Exploring the Reintegration Challenges of Irregular Migrant Men Returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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EXPLORING THE REINTEGRATION CHALLENGES OF IRREGULAR MIGRANT MEN RETURNEES FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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Abstract

This study was conducted with the purpose of exploring the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant men returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) focusing on deportees residing in Addis Ababa. The research used a qualitative cross-sectional method by employing the narrative approach which was aimed at capturing the lived and told reintegration stories of the participant returnees. Using the purposive and snowball sampling technique, the researcher managed to contact and interview eight KSA returnees and six key informants. The findings of the study indicated that the returnees were encountering numerous reintegration challenges. Among the challenges, the following were identified by the study as contributing factors for the economic reintegration challenges of the returnees: lack of employment opportunities, organizing excessive returnees in an enterprise, severe market problem of the sheds (business center) allocated, failure to fulfill infrastructures for the allocated sheds, procedural difficulty to access business start-up loan, inadequacy of the start-up loan repayment grace period, lengthy & non-responsive government bureaucracy, incoherent & inconsistent leadership, and on the other hand, declining family care & support, family and peer pressure, community misconception and self-imposed social isolation were pointed out by the study to constitute the social reintegration challenges. The study also unveiled that given the mounting economic reintegration challenge, the future plan of the returnees has highly tilted towards remigration via the risky channel. Finally, the participants of the study urged the government for swift intervention on the income earning problem, lack of employment, market problem of the allocated sheds, excessiveness of the size of members in a business, complexity of the loan access preconditions, gaps in honoring promises, absence of consistent government follow-up and the need to retract the indefinite government ban placed on the regular migration channel.

Keywords: Challenge, Ethiopia, Irregular Migrant, Reintegration, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Men, Returnee

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List of Acronyms

BOLSA - Bureau of Labor & Social Affairs

BOMSED - Bureau of Micro & Small Enterprises Development

FDRE - Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

FMSP - Forced Migration Studies Programme

GSI - Global Slavery Index

HDI - Human Development Index

ILO – International Labor Organization

ICHRP - International Council on Human Rights Policy

IOM – International Organization for Migration

KSA - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

MMTF - Mixed Migration Task Force

MOLSA - Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

MSF –Medecins Sans Frontieres

NGO– Non Governmental Organization

PCI - Project Concern International

PEAs - Private Employment Agencies

RMMS - Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

UN - United Nations

UNDESA- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDP - United Nations Development Program

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOCHA - United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

USAID- United States Aid for International Development

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

One way or another, migration is becoming the established way of life in the modern-day societies as more and more people are on the move this time than ever before. The estimates back in 2010 showed that around 214 million people or 3.1 percent of the entire population of the globe were international migrants (ICHRP, 2010, p. 11). According to the recent estimation released by UNDESA (2013) the figure of the international migrant population stock has escalated by 18 million from the earlier stated figure and reached 232 million (p. 1).

Africa as a continent has a share to take in this thriving world mass movement. To this end, studies uncovered that about 140 million people with African origin are known to reside outside of the continent (Shinn, 2008, as cited in Shimeles, 2010, p. 5). Migration is not a new phenomenon for the world rather it is as old as mankind which has been used by human beings as a channel for the continued search of better lives and wider opportunities (IOM, 2013, p. 23). The UN Population Division defines international migrant as a person who lives outside of his or her country of birth or citizenship for twelve months and beyond, irrespective of looking into the motive of migration and regardless of the legal status of the migrant in a foreign country (Martin, Abella, & Kuptsch, 2006, p. 3). As far as trend of international migration is concerned, in terms of hosting international migrants as a destination country, it is believed that in the year 2013 around 51% of the entire migrant populations of the globe were living in ten selected countries. Among the ten preferred migrant destinations, the USA ranked first by hosting 46 million international migrants and the Russian Federation came second by hosting 11 million and Germany came third by hosting 10 million and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took the fourth ranking by hosting 9 million international migrant populations (UNDESA, 2013, p. 5).

In the vast majority of cases, complex socio-economic factors are believed to convince a growing number of people to embark upon massive migration to the wealthy countries in search of better lives and in the course of realizing such cause, people may resort to irregular migration channels whenever the legal one is inaccessible (Ionescu, n.d., p. 211). According to Selamawit (2013), people originating from developing countries like Ethiopia prefer to resort to migration considering it as a proper channel via which they can fulfill their dream of securing better lives. She further added that, if not all, most of them end up in slave like situation where they could be exposed to various unspeakable abuses in the destination countries or at the hand of traffickers (p. 5).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Though the scale differs from country to country, migration is a common phenomenon for all countries around the globe. Likewise, Ethiopia is no exception. Among the various destination countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can be mentioned as one of the preferred destinations for Ethiopian migrants resorting to either the regular or the irregular migration channels. From Eastern African countries, Ethiopia is known to be the major supplier of migrant workers to Saudi Arabia (RMMS, 2014, p. 17). Only in the year 2012, in total around 200,000 Ethiopians have migrated via the regular labor migration channel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the striking figure comes here, the ILO Office in Addis Ababa estimates for the irregular migrations to be twice that of the figure mentioned for the regular migration (RMMS, 2014, p. 17).

Furthermore, the United States Department of State Trafficking in Persons report (2014) revealed that the migration which was conducted through the regular migration channel accounted only for 30 to 40 percent in the year 2012, the MOLSA officials estimated that the irregular migration, predominantly smuggling took 60 to 70 percent of the entire migrations in the stated

year until the indefinite travel ban came into effect (p. 171). In simple terms, around 300,000 to 350,000 of them were either smuggled or trafficked with the help of illegal brokers and private employment agencies (PEAs).

In most cases, these irregular migrants travel on land transiting ether via Djibouti or Somaliland and Puntland then boarding a boat across the Gulf of Aden or the Red Sea to Yemen, a country which serves as the last route in the exodus to reach Saudi Arabia (RMMS, 2014, p. 9). Recently, in an alleged effort to regularize the overall migration and also to give more employment opportunities for the young Saudi Arabians, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken strong measures against irregular migrant workers. Owing to the Saudi government's crackdown on undocumented or irregular migrant workers, until March 2014, in total around 163,018 Ethiopians were deported and of the entire deportees 100,688 were men, 53,732 were women and the remaining 8,598 were children (IOM, 2014, p. 1).

As one can simply understand from the above portrayed number of returnees, the number of men exceeded by far from that of the women returnees. Numerically, the number of men returnees was almost twice that of women returnees. This variation in number could possibly be associated with the higher tendency of men in resorting to the irregular and dangerous migration channels and in other words, the migration of most women was conducted via the regular migration paths (RMMS, 2014, p. 17).

In view of rebuilding the lives of returnees and so as to reduce the likely risks of remigration, intervention which is aimed at reintegration of returnees would be highly essential. As a matter of fact, the provision of consistent and comprehensive reintegration assistance could be so expensive and challenging; particularly, for poor countries like Ethiopia, where the magnitude of irregular migration is believed to be high. Surtees (2012) in general highlighted the

fact that efforts which are aimed at realizing meaningful reintegration would not be a simple and affordable endeavor to embark on (p. 3). But, numerous researches uncovered that considerable benefits can be drawn from comprehensive reintegration assistances which are tailored to the pressing needs of the returnees and mainly, which are aimed at ensuring economic independence for the returnees. According to IOM's (2010) study findings whenever irregular migrant returnees (mostly those smuggled or trafficked people) come back to the same socio-economic condition which had triggered their first migration situation in their country of origin, they may be prone to remigration, re-trafficking or re-victimization (p. 55).

In principle, providing adequate and meaningful reintegration assistance which would bring about the desired economic empowerment to the returnees could potentially deter and prevent the likelihood of remigration and re-victimization. Hence, as the vast majority of irregular migration to the Saudi Arabia was believed to be initially triggered by economic reasons, it would be a matter of necessity for the government to device effective ways of ensuring economic reintegration for the returnees. Unless the major precursor of the migration which is economic situation of the returnees is adequately addressed, it is highly plausible to witness the vicious cycle of risky migration, victimization and embarrassment to the image of the nation.

In view of successfully reintegrating the returnees and also to curtail the risks of irregular remigration, the government has taken certain concrete steps. In accordance with this, due to such unforeseen phenomenon and in response to the unprecedented level emergency deportation of Ethiopians and mass influx of citizens, the government has allotted 50 million Birr for the reintegration of the returnees (UNOCHA, 2013).

The worrying fact is that, despite the government's effort to reintegrate the returnees, a report by World Bulletin coating a border town police commander uncovered that a significant

number of Saudi Arabia returnees were captured while trying to cross the Ethiopian border in an attempt to re-migrate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia via Somaliland and Yemen ("Many Saudi-deported Ethiopians caught," 2014). This distressing scenario sparks curiosity of revealing the underlying cause of the remigration attempt. Hence, the reintegration challenges of returnees and the effect of the government's intervention which was aimed at ensuring successful reintegration of the returnees shall be the subject of further scrutiny in this research.

Given the fact that, men takes the highest percentage among the entire recent Saudi Arabia returnees, and owing to the apparent fact that men were among the highly neglected group of society at least in terms of being the subject of migration and trafficking related studies, the researcher on purpose, preferred to focus on the reintegration challenges of men migrant returnees. Although the suffering of migrant women was loudly pronounced on the world stage while entirely neglecting the continued plight of migrant men, research vividly uncovered that hundreds of thousands of men are victims of forced labor and sexual exploitation (Jones, 2010, p. 1146). As far as the existing Ethiopian context knowledge base is concerned, in spite of such empirical fact, men, who are in most cases even tempted and known for trying the highly terrifying routes of irregular migration, constituted the least researched groups in migration related studies. Although not at equal level with women, men migrants also face various kinds of unspeakable abuses and exploitations as irregular migrants in the destination countries. However, in spite of these facts, almost all irregular migration related researches which have been conducted on the Ethiopian aspect so far preferred to exclusively focus on women by unequivocally neglecting the other gender group (Abebaw, 2013; Asefach, 2012; Bahar, 2011; Beydoun, 2006; Elias, 2013; Hiwot, 2008; ILO, 2011; Meskerem, 2011; Selamawit, 2013; Yoseph, Mebratu & Belete, 2006).

As far as the topic of the research is concerned, the researcher has managed only to get very limited studies which have been done on the irregular migration of men focusing on the causes, consequences and experiences (Samuel, 2012; Kanko, Bailey & Teller, 2013). Moreover, the researcher's attempt to find context specific studies that have been done on the reintegration of migrant returnees in general and the reintegration challenges in particular turned out to be futile. Hence, due to such and such factors, the researcher has decided to undertake the research from the scratch entirely relying on the first-hand account of the returnees and extensive reviews of studies which were conducted in the context of reintegration of trafficking survivors in foreign countries.

1.3 Research Questions

The study tried to examine and answer the following research questions:

1. What kinds of reintegration assistances have been received by the KSA men returnees?
2. What are the major reintegration challenges as experienced by the KSA men returnees?
3. What is the future plan of the KSA men returnees?
4. What interventions are needed at all levels to adequately address the reintegration challenges of the KSA men returnees?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study generally aimed at uncovering the reintegration challenges of migrant men returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Under the auspices of the general objective, the study aimed at meeting the following specific objectives:

1. To pinpoint the kinds of reintegration assistance services that have been received by KSA men returnees.

2. To identify the major reintegration challenges as encountered by the KSA men returnees.
3. To uncover the future plans of the KSA men returnees?
4. To unveil the interventions needed at various levels in view of adequately addressing the reintegration challenges of the KSA men returnees.

1.5 Significance of the Study

As the study basically tries to illuminate on the least researched and overlooked area of reintegration of returnees, it would be of paramount importance in somehow filling the apparent knowledge and research gaps in the stated topic area. As far as the search of the researcher for literature is concerned, no research has dwelled on the reintegration of returnees in general and the reintegration challenges of men returnees in particular.

Given the apparent absence of study on the area in our context so far, in the researcher's opinion, this particular study would serve among others, as an input for policy formulation and implementation on the government side, as a reference to be consulted in the academic arena, as a gap indicating tool for the intervention of service providers already engaged or for those interested potential practitioners and at the same time, it would also serve as a stepping-stone for the much anticipated further studies on such least researched subjects.

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

The study mainly preferred to focus on exploring the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant returnees. Hence, in terms of conceptual scope, the study exclusively dealt with the reintegration challenges of migrant men, specifically focusing on the recent returnees who were forcefully evicted from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Due to the apparent neglect seen towards

men's migration issues, at least in terms of making them a subject of study at different levels, the researcher on purpose decided to exclusively concentrate on the reintegration challenges of migrant men returnees.

1.7 Motivation for the Study

Different factors may have contributed towards my decision in picking up this particular title to be my epicenter of attention. Among the numerous motivating factors, the following would be worth mentioning: In connection with the recent Saudi Arabian government's crackdown on irregular migrants workers in its country, a great deal of Ethiopians were abruptly deported to their home country, and according to IOM's (2014) report, among the entire deportees, around 163,018 of them were Ethiopians. Again, from the entire Ethiopian returnees, the report showed that over 60% or 100,688 of them were men.

Given, the excessively high number of men returnees and the apparent dearth of literature on both the issue of men's migration situation and the post-return reintegration process, I finally came to a decision to embark upon the study focusing on the reintegration challenges of migrant men returnees. Personally, I believe this study would somehow be an input for policy formulation at the government level and help in sensitizing those in the academic arena to embark on further studies.

1.8 Operational Definitions

Economic Reintegration: the process by which a migrant is reinstated into the economic system of his or her country of origin, and able to earn his or her own living (IOM, 2011, p.82).

Irregular Migrant: is a person who lacks legal status in a transit or host country. It refers to people who entered the territory of the state without authorization, as well as to those who entered the country legally and subsequently lost their permission to remain (ICHRP, 2010, p. 15).

Irregular Migration: movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries (IOM, 2011, p. 54).

Migration: the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State (IOM, 2011, p. 62).

Migrant: a person who is outside the territory of the state of which he is national or citizen, and is in the territory of another state regardless of how he crossed the border, or whether his stay in a transit or destination country is legal (ICHRP, 2010, p. 15).

Regular Migration: migration that occurs through recognized and authorized channels (IOM, 2011, p. 81).

Reintegration: re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or a process, e.g. of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence (IOM, 2011, p. 82).

Returnee: an irregular migrant who had stayed in the KSA and came back to his country of origin.

Return Migrant: Persons who return to his country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short term or long-term) and who is intending to stay in his own country for at least one year (UN, 1998).

Smuggling Migrant: the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident" (Article 3a, United Nations, 2000).

Social Reintegration: the reinsertion of a migrant into the social structures of his or her country of origin (IOM, 2011, p. 82).

Trafficked Person: one who is coerced to travel to another country for the purpose of exploitation (ICHRP, 2010, p. 16).

Chapter Two: Review of Literature

In the ensuing section of the study, an attempt shall be made to conduct extensive review of literatures. The chapter first tries to analyze the concept of migration and then proceeds to the concept of reintegration and finally, the chapter concludes by highlighting the previous studies conducted on the challenges of reintegration.

2.1 Conceptual Analysis:

In this particular sub-chapter the concept of irregular migration, the distinctions between regular and irregular migrations, the push and pull factors of irregular migration, the trends of migration, human smuggling, human trafficking, and finally, the distinctions between human smuggling and trafficking shall be discussed.

Irregular Migration Defined

Although irregular migration lacks any internationally accepted definition hitherto, the International Organization for Migration attempted to give definition for such an increasing exodus modality. According to IOM (2011) irregular migration is a kind of migration which is perceived by destination countries as the entry, stay or work in a country without having the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations, while from the perspective of the sending countries, the irregularity is when a person leaves the country without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country (p. 54).

Koser (2005) indicated that those who enter a given country without having proper authorization; people who stay longer in a country in breach of authority; those who moved in by

the help of smugglers or due to human trafficking and those who deliberately violate the asylum system shall be included in the irregular migration (p. 6).

An irregular migrant or otherwise known as a migrant in irregular situation is therefore 'a person who, owing to unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country' (IOM, 2011, p. 54). Thus, in the context of the above given definition, it is not only entering a country without authorization that constitutes the irregular situation upon a person, but also staying in the a country beyond the maximum time allowed in a visa may establish irregular migration, even if the entry has initially occurred through regular migration channels (ICHRP, 2010, p. 7). On the other hand, the IOM (2011) defined regular migration as a migration that takes place via the recognized, or authorized channels (p. 81).

Human Smuggling

For ease of understanding, it would be imperative to take a closer look at the definition of smuggling which is provided by the United Nations in the year 2000. The protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defined human smuggling in the ensuing manner:

> Smuggling of migrants shall mean the procurement, to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (Article 3 (a) of the UN Human Smuggling Protocol, 2000).

According to the UNODC (2011), the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol is aimed at making the act of smuggling of migrants a crime under international law targeting only the smugglers not the people who have been smuggled (p. 1).

In the course of proving the smuggling service, the smugglers may be required to engage in broader activities than the mere assistance in the border crossing. In this regard, as Heckmann (2007, as cited in UNODC, 2011) clearly pointed out, the smugglers may render wider services like physical transportation, illegal crossing of borders, and whenever there is a need procurement of forged or fake travel documents (p. 5).

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the most attention grabbing dysfunctions of the contemporary world. Though coining a universally accepted definition for the crime of human trafficking is a challenging task to undertake, the UN somehow managed to come up with a comprehensive international definition. Accordingly, in November 2000, the United Nations adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol). According to the United Nation's (UN) Palermo Protocol (2000), human trafficking is defined as follows:

> the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs (p. 2).

The above definition of the Trafficking Protocol, incorporates three separate elements: (i) an action (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons); (ii) a means

(threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or abuse of a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person); and (iii) a purpose which is obviously associated with the intended exploitation of the trafficked person. Similarly, in the same Protocol, exploitation is defined to comprise, at a minimum, exploitation of prostitution, other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs. All the above stated three elements of trafficking must exist with the exception of children in case of whom the second requirement is omitted (Anchinesh, 2009, p. 11).

Over twenty decades after the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade and more than six decades after the UN enacted that "slavery and slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms" still millions are living under slavery (Cullen-DuPont, 2009, p. 3). Basically, the origins of trafficking, which is termed the modern day slavery, can be traced back to the ancient practices of slavery and the slave trade (Iselin, 2003, as cited in Obokata, 2006, p. 1). Human trafficking is a contemporary form of slavery which encompasses exploitation of human beings in the most horrifying manner by misleading and convincing them to abandon their place of origin (Anchinesh, 2009, p. 1). According to Lee (2007) human trafficking is not a new phenomenon, rather it was considered as a form of trade which is believed to be "as old as trade itself" (p. 1). However, these days, human trafficking has emerged as the invisible vehicle of captivity taking people into slavery and from the trafficker's point of view akin to the slave-trader of the previous time, trafficked persons become simply a commodity which are fit for sale and resale, suitable for bondage, or other kinds of abuses (Beydoun, 2006, p. 2).

Although the scale of human trafficking is difficult to accurately quantify, the U.S. Department of State has estimated that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked

worldwide each year (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2013, p. 6). According to the estimates of the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are 12.3 million forced labor victims worldwide, of whom around 2.4 million were believed to be trafficked (ILO, 2008, p. 1). Globally, around 27 million people are living in a slave like condition (ILO, 2006, as cited in Smouse, 2010, p. 2).

In accordance with the estimation of the International Labor Organization, at minimum around 660,000 people are believed to be victims of forced labor in the sub-Saharan African countries (The World Bank, 2009, p. 14). The profits generated from the human trafficking is believed to be substantial. As a consequence of the thriving crime, in terms of trade proceeds among the integrated criminal business industry, human trafficking is placed in the third place only after trafficking in drugs and arms (PCI, 2010). According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC] (2008) globally around US$31.6 billion is earned in profit from the illicit trade of human beings (p. 96).

Although the magnitude differs from one nation to the other, no country is immune from the impacts of human trafficking. Likewise, Ethiopia, a country which is ranked 173 out of 187 countries in the UNDP's 2013 Human Development Index (HDI) report, is no exception. As per the Global Slavery Index (2013), in total from 620,000 to 680,000 Ethiopians are living under modern slavery both within and outside of the country. Moreover, Ethiopia is ranked fifth in the Global Slavery Index (GSI), after India, China, Pakistan, and Nigeria.

According to the United States Department of State Trafficking in Persons report (2013), Ethiopia is predominantly identified as a source country and to a lesser extent as destination and transit for men, women, and children mostly exposed to forced labor and sex trafficking (p. 165).

Distinctions between Human Trafficking and Smuggling

One can draw numerous concrete departures between the two confusing terms of trafficking and smuggling. The common denominator for both trafficking and smuggling might be the fact that both of then fall under the irregular migration channels. However, the UN Smuggling Protocol (2000), defined smuggling in the following manner depicting the underlying differences between trafficking and smuggling: smuggling of migrants shall mean the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (Article, 3a).

As far as Anchinesh's (2009) findings are concerned, unlike trafficking smuggling often involves the consent of the migrant to be smuggled or it is a consent based relationship lacking coercive power and deception and still in the case of smuggling, the relationship comes to an end once the migrant reaches the intended country of destination (p. 12). Unlike the case of smuggling, trafficking involves endless exploitation and abuse of victims meant for the satisfaction of the interest of the trafficker. The other departure point could be the fact that smuggling often involves transnational or border crossing movement of migrants whereas trafficking may occur either internally within the country of origin or crossing the border of the country of origin of the trafficked person (Obokata, 2006, p. 21).

Furthermore, as per Obokata's (2006) assertion, smuggling is often known for facilitating illicit passage whereas, trafficking may be arranged via legal and illegal passage manners into another country (p. 21). Still the other difference could be the fact that trafficking in most cases involves an exploitation element unlike that of smuggling (Obokata, 2005, p. 397, as cited in

Anchinesh, 2009, p. 12). Therefore, to draw a line between the two often confusing concepts, smuggling is always associated with the mere facilitation of unauthorized or irregular transit or passage across borders and on the other hand border crossing trafficking refers to the situation where people move into the coerced exploitative condition by the traffickers.

To further discern the two concepts, the motive of the smuggler and the trafficker could be taken into account, in this regard, the intent of the smuggler is to get financial return from the border crossing service he provides, whereas the motive of the trafficker in most cases is to secure financial benefit from any kind of exploitation of the person he is trafficking (Garrett & Mahoney, 2006, as cited in IOM & ACP Observatory on Migration, 2014, p. 9).

2.2 Push and Pull Factors for Irregular Migration

Various studies indicated that different push and pull factors play their role in leading people to resort into irregular migration channels. Most studies attribute economic reasons as the major precursor in people's decision to migrate at the outset. According to Tsehay (2003, as cited in Yoseph, Mebratu, & Belete, 2006) poverty, lack of employment opportunities, lack of social and economic prospects, and the search for better lives could be mentioned as the major pushing factors to irregular migration and trafficking likewise (p. 58). The GCMI (2005, as cited in IOM & ACP Observatory on Migration, 2014) pointed out that lack of an income to live on in the home country coupled with the lack of access to the regular migration options and the higher demand for low-priced labor in the destination countries are mainly fueling the irregular migration (p. 7).

The USAID (2013) further added factors influencing the supply side in the trafficking process which is part and parcel of irregular migration: fragile economy, lack of education, fragile rule of law, corruption, political harassment, human rights violations, discrimination, gender stratification, family disruptions (economic, or marital disruptions), family dysfunctions (caused

by drugs, alcohol, or violence), dislocation and displacements caused by civil unrest, conflict, disasters, and domestic violence, rampancy of traffickers, illegal brokers, greedy individuals and illegitimate employment agencies or recruiters among others could be cited (p. 40). Palitza (2006, as cited in Abebaw, 2013) pointed out the fast and uneven economic and political advancement, globalization and the accessibility of improved cross-border transportations altogether contributed for the global human trafficking extent to reach the unprecedented level (p. 23). Moreover, according to the USAID (2007, as cited in Samuel, 2012) in African context, poverty and lack of security have been the major pushing factors that resulted in an epidemic of trafficking throughout the continent (p. 15).

Factors on the demand side which may also be considered as the pulling factors could be: hiking demand from employers' side for cheap labor and unskilled laborer, the demand to fill low paying, dangerous, and less-regulated employment sectors (otherwise known as the 3-D jobs referring to *dirty*, *degrading*, and *dangerous* positions) which the citizens of the destination country would not dare to assume at all (ILO, 2011, p. 11).

According to Frescura (2006, as cited in Abebaw, 2013) the false promise for support and care, secure employment, nice accommodation, and a better prospect of life were among the common attraction techniques employed by brokers, smugglers and traffickers to convince and trap the vulnerable people who always aspire for better life (p. 24).

Likewise, Horwood (2009, as cited in Samuel, 2012) in his assessment undertaken on Ethiopians residing in the Republic of South Africa found out that among the entire interviewees 52% of them attributed their decision to leave their country of origin to unemployment and lack of promising opportunities (p. 16).

In accordance with the study conducted by Medecins Sans Frontiers [MSF] (2008, as cited in Samuel, 2012) the vast majority of Ethiopians who were residing in Yemen, the country which serves as the major route and the last stop for irregular migrants heading towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, indicated the lack of employment opportunity and economic hardship as the major precursor in their decision to depart from their country of origin (p. 16). In a nut shell, in Ethiopia, migration is becoming a highly thriving culture among the larger society. In support of this assertion De Haas (2006, as cited in RMMS, 2014) uncovered that "in Ethiopia migration is associated with personal, social and material success, where it becomes the norm rather than the exception, and where staying at home is associated with failure" (p. 20).

2.3 Trends of Irregular Migration

As demonstrated by previous researches, undertaking proper trend analysis on the irregular migration is an extremely difficult task to handle. Koser (2007) associated this trend analysis difficulty to the serious problem in obtaining accurate data and similarly, to the inherent conceptual challenge as the irregular migration encompasses different kinds of people existing in an irregular situation and besides, people in an irregular situation this time may switch to the regular shortly and vice versa (p. 57). Thereby, Koser took a stand that except the consensus reached on the fact that as the volume of international migrants widen, correspondingly the number of irregular migrants has also skyrocketed, no valid data which could properly reveal the trend of irregular migration may be acquired and even those available sources lack comprehensiveness (p. 58).

As per the UN's estimation, worldwide approximately 30 up to 40 million irregular migrants are believed to exist and the same amount is assumed to take from 15 to 20 percent of the entire international migrant population (ICHRP, 2010, p. 13). The International Centre on Migration Policy Development estimated that from 2.5 to 4 million irregular migrants cross

international borders on a yearly basis (Koser, 2007, p. 59). According to Koser at a national level, it is estimated that over 10 million irregular migrants reside in the United States of America alone and around 500,000 irregular migrants are added a year (pp. 58-59).

If we see the situation of irregular migration in the horn of Africa, around 107, 532 irregular migrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia heading to the Gulf states crossed the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea and reached Yemen in 2012 alone. The highly distressing reality could be the fact that from the stated figure, 78% of them were Ethiopian irregular migrants (RMMS, 2014, p. 9).

If we take a look at the historical account of migration in the Ethiopian context, normally migration in its all kind is not a new episode for Ethiopia, rather the country has been experiencing migration of its people throughout its extended history. Bariagaber (1999, as cited in Fransen & Kuschminder, 2009) pointed out the fact that, Ethiopia was identified as one of the highest source of international migrant populations most of whom were refugees in the continent up until the early of 1990s (p. 10). But it was only in the late 1960s and 1970s that the migration of civilian population considerably began to rise compared to the preceding time (Berhanu, Kassahun, Seid & Zekarias, as cited in Fransen & Kuschminder, 2009, p. 10). Similarly, the trend of irregular migration is not a new phenomenon for Ethiopia and some suggested that it dates back to the early 1990s. According to Campbell (2009) Ethiopians have been crossing the Gulf of Aden to Yemen in pursuit of reaching the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at least since the year 1991 (p. 8).

2.4 Reintegration of Returnees

In this particular section, the existing studies which have been conducted on reintegration aspect shall be briefly reviewed. It would be imperative to note that the researcher's attempt to consult studies which have been undertaken on the Ethiopian context yielded nothing. Due to the apparent dearth of context specific studies on the issue migrant returnees' reintegration, the

researcher was forced to carry on the study relying exclusively on the studies which were conducted in the foreign countries.

Reintegration Defined

When we speak about the reintegration process for migrant returnees specifically, we are referring to economic and social re-inclusion following the migration experience. This re-inclusion is normally multifaceted and expected to at least occur in social, cultural and economic arenas.

In the term reintegration, the prefix “re”, which comes in front of the word integration, basically connotes that the person under consideration was previously integrated and this time, the reintegration assistance is meant only to revive and bring back the previous situation (Brunovskis & Surtees, 2012, p. 19).

The IOM’s Glossary of Migration (2011a) defined the concept reintegration as “Re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or a process, e.g. of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence (p. 82). The UNHCR (2004) Handbook for Repatriation and Reintegration Activities defined reintegration as "the achievement of a sustainable return i.e. the ability of returnees to secure the political, economic and social conditions to maintain their life, livelihood and dignity" (p. 4).

The International Journal of Refugee Law (2001, as cited in the Asia Foundation, 2005) defined reintegration as “the process of inclusion and rebuilding relationships within a community in the country of origin at four levels: physical, socio-economic, socio-political, and cultural” (p. 20).

Kinds of Reintegration Assistance

Depending on the particular circumstances of the returnee, different kinds of reintegration assistances may be provided. In this regard, previous studies which were conducted from the point

of view of trafficking survivors have been reviewed. Accordingly, the major international legal instrument issued to combat Trafficking, which is the Palermo Protocol (2000) requires State parties of origin and of destination to consider implementing measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of trafficking victims. On similar account, the Palermo Protocol imposes the duty to avail the following reintegration assistances on governments being in cooperation with the Non-Governmental Organizations: Medical assistance, Psychological assistance, Legal assistance, Shelter, Rehabilitation, Skills training, Education, Language, and translation assistance (UNODC, 2008, pp. 352-353).

The handbook on direct assistance for victims of trafficking which is developed by IOM (2007) highlights the specific types of reintegration assistances which must be provided to trafficking survivors. Accordingly, medical or health care services, counseling, financial assistance, legal assistance, reinsertion into the education system, vocational training, micro-enterprise and income generating activities, job placement, wage subsidies, apprenticeship programmes, housing and accommodation, *inter alia,* are included as the specific types of reintegration assistance (IOM, 2007, p. 87).

IOM (2012) in its assessment report indicated that the Vietnamese government provides the following reintegration supports for the identified trafficking survivors: support for essential needs and traveling fees, medical support, temporary shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance, educational or vocational training assistance, loan facilitation and short term allowances meant to overcome financial difficulties (p. 22). IOM's assessment also revealed that international organizations are involved in the provision of reintegration support like counseling, education, legal aid, vocational training, and grants on the basis of individual reintegration plan. Normally, the reintegration plan contains options for education, vocational training, income

generation activities, and it is designed in such a way that trafficking survivors are supported to realize their self-set reintegration goals. (p. 23).

The IOM (2011) in its guideline for assisting victims of human trafficking in the east Africa region has identified the assistances that have to be provided. According to the guideline, at minimum the following assistances must be directly availed on the basis of individual needs and situations: the provision of shelter by the government's social welfare department, medical or health care services, psychosocial support, legal assistance, education and vocational trainings aimed at increasing the returnee's chances of gainful employment (pp. 29-32).

Economic Reintegration

As it has already been discussed in the preceding sections, reintegration of returnees may take place in different aspects. There could be economic reintegration, social reintegration, cultural reintegration and political reintegration. In the ensuing part, the researcher shall try to discuss the first and the principal precursor of irregular migration, which is the economic reintegration of returnees.

Given the fact that most people resort into irregular migration and become prone to abuse owing to their economic situation, it would be highly imperative to address the economic concerns of returnees so as to clear the cloud of remigration, re-victimization or re-trafficking. According to the IOM's (2011) definition, economic reintegration is the process by which a migrant is reinstated into the economic system of his or her country of origin, and able to earn his or her own living (p.82).

In the context of trafficking survivor returnees, Surtees (2012) claimed that the defining factor in a successful reintegration of trafficking survivors is access to a reasonable standard of living accompanied with opportunities for economic improvement as these factors were the

predominant precursors of migration (p. 11). Surtees further indicated that both the trafficking survivors and their families tend to place the economic condition at the forefront.

According to Surtees (2012) within the context of reintegration, economic empowerment is all about returnees equipping themselves with the skills, resources and confidence to economically support themselves and their families and, in the longer term, contributing to the economic well-being of their communities (p. 11). Surtees indicated that the typical integral components of economic empowerment program may incorporate vocational training, job placement, micro-enterprises or income-generating activities, business training and business start-up support (p. 11).

The IOM (2007) portrayed that the vocational training increases the likelihood of returnees to secure gainful employment opportunity if the training is tailored to the actual needs as identified in the initial reintegration plan of the returnee and relevant to the prevailing local context or job market condition (p. 98). IOM (2007) claimed that the existence of limited job opportunities in the country of origin was believed to be the major impetus for the vulnerability and irregular migration (p. 99). Pursuant to Surtees (2012) most trafficked persons give deep-seated consideration towards income generating activities such as micro & small enterprises which are believed to broaden the horizons of economic opportunities both during the aftermath of the trafficking situation and the long term reintegration endeavor (p. 11).

Previous Studies on Reintegration Challenges

In a nut shell, multifaceted features may account for challenges of reintegration. According to Surtees (2012) a number of factors could be considered as impediments to reintegration, among which mainly the economic, social, cultural and political factors of the country where the reintegration activity is undertaken may assume the front position (p. 3). Hence, in this particular

section an attempt shall be made to shed light on the challenges of reintegration as pointed out by various previous studies.

As far as the push factors for irregular migration are concerned, different studies confirmed that economic reasons are placed at the forefront in leading people towards migration (Kanko, Bailey, & Teller, 2013; Abebaw, 2013; ILO, 2013; Samuel, 2012). Thus, in order to ensure successful reintegration, returnees who had been forced to migrate initially due to economic problems should be able come back to an improved economic situation in their country of origin. In line with this, most of the underneath discussed studies gave special emphasis to the economic challenges encountered by the returnees in their reintegration endeavors.

Tukhashvili (2013) conducted a study which was aimed at finding out the socio-economic problems of returning migrant's reintegration in Georgia. In the study, the researcher indicated that among others the economic and social challenges to which the returnees came back in their country of origin affected the likelihood of having successful reintegration and many of them could not find employment or employed in unfair working conditions. Furthermore, the researcher uncovered the greater possibility of witnessing remigration of the returnees who have faced reintegration challenges.

Setrana & Tonah (2014) attempted to study the nature of migrants' return to Kumasi in Ghana and the challenges of reintegration encountered. The study indicated that migrant returnees faced numerous challenges, inter alia, difficulty to find accommodation, employment opportunities, the challenge to re-establish contact with former colleagues or friends, the challenge to meet the high and unrealistic expectations of extended family members, the lengthy bureaucracy and poor work ethics at government offices, and difficulty in adjusting to the poor infrastructural facilities.

Kato (2007) studied the reintegration of Thai Female returnees having children from Japan. In this study the researcher tried to qualitatively analyze the overall reintegration process and challenges of returnees based on the case studies of women returnees in the Chang Rai province of Thailand. The study indicated that the returnees faced numerous reintegration challenges mostly attributed to lack of skills, and absence of any socio-economic assistance in the province. In her research, Kato uncovered the extra-burden expected of those returnees who came back having children in the course of the reintegration process than women returnees without children. The research indicated the fact that the women returnees at the outset was forced to decide to return due to their pregnancy to their Japanese partner while they were in Japan. Owing to their illegal residence status in Japan, they were not eligible to access the benefits of the country's health care system which triggered them to return to their country of origin. Finally, the research shown that none of the women returnees who came back having children managed to get secure employment opportunities in Thailand and some of them left to live on the money sent to them from their Japanese partners and former husbands. Still, these groups of returnees were in a better position for reintegration than women returnees with children having no remittances and identified husbands in Japan.

Surtees (2012) tried to identify the following as the major challenges and factors influencing the outcomes of the economic empowerment initiatives: individual attributes and capacities, family situation and dynamics, the broader social environment, the general economic situation, and other needs impacting reintegration success (p. 13).

Chaulagai (2009) studied the Nepalese trafficked women's experiences and perception of their reintegration. He conducted a qualitative exploratory study aimed at finding out the major hurdles underlying in the reintegration of trafficking survivors back to their community of origin

in Nepal. In the course of conducting the study, the researcher gathered data via 18 in-depth interviews and six focus group discussions with actual trafficking survivors and key informant interviews from some NGOs. The study revealed that the stigma coming from the local community and the surrounding family members against the trafficking survivors was the principal stumbling block for the reintegration process due to the fact that the indigenous community considered survivors as "loose women, community polluters, and destroyers of social prestige and blamed them for being prospective traffickers." The study further indicated that the self-stigmatization of the trafficking survivors was also the other contributing factor impeding the overall efficacy of the reintegration process. The study pointed out that working towards the realization of economic independence for survivors would be highly beneficial and a crucial step in making the overall reintegration process a worthy endeavor to undertake.

Adhikari (2011) attempted to investigate the reintegration challenges and experiences of women returnees employing self-identity, social stigma, and empowerment as the guiding social theories. The findings indicated that domestic violence, sexual and verbal abuses, inadequate and inconsistent income source made the reintegration process so bumpy. As well, the negative attitude or stereotype originating from the community and enduring stigmatization have not only resulted in disempowerment and unsuccessful reintegration, but further brought to the survivors a feeling of shame, humiliation, and disgrace.

Wolters (2011) tried to identify social or communal stigmatization or rejection, gender, exploitation and double standards as the major social problems and limitations that trafficked persons encountered in the course of the reintegration process. Besides, the researcher pointed out legal factors, economic factors, the emotional state of the trafficking survivor, religion, personal social inclusion as the factors influencing the survivor's successful reintegration.

Rosy (2013) studied the reintegration experiences and challenges of Bangladeshi women trafficking survivors. The researcher tried to explore the reintegration challenges and perceptions of women returnees who had brothel or prostitution experiences in the destination countries. The study consisted of 12 in-depth interviews with the trafficking survivors, two focus group discussions with local community members, with parents of survivors and other key informants. The empowerment and stigma theories were used in the course of analyzing the data. Self-stigmatization of survivors, psychological traumatization, lack of empowerment facilities and rampant poverty, and community stigma against survivors were identified to be the challenges of reintegration and the researcher finally recommended for the introduction of sustainable income generating programmes in view of reintegrating returnees successfully and hindering the risk of re-trafficking and re-victimization of the trafficking survivors.

Chapter Three: Methodology

3.1 Research Design

Qualitative research design was used in the course of undertaking this research. As Royse (2004, as cited in Abebaw, 2013, p. 67) indicated, qualitative research paradigm is suitable to acquire thorough and rich comprehension of the subject matter to be investigated. In line with this theoretical assertion, this study employed a qualitative cross-sectional methodological approach in view of exploring the lived reintegration challenges of irregular migrant returnees in greater depth and to let research participant returnees express their views in broader terms.

According to Creswell (2003) a qualitative research paradigm is best suited to understand a concept or phenomenon about which little research had been conducted (p. 23). By the same token, a qualitative approach was preferred and adopted for this particular study due to the fact that the subject was not well researched before mainly in the Ethiopian context.

Creswell (2007) asserted that narrative approach is suitable to explore the in-depth life experiences of individuals (p. 55). Likewise, this research specifically employed the narrative approach owing to the fact that the subject matter is a least researched and the researcher wanted to unveil the detailed stories of the reintegration challenges as experienced by the returnees.

3.2 Research Participants

The major research participants were irregular migrant men returnees who had been forcefully evicted from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Besides, in view of triangulating the data obtained from the returnees and in order to ensure further validation for the upcoming findings of the research, key informants from the Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs (MOLSA), the Addis Ababa City Government Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSA) and the Bureau of Micro

and Small Enterprises Development (BOMSED) and the Addis Credit and Finance S.C. were included in the research. In accordance with the information obtained from various sources, these organizations have actively participated in the reintegration assistance provision for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia returnees residing in Addis Ababa and that was the reason behind their inclusion in the study.

As far as the size of the research participant was concerned, in this particular research, in total eight returnees were included as research participants.

3.3 Inclusion Criteria

The research participants were selected purposively taking into account the participants' relevance towards meeting the objective of the research. Each of the research participant's inclusion was decided after having met the whole inclusion criteria set in the research. The following inclusion criteria were deployed in the course of selecting the research participants:

- ✓ Migrant Saudi Arabia Returnee who was amongst the recent mass deportees.
- ✓ The returnee must be male.
- ✓ A returnee of an age 18 and beyond.
- ✓ A returnee who had stayed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at least for one year.
- ✓ A returnee who was living in Addis Ababa at the time of his participation in this particular research.
- ✓ Above all, the participants took part in the study voluntarily and based on their informed decisions to be part of the research and share their lived post-return reintegration experiences.

Moreover, the inclusion of the key informants was determined, inter alia, based on their free consent, institutional mandate, and relevance of the official position, expertise and familiarity with the subject matter under consideration.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

As the principal focus of the research was to uncover the reintegration challenges of the returnees, it was a must to reach out the actual returnees who could properly meet the inclusion criteria. Accessing and getting in touch with returnees was very challenging, for that the researcher used the referral of returnees which is an appropriate strategy depicted in the snowball sampling technique. Alston and Bowles (2003) asserted that snowball sampling technique is best suited for accessing those participants who may meet the inclusion criteria, but difficult to reach out (p. 90).

Kreuger and Neuman (2006) pointed out that snowball sampling is an appropriate method for identifying and sampling the cases which are found in a network (p. 212). Hence, snowball sampling was employed in the research and it yielded the intended result by paving the way to access the proper research participants.

3.5 Data Collection Tools

Among the numerous data collection tools, this particular study employed in-depth semi-structured interview in view of acquiring a detailed account of the lived reintegration experiences of the returnees.

Key informant interview (KII) was used to interview pertinent personnel from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), the Addis Ababa City Government Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSA), Bureau of Micro and Small Enterprises Development (BOMSED), and Addis Credit and Finance Share Company.

Subject to the participants' consent, an audio recorder was used to record the interview sessions. In advance, interview guides were developed and used for both the semi-structured and key informant interviews in view of systematizing the data collection process.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

The whole data collection process underwent the following procedures and processes. First, based on the indications of the initial informal assessment undertaken, the appropriate governmental organizations which have taken part in the reintegration of Saudi Arabia returnees were selected. Then, an official cooperation requesting letter from the Addis Ababa University School of Social Work was formally submitted to the selected organizations. The whole purpose and objective and as well the inclusion criteria to be employed against the participants of the study were duly communicated to the BOLSA. Then, through the support of the key informant at BOLSA, the researcher managed to get in touch with one returnee who has taken reintegration assistance from the city government of Addis Ababa. Through the first returnee's referral, the researcher managed to contact the other returnee and the referral went on until the data saturation emerged.

Prior to embarking on the actual data collection, the ethical considerations to be strictly adhered by the researcher both in the course of conducting the entire study and in the process of the data collection were informed to the potential study participants. Returnees who volunteered to participate corroborated their consent by signing the annexed consent form. Only those returnees who gave their informed consent to take part in the study were interviewed. The right of those returnees who were approached, but declined to take part in the study were duly recognized and afforded full freedom to withdraw. This way, among the whole KSA returnees contacted by the researcher, the decision of two returnees not to take part in the study was respected by the researcher.

Then, the intended in-depth semi-structured interview was conducted with returnees and also key informant interview was held with pertinent key informants who volunteered to participate in the study by affording due emphasis to the ethical requirements. The whole data collection was undertaken by the researcher himself in the period between August 15 and September 2, 2014.

3.7 Data Analysis

As it is rightly pointed out by Kreuger and Neuman (2006) in qualitative research method, the fact that the data analysis may begin at the time of the data collection could be among the many points of departure between the quantitative and qualitative research methods (p. 435). On similar account, in this particular study, the data analysis was started right at the time of the data collection process.

As an initial step of the data analysis endeavor, all recorded data including the non-verbal and emotional expressions of the interviewees were transcribed verbatim and translated into English. In view of adequately comprehending the collected data, all the transcription process was conducted by the researcher himself. The transcribed data was read several times by the researcher so as to broaden the understanding on the respective contents of the data.

According to Morse and Filed (1995, as cited in Abebaw, 2013) the thematic analysis is well suited for conducting a qualitative research (p. 89). Accordingly, the researcher employed the thematic analysis in the course of analyzing the data in this research. As far as the purpose of thematic analysis is concerned, it mainly serves to sort out data patterns or themes appearing in various cases.

In view of systematically organizing the collected unrefined data into conceptual categories and themes, the researcher used the coding system which is a fundamental part of the data analysis

(Kreuger & Neuman, 2006, p. 436). From the transcribed data, in total 429 codes were extracted as part of the open coding process (see appendix F). In the next data analysis endeavor, 42 codes or themes were developed in the axial coding (see appendix G) and finally, as part of the selective coding process, 6 major theme categories namely pre-migration experiences, migration experiences, post-return reintegration assistances, reintegration challenges, future plan and suggested interventions were constituted. The core subject of the study, which is the reintegration challenges, have 5 theme sub-categories namely economic challenges, challenges associated with start-up loan, challenges associated with formation of micro-enterprises, challenges associated with government bureaucracy and social challenges (see appendix H).

Then, codes were assigned for the data collected in accordance with the predefined thematic areas of the study. Finally, the collected data, the theories, the consulted literatures, researchers' reflection cumulatively analyzed and brought about the whole research.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The data collection was carried out strictly being in line with research ethical principles that, *inter alia*, included the following:

- ✓ Adequate information and explanation were given to all participants about the whole purpose and intent of the study, actual and potential benefit of the research;
- ✓ The informed consent of each of the participants was secured prior to engaging the participants in the research;
- ✓ All participants were informed that they had the right not to take part or withdraw from the research at any stage without any implied deprivation or penalty for their withdrawal action;

- ✓ All participants were duly informed on their right to anonymity and confidentiality of the personal information they give during the interview and the fact that the information they give shall be recorded by sound recorder and pseudonyms shall be used to refer to the data of specific participants, and not actual names;
- ✓ The potential participants were duly informed about the utmost care to be taken in keeping the recorded and written information;
- ✓ Participants were informed that they had the right to be notified of the ultimate research findings.

3.9 Limitations of the Study

Dearth of related studies that have been conducted in the Ethiopian context so far on the subject under consideration limited the possibility of validating this particular research against previous researches conducted.

Owing to the resource and time constraint, the study was not conducted on a wider scale, particularly by giving prime focus to the parts of the country where most Saudi Arabia returnees originate from.

Chapter Four: Findings

This particular chapter commences with the brief portrayal of the research participants' profile and also brings into light the pre-migration experiences, and the migration experiences in the context of the participant returnees. The next section of the same chapter deals with the post-return reintegration assistances, and the reintegration challenges as experienced by the participant returnees.

The final part of the chapter concentrates on highlighting the future plan of the returnees and the possible interventions suggested by the participant returnees.

4.1 Profile Description of Research Participants

In an attempt to explore the lived reintegration challenges of returnees, in total eight men Saudi Arabia returnees residing in Addis Ababa were interviewed in this study. In this section, the demographic account of the research participant returnees shall be briefly brought into light.

As far as the age of the participants is concerned, their age range falls between 24 and 29. In other words, all the research participant returnees were in the young age group.

Pertaining to religious make up, from the entire research participant returnees, only one is Muslim while all the remaining are categorized under the religion of Christianity.

In terms of marital status, of the entire participants, only three returnees are married and have one child each. In terms of educational status, only two returnees managed to reach 12th grade or completed high school while three of them reached 10th grade, one proceeded up to 8th grade and the rest two only managed to proceed up to 6th and 5th grades.

Table 1: Summary of the Participant Returnee's Profile

Pseudonym	Age	Religion	Marital Status	Number of Children	Educational Status
Kebede	28	Christian	Single	N/A	10th Grade
Abebe	27	Christian	Single	N/A	12th Complete
Fekadu	27	Christian	Single	N/A	6th Grade
Eyoel	24	Christian	Single	N/A	10th Grade
Yared	27	Christian	Single	N/A	5th Grade
Shimelis	28	Christian	Married	1	12th Complete
Abel	26	Christian	Married	1	10th Grade
Jemal	28	Muslim	Married	1	8th Grade

4.2 Pre-Migration Experiences

As a matter of fact, different underlying factors may lead people towards migration. In the context at hand, the research participant returnees in their entirety confirmed that they were forced to resort into migration due to the economic problem they had been undergoing here in their country of origin.

All the participants verified that they had left their country with the dream to change their lives for the better and with the hope of supporting their families back in their home country. Hence, in a nut shell, although economic problem took the leading position of the underlying reasons of the migration, *inter alia,* unemployment, search for better lives, lack of opportunities and poverty were the predominant precursors of the migration as it has been indicated by the participant KSA returnees.

For instance, prior to resorting into migration, Jemal and Yared had tried their best to succeed in their educational endeavor and get employment here. But, things did not go their way and being frustrated with the unfortunate situation they had been confronted with, they were convinced to try migration to the KSA via the illegal and the highly dangerous migration route in search of better lives both for their own and for their respective families.

4.3 Migration Experiences

As far as the migration experience of the participants is concerned, returnees had encountered multifaceted challenges in the course of their exodus to the KSA. First, in terms of mode of travel and the migration channel used, all participant returnees testified that they traveled on boat, crossing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. All the participants had used the common route of migration, they first crossed the Ethiopian border and entered Djibouti and then to Yemen on boat and finally, reached the intended destination country which was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the migration, the participants revealed that they paid on average between 1000 and 2000 USD for the entire journey. On journey, some of them were detained by the Yemeni security forces and also others worked along the way to cover their travel expenses.

Moreover, the participant returnees unveiled that they had no travel documents and passports whenever they migrated to the KSA and correspondingly, all of them used or resorted into the irregular migration channel.

With respect to the length of stay in the destination country, research participant returnees managed to stay in the KSA between the range of 2 and 9 years.

In relation to the kind of work they used to engage in the KSA, the lion's share of them had been working as a daily laborer through difficult working conditions by hiding from the Saudi Arabian security forces as they were undocumented migrant workers.

With regard to the payment, participants used to earn between 1,000 and 3,000 Saudi Riyal which was almost from 5,000 up to 15,000 ETB a month as a salary and the vast majority of the participants were getting 5,000 ETB or 1,000 Saudi Riyal.

4.4 Post-Return Reintegration Assistances

Normally, post-return reintegration assistances may be of different kinds. In the context of this particular research, following the Saudi Arabian government's crackdown on the irregular migrants nearly over one hundred sixty thousand Ethiopians were evicted forcefully and most of these returnees have received various rehabilitation and reintegration assistances.

The assistances were provided by the government, non-governmental organizations and international intergovernmental organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other stakeholders. During the start of the mass eviction, the government of Ethiopia has allotted a considerable amount of budget and availed various assistances for the returnees.

As the exclusive focus of this study was to highlight the case of returnees residing in Addis Ababa, the data obtained from the key informant at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) revealed that, from the entire returnees around 3,274 of them were identified to be returnees of the Addis Ababa city.

According to the key informant at the Addis Ababa City's Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSA), although the mass deportation of citizens was not anticipated ahead of time, the FDRE Government and the City Government of Addis Ababa allotted significant budget which was aimed at ensuring successful reunification and reintegration of Saudi Arabia returnees in their country of origin. Among others, official welcoming ceremony was held at the Bole international airport, seven days psychological training aimed at bringing attitudinal change on returnees was offered, skill trainings on various income generating business or vocational fields were given based

on the interest of individual returnees, organizing and engaging returnees through micro & small enterprises, startup loan facilitation from Addis credit and finance institution and availing of working Sheds or business centers for organized returnees could be mentioned as the major interventions of the city government.

On similar account, the key informant at MOLSA testified on his part that despite the fact that the Saudi Arabian government's mass eviction was an emergency phenomenon, the government of Ethiopia has done all things possible to warmly receive, resettle and reintegrate the returnees at their specific place of origin. As part of the reintegration endeavor, the government facilitated and offered: psychosocial, entrepreneurial and various skill trainings. On similar account, returnees have been organized via micro & small enterprises, received startup loans from micro finances and have started to generate their own income. Besides, those returnees who had been government employees at various levels prior to their migration to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were given the unconditional re-employment opportunities in their previous position at their respective regional states. According to the key informant, as a whole, the kinds of the reintegration assistances that have been provided to returnees may differ from one regional state to the other and he associated the variations of the assistances mainly to the level of utilizable resources available at the time.

By the same token, all the participant returnees have appreciated the government's and other non-governmental stakeholder's initiative for the warm welcoming they were given upon their arrival and the reintegration assistances that have been provided to them. Besides, the entire participant returnees verified that they had received the short term reintegration assistances and still, most of them also stated that they have been receiving long term reintegration assistances from the government. In this regard, amongst the research participant returnees, Fekadu's post-return experiences could be worth noting here. Like any other returnees, as part of the short-term

reintegration assistance, Fekadu had received a week long psychological training, he was given $50.00 which was around 900 Ethiopian birr for transportation from the IOM Office in Addis Ababa, and as part of the long term reintegration assistances, he received: skill training in Food Preparation which was his area of interest and also exactly a field that he used to engage in while he was in the KSA, moreover, he was offered the chance to sit for COC exam in which he managed to pass, he has also got the opportunity to be organized in micro & small enterprises to involve in the field he received skill training on, being together with other returnees and also got startup loan facilities from the micro finance known to be Addis Credit and Saving S.C.

As per the data obtained from BOLSA, the returnees had received the skill trainings at six technical and vocational institutions identified for the training at the time. Besides, based on the interest of the returnees, the skill trainings were offered in the fields of Construction Technology, Industrial Technology, Textile & Garment, Hotel & Tourism, Modern Trading, Urban Agriculture, and Municipal Services. Moreover, the data has shown that each of the stated fields had various sub-fields of specializations.

Among the KSA returnees of the city, the data obtained from BOLSA and the Bureau of Micro & Small Enterprises Development (BOMSED) indicated that, skill trainings were offered for around 1629 returnees in various vocational and business fields. The same data further uncovered that, as of July 7 of the year 2014 (which was the budget closing date of the 2006 budget year of the Ethiopian calendar), around 1272 of them have been organized in 291 different small enterprises and have already started business after having received working places or sheds. Among those returnees who have received the skill trainings, around 357 of them have not yet started business due to various reasons.

4.5 Reintegration Challenges

In this part of the finding's chapter, the post-return reintegration challenges that have been encountered by the participant returnees, which is basically the central focus area of the whole study shall be illuminated. In the normal course of things, migrant returnees may encounter numerous challenges in the course of reintegrating themselves back into the community and the way of lives they had left behind. The reintegration challenges could be manifested through multifaceted forms. Among the various challenges, the returnees of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have faced the following major reintegration challenges:

4.5.1 Economic Challenge

As per the confirmation of the participant returnees, if not the worst, they came back to the same economic situation which they had left previously. In accordance with the claim of all research participant returnees, even after their return, in spite of the government's support, the economic challenge which had led them to the migration in the first place still has continued to hamper their attempt to successfully reintegrate.

In the course of post-return reintegration endeavor, the following points were indicated by the participant returnees as the major factors which were contributing to their economic challenges.

Difficulty to Earn Sustainable Income*:* Within the context of the economic challenge, all participant returnees pointed out that the failure to generate adequate and sustainable income to live on has affected their likelihood of successful reintegration to a greater extent. In the opinion of the participant returnees, all the other problems being encountered in the reintegration effort are the derivative of the lack of income which is the source of all the other consequential challenges.

Those returnees who have been organized and started business indicated the fact that the vast majority of the incomes generated by their business goes to the repayment of the start-up loan

and due to this they could not get an income to live on. Most of them testified that this time they are living by expending the money they have brought back from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Some of them asserted that they are living on the irregular financial support they are getting from the family members and friends here and back in the KSA.

Some of them attributed their failure to get regular and adequate personal income to the fact that they gave priority to the repayment of the loan they have received as a startup capital from the micro-finances. Here, Kebede's lived experience would be worth considering, according to his assertion, after getting skill training in food preparation, he started a cafe and restaurant business being organized with ten other returnees after having secured one hundred thousand birr as a startup loan from the Addis Credit and Finance S.C. But, as per the loan procedure's requirement, they are supposed to regularly pay 5,000.00 (five thousand birr) as a loan repayment every month. But, in the end, after having discharged the challenging loan repayment commitment, they may share from 200 up to a maximum of 400 hundred birr per month if there is any remaining sum to be shared among the members. However, as per his claim, this negligible income could not be in any way sufficient to live on and in most cases, he is using the money for transportation to and from the cafe on a daily basis and no more.

Participant returnees raised various contributory factors for the economic challenge they have been facing and particularly, to their failure to generate income meant for their survival. The major factors as indicated by returnees are discussed underneath:

Inability to Get Employment with the Skill Training*:* Participants indicated that the skill training that was organized and offered by the government was not as such sufficient to access and compete for other job opportunities. Although certificates were awarded by the government, the various skill trainings delivered at the time was too brief which only stayed for 21 days.

However, with such short term vocational and business trainings, some of the returnees faced difficulty to apply and get alternative employment opportunities. At this juncture, the lived experience in Jemal's own words would properly elucidate the challenge further:

> With the hope of getting employment opportunity, I applied at one of the big hotels in Addis Ababa with the certificate awarded to me upon the successful accomplishment of the 21 days food preparation & beverages skill training offered by the government at Nefas Silk General Vocational Institution. But, unfortunately the manager of the hotel laughed at me and dashed my hope by saying that you should not expect employment opportunity with such a very short training certificate as there are a lot of highly qualified people who are competing in the field having attended above three and four years University level training.

Similarly, Eyoel had received the 21 days long training in the Women's Hairdressing which was the sub-field of Modern Trading Works. However, Eyoel was not satisfied with the training and did not manage to get the necessary knowhow which could convince him to immediately start working in the field. In his own words he expressed that:

> Normally, it would be difficult to master the hair dressing skill in a short time and particularly, for learning women's hair dressing in a short time is very difficult. One may learn the skill of men's hear dressing or barber's skill in 21 days but not women's hairdressing.

Thus, due to the skill training's lack of depth, he was forced to attend additional and broader women's hairdressing skill training on his own initiation paying 1200 ETB a month for five months.

Challenges Associated with Business Start-up Loan:

Difficulty to Access Startup Loan*:* As highlighted by the participant returnees, access for start-up loans is vital in an attempt to successfully reintegrate and ensure the economic independence of the returnees. As it has been illuminated in the preceding sections, the predominant precursor or push factor for the migration was the strong economic improvement aspirations of the migrants. Hence, the opportunity to generate income is the major epicenter of intervention sought particularly, in relation to those economic migrants. After having successfully completed the skill trainings delivered by the government some of the participant returnees indicated the challenges they came across in accessing micro enterprise start-up loans.

Normally, the KSA returnees' attempt to establish their own micro & small businesses could not be realized unless start-up loan accesses are facilitated. Some of the normal credit procedures and requirements of the micro-finances could be somehow complex to be fully met by the returnees. Although some of the regular procedures were promised by city government officials to be relaxed in view of tailoring the same to the specific context of returnees, it has remained to be a challenge for returnees like Yared and Abel to access the startup loan which they desperately needed to setup and run their own businesses. Yared's real encounter would be worth mentioning at this juncture, at first, Yared was asked to present a personal guarantee or surety who earns a salary of five thousand birr a month to access the startup loan. But, he did not get a person who was willing to be his guarantee for the loan. After sometime, he attempted to get the loan by presenting a title deed of a vehicle, but still he could not get the loan he hoped for. Finally, due to

the insurmountable challenge he had encountered to setup his own business in his home country, he was forced to irregularly re-migrate to the KSA for the second time. Unfortunately, after staying only for fifteen days in KSA, he was re-deported and again after the second time deportation, he has been trying to secure the start-up loan.

Likewise, it would be sensible to point out what Abel has faced in this regard in his own words:

> I was asked a personal guarantee to access startup loan and I could not get a person who could be a surety for the loan. I tried to access the loan via reciprocal surety-ship with my colleague involved in another business, but they declined to allow me claiming that the two trade licenses were not similar and this scheme could only be allowed for applicants whose trade license are issued on the same business category. Hence, I could not start the business and earn a living for the last seven and more months.

Shimelis has also encountered similar problem in his endeavor to secure the startup loan, like others he was required to present a permanent employee as a personal surety or a person who could be a guarantee through handing over his house's title deed. By referring to his specific context, Shimelis asked that "who could do that for an unfortunate deportee like me?”

In an attempt to get the standpoint of the micro credit institution, I managed to raise the challenges indicated by the returnees in accessing the startup loans. Accordingly, the key informants at the Addis Credit and Saving S.C. have stated that the loan request of the Saudi Arabia Returnees were treated through the regular credit procedure and categorically refuted the claim that special credit procedures were promised by the institution to be implemented in relation to the

case of KSA returnees. As per the same source, no special treatment has been given to the returnees other than the mere priority given to them in terms of getting prompt response for their loan request after having fulfilled all the regular loan access preconditions.

Inadequacy of the Loan Repayment Grace Period*:* The participant returnees who have been organized in micro-enterprises and those who have managed to receive the startup loan claimed that they were forced to start the repayment of the loan immediately without getting adequate grace period at least until their business begins to generate sufficient income for the repayment. In the normal course of things newly established businesses could not generate sufficient income like other businesses that stayed longer in the business. But, in clear breach of this convincing fact, Kebede and his colleague in the cafe and restaurant business were forced to start the monthly repayment of 5,000 (five thousand birr) just at the time exactly when they started the business without getting any grace period at all.

Abebe has also faced similar challenge in the repayment of the business start-up loan debts, which did not have an adequate grace period. He and his friends in the same business are currently paying 4,000 birr on a monthly basis as part of the loan repayment. According to Abebe, had they not been forced to start the loan repayment immediately, they would have managed to be in a better financial position now and be able to fulfill all the necessary capital items for their restaurant.

Inability to Get Interest Free Start-up Loan*:* by referring to the promises made by the officials of the city government at the time of their return, some of the participant returnees raised the failure of the micro finance institution to provide interest free loan as a major gap which exacerbated their economic reintegration challenges.

In connection to the case in point, I communicated the issue to the key informants at the Addis Credit and Finance S.C. and accordingly, the key informants dismissed the claim of the

returnees stating the fact that their institution could not have any legal ground to advance interest free loans as it is being governed by the directive of the National Bank of Ethiopia. Furthermore, the key informants have made a clear stand by reiterating that the returnees shall only access loan based on the regular interest rate, which is 10% per annum. The key informants further explained that as the institution normally advances loan from what it collected through savings from other depositors and from the loan it received from other banks paying an interest rate of 7.5% a year, thus, it would be totally unthinkable for the institution to provide interest free loans. Finally, the key informants concluded by saying that "returnees should rather go to aid organizations not to financial institutions, if they are really looking for grants ".

Challenges Associated with Formation of Micro-Enterprises:

Excessive Size of Members in a Business*:* Most of the participant returnees who have been organized in diverse businesses under the micro & small enterprises have raised the issue that the number of returnees allowed to be involved in a given business is highly excessive. In other words, the total number of returnees assigned to engage in a given business under the same Shed could not commensurate with the maximum income generating capacity of the business. In the opinion of the participant returnees, the arrangement has not taken into account the maximum proceeds to be generated from the business in a situation where all the necessary things are fulfilled.

According to the participants, this situation has considerably reduced the income level to be shared among the members and has also led them to think that the likelihood of getting adequate personal income from such business is so minimal. In this regard, Abebe has started a bar and restaurant business being organized with 13 other KSA returnees. Initially, they were sixteen, but after some time, the two left losing hope on the prospect of the business in changing their lives. At this time, the entire income goes to the monthly repayment of the startup loan. But, if not now,

Abebe and his colleagues in the business fear that the likelihood of generating and sharing adequate personal income among the members in the future would be highly remote, as the size of the members is believed to be unbalanced with the maximum income level that could be generated from the business. Hence, he claimed that this situation is somehow countering the reintegration endeavor of all the returnees involved in the business.

***Market Problem of the Sheds Allocated**:* Besides, those returnees who have been organized in micro & small enterprises raised the critical market problem they have continued to face. Fekadu's case could further explain the problem. Fekadu was organized with eight other returnees and received a store like business center for running the cafe and restaurant business around Kaliti area. According to his claim, the place which was provided to them did not have any market opportunities and totally not convenient for the business. Due to the serious market problem of the business center, in most cases after waiting for a customer the whole day, they are forced to throw away the cooked food items with the fear of poisoning. The ongoing chronic market challenge has forced them to pay a high price. Fekadu has pointed out that, owing to the market problem and the government organ's failure to relocate the center despite their recurrent claim for the same, he and the other collaborators in the business, have already lost the hope of working in the country of origin. On similar account, other participants namely Abel, Shimelis, and Eyoel have also been encountering market problem on the Sheds allocated to them.

The researcher managed to raise the allocated Sheds' market problem to the key informants at BOMSED, the senior officer who is in charge of facilitating the allocation of business places or Sheds revealed that the business centers were normally provided either by the bureau and the respective offices at the sub-cities level on the basis of availability of spaces without undertaking thorough assessment of the place's appropriateness for the intended business. According to the key

informant, the BOMSED and the respective offices at the sub-cities have so far followed the strategy of allocating the available spaces wherever that place is without bothering about the market potentials of the place. The key informant tried to attribute the problem to the fact that the land spaces are the scarcest resource in the city and nobody would dare to determine land spaces for Sheds based on market potential verification. Besides, the officer admitted that the case of returnees were treated this way and the market potentials of the business centers were not assessed prior to assigning the centers to the returnees organized in micro and small enterprises.

Failure to Fulfill Infrastructures for Allocated Business Sheds*:* Participant returnees also raised the responsible city government organ's failure to fulfill the necessary infrastructure as the other source of economic reintegration challenges. In this regard, to substantiate the matter further, it would be significant to look into the actual encounters of some of the participant returnees. Accordingly, Shimelis was organized with other eleven returnees to engage in a cafe and restaurant business with the Shed given to them on the fourth floor of a building around Akaki. According to Shimelis, infrastructures like electricity and water services have not been fulfilled so far and the shed has no toilet facilities. He questioned in his own words that "how could it be possible to run a cafe and restaurant business in the absence of such critical facilities".

On a similar account, Jemal has started a cafe and restaurant business being organized with eleven other KSA returnees in a stretched temporary tent given to them as a business shed around Akaki, specifically, in a place known as Koye Condominium construction site. Jemal and his fellow colleagues in the same business have been forced to work in a stretched temporary tent due to the fact that the actual Shed which was given to them on the fourth floor of a building located around Akaki has lacked any of the basic infrastructures so far like the real encounter of Shimelis.

Challenges Associated with Government Bureaucracy

In this particular section, the selected challenges which have been raised by the participant returnees in relation to the government bureaucracy shall be presented.

Lengthy and Non-Responsive Government Bureaucracy: Most of the participant returnees harshly blamed the government for its lengthy and response lacking bureaucracy. At this juncture, Fekadu's real encounter could be worth noting, he was heading repeatedly to the Woreda Administration office in his locality with the hope of getting relocation of the business Shed as the business place which was previously given to them has serious market problem. Despite their recurrent request, still he and his collaborators in the same business could not secure the solution they sought from the government side.

By the same token, the other participant by the name Abel also indicated that he was persistently going to the Woreda admin office in search of practical solution towards his unsettled Shed relocation request for the last six months and more. Moreover, although Shimelis and Jemal have not secured any solution so far, they have been repeatedly heading to the government office for quite a number of months with the aim of getting the fulfillment of the infrastructures and basic facilities for the Sheds which were already allocated for them.

Incoherent and Inconsistent Leadership: The participant returnees expressed the challenges they have continued to encounter in getting coherent and consistent pragmatic response from the respective government organs. The participants claimed that almost all the good promises entered by the key government officials were utterly refuted by those actual implementers at various government offices.

Accordingly, most of the research participant returnees harshly blamed the government for failing to honor and keep its promises. At the time of the return, the hope and expectations of the

returnees were high. But as the time passes, their hopes and expectations began to fade mainly due to the fact that the government has failed to keep the promises it pledged to execute as per the claim of most participants. At this juncture, it would be sensible to share the real experiences of Jemal. As far as his personal encounter is concerned, the Saudi Arabian security forces did not arrest him, he rather decided on his own initiation to come back with his wife and little baby, after having been convinced with the promises of the Ethiopian embassy's officials back in the KSA. Among others, he indicated that they pledged to give for the returnees employment opportunities in various sectors, housing, unconditional interest free business startup loan facilities and the like. But, Jemal ended up working in a temporary business place based in a stretched tent on the outskirt of Addis Ababa away from Akaki in place known to be Koye Condominium construction site.

Abebe on his part expressed that at the time of his return he heard that the government would give interest free business startup loans for returnees. But, in practical terms, this did not happen. He testified that, the loan giving agency told them that there could not be any special and new arrangements meant for the returnees and like any other citizen returnees could access the loan by fulfilling all the regular procedural requirements.

Thus, the lack of consistency among the various government organs, higher officials and actual implementers at the grassroots level considered to have been placing a challenge on the returnees. At the time of the official reception organized for the returnees and in the following days, especially on the conclusion of the vocational and business trainings offered to returnees, the key government officials, during the occasion promised for various special treatments to be put in place at the respective government offices. But, in contravention to this, those promises did not go down and formally reach the actual implementers.

In connection with the lack of coherence and consistency from the government side, Abel on his side expressed that "*the good prospects predicted for returnees on the television and the motivating promises made by a number of high officials on various meetings did not reach the ground"*. Previously, Fekadu tend to believe and be sure of the implementation of what has been pledged and promised by the government officials at various levels, but this time, he changed his mind and consequently, began to suspect the realization of all things promised by the key government figures. In his own words, from his practical encounter, he shared the following:

> What has been promised by those who are considered to be reliable high level government officials in successive gatherings organized by the government, totally evaporated on the stage and none of the promises formally reached to the actual implementers. Due to these apparent communication gap and failure to give uniform direction, whenever I tend to cite the particular special considerations promised at the meeting by the official who was chairing the meeting, the actual implementers' response was that they told me to go and ask the concerned official for a written direction and they assured me that they could not have any legal ground to afford any special treatment to my case in the absence of formal direction.

Furthermore, some of the research participant returnees also indicated that the responsiveness they had been getting at the time of their return is almost incomparable to the current reality existing at the various city government offices. These days, the chance of getting immediate response from the government offices is so minimal and the previous attention has almost totally faded. Fekadu expressed in his words the challenge he has faced in his endeavor to get pragmatic solution at the various government offices in the following way:

> When I went to Woreda administration in my locality, in apparent contravention to the treatment I had been getting previously upon my return, now some of the workers of the Woreda office started to laugh at me with a clear sense of fed up when I recurrently go there with the aim of relocating my business center to some other better place where market opportunity would not be a challenge.

On similar account, Jemal has expressed in his own words that "*most of the promises made in relation to the reintegration of returnees were pure lies*". Like that of Jemal's point of view, most of the participant returnees were tempted to express the fact that the government lied them at the time of their return and the reality on the ground is not completely in harmony with the highly encouraging pledges and promises entered by those in the key governmental positions prior to their return and during the post return periods. Hence, in the opinion of the participant returnees, this situation has its own share in affecting the reintegration efforts of the returnees.

4.5.2 Social Challenges

Reintegration challenges may not only be associated with economic aspects rather factors emanating from social fabric may also account for the challenges of reintegration. In congruence with this fact, some of the participant returnees attributed their reintegration challenges to social factors originating from the surrounding family, colleague, community members and significant others. In this particular part of the finding's chapter, an attempt shall be exerted so as to illuminate the major factors contributing for the social challenges of reintegration as experienced by the participant returnees.

Declining Family Care and Support

Participants raised the declining family care and support as one of the social hurdles in the course of the reintegration. As part of the social challenge, Fekadu had been getting good familial care from his parents just at the time of his return to Ethiopia. But, the good treatment did not last longer, as the time passes without showing any kind of personal betterment and economic independence, Fekadu's family started to fade-up and began to halt the best treatment they used to give him at the time of his return. Fekadu has tried to share his lived social challenge in the following manner:

> Previously, just at time of the return, my family and nearby societies were respecting the KSA returnees and regarded us the luckiest ones who had promising future owing to the special attention afforded to us from the government side and due to the considerable media coverage given to us, but through time, everything started to be faded and eroded. As far as my present situation is concerned, unlike the previous care I was receiving from my family at the time of my return, these days, my mom even started to ignore and got fade up with my request for a meal.

On the same account, Shimelis unveiled the declining family care and support he was getting from his closest family members and in his opinion, discontent towards him was apparently readable from the faces of his family members.

Family Pressure

Participants also unveiled the mounting pressure originating from the closest family members which was countering the overall endeavor towards reintegration. The pressure could be

manifested through different forms. Among others, the family members could undermine the reintegration aimed efforts of the returnees, still some family members could encourage remigration. In this regard, Fekadu's lived experience could be worth considering:

> let alone other surrounding community members even my mother has lost any hope on me and started to downplay all the efforts I exert being organized with others in micro & small enterprises. Moreover, these days, my mom started to question the relevance of my stay in Ethiopia as I did not have anything to live on and provide a support to her. So, for me the social challenge is immense although the economic factor takes the epicenter of the challenges.

In congruence to the social challenges uncovered by Fekadu, Abel's mom also tended to undermine and question the prospect of his involvement in micro-enterprises here and besides, his mom always compares his unfortunate migration to the success stories of the neighboring children living in foreign countries. Although Abel did not totally blame his family for all the negative opinion they tend to forward, he properly understood how damaging the family pressure could be in countering his reintegration effort and leading him towards remigration.

As part of the family pressure, Fekadu's father started to encourage him to re-migrate through all possible means and even his father offered him to sell oxen and cover the necessary travel expenses.

Peer Pressure

The reintegration effort of the participant returnees was not only challenged by the pressure emanating from the closest family members, but also by the pressure originating from the colleagues residing back in the KSA. As part of the social challenge, the continued call and

encouragement for remigration coming from the friends of the participant returnees who are currently living in the KSA could also be taken as the other social factor countering the overall reintegration endeavor.

As per the information that participant returnees obtained from their respective friends working in the KSA, in connection with the recent mass eviction of illegal migrant workers, participants revealed the fact that the number of daily laborer in the KSA has significantly declined. Owing to the shortage of the daily laborers in the country, the current payment for the laborers has considerably escalated and has almost reached three times to what they used to receive on the monthly basis. Hence, this recent development, particularly the reported pay rise in the KSA has attracted the attention of the participants and the researcher managed to verify that all of them had the information. The friends of the participants who are residing or re-migrated to the KSA also tended to encourage and even pledge to financially support the remigration. Obviously, such remigration instigating and prompting calls and communications via the social medias have continued to adversely affect the efforts aimed at the reintegration of returnees.

Jemal has stated that his friend who is living back in the KSA recently called and told him in Amharic that "ማብቂያ የሌለው የረሃብ እና የችግር ኑሮ ከመምራት አንድ ጊዜ በጀልባ ሰምጦ መሞት ይሻላል" and its literal translation may give the sense that "rather than living in an endless starving and suffering, it is better to die in a boat sink at once". Likewise, some of the Fekadu's friends who already re-migrated to the KSA downplayed his reintegration effort and expressed to him that "you better leave the country than waiting to have any prospect from the micro-business based in a stretched tent having dozens of members".

Community Misconception

Community misunderstanding was the other integral component of the social challenges pointed out by the participants. The participants indicated the fact that some of the surrounding community members could not properly understand the returnees' real situation, particularly the inconvenient financial position they ended up with in their home country.

According to the participants' claim, certain community members mostly tend to consider the returnees as if they were financially in a better position than the non-returnees for the mere fact they came back from abroad. The participants asserted that such kind of community misconception continued to hamper their reintegration moral and in turn, tempting them towards remigration.

Self-Imposed Social Isolation

Owing to the lack of income and the resultant severe financial constraints, some of the participant returnees preferred to isolate themselves from various social interactions. In this regard, Shimelis's experience could be worth mentioning. Shimelis decided on his own initiation not to join and have a tea with his previous friends. The underlying reason for such self-imposed isolation lied on his financial problem. According to Shimelis, if one of his friend invites him this day, undoubtedly next time, it would be his turn to do at least the same for his friend. But, given his existing financial limitation, he could not afford to do that and thus, decided to distance himself from his former friends.

4.6 Future Plan

In this particular section, the future plan as expressed by the participant returnees shall be briefly illuminated. Given the economic challenges to a greater extent and the social challenges to

a lesser extent, the participant returnees' future plan is highly tilted towards the pessimistic and gloomy standpoint.

As far as the returnees' future plan is concerned, due to the harsh economic situation they continued to face in their country of origin, most of them are losing hope of changing their lives by working here and thinking of remigration to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or to some other countries for the second time. This time, most participants unveiled their preference towards the regular migration channel than the risky irregular migration options in the course of executing their remigration plan. In accordance with the assertion of most participants, their remigration plan is conditional, to mean that, if their major reintegration challenges get resolved, they would like to rule out their remigration plan and continue to live and stay here in their home country.

In this regard, Fekadu stated that although I understood that irregular remigration is the undesirable and risky option to resort into, in view of escaping from the current economic difficulty I have been facing here, I took a stand of not having any other better option than remigration to the KSA. Thus, he shared his future plan in his own words:

> I wish if I could work here in my country of origin, but so far, I could not actualize that and be able to earn an income to live on. Hence, for this reason, I am in the process of arranging remigration with my other returnee colleagues having similar plan.

On similar account, the overwhelming participant returnees have unequivocally stated that they have already lost the hope of changing their lives here. With the aim of changing their lives for the better, they are considering remigration as the appropriate alternative to be resorted into. In this regard, Kebede indicated his plan of remigration in the following manner:

> I have already started discussing the option of remigration with other returnees, brokers and smugglers. I hope in few days' time, I will finish the process and be able to re-migrate to the KSA through the irregular migration channel.

The other striking case could be the remigration plan of Yared, as he is planning to re-migrate for the third time. Still, Yared would like to re-migrate unless things get changed here, mainly the economic reintegration challenge.

As per the information obtained from returnees, the irregular migration requires at a minimum an outlay of 15,000 to 30,000 thousand Ethiopian Birr. For returnees like Abel, having this much money would be very difficult for the execution of his remigration plan. As a solution, Abel has pointed out his plan to re-migrate by assisting the migration of somebody who has adequate money but, migrating for the first time. In this case, Abel shall serve as a person who shows direction as he knows the routes heading to the KSA very well. By doing so, Abel's all remigration expenses are assumed to be covered by the first time co-migrant and this way, Abel intends to get his travel expenses covered.

4.7 Suggested Interventions

As far as the suggestion of the participant returnees is concerned, the underneath actions and interventions were recommended in view of mitigating the reintegration challenges expounded in the foregoing sections of the study.

Resolving Income Earning Problem: In accordance with the confirmation of the entire participant returnees, still the economic situation has continued to be the daunting challenge which is adversely affecting their overall reintegration efforts. Hence, as a primary intervention, all the participant returnees have boldly called for the government to devise and put in place ways through

which returnees can secure adequate and sustainable income to live on. Besides, in connection with the economic reintegration challenges, returnees also urged the government to find solution in relation to the market problem of the business centers which were provided to those organized returnees. Pertaining to the market problem, participants called for the government to undertake meticulous assessment on the identified business centers, so as to determine the market potentials of the same both prior to handing over new Sheds to the returnees and re-evaluate the market potentials of those already allocated Sheds.

Some of the participant returnees also called for the government to strike a balance between the income potential and the size of the members to be organized in a given business under the micro and small enterprises. Some of them also emphasized on the need to somehow relax the complex credit procedure, so as to align it with the specific contexts of the returnees. They asserted that, it would be difficult to fulfill all the loan access requirements for the returnees and thus, some of the complicated requirements and preconditions must be waived with regard to returnees.

Creating Employment Opportunity: The government, the private sector and other stakeholders should exert as much united effort as they can to create employment opportunities for the returnees. As per the participants' claim, if the economic challenges, which are normally placed at the forefront of the challenges are addressed, then undoubtedly the social challenge, which is the derivative of the former, would also get solution.

Honoring Promises: Given the alleged failure of the government organs to keep the promises entered in relation to the reintegration of the KSA returnees, most of the participant returnees called for consistency and uniformity among the government organs, officials and actual implementers in executing what they publicly pledge. They stressed the need not to make promise, if it is not honored.

Consistent Government Follow-up: As it has been unveiled by the vast majority of the participants, the responsible city government organ have utterly failed to regularly monitor and execute its oversight role on the business activities of the returnees so far. Hence, most of the participant returnees called for the government to undertake consistent and regular follow-up, so as to clearly understand the existing situations of the returnees and the prospect of those already established micro enterprises.

Lifting the Ban on Regular Migration: As it has been mentioned in the earlier section of the study, most participant returnees pointed out their remigration plan via the regular migration channel. Thus, for that to happen and in view of mitigating the unintended consequence that the ban is having mainly, in escalating the trend of irregular migration, they boldly called for the government to lift the indefinite ban it has placed on the regular migration channel to the Middle East countries, and the Gulf States.

Chapter Five: Discussions

In the following section of the study, an attempt shall be made to further bring into light the findings of the study. The first part deals with the key findings of the whole study under the themes of participants' profile, migration experiences, the post-return reintegration assistances, the reintegration challenges, the future plan and the interventions suggested by the participant returnees. The second part focuses on discussing the new findings of the study in light of related literatures and previous studies reviewed. The third part dwells on discussing the convergence and divergence of the current study's findings vis-à-vis the findings of the reviewed previous studies and in the final part of the chapter the researcher's point of view shall be brought to light.

5.1 Key Findings

Participants' Profile

As far as the participants' profile is concerned, the study has indicated that all the research participant returnees are in their younger age and all are found within the age range of 24 to 28. With regard to marital status, only three of the participants are married. In terms of educational status, only two of them managed to complete grade 12 and the rest are found between grade 5 and 10. Pertaining to the religious makeup of the participants, only one belonged to the Muslim religion and all the rest were Christians.

Migration Experiences

Precursor for their Migration: So far as the underlying motivating factor for the migration was concerned, in congruence with the findings of many other studies which have been reviewed in the preceding sections of the study, the central push factor for the migration was the economic hardship that had been endured prior to the migration in the country of origin. All the participant returnees testified that they were forced to resort into migration to escape the unbearable economic

circumstance they were facing at the time of the migration. Hence, as it has already been verified by the returnees, the search for better lives and the strong aspiration to bring about economic improvements were the prime precursors of the migration.

Migration Channel and Route: As far as the migration channel is concerned, the research has unveiled that all the participant returnees used the irregular migration channel and none of them entered the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia legally by meeting the immigration requirements and regulations of both the destination and transit countries. With regard to the route of migration, all the participant returnees confirmed that they migrated through Djibouti heading to Yemen on boat and with the help of the Yemeni smugglers they lastly landed the KSA. Hence, none of the research participant returnees migrated to the KSA through the air flight and the study uncovered that all of them went on boat crossing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Experiences in the Destination Country: As claimed by the participants, while they were residing in the KSA, they managed to secure the least paying jobs which were characterized by harsh working conditions. The vast majority of the participants indicated that they used to work as a daily laborer earning a monthly salary within the range of 5,000 and 15,000 Ethiopian birr. Besides, up until their deportation, in total, the participants managed to stay in the KSA from two up to nine years.

Post-Return Reintegration Assistances

As it has been expounded in the preceding sections of the study, in accordance with data obtained from the IOM, up to the 24th of March 2014, more than 163,018 Ethiopian irregular migrant workers were deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and arrived in Ethiopia. Among the returnees, men accounted for 62% or 100,688 and women accounted for 33% or 53,732 and children accounted for 5% or 8,598. In response to such an unanticipated and unprecedented mass

deportation of citizens, the FDRE Government and the regional governments tried to welcome and reintegrate the KSA returnees at various levels.

Among the entire returnees, the Addis Ababa City returnees accounted for around 3274 and as per the findings of the study, as a short term reintegration assistance, returnees were offered 900 ETB as a transportation fare by the IOM and a weeklong psychological training, which was aimed at making attitudinal change on the returnees, particularly, in view of convincing the returnees as to the possibilities of changing and improving lives through working in one's own country of origin. Besides, the study has unveiled that around 1629 returnees of the city had received skill trainings in various business and vocational fields for 21 days.

The findings of the study has also shown that among the returnees who received the skill trainings, around 1272 of them were reported to have been organized in 291 different small enterprises while the remaining 357 trained returnees have not yet commenced any kind of business in the field they received training.

As far as the specific case of the research participant returnees is concerned, the study has indicated that all of them received the short term reintegration assistances (900 ETB meant for transportation expense and the seven days psychological training, except the one participant who received psychological training only for four days) and from the long term reintegration assistances, all the eight participant returnees fully attended the 21 days long skill trainings and four returnees received both startup loans from Addis Micro Credit and Saving S.C. and business places or sheds meant for running the business and two of them received only sheds or working places and again, the rest two returnees received no other long term reintegration assistances than the skill trainings.

Reintegration Challenges of Returnees

The findings of the study unveiled that participant returnees have been undergoing a range of reintegration challenges, among the numerous reintegration challenges, the following would be worth discussing:

Economic Challenge or Lack of Sustainable Income: As it has been confirmed by the returnees, the most serious reintegration challenge emanated from the difficulty being faced by the returnees to earn sustainable income to live on. Similarly, the study has shown that the participant returnees' unbearable economic hardship has continued to severely counter the likelihood of ensuring successful reintegration for the returnees.

The findings of the study highlighted that those returnees who have been organized in micro & small enterprises could not afford to discharge the monthly startup loan repayment obligations. Even those returnees who could afford to discharge the loan repayment did not manage to get any remaining sum to share among themselves as a personal income.

Inability to Get Employment with the Skill Trainings: The study has shown that the skill training which was organized and offered by the City Government for 21 days in various business and vocational fields apparently lacked depth. Participant returnees who attempted to get employed with the short-lived skill training expressed that the skill training was not adequate and did not make them competitive in the prevailing job market. Hence, the skill training was regarded to be below the standard as it lacked marketability in the local job market.

Challenges Associated with Business Startup Loan: The study has also revealed that those returnees who had received the skill training faced difficulty to access the startup loan by failing to meet the preconditions of the credit procedure. Mainly, the challenge to access the loan was associated with the difficulty of the returnees to get personal guarantee or surety for the startup

loan. In connection with the startup loan, the study has uncovered that those participant returnees who have started business after having received the loan on their part raised as a challenge the inadequacy of the loan repayment grace period given to them. As it has been confirmed by the returnees, they were forced to begin the loan repayment immediately at the time they started the business although they hoped for extended grace period.

Challenges Associated with Formation of Micro Enterprises: The study has also unveiled that excessive returnees were organized within one enterprise in turn significantly reducing the chance of getting adequate personal income for each of the collaborators in a business. The size of the members in a given business and the maximum income to be generated by the business could not strike a balance. This situation has continued to exacerbate the frustration and skepticism of the returnees in changing their lives by working in their country of origin.

As the findings of the study has shown, the severe market problem of the sheds allocated to the returnees has also continued to contribute to the inability of the returnees to get sustainable income from the business and also hampering the prospect of successful reintegration on the returnees. It has already been indicated in the research that the shed allocation has been done by the responsible government organ based on land space availability, wherever that place is, without evaluating ahead of time both the identified place's market potential and also the place's appropriateness for the intended business. Besides, the failure of the responsible public body to fulfill the necessary infrastructures like water, electricity, and toilet facilities for the allocated business sheds has also been pointed out by the research as the other contributing factor for the ongoing economic reintegration challenges of the returnees.

Challenges Associated with the Government Bureaucracy: The study has also revealed that the lengthy and non-responsive government bureaucracies were considered by the returnees to

aggravate the reintegration challenges. The returnees have claimed that they could not get prompt responses and solutions for their cases these days from the government organs like what they had been getting at the time of their return and from time to time, the then special attention that had been afforded to the returnees from all sides have continued to go down at a faster rate.

Likewise, the research has unveiled that incoherence and inconsistent leadership from the government side have also a share in contributing towards the reintegration challenges of the returnees. The returnees indicated that different greatly motivating and encouraging promises were made by the key government officials on various occasions, but almost none of it reached the ground. The actual implementers at the grassroots level even did not know and want to listen what the high officials had said. Thus, the government was harshly blamed by the returnees for failing to honor and respect its promises.

Social Challenges: Although the economic reintegration challenges were believed to take the forefront of all the challenges, the social challenges were also pointed out to have adverse effect on the overall reintegration endeavor of the returnees. Among the social challenges, declining family care and support for the returnees, the direct and indirect family pressure to lead returnees into remigration, the peer pressure for remigration coming from both outside and inside the country and self-imposed social isolation by the returnees themselves have been indicated by the research as the major social challenges countering the reintegration efforts of the returnees.

5.2 New Findings

As it has been illuminated in the preceding parts of the study, this particular study has shown some reintegration challenges of returnees which had already been uncovered by other previous studies. However, the ensuing points could somehow be considered as new findings to the study of the reintegration challenges of the returnees.

The first new finding could be the challenge to earn an income owing to the fact that every proceeds generated by the business goes to the monthly repayment of the startup loan. In the normal course of things, one may expect those returnees who were organized in micro and small enterprises to generate adequate income to live on, but contrary to this normal assumption, the returnees could not generate adequate and sustainable income from the businesses. In this regard, the main problem stemmed from the monthly loan repayment obligations and the loan repayment amount took almost all of the proceeds of the business generated in a month. Due to this, all those participant returnees who were organized in micro enterprises could not manage to get an income to share amongst the members in the same business and the same has continued to be the daunting reintegration challenge for the returnees.

The second new finding could be the fact that the skill trainings which were provided by the Government did not make the trained returnees competent in the prevailing job market. Basically, the skill training would not be given only with the aim to setup and run own micro & small businesses, but the training should also scale up the employment opportunities of the trainees. However, in actual terms, the skill training was very short-lived and at the same time, it was only provided for 21 days. The training was not almost in line with the minimum standards set in the country for the provision of skill and vocational trainings. The skills acquired from the training seriously lacked depth and marketability in the prevailing job market.

The third new finding might be the fact that the size of the members organized in a given business and the maximum proceeds to be generated from the business did not strike a balance. Those organized returnees pointed out that the excessiveness of the members in a business has been badly affecting their likelihood of economic independence and the prospect that they have in the business.

The fourth new finding could be the serious market problem of the Sheds allocated for those returnees and the failure to fulfill infrastructures for the sheds. The responsible government organ allocated business Sheds only on the basis of land space availability without undertaking pre-shed allocation market potential assessment on the areas selected for the purpose. Besides, basic infrastructures like electricity and water services have not been fulfilled for some of those already allocated sheds.

The fifth new finding might be the difficulty that some of the returnees' encountered in their attempt to access the startup loan. The normal credit procedure's loan access preconditions were not tailored to the specific circumstances of the returnees. Understandably, it could be difficult for desperate returnees to get a personal guarantee or surety unlike any other person who was not returnee. The loan advancing institution did not put in place any special procedure so as to ease the startup loan access for the returnees.

The sixth new finding could be the inadequacy of the startup loan repayment grace period. Although the returnees expected to enjoy extended grace period for the startup loan repayment, the returnees were forced to start the loan repayment immediately whenever they began the business without getting adequate grace period. Again, the loan advancing institution did not put in place any special scheme meant for the returnees in this regard.

5.3 Convergence of the Current Findings with Previous Findings

In essence, almost all the migration related previous studies unambiguously identified the economic problem (poverty and the search for better lives) to occupy the leading position in pushing people towards any sort of migration (Abebaw, 2013; ILO, 2011; Kanko, Bailey, & Teller, 2013; Meskerem, 2011; Samuel, 2012; and Yoseph, Mebratu, & Belete, 2006). In congruence with

the findings of the previous related studies, the findings of this study identified the economic problem to be at the forefront of the pushing factors of migration.

As far as the reintegration challenges of returnees are concerned, like the findings of other previous studies which were conducted in foreign countries context, this particular study has shown that socio-economic problems among others, unemployment, lack of sustainable income, lengthy government bureaucracy, social challenges mainly the inability of the returnees to meet the high and unrealistic family and surrounding community expectations have continued to counter the reintegration efforts of the returnees (Adhikari, 2011; Rosy, 2013; Setrana & Tonah, 2014; Tukhashvili, 2013).

5.4 Researcher's Point of View

As it has been highlighted in the earlier chapter of the study, in response to the Saudi Arabian Government's abrupt mass deportation of irregular migrants, the government of Ethiopia has immediately shown its readiness to welcome and reintegrate its citizens expelled from the KSA. As part of the reintegration effort, the City Government among others, offered for the KSA returnees seven days long psychological and entrepreneurial training, vocational and business training for 21 days in various fields, organized some in micro and small enterprises, and facilitated business startup loan access from Addis Credit & Saving institutions.

Basically, the steps taken by the government in relation to the returnees of Saudi Arabia could be taken as a landmark and a step forward as it was the first of its kind in Ethiopia. But, the interventions and assistances provided to returnees were not enough and somehow not context appropriate. If we take a look at the 21 days long skill training offered to returnees, one may raise a doubt as to the adequacy of the time of the training and also the appropriateness of allotting the 21 days duration across the board for the diverse business and vocational trainings. The overall

aim of offering the vocational training was to ensure that the returnees earn a living in the country of origin. To meet this purpose, the training must be a realistic one to mean that the skills taught should have to have the potential to be utilized for income generation and also it has to offer a high prospect in that the returnee will be able to master and utilize the skill taught (PCI, 2010, p. 107).

As a matter of principle, it would be highly improbable to be a master in a given skill with only 21 days long training and thus, the skill trainings offered for returnees were not realistic and readily marketable in the prevailing job market. That is why some of the returnees faced the real challenge to compete and secure job opportunities with the skill they were trained with. The trainings were not tailored in such a way that it could prepare and qualify the returnees for other jobs which are available in the market.

On the other hand, the government's effort to organize all interested returnees in micro and small enterprises and offering training having only this purpose in mind was the major gap in the intervention. All returnees could not have the talent to engage in income generating businesses and be successful in the same. The intervention which calls for organizing returnees in micro-enterprises must be decided on case-by-case basis, by taking into account the particular returnee's experience, education, skills, personality, talent mapping and commitment to manage a micro-business (UNODC, 2008 p. 380). On similar account, Surtees (2012) argued the fact that the micro enterprise option could not be appropriate for all returnees and similarly, suggested for taking meticulous individual mapping prior to deciding the suitability of the returnee for such option (p. 45). But, contrary to this assertion, the Government's effort flawed in that it generally considered organizing in micro-enterprises would be the appropriate intervention to be applied on returnees across the board and such intervention did not give recognition to individual differences which

could normally exist among returnees. It would have been better, if other options like job placements were also explored for returnees on top of organizing in micro enterprises.

As it has been expounded in the preceding sections of the study, the returnees have continued to undergo multifaceted challenges in an endeavor to reintegrate themselves. In principle, if successful reintegration is really sought, those migrants who were forced to vacate their country of origin due to economic reasons should come back as a returnee to a better economic condition, where access to jobs and sustainable income could not be an issue. But, for various reasons, if this economic adjustment is not properly addressed for the returnees or if the previous source of vulnerability continues to exist, then, with no doubt at all, the risk of remigration or re-trafficking would be much higher for the returnees. In line with this tenet, Wolters (2011) identified the fact that economic factors constitute the major integral parts of successful reintegration (p. 37). Hence, in accordance with the assertion of Wolters, it would be highly difficult to imagine successful reintegration of returnees in the absence of economic betterment and adjustment for returnees.

As it has been thoroughly discussed in the findings of the study, to the flaw of the reintegration assistances, the participant returnees have utterly indicated that they faced overwhelming economic challenges in their reintegration efforts. Within the context of the economic challenge, lack of adequate and sustainable income takes the greater portion of the challenge. A research conducted by Adhikari (2011) found out that inadequate sustainable income was among the leading stumbling block in the reintegration of returnees (p. 64).

Predominantly, for those returnees who have been organized in micro and small enterprises, the biggest challenge is associated with the fact that they could not get adequate and sustainable income for their own consumption as the greatest part of the income generated from

the business goes to the repayment of the startup loan. In principle, it would be very difficult for anyone to live without having some source of sustainable income. Particularly, for those suddenly deported and desperate returnees, ensuring means of sustainable income shall be an issue of prime importance. In any way, the source of the problem could be associated with the scheme followed by the government in advancing the start-up loans for the returnees. Some studies revealed that, the provision of start-up loans for returnees who are interested in setting up micro-businesses have not been effective (Surtees, 2012, p. 52). Surtees rather claimed that grants are the most effective means of giving start-up capital for returnees setting up micro-enterprises (p. 52). Surtees also pointed out the fact that if not all, some returnees may succeed in micro-businesses even by receiving loans, although the vast majority encountered challenges.

In most cases, loans are known to have certain percentage of interest, monthly repayment obligations and risks of default among others. In the case at hand, had the loan been given for the returnees who have been organized in micro and small enterprises in the form of grants or interest free loans with an extended repayment grace period, the existing difficulty of the returnees to earn an income would have been reduced to a greater extent. As it has been indicated in the findings of the study, due to the monthly loan repayment obligations, the participant returnees who have been organized in micro-businesses could not manage to earn a living.

Furthermore, in the context of the KSA returnees, the lack of adequate and sustainable income was associated with among others, the insufficiency of the skill trainings offered in terms of marketability, business centers' or sheds' severe market problem for those organized in micro enterprises, organizing excessive number of returnees in a given business which do not commensurate with the maximum income level to be generated by the business, failure to put in place context appropriate business startup loan accessing procedure, failure to give adequate loan

repayment grace period, and lengthy & non-responsive government bureaucracy, incoherent & inconsistent working procedures and case entertaining approaches at various government organs were mentioned by the participant returnees as the major ones.

Although the reintegration aimed steps taken by the government by itself deserve appreciation, inevitably, the steps taken were not immune from serious flaws and limitations. First and foremost, the skill trainings offered for returnees in various fields seriously lacked depth, and it was not tailored in such a way that it could prepare the trained returnees to compete and qualify for other jobs available in the market. According to Surtees (2012), trainings which are aimed at ensuring skill and vocational development shall be considered to be most effective if it practically advances the likelihood of finding or retaining suitable job opportunities for returnees (p. 39). On this aspect, participant returnees faced practical challenge in finding employment opportunities with the 21 days skill development training they have received. Obviously, the skill training which was offered to returnees was not aligned with the prevailing labor market needs and at the same time it was short of the minimum state-endorsed vocational training requirements in many aspects.

Surtees (2012) highlighted the need to undertake professional market appraisal in the course of establishing a micro-enterprise and among others, the market assessment shall be aimed at exploring the market needs in the specific area, capabilities of the members in the business, available resources, local infrastructure and local competition (p. 52). In the context of the Saudi Arabia returnees, the issue of organizing those interested in the micro-enterprise was handled without undergoing such crucial preliminary steps. That is why the market problem has been raised by most of the participant returnees as an ongoing challenge. Particularly, returnees have pointed out the market problem associated with the business sheds provided to them. In this case, the source of the problem lies on the failure of the government organ to undertake thorough market

assessment prior to assigning the sheds to the returnees. The key informant in the City Government's micro and small enterprises development bureau has admitted the fact that the arrangement of business sheds relies solely on the availability of a plot of land meant for placing the shed irrespective of other factors. Hence, as far as the current improper practice reveals, the essential preliminary actions like pre-shed arrangement and pre-shed assignment market potential assessments are not being done. The market problem being faced by some of the organized returnees could possibly be attributed to failure to conduct such market potential assessment prior to assigning the sheds.

The other challenge pointed out by the participant returnees was in relation to the excessiveness of the size of returnees organized in a given business. As it has been indicated by the participants, the size of the returnees organized in a given business and the level of income to be generated from the business could not strike a balance. In so far as this particular challenge is concerned, the problem possibly lies in the failure to undertake specific study meant to project the maximum proceeds to be generated from a given business before deciding the minimum size of the members to be involved in the business. In an attempt to get the standpoint of the concerned body on this point, I raised this challenge to the key informant at the BOMSED and the key informant told me that the size of members to be involved in a given business is not randomly set rather it is determined by the directive recently issued to guide the administration, acquisition and utilization of business Sheds. The minimum size of members set by the directive could help in ensuring equitable and wise utilization of limited resources like the business sheds. But, applying the minimum size of members across the board may result with an objective missing consequences. In the normal course of things, if the real objective of the business shed is to ensure the economic empowerment of the members, then a business shed which is given in the center of Merkato could

potentially generate an income which is by far higher than the income to be generated in a business shed which is given around Akaki. Hence, in this case, the determination of the minimum size of the members must take into account the specific circumstances like basically the location's market and income generating potentials, inter alia, must be considered on a case by case basis.

Chapter Six: Conclusion and Implications of the Study

6.1 Conclusion

As highlighted in the preceding chapters, returnees who have participated in this study revealed their reintegration challenges, focusing on their economic hardships and giving slighter attention to their social hurdles. Accordingly, the following conclusions are drawn from the study.

Due to the Saudi Arabian government's crackdown on undocumented migrants, nearly over one hundred sixty thousand Ethiopians were abruptly deported and returned back to their home country. In response to the unprecedented and the unforeseen influx of citizens, the Government of Ethiopia tried to welcome and reintegrate the KSA returnees. Among the reintegration assistances, the City Government provided seven days psychosocial training which was aimed at bringing about attitudinal change, skill trainings in various vocational and business fields which stayed for 21 days, facilitation of business startup loans, allocation of business sheds could be mentioned as the major interventions aimed at the reintegration of the KSA returnees.

The findings of the study indicated that the KSA returnees encountered several reintegration challenges. Among the challenges, although the ongoing economic hardship and lack of employment opportunities or lack of sustainable livelihood take the forefront position, the other challenges were also identified by the study as contributing factors for the economic reintegration challenges of the returnees. The first could be those challenges which are associated with the formation of micro-enterprises and among which severe market problem of the sheds allocated, organizing excessive returnees in a micro-enterprise, and failure to fulfill infrastructures for the allocated sheds could be mentioned as the principal ones. Secondly, the challenges which are associated with startup loan could be cited, viz., procedural difficulty to access business start-up loan, and inadequacy of the start-up loan repayment grace period could be mentioned. Still,

reintegration challenges could also be associated with the government bureaucracy and of which, lengthy & non-responsive government bureaucracy, and incoherent & inconsistent leadership could be worth noting. Again, from the social reintegration challenges perspective: declining family care & support, family pressure, peer pressure, and self-imposed social isolation were pointed out by the study participants among the social hurdles countering the overall reintegration endeavor of the KSA returnees.

As far as the returnees' future plan is concerned, due to the unbearable economic hardship the participant KSA returnees continued to face in their country of origin, most of them are losing hope of changing their lives by working here and to the dismay of all concerned stakeholders, all of them are thinking of remigration to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or to some other countries for the second time. Almost all of them confirmed that they may continue to live here in their country of origin, only if the ongoing economic reintegration challenges get resolved and in the absence of which, they vowed to pursue ahead with their remigration plan.

Finally, the study participants forwarded the ensuing interventions in view of easing the ongoing reintegration challenges. The participants' principal call lied on the need to resolve the income earning problem of the returnees and also called for the fostering of employment opportunities. Besides, in connection with the market problem of the business sheds, the participants urged for market potential assessment to be undertaken for sheds prior to allocation and also participants recommended for the government to strike a balance between the size of members organized in a micro-business and the income generating potential of the business, and some also called for the relaxation of the start-up loan access procedure. Furthermore, some of the participant returnees urged the government to put in place effective and consistent follow-up on the overall conditions of the micro-businesses and the economic conditions of the KSA returnees

and still, most of them called for the government to honor the good and favorable promises it entered in relation to the reintegration of the KSA returnees. As a final point, some of the participants urged the government to lift the embargo it has placed on the regular migration channel to the Middle East countries and Gulf States in view of mitigating the trend of irregular migrations.

6.2 Implications of the Study

Implications for Social Work Intervention

As a helping profession, the social work intervention may be needed in the provision of consistent psycho-social support and counseling services for the returnees.

Besides, given the escalating trend of irregular migration in Ethiopia, the social workers should strongly advocate for the country to have a comprehensive migration policy and for the establishment of institutionalized returnee rehabilitation and reintegration service providing center at a national level.

Implications for Social Work Education

Given the fact that the social work is a helping profession, it would be of paramount importance if the social workers get adequate training on migration in general and the reintegration of returnees in particular.

Hence, there is a strong need to incorporate the *Social Work Practice on Migration* as an independent course, so as to equip the graduates of the profession with the necessary knowledge aimed at practical interventions in the reintegration of migrant returnees.

Implications for Policy

In spite of the widespread culture of migration in Ethiopia, the country has lacked comprehensive migration policy so far. The Saudi Arabian Government's crackdown on irregular

migrants and the subsequent deportation and unprecedented influx of Ethiopian irregular migrants should be taken as a triggering lesson for the need to bridge the policy gap in this regard. Thus, all the stakeholders should aggressively strive towards policy introduction and moreover, the concerned parties may take the Saudi related migration crisis as a policy window, so as to press ahead with the call for national policy formulation in the migration arena.

With regard to the rehabilitation and reintegration interventions for returnees, the government's effort which is aimed at reintegration of returnees should not be a fire fighting business at all and rather, it has to be an institutionalized mission. In this regard, so far, the government has utterly failed to setup an institutionalized returnee's rehabilitation and reintegration center. Thus, the Saudi related returnee crisis should be drawn as a big lesson for the government to get prepared for similar situations which may happen in the future and take practical policy steps, so as to setup a rehabilitation and reintegration institution which may serve all the returnees and the irregular migrant returnees including those traumatized trafficking survivors.

As it has been unveiled by some of the participant returnees, the indefinite ban placed by the Ethiopian government on the regular migration channel to the Middle East countries and Gulf States is having unintended consequence, as it has intensified the trend of irregular migration. Hence, in view of promoting the orderly migration flow and in order to mitigate the trend of irregular migration, the government should swiftly lift the indefinite ban it has imposed on the regular migration channel.

Given the rampancy of irregular migration in Ethiopia, the Saudi like returnee crisis and mass influx of citizens may re-occur at some point in time. Hence, for this purpose, the government should setup a national Returnee Rehabilitation and Reintegration Trust Fund, so as to deal with the returnee issue properly.

Implications for Service Providers

The mere provision of reintegration assistance could not ensure the fulfillment of the intended ultimate goal which is the successful reintegration of the returnees, rather the impact of the assistances must be regularly assessed and monitored. Hence, the responsible government organs and other stakeholders need to evaluate the impacts of the reintegration assistances provided to returnees in ensuring economic empowerment and successful reintegration of the returnees.

In view of mitigating the economic reintegration challenges of the KSA returnees, the Government should vigorously engage with private sectors so as to promote employment opportunities for the returnees. Besides, there is also a need to reassess the market potentials of the Sheds allocated for returnees organized in micro-enterprises, and moreover, the government should find ways through which the size of the members in a given micro-business could be reduced so as to align the number of members and the income potential of the business. Furthermore, the government should try to conduct existing situation and impact assessments on the KSA returnees and find out other gaps which requires its interventions.

In spite of the occurrence of the trafficking situation and subsequent victimization on men, the study uncovered that there is no organization which is involved in providing rehabilitation and reintegration assistances for men trafficking victims in Ethiopia. With respect to women trafficking victims, the two local non-governmental organizations by the name "Agar" charitable society and Good Samaritan are working in both the rehabilitation and reintegration aspects. Hence, there is a need to critically look into such intervention gap and put in place ways through which men returnees could also be provided with the rehab and reintegration services.

Implications for Future Research

As it has been indicated in the earlier sections of the study, the reintegration of returnees in general and the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant returnees were not researched adequately.

Hence, as far as the future research implication of the study is concerned, as the subject matter has not been well researched before, this study may somehow serve as a spring-board for the much anticipated further researches to be undertaken in the Ethiopian context, particularly dwelling on the portrayal of the lived reintegration challenges of irregular migrant returnees.

Furthermore, with regard to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia returnees, the impact of the reintegration assistance has not been evaluated so far. Therefore, there is a need to conduct further studies on the impact of the reintegration assistances provided by the government and other concerned non-governmental organs in realizing the intended successful reintegration of the KSA returnees.

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Appendix A: Consent Form

My name is Michael Temesgen and I am a candidate for a Master of Social Work degree at Addis Ababa University. I cordially invite you to participate in a study which aims at exploring the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant men returnees from Saudi Arabia.

If you volunteer to participate in the study, you will be asked to take part in a face to face interview that will take from one to two hours. In order to effectively capture your personal experience, this interview session will be audio taped. Should you feel uncomfortable with the audio recording, you may ask the researcher to turn off at any time during the interview. The tapes shall only be used for the intended study purpose and once, the transcription ends, the tapes shall be destroyed after three months. In order to maintain confidentiality, your name will not be directly used at any time, instead a pseudonym will be used.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. There are no known risks to you for participating in this study. During the interview, you have the right to remain silent or skip answering certain interview questions or withdraw altogether at any time with no consequence at all. You can ask for clarifications at any time. If you have any question or comment regarding the researcher or the research process, you can contact the School of Social Work at Addis Ababa University via telephone 0111-225960 or postal address 1176.

Thank you so much for consenting to participate in this study. If you agree on the above terms, please corroborate your consent by signing underneath.

Participant's Name _____Signature_____ Date_____

Researcher's Name _____Signature_____ Date_____

Appendix B: Semi-Structured Interview Guide

The purpose of this study is to explore the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant men returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since your participation is immensely important for the overall efficacy and accomplishment of the study, you are kindly requested to give genuine responses to the questions included in the interview.

Thank You!

Date of Interview _____Start time_____ End time _____

Establishing Rapport: Introducing myself, personal background and my work experience.

Demographic Information:

a. Age
b. Marital Status
c. Number of Children if there are any.
d. Educational Background

Pre-Migration Experiences:

1. What was the major reason for your decision to migrate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)? (meant to find out whether the economic, social or political factors were the precursor for resorting into irregular migration/trafficking)
2. How did you manage to arrive in the KSA? Did you have the necessary travel documents and valid entry visa at the time of migrating to the KSA?

Migration Experiences:

3. What was your route of migration?
4. How long did you stay in the KSA?

5. Did you manage to find employment which was in line with your expectation in the KSA?
6. How much did you earn on average while you were in the KSA on a monthly basis?

Return and Post-Return Reintegration Experiences:

7. Did you manage to collect and bring home all your belongings from the KSA at the time of the deportation?
8. What kind of emergency and short term assistance services did you get upon your arrival?
9. What kind of long-term reintegration assistance services have you received?
10. Do you think that the long-term services are paving the way for your economic independence and empowerment?
11. How do you compare your economic situation prior to migration to the KSA and after return to your country of origin?
12. On a monthly basis, how much do you earn now on average?
13. What have been the main challenges you have faced during the reintegration process?
14. What is your future plan?
15. What do you think should be done at all levels to successfully reintegrate the KSA returnees and mitigate the reintegration challenges?
16. Do you have anything to further suggest or ask?

Appendix C: Key Informant Interview Guide

The purpose of this study is to explore the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant men returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Your participation in the interview would be enormously important to get a thorough understanding on the study's subject matter.

Thank You!

Date of KII _____Start time_____ End time _____

Establishing Rapport: Introducing myself, personal background and my work experience.

1. What were the major roles of your organization in the reintegration of KSA returnees?
2. What kind of reintegration assistances were provided by your organization to the KSA returnees?
3. How do you see the impact of the assistances in ensuring successful reintegration of returnees and in the prevention of the risk of re-migration?
4. From your practical exposure, what do you think are the principal reintegration challenges of the KSA returnees?
5. What are your organization's future plans to deal with the existing reintegration challenges?
6. What interventions and actions do you suggest in view of mitigating the reintegration challenges?
7. Do you want to add any more or do you have anything to ask?

Appendix D: Consent Form Amharic Version

አዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶሻል

ወርክ ትምህርት ቤት

የፈቃደኝነት መጠየቂያ ቅፅ

ስሜ ሚካኤል ተመስገን ይባላል። በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶሻል ወርክ ድህረ ምረቃ ዕጩ ተመራቂ ተማሪ ነኝ። በመመረቂያ ማሚያነት በህገወጥ መንገድ ወደ ሳውዲ አረቢያ ተሰድደው የነበሩ ወንድ ተመላሾች እራሳቸውን መልሰው ወደ ማህበረሰቡ በመቀላቀል እና በማቋቋም ሂደት የሚያጋጥማቸውን ተግዳሮቶች በመለየት ላይ ትኩረት በሚያደርገው ጥናት ላይ እርስዎ ተሳታፊ እንዲሆኑ በአክብሮት ተጋብዘዋል።

በጥናቱ ለመሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ የሚሆኑ ከሆኑ ከአንድ እስከ ሁለት ሰዓታት ሊፈጅ በሚችል የገፅ ለገፅ ቃለመጠይቅ እንዲሳተፉ ይጠየቃሉ። በጥናቱ ርዕስ ዙሪያ ያለዎትን የግል ተሞክሮ በግብአትነት በተሟላ መልኩ ለመውሰድ እንዲቻል የመቅረፀ ድምፅ መሳሪያ ጥቅም ላይ ሊውል ይችላል። በቃለመጠየቁ ሂደት እንዲቀረፅ የማይፈለጉት የቃለመጠይቅ ክፍል ካለ ቀረፃው እንዲቋረጥ የማስደረግ መብትዎ የተጠበቀ ነው። በመቅረፀ-ድምፁ የተቀረፀው ቃለመጠይቅ ለታለመለት የጥናት አላማ ብቻ የሚውል መሆኑን እያረጋገጥኩ የተቀረፀውን የቃለመጠይቅ ክፍል ወደ ፅሁፍ የመቀየሩ ተግባር እንተገባደደ የተቀረፀው ቃለመጠይቅ ከሶስት ወራት ቆይታ በኋላ ሙሉ በሙሉ የሚወገድ ይሆናል። የተሳታፊዎችን ማንነት በሚስጥር ለመያዝ እንዲቻል በጥናቱ ውስጥ ተሳታፊ የሚሆኑ ሰዎች ትክክለኛ ባልሆኑ ስሞች እንዲወከሉ ይደረጋል።

በዚህ ጥናት ላይ የሚኖርዎት ተሳትፎ በፍፁም ፈቃደኝነት ላይ የተመሰረተ ነው። በጥናቱ ላይ ተሳታፊ በመሆንዎ የሚያገኙት ቀጥተኛ ጥቅም የሌለ ሲሆን እንዲሁም በጥናቱ በመሳተፍዎ የሚደርስብዎ አንዳችም ጉዳት አይኖርም። በቃለመጠይቁ ሂደት መልስ ሊሰጡበት የማይፈልጉት ጥያቄ ባጋጠምዎት ወቅት በዝምታ የማለፍ መብት ያለዎት ሲሆን በተጨማሪም በማናቸውም ሰዓት ቃለመጠይቁን አቋርጠው የመውጣት ሙሉ መብት አለዎት። በጥናት አድራጊው ዙሪያም ሆነ በጥናቱ ሂደት ላይ ለሚኖሮት ማናቸውም ጥያቄና አስተያየት በስልክ ቁጥር 0111-225960 ወይም በፖስታ ሳጥን ቁጥር 1176 በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሶሻል ወርክ ትምህርት ቤትን ማግኘት ይችላሉ።

በጥናቱ ለመሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ በመሆንዎ ከልብ እያመሰገንኩ ስምምነትዎን ፊርማዎትን በማኖር እንዲያረጋግጡ በአክብሮት እጠይቃለሁ።

የተሳታፊ ስም_____ፊርማ_____ ቀን_____

የጥናት አድራጊ ስም_____ፊርማ_____ቀን_____

Appendix E: Summary of the Participant Returnee's Pre-Migration and Migration Experiences

Pseudonym	Reason of Migration	Mode of Travel	Destination Country	Length of Stay	Kind of Work (while in KSA)	Average Monthly Salary in ETB (while in KSA)
Kebede	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	5 yrs	Gardner	5,000.00
Abebe	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	4 yrs	Daily Laborer	5,000.00
Fekadu	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	3 yrs & 2 months	Assistant Chef	7,500.00
Eyoel	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	3 & 1/2 yrs	Daily Laborer	5,000.00
Yared	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	4 yrs	Daily Laborer	15,000.00
Shimelis	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	9 yrs	Daily Laborer	5,000.00
Abel	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	6 yrs	Daily Laborer	5,000.00
Jemal	Economic Problem	On Boat	KSA	2 yrs	Daily Laborer	8,000.00

Appendix F: List of Key Informants Included in the Study

Name	Organization	Position
Ato Mesele Tesfa	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)	Coordinator - Private Employment Licensing
Ato Kumneger Addisu	The City Government of Addis Ababa Labor and Social Affairs Bureau (BOLSA)	Sub-Process Owner - BOLSA's Overseas Employment
Ato Girma Tesfaye	The City Government of Addis Ababa Micro and Small Enterprises Development Bureau (BOMSED)	Process Owner - Enterprises and Entrepreneurship Development
Ato Sintayehu Nigussie		Senior Officer - Business Sheds Acquisition and Administration
Ato Dessu Zewude	Addis Credit and Finance S.C.	Head - Credit and Saving Sub-Process
Ato Getachew Kassahun		Head - Institutional Development and Service Transformation Sub-Process

Appendix G: Open Codes

Returnee 1: Abel
Economic problem
Unemployment
I migrated with 5 of my friends
No reason led me to migration than economic reason
I went on boat
From Djibouti to Yemen then to KSA
Yemeni smugglers
Lived in KSA for 6 yrs
I didn't have special skill at the time of migration
I used to work in the least paying jobs
I used to get high payment when it is compared with the payment here
On average, I was earning around 1000 Riyal a month
I brought none of my belongings
During our deportation the situation in the KSA was highly tense
As a citizen I got good reception here
The treatment I got here was below my expectation
I heard a lot of good promises
Received 900 ETB
Received seven days psychological training
21 days business creation & management training
Although I heard for per dimes payment, nothing was paid during the training
No meal was offered on the training
It was challenging to cover the taxi fare during the training
Received a 2 by 1meter wide Shed around Akaki
The Shed is located on the 3rd floor of a building
The Shed has serious market problem
What I got here is by far below my expectation
Challenge to access startup loan
Couldn't get a personal guarantee/surety to receive loan
Not allowed to get loan via reciprocal surety-ship with other returnees in different business
Couldn't start a business
No source of income
Married & have baby
I used to financially support my weak mom & me sisters
Now, let alone supporting others, I've nothing to feed myself
I recurrently go to the Woreda Admin Offices in search of solutions
I have nothing to earn and live on
Market problem of the Shed
The nearby community don't understand me
I'm considered to have enough money by others

My mom compares my situation with the success stories of the neighboring children living abroad
My family is pushing me towards remigration
My family is downplaying & undermining my effort to setup micro enterprise here
I don't blame my family, I understand them
They didn't see any change on me (for more than 8 months)
The good promises did not reach the ground
The Woreda level implementers didn't know the promises made by key officials
Go and ask the person for written direction
No written direction handed down
No special treatment could be afforded to KSA returnees
Protracted & time taking government working procedure
Lack of uniformity in the government offices implementation
Unless the reintegration challenges get resolved, remigration is the plan
Prefers legal migration channel
Irregular migration is risky
Bad memory of the irregular migration
After getting Sheds 10 returnee friends already re-migrated losing hope here
Lacks money meant for the travel expenses
Miserable life situation here
Difficulty in getting money for the remigration
Looking for a new co-migrant & get travel expenses covered by the new migrant (serving as a person who shows direction)
Prime focus & solution should be given to the income generating problem
I desperately need income to live on
I need income now not in the future
I've nothing to consume up to the future time
Relaxation of the loan guarantee requirement
Difficult to get a permanent employee as a guarantee
Harsh reality of illegal migration
Gov't should scale up & intensify its border control
Tremendous suffering & human costs
Unintended consequence of the regular migration channel ban
The increasing trend of irregular migration due to the embargo placed
The need to lift the ban on regular migration channel
Resolving the current difficulty to get solution from the gov't offices
Discriminatory Shed allocation (Sheds which have good market potential cannot be given to us)
No practical solution for Shed relocation request
Difficulty to do business in group as each members may have diverse behavior & interest
It would be difficult for KSA returnees to stay in agreement with each other
Gov't should allow for returnees to do business individually
Returnee 2: Shimelis
Economic problem

Poor parents
On boat
Worked on the way to get travel money
Risky travel
Only chanceful can reach the KSA alive
Stayed for 9 years
Used to work by hiding from KSA security forces
Engaged in the least paying jobs
No employment right
Monthly from 4,500 to 5,000 ETB
My belongings were looted in the KSA
In a hurry to save life
Temporary shelter for a night
900 ETB as a transport fare
7 days psychological trainings
Promises didn't reach the ground
Asked to present a personal guarantee for loan (permanent gov't employee or title deed of a house)
Who could do that for unfortunate deportee like me?
21days skill training in hotel and tourism
Organized with 11 other returnees in cafe & restaurant business
Start-up loan 50,000 ETB after saving 10,000
A business Shed around Akaki
No infrastructures for the Shed (no water, electricity & toilet facilities)
The Shed lacked critical facilities
Recurrently insisting for the fulfillment basic facilities
Lack of pragmatism from the gov't side
On the verge of vacating the business
The Shed has no market opportunity
The reintegration assistance is not helping me
Declining economic circumstance
No income to earn & live on
Did not start business
Economic hardship
Failure to generate income
Couldn't join previous friends for lack of money
Imposed self-inflicted isolation
Declining family care & support
Discontent is readable on family members
Daily laborers has reduced in the KSA
Payment increased by 2 or 3 times in the KSA for similar job
Continued contact & encouraging info from friends back in the KSA
Triggers for remigration
Determined to try everything
No time to waste anymore here

Prefers legal migration channel
Solution is needed for income problem above all
Lack of income is the mother of all derivative challenges
Employment opportunities must be created
Strong gov't interventions
Execute the promises made
Gov't should come & see the actual situation of returnees
Now, the case of returnees was disregarded
No change after return
Returnee 3: Kebede
Economic problem
Aspiration to change personal & family lives
In search of better lives
On boat
Lived in the KSA for 5 yrs
Used to work as a gardener
Harsh working conditions
Used to earn 5,000 ETB a month
Did not have any belongings
Used to remit money for family
Warm reception at Bole airport
900 ETB for transportation
7 days psychological training
21 days skill training in hotel & tourism
Organized in micro enterprise with 7 other returnees & 2 non-returnees
Managed to set-up cafe & restaurant business
100,000 ETB as a start-up loan
Received a Shed
Paying 5,000 ETB a month as a repayment of the loan
The reintegration assistance is not helping
No adequate personal income from the business
Every income goes to repayment of the loan
The worst economic situation
Maximum of 300 birr a month for transport if the business is good
Nothing as a livelihood
Nothing remains after paying the loan repayment
Economic challenge is the principal of all
Difficulty to get employment opportunities
Difficulty to earn sustainable income
Future plan is Remigration
Encouraged by the success of re-migrated friends
No prospect of change here
Determined to re-migrate to the KSA
On process for remigration
Employment opportunities must be created

Solving the sustainable income getting problem
Practical steps need to be taken by gov't
Government must intervene to solve the problem
Returnee 4: Fekadu
Economic reason
On boat
Subjected to forced labor in Yemen for 6 months
Stayed for 3 yrs & 2 months
Got the work expected
Used to get satisfactory payment
Used to earn 7,500 ETB a month
Used to remit money for family
Personal belongings were looted there
Warm reception on arrival
900 ETB for transportation
7 days psychological training
21 days skill training in hotel & tourism business
Used to work as an assistant Chef there
Received a store like Shed around Kaliti
A Shed not totally convenient for restaurant business
Didn't receive any start-up loan
Started business by own contributions
The Shed has no market
No income from the business
No customer comes to be served
Mostly throw away cooked foods
No income to live on
Regrets for the money & time spent here in the hope of change
Reintegration assistance is not helping
Repeatedly insisting for relocation of a Shed
No practical response from Woreda Admin offices
Started to discuss with other returnees about ways of remigration not reintegration
No change here
"The gov't has done what it can, now it is my turn to try to change my life"
Want to re-migrate to the KSA
Nothing to earn & live on here
Absence of sustainable income
Unspeakable economic circumstance
The Shed has not market opportunities
Horrible life situation
Empty pocket
Plenty of good promises by the gov't, but no implementation
Some workers at the Woreda started to laugh on us fading up with our case
The nearby society was respecting the KSA returnees at the time of return
Considerable media attention & coverage from the gov't side

Previously, special attention was afforded to us from all sides
Shortly, everything started to fade & erode
Mom has lost every hope on me here
Mom started to downplay all of my efforts here
Couldn't blame them
Mom even started to decline to give me a meal
Mom started to question the relevance of my stay in foreign country
Nothing to give as a financial support
Dad is encouraging me to re-migrate by selling his Oxen
Friends back in the KSA are insisting & encouraging for remigration
Friends in the KSA told me that "you better leave the country than waiting to have any prospect from the business having sixteen members and which is based in a stretched tent"
Economic challenge is the epicenter of all
Wants to live & work here if things change
If there is no change, ready re-migrate to the KSA even tonight
Here, humans are not respected the way money is respected
Unkindness to each other is thriving here
What the government says do not get implemented properly
No option than remigration
Gov't must create ways to work & change here
The inherent right of working in one's own country must be respected at all time without any condition
Gov't should give a Shed which has market potential
Gov't should regularly evaluate & supervise the business conditions of the returnees
This time, returnees are left in the middle of no where
Nobody is giving attention towards the case of returnees
Gov't must listen to the problem of returnees
Returnee 5: Eyoel
To escape from economic difficulties
On boat through Djibouti
Lived 3 1/2 years in the KSA
I didn't get the employment I expected
Used to earn 5,000 ETB a month
I had brought some amount of cash
900 ETB as a transport fare
7 days psychological training
21 days skill training in Hairdressing
Took COC exam & passed
The skill training was not adequate
Difficult to master hairdressing within 21 days training
Took broader training on own cost
The reintegration assistance is not helping
The reintegration assistance did not take me out of economic dependence
I didn't start business in the skill acquired
Inconvenient Shed for the hairdressing business

The Shed has no market opportunities
On the 3rd floor of a building
The gov't took back the Shed
Nothing to live on
No change for eight & more months
No income
Living on the money brought from the KSA
Irregular financial support from family
Lack of sustainable income
Wish to work in home country
Conducive conditions are needed
In the absence of change no time to waste
Remigration to the KSA or to some other country
Difficult for Gov't to meet the needs of all returnees
Resources are limited here
Don't expect all things from the Gov't
Lift the ban on regular migration channel
The Ban placed on regular migration is fueling the trend of irregular migration
Bilateral agreement with the KSA for legal migration
The KSA gov't should cancel the finger print taken from returnees
The 5 yrs KSA entry ban placed on returnees must be lifted
Returnee 6: Jemal
Economic reasons
Not succeeded in all aspect here
In search of better life
On boat
Stayed for 2 yrs in the KSA
Didn't get the employment expected there
Used to earn 8,000 ETB a month
I didn't bring any of the belongings
Highly volatile situation in the KSA during return
900 ETB as a transportation
Received 4 days psychological training offered by a local NGO
21 days skill training in hotel & tourism
Organized in micro enterprise with 11 other returnees
2 returnees left the business losing hope
Got 50,000 start-up loan
Paying 2,500 as a loan repayment
Received temporary Shed around Akaki Koye condominium site
A shed based in a stretched tent
Didn't see any of the promises realized
All things here are by far below my expectations
No special treatment for returnees
Willingly decided to return hearing the good promises of the Ethiopian embassy officials in the KSA & not captured by the KSA security forces

Free Housing, Employment, unconditional start-up loans & the like were promised
Returned with wife & a baby
Ended up working in a temporary tent based shed on the outskirt of Addis Ababa
Getting only 2 or 3 times a day free meals
Earning no income
All the income of the business goes to the repayment of the loan
Have nothing to live on
Living on the money brought from the KSA
Irregular financial assistance from family
Economic difficulty is a serious challenge
Couldn't change cloths let alone other things
Tried to get employment elsewhere, but couldn't
The skill training could not be sufficient for employment
"A hotel manager laughed at me when I applied for job with the skill training certificate"
Couldn't earn a cent from the business
Excessive size of members in the business
The size of members needs reconsideration
The actual Shed lacked basic facilities
The Shed has no market opportunities
The actual Shed is in the fourth floor of a building
Prompt intervention is needed from the Gov't
Don't know what to do next
As a father of a baby, don't want to resort into irregular remigration
Prefers remigration via regular remigration channel
Remigration is the last resort
Receiving financial support from re-migrated friends
The success of re-migrated friends is encouraging to resort into remigration
Not totally satisfied with the reintegration assistances
Don't see any prospect here
Gov't should resolve income earning problem first
Gov't should aggressively create employment opportunities
"The good promises of the gov't were pure lies"
"The gov't shouldn't promise what it couldn't honor & realize"
"None of the gov't pledges reached the realization stage"
What those in leadership position say couldn't reach the Woreda Admin level implementers
"The gov't should come to us & understand the problems we are facing in re-integrating"
Expecting for new assistance schemes to be provided by the gov't
Returnee 7: Yared
Economic difficulty
Did not succeed in both education & works here
Traveled on boat
Stayed in the KSA for 4 yrs
Didn't get the kind of work expected
Used to work as a daily laborer or "Yomiya"
Used to earn 15,000 ETB a month

Didn't bring any belongings
Received 900 ETB for transportation from IOM
7 days psychological training
21 days skill training in Hairdressing
Couldn't start business
Difficulty to get start-up loan
The reintegration assistance is not helping
Couldn't start to work in the skill trained with
Difficult loan requirements
Asked to present a guarantee who earns 5,000 ETB
Nobody was willing to be a surety
Not have an income to live on
Living on the support of family & friends
Accessing loan was almost impossible
Not allowed to access loan by presenting a vehicle title deed
Promises were not fully honored by the gov't
Re-migrated and re-deported
Spent around 70,000 ETB for the remigration to the KSA
Regrets for the unsuccessful remigration
Don't have anything to spend
Getting irregular financial assistance from re-migrated colleagues in the KSA
The payment for daily laborers considerably increased in the KSA
Encouragement from Re-migrated friends in the KSA for remigration
If there is change, prefers to remain & work here
Remigration is the option in the absence of conducive environment here
Remigration for the third time to the KSA or some other countries is the plan
Prefers remigration via legal or regular means
Gov't must intervene & relax the start-up loan access
Returnee 8: Abebe
Poverty
Lack of income
To change my life
Went to Djibouti as a track driver's assistant
Motivated to go with the persuasion of other Ethiopians heading to KSA
To Yemen on boat
Arrested on the route
Smuggled by Yemeni smugglers to the KSA
Stayed 4 yrs in the KSA
Got employment below expectation
Used to earn around 1000 Riyal (around 5000 ETB) monthly
Did not bring any property
Warm reception on arrival
A sleeping place for one night around Gerji area
Did not get blanket and dinner at the temporary Shelter
Received 900 ETB as a transport fare from IOM

7 days psychological & 21 days skill training at Nefas Silk Technical School in Hotel and Tourism (food preparation)
Organized with 13 other returnees in Cafe and Restaurant business
Received business Shed around Teklehaimanot area
Obtained startup loan from Addis Credit and Finance S.C. (after saving 20% of the loan amount)
Forced to immediately start the loan repayment
Most of the proceeds of the business goes to the loan repayment
The size of the members in the business and the income are not comparable
There is no remaining income to share amongst the members
4000 ETB is paid as a loan repayment monthly
Shed rent is also paid monthly
Utility expenses (electricity, & water)
2% TOT (Turn Over Tax) is paid to the Inland Revenue Authority
Nothing to share as a personal income
I am dependent on the support of others
The reintegration assistance is not helping me
Fellow members in the business also usually ask me for personal income
The vastness of the size of members in the business is also another challenge
The failure to get adequate time for the repayment of the loan
Lack of understanding from the community
Only for coming from abroad, others consider me as if I have a lot of money
No one believes me when I tell that I've no money
I'm living at my sister's home
Isolated myself from having frequent contact & I don't eat there from my sister's home for fear of request for money
Lack of personal income is the source of all problems
Life here is almost unbearable for me
I'm considering the option of remigration
I'm seriously assessing the risks of remigration
I've nothing to spend unwisely & for emotion led remigration
Drawn a lesson from my unsuccessful re-migrant colleagues
I have a plan to re-migrate & discussing it with my returnee friends
But, I couldn't tell the date of re-migration
I'm contacting with my friends who have re-migrated to KSA via social medias
If the challenges get resolved I would prefer to live & work here
If there is no change, I've no option than remigration
Special attention need to be taken on resolving the personal income problem
The size of the members in the business should be reduced
It is possible to divide our business into two by giving another Shed
Absence of adequate loan repayment period requires reconsideration
TOT payment must be suspended for us
Gov't must honor its promises
I heard that loans shall be provided with minimal interest, with extended grace period, no tax obligation

The reality on the ground is otherwise
Gov't should promote employment opportunities for returnees
Gov't should engage with private sector

Appendix H: Axial Codes

Economic problem	Self-imposed social isolation
Unemployment	Conditional Preference to Remain
Poverty	Remigration
Search for better lives	Resolving income generating problem
Lack of opportunities	Crating employment opportunities
Mode of travel	Honoring promises
Routes of migration	Consistent gov't evaluation
On journey challenges	Lifting ban on regular migration
Length of Stay	
Conditions in the Destination Country	
Deportation	
Warm reception	
Temporary Shelter	
Financial aid	
Psychological training	
Skill trainings	
Organizing in Micro & Small enterprises	
Business start-up loan facilitation	
Business center or Shed allocation	
Difficulty to earn income	
Lack of employment opportunities	
Difficulty to access start-up loan	
Inadequacy of Loan repayment grace period	
Excessive size of members in a business	
Market problem of Sheds	
Lack of infrastructures for Sheds	
Lengthy government bureaucracy	
Non-responsive government bureaucracy	
Incoherent & inconsistent leadership	
Expectation & reality mismatch	
Declining family care & support	
Family pressure	
Peer pressure	
Community Misunderstanding	

Appendix I: Selective Codes

Themes	Theme Category/Sub-Categories	
Economic problem	**Pre-migration Experiences**	
Unemployment		
Poverty		
Search for better lives		
Lack of opportunities		
Mode of travel	**Migration Experiences**	
Routes of migration		
On journey challenges		
Length of Stay		
Conditions in the Destination Country		
Deportation		
Warm reception	**Post-Return Reintegration Assistances**	
Temporary Shelter		
Financial aid		
Psychological training		
Skill trainings		
Organizing in Micro & Small enterprises		
Business start-up loan facilitation		
Business center or Shed allocation		
Difficulty to earn sustainable income	**Economic Challenges**	**Reintegration Challenges**
Lack of employment opportunities		
Difficulty to access start-up loan	**Challenges Associated with Start-up Loan**	
Inadequacy of Loan repayment grace period		
Excessive size of members in a business	**Challenges Associated with Formation of Micro-Enterprises**	
Market problem of Sheds		
Lack of infrastructures for Sheds		
Lengthy government bureaucracy	**Challenges Associated with Government Bureaucracy**	
Non-responsive government bureaucracy		
Incoherent & inconsistent leadership		
Declining family care & support	**Social Challenges**	
Family pressure		
Peer pressure		
Community Misconception		
Self-imposed social isolation		
Conditional Preference to Remain	**Future Plan**	
Remigration		
Resolving income generating problem	**Suggested Interventions**	
Crating employment opportunities		
Honoring promises		
Consistent government follow-up		
Lifting ban on regular migration		

Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University, and that all sources of material used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Name: Michael Temesgen Abdeta

Signature: _____

Date: _____