts. He was helpful to me at all times, despite his tight schedule.

My heartfelt thanks also goes to all persons and institutions that have in one way or another helped me to accomplish this study. Particularly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the study's participants residing in Debre Markos town for their cooperation and patience in discussing often difficult and very personal issues related to their lives.

Last but not least, I am blessed in having a family that has been a continuous source of energy during my study. My father always uplifted my spirits and encouraged me during tiring days while working on my thesis. I am thankful to my little sister who scarified her golden time and energy in helping me during the data collection process.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

ACSI: Amhara Credit and Savings Institution

CBD: Central business district

CSA: Central Statistics Agency

E.C: Ethiopian calendar

EPRDF: Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front

ETB: Ethiopian Birr

GTP: Growth and Transformation Plan

ID: Identification Card

MA: Master of Arts

MSE: Micro and small enterprise

MWUD: Ministry of Works and Urban Development

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

PASDEP: Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty 2005/06-2009/10

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Scientists

TVET: Technical and vocational education and training

Local terms

Araki: Local liquor prepared from fermented wheat and maize

Ashuha girf: a house constructed out of mud with wood and covered by garble stones

Edir: local burial association

Ekub: Rotating credit association which serves as a way of saving for members

Mahiber: Religious feast association

Sefer: the lowest administrative division below Kebele and can be understood as sub-Kebele

Tella: traditional alcoholic beer

ABSTRACT

Urbanization has become a major global phenomenon and the destiny of our planet. This process is highly facilitated by population growth, technological and infrastructural progress. It has a strong potential to bring profound changes in the entire living condition of residents both positively and negatively although the former by far out ways the later. This paper analyzes the state of urbanism and living condition of residents in Debre Markos town; the capital of Eastern Gojjam Zone of Amhara regional state.

The general objective of this study is to assess the socio economic and housing situation of residents of Debre Markos town. A cross-sectional study design was used. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative research methods, namely household survey, in-depth interviews, key informant interview and observation. A total of 384 sample household heads were selected through systematic random sampling for the survey. On top of this in depth interview was employed with 8 residents and one key informant from town administration office.

The findings revealed that in the past few years the town has witnessed a tremendous spatial expansion as a result of the housing demand created by the growing population. It has also shown a significant improvement in terms of infrastructure and small and micro enterprise developments. Service providers are mushrooming and the construction sector is in progress. The town is characterized by significant homogeneity in terms of language and religion indicating the fact that it is far from being a cosmopolitan center. Local social organizations are negatively influenced by the urbanization process. Regarding annual income most of the respondents are found to be low-income urban households. It also revealed that the majority of households had access to an improved source of drinking water. In terms of quality, the large majority of houses are of substandard class that is mainly built out of wood and mud materials. Unemployment, absence of public places and inappropriate sanitation and waste management are identified as challenges for the development of the town as a growing urban center. The study recommended the need to improve the environmental and physical conditions of the area through public participation and further strengthening of the role of micro and small scale enterprises to create employment opportunities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Urbanization has become a major global phenomenon and the destiny of our planet. This process is highly facilitated by population growth, technological development and infrastructural progress. It is an important aspect of development and the word “urbanization” is widely used not only to denote infrastructural progress but also urban behavior. In present-day Ethiopia, the urban population is one of the lowest in the world at only 17 percent. But the number is projected to increase to 30 million (around 23%) in 2030 out of the predicted 129 million total population of the country. This is partly explained in relation to the fast economic growth witnessed in the past decades which is also changing the urban landscape of the country (CSA 2007).

Being one of the urban centers of Ethiopia, Debre Markos is one of the growing towns with more than 93,000 population size consisting of seven Kebeles and one worada. It was founded 161 years ago by Tedla Gualu, a ruler of Gojjam. In 1845 Dejazmach Tedla founded Menkoror, presently known by Debre Markos; and lived there for nearly three decades. In 1874 the first Church that of Saint Markos was built in Menkoror. Just a year after and onwards, the town got the name Debre Markos after the church of St Markos (Debre Markos City Service as cited in Esubalew 2006). It is argued that the availability of rivers around the town (such as *Wuseta*, *Chemoga* and *Wutrin*), vast open field for ceremonial celebration and grazing purpose as well as productive rural hinterland around the town can be among the important reason that made the place preferable for the ruler to locate the administration center at Debre Markos town.

Regarding the occupational distribution of inhabitants in the town, there are a number of residents who are employed in the civil service, trade, small-scale industries (woodwork, metalwork and so forth), handicrafts (like weaving, and sewing) and a number of other petty businesses. A significant number of households also earn their livelihood by brewing and selling homemade beverages like Tella, Arekie, and Tej (Gojjam Vision, 2004 as cited in Esubalew 2006).

Although Debre Markos is relatively old, historical and has been an important center of administration and commerce of Gojjam region for a long period of time, it has hardly shown any significant development. There is a saying that states “*you can go and find the palace of King Teklehaimanot without any trouble*” which is a clear indication of long standing stagnation of Debre Markos town. Set of reasons could be ascribed which are responsible for keeping the status quo of the town in its undeveloped state (Esubalew 2006).

As clearly described in Mahmud (2011), it is only recently that the town has begun showing a certain progress in its infrastructural and socio economic circumstances. The town is witnessing tremendous change in this regard and become taking the basic features of urban centers in terms of diversification of economic activities, physical expansion, infrastructural progress and different higher institutional establishments.

Having become a University town, Debre Markos is showing the features of urbanizing towns and its socio economic impacts. Some years before the establishment of the university there was a teacher training college at the outskirts of the town following the road way to the region's capital Bahirdar town. That was a time when the town has started to benefit out of higher educational institutions just similar to other towns of the same phenomenon. The mushrooming of several service providers in the town, such as cafes and restaurants, hotel, barber, pool houses,

internet service providers are a simple indicators of a growing urban center as a result of diversification in terms of various socio economic aspects.

A number of banks and financial institution have been set up in the town as the result of the commercial and economic activities mushrooming in the town. Currently, branches of state-owned banks, private banks, insurance companies and small credit and saving institutions are operating in the town. Micro finance institutions (MFIs) have been established and are operating towards resolving the credit shortage problem of the poor that are striving to make a living out of the petty businesses (Esubalew 2006). These are all indicators of the growing business activities which can be seen as vital force in fueling urban development process of the town.

Condominium housing units can also be mentioned as positive emerging features of the city, since an urban center is one that makes possible the concentration of many people with in limited space there by facilitating real urban life style. Other changes related to the development of infrastructure and services have come about following this housing and population concentration. Even though we are evident with all these positive changes in the town, the entire living condition of the residents is not significantly improved. Hence, In line with these changes which are observed in Debre Markos town, the actual living condition of residents has to be scientifically studied to have general information regarding the town's development and further more to guide the course of urban development direction. So this study is intended to provide rich and relevant information on different aspects of the study people. It will also elicit further studies on the area.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In any research there are particular needs that call for the researcher to conduct a study in a given area. As clearly described in Marczyk et al, (2005), the choice of a research topic can be influenced by factors such as scientific field within which the researcher works, interest and motivation of the researcher to solve a particular problem, the existence of previous researches and theory. For the launch of the very initial move, in most academic research projects, it is the researchers' interest which takes the chief credit. For this study all the factors mentioned here could have been factors behind the researcher's motive to study in this area except the existence of previous researches in the study area. The absence of previous studies undertaken on the urbanism and living condition in Debrè Markos town focusing on its infrastructural and socio economic aspects posed difficulty on stating about the research problem and indicating methodological and subject matter gaps.

In the process of reviewing the literature related to the topic, the researcher didn't find any previous study which can adequately addressed the issue at hand. However a number of studies were conducted touching the issue under consideration in one or another way. These previous contributions were not conducted in the study area. Despite all these there are two vital research works conducted in the study area of some form of relevance for this study. The first was a study conducted by Esubalew in 2006 entitled "*urban poverty in Debre Markos*". The study has identified average monthly income, family size, educational level, and disease incidence of the households as determinants of poverty and also estimates the incidence of poverty in the town to 66%. This is an indicative of the low ranking socio economic status of residents. But the primary focus of this study was poverty which is the major gap for the current study in terms of thematic area. It also didn't address the state of voluntary urban associations and thereby community

solidarity of the people and patterns of social life. There is also a time gap for this study as nearly eight years have passed with a possibility of fast change observed in the town related with infrastructural and economic changes.

The second study was conducted by Tiwari and Tiwari (2012) entitled "*an overview of Solid Waste Management System in Debre Markos Town of Ethiopia*". The study assessed the problem of solid waste collection in the city and the finding indicated that only 40% of waste is collected and that the trucks transporting waste are not for solid waste transportation purposes. It also mentioned that there are no standard transfer stations in the town. These are indicators of poor environmental protection in the town even though urban life in its very nature generates more waste. This is due to the fact that urban residents are users of enormous commodities of waste generating potential in relation to their socio economic status. This research is relatively recent so that it can be used as good input for this study regarding the environmental management system of the town.

In relation to this Mahmud (2011) mentioned that like most urban centers of the country; Debre Markos town has been facing various problems. These include insufficient and sub-standard infrastructure provisions, insufficient public facilities, acute shortage and deteriorations of houses, poor sanitation, and unemployment.

Urban growth is a complex process that refers to the phenomena in which different changes takes place in a certain location given that the society ways of living fundamentally changed. These changes are apparent in the size of the population, economic circumstances, physical environment, social interaction and other different cultural aspects. Due to its positive correlation

of cities with development activities, most countries of the world have been involving in such phenomena with different magnitude (Mahmud 2011).

All in all it is vital to investigate the general living condition of urban residents in an emerging town in connection with the inevitable process of change-urbanization. The researcher firmly believed that this is possible by appreciating the emerging progresses and pointing out the general socio economic fact of the residents. As it is pointed out in the background part of the study, Debre Markos town is becoming more urban these days and evident for tremendous change in a variety of circumstances. So these situations demand a study which can examine urbanism as a way of life and the general living condition of residents of the town.

Conducting a research on the urbanization and the general living condition of residents in the urban areas of Ethiopia is an increasingly important issue of consideration for research since the findings will form an essential guide for government who is trying to achieve sustainable urban development. The researcher has tried to limit important variables in connection to the socio economic and housing situation of residents. This research is expected to fill the knowledge gap in this respect and also to motivate future researches. More over it is an essential part of the researcher's learning process as it's primarily aim is for academic purpose.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1 General objective

The main objective of this study is to investigate urbanism and general living condition of residents of Debre Markos town.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

Specifically, the study aims:

- To assess the current physical infrastructural developments of the town.
- To examine the state of local organizations in the town.
- To investigate the income and employment situation of the residents of the town.
- To assess the housing situation and related facilities in the town.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

It is necessary to establish some boundaries to this thesis. Geographically, this study was limited to Debre Markos town. Regarding the issues intended to be investigated; this study is limited to present the major socio-economic and infrastructural facts that reveal the actual living conditions and status of the residents of Debre Markos town. In this regard the housing and related facilities and economic characteristics of sample respondents are analyzed. The study also investigated the state of local social organizations and major physical infrastructural developments witnessed in the past few years in the town in relation to the process of urbanization.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Despite their contribution for urbanization and supporting the lion share of urban population, there are no extensive studies conducted in growing towns of Ethiopia. Thus this research might serve as a pointer in directing the attention of researchers towards emerging towns outside the prime city. Since the study encompasses comprehensive information on the infrastructural and socio-economic reality of the urbanizing town of Debre Markos, it can provide government, non government organizations, policy makers and researchers with relevant information that can help them to make appropriate decision and design the necessary intervention and development strategies.

1.6 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

No research is complete and free from limitations. This paper too is, therefore, constrained by the following: data obtained in some sensitive variables such as income and savings may not be too accurate since few respondents were not willing to tell exact amounts. The responses therefore might not be 100 percent perfect. The sampling frame used in selecting the surveyed households was the Kebele registry that included only those households whose houses had house number. Thus some information that could have been collected from households without house number is missing. In addition to this, respondents who were living in Kebele houses were highly suspicious and hesitated to give information. This is due to fear of being driven out of their house for different reason as they thought the information is going to be used by the Kebele and town administrations. The researcher tried to reduce the suspicion through explaining the primary purpose of the study. Basically, the researcher views the study he has undertaken towards

preparing and finalizing this thesis as part of his personal learning process. So that the researcher prefers to let the thesis develop in the process.

Similarly the households which were included in the study were from the town only (Debre Markos) and other towns in Ethiopia were not incorporated in this study. Research results therefore are limited to this particular town and cannot be generalized to other towns in Ethiopia. Last but not least, the budget provided to undertake the research was too small and the study would have been made more comprehensive had it not been the case.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

This thesis consists of five chapters. The **first chapter** consists of subsections such as background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation and organization of the paper. It also consists of a description of the study area which gives the demographic and geographical account of the town.

Chapter Two, the literature review, deals with the elaboration of the concept of urbanization and its different definitions including a review of various theories of urbanization. It also narrates the trend and extent of urbanization process in developing countries including Ethiopia. This chapter also looks at the opportunities (progresses) and challenges observed in urban centers of Ethiopia in the past few years.

The third chapter consists of detailed discussion of research methods of the study. This chapter sheds light on the design and the methodological approach of the study including the different data collection instruments.

Chapter Four deals with the data presentation and analysis. This chapter is further categorized in to two different separate parts to facilitate the discussion. Part I contains discussion of the

major physical infrastructural developments of Debre Markos town. Part II is the section of the chapter that contains the discussion of the data collected through household survey. Finally, **Chapter five** summarizes and concludes the study; by highlighting its key findings and made some relevant recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

As Marshall and Rossman (1995) discussed on their article entitled 'How to Conduct the Study' pointed out that reviewing literature helps to understand more the subject or research issue. It also helps in collection of basic and quantifiable information that is related to the objective of the study and enables to know whether the topic has already been researched or not. It also helped to develop research questions and conceptual framework of the study (Etenesh 2007).

Based on this fact the researcher has tried all the best to undertake extensive readings on the subject. With regard to literature related to the study, much research has been conducted in the past on the subject of urbanization, its dynamics and different aspects of urban life including theoretical developments. These studies on urban centers have also shown trends, extent, causes and consequences of urbanization on people's life.

The following is a brief review of these and a few recent literatures on the subject with a particular attention to urban centers of Ethiopia. Despite their contribution for urbanization and supporting the lion share of urban population, there are no extensive studies in medium and emerging towns of Ethiopia on the subject. The researcher tried to incorporate other countries experience to fill the literature gap in searching relevant information to the study.

2.2 The concept of Urbanization

Man has inhabited the earth for some half million to one million years. But neither villages nor towns existed until after the Neolithic revolution. It was only some 8 to 10,000 years ago that

separate permanent settlements became important forms of human habitation. Prior to about 3,000 B.C most population agglomerations were relatively small and are, perhaps, appropriately designated as villages or towns (Hauser 1957).

Industrial revolution is one of the leading factors that facilitated the process of urbanization and gave rise for the development of urban centers in the world. Urbanization is literally known as the ratio of urban population to rural population of the state. It is defined as the continuous process of change of population from rural to urban. In addition it is also explained as the growth of the urban centers both in economy and population (Adem 2010).

Rather a relatively comprehensive definition of the concept of urbanization is provided by Brunn, Williams and Zeigler (2003) as it is stated in Owoade 2007:5). They defined the concept as follows:

“Urbanization is a process involving two phases: one, the movement of people from the rural to urban places, where they engage in primarily non agricultural occupations, and secondly, the change in lifestyle that results from living in places of population concentration that we call towns and cities. The important variables in the first phase are population density and economic functions and the important variables in the second phase are sociological, psychological, and behavioral”.

Similarly urbanization is also seen as a transitory process, albeit one that is socially and culturally traumatic. It moves populations from traditional-cultural environments with informal political and economic institutions to the relative anonymity and more formal institutions of urban settings (Henderson 2003).

The factors that are used to define urbanization are varied; these variations portray vantage points. The demographic strand is dominant in defining urbanization, i.e. using the number of people living in a settlement to define urban-rural category. But fundamentally, urbanization involves socio-cultural, economic, legal or administrative and spatial factors despite the degree of emphasis given to each factor varies with the background of professionals dealing with urban issues (Kamete 2001 as cited in Adem 2010:18).

When one observes the definitions of urban places, it involves many concepts such as complex division of labor, density, size and characteristics of the built environment. However, most analysts relay on population size within boundary area that separate urban places from rural areas. Since the country's national definition of urban areas vary, many now use the United States definition of urban localities (20,000+) and cities (100,000+) to standardize comparisons of urban development across nations both in developed and developing countries (UNECA, 1968 as cited in Adem 2010:19). On the basis of the above minimum population threshold in which a given area has to support to be an urban center, Debre Markos town with more than 93 thousand population concentration can easily be considered as emerging urban center of Ethiopia (may be even large). This makes possible for the utilization of different relevant urban theoretical perspectives with great care to make possible for the better explanation of urban characteristics in this study.

From these definitions above and agreement among researchers, there are certain variables that characterize urbanization. These variables include: demographic changes, concentration of economic activities within limited geographic space which are presumably triggered by industrialization, spatial expansion of settlements and changes in people's lifestyles (Owoade

2007). This idea makes sure that urbanization is widely accepted as a process with several consequences, such as social, economic and environmental (Dociu & Dunarintu 2012).

Today, the world's urban population is three billion people – the same size as the world's total population in 1960. During the 20th century, the world's urban population increased more than ten-fold (Owoade 2007). The current pace of urbanization began in Europe at the time of the Industrial Revolution and gradually spread to other parts of the world. Until mid 20th century, urbanization was seen as a process that was largely restricted to the core regions of mercantilist, industrial capitalist and monopoly capitalist systems, where it had produced tremendous levels of urban development across large parts of Europe as well as North America countries (David, 1996 as cited in Adem 2010).

These days Cities and towns have become the primary human living space. Since 2007, more than half of the world's population has been living in urban areas and the figure is estimated to exceed 70 per cent by 2050. This is a hallmark of the transformation of humans' economic base and social structure, in as much as, previously, populations lived and worked primarily in rural areas (UN 2013).

Driven by this momentum of nurturing and fostering prosperity, the city has been historically a locus of innovation, dynamism, transformation, increasing efficiency, productivity as well as value addition. It has also provided a liberating milieu, improving the quality of life and promoting higher forms of aesthetic and cultural representation (UN-DESA 2010). For the future urbanization is one of the major processes which mankind has to use-and which it has to seek to guide-as industry and commerce raise levels of living for the masses of the people.

2.3 Theories of urbanization

Many thinkers have shown interest in different aspects of the issue of urbanization throughout the world. Urban theory is vital for the interpretation of phenomenon in the city and aims to provide a general understanding of city life in different ways, focusing on the essential characteristics of the urban life and experience in the urban environment (Elbendak 2008). But at the same time any attempt to synthesize and apply urban theories to African or less developed cities has to be interpreted with care. A great challenge has been how to apply theories of urban types developed in industrialized countries to rapidly urbanizing city in a non-industrialized country (Owoade 2007). The discussion below is a review of a couple of urban theories of different thinkers which are relevant to understand the process of urbanism and living condition of city life.

2.3.1 Wirth's theory of 'urbanism as a way of life'

From the foregoing, I understood that urbanization theories cut across the globe and at first I tend to discuss the Chicago School's emphasis by Louis Wirth. Different disciplines, including geography and economics, attempted to distinguish the characteristics of urban life. With regard to sociological approach, it is wirth who developed the theory of 'urbanism as a way of life' to explain urban life style. According to Wirth (1938), Urbanization produced not only the city as a physical and economic structure but, also 'urbanism as a way of life'. He has perhaps most succinctly indicated the way in which such aspects of the city as size, density, and heterogeneity of population have influenced the nature, frequency and intensity of social contact and, therefore, the nature of the process of socialization and of human nature itself.

Wirth's position maintained that the impact of the urban community was reflected by its size, density, and heterogeneity, and that these factors were considered key determinants of social organization, attitudes and behavior. In addition, he identified urban life as being composed of secularization, secondary-group associations, and increased segmentation of social roles and poorly- defined norms that led to alienation. He and his followers considered these phenomenon as 'effects' of urban development to be held separate from the consequences of cultural values or industrialization, which were assumed to be constant - although all cities, whether in the past and the present, display these characteristics (Elbendak 2008).

Wirth's (1938) famous statements made on *Urbanism as a Way of Life* provides an operational definition of urban to assess its effects on individuals, and the forms of social organization which emerge within urban formations. However, Wirth provides no conceptual definition of urban, and most of his critics in responding to his theory simply ignored the conceptual basis for and the "why" of the urban formation issues altogether.

The peculiar dominance of urban areas over rural communities hinges on the fact that social, political and cultural infrastructures like commercial, administrative and financial institutions are concentrated in cities. The density of settlement and degree of heterogeneity emphasize that urbanism, as a characteristic mode of life, may be approached empirically from their interrelated perspectives: (1) as a physical structure comprising a population base, a technology and an ecological order, (2) as a system of social organization involving a characteristic social structure, a series of social institutions, and a typical pattern of social relationship and (3) as a set of attitudes and ideas, and a constellation of personalities engaging in typical forms of collective behavior and subject to characteristic mechanisms of social control (Wirth 1938).

Fischer (1972), in his review and extension of Wirth's model of urbanism, considered whether size, density, and heterogeneity could be regarded components of a common factor which he referred to as "urban." He expressed the view that heterogeneity, which could be measured in a variety of ways, would render the effort to operationalize urban using the three factors very difficult and challenging (Franklin 2008).

2.3.2 Theory of Human ecology

Human ecology as a theoretical paradigm was developed to describe the structure and evolution of the American city, primarily Chicago in the 1920s-1930s by Robert Park and Burgess. They defined human ecology as the study of the spatial and temporal organization and relation of human beings with respect to the selective, distributive and accommodative forces of the environment (Flanagan 2010). It generally refers to the study of the dynamic interrelationship between the human population and the physical, biotic, cultural and social characteristics of their environment and the biosphere. Urban ecology is not a distinct area of specialization such as sociology and anthropology; it is rather a body of knowledge about the urban milieu derived by applying a human ecological form of reference. It has undergone massive revision, emerging as a very powerful tool for both practical and theoretical purposes (Elbendak 2010:99).

Park and Burgess (1925) developed a Darwinian positivist account of the actual socio-spatial organization of the city in term of land use functions and residential segregation. They argued for process of ecological competition in an urban environment, the competition among species to occupy niches in natural environments. Groups were differentiated by ethnicity and class (Elbendak 2008).

Park (1952) noted that natural environments are often characterized by the presence of a dominant species which seems to impose order on the whole system - not in terms of social group as such, but rather by reference to the component of urban space which commanded the highest land values. The central business district is the pattern of land in a series of rings surrounding the central business district (Elbendak 2008).

It is based on strong assumptions about the interactive role of population dynamics, market competition, material technology (e.g., transport infrastructure), and the built environment in making and remaking urban life. These assumptions became the predictive elements in how modernization theory would view subsequent developing country urbanization as being driven by factors, such as industrialization, technological progress, information penetration and cultural diffusion (Flanagan 2010).

This optimistic prospective view was very developmentalist in heralding the more positive outcomes of accelerated urbanization in the developing world, but only to be challenged by the more depressing reality of economic and spatial inequalities, as well as other social problems from urbanization in poor countries (Smith 1996 as cited in Peng Chen & Cheng Nd).

Based on the above discussed theoretical understanding of an urban environment, the researcher tried to look into the general living condition of residents in the study area from the angle of socio-demographic, economic and housing aspects. These will help us understand how the built up environment of the town looks like including the commercial activity and business diversification. In addition the socio demographic characteristics and local social organizations of the town are examined to have some idea of how they are dealing with the changes resulted from the process of urbanization. This will further help us understand what makes Debre Markos

town unique from the other urban centers regarding the presumed urban characteristics even though the town is far from being a cosmopolitan center to be directly viewed by these theoretical explanations without any scrutiny.

2.4 Overview of Urbanization in developing countries

Nowadays, the critical urban growth occurs in developing countries. Number of cities had emerged which support more than one million people size in Africa and Asia (especially in China and India). It is argued that 95% of the current world's urban growth takes place in the developing world where cities gain an average of 5 million new residents every month. Such rapid urban expansion is particularly notable in Africa and Asia where the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030. By 2030, the towns and cities of developing countries will make up 81 percent of urban humanity (UN habitat, 2010 as cited in Dejene 2011).

Natural population growth is the primary factor in Africa's urban expansion, whilst rural-to-urban migration, infrastructure development, national policies, private sector forces, and other powerful socio-economic and political processes, including globalization, drive urbanization across the wider developing world (Dociu & Dunarintu 2012).

The urbanization process in developed countries was gradual and related to social and economic conditions improvement, while urbanization in the developing Countries is a sudden explosion caused mainly by rural-urban migration and without significant development of industrialization (Adem 2010). The main features that characterize urbanization in developing countries and more specifically the sub-Saharan Africa include: sprawling cities beyond the limits and capacity of local authorities to provide basic infrastructure and social facilities, rapid increase of unemployment and urban poverty, growth and expansion of informal settlements, deterioration

of existing infrastructures and social services and proliferation of the informal sector (Habitat 1996 as cited in Owoade 2007)

Although rapid urbanization in developing countries has accompanied by an increase in urban poverty, poor quality social services delivery and unemployment, it is the product of economic development, which also reduces poverty and increases living standards. It improves the over-all economy but exacerbates urban inequalities. It is also equally important to note that even though the process of urbanization correlates with economic development of the continent, similarly it affects the living conditions of urban residents particularly the poor who have insignificant access to basic amenities and deprived of the quality of social services (Mahmud 2011).

Therefore, in Africa urbanization processes inexorably associated with many challenges and problems. Overcrowding, corruption, poverty, environmental degradation, pollution, inadequate transportation system, poor quality of urban service delivery, mismanagement, insecurity i.e. high crime rate in the crowded cities, inequality are huge problems (Mahmud 2011).

2.5 Urbanization in Ethiopia

As a major component of the socio-economic and political dynamics, urbanization underwent different phases in Ethiopian urban history. This section is going to highlight the long standing historical account of urbanization, current urbanization trend, opportunities and challenges related to urban centers of Ethiopia. On top of this the current national urban development policy of the country is also discussed in order to see the major focus areas and development directions of Ethiopian urban centers in the present time.

2.5.1 History of urbanization in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has a long history of urbanization that developed next to the ancient Egyptian civilization in East Africa. Though the process of urban development has been marked by a great deal of discontinuity, historical evidences show that the long history of Ethiopia was not without some form of urban episodes (Shishay 2011). The first systems of towns were developed during the time of Axumite civilization in small part of the northern high lands of contemporary Ethiopia But disappeared during the time when the Axum was destroyed (Yohannes 2005).

Much of the urban history of Ethiopia following the Axumite period was characterized by the absence of fixed urban centers. This has resulted from the political nomadic that prevailed in the country until Minilik II was able to built Addis Ababa as the permanent seat of the government at the end of the 19th century (Akalu, 1966 and Horvath, 1969, in Kebede, 1994 as cited in Adem 2010).

Junius (1997) asserted that factors such as physical, socio-economic and political situation of the country have hampered the emergence, growth and development of urban centers in Ethiopia during the long history of the country (Kebede, 1994 as cited in Adem 2010). It is also found that countries with a long independent urban history have lower degrees of urban concentration than countries with a recent colonial past. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century's constitute a period in which Ethiopia entered an important new phase of urban development. The political and economic developments of this period greatly impacted the status of urbanization in the country (Yohannes 2005).

During this period Ethiopia became urbanized rapidly due to the interplay of a variety of new forces. The first of these began at the end of the 19th century, at the time when the expansion of

the Shewan hegemony over much of Ethiopia resulted in the establishment of a series of garrison towns which performed political and military functions. The emergence of new small towns following the construction of the Addis Ababa to Djibouti railway line is the next important factors (Adem 2010).

The Italian invasion (1936-1941) had also a great impact on the spread of urbanization in Ethiopia. The development of infrastructure to link the rural areas to the nearest towns, the construction of other facilities such as health centers, schools, communications and the allotment of free urban land for settlement without personal links to individual landowners fostered the migration of rural population to urban areas. The most important contribution made by Italians to modern Ethiopian urbanization was the establishment of an urban market with monetary remuneration for services (Bjerer, 1985 and Assefa, 1993 cited in Adem 2010).

According to Mesfin (1970), development of many Ethiopian towns passed three historical stages. First towns emerged around rural markets. The push factor therefore was economic. Secondly, some towns mushroomed to make rural administration effective and smooth where in the politics played a significant role. Third, introduction of technology that was characterized by complex specialized and advanced economic system into Ethiopia gave birth for many small towns and cities (Adem 2010).

2.5.2 Current trend of urbanization in Ethiopia

The fact that the world urban population has increased over the centuries is evident everywhere we turn and that the worlds future is an urban one can be described as a truism. Hence, less developed countries are also becoming rapidly urban (Owoade 2007). Similarly In present-day Ethiopia, the urban population is only 17 percent (CSA 2007), which is one of the lowest in the

world. But the number is projected to be 30 million in 2030 out of the predicted 129 million general populations. The urban population increase should not be seen as a liability as it might create opportunity and market.

The urban population of Ethiopia is concentrated in few urban centers and the urban system of the country is dominated by Addis Ababa, which has status as a primate city, i.e. ranking as the first urban centre, with 28.4% of the total population of the country (Minwuyelet 2005). Baker (1986) found that small towns in northern Ethiopia served only as regional markets. In assessing the growth and functions of small urban centers in Ethiopia, he noted that these centers provide important ranges of economic and social services even though the utilization of services found to be problematic due to the inadequate accessibility (Adem 2010).

2.5.3 Progresses and challenges of urban centers in Ethiopia

According to Knox (1994) urbanization is driven by a series of inter-related processes of change; economic, demographic, political, cultural, technological and social. The overall result has been a tendency for more and more people to live and work in increasingly larger towns and cities (Owoade 2007). Therefore it is inevitable to have a vast opportunities (progresses) and challenges related to the process of urbanization. As the case is the same for our country, it is better to see the assets and liabilities of this process in the first place. The progresses and challenges of urban centers in Ethiopia are discussed as follows.

2.5.3.1 Progresses observed in urban centers of Ethiopia

The optimistic view on the effects of rapid urbanization holds that urbanization and population growth can be good in fuelling the economy with fresh labor force and inspiring technological progress paving the way for economies of scale and thus economic growth (Ethiopia 2011). This

idea is also supported by Yeraswork (2013) which argued that when the rate of urbanization is higher, this shows that the peoples' living condition is also getting better at a faster rate.

Urbanization and urban growth are considered as a modern way of life and centers of varieties of human opportunities which all can highly contribute to socio-economic growth and development (Firew 2010). In general, urban residents have higher rates of literacy, lower rates of fertility, and more economic opportunity (Rosan, Ruble & Tulchin 2000).

The assessment of developments during the last ten years in Ethiopia has shown that businesses have been growing and developing in parallel with urban growth and development. There is a general understanding that business development goes hand in hand with urban development. Business improvement and development can only be conceived in the realm of sustained urban growth and development (Mathewos, Abebe & Solomon 2011). Furthermore the concentration of economic activities resulting from the large number of investments including property development and building construction subsequently attracts many people (Pradoto 2012).

Since the fall of the Derge, a federal government structure was put in place that has invested in large public infrastructure (primarily roads, but also on electricity and telecommunications). In addition to improvements in infrastructure and education, the government has sought a more liberal policy towards markets and resource flows and acknowledges the significance of urbanization (Dorosh & Schmidt 2010).

2.5.3.2 Challenges facing urban centers of Ethiopia

Urbanization is a transformative process. As countries urbanize, they advance, develop and become richer. Unfortunately progress has not been evenly spread and prosperity has not come to everyone. The process of urbanization and its intended benefits has not been without its share

of problems: Poverty, child labor, human exploitation, poor access to education and healthcare, environmental pollution, loss of traditional knowledge, culture and identity are rampant in many parts of the world (UN-DESA 2010).

Simultaneously we have witnessed the perverse outcome of chaotic urbanization resulting in slum formation, the physical manifestation of urban poverty. As urbanization is predominantly propelled by the search for opportunities to realize the human potential, the search for prosperity is thus one of the main drivers behind the existence of cities (UN-DESA 2010).

Urbanization and urban growth are considered as a modern way of life manifesting economic growth and development. Despite the positive changes an examination of urbanization and urban development in Ethiopia faces a number of physical and socio-economic problems due to its fast pace which aggravates urban poverty (Tegenge 2000 as cited in Feyera 2005). The causes of urban poverty are interlinked, stemming from such factors as employment insecurity, sub-standard housing, poor health, low levels of income generation, vulnerability to market shocks, and limited education (Eric Shouyu & Qin 2010). These urban challenges are discussed below under three headings: housing, environmental and sanitation and socio economic problems.

2.5.3.2.1 Housing problems

Housing in its present day definition is more than just a shelter but include the environment and all necessary infrastructures that make man's entire life comfortable. It is a key determinant of quality of life which can be measured at individual, household, and community levels. It has economic, social, psychological and physical significance which support community functioning. The need for adequate and decent housing is now part of the central focus and an integral component in National strategies for growth and poverty reduction (Olajide 2010).

When we see the housing conditions in urban Ethiopia, the overwhelming majority of the residential units are poorly constructed and very much lacking quality. On the basis of the data from the 1994 population and housing survey, about 80 percent of all urban housing units in the country are made of wood and mud (wattle and daub), 73 percent have earthen floors. On top of this around 42.3 and 39.2 percent of urban housing units have no toilet and kitchens facilities respectively. Regarding electricity, approximately one fourth of all urban housing units in the country have no private electric meters in their housing unit (UN-HABITAT 2007).

2.5.3.2.2 Environment and sanitation problems

The environmental and sanitary condition of urban areas has a serious effect on the health status of all urban residents. While the entire urban population suffers from poor environmental quality, the urban poor tend to be the most vulnerable as they are often living in marginalized parts of the city, contiguous with waste sites and well beyond the reach of water, sanitation and other environmental services. The negative consequences of poor environmental quality impact every aspect of their lives as well as the health of the community at large (Olajide 2010).

The urbanization phenomenon in Ethiopia has been associated with environmental problems in most cities, including Addis Ababa. Among the problems are urban sprawl, solid and liquid waste management; water, air, and noise pollution; illegal settlements and the degradation of open green areas. Open green areas in particular have been placed under extreme pressure, thus threatening their ability to maintain basic socio-economic and ecological functions (Mpofo 2013). Generally the problems of land use and circulation, slum, poor housing and bad environmental sanitation are among the more acute of the problems associated with urbanization (Hauser 1957). Improving services in these areas is a practical challenge because of their

haphazard layout. As a result poor households are more vulnerable to multiple disease vectors associated with poor environmental health problems in most urban areas (ECWUP 2003).

2.5.3.2.2 Socio economic problems

The origin of most Ethiopian urban areas is administrative and military purpose. Presently, secondary cities or medium towns of the country are developed mainly as a result of being chosen as regional or zonal administration seat in disregard to their socio-economic dynamism. Whenever there is a change in the administrative set up, these urban centers either decline quickly or being replaced by new ones. The problem for the sporadic or continuous aggravation of urban poverty in Ethiopia, could therefore, be explained partly by lack of socio-economic dynamism (Esubalew 2006).

Ethiopia's urban centers are characterized by a poorly developed economic base, a high level of unemployment and a worrying incidence of poverty and slum habitation. Urban unemployment is estimated to be 16.7% - and up to 28.6% in Addis Ababa. The overall urban unemployment rates as registered in the Urban Biannual Employment and Unemployment surveys of October 2003 and April 2004 were 26.2% and 22.9% respectively (MoWUD 2007). This accounts for the highest share testifying to the serious problems of consequences among higher number of street children and homeless people have become common features in many intermediate and bigger urban areas of Ethiopia (Esubalew 2006). Another key feature of the urban sector in Ethiopia is the prevalence of the informal economy. In early 2000 the urban informal sector accounted for almost 40% of urban employment (MoWUD 2007).

Marginal living conditions for the poor are an inevitable outcome of rapid urbanization that leads to the agglomeration and densification of those with limited access (Peng Chen & Cheng Nd).

Nearly 40% of the Ethiopia's urban dwellers live below the poverty line. One indicator of the magnitude of urban poverty is the proportion of the urban population that lives in slums—about 70% of the urban population is estimated to live in slum areas. Generally Like most developing countries of the world, urban centers in Ethiopia, are generally, characterized, therefore, by a host of problems including high level of unemployment, poorly developed economic base, and a worrying incidence of poverty and slum habitation (MoWUD 2007). Overall insecurity of urban livelihood is also common features of the urban poor in developing countries including Ethiopia (Esubalew 2006).

2.5.4 National urban development policy of Ethiopia

Human beings are distinct from other biological organisms because of the kind of regulators they use to define, modify and control their living conditions. Current trends in flows of natural resources, people, goods, money and information and patterns of occupational diversification as well as level of poverty and environmental degradation in Ethiopia reflect a dynamic process of ecological, economic, social and cultural transformation that needs to be better understood and guided towards better direction using the changing situation as an opportunity (Adem 2010).

As one of the oldest independent nations in the world, Ethiopia has a long history of indigenous urban development (UN-HABITAT 2007). In order to ensure the realization of the GTP that the government has endorsed recently, more vigorous urban development programmes and projects will be required (Mathewos Abebe & Solomon 2011). The PASDEP strategy has the objectives of promoting the role of urban areas in the overall national development (MoWUD 2007).

The current government of Ethiopia believed that urban development is one of the core components of its five year development strategy which known as a plan for accelerated and

sustained development to end up poverty between 2005/6 and 2009/10. PASDEP aims to focus on four important issues of urban development: support for micro and small enterprise (MSE), integrated housing development, improved access to land infrastructure and services, and promoting urban-rural and urban-urban linkages (MoFTED 2006 as cited in Degefa 2008).

The policy and the strategy are further articulated in the Integrated Housing Development Programme (IHDP), which has multi-sectoral goals, viz., provision of affordable and low-cost housing, empowering urban residents through property ownership, job creation and income generation, and improvement of quality of the urban environmental, infrastructure development, etc. and the urban renewal programme (Mathewos, Abebe & Solomon 2011).

The government initiated its focus on Ethiopia's cities and towns after GC 2000 (EC 1991). During the following 5 years the focus was on developing institutional and organizational frameworks and on capacity building. The government has given increased attention to urban development and management in the last 2 or 3 years by including an "urban agenda" as a key component of its Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty 2005/06 to 2009/10 (MoWUD 2007). All these are indicators of the increasing attention of the government given to urban areas in terms of policy formulation and intervention in order to change the socio economic status of urban residents. This will further improve the GDP share of urban areas in the national economy.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

In this chapter the researcher has tried to elaborate the method of research utilized in conducting this study. Hence the approaches, research design, source of data, method of data collection, sampling design and method of analysis are discussed.

Choosing a research method is not about deciding right from wrong or truth from falsehood instead the goal should be to select an approach that is suitable for the task at hand. The selection of research method depends on the nature of what we are trying to describe, the likely accuracy of our descriptions, purposes of the research, and on the resources available to us. Specifically qualitative and quantitative approaches differ in purpose, focus, method, and criteria for truth.

Regarding the purpose, qualitative research is more descriptive than predictive. The goal is to understand in depth the viewpoint of a research participants and searching for meaning. Realizing that all understanding is constructed, different research participants are going to have different interpretations of their own experience and the social systems within which they interact. For these reasons, the qualitative approach is typically less concerned with aggregate generalizations. Using quantitative data we might find a statistically significant relationship between an independent variable and a dependent variable, and we might even have some ground to speculate about causality between these two variables.

On the other hand there is no single suitable method to conduct social investigation on complex issues and any one of the social research methods is not free of limitations. Therefore this study employed methodological triangulation. As clearly stated in Yeraswork (2010), Methodological triangulation is the utilization of several research methods in a single investigation in order to

gather relevant data for the study. This involves the use of multiple sources of information, unit of analysis, unit of observation and methods that can be employed in one and the same research scheme. He also further explains the concept of triangulation as follows:

“The fact that the social sciences do not deal with nature and natural phenomenon concerning which it is often possible to produce ‘hard data’ does not make them ‘easy’ but rather ‘difficult sciences’. One of the difficulties that social science researchers face relates to the availability of no single satisfactory method of empirical investigation, but several that are mutually complementary and jointly capable of overcoming the limitation of the individual methods” (Yeraswork 2010:65).

Due to this fact, the researcher understood that dealing with complex and dynamic urban phenomenon needs methodological triangulation as the appropriate approach to ensure the validity of findings. For example, information gathered through interview is crossed-checked with other research methods. This improves the quality of data and consequently the accuracy of the findings and it is particularly valuable in the analysis of qualitative data. The following table shows the short summary of the methods, unit of observation, unit of analysis and method of data analyses which were triangulated in this study.

Table 3.1: primary data gathering through methodological triangulation

Specific objectives	Unit of analysis	Unit of observation	Method of data collection
To assess the recent infrastructural developments of Debre Markos town	➤ Debre markos town	➤ Town administration officials ➤ Town	➤ Key informant interview ➤ Observation
To assess the housing situation and related facilities in the town	➤ Households ➤ Debre Markos town	➤ Sample of hhd heads ➤ Town	➤ Household survey ➤ Observation
To examine the state of local organizations in the town.	➤ Households	➤ Sample of hhd heads ➤ Key informants	➤ Household survey ➤ In depth interview
To examine the economic situation of residents in the town	➤ Households	➤ Sample of hhd heads ➤ Key informants	➤ Household survey ➤ In depth interview

3.1 Data Type and Source

Primary and secondary data from different sources were employed for this study.

Secondary Source: Pertinent documents to the study such as books, previous working literatures, statistics facts and figures were utilized. Unpublished materials were also used. Concepts and issues related to the study, government publications, and books of relevant topics, UN-Habitat reports, and thesis dissertations, urban development documentation of the country and anything found to be important in one or the other way were used and acknowledged.

Primary Source: To obtain information on the physical, social and economic profile of residents of the town empirical data were collected through structured questionnaires, in depth interview

and observation. The structured questionnaire was posed to the heads of the households. They were interviewed about the socio demographic characteristics, employment status, income and saving of the household. The housing and related facilities were also addressed. The data regarding membership to local organizations and community solidarity of residents (such as Ekub, Edir, and Mahiber) was also included in the questionnaire. Besides, author's experience whenever needed was incorporated particularly in connection with the community ties. The writer was a resident of the study area and this made possible for the author to draw conclusion by supplementing the data with observations and life experience.

3.2 Research design

A cross-sectional survey design was used to conduct this study whereby data collection process was undertaken at one point in time. Descriptive study provides more information about characteristics within a particular field of study. Its purpose is to provide a picture of situations as they naturally or actually happen. It is also used for the purpose of identifying problems with current practice, justifying current practice and making judgments. In line with the aim and objectives of the study, the researcher wanted the respondents to describe their entire life conditions with regard to socio demographic, employment, occupation, membership to voluntary urban associations and the general housing condition including connection to different services of the households.

3.3 Methods of Data Collection

In order to generate detailed and valid information and to compensate the pitfalls inherent in each research method, this study employed household survey, in-depth interview, key informant interview and personal observation. As clearly described in McNeill & Chapman (2005),

anybody who wishes to study any aspect of the world about them has to decide what methods they are going to use. Their decision is made on the basis of their assumptions about what kind of thing it is they are studying. The justification for choosing each of the data collection methods and the nature of each data collection is discussed as follows.

3.3.1 Household survey

Survey as a data collection method was selected due to the fact that the researcher believed that it is possible to address the major variables which are important to meet the specific objectives of the study. These variables were easily included in the preparation of the structured questionnaire and all the necessary information related to these variables was gathered through this method. Through household survey quantitative data was collected consisting of the socio economic and housing characteristics of the households. The household survey was administered to the heads of the household included in the sample.

3.3.1.2 Sample size

As it is clearly stated in Fowler (2002 as cited in Firew 2010:25) a standard statistical approach is important to determine the desired sample size. Standard statistical approach was utilized to determine the sample size which is appropriate to the total study population. The equation is discussed as follows:

Accordingly, the size of sample (n) was given by;

$$n = Z^2 p (1-p) / d^2, \text{ where,}$$

n=desired sample size when population is greater than 10,000

Z=the standard number variable at a required level of confidence which is 95% with the Z score is 1.96 for this study

p=the proportion of target population estimated to have the characteristics being measured which is 50% for this study (this proportion is the common for the studies whose variable are not estimated yet)

$$q=1-p$$

d=the standard value of the confidence interval or margins of error which is 5% with the standard value of 0.05 for this study.

$$\text{Thus, } n = z^2 pq / d^2 \Rightarrow (1.96)^2 (.5 * .5) / (.05)^2 \Rightarrow 384$$

A size of 384 samples is advisable to ensure representativeness for a certain study given that the total population ranges between 10,000 and 100,000. Therefore this sample size was adequate enough to conduct this particular study in Debre Markos town by taking entire households of the town as a unit of analysis.

3.3.1.3 Sampling design

A multi-stage cluster sampling was employed in order to get the final sample households. According to the new administrative arrangement Debre Markos town has 7 Kebeles and one worada which were reduced from 12 Kebeles of the old administrative division. In the first stage four (4) Kebeles were randomly selected from seven Kebeles. The Kebeles are further classified in to sub-Kebeles or "SEFER". So In the second stage sub-Kebeles or 'SEFER' were randomly selected. This is due the fact that the exhaustive list of households is found under their sub Kebele or 'SEFER'. Accordingly there are five to eight sub Kebeles under each Kebeles. Hence

four sub Kebeles were randomly selected and included in the sample. Finally, in the third stage the households from the randomly selected sub-Kebeles or 'sefer' were included. The sampling frame of the households was taken from the respective Kebeles selected in the first stage. Hence samples of 384 households were selected using systematic random sampling technique. All these issues are summarized in the following table.

Table 3.2: Number of households in the Surveyed Kebeles

Surveyed Kebeles	01				02				03				05			
	02	03	05	07	01	03	04	05	03	04	06	07	01	02	04	05
Households in	724	598	486	512	157	204	143	158	1287	1159	303	172	377	172	531	203
Sampled households	39	32	26	27	8	11	8	8	69	62	17	9	20	9	28	11
Total sampled households	124				35				157				68			
Total sampled households	384															
Total households	7186															

Source: Respective Kebele Roaster and own computation, 2014

As it has been indicated in the above table the total sample size for the study was proportionally distributed to each of the four selected Kebeles based on the Kebele listing and the data collection was conducted in the selected four out of the seven Kebeles of the town.

The overall data collection process was completed almost in one month (April 5- 30, 2014). The mentioned period of time was used for the activities which include the main household data collection visits, follow-up and return visits for unavailable respondents. It also includes for data checking in the field and refilling of data collection instrument at households after finding of incomplete responses in the filled data collection instrument which were found during checking and monitoring.

3.3.1.4 Conceptualization and operationalization

In any study conceptualization and operationalization is a fundamental task in order to define and state the measurability of key concepts during data collection process. The following section presents the conceptualization and operationalization of key concepts of the study in order to administer the household survey. It also highlights important variables which are considered and to be addressed by the survey instrument (structured questionnaire).

Conceptualization of key concepts

Urbanism: is the study of cities - their geographic, economic, political, social and cultural environment, and the imprint of all these forces on the built environment. In sociology, urbanism may be more about social interaction and community within the context of cities. For Wirth (1938), the larger, the more densely populated and the more heterogeneous a community, the more accentuated the characteristics associated with urbanism will be.

Infrastructural situation: includes the different institutional establishments, micro and small scale enterprises developments, and road networks e.t.c.

Housing condition: refers to the house ownership, durability of the house and related facilities. Hence durability is determined by the construction materials of the house. Housing related facilities include connection to pipe water, electricity, and telecommunication and at the same time it includes access to bathing, toilet and kitchen facilities.

Economic characteristics: the annual income, employment and the saving status of the households.

Local social organization: voluntary urban associations (such as Ekub, Edir and Mahiber) which provide social support for members under various situations in life.

Table 3.3: Operationalization of key variables

<i>Concepts</i>	<i>Variables</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
<i>Social and demographic characteristics</i>	Marital status	Whether head of the household is Single, married, widowed ,divorce or separated
	Educational status	Maximum grade level achieved by the household head
	Membership to local social organizations	Participation in Edir, Mahiber and Ekub
<i>Economic characteristics</i>	Income	Total annual income generated by all members of the household from all source in the last 12 months in ETB
	Employment status	Whether the household head is self employed, government employee, private employee, NGO employee or unemployed.
	Savings	Whether the household has saving or not.
<i>Housing condition</i>	House ownership	Whether the household own or rent the house
	Durability of the house	Construction materials of the house (wood with mud, Blockets, bricks or "ASHUHA GIRF")
	Housing related facilities	Availability of electricity, telecommunication, pipe water, bathing, toilet, kitchen etc

Structured questionnaire was prepared on the basis of the above table and utilized as a survey instrument to gather relevant information at household level. Questionnaires with both open and closed ended questions were developed and used to collect relevant data from the household heads. Questions were meant to address the socio demographic, economic and housing conditions of the households. In line with this, the marital status, educational levels, employment and household incomes, housing and related facilities of the sample respondents were assessed. The questionnaire was first prepared in English and then translated into Amharic (the local language). Two enumerators were recruited from the study area by taking their educational status

as a criterion that were weekend students of Debre Markos University and trained regarding how to carry out the data gathering process.

Pre-testing the questionnaire

The Amharic version of the questionnaire was pre-tested on respondents on similar communities. This was done purposely for clarity, acceptability, flow and reduction of repetition. The pre testing was done with real respondents and was completed under the same conditions as the survey, using a sample of eight respondents. The pre-testing was conducted with the consent of respondents, and the research was carried out following the necessary modifications. Based on this, minor modifications were made and survey was undertaken. Some disparities were noted, and the questions were modified accordingly.

3.3.2 In-depth Interview

In-depth interview as one type of research method enabled the researcher to specifically gathered important information pertaining to membership to voluntary urban associations and thereby community solidarity of residents. Hence a total of 8 selected residents were asked in depth interview and the data obtained through this method was used to supplement the survey result. The informants are selected from each Kebele to see if there is some variation in terms of the social ties.

3.3.3 Key informant interview

Key informant interview was also carried out with town administrative official in order to gather relevant data regarding the physical infrastructural developments and the general living condition of residents of the town. Based on the issue under consideration regarding the town, an

individual from the town administrative office was interviewed and rich information was collected and analyzed as per the objectives. This is also supplemented by the observation data and the document that the researcher received from the spoke person of the town administrative office. The interview was undertaken on the basis of prepared guiding questions.

3.3.4 Observation

The researcher had made observation for some time to assess the physical infrastructural, housing conditions and the extent of economic diversification of the town. Most of the physical components of the town such as: the housing type and condition, the type and conditions of infrastructure, utilities and service facilities and the layout of settlements organization are generally subjected to direct observation. Observation check list was prepared and the researcher has made direct observation. Hence roads, various service giving organizations, institutional establishments, housing situations, physical expansion of the town and general living condition of residents of the town were assessed by the researcher.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

The process of data analysis was performed before, during and after data collection. Before the data collection the researcher built patterns under each objective based on extensive reading of literatures. After major themes in which the study will revolve were sketched, the data collection process was began based on the objectives already developed. And the researcher tested them against the data got from the empirical study.

Hence the collected data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The quantitative data collected through the household survey was analyzed using SPSS software version 20. Data entry and analysis of the survey data was done by the researcher using the SPSS software. This

involved entering the questionnaire parameters into the programme and subsequently adding the information from the respondents' questionnaires. The information was later analyzed and used in Chapter 4. The relevant questionnaire is included in Appendix 1. Frequency distribution table was used to present and reflect the quantitative information. The information obtained from the in depth interview and observation were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively on the basis of the data and research objective. The data obtained from the in depth interview and observation is discussed together with the quantitative data gathered through household survey. This is important to cross check and strengthen the quantitative data gathered by the survey.

3.5 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The following section presents a brief description of the study area which starts by discussing the justification for site selection. It also consists of the discussion of the general profile of Debre markos town and describes the distinctive of the specific study sample areas or the four selected Kebeles, namely Kebele 01, 02, 03 and 05.

3.5.1 Justification for site selection

My choice of Debre Markos as an urban centre arises from the fact that as one of its residents, I have kept up to date with the town. I was born and lived in the town so I am familiar with the changes observed in the town particularly in recent years. Debre Markos town is one of the growing urban centers of Ethiopia that was established around one and half century ago. But only in the past few years that the town started to change in various ways. Among these, population growth, physical expansion, institutional development, business diversification and different infrastructural developments are the major ones. In most cases these process might have many costs on some segment of the population unless properly managed and minimized from the

very outset. Because properly managed urban development will benefit most urban dwellers and can make cities comfortable places to live in. However, in order for this to happen urban centers have to be scientifically studied and their development has to be directed accordingly.

The challenge arose as a result of the fact that there has been little or no sociological research work done about residents of the Ethiopian growing towns; more specifically, Debre Markos. Urban life differs in characteristics from one area to another according to the size and type of city. In many cases the investigation of most academicians and researchers focus on primate cities or metropolises even though other towns are also highly contributing for urban development in developing countries including of Ethiopia. Thus I think this is the right time to conduct a less detailed comprehensive study in Debre Markos and provide rich information for further researches who are interested to focus on particular aspect of the town's development. This was the primary reason behind the selection of the study area and conducts this academic research. On top of this the primary reason to conduct this research is for academic purpose so that adding something on the existing knowledge is enough if not used for directly practical and policy making purpose. The current look of the town captured by the researcher data collection process and its comparison with the photograph of the 1950 is put below.



Figure 3.1: Debre Markos town in 1950 E.C, (town administration document, 2006 E.C)

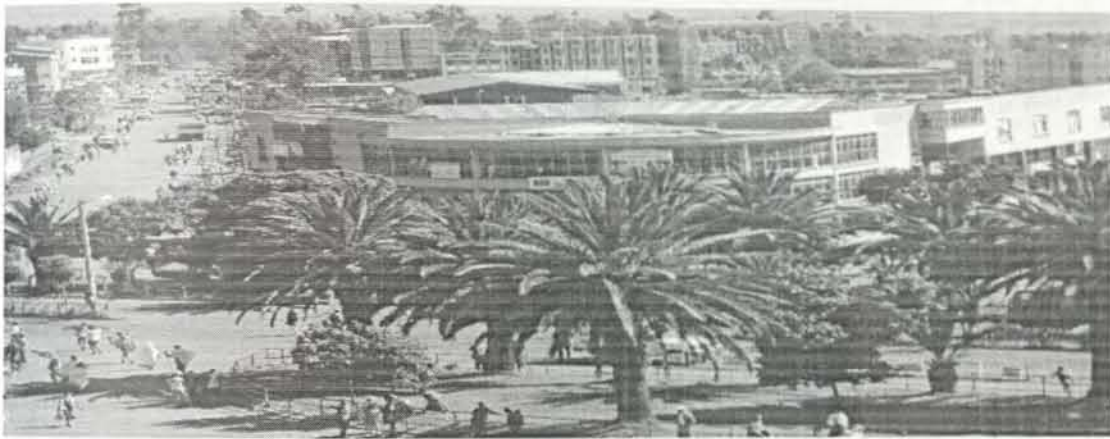


Figure 3.2: The partial view of Debre Markos town: photograph by the researcher, 2014

3.5.2 Geographical location and climatic condition

Debre Markos is found 300 kilometers Northwest of Addis Ababa and 265 kilometers southeast of the Amhara National Regional State capital, Bahir Dar. The geographical coordinates of the town are $10^{\circ} 21'$ latitude north and $37^{\circ} 43'$ longitude east. Its total municipal area is about 60 kilometers square. It is situated at 2420 meters above sea level and the weather condition, in most of the time is, 'Woinadega'. The town enjoys a tropical climate with a mean annual rainfall of 1308 mm, temperature 16°c , while the maximum and minimum recorded temperature being 24°c and 4°c respectively (Esubalew 2006).

The geographical location of Debre Markos town at country and Amhara regional state level is indicated as follows.

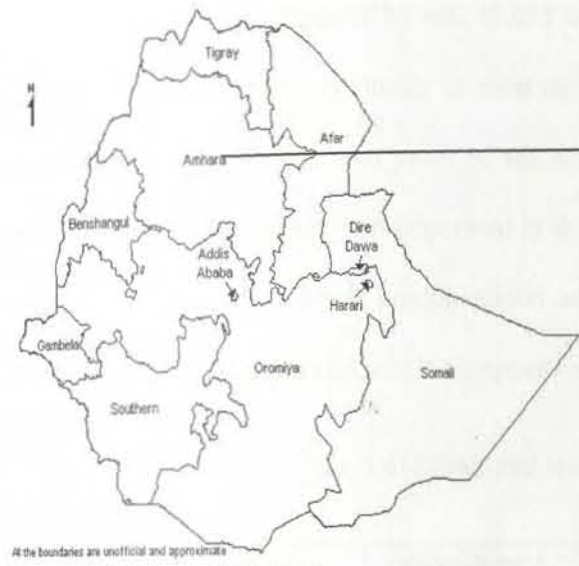


Figure 3.3: Map of Ethiopia



Figure 3.4: Map of Amhara regional state

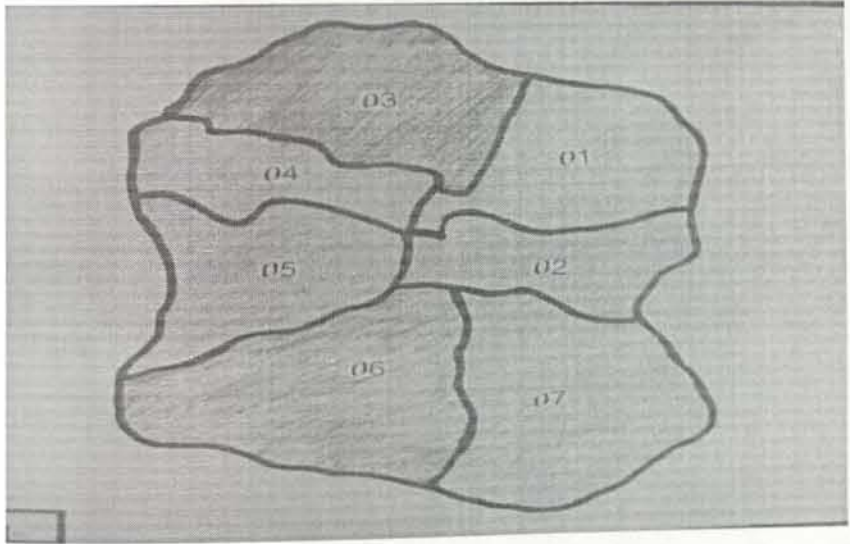


Figure 3.5: Map of the study area: Debre Markos town and its respective Kebeles

3.5.3 Socio demographic characteristics

The 2007 Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia gave the total population of Debre Markos as being 93,501. Disaggregated by sex, 46,622 were males and the rest 46,879 were females. The age structure of the town is similar to most developing countries. Young citizens, particularly, those that age less than fifteen years of age dominate the town. The total population includes rural areas that were recently incorporated in to the city such as the Wonka, Wutrin and Wuseta areas. Debre Markos town is predominantly settled by Amhara people accounting for 97.12% and detail of the religious and ethnic composition of the residents is given below.

Table 3.4: Ethnic and religious profile of residents

Ethnic group	percentage	Religion	Percentage
Amhara	97.12	Orthodox Christianity	97.25
Tigre	1.29	Muslim	1.88
Oromo	0.67	Protestant	0.81
Agew	0.56	Others	0.6
Others	0.36	Total	100.0
Total	100.0		

Source: document from the town administration office, 2006 E.C

3.5.4 Description of study Kebeles

In this section the selected Kebeles to employ the survey are discussed in detail on the basis of their distinctive features. These Kebeles are Kebele 01, 02, 03 and 05.

Kebele one: most of its part in this Kebele is situated at the heart of the town. It is a place of commercial centers and/or markets. In this area there is also a place called '*Algena Sefer*' which is settled by most female headed households whose livelihood is dominantly depend on prostitution and selling local drinks such as '*Tella*' and '*Araki*'. Unlike other Kebeles, there are only few residents with their own houses. In short, Kebele one is found at heart or center of the town and proxy to the opportunity of business activities but many sections of the residents are living under a serious poverty situation.

Kebele 02: this Kebele can better be portrayed in two different areas. The first is located relatively at the center of the town and known by "*Motta Sefer*" is an area of prostitutes. It is categorized as Kebele of destitute life and of females. Male-headed households are assumed to be low in this Kebele for it is a place of prostitutes and the associated bad connotation. Because the residents are mostly of females without own house and engaged in prostitution, it is given as number one in terms of poverty status. The second area is known by '*Habitat*' area. This area is the place where the town gets expanding horizontally in the eastern direction crossing through Wuseta River. Being a new residential area, this place is inhabited by relatively well to do households. Civil servants and merchants carry out their business at the center and live in this area. This area is now a day's preferable by rich people who came from other small towns for better life.

Kebele 03: this Kebele consists of two major areas; '*Bole*' and '*Abema*' area. This Kebele is by far different from the previous Kebeles at least by two respects. One, it is the biggest in terms of household size, which accounts nearly three thousand. Second, most rich people (relatively speaking) who own hotels, cars, and traders live in this area which locally called Bole area. Therefore Kebele 03 reflects two things: center-periphery and place of well to do family. This is

the place where the most suitable places of the town found. Government professionals (civil servants) particularly of teachers dominate this Kebele.

The 'Abema' area is assumed to hold the poorest sections of the town, particularly, weavers, who lead their subsistence life by making use of handicrafts, like embroidery and pottery. Location wise it is found in the north eastern outskirts of the town. It is also composed relatively some well-off dwellers-traders and at the same time the poorest households who run their daily life by preparing the local drinks such as Tella and Araki. It is a place where all sorts of the society in the town (the relatively rich, poor and absolutely poor) reside.

Kebele 05: this Kebele is composed of the previously Kebele 09 and 10. So it is better to see them separately due to their distinct features. The first area (previous Kebele 09) is known by 'Feres Bet'. Historically this area is known by the area of soldiers who bring their wives from different places. Due to this fact this area is a relatively diversified area and dominantly inhabited by widowed female headed households. Selling Tella and renting dormitory is their major livelihood. The second area (previous Kebele 10) is found around the referral hospital of the town down through the prison. The living condition of this area is also poor just almost similar to the previous Kebele.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents and discusses the research findings. It consists of two separate parts so as to facilitate the discussion. **Part I** focuses on the infrastructural situation of the town using the data obtained through observation, town administration documents and in depth interview with town administration officials. **Part II** deals with the analysis of the survey data by utilizing descriptive statistics. It involves the housing and socio economic characteristics of respondent. It also examines respondent's membership to voluntary urban associations (such as Edir, Ekub and Mahiber). Hence the survey data is supplemented by the in depth interviews held with selected residents of the town.

Part one: Infrastructural situation of the town

This is the first section of the discussion which is meant to give a situational account of the town by taking the entire town as a unit of analysis. It will be very important to have the current picture of the town. Issues in relation to the physical expansion, institutional establishments, micro and small scale enterprises and road networks are highlighted.

4.1 Physical expansion in relation to the growing housing demand

Starting from few years and on wards the town has been significantly expanded in all directions. Almost all of the areas towards which the town is getting stretching are residential areas consisting of newly constructed housing units. As stated in Sayeh (2014), Debre Markos town has exhibited dramatic spatial expansion in the past two decades. In 1986, the built up area of the town was about 491ha. In 2011, the number has changed to 906 hectares. During the past

25 years it has expanded by about 415 hectares in magnitude which is about 17 hectares on average per annum. The average rate of spatial expansion is about 3.38% per annum and rate of expansion is high especially after the year 2000.

This is a clear indicator of an increase in the population size of the town witnessed in the past decades which is one of the major manifestations of urbanization and its impact in increasing the demand of residential housing units. An increase in the population size of a certain town has a massive socio economic impact on the residents due to an increase in the demand of such huge concentration of people. Regarding this the town is passing through tremendous changes in terms of physical expansion.

On the basis of the assessment by the researcher through observation and in depth interview, among all the expansion directions of the town, it is towards the eastern direction that the town is highly growing. This is due to the fact that this area is a place where Debre Markos University is found around which made it preferable for expansion. This area is also taking the lion share of the town's newly emerging residential settlements particularly the so called '*Habitat*' and '*Ayer Marefia*' areas. Including the condominium housing site there are a number of good looking housing units in this area relative to the old and dilapidated inner areas of the town. Following and adjacent to the new road from the center to the university, a number of business centers had emerged. Among this cafes and restaurants, cloth selling shops and copy and stationary shops are to list some. These are some examples of an emerging town benefiting out of higher institutional developments.

The second direction towards which the expansion is taking place is the north direction of the town. This area is found around the teacher training college which roughly stretches following and adjacent to the road way to Bahir Dar; the regional capital. The downtown adjacent to bole

area is also an important site among the recent expansions which become a cause for the displacement of the farming land. During the last few years, the town was expanded towards an already vacant land and peasant agricultural land holdings. These areas include different open grazing and eucalyptus tree areas which is located along the road to Rob Gebeya town. The main feature for the physical expansion of the town is contributed by its growing residential housing construction.

As far as the issue of physical expansion resulted from an increase in the population size of a town is concerned, the effort of government in constructing condominium houses in the town to meet the massive housing demand of the people has to be discussed. According to the data gathered from the town administration documents, there are seven condominium sites which consist of 68 blocks in the town. Accordingly 1500 condos have been constructed and distributed to the dwellers of the town. This document further explained that beyond solving the housing shortage, the construction of these condominium houses had created several employment opportunities for young segment of the population. Even some of them have upgraded their economic status from daily laborer to medium level contractor. All these features are typical of a rapidly growing urban center with the hope of attaining urban development in the near future with managed urbanization process.

4.2 Road networks

As far as the issue of infrastructure is concerned, Debre Markos town is known by its long time stagnation and decaying of different facilities in the town one of which is road facility. It is only in the past few years that the town is showing a little hope of infrastructural development. It is evident that the availability of well functioning good roads and transport network are very

important features of an urban area which serves as commercial vehicles and facilitate the business activity.

Although modern infrastructures have become more varied and complex than in the past, the function of the road network remains vital. In particular, it is supposed to create a network over a wide array of infrastructural facilities in the town. It is also crucial for sustainable development. With regard to the transport networks, the data obtained from the town administration revealed that, including the main road (Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar), in the town, only 23 kilometers of the main road is asphalted, 120 kilometers inner roads being graveled, 35 kilometers of coble stone road and 44 kilometers are dusty/mud roads inside the town and there is also 13.2 kilometers of pedestrian stone roads.

Based on personal observation made by the researcher, most part of the 120 kilometers of graveled road of the town is poor in quality and in the summer season the road gets full of mud and then it will be covered with dust when the dry season comes. Due to this fact there is a slight difference between the graveled road and the already dust one. The new residential settlements are also not accessible to road networks and dust roads are the only option to serve these areas. When one contrasts the number and increasing demand of the inhabitants to the existing poor road quality and quantity makes one aware to see the problem further.

To sum up road is among the poorly provisioned infrastructure in the town even though there is a visible improvement in the past few years. The asphalt road is found only in few directions, i.e. either following the high way from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar or other directions of limited distance around the CBD. The significant majority of the town's road facility is dust followed by the graveled road. Particularly the residential areas including the newly expanding areas have no

access to well constructed road facility. This makes the rainy season difficult for the residents due to the mud formed by the dust comes from the dry season

4.3 Diversification and concentration of business activities

Urban areas are characterized by higher consumption and spatial concentration of economic activities and business centers. The data gathered through systematic observation revealed that Service giving business organizations are growing from time to time. Among these hotels, cafes and restaurants, mobile centers, internet cafes and barber shops are to list some. There is also some kind of concentration of economic activities as a new emerging feature of the town taking more of the characteristics of an urban center. For example mobile sell and maintenance shops are found following the same street around the bus station. Jewelry shops and cloth tailing shops are still found on the same street. Despite all this kind of concentration the town is characterized by a single CBD which is not more than roughly 500 meter diameter from the center. All hotels restaurants and big shops are found around the center.

There is also an increasing trend in the building and construction sector of the town which can be partly explained in relation to the marketing and business activities of the town. Due to this fact the previously vast commercial center of the town which was full of decaying shops is now a day most of its part replaced by ground plus two buildings. The rest most buildings of the town are running the business of hotels, cafes and restaurants. As it is already stated in the five year plan of the country the business sector had improved in most urban centers of Ethiopia which can be understood in a simple visual inspection. During the data collection process there were a number of buildings constructed around the market area which are going to be market places and shops in the near future.

4.4 Micro and small scale enterprise developments

As stated in Ministry of urban development and construction (2013), in its survey on Micro and Small Enterprises, Small scale industry sector occupies a place of strategic importance in any economic structure. It is argued that Small scale industries play a key role in the industrialization and development of a country. This is because, they provide immediate large scale employment, compared to higher capital intensive industry they need lower investment, offer a method of ensuring a more equitable distribution of national income and facilitate an effective mobilization of resources, capital and skill.

In line with the above understanding, micro and small scale enterprises developments of Debre Markos town were established and started to operate since 2002 E.C in order to create job opportunity for the unemployed and increase their income through expanding and supporting them hoping to trickle down the existing poverty situation in the long run. The main focus areas of these enterprises are textile and garment, wood and metal work, food processing, construction and other municipal activities. These areas are assumed to have good potential in the creation of new jobs.

When we see the micro and small scale enterprise situation of the town the data found from the town administration revealed that 14,014 permanent employment and 8,014 temporary employment opportunities have been created starting from 2002 to 2005 E.C. Generally, about 22,028 employment opportunities are created by MSE in the current situation of the town. This can be seen as an emerging development area that towns can benefit out of it and reduce the increasing problem of unemployment and play its part for urban development. This situation has a particular importance for those segments of the town that are found in the lower educational level and face difficulty to get job in the formal employment. It is advantageous as it became

difficult to absorb the less skilled unemployed labor in the economy and the inherent capacity of most developing economies. This is supported by the survey data that uncover the lower educational experience of most residents particularly in colleges and universities. The following table shows the number of employment opportunities which had been created by MSE starting from their operation in 2002 EC to 2005 EC in a temporary and permanent basis.

Table 4.1: Job opportunities created by MSE in the town

Type of employment	2002 EC	2003 E.C	2004 E.C	2005 E.C	Total
Permanent	5,643	2,667	2,085	3,619	14,014
Temporary	1,086	608	3,25	3,295	8,014
Total	6,729	3,275	5,110	6,914	22,028

Source: document from the town administration office, 2006 E.C

4.5 Institutional conditions of the town

Even though the issue of institutions in one country may cover a wide range of establishments which are serving the wider society, only three main formal institutions are highlighted and assessed as per the specific objective of the study. These are financial, health and educational (from KG to university level) institutions. These institutions are assessed from the point of view of the number and progress of their physical establishments as good manifestations of the infrastructural situation of an urban area. Therefore the set of institutions which are assessed below indicate how Debre Markos town has been showing a significant progress over time in this regard and it will give an important insight regarding the inevitable urbanization process of the town.

4.5.1 Financial institutions

Several studies noted that poverty is caused by different factors. Some argued that the cause of poverty in developing economies among other things is that the poor does not have access to credit facilities. To this end many developing economies have developed and provide credit to the poor through microfinance schemes. In Ethiopia, several micro finance institutions (MFIs) have established and have been operating towards resolving the credit access problem of the poor particularly to those who are participating in the petty business. Due to this fact there are micro finance institutions operating in the town to serve the people and the poor segment of the society in particular. The reality of financial institutions in the town is presented and discussed below.

Table 4.2: financial institutions operating in the town

No	Type of institution	Total		
		Government	Private	Total
1	Commercial bank	3	4	7
2	Development bank of Ethiopia	1	-	1
3	Construction and business bank	1	-	1
4	Insurance companies			3
5	Micro finance or 'ASCI'	1	-	1
	Total			13

Source: document from the town administration, 2006 E.C

As indicated in table 4.2, currently 7 commercial banks (3 governmental and 4 private), 1 development bank, 1 construction and business bank, 3 insurance organizations and 1 small saving and credit institutions are operating in the town. The National Bank of Ethiopia serves as

the central bank while the commercial banks both governmental and private, provide saving account, checking accounts, short term loans delivering, foreign exchange currency marketing and other services. Similarly, the Ethiopian Development Bank and the Construction and Business Bank provide banking services. The Ethiopian Development Bank delivers short term and long term loan services for industrial and agricultural projects. The Construction and Business Bank, on its part, renders long term loan services for the construction of residential houses and buildings. Insurance organizations are operating in the town.

Here one can understand that the extent and distribution of financial institutions are clear indicators of the growing commercial and business activities in one urban center. Therefore the town is to some extent showing a certain progress in this regard which can further facilitate its urban development process.

4.5.2 Educational institutions

Education is one area where any development effort should pay priority attention. It is a means to sustain and accelerate over all development in a country and it has a direct effect on individual productivity and earnings as well. As a result of this, in recent years, strengthening the links between economic growth and human development is given due attention as a means to escape from poverty trap.

Improving the capabilities of people should be in the forefront if real development is to be pursued. Public education is free and schools are open for every citizen in Debre Markos, and the country at large of course. Many improvements have been made with regard to access because many public schools were opened near the communities under study. The couple of tables below show how the educational environment of the town looks like starting from lower up to college and university level. As clearly indicated in the table 6, there is only one government preparatory

school, 3 government secondary school, 8 private and 15 primary schools, 15 private and 2 government kinder Gorton, 2 government special need schools and 1 private and 13 government preschool in the town. Generally there are 59 schools in the town today. It is easy to notice the absence of private preparatory and secondary schools in the town.

Table 4.3: The number of primary and secondary schools in the town

No	Type of institution			
		Private	Government	Total
1	Preparatory school	-	1	1
2	Secondary school	-	3	3
3	1-8 grade	8	15	23
4	Kindergarten	15	2	17
5	Special need	-	2	2
6	Community preschool	1	13	13
	Total	23	36	59

Source: document from the town administration, 2006E.C

On top of the aforementioned discussion, the roles of higher educational establishments are in forefront. The changing economic and social conditions have given knowledge and skills a progressively more fundamental role in the economic success of individuals. With the advent of the knowledge based economy, employment opportunities are becoming scarcer for individuals without a diploma or a degree from high school, college or university. Consequently, education has been described as a traditional route out of poverty for those living in disadvantaged conditions. Education increases opportunities for jobs, job satisfaction and income security. Based on this the higher institutional establishments of the town are discussed below.

Table 4.4: Higher educational establishments of the town

No	Type of institution	Government	Private	Total
1	University	1	-	1
2	College	3	8	11
3	TVET	1	-	1
	Total			13

Source: document from the town administration (2006 E.C)

Table 4.4 clearly shows that there is only one Government University, 3 government and 8 private colleges and 1 government TVET in the town. This can be seen as an important progress in the education sector of the town which is central in creating educational opportunities for the local community. These establishments are also vital in creating employment opportunity as well. Despite this fact, the actual literacy level of the household heads particularly higher educational involvement is not in a commendable condition which will be discussed in the next part of the discussion.

4.5.3 Health institutions

Health is one of the fundamental social development indicators of a country. Getting health service is part of human right, and without it economic development of a country becomes inconceivable. The effectiveness of basic health care and supporting services as well as inter sectoral interventions largely rely on the extent of the entire stakeholders (the public sector, the private sector, the community, others) participation at all stages in realizing the aimed goal of equitable health distribution. When we see the private sector involvement in the health sector of the town is promising. Besides, improved health status of society in fact has an affirmative effect in enhancing the quality of life and promoting social development. If equitable and sustainable

development is to be achieved, an initial step may be to give adequate emphasis for health as a means of identifying priorities in urban development endeavors.

The number and distribution of health centers are described under the private and government ownership of different hospitals, clinics and drug stores and others. The expansions of different health centers in the town which can facilitate the curative efforts of health needs are promising and can do something in this regard. Based on this fact table 8 clearly indicates that there is an increasing trend and diversity of health centers in the town. The existence of a number of health care establishments operating in the town plays their part so as to create healthy society. Specialized private clinics are also found in the town in the past recent years despite the high medication cost is questionable for most of the residents.

Table 4.5: the number of health establishments of the town

Type		Total	Total
Government	Referral hospital	1	16
	Health stations	3	
	Medium clinics	5	
	Health centers	7	
Private	Higher clinics	2	37
	Special eye higher clinic	1	
	Special dental clinic	2	
	Medium clinics	8	
	Diagnostic	2	
	Pharmacy	23	
Total			53

Source: document from the town administration (2006 E.C)

Therefore the existence of diversified modern medical centers is one manifestation of an urban center which reinforces urban lifestyle where by emerging modern institutions gradually replaced the long standing traditional ones.

Part two: socio economic and housing characteristics of respondents

This section deals with the prevailing findings of households covered by the household survey. The major findings of the study are presented under the sub topics of socio demographic, membership to local social organizations, economic and housing situation and related facilities to facilitate the discussion.

4.6 Socio demographic characteristics of respondents

Under this section the socio demographic characteristics of the households are discussed. Urban areas are crucial sites of social, political and cultural interaction and fusion. With rising personal mobility they are places where people from many different languages, traditions and belief systems come together. So this section is important to shed some light on the degree of heterogeneity of some essential variables (such as religious and ethnic composition) in the town. This will in turn pave the way for a certain sociological discussion in terms of urbanism on the basis of appropriate theoretical explanation. Important variables under this heading are discussed below. These are religious composition, ethnicity, marital status, household size and educational status of the household head which were addressed by the household survey.

Table 4.6: socio demographic profile of respondents

General characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Religion	Orthodox	372	96.9
	Muslim	6	1.6
	Protestant	6	1.6
	Total	384	100
Ethnicity	Amhara	380	99
	Tigre	4	1
	Total	384	100
Marital status	Single	22	5.7
	Married	203	52.9
	Divorced	40	10.4
	Widowed	117	30.5
	Separated	2	0.5
	Total	384	100
Educational status	Illiterate	78	20.3
	Read and write	45	11.7
	Primary (1-8)	63	16.4
	Secondary (9-12)	100	26
	Diploma holder	55	14.3
	First degree	37	9.6
	Above MA/MSc	6	1.6
	Total	384	100
Household size	<=3	151	39.3
	4 – 6	200	52.1
	7 – 9	23	6
	10 – 12	10	2.6
	Total	384	100

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

Urban centers are known by their heterogeneity in terms of different social variables. Among these religion is the major one. The existence of diversified religious reality can be regarded as an asset for a given town thereby enhancing urban way of life in terms of heterogeneity and ensure further urbanization. Table 4.6 clearly indicated that around 96.9 % of the people are Orthodox Christians just similar to the ethnic reality of the town in terms of number. Those who are follower of Islamic and protestant religions are equally 1.6% each. In one way or the other way this had its own footprint on the urban history of the town.

This situation clearly contradicts with different theoretical explanations on urban centers such as wirth's 'urbanism as a way of life'. The existence of heterogynous religious and belief system is one characteristic of towns depending on their size and level of developments. Debre Markos town with the population size of more than 93,000 is found to be significantly homogenous in its religious make up indicating the fact that it is far from being a cosmopolitan center. On top of this the sample is drawn from the Kebele listing which might not be exhaustive and update to include recent updates.

Similar to the religious composition, the significant majority of residents of the town belong to Amhara language group. There is a little variation between the town administrative document and the survey result regarding religious and ethnic compositions of the town. But the difference is not more than two percent which doesn't make a difference for one to understanding in some way. The survey result shows that 99% of the respondents are Amhara and the rest 1% are Tigre. This somehow contradicts with the reality of urban centers in Ethiopian context which are known by some degree of heterogeneity. This is due to the fact that most people of a certain town have different ethnic and religious background that migrated from different area to enjoy better life opportunity in the town.

The relatively different case of Debre Markos town might be the result of absence of pull factor in the town which can be dreamed by an outsider. One possible reason assessed in this research through different methods is absence of different manufacturing industries in the area that can attract a large labor force from different ethnic groups of Ethiopia. The second possible explanation for this is the existence of limited commercial activity in the town which can be better explained in relation to the non existence of cash crops around the rural hinter land of the town. Even though the area is known by blessed region in terms of its climatic condition, it is only for local use that the agricultural production is used if it is surplus at best.

Similarly this idea is also supported by economic theories, different historical findings, and empirical literatures which believe and found that diversified ethnics with multifaceted culture in a given area do have paramount contributions to the reduction or increment of poverty. Optimistically speaking, it paves the opportunity for competition, ensuring efficiency and overall development of the given area (Esubalew 2006). Therefore the presence of a monolingual society might be one possible reason that hampers the development of the Debre Markos town holding all other things constant.

The other important variable is marital status. As indicated in the table 4.6, around 5.7% are single, 52.9% are married, 10.4% are divorced, 30.5% are widowed and the rest 0.5 % are separated. This shows that only half of the total surveyed households are married and the rest large share are widowed followed by divorced household heads. Generally, the result of this study revealed that around 47% of the total respondents are either single or widowed households. This has a significant impact on the socio economic position of the household due to the fact that most of them are female headed households who are engaged in the informal activities of selling local drink or '*Tella*' to make a living. Female headedness has a number of socio economic costs

given that most are illiterate and economically weak. These people are among the economically vulnerable segments of the society in the town where by the low reward informal economy is the major livelihood of the entire household in a regular basis.

We can see that 10.4 % of the respondent's marriage ends up in divorce, indicating relatively low level of divorce and thus demonstrating the existence of stable marriages. Oftentimes, when conflicts arise in marriages, there is a traditional custom that allows intermediaries to resolve the conflicts peacefully. It can be argued that stable marriage and a low level of divorce are predominant features of traditional societies. Unlike complex urban societies divorce in the study area is considered as somehow sinful and religiously inappropriate. There is also very low level of separation (0.5 %) in place among spouses which entails the low level of special mobility among spouses which may indicate the existence of no difference in occupation among them that necessitates spatial separation.

The other important variable is educational status. As we all know education includes not only the learning of specific skills but also the acquiring of knowledge, Positive judgment and wisdom. A person's social and economic success is often determined by their level of education and is therefore described as one of the most important socio economic determinants of the whole household. The key indicator of education is the level of literacy rate. Literacy rate is used as a measure of the effectiveness of the primary education system, which is often seen as a proxy measure of social progress and economic achievement. A person is considered to be literate if one can read with understanding and write a short statement at least in one language. Otherwise, the person is considered to be illiterate. Despite this fact the above table 4.6 reveals that about 78 (20%) of them are illiterate who cannot read and write and about 75% of the total respondents have no any college or university experience which can be viewed as one possible challenge to

get employment opportunities in any government or non government organizations. This might be one possible reason for most female headed household who are engaged in preparing and selling of local drinks and other informal economies due to low or no educational participation. As soon as they lose their spouses by death or divorce these activities are the only livelihood options to sustain their life.

The last variable under this section is household size. Obviously urbanization has had an impact on household size as a result of the use of western forms of family planning. Family type in an urban setting is nuclear as is seen in other cities of the world. The nuclear family system as opposed to the extended family system (found in rural areas) is a function of several variables which include the cost of living; occupational limitations and the cultural-generational gap among city/ urban dwellers.

The data presented in table 4.6 also clearly shows that the majority of the surveyed households have 4 to 6 members (52%) and even about 39.3% have household size of less than 3 members. The majority of surveyed households can be judged as medium sized household (whose household members are between 4-6) followed by small sized households consisting of less than three members. It is only 8.3 % of the total surveyed households whose household size is greater than seven household members.

4.7 The state of local social organizations

Community solidarity can be understood by the quantity and quality of inter personal ties that a particular society reinforces among its members. These social ties reflect social resources that are instrumental in supporting psychological, physical and social well being. Having strong social ties serves as a buffer against vulnerability to risk. One of its manifestations is membership to voluntary local organizations. This section highlights how the households are interconnected in

the form of membership to local social organizations such as *Edir*, *Mahiber* and *Ekub*. This will be an indicator of how these local social organizations look like given that the size and level of urbanization is increasing over time. In addition to this the perception of respondents regarding their relationship with their neighbors can also be one indicator of how strong their interaction is.

Edir

The finding revealed that 83.9% of the respondents are members of *Edir* (burial association) and the remaining 16.1% are not. Hence the significant majority of respondents are member of *Edir*. Non members are those either who are living in extreme poverty or new comers who are not settled and familiar yet with the existing neighborhood interaction. Since the researcher is from this area and also confirmed by the data gathered through in depth interview the support that neighbors offer to one another upon death of a member goes beyond the scope of that *Edir* requires. The neighbors accompany the households whose relative is deceased for many evenings and during weekends in view of relaxing and morally supporting the household members under mourning. *Edir* brings together the poor and well off households although when it comes to practical things one can still see clear differentiation. The poor households involve in *Edir* in real sense-meeting all requirements like monthly contributions and actively participate in duties related to death and funeral. However, the wells to do people undertake everything financially such as they pay money for absence.

Mahiber

Unlike membership to *Edir* in which most of them are members, membership to *mahiber* shows a large variation between members and non members. The data in the table 4.7 elaborates that 55.2% of the respondents are member of *Mahiber* where as the remaining (44.8%) are not.

Regardless of the socio economic status of the households and given that the significant majority of them are orthodox religious followers, membership to Edir seems more important than Mahiber. Thus membership to Mahiber (religious association) is adversely affected these days since continuous feasts are dominant feature of rural areas particularly those societies who are dominantly orthodox Christians. But the changing life style of urban areas is known by its rationality in terms of the household's socio economic conditions in relation to consumption, saving and expenditure. So that feasts are mainly taken as extravagant practices.

Ekub

Ekub can be understood as family or locality based saving associations that provide members bereavement insurance. Regarding membership to ekub, the table 4.7 demonstrates that almost half of the respondents are members and the rest half are not. There is only a slight difference that members are 51% and non members are 49%. When we go down and see the pattern from membership Edir, Mahiber and Ekub, the number of non members increased and it is only membership to Edir which remains very important to them. When we see Ekub, it seems that modern emerging financial institutions are playing the role of this local organization and people no more view Ekub as only one which can give financial function in this particular period of time. The possible explanation is that people are no more rely on ekub for its traditional financial function rather modern emerging financial institutions are replacing overtime. This is clearly indicated on the survey data that revealed that only half of the respondents are member of ekub. Most of which spent five to thirty birr in a weekly basis which seems that this customary institution is serving as a social function or as social tie rather than its previous economic one.

Own rating of their relationship with their neighbors

Regardless of their membership to different local social organizations, most view their interaction with their neighborhood differently which indicated their sense of attachment. The data indicated in table 4.7 demonstrated that 35.9% of the respondents viewed their relationship with their neighbors as very strong, 19.5% view as it is strong, for 24.7% it is medium and the remaining 19.8% viewed it as weak. From these one can understand that almost half of the respondents perceive their relationship with their neighbors as either medium or weak. Their own rating of the relationship they have with their neighbors and their membership to different social networks is incompatible. This might be viewed from two directions. The first is the result of high degree of homogeneity so that membership to social networks seems social responsibility and non membership might have many social costs. On the other hand, an increase in the size of the society increase impersonality and decrease the degree of contact among members of the society as one basic feature of urbanism or urban life. This statement is strongly supported by the idea of Wirth in his famous theory of urbanism as a way of life.

To sum up Membership in community organizations such as Idir (funeral associations), ekub (saving/credit groups), and mahiber (religious groupings) is the basic feature of most households holding the fact that there is high degree of homogeneity in terms of religion and language. However, nowadays the changing life style started to affect some of these organizations negatively, particularly Ekub and Mahiber. Only Edir seems more important to most of the respondents except few who have resigned and cease participate in 'Idir' due to economic factors and their failures to meet their obligations. The tabular representation of all the above narration is portrayed below.

Table 4.7: Membership to local social organizations

Membership to local social organizations	Category	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Edir</i>	Yes	322	83.9
	No	62	16.1
	Total	384	100.0
<i>Mahiber</i>	Yes	212	55.2
	No	172	44.8
	Total	384	100.0
<i>Ekub</i>	Yes	196	51.0
	No	188	49.0
	Total	384	100.0
Own rating of their relationship with neighbors	very strong	138	35.9
	Strong	75	19.5
	Medium	95	24.7
	Weak	76	19.8
	Total	384	100.0

Source: own survey and computation, 2014

4.7.1 Theoretical explanation on local social organizations

Wirth (1938) asserted that urbanism or urbanization produced any of several important social consequences among people. These are impersonality and anonymity in everyday life, loss of trust among people and various forms of social disorganization, as in higher rates of crime than in rural areas. However the central focus of the theoretical argument was about the nature of urbanization, the metropolis, in particular, which might be very difficult to directly apply it on urban centers of the less developed countries leave alone for Debre Markos town. But still one

view some aspects of an urban center with the help of this theoretical ground given that the influence of globalization is very high everywhere with different magnitude. This helps to appreciate the changes observed in Debre Markos town as one manifestation of the social consequences of urbanism unlike rural settings where more or less homogeneous in every sphere of life. Particularly Ethiopian urbanization is more or less indigenous than other African countries that had some colonial experience. This helps to preserve the previous socio cultural structure and somehow resist the influence of western modernized ideologies including Addis Ababa. This argument is very true particularly when we look at the limitations of Wirth's theory which have been pointed out by its critics. First and foremost, this theoretical school suffers from lack of cross-cultural perspective. The Chicago sociologists were responding to one kind of city. They were looking at the North American city moving into the high gear of industrialization. The neglect of historical or cross-cultural comparisons limited the significance of their work.

On the other hand Wirth also argued that these variations should give rise to the spatial segregation of individuals according to color, ethnic heritage, economic and social status, tastes and preferences, may readily be inferred. Because of this the bonds of kinship, neighborliness, and the sentiments arising out of living together for generations under a common tradition are likely to be absent or, at best, relatively weak. Under such circumstances competition and formal control mechanisms furnish the substitutes for the bonds of solidarity that are relied upon to hold folk society together.

From the above statement in the case of Debre Markos town the data regarding the perception of the relationship they have with their neighborhood somehow conforms with the explanation of Wirth that asserted that neighborliness and the sentiments arising out of living together for generations under a common tradition are likely to be weak. Around 44.5 % of the respondents

as they have weak or medium relationship with their neighborhood. On top of this the negative impact on the local organizations or decline of participation in local religious and financial institutions (Ekub and Mahiber) might further strengthened the argument that urbanism starting to gradually influence the social life of the people. All the rest explanations in association to the special segregation based on color and ethnic group is not the characteristics of Abre Markos town due to the high degree of homogeneity and size of the town.

3 The economic characteristics of respondents

The complex and dynamic nature of economic circumstances may need a separate look at them to get a better understanding of the entire economic reality of the households through some kind of livelihood framework. Despite this the following section tried to address some of the key economic variables as possible as the researcher can in this research project. These are the employment or main occupation, annual income, unemployed household labor and the saving situation. All the above variables are measure at the household level.

3.1 Employment status and type of self account they engaged in

Table 4.8: Employment status of respondents

Category	Frequency	Percent
self employed	179	46.6
government employee	80	20.8
private employee	10	2.6
NGO employee	8	2.1
Unemployed	95	24.7
Other	12	3.1
Total	384	100.0

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

Typically, employment is the main source of income and route to improved well-being. As clearly indicated in table 4.8, around 75.3 % of the household heads are employed in different occupations while the rest 24.7% are unemployed. Self employment takes the lion share of the total respondents' occupational category which accounts 46.6% followed by government employees which accounts about 20.8%. Those household heads whose main employment is their own self-account are relatively big. Therefore it is important to look further into it as to which types of self-employment businesses are they engaged in. The study divided own-account businesses into: petty trade (*Gullit*), home based enterprise (sale of local drinks and foods), trade, handicraft (wood/metal work, embroidery and pottery) and hotel service. The following table demonstrates the different occupational categories for those respondents who run their own self employment/account as the main source of livelihood.

Table 4.9: distributions of respondents by the type of self account

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Petty-trade/ 'Gullit'	24	6.3
Home-based enterprises (food& Beverage)	69	18.0
Trade	49	12.8
Hotel Service	11	2.9
Handicraft (pottery, Metal / Wood Work)	9	2.3
Other	17	4.4
Total	179	46.6

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

The finding indicated that home based enterprise (selling of local drink and food) and trade activities stood first and second from the occupational categories (18% and 12.8% respectively). From all these, it is pretty easy to understand that those people who are making a living out of selling local drink are not few in number in the town. This is particularly very true for female

aded households and those whose husband's are pensioners. Similarly it is encouraging to note at the number of households who are engaged in trade activities is by far a big number when contrasted with other businesses. There are also people who have a share in the growing hotel services of the town even though their number is quite insignificant relative to the other.

8.2 Economically active unemployed household members

Despite the fact that there are people out of the working age bracket (below 18 and above 65 years) who are still working in some income generating activities, this paper tried to measure the number of unemployed household members in the same working age bracket (18-65) including household heads. The following table shows the number of economically active unemployed household members in the household

Table 4.10: distribution of number of unemployed household members

Number of unemployed	Frequency	Percent
1	111	28.9
2	79	20.6
3	20	5.2
4	6	1.6
Total	216	56.3

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

The above table shows that around 56.3 % of the respondents have at least one unemployed member in their household and the remaining 43.8 % have no any unemployed labor in the household who is found in the working age bracket. As we can see from the above table, unemployment is a serious problem of the surveyed households, which is partly explained by poor human capital development and other factors. Those who work in low pay jobs, casual work or other informal activities cannot generate sufficient income to meet the household basic

eds including food. This fact can help us understand and notice the extent of unemployment in
 ch household which can be considered as a burden for low earning economy which characterized
 st of the residents of the town.

3.3 Annual income

ome allows people to purchase necessary goods and services like food, shelter and clothing
 d is therefore a main determinant of the entire wellbeing of the household members. In this
 dy every effort has been made to ensure that respondents include all types of income sources
 r their households. Despite these efforts, the researcher doubted that reported income of
 ouseholds is very much underestimated and/or under reported because many respondents were
 ry reluctant to tell their true income mainly because of anticipation of some kind of assistance,
 spite explanations given by enumerators that no assistance is expected in this study. The
 llowing table shows the reported annual income of households.

Table 4.11: Reported annual income of respondents

Annual income	Frequency	Percent
<6000	94	24.5
6001-12000	63	16.4
12001-18000	65	16.9
18001-24000	57	14.8
24001-30000	6	1.6
30001-36000	20	5.2
36001-42000	24	6.3
>42001	55	14.3
Total	384	100

Source: Own Survey and Computation

Figure 4.11 clearly shows that, in aggregate around 40% of the total respondents reported as they earn below 1000 ETB per month at household level. We can imagine this amount of money for most of the households whose size are 4-6 members and have a rough estimate of the monthly income per head. It would be very low. The annual earnings and incomes of the respondents were generally lower in the study Kebeles. This can tell some story on the extent of poverty among residents and indicates how most households in the town are chronically poor.

Generally, based on the standard set by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, households who earn a monthly income below Birr 1,075.03 are categorized as living below poverty line. Based on this fact the result of this study shows that the significant majority of the residents are found below poverty line. This is due to the fact that the study measured the annual income at household level so that the reported amount of income has to be distributed in to the household members (per head). This put most of the surveyed households below the poverty line.

3.8.4 Does saving actually indicate the household's economy?

Regarding the saving habit of the respondents there is a need to have some how deep scrutiny to have better understanding of the phenomenon. As it is already known, until very recently saving was considered as one main indicator for the self sufficient economic status and well of households. However these days the household's economy is more determined by the type and amount of asset that generates business which matters most than the small amount of money saved in a given period of time. This study has assessed the saving situation and way of saving of the study participants. The following table shows the findings in this regard on the basis of the survey result.

Table 4.12: distributions of respondents by their saving and way of saving

Do you have saving?	Category	Frequency	Percent
	Yes	200	52.1
	No	184	47.9
	Total	384	100.0
Way of saving	Bank	101	26.3
	Ekub	93	24.2
	Home in cash	6	1.6
	Total	200	52.1

Source: Own Survey and Computation

As indicated in the above table, around 52.1% of the respondents have savings and the remaining 47.9% do not have saving. This does not exactly mean that the saving status of the households is the best indicator of the households' socio economic position and the researcher is very critical about that. The 52.1% of respondents who have a savings were disaggregated based on their response regarding the various ways that they deposit their cash. Hence 26.3% of them save in banks and other financial institutions, 24.2% save in the form of Ekub and the rest 1.6% save in the form of cash at their home. Hence the phenomenon of those people in the lower economic strata who use ekub as one way of saving is more an indicator of their social tie and network than a seemingly economic function. Because the amount of money that most respondents save ranges from five birr to twenty or at best thirty birr in a weekly basis. This amount of money is not as much life changing and doesn't bring any significant change in their life particularly in the day's high living cost. On top of this the ekub is formed by those people who know each other well and who are living in the same Kebele or neighborhood. Therefore in this study ekub is primarily treated as part of community social tie rather than economic indicator but it is also

... as a way of saving for the people. At the same time this doesn't mean that ekub as one
... of saving belongs to only the lower socio economic position.

Housing situation and related facilities

Housing and related amenities are probably among the physical capital that can depict the actual
living condition of urban residents. Housing in its very nature has a different connotation that
changes across social, economic and cultural spirits beside its direct function of sheltering. To this
end, assessment of basic features of the housing sector of the city has to be made in order to draw
operative policy recommendations beyond understanding the general performance of the sector.
In the last main section of the discussion, different variables in connection to the housing
situation and related facilities are discussed in detail. In this section the housing condition is
discussed by separately looking at the physical condition of the house and its connection to
various services, Such as type of ownership of housing unit, main construction materials, age of
the house, existence of separate sleeping room, primary source of water, type of bathing and
toilet facilities are discussed.

Physical condition of the house

4.9.1 House ownership

As indicated in table 4.13 around 56.3% of the respondents reported as they have their own
private housing unit, 27.1% have rented out their house from the Kebele followed by renting out
their house from private owners (16.7%). Therefore the majority of respondents covered by the
study live in their own housing units. Whereas around 44% of them live in rented houses which
could partly indicate their actual living situation. The following table summarizes the distribution
of respondents by the type of house ownership they live in.

Table 4.13: distributions of respondents by house ownership

House ownership	Category	Frequency	Percent
	privately owned	216	56.3
	Rent from Kebele	104	27.1
	Rent from private owner	64	16.7
	Total	384	100.0

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

These households who rent out their house from private owners are correspondingly negligible in terms of number. The majority of the households who live in rented houses are sheltered in the Kebele houses. The data obtained through observation revealed that, Kebele houses are very substandard shelters with walls made of mud and wood whose roof is covered with corrugated iron sheets. This is due to the very old nature of the houses that some reach up to 60 years old. Generally, Most of them are old, deteriorated and made of non-durable housing construction materials such as wood and mud block and thus in most cases do not satisfy the criteria of decent housing.

When we see the monthly rent for those who rented out their housing units, the maximum and minimum rent for Kebele houses is 30 and 1.25 ETB respectively. At the same time the maximum and minimum rent for those who rent out from private owners is 1200 and 50 ETB respectively. This shows that people who live in the Kebele houses are paying very low which can be seen as a good opportunity to live in any shelter than the street.

4.9.2 The main construction materials and age of the house

Many literatures mentioned that acceptable housing is related to many criteria. One indicator of a housing quality is its durability. Durable house is defined as a housing unit built on a non-hazardous location and adequate enough to protect its inhabitants from the extremes of climatic

ditions such as rain, heat, cold, humidity. In relation to these main construction materials that housing unit is built from can be one good indicator of the durability or sustainability of the use. Based on the understanding of durability in connection with the type of main construction materials, the findings show that nearly 77 % of the households live in dwelling units made of non-durable wall material, that is, wood and mud. Only 13% of the households dwell in housing units built of relatively durable wall material such as Blockets and bricks. Similarly the data obtained from the observation revealed that most of the households live in houses that have corrugated iron sheet. These all depicts how the majority of housing units in the city are featured with dilapidations which might imply the need for appropriate interventions towards slum improvements. Table 4.14 indicates the main construction materials and age of the house.

Table 4.14: Main construction materials and age of the housing units

	Category	Frequency	Percent
The main construction material of the house	wood with mud	279	72.7
	wood and mud with stone cover(<i>Ashuha girf</i>)	16	4.2
	Blockets	48	12.5
	Brick	41	10.7
	Total	384	100.0
Age of the house in year	< 10	128	33.3
	11 – 20	71	18.5
	21 – 30	63	16.4
	31 – 40	89	23.2
	41 – 50	31	8.1
	51+	2	.5
	Total	384	100.0

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

the researcher has tried to discuss in the previous page, the significant majority of the housing units are constructed out of wood and mud which is the distinctive feature of non durable houses. On top of this most of the houses are very old which makes the housing condition most miserable. On one hand the construction material and on the other hand the aged nature of houses put the houses at their dilapidated state. Specifically speaking around 50 % of the total surveyed houses are aged more than 20 years and to see a more extreme figure around 32 % of the houses are aged more than 30 years. It is pretty clear for everyone to imagine a house constructed out of non durable materials of wood and mud and aged more than 30 or 40 years without anything. This is the worst form of shelter in human living situation except those who have no home at all and live on the street.

4.9.3 Separate sleeping rooms

As clearly indicated in table 4.15, the vast majority of the housing units have separate sleeping rooms which accounts around 82 % of the total surveyed households. Only the remaining 18.2 % of the housing units have no separate sleeping rooms so that they sleep in a place where they carry out other domestic activities inside their housing unit. This is typical of a household with lower socio economic status and particularly those who are living in houses which rented out from the Kebele. The following table shows this fact.

Table 4.15: Separate sleeping rooms in the housing unit

Is there Separate sleeping room in your house?	Category	Frequency	Percent
	Yes	314	81.8
	No	70	18.2
	Total	384	100.0

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

4.9.4 Type of toilet, bathing and kitchen facilities

In many urban areas the issue of sanitation and waste disposal is at the forefront of any discussion in urban environmental protection and management. There is nearly similar case for most of African countries including Ethiopia as according to different literatures and UN Habitat reports. Hence the large majority of urban residents live in inadequately hygiene conditions. This resulted from inappropriate waste management since urban areas by their very nature generate more waste and could be dangerous unless properly disposed and managed. The following table shows the type of toilet, bathing and kitchen facilities in the households.

Table 4.16: distributions of households by the type of kitchen, toilet and bathing facility

	Category	Frequency	Percent
Type of kitchen facility	Private kitchen	324	84.4
	Shared kitchen	27	7
	Open space in the compound	16	4.2
	Other	17	4.4
	Total	384	100.0
	Type of toilet facility	Private Pit	322
Shared pit		52	13.5
Open space		8	2.1
Other		2	0.5
Total		384	100.0
Type of bathing facility	Private shower	79	20.6
	Shared shower	2	0.5
	Open space in the compound	277	72.1
	Open space in the area of water source	4	1
	public bath (private & city administration)	2	0.5
	Other	20	5.2
	Total	384	100.0

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

indicated in the above table, 84.4 % respondents have their own separate kitchen followed by shared kitchens which account about 7%. Around 4.2 % of the housing units have no kitchen facility rather they use the open space available in the compound. Generally there are a greater number of households who have private kitchen facility than separate sleeping rooms in their housing units. This figure shows only the availability and didn't consider the quality of the kitchen facility they have even though it is not difficult to imagine. One can imagine the quality of the kitchen out of the type and nature of the housing unit itself and therefore most of them are superior in quality and some may have not wall and roof.

Table 4.16 also shows that, about 83.9 % of the respondents have private toilet followed by shared pits which account about 13.5 % and there are also a small proportion of households who use open spaces outside their compound (2.1 %). For the hygiene situation of households to improve, it must have easy access to functioning and hygienic toilet facilities. Appropriate basic sanitation facility play a crucial role in ensuring good health. Despite the poor quality of most of the toilets in the town, it is thankful to see this much number of people who have their own private toilet facility for the household.

Just like access to toilet facility, it is also equally important that access to bathing facility is crucial for the well being of a household. In the town there is no public shower (of government). Around 72.1% of the surveyed households use open space in the compound for bathing. Only 20.6% have their own private bathing facility (about 20.6%). Other bathing mechanisms such as shared shower, open space in the area of water source and public shower count only insignificant number.

In sum up the housing situation in Debre Markos town is highly characterized by poor quality due to old age, non durable buildings and less accessed settlements. In terms of quality, the large

majority of houses constructed are of substandard class that is mainly built using wood and mud materials. There are also houses who share the same wall in addition to their dilapidated nature particularly Kebele houses. One can observe relatively better quality housing units with good settlement layout only in the new settlements even though their access to road is not yet completed and which represent a small portion of the total residents of the town.

Connection to services

Status of connection to different services is also another indicator of the status of the urban housing sector. This study principally addressed access to electricity, piped water & telephone. Access to these services in many cases is related to affordability. Thus, poor households who cannot afford private connections are usually forced to use primitive ways. This is true especially in the case of water and electricity. Details of connection of the house to different services are discussed in the following pages.

4.9.5 The main source of water in the household

The provision of purified and adequate water is becoming a critical issue for urban dwellers without which life will be difficult. Water is one of the basic necessities of human life and supply of clean water is absolutely necessary for healthy life. In fact, most of residents of the study area have water pipes in their homes. However the data gathered in the in depth interview asserted the irregularity of water flow. Table 4.17 clearly shows the proportion of sample households in their use of type of primary source of water for their household. The vast majority of households covered by the study have access to potable water as the main source for domestic purposes. Around 72.9 % have private tap in their compound followed by those who consume shared tap in the compound which accounts 15.7%. Similarly 7.8 % of the surveyed households have

connection inside their house which also indicated the better constructed houses. Only small proportions (4.2 %) of households use water from unprotected well or spring, lakes and other sources. Access to an improved source of drinking water reduces the likelihood of the community's vulnerability to disease and epidemics particularly water born diseases. The following table shows detail of the findings.

Table 4.17: Distribution of respondents by major sources of water

	Category	Frequency	Percent
The main source of water in the household	Tap inside the house	30	7.8
	Private Tap in the compound	280	72.9
	Shared Tap in the compound	39	10.2
	Tap outside the compound	19	4.9
	Other water source	16	4.2
	Total	384	100.0

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

4.9.6 Access to telecommunication, electricity and type of purpose they use

These days access to electricity and information and communication facilities are becoming an indisputable input to improve quality of life and create well informed societies. The role of media, information technologies and communication services and networks like telephone, internet and fax services are very important to speed up all rounded development. The tremendous progress in telecommunication network development made recently by the country alarmingly increased the proportion of households who have access to these particular services. The various purposes that households use electric power were also part of the assessment to see the main source of energy for domestic activities as an urban center. The following table displayed the status of household's access to telecommunication, electricity and various purposes they use electric power.

Table 4.18: Telephone/mobile subscription, electricity and type of purpose they use

	Category	Frequency	Percent
Fixed telephone line/mobile subscription	Yes	336	87.5
	No	48	12.5
	Total	384	100.0
Access to electricity	Yes	376	97.9
	No	8	2.1
	Total	384	100.0
Various purposes they use electric power	Lighting only	215	56.0
	Lighting and cooking	64	16.7
	Lighting, cooking and fridge	97	25.3
	Total	376	97.9

Source: Own Survey and Computation, 2014

As clearly indicated in the above table, about 87.5 % of the surveyed households are either mobile or fixed telephone lines subscribers in the household. Only the remaining 12.5% households do not have any of these telecommunication services. This is a clear indicator of the significant progress in the telecommunication service sector in the town. This can be seen as one among the basic features of urbanism or urban way of life in which people translate their messages and information through these menses which do not necessitate frequent physical contacts.

Among the many characterizing features of urban areas, access to electricity can be mentioned as one feature even though rural areas are currently getting access of these services. The findings indicated that close to 98 % of the sample households have electricity connection and the remaining 2 % had no electricity. Similarly out of those who have access to electricity connection, 57.2 % of the households use electricity only for lighting purpose and only 25.8 % use for multipurpose purpose (lighting, cooking and fridge). From this one can understand that

only a quarter of the total electricity users utilize electric power for multiple purposes but the significant majority of the respondents use electricity for lighting purpose.

4.10 Key development challenges identified in the town

Under this section the researcher tried to identify key challenge of Debre Markos town on the basis of the data obtained through personal observation by the researcher and reviewing some relevant documents including town administration office documents. The survey data is also used in one or another way as per their relevance. Hence unemployment, absence of common spaces and the inappropriate environmental management are mentioned as major challenges of the town as an urban center.

A. Unemployment

Unemployment is identified as one possible challenge that hampers the urban development process of the town. Despite the government's effort in the development of small and micro enterprises which are meant to create massive employment opportunities, it can't be the last cure for the high rate of unemployment under going in the town. Any urban development direction has to protect the urban poor and the vulnerable groups. Therefore as one important feature of urban development, the creation of enough employment opportunities has to be realized for the residents particularly for the urban poor. It will further positively affect the economic reality of the entire country. On top of this it has a potential to reduce the migration of a bulk of people towards the prime cities and create many social problems there.

Waste management problems

Like in many developing cities, a rapid population growth and high rural-urban migration poses many environmental challenges for urban centers of Ethiopia. One of these challenges is related to dry waste management. The inadequate solid waste management system has resulted in the accumulation of waste on open lands, in drains and around residential area of the city, causing a public health problem especially due to bad smelling, water pollution and burning of waste (air pollution) and consequently aggravates the spread of diseases. In many areas of the town there are not appropriately disposed domestic wastes dispersed over roads and inside neighborhoods. This situation is believed to result in poor urban environmental conditions which in turn present a formidable threat to health of the inhabitants of the town.

A study by Tiwari and Tiwari (2012), entitled "*an overview of Solid Waste Management System in Debre Markos Town of Ethiopia*" indicated that only 40% of waste is collected and that the trucks transporting waste are not for solid waste transportation purposes and there are no standard transfer stations in the town. These are indicators of poor environmental protection system in the town even though urban life in its very nature generates more waste. This is due to the fact that urban residents are users of enormous commodities of waste generating potential in relation to their socio economic status. The data obtained through observation also confirmed the existence of many dirty spaces throughout the town as a result of inappropriate disposal and mismanagement. Most of the wastes are from domestic sources.

C. Absence of public places

In Debre Markos town the number of common spaces is not in commendable number and condition. It is only recently that the previously king Teklehaimanot square is changed in to

...en area and now a days it is serving as a public space and recreational site for residents of the
...wn. In addition to serving as a recreational and resting place for the people which is also
...sential in magnifying beauties of the town and increases the aesthetic value.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The sample 384 households in the four Kebeles of the town covered by this study were found to have several distinguishing socio-economic and housing characteristics. The summary of the research findings, conclusions drawn from the research findings and contributions and recommendations of the study are provided in this chapter.

5.1 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1.1 Summary

The focus of this study was urbanism and living conditions of residents of Debre Markos town and specifically assessed the socio-economic and housing characteristics. Both primary and secondary sources were used to carry out the study. A total of 384 household heads were selected and the study was undertaken in four out of the total seven Kebeles of the town: Kebele 01, 02, 03 and 05. The socio-demographic characteristics (education, family size, marital status, religion and ethnicity), economic issues (income, employment, savings), participation in local social organizations (membership to Edir, Ekub and Mahiber), housing and related facilities (house ownership, kitchen, bathing and toilet facilities, access to electricity including various purposes they use the electric power) of the household were the major variables entertained in this study. The survey data was analyzed through descriptive statistics using SPSS-20 version. Based on the analysis all the data gathered through different methods the following results were obtained.

In the past few years the town is getting expanded from different directions. Almost all of the areas through which the town is getting stretching are residential areas consisting of newly constructed housing units. This is a clear indicator of an increase in the population of the town as

the manifestation of urbanization and its increased demand of residential housings. Hence a number of condominium housing sites are constructed to reduce the housing shortage in the town. Whenever the issue of infrastructure is concerned, Debre Markos is known by its long time stagnation and decaying of different facilities in the town. For instance when one contrast the number and increasing demand of the inhabitants to the existing poor road quality and quantity makes one aware to see the problem further. To sum up Road is among the poorly provisioned infrastructure in the town.

Service providers are mushrooming over time, such as hotels, cafes and restaurants, mobile centers, internet cafes and barber shops are to list some as one emerging feature of the town taking more of the characteristics of an urban center. The role of micro and small scale enterprises is also commendable in creating employment opportunities and contributes for urban development even though much has to be done yet in this regard.

The institutional condition of the town were assessed from the point of view of the number and progress of their physical establishments as important manifestations of an urban area and their infrastructural situations. Hence, financial institutions are mushrooming indicating the growing commercial activity of the town. Regarding the educational sector, currently one Government University and a number of colleges both private and government are set up and functioning in the town. In relation to the health sector there is an increasing trend and diversity of health centers in the town including specialized private clinics are also found in the town in the past few years.

When we see the socio demographic characteristics of respondents, around 96.9 % and 99 % of the respondents are from orthodox Christianity and Amhara in terms of their religious and ethnic

composition. When we see the educational status of sample household heads, around 20% are illiterates and about 75% have no any college or university experience respectively. The later can be viewed among the possible challenges to pursue permanent employment opportunities in any government or non government organizations. Concerning the household size the majority of households can be judged as medium sized household (4-6) followed by small sized households consisting of less than three members.

Households are interconnected through different social networks in the form of membership to local social organizations or institutions such as *Edir*, *Mahiber* and *Ekub*. Hence 83.9% are members of *Edir* and the remaining are not member. Around 55.2% and 51 % of the respondents are member of *Mahiber* and *ekub* respectively. Regardless of their membership to different social networks, most view their interaction with their neighborhood differently. Almost half of the respondents have either medium or weak relationship with their neighbors.

Typically, employment is the main source of income and route to improved well-being and 75.3% are employed out of which Self employment takes the lion which accounts 46.6% followed by government employees. From self employed household heads, home based enterprise (preparing and selling of local drink & food) and trade activities stood first and second from these categories (38.5% and 27.4%) respectively. When we see the number of unemployed household members (in the working age group), about 51.4 % have at least one unemployed household member in the household. Regarding income around 40% of the total respondents earn below 1000 ETB per month at household level. We can imagine this amount of money with most of the household whose size is 4-6 members and have a rough estimate of the monthly income per head. 52.1% of the respondents have savings out of which half of them save in banks and other financial institutions the rest save their cash in the form of *Ekub*. Hence those people in the lower

economic strata whose way of saving is in the form of ekub are more an indicator of their solidarity and social tie than economic function.

Concerning the housing condition, this study covers varieties of variables. About 56.3% of the respondents have their own private housing unit followed by rented out from the Kebele and private owners. Around 72.7% of the house is constructed out of non durable material of wood and mud and only 23.2% of the houses are constructed out of Blocks and bricks. In aggregate around 50 % of the age of the total surveyed houses are more than 20 years and to see a more extreme figure around 32 % of the houses are aged more than 30 years. 82 % of the housing units have separate sleeping units and 84.4 % have their own private kitchen followed by shared kitchens. Concerning the toilet facility 83.9 % of the respondents have private toilet. 72.1 % of the respondents use open spaces in the compound for bathing. The vast majority of households covered by the study have access to potable water as the main source for domestic purposes. In relation to telecommunication 87.5 % of the surveyed households are either mobile or fixed telephone lines subscribers. Close to 98 % of the sample households have electricity connection out of which 57.2 % use electric power for only lighting purpose. Regarding the possible challenges of the town, unemployment, absence of public places and inappropriate waste management are identified by this study.

Conclusion

An increase in the population size of a certain town has a socio economic impact on the residents due to an increase in the demand of such huge concentration of people. As urban life can better be understood by the multitude of interrelated factors whereby the cause being a consequence simultaneously so critical identification of the variables is important to get a clearer picture of an urban center in a rapidly urbanizing country.

Now a day Debre Markos is undergoing a rapid spatial expansion resulted from residential housing demand for the growing population. The average annual spatial expansion of the town is 3.38% and the average annual population increase rate is 2.3%. This is a clear indicator of an increase in population size and its corresponding impact on high rate of spatial expansion. The steadily increase of rate of population predicts that there will be high urban expansion in the future.

The result of the study ensures the existence of homogenous culture, same language, similar religion and strong social values in the town. This is somehow contrary to Wirth's theoretical proposition which explains that urban areas identified by their extent in terms of important variables such as, size, density and heterogeneity, and that these factors were considered as key determinants for the state of local social organization, attitudes and behavior. In addition, he explained urbanism or urban life as being composed of heterogynous, secondary-group associations, and increased segmentation of social roles and poorly- defined norms that led to alienation. One can argue that the level of urbanization of the town may matter the degree of heterogeneity in the eyes of different social characteristics. But Debre Markos which is a home of more than 93,000 people and being a zonal administrative seat is found to be significantly

homogeneous in terms of religion, language (ethnicity) and other social characteristics. This might have an impact on the urban development prospect of the town in relation to reinforcing the already known urban life style which may need further studies in this regard.

Coming to the economic condition, dwellers are engaged in occupations, which have limited returns. These include small trade and industry, government employee, and urban agriculture etc. Most female headed households are predominantly engaged in the business of preparing and selling the traditional 'popular' drink-*Tella*. The business activity of the town is promising even though most of the people are economically poor. Therefore the economic activity and social infrastructure of the town is low and the overall life standard of the inhabitants is not in good condition.

The housing sector is also characterized by non durable materials of wood and mud and less accessed in terms of various facilities. The significant majority of residents have access to pipe water despite the many complain made by residents in the irregularity of the water flow. Kitchen and toilet facilities are also accessed by many households in the town even though the quality is highly questionable. Regarding the bathing/shower facility, most residents of the town have no separate shower room instead they use open spaces in the compound.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study the researcher has suggested the following recommendations

Further assessment and studies: The present study is more of a situation analysis of the overall situation based on descriptive analysis on a very wide range of physical and socio-economic situation of residents of the town by taking the household as a unit of analysis. The study is wide in scope and does not made an in-depth look at any one of prominent and targeted issue. Therefore, in order to have an in-depth analysis on any one pressing issue related to the households; further targeted studies using a mix of study methodologies with a separate look at any of the aspects of the residents are recommended. Hence this study can be a good spring board for anyone who is interested to conduct further study on this particular historical town.

The town administration has to give more attention for environmental condition by giving due emphasis in teaching the residents about the appropriate waste disposal system.

Finally the researcher would like to emphasize the role of small and micro enterprises and their paramount significance in creating employment opportunity and increasing the income level of residents. Therefore it has to be strengthened and widened the scope of production in different activities. Particularly young segments of the people and women who are engaged in home based enterprises (selling Tella) and prostitution are better if they are organized and engaged in small and micro enterprises. This can significantly improve their life and change the image of the entire the town.

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pendix A:

questionnaire for sample household heads

Addis Ababa University

Graduate studies of social science

Department of Sociology

Dear respondents: - the main purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on the socio-economic and housing situation of residents of Debre Markos town for the partial fulfillment of a master's degree in sociology. Since this questionnaire is for academic reasons, you are expected to provide genuine, accurate and balanced information. Your genuine information is highly valuable as it determines the success of this study. Therefore, the researcher is very much grateful for the sacrifice you pay to this end and the information gathered will be highly confidential and will be only for the purpose of this research.

General Directions:

1. You are kindly requested to give genuine responses.
2. Put the numbers you agree with to those questions which are not multiple choices.
3. The study is entirely academic and all responses are confidential.
4. Feel free to respond.

Thank You in Advance!

Segment 1: Certification

Interviewer's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date western (D-M-Y): _____

Segment 2: Identification

1. Questionnaire ID Number

2. Kebele (see the attached code sheet).....

Segment 3: household profile: socio demographic issues

1. Household head's Age:

2. Household head's Sex: (1=Male, 2=Female)

3. Religion: (1= Orthodox, 2= Muslim, 3=Catholic, 4=protestant, 5=others)

4. Ethnicity: (1= Amhara 2= Oromo 3=Tigre, 4=Gurage, 5= Others Specify)

5. Marital Status: (1= Single, 2= Married, 3=Divorced, 4=Widowed, 5=Separated)

6. What is the maximum grade level achieved by the household head?

(1= Illiterate, 2= Read and write, 3= Primary (1-8), 4=Secondary (9-12), 5=Diploma Holder,

6=First Degree Holder, 7= above MA/MSc

7. Household size (includes all that reside together)

How long have you (and your household) been living in Debre Markos?

<5 years, 2=5-10 years, 3= 10-15 years, 4=16-20, 5= >21)

Segment 4: Membership to local social organizations

Is your household member of 'Edir'? (1=yes, 2=no).....

Is your household member of 'Mahiber'? (1=yes, 2=no).....

Is your household member of 'Ekub'? (1= yes, 2= No)

How do you rate the strength of the relationship that exists in your neighborhood?

(1=very strong, 2=strong, 3= medium, 4=weak)

Segment 5: house and housing related facilities

Who is the owner of your housing unit?

(1=privately owned, 2=Rented from Kebele, 3= Rented from private owner,

4=others, specify _____?)

4. If you have rented the house, how much do you pay per month (in Birr)?

5. How many rooms does your house has?

6. What are the main construction materials of the house you live in?

(1= Wood with mud, 2=Blockets, 3= bricks, 4= (wood with mud and ashuha girf), 5=if

other specify _____

7. How long ago the house you live in was built?

8. Does your house have separate sleeping rooms? (1=Yes, 2=No).....

9. Does your house have separate dining room? (1=Yes, 2= No).....

10. What kind of kitchen does your house have?

(1=Private kitchen, 2= Shared kitchen, 3=Open space in the compound,

4=if other specify _____

11. What kind of toilet facility does your house have?

(1=Private Pit, 2=Shared pit, 3 =Public toilet, 4= Open space

5= if other specify _____

12. What kind of Bathing/Shower facility does your household use most?

(1= Private shower, 2=Shared shower, 3=Open space in the compound,

4 =Open space in the area of water source, 5=public bath (private & city administration),

6= if other specify _____

23. What is the main source of water for your household?

(1=Piped water, 2=if other specify _____

24. What kind of piped water services does your household consume currently?

(1=Tap inside the house, 2= private Tap in the compound, 3= shared Tap in the compound,

4=Tap outside the compound, 5=if other specify _____

Are you a subscriber of a fixed telephone line/mobile? (1= Yes, 2= No).....

Do you have your own-metered electricity? (1=Yes, 2= No)

For what purpose do you use?

(1= Lighting only, 2=Lighting and cooking, 3=Lighting, cooking and fridge

4=if other specify _____

Segment 5: Economic issues (income and employment)

3. What is the employment status of your household head?

(1=Self-employed, 2=Private Employee, 3= Government employee, 4=NGO employee,

5= unemployed, 6= if other specify _____

9. If "self- employed" Which type of own-account the household head engaged in? :

1= Petty-trade/*Gullit*, 2=Home-based enterprises (food, Beverage), 3= *Trade*,

= Handicraft (embroidery, pottery, Metal / Wood Work), 5=Hotel Service,

=if other specify _____

10. How many economically active unemployed individuals are there in your household?

11. The total annual income that all members of your household earn (in Birr)?

(1=<6000, 2=6001-12000, 3=1201-18000, 4=18001-24000,

5=24001-30000, 6=30001-36000, 7=>36001)

Have your household saving account? (1= No, 2=Yes).....

What is your way of saving?

(1=bank (including micro finance institutions), 2= Ekub, 3=cash at home)

pendix B:

erview guide for the key informant

ar informants, the main purpose of this interview questions is to gather information or data on
anism and general living conditions of Debre Markos town for the partial fulfillment of
ster's degree in sociology. Dear informants, you are expected to provide genuine, accurate
d balanced information for questions asked as the information is highly valuable for the
ccess of this study. Therefore, the researcher is very much grateful for the sacrifice you pay to
is end.

hank you in advance!

I. General information

Age _____ Sex _____ Marital Status _____

Level of Education _____

Position if any _____

II. Physical infrastructural situation of the town

4. Do you notice the phase and rate of urban spatial expansion in Debre Markos town?
5. How the recent spatial expansion of Debre Markos town looks like as a basic feature of urbanization? Probe for the expansion trend in years
6. Condominium housing units, how many condominium sites and houses are there in the town?

7. How many are the medical, educational facilities and banks/ credit institutions currently operating in the town?
8. How about the micro and small scale enterprise development of the town look like?
9. The housing condition of the town, probing about the construction materials, how old they have been and Housing related facilities
10. The environmental condition of the town, how the sanitation and waste management condition of the town looks like?

III. Socio-economic issues

11. The occupation and employment situation of residents of the town?
12. How about the business diversification (hotel, internet service, business centers and other commercial establishments in the town?
13. Can you tell me the recent Social and economic changes witnessed in the town?
14. Are there any significance problems regarding the rapid urbanization in this town? If yes, what kind of problems? Probe for Environmental problems, Infrastructure problem, Availability of affordable land for housing, Availability of affordable public housing etc.

IV. More information

1. If you may have more information ,please don't hesitate to state:

Appendix C:

Interview guide for selected residents of the town

For informants, the main purpose of this interview questions is to gather information or data on socio economic and housing situation of residents of Debre Markos Town for the partial fulfillment of master's degree in sociology. Dear informants, you are expected to provide genuine, accurate and balanced information for questions asked as the information is highly valuable for the success of this study. Therefore, the researcher is very much grateful for the sacrifice you pay to this end and the information gathered will be highly confidential.

Thank you in advance!

V. General information

Kebele _____

Age _____ Sex _____

Marital Status _____

Level of Education _____

Household size _____

VI. Income and employment situation

Are you employed?

How could you see your general living condition regarding your income and its compatibility with your needs and expenditures?

VII. Housing situation

Who is the owner of the house you live? If you rent it how much you pay monthly?

How old the house is, number of rooms, structure and quality of the house including the construction materials, access to basic facility of the house such as road, water, light, telephone shower?

VIII. Membership to local organizations and social ties

Are you member of local social organization (Ekub, Edir, Mahiber etc) if not why?

How do you see your relationship with them your neighbors?

Do you seek the support of your neighbors freely whenever you need in time of trouble, pleasure etc. why?

How do you see the celebrations in different ceremonies that you held together with your neighbors?

Do you think you have relationship of trust with your neighbors? How and why?

How do you see the general living condition in your neighborhood? Are you satisfied with the relationship you have with your neighbors? Why?

Appendix D: Observation checklist

This checklist is prepared to carry out observation on Debre Markos town to gather relevant information regarding its physical infrastructural conditions, the economic diversification and concentration of economic activities in the town.

Physical Infrastructural conditions of the town

- How the town is expanding horizontally
- Solid and liquid waste situation of the town.
- The type and condition of infrastructure services and utilities, such as common spaces road, water, street light etc.
- Service giving organizations (hotel, cafes and restaurants, internet cafes, business centers, recreational facilities/, banks/ credit societies)
- Educational institutions and the changes associated with their establishment.

Housing conditions

- The housing type
- Structural quality of housing, over-crowdedness, layout of settlements.

Economic condition

- How diversified the economic activities are, Formal and informality of economic activities and service giving organization and the extent of their concentration

Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my own original work that it has not been presented in any form in any other universities and all the sources and materials used in this thesis have been properly acknowledged.

Declared by:

Asahun Desyalew  29/03/07

The candidate

Signature

Date

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Veraswork Admassie _____

The advisor

Signature

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