

Jimma University
College of Social Sciences and Humanities
School of Social Work

The Role of Community Conversation in preventing irregular migration: The
Case of Anedegna Tunto Kebele, Kembta Tembaro Zone, Ethiopia.

By
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This is to endorse that this thesis undertaken by Mulualem Dimarko Lencho which is entitled with “the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration: the case of *Andegna Tunto kebele* in SNNPR, Ethiopia.” And submitted to the school of social work in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts in social work at Jimma University School of social work in 2021. Accordingly, The Thesis work met the accepted standards of the University and accepted by fulfilling originality and quality requirements.

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Letter of declaration

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Acronym and abbreviations

BOLSA.....	Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs
BOFED.....	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CBOs.....	Community-Based Organizations
CC.....	Community Conversation
CCG.....	Community Conversation Group
DOLSA.....	Department of Labor and Social Affairs
e.g.....	Example
GoE.....	Government of Ethiopia
HoA.....	Horn of Africa
IGA.....	Income Generating Activity
IM.....	Irregular Migration
ILO.....	International Labor Organization
IOM.....	International Organization for Migration
KMT.....	Kembta Tembaro Zone
MOLSA.....	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
NEM.....	New Economics of Migration
NELM.....	New economics of Labor Migration
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organizations
RMMS.....	Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat
RSA.....	Republic of South Africa
SNNPR.....	Southern Nation, Nationalities, and People Region
SoM.....	Smuggling of Migrants
TiP.....	Trafficking in Person
U.N.....	United Nation

Abstract

This study attempted to gain an in-depth understanding of the role that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration with the objectives of identifying the major role that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration; the factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation; and the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration in Anedegna Tunto kebele of Kembata Tembaro zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia. A single case study research design from a qualitative research approach with the purpose of exploration was used. Research data were collected through document review, interviews, and FGD from the community members, returnees, and stakeholder representatives. The participants have been selected based on the non-probability sampling technique purposefully. Accordingly, the participant size was determined based on the principle of data saturation. I have analyzed the data manually by following the six phases of thematic analysis. The findings of the study revealed that community conversation plays a significant role in curbing the misconception that a family and a wider community constructed towards irregular migration and also enhancing the people's awareness of the exploitative nature of irregular migration in Anedegna Tunto kebele. Findings point out, the formulation of bylaws and binding rules by Community Based Organizations and religious institutions are serving as the backbone to curb the misconception among the villagers towards irregular migration. Conclusions drawn from the findings of this study; the implication addressed two areas or issues that need further investigation by researchers. The contribution of community conversation for discouraging potential migrant decision of irregular migration. And the integrations of the rule formulated by CBOs with modern legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent irregular migration. Finally, I recommended further studies with large scope and comprehensive method (with both qualitative and quantitative approaches) should be conducted on the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation.

Key words

Irregular migration, awareness creation, information campaigns, and community conversation

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In 2014, Abreu study of human security in the refugee movement showed that people migrate over the world since ancient times for various reasons from their place of origin to the place of destination. In recent years, the world has witnessed unprecedentedly high numbers of migrants of different categories (Abreu, 2014). The G20 Global Displacement and Migration Trends Report (2017) shows that around 10 to 15% of 244 million individuals are irregular migrants who reside in countries other than their home countries in 2015 at global level (G20 Global Displacement and Migration Trends Report 2017 as cited in Issak, 2021).

According to McAuliffe, Khadria, and the International Organization for Migration (2019), the current global estimate is that there were around 272 million international migrants in the world in 2019, which equates to 3.5 per cent of the global population. Migration in Africa involves large numbers of migrants moving both within and from the region. Over 21 million Africans were living in another African country in 2019, a significant increase from 2015, when around 18.5 million Africans were estimated to be living within the region. In terms of the number of immigrants, South Africa remains the most significant destination country in Africa, with around 4 million international migrants residing in the country (McAuliffe, Khadria, and International Organization for Migration, 2019).

Every year tens of thousands of young people flee the horn of Africa, which is one of the most irregular migration produced regions, in irregular way. As per (Issak, 2021), the factor that Cause people to migrate in an irregular way differ from region to region, and from period to period. He further admitted that often irregular migration in the HOA region context is viewed solely in relation to poverty, overlooking political instability and armed conflict that are extensive in the region (Issak, 2021).

Although McAuliffe, Khadria, and the International Organization for Migration, (2019), suggest that the complex set of economic, environmental, socio-cultural, political, and indeed sometimes personal factors were the causes for irregular migration in the region (McAuliffe, Khadria, and International Organization for Migration, 2019). Teshome, Ajay, and Charles (2013) found that the flow of Ethiopian migrants to the Republic of South Africa started in the post-1991 context following significant political changes in both countries: the fall of the socialist government and liberalization of migration governance in Ethiopia, and the change of government and end of the Apartheid regime in the RSA (Teshome, Ajay and Charles, 2013).

The majority of irregular migrants coming from two zones of the southern parts, namely in Hadya and Kambata-Tambaro Zones choose the southern route through Kenya (the main transit country); or other transit countries which include Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique towards South Africa since 1991 (Sinedu, 2009; IOM, 2009). In brief, in the paper entitled *Unpacking the myths: Human smuggling from and within the Horn of Africa*, Davy (2017) indicated that the regional Mixed Migration Monthly Summary (RMMS) report of March 2017 shows around 13,400–14,050 Ethiopians migrate to South Africa every year (Davy, 2017).

According to the first Quarter trend summary and analysis of regional mixed migration in East Africa and Yemen (2017), Migrants from the Horn of Africa, which Ethiopia is found, continue to be at risk from detention and deportation on their journeys. The report indicated that a group of 147 Ethiopian migrants were supported to repatriate from Zambia and also other abuses including physical and sexual abuse, extortion, robbery and death were prevalent on the southern route as they crossed into the country from Zambia towards South Africa (Regional mixed migration secretariat, 2017).

For the International organization for Migration (2019), “Awareness development is one of the Irregular migration prevention and informed migration decision-making strategies” (IOM, 2019, p 1). Among the various alternative approaches, well-organized community conversation is one of the strategies for a nationwide movement to prevent Irregular Migration. This approach focuses on irregular migration which aims at preventing irregular migration, trafficking in persons, and smuggling of migrants and contribute to the successful reintegration of returnees (IOM, 2019).

The term 'community conversation' describes discussions among local people, guided by a trained facilitator, that support critical thinking and problem solving around key community issues. The Community Capacity Enhancement through Community Conversations (CCE) methodology was originally developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and has since been adopted by different civil and government organizations, including, the international organization of migration (United Nations Development Program, 2004).

According to Campbell, C., et al (2013), community conversations have been used to address a range of issues including mental health stigma among ethnic minorities in Scotland; increasing employment opportunities for high school youth with disabilities; improving early childhood educational alignment; efforts to determine health issues and better meet health needs among populations such as rural people, particularly Native Americans, in North Dakota, and elderly Cambodian refugees in Massachusetts (Campbell C. et al, 2013).

Similarly, IOM considers it as a tool to improve community knowledge and attitude in response to irregular migrations. Over the last fifteen years, the regional Labor and Social Affairs Bureau (BoLSA) of South Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has been implementing community conversation that, according to Acha (2020), can broadly be categorized under the list of the awareness creation campaign in Behavioral change communication (BCC) (Acha,2020).

According to the Reports from the BoLSA (2014), the community conversation is held among the community at the grass-root level to combat and prevent irregular migration through messaging on the positive aspects of regular migration and the dangers and associated consequences of irregular migration (BoLSA, 2014). A similar report shows that the Community Conversation was launched as an initiative to engage the target community in the efforts to curb irregular migration and its adverse effects. These are intended to create a forum through which communities can discuss local alternatives to migration and ways to combat irregular migration. More over, the report of kemebat Temabaro zone labor and social affairs department in June 2020 indicated that the community conversation which is held in *Andegna Tunto keble* from kembata temabaro

zone had a good performance in preventing irregular migration (Kembata Tembaro Zone Department of Labor and Social Affairs, 2020).

Therefore, this study attempted to gain in-depth understanding of the roles that community conversation might play in the prevention of irregular migration in the study area. More specifically, the study attempted to identify and describe major roles that community conversation plays in the prevention of irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele* of Hadero Woreda in Kembata zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia. Secondly, it carried out to explore factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through the community conversation in the identified study area. Thirdly, it carried out to find out the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration in the study area.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The United Nations (U.N.) and its affiliations, as well as member states, have crafted and implemented multiple responses to combat irregular migration. In respect of this, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) in collaboration with its national and international partners has been taking several measures to prevent IM through expanding local livelihood options, facilitating overseas employment opportunities, and penalize individuals and agencies engaged in the IM issue (IOM, 2019).

It has also developed a proclamation to implement local livelihoods, overseas employment, and preventing irregular migration through penalizing actors involved in human trafficking. Ethiopian Overseas Employment Proclamation (Proclamation No. 923/2016) is anticipated to reduce the number of illegal migrants crossing Arab and other foreign countries and help to prevent human trafficking. However, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that the Overseas Employment Proclamation will only be working with foreign States with which Ethiopia has bilateral agreement (Proclamation No. 923/2016, *Art.12*).

According to Acha (2020), awareness-raising interventions have been effective in reaching a broad audience with appropriate information and also demonstrates the contributions of awareness-raising interventions in combating irregular migration. In addition to that, an assessment by the International labor organization (ILO) found raising awareness and educating the public about the causes, consequences, and signs of irregular

migration in persons are important tools to prevent and detect this crime (Acha, 2020; ILO, 2018).

As part of the menu of responses, Community Conversation is a critical component of efforts of awareness creation to address irregular migration (IOM, 2019). According to this manual, community conversation (CC) is a process in which representatives of different community members and stakeholders come together, hold discussions on their concerns and pass on resolutions of their own that can bring about behavioral and attitudinal changes on the people (IOM, 2019).

In the Ethiopian context, especially in rural Ethiopia information is circulated through words of mouth and informal communication channels. Even though, there has been an increasing trend in the outflow of irregular migration, especially from rural Ethiopia, reaching out to the target group has been a major challenge. Therefore, through the community conversation actions are taken by families and communities to prevent irregular migration raising awareness; potential migrants are enabled to make an informed decision on their migration; and families and communities become protective and show care towards returnees (IOM, 2019).

I have found a study related to counter-trafficking interventions that was conducted by a researcher utilizing a qualitative case study method. For instance, in the study entitled *the nature of intervention Non-Government Local Organizations provision towards trafficked women returnee in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia* Mestawet (2017) revealed that the services and facilities provided by local NGOs are in general below the standard guidelines in human trafficking returnee assistance. Although her study emphasized on Local Ngo's service provision towards trafficked women, it overlooked the most affected areas which produced irregular migration and does not include the voice of community members (Mestawet, 2017).

In similar vein, the study by Bethlehem (2015) entitled *an Assessment on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Female Returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* which was conducted in Addis Abeba indicated that there was lack of effective coordination, lack of clarity on the mandate, and lack of comprehensive guidelines within the government and non-government organizations in supporting rehabilitation and reintegration for returnee, although it does not include the issues of community

conversation roles, the voices of potential migrants in general, and male migrants in particular (Bethlehem, 2015).

In the study entitled *the impact of integrated regional efforts to deter irregular migration in SNNPR, Ethiopia*, Acha (2020) attempted to include the voice of community members through employing a qualitative approach and collected data using focus group discussions, key informant interviews and life history narratives in selected four zones of South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, Ethiopia. Moreover, the findings of the study showed that different stakeholders are working with regional Labor and Social Affairs Agency to deter irregular migration (Acha, 2020).

Although Acha (2020) attempted to collect qualitative data within 6 months from 4 zones comprising key stakeholders like local community, educational institutions, Bureau of women and children affairs, media and religious organizations through selecting the most appropriate areas which produce irregular migration including Kambata Tembaro zone, He did not give due attention to the type and level of research which is micro-level research called for to advance counter irregular migration efforts (Kraaijvanger, D., 2019 ; Weitzer 2014 and Spires 2015).

Therefore, in this study, I filled these gaps by focusing on SNNPR which produce irregular migration, especially to one kebele from Kambata Tembaro zone and emphasized on the roles of the community conversation in preventing irregular migrations. Hence, I gave voice for the community member's, male returnee and key stakeholders in the community conversation to explore the role that a community conversation plays in preventing irregular migrations.

Furthermore, although community conversation is firmly established in the IOM manual (2014) and serves as a means to counter irregular migration, a solid connection is yet to be made in the academic and/or policy literature between community conversation and irregular migration. To help fill this gap, the current case study examined and identified the roles that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele* of Kambata zone, Ethiopia.

The micro-level study area (i.e., *Anedegna Tunto Kebele* in KTZ), serving as the case study location in the current study, embodies many of the elements discussed above and, therefore, helps to fill existing gaps in the literature, *Anedegna Tunto Kebele* is a

neighborhood in the Kambata Tambaro zone of the SNNP Regional State where the regional BoLSA currently implements the community conversation program in collaboration with the federal government and IOM. The community conversation program is being implemented in the study area as a key component of the prevention mechanisms of irregular migration and with the aim of combating and preventing irregular migration through messaging on the positive aspects of regular migration and the dangers and associated consequences of irregular migration (BoLSA 2014). Thus, this case study serves the dual purpose of contributing to fill the gaps in the academic and policy literature, and of bringing local knowledge to bear on what works well in practice

RESEARCH QUESTION

- ❖ What are the major roles of community conversation in the prevention of irregular migration in the study area?
- ❖ What factors or conditions affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation in the study area?
- ❖ What are the challenges of implementing community conversation as the prevention strategy/mechanism of irregular migration in the study area?

OBJECTIVES

General Objective

The overall objective of this study was to gain an in-depth understanding of the roles that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele* of Kambata Zone in the SNNP Regional State of Ethiopia.

Specific objective

The specific objectives of this study were:

- ❖ To identify the major roles that community conversation plays in the prevention of irregular migration in the study area
- ❖ To explore factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation in the study area
- ❖ To find out the challenges of implementing community conversation as the prevention mechanism of irregular migration in the study area/Kebele

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

First, it is important to explore the role of a community conversation in preventing irregular migration for social work both as a profession and a practice to tackle irregular migration as a social problem and community conversation as an intervention mechanism to solve this social problem or heroine's crime. Second, it provides possible insight for policy makers and researchers. Second, it has practical importance for practitioners by providing insight on how and what is needed to prevent irregular migration through community conversation. Regarding this significance, the result of this study will be submitted to the IOM (Ethiopia), for their suggestion and confirmation to use it as appropriate intervention insights for the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation. After their confirmation, the paper will be presented during the workshops. This study is also supposed to be an addition to the lacking literature concerning a counter-trafficking initiative. Therefore, the paper should be published as a booklet and also written up for a paper in a scientific journal.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Firstly, the study was limited to one of the typologies of combating irregular migration which was prevention. Secondly, it has been limited to coverage to community conversation among the prevention aspects of irregular migration. Therefore, this study centered on the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation which is being implemented and facilitated by the international organization for migration and bureau of labor and social affairs.

Geographically, it was limited to a community conversation which is carried out in *Anedegna tunto kebele* of Kembata Temabaro zones Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), Ethiopia. More ever, this study employed a case study from the qualitative research method. Therefore, this study was delimited to representatives of different community members who are an actor in preventing irregular migration through community conversation in *Anedegna Tunto keble* of Kembata Tembaro zone.

DEFINATIONS OF TERMS

Defining what constitutes 'trafficking' is one of the major problems faced by researchers, policy makers, and legislators in combating the problem. This principally

arises from the overlap and similarities the term 'trafficking' has with voluntary migration and human smuggling. To remain consistent throughout the study, definitions of some key terms are given below:

Irregular migration: -The term irregular migration is defined as the movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit, and receiving countries (IOM, 2004).

Illegal Migrant: - A person, who owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The term applies to migrants who break a country's admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (IOM, 2004).

Human trafficking: Trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or 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, for exploitation (IOM, 2000).

Smuggling: The procurement, to obtain, directly or indirectly, financial or other material benefits, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (IOM, 2004).

Community conversation: It can be contextually defined as a process in which representatives of different community members come together, hold discussions on their common concerns and pass on resolutions of their own that can bring about the desired behavioral and attitudinal changes on irregular migration (IOM, 2019).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This section consists of the literature review and theoretical framework. The purpose of this section was to show, in a systematic way, what is already known about irregular migration and its prevention mechanisms including community conversation, and to outline the key concepts and theories that the current study has utilized to understand the phenomena.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section attempted to briefly describe the scholarly context in a way that emphasizes the originality of the current study and establishes the context and background of the irregular migration phenomena. The first section provides an overview of the global and regional dimensions of irregular migration and also a localized perspective of irregular migration and the second section briefs the underlying causes and factors of irregular migration. The third section reviews international, regional, and national entities' response to irregular migration and also explores the role of community conversation in combating irregular migration. The fourth section of the literature review sorts out the persistent challenges to combatting irregular migration, and factors that improve the effectiveness of information campaign. While the fifth section focuses on key scholarly debates in the field surrounding the need to utilize various approaches to address the persistent challenges affecting the eradication of this pervasive international issue. Scholars argue for placing more emphasis on prevention measures and for conducting more empirical research at the micro-level (such as the current study area – i.e., *Andegna Tunto Kebele*) while focusing on the work of awareness creation and information campaigns including community conversation. The last section summarizes the literature review and situates this study in the context of current research needs and ongoing debates.

The Concepts of Irregular Migration

Since the definition of irregular migration varies among researchers and concerned international organizations, it is necessary here to clarify exactly what is meant by irregular migration and distinguish it from the other forms of migration. According to Vollmer (2011), the term irregular migration commonly refers to the cross-border stream of individuals who enter a nation without that nation's legitimate consent to do so (Vollmer, 2011).

For the International Organization for Migration (IOM), irregular migration is the movement of people that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit, and receiving countries, and a person, who owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country is the illegal migrant. This definition also works for the term irregular migrants (IOM, 2004).

Similarly, the Meanings of irregular migrants are problematic and complex; for inexact similarity among nations, two broad types of irregularity have been distinguished in the database: irregular foreign residents and irregular foreign workers (International Labor Organization, 2011 and Koser, 2005). As to the International Labor Organization irregular foreign residents are outside nationals with no legitimate inhabitant status in the nation they are dwelling in, and people abusing the terms of their status so that their stay might be ended whereas irregular foreign workers are outside nationals working in the shadow economy, incorporating those with a customary habitation status who work without enrollment to stay away from due charges and regulations. Conversely, the term irregular migrants normally refer to a load of transients in a nation who are not qualified to dwell there, either because they have never had a legitimate habitation allow or because they have overstayed their time-restricted permit (IOM, 2011).

For this study, the researcher adopted an international organization for migration (IOM) definition of irregular migration and irregular migrant. For the International Organization for Migration (IOM), irregular migration is the movement of people that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit, and receiving countries, and a person, who owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country is the illegal migrant. The same glossary defines the term

migration broadly as the movement of persons or groups of persons either within a country or crossing an international border (IOM, 2004).

Underlying Causes and Factors of Irregular Migration

Many scholars and reputed international organizations including the IOM (2019) use causes and factors of irregular migration interchangeably (IOM, 2019). Both terms intend to explain the motives or intentions of the migrants. Thus, both causes and factors of irregular migration are used interchangeably in this study.

It is not always possible to disaggregate regular and irregular migration in the literature. There are parallels between regular and irregular motivations, but some factors are unique to irregular migration, although these have not been specifically examined in the literature on migration. The literature tends to assume that motivations for migrating are the same for regular and irregular migrants. Broadly, irregular migration is due to limited options for regular migration (Kuschminder, K., De Bresser, J., and Siegel, M., 2015).

According to the IOM (2019), the causes of irregular migration are too many to list and differ from place to place, migrant to migrant, and time to time (IOM, 2019). Generally, however, causes of irregular migration can be classified into push-pull factors according to the IOM (2011) glossary on migration. The push factors (such as youth unemployment, knowledge and attitude gaps, household poverty, family expectations and pressure, long procedures and tight requirements to use regular migration pathways, and availability of brokers and smugglers) drive people to leave their country while the pull factors (such as better employment and income opportunities as well as the favorable condition of the destination countries people hears) attract migrants to the country of destinations. Furthermore, some sources added reinforcing factors such as local and transnational networks and communication, peer influence (especially those who have previously migrated, relatively successful in terms of sending remittance to their families, constructing homes, buying household furniture, etc.), and the media and information communication. The estimates of irregular migration flows are uncertain. The most important problems are: a lack of current data within and across countries; data on migration can be reported differently by the receiving country and the sending country;

and different data collection procedures and methodologies across countries and organizations complicate comparing data (Lopez, 2015).

According to Browne (2015), the broader literature provides strong evidence that, globally, conditions of poverty, inequality, conflict, and lack of economic opportunities at home, and reports from trusted social networks about conditions abroad, play a strong role in decisions to migrate internationally. Moreover, most literature states that economic and conflict reasons, along with social networks and social support, are the major factors influencing migration (Browne, E, 2015).

Social networks

Social networks are generally recognized as playing a strong role in migration. The existence of networks in a destination country increases the chance of choosing to migrate there (Kuschminder et al., 2015). The information received through social networks is usually considered more trustworthy than that from other sources (Kuschminder et al., 2015).

Growing literature reveals that the Hadya and Kambata migration to the RSA was noticed at the beginning of the 2000s when then Ethiopian Ambassador to the RSA supported a few of his relatives from the same region to emigrate to the RSA (Teshome et al, 2013). This initial individual contribution and subsequently expanded networks, in conjunction with the involvement of smugglers and the spread of success stories of prior migrants, eventually developed into a massive stream of migration to the RSA.

Economic factors

According to Reitano et al., (2014), African countries have a high population growth rate, but without the corresponding increase in jobs for young people. They also suggest that the increasing gap between rich and poor contributes to the desire to migrate. Economic reasons are consistently cited in the literature as the primary motivation in decisions to migrate to or through Sub-Saharan Africa. This is broader than just the experience of living in poverty, but also includes a lack of high-skill job opportunities, youth bulges, visible inequality, and low wages in home countries (Reitano et al., 2014).

Economic factors influencing irregular migrants' choice of where and how to migrate include the cost of traveling to a certain destination; the economy of the destination country; and the perception of the mix of economic factors such as

employment, wages, and benefits in the destination country (Kuschminder et al., 2015). Migrants with less money might choose closer or more accessible locations, or more dangerous routes, meaning that socio-economic status plays a role in destination choice (Kuschminder et al., 2015).

The literature is consistent in noting that the poorest of the poor are much less likely to migrate, due to the high costs (Kuschminder et al., 2015). Migrants are likely to be moderately educated and with some resources, to spend on the costs of migration. According to Kahn, Y., Dumas, A., Eshet, Y., and Billfeld, N. (2014), remittances and family members in the destination country are the most important variables influencing decisions to migrate (Kahn et al., 2014).

Responses to Irregular Migration – International, Regional and National Responses – GoE

In this sub-section, I have attempted to identify international, regional, and national governments responses and partnerships that have potentially contributed to efforts to counter the issues of irregular migration based on relevant literature sources.

The international and regional response to irregular migration

This subsection provides a review of studies about efforts by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), along with their networks and partnerships with government agencies, the corporate sector, and civil society to reduce irregular migration on a global scale, with particular emphasis for an overview of organizations engaged in raising awareness and social movement -building.

According to a recent study by Foot, K. A., Toft, A., and Cesare, N. (2015), most counter-trafficking organizations claim to do some type of awareness-raising. Awareness-raising and movement-building campaigns include everything from radio and television ads to education programs at schools, posters at airports, rallies, runs, and programs aimed at informing communities about their rights. Raising awareness, public education, disseminating information, and campaigning is common activities among domestic and international counter-trafficking organizations (Foot et al. 2015).

Some studies suggest that whereas growing counter-trafficking efforts have increased general awareness of the problem and have perhaps improved the lives of some

victims, they have ignored, further complicated, or worsened the situation of others (Brennan 2014; Esposito et al., 2016 and Musto 2016).

Currently, the largest portions of counter-trafficking funding go to large INGOs, UN agencies, and large corporations based in the United States or Europe. However, it is essential that policymakers, funders, and civil society equally recognize and coordinate with the local, commonly under-resourced work of smaller-scale organizations and networks on which larger organizations depend. Rooted in the community, local efforts often have a deep understanding of the existing gaps in local and global policy and may offer improved solutions to trafficking that remain unrecognized by larger organizations (Winterdyk, 2018).

According to Pécoud (2010), migration information campaigns which are applied in Central and Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America, centered on providing information for people who are either returned or attempt to migrate about the jeopardies of irregular migration. These risks and dangers concern the journey itself, pointing out the potential life-threatening situations at sea or in the desert, and the ruthlessness of smugglers. Other campaigns warn migrants about the risk of falling into the hands of human traffickers. Information campaigns have been deemed essential in fighting trafficking and smuggling, as they reduce the vulnerability of potential victims by raising awareness regarding the risk of being caught in criminal networks (Pécoud, 2010).

Government of Ethiopia response to irregular migration

In 2014, eight countries signed the Declaration on African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, which commits them to equal assistance measures to both trafficked persons and abused smuggled migrants (IOM, 2015). Sudan adopted an anti-trafficking law in 2014, and similar laws are pending in Ethiopia (IOM, 2015).

A National Committee against Trafficking was established in 2019 to develop the Ethiopian institutional response to irregular migration and involves civil and government organizations actors. According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (2020), among the international and non-governmental actors in Ethiopia with involvement in

addressing migrant smuggling, IOM concentrates on preventing trafficking and smuggling in Ethiopia through awareness-raising, community discussion programmes, and rehabilitating the returnees. One of the main government actors involved in terms of facilitating awareness raising, community discussion programs, and rehabilitation support for returned migrants is the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (RMMS, 2014).

Ethiopia also developed a proclamation to implement local livelihoods, overseas employment, and preventing irregular migration through penalizing actors involved in human trafficking. Ethiopian Overseas Employment Proclamation (Proclamation No. 923/2016) is anticipated to reduce the number of illegal migrants crossing Arab and other foreign countries and help to prevent human trafficking. However, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that the Overseas Employment Proclamation will only be working to foreign States with which Ethiopia has bilateral agreement (Proclamation No. 923/2016, *Art.12*).

Prevention and information campaign

Information campaigns have been launched since the 1990s in central and eastern Europe to prevent human trafficking and undocumented migration. They attempt to reduce emigration before migrants reach the border and therefore take place within the reinforcement of migration controls. They are designed to discourage potential migrants from leaving by promoting a negative image of migration to Western Europe, thus relying on the questionable assumption that information plays a key role in migration decisions (pecoud, 2010).

The campaigns aimed at informing potential migrants about the risks of potential migrants (e.g forced prostitution after migration) are also part of this study. The provision of information about the challenge of living illegally in the country of the destination is another form of information campaign. It focuses on the difficult circumstances of living illegally in the country of destination. Regarding this form of the campaign, and information about unsuccessful returnees and the challenges they encountered at the destination is a central message sent to potential migrants (Heller, 2014).

According to Browne (2015), provides a useful summary of what is thought to be best practice, including using multiple media techniques to convey the information engagingly, and targeting the whole community in recognition that family and social

networks are often highly influential in shaping migration aspirations and decisions (Browne,2015)

Information campaigns are presented as preventive in the sense that they address trafficking before it takes place; they are supposed to complement repressive policies that criminalize trafficking and increase penalties. Yet prevention is understood in a narrow sense; it focuses exclusively on the need for people to be aware of the dangers surrounding trafficking and much less on the broader context. The Community Conversation Manual, endorsed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in (2014), dwells on the risks of irregular migration, human trafficking including associated consequences of exploitation, as well as identifying feasible livelihood options, support with return and reintegration, and other migration issues(Molsa, 2014).

Community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration

Awareness development is one of the Irregular migration prevention and informed migration decision-making strategies. In this regard, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ethiopia together with the Government organization of Ethiopia has started to involve the wider community and community structures. The Ethiopian Government and IOM community conversation approach focus on irregular migration aims at preventing irregular migration, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and contribute to successful reintegration of returnees (IOM, 2019).

The community conversation, as one of the irregular migration prevention mechanisms, is an effective strategy that is used to combat irregular migration through public information and/or education campaigns on the risks of irregular migration, particularly on the dangers of falling into the hands of traffickers, smugglers or unscrupulous labor migration intermediaries or agents; and to aware community members on the laws and practices of destination countries (Acha, 2020).

Moreover, an assessment of the International Labor Organization (ILO) which was held in 2018, indicated that educating the general public about the causes, consequences, and signs of trafficking are important tools to prevent and detect this heinous crime (ILO, 2018). This shows that community conversation can play a significant role in circulating/conveying reliable information among the community members about the causes and risks of irregular migration in a particular area.

A community conversation which is being implemented by the IOM might also play a vital and inevitable role in empowering the Community Conversation Groups and the community at large; challenges the widespread belief that irregular migration is a sound livelihood alternative through messaging on the positive aspects of regular migration; it empowers communities to confront and report suspected human traffickers and smugglers; and will be empowered communities to explore safe livelihood means and successful reintegration mechanism (IOM, 2019).

In line with these role to play, SNNPR labor and social affairs in collaboration with international organization for migration formed a formal community conversation groups at gross root level in five selected zones of SNNPR. Moreover, the IOM had developed a facilitator's manual which composes of 12 main topics and 29 sub topics. For each session, the facilitators finds summary notes on topics discussed, roles of facilitators and tools/templates related to the sessions. On average of 90 minutes is required to run a session. There are 40 sessions in the manual. As per the manual, A CC session planned once in two weeks' time. In one month, there will be two CC sessions and two social resonance programs thereby CC and social resonance activities will be completed within similar timeframe (IOM , 2019 . p,4).

Persistent Challenges to Prevent Irregular Migration

Although the GoE has taken measures to suppress irregular migration at national, state and local levels, problems persist that impede the reduction and eradication of irregular migration. According to the RMMS report (March 2017), the government's conviction rates are very low compared to the scale of irregular migration in Ethiopia; victim protection efforts are inadequate, including the arrest of victims for crimes committed as a result of their involvement in irregular migration (RMMS, 2017).

The U.S. Department of State's TIP Report (2018) asserted that illegal brokers' and smugglers' deep knowledge of local contexts allows them to exploit the vulnerabilities of potential victims. Specifically, brokers and smugglers may employ tactics that prey on the hopes and dreams of parents searching for better employment and income generating opportunities for their children; recognize a vulnerable community's fear of engaging law enforcement officials with a reputation for corruption; or rely on

bias and discrimination to keep victims hidden in plain sight (U.S. Department of State, 2018, p. 3)

Furthermore, there is a widespread misconception towards irregular migration among the general community and the youths in particular. In this regard, Kambata Tambare Zone in its 2010 E.C. annual report indicated that there were three wrong assumptions on which potential migrants and their families as well the wider communities were being based on to make such uninformed decisions towards irregular migration. Firstly, in each woreda of Kambata Tambaro zone, young men, women, and adults were told by their parents to go to different countries, especially to South Africa, South Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and other countries. Parents also thought that “if they sent their children to these countries, they would pass on money to them,” so they invited their relatives to a big party and started a fundraising program. Moreover, some parents convene a high-level conference to call on religious leaders to accompany them in prayer. Lastly, some preachers were preaching in their local language saying, “አላሙን ይኮ! አላሙን ይቶሩ አግ ደወልቴኦ፤ ለምን? ይቶሩ ለሜፈን ቀልቴኦ” meaning that “Say amen! Those who said amen had peacefully arrived in their destination and called back to their loved ones; but those of two who denied saying amen came back without any success.” These are poetic words used to inspire and motivate people (Kembata Tembaro Zone Labor and Social Affair Department, 2017/ 18 G.C).

Persistent Challenges to Prevent Irregular Migration through Information Campaign

In this subsection, I have attempted to review an assumption that affects preventing irregular Migration through an information campaign.

Migration Decisions are individual Decisions

Most awareness campaigns seem to rely on the assumption that the decision to migrate is an individual decision that can be influenced by providing an individual with information. The role played by family and networks in migration flows has been substantially documented. Families function as units, with one member leaving to guarantee the prosperity or survival of the whole group and to diversify its sources of income. Moreover, a ‘cumulative’ approach to migration stresses how a range of social, cultural, and economic factors converge to create a social dynamic or a migration culture,

in which migration becomes a socially constructed norm. The context of the country of origin plays an important role here. Whereas in some situations, people never had any intention to migrate until increasing conflicts, violence, human rights abuses, and repressive governments forced them to leave (Syria), in other countries a 'culture of migration' that is particularly pronounced among young men has been established over time (some west-African countries). In such a context, migration becomes almost a rite of passage or a 'social expectation,' as documented by Mbaye (2014).

From this perspective, the role given to information implies an individual and rational migration process that ignores the embeddedness of such decisions in collective strategies and social structures. These may create strong incentives to leave through mechanisms that may not be affected by the diffusion of (negative) information on migration.

Potential Migrant Lacks an Information or Rely on False Information

One of the key assumptions on which migration information campaigns are based is that people leave because they lack information or are enticed by false promises of smugglers. They need objective information to make informed decisions or to counter the false information spread by smugglers. The underlying premise of numerous campaigns is that if migrants would know about the hardship awaiting them, they would not migrate. However, several studies show that in fact, most aspiring migrants are fully aware of the dangers and hardship migration can entail but they choose to migrate anyway (Alpes and Sorenson, 2015; Van Bommel, 2015).

Information Campaigns will be Trusted

Another (implicit) assumption migration information campaigns seem to rely on is that potential migrants will believe the information the campaign communicates and that they will value the information from the campaign higher than other sources of information. However, prospective irregular migrants are mostly well aware they are not wanted by the countries they intend to go to. Some empirical studies conclude that many potential migrants will discard information if they consider that it intends to prevent them from realizing their aspirations (Alpes and Sorenson, 2015).

Fear Appeal Messages Can Scare People off Migration Aspirations

Quite a few information campaigns to tackle irregular migration rely on so-called fear appeal messages, assuming people can be ‘scared off’ migration. Showing a sea infested with sharks, overcrowded trucks, miserable migrants in Europe, or pictures of detention camps should scare people enough to refrain from irregular migration. Townsend and Oomen (2015; p.5) provide three reasons why fear appeal messages might not deter migrants from embarking on the journey:

- ❖ people are generally not very good at calculating risk, and routinely discount risk in everyday decisions;
- ❖ the risk of death or injury may seem worth taking, especially compared with immediate threats to personal safety;
- ❖ Long-term risks are weighed against short-term risks and may appear more important at a given moment; for example, migrants may worry more about future obstacles to finding work or summoning family members than about immediate risks to life and limb.

Staying Put is an Option, Alternatives are Available

Migration information campaigns that focus solely on the risks migrants face during dangerous journeys easily overlook the risks involved in staying put in the countries of origin. When local livelihood opportunities are scarce, when there are no opportunities for social mobility, when there is a (civil) war or political conflict, migration may be considered the only way to survive. While information campaigns regularly emphasize the need to migrate through legal channels, they do little to enable people to do so for the simple reason that very few legal migration channels are available – especially for low-skilled workers and for people fleeing war and conflict (Pécoud, 2010). Recent campaigns such as *telling the real story* show the hardship migrants from Eritrea endured during their journey to Europe. However, people from Eritrea who want to apply for asylum in Europe in the main have no other option than to risk the dangerous journey across Libya and the Mediterranean to file their asylum claim. The *telling the real story* platform provides no information on how an asylum claim could be filed

without undertaking the dangerous journey to the EU and shares no stories by people who stayed in Eritrea and suffered the consequences.

Factors that increase the effectiveness of information campaign

The previous study by Browne (2015), revealed the factors which may improve the effectiveness of information campaign includes

- Trust in the information received. Many potential migrants do not trust information disseminated through mass media / official channels.
- Targeting specific groups of migrants.
- Real-life testimonies from returned migrants.
- Repeated messaging rather than one-off campaigns.
- Integration into broader migration policies and campaigns, including directing migrants to legal opportunities.

Key Debate

Central to many of the debates surrounding how best to address the persevering challenge is the need for further study and research to better understand this complex issue. Related to the previous discussion on prevention, for example, the IOM (2019) posited “awareness development is one of the Irregular Migration prevention and informed migration decision-making strategies” (p. 1).

Nevertheless, Todres (2011) argued “the first step in reorienting counter irregular migration interventions toward prevention is to engage in the research necessary to gain a comprehensive understanding of both the problems and resources available (and those needed) to respond” (p. 12). Specifically, a steady call in the academic literature, over the past decade, advocated additional empirical research, micro-level research, and research on the intervention of community conversation to counter irregular migration (Kraaijvanger, D., 2019, p. 69).

Similarly, Weitzer (2014) asserted that micro-level research has advantages over grand, macro-level claims—advantages that are both quantitative (i.e., identifying the magnitude of trafficking within a measurable context) and qualitative (better suited to formulating contextually appropriate policy and enforcement responses) (p. 6). Further,

Spires (2015) found that “exploratory and descriptive work on micro-level actors in the field is necessary to begin to understand the complexities of their work” (p. 6).

In addition to the *type and level* of research called for to advance counter irregular migration efforts, the academic literature pointed to the need for more research on community conversation, including evaluations of their effectiveness. Jones et al. (2018) argued that “more empirical research into the success of sustainable and holistic [irregular migration] prevention methods ... is required in addition to longitudinal qualitative and quantitative research that focuses on current anti-irregular migration programs NGOs employ” (p. 251) With a focus on the need for rigorous evaluations of counter irregular migration interventions, Davy (2016) claimed that such interventions must produce results and positive impacts. According to Davy, to ensure the success of anti-trafficking initiatives, programs need to be based on evidence of what has been successful in other settings. Without this evidence base, programs may be designed that are ineffective or, worse, harm the potential and actual victims of human trafficking (p. 502).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Though I have the constructionist and subjective reality stance to find the unique experiences and interpretation of research participants, it has been vital to use a guiding theory to have initial viewpoints about the Community Conversation and Irregular Migration to show the new finding in line with the theoretical framework. And, this has not meant that I am bounded only in the framework’s demarcation rather I have the freedom to involve every experience and finding from the field since the qualitative exploratory approach allows that flexibility. Similarly, Creswell (2014) asserted that if the researcher could involve contradictory concepts from the objective, research question, and theoretical framework as obtained from the setting and research participants, it enhances the credibility of the findings. Moreover, the following paragraph will illustrate it clearly. Creswell (2014) explained:

Good qualitative research contains comments by the researchers about how their interpretation of the findings is shaped by their backgrounds, such as their gender, culture, history, and socioeconomic origin. Also, present negative or discrepant information that runs counter to the themes. Because real life is composed of

different perspectives that do not always coalesce, discussing contrary information adds to the credibility of an account. A researcher can accomplish this by discussing evidence about a theme. Most evidence will build a case for the theme; researchers can also present information that contradicts the general perspective of the theme. By presenting this contradictory evidence, the account becomes more realistic and more valid (pp. 251-252).

However, there is a strong subjective narrative in the literature that information campaigns have a very limited effect on migrants' decisions to leave, as other factors play a more important role in this decision. Conditions of poverty, inequality, conflict, and lack of economic opportunities at home, and reports from trusted social networks about conditions abroad, play a much stronger role in migrant decision-making. According to Pecound (2010), understanding the decision to leave is a key part of success (Pecound 2010).

Moreover, Migration scholars have often argued that a comprehensive or universal migration theory will never arise because migration is too complex and diverse a phenomenon. For instance, Arango (2000, p.283) stated 'Migration is too diverse and multifaceted to be explained by a single theory.' (Arango 2000, p.283).

At a theoretical level, migration research has expanded the domain of variables that seem to harm and are affected by spatial labor supply decisions; it has highlighted the role of wider social entities and interactions within them in conditioning migration behavior; it has identified new linkages between migration as a distinct labor market phenomenon and other labor market and non-labor market phenomena; and it has contributed to our understanding of the processes of economic betterment and development (spark & Bloom, 1985,p. 173). Therefore, the new economic labor migration theory and the Network theory were chosen as a guide map of this research to interpret the result.

Accordingly, I attempted to understand the role of community conversation in line with understanding factors that motivate irregular migration at *Andegan Tunto kebele*. Furthermore, the New Economics Labor migration (NELM) theory and the Network Theory guide the whole process of the proposed approaches, the findings, the following discussion, and conclusion. Because, I observed, explored, and analyzed the research

questions in line with evolving ideas and basic tenets of NELM and network theory as a framework of this study.

My goal here, therefore, is to summarize the actively evolving ideas and findings in the new economics of labor migration (NELM) theory and Network Theory. And then I, the researcher, do the confluence of NELM and the Network theory of migration mainly by illustrating selected theoretical and empirical developments of the NELM and Network Theory of migration which I believe to be on the frontier of this study.

THE NEW ECONOMICS OF MIGRATION THEORY (NELM)

The new economics of migration theory has come to challenge some of the assumptions of the neoclassical approach, offering a new level of analysis and different nature of migration determinants and it shifted the focus of migration research from individual independence to mutual interdependence (Stark, 1991). More ever, Kurekova (2011) asserts that the new economics of labor migration (NELM) model is the more novel theory of migration which reacted to the neoclassical theory and arose as a response to the changing nature of the world (Kurekova, 2011).

Here, I, the researcher carried out a critical review of the main propositions of the new economics of labor migration (NELM) theory intending to identify their basic tenets and criticism to get initial viewpoints of migration which may provide understanding about the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation.

Assumption of NELM model

The key argument is that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors but typically by families or households (Kurekova, 2011, p. 8). Further, the decisions of migrants are influenced by a comprehensive set of factors that are shaped by conditions in the home country. As such, migrant decisions are not based purely on an individual's volition or choice but are rather a household response to both income risk and the failures of a variety of markets – labor market, credit market, or insurance market (Massey et al., 1993).

Hence, migration in the absence of meaningful wage differentials or the absence of migration in the presence of wage differentials does not imply irrationality but rather compels us to consider a set of other variables related to relative deprivation (a household

performing relatively worse to other households will be readier to send a member abroad) and risk-aversion and risk-minimization of household income.

Introducing these concepts, Stark largely had in mind the risk aversion of poor households in developing countries where there are rarely institutional mechanisms present, such as government programs or private insurance markets, and therefore migration provides a meaningful strategy in dealing with different market failures.

Risk aversion in the context of the new economic theory is conceptualized as the tendency of households to diversify their sources of income. Households (unlike individuals) are in a position to control risks to their economic well-being by diversifying the allocation of family labor. Sending a family member abroad, where wages and labor markets are weakly correlated with those in local markets, provides a source of income when domestic conditions might be deteriorating (Massey et al. 1993).

In any case, the theoretical insights of the NELM can, according to two of its major proponents (Stark and Bloom, 1985: 173–6 as cited in Abreu, 2012), be summarized under five main headings: the emphasis on relative deprivation as a determinant of migration; the emphasis on the household as the relevant decision-making unit; the emphasis on migration as a strategy to diversify risk and overcome market incompleteness; the introduction of information-theoretical considerations in migration theory; and the interpretation of migration as a process of innovation adoption and diffusion (Abreu, 2012, p. 53-4).

Criticism against the NELM model

A trademark of NELM models is their simultaneous consideration of migration determinants, remittance behavior, and impacts. While being able to analyze in parallel the determinants and effects of migration, the NELM has been criticized for sending-side bias and for its limited applicability due to difficulties in isolating the effects of market imperfections and risks from other income and employment variables (Kurkova, 2011, p.9). This makes the application of NELM models relatively demanding in terms of both estimation methods and data needs.

The NELM was essentially a theoretical development from within the neoclassical paradigm and it arose out of a generalized lack of satisfaction with simpler models. In this respect, Abreu (2012) argues that the NELM has been little more than a

new personification of the neoclassical approach in which only marginal concessions and changes were made, while the core (rationality, methodological individualism, lack of regard for structural trends, and constraints) remained untouched (p. 60).

Moreover, the new economics of labor migration (NELM) model arose in the 1980s and assumed a largely information-theoretic form must inevitably be linked to the processes than taking place more generally in the relationship between mainstream economics and the other social sciences.

The NELM did, and does, indeed bear some gifts to migration scholars unsatisfied with the 'standard' neoclassical approach, but Abreu (2012) posits that "it must still be rejected as theoretically unsatisfactory" (p. 60). Overall, the theory has not received much following or empirical testing. Essentially a social choice account, it has also been critiqued for overlooking dynamics within households (i.e. gender roles) and being too heavily future-oriented (Faist, 2000).

THE NETWORK THEORY OF MIGRATION

The network theory of migration does not look at the determinants which initiate migration but rather at what perpetuates migration in time and space (Massey et al. 1993). Migrant networks which often evolve into institutional frameworks help to explain why migration continues even when wage differentials or recruitment policies cease to exist. The existence of a diaspora or network is likely to influence the decisions of migrants when they choose their destinations (Vertovec 2002; Dustmann and Glitz 2005).

THE CONFLUENCE OF NELM AND THE NETWORK THEORY OF MIGRATION

In the area of migration determinants research, there are currently a variety of theoretical models or perspectives which employ varying concepts, assumptions, frames, and levels of analysis (Arango, 2000). Modern migration literature (Massey et al., 1993; Todaro and Smith, 2006) consent [argues /asserts] that although these theoretical approaches offer different hypotheses, they need not be taken as mutually exclusive, but rather as complementary.

This study compiles and used assumptions from the network theory and the new economics labor theory of migration to understand the prevention of irregular migration

through community conversation. While the new economic theory being able to analyze in parallel the determinants and effect of migration, the network theory helps to explain the reasons why migration patterns are not evenly distributed across countries, but rather how they tend to form so-called migration regimes (Faist 2000; korekova 2011).

For this study, the NELM and Network theory facilitated the analysis of the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration; factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration, as well as, challenges of community conversation as a prevention mechanism of Irregular migration. Although NELM and Network theory were different in their subject of analysis, shared the same level of analysis in migration study and different nature of migration determinants.

First, NELM and Network theory focused on the *mezzo* level of analysis in migration study. NELM Model hypothesis that migration decisions are not made by individual actors but by a large unit of related people, typically households or families. In a similar vein, Network theory focuses mainly on the role of networks or diaspora's (korekova 2011, p. 14).

Second, The NELM and the Network theory recognize the mutual interdependence of the migration decision of individuals as determinants of migration. Accordingly, the fundamental tents of NELM centered on the influence of the behavior of other members within the prospective migrant's social group. Here, the main assumption of NELM can boldly be explained as people act collectively not only to maximize income but also to minimize risks and loosen the constraints created by various inadequacies of markets in source areas, including missing or incomplete capital and insurance markets; and that migration decisions may be influenced by the behavior of other actors within the prospective migrant's social group (Massey et al. 1993).

Moreover, in the imperfect-market environments that characterize most migration source regions, migrants create benefits and impose costs that are ignored by individual-decision migration models. In the absence of well-functioning credit and insurance markets, migrants serve as "financial intermediaries," providing source households with capital to invest in local production as well as income insurance (e.g., a promise to remit if a crop or family business fails). Whereas, the existence of a diaspora or network is

likely to influence the decisions of migrants when they choose their destinations (Vertovec 2002; Dustmann and Glitz 2005 and Kurekova).

Hence, the researcher used the NELM and the Network theory of migration in parallel to interpreting the findings. Accordingly, the researcher used NELM to interpret the role and the challenges of implementing community conversation in preventing irregular migration. The researcher also used the Network theory of migration to frame the central themes regarding the factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration. As such, the Network Theory of Migration focuses on the vital role of personal relations between migrants and non-migrants, it helped in explaining factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation since the existence of a diaspora or networks is likely to influence the decisions of migrants when they choose their destinations (Vertovec 2002; Dustmann and Glitz 2005). Thus, to better understand the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration, it is important to explore this phenomenon in its comprehensive set of determinants factors, NELM and Network theory can assist in framing such factors.

LITERATURE REVIEW SUMMARY

Irregular migration is a complex issue, with multifaceted dimensions and underlying causes, requiring a massive undertaking to combat. As discussed above, the international communities and local entities, including IOM and MoLSA, have engaged in significant efforts to understand irregular migration and develop effective responses. Sever and persistent challenges remain, however, that require additional efforts to address the problem of fragmented knowledge and disjointed responses.

Debates have resulted in the academic and policy literature on the need for prioritizing prevention to combatting irregular migration and a focus on community-based efforts including community conversation to address persistent challenges.

This literature review also frames the need for the current study, based on several gaps in the literature. A need persists for empirical research conducted at the micro-level – research that focuses on prevention mechanisms of irregular migration such as community conversation. To focus more specifically on topics related to the current study, the researcher looked for the terms irregular migration, prevention, awareness

creation, information campaigns, and more importantly community conversation on migration research.

Given the international emphasis on community-based awareness creation, specifically the community conversation, as a key prevention mechanism, it is surprising that researchers have conducted so little research on the roles of community conversation in the field of migration. Moreover, although community conversation is firmly established in the IOM manual (2019) and serves as a means to counter irregular migration, a solid connection is yet to be made in the academic and/or policy literature between community conversation and irregular migration.

The micro-level study area (i.e., *Andegna Tunto Kebele* in Kembata Tembaro Zone), serving as the case study location in the current study, embodies many of the elements discussed above and, therefore, helps to fill existing gaps in the literature. *Andegna Tunto Kebele* is a neighborhood in the Kambata Tambaro zone of the SNNP Regional State where the regional BoLSA currently implements the community conversation program in collaboration with the federal government and IOM. The community conversation program is being implemented in the study area as a key component of the prevention mechanisms of irregular migration and to combat and prevent irregular migration through messaging on the positive aspects of regular migration and the dangers and associated consequences of irregular migration. Thus, this case study serves the dual purpose of contributing to fill the gaps in the academic and policy literature, and of bringing local knowledge to bear on what works well in practice.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of this study was to gain an in-depth understanding of the role that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration which little is known with the view of revealing factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation, as well as, the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration. Hence to undertake the study there should be a plan and methods. Therefore, this section presents the philosophical framework of the study and the method that I have employed in the real practice of the study. Consequently, it includes research design, participant selection technique and size determinants, data collection methods, data analysis, and assuring trustworthiness as well as ethical consideration. Hereby, I have presented the components of this section sequentially.

PHILOSOPHICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

In terms of ontological and epistemological stance, I have inclined towards the constructionist and subjective reality because this particular topic (the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation) is relatively new and the study is exploratory. In such research, it is apparent that the constructivist design further distances itself from the procedurally laden systematic design and stressing the role of the researcher as an active participant who interacts with the field being explored.

Constructivist researchers are interested in the construction of knowledge between researcher and participant and embrace and explore the inherent biases within this interaction. This design recognizes that knowledge emerging from the data is not only discovered but also created (Edmonds, Alex, and Kennedy, Thomas, 2017, p. 146).

Generally, the aim of the qualitative method in this sense is to reveal and understand phenomena within a particular context. Hence, the role that CC plays in preventing irregular migration has been explored as the research participants comprehended and interpreted based on their worldview in *Andegna Tunto kebele*.

RESEARCH APPROACH

In this study, a qualitative research approach was employed to address the research questions and the objectives of the study. The qualitative approach was preferred and adopted for this particular study because the subject was not well researched before in the Ethiopian case. According to (Creswell, 2002), Qualitative research is useful to understand in detail study issues involving people to tell their own story and to be aware of the real context and settings on the ground. Therefore, to provide a detailed and in-depth exploration of and outlook of participants concerning the topic this approach is preferable (Creswell, 2002).

This particular study employed an exploratory qualitative research design. In this study, the exploratory qualitative research design was employed to clarify ambiguous variables (i.e. interventions (community conversation) and irregular migration) of the objectives of the study. An exploratory research design is particularly important in providing extra information where limited information exists and also helped to show gaps in the existing literature (Shields and Rangarjan, 2013).

Moreover, exploratory design was employed due to the flexibility or non-rigid nature of the qualitative research method. The method involved exploring other avenues of obtaining data without any restrictions and applications as in the case of the quantitative research method. The exploratory design also helped in investigating a social phenomenon without explicit expectations (Shields and Rangarjan, 2013).

Exploratory design most often relies on secondary research such as reviewing available literature or data and conducting in-depth interviews, case studies, and pilot studies (Dellinger and Leech, 2007). Case studies are particularly important in social work settings because it allows a typical case, client, event, group or another phenomenon to be studied to reveal information in which aids the analysis and afford insights into the experiences of the prevention of Irregular Migration (IM) through Community conversation (CC). Therefore, I have utilized the qualitative exploratory case study research design to understand a social phenomenon (i.e. community conversation in preventing irregular migration) which was not well researched before in the Ethiopian case, as well as, to show gaps about the intersection between community conversation and irregular migration in the existing literature.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study employed a single case study from qualitative research methods to explore the research questions surrounding the role of community conversations in preventing irregular migration. A case study is a research method that “investigates a contemporary phenomenon (i.e., the “case”) in-depth and within its real-world context, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context may not be evident” (Yin, 2018, p. 15).

Yin (2018) defined and distinguished the “phenomenon,” or “subject of your case study,” from the “context,” or “elements external to the case,” noting that considering such differences helps define the parameters of data collection. Ultimately, “the goal is to understand ‘the case’—what it is, what role it plays, and how it encounters with its real-world contextual environment” (Yin, 2018, p. xxiii).

The case study method was selected for this investigation because it allowed for an in-depth exploration of the highly complex issue of irregular migration and the role of community conversations in its prevention. Yin (2018) posited that the case study method has a distinct advantage when “a ‘how’ or ‘why’ question is being asked about a contemporary set of events over which a researcher has little or no control” (yin, 2018, p. 13). The current study met these selection criteria in that the research questions sought to uncover the role of a community conversation in preventing irregular migration. Moreover, although irregular migration has deep historical roots, community conversation is very much a contemporary phenomenon, particularly concerning emerging as a community-based response towards irregular migration. Yin also asserted that the advantage of using the case study method is that it allows the researcher to collect evidence from multiples data sources, such as documents analysis, interviews, and observations. Accordingly, document analysis, an in-depth interview and focus group interviews were used in the current study.

For this study, a single-case study design was employed rather than a multiple study design. When selecting a case to be examined, Yin (2018) described the need to define and bound the case, spatially and temporally to “stay within feasible limits” (yin, 2018, p. 29). In this instance, given the geographic and time constraints of the researcher, a single-case design, focused on one community conversation was most feasible. With

single-case study designs, Yin further distinguished between a “holistic,” or single unit of analysis, case study and an “embedded,” or multiple units of analysis, case study (yin ,2018,p. 52). The current study employed an embedded single-case design where the main unit of analysis was the community conversation, whereas subunits included, the community conversation members, the stakeholder representative, and returnees.

Unit of analysis

According to Baxter and Jack (as cited in Milki Getachew, 2014) during conducting a case study, the case of the research should be communicated and the issues which are not the case of the study also should be first sorted out. So, the unit of analysis in this study is “a community conversation which is held in *Andegna tunto kebele* to prevent irregular migration, and currently selected as one of the best CC in preventing irregular migration” at SNNPR, Ethiopia. In line with this, Yin (2018) discusses two types of case studies based on the intent of the research, which are 1) single case study and 2) multiple case studies. As I mentioned above, this research falls under the first type because I have studied one case which is “the role of *Andegna tunto* community conversation in preventing irregular migration” and has been analyzed the role of community conversation which is held in one bounded area which is *Andegna tunto kebele*. Similarly, this study has been utilized a single case study with embedded case units so long as the community conversation has embedded units such as; CC members and stakeholder representatives as subunits.

STUDY AREA AND PARTICIPANT

Description of the Study area

A community conversation —*Anedegna Tunto*—served as the case study setting. It is located at the warda of Hadero Tunto from Kemabata -Tembaro zones in the southern parts of Ethiopia. Kambata Tambaro Zone is one of the seventeen zonal administrative in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Regional State. According to the Regional Finance and Economic Development Bureau /BoFED/ 2017Annual Published Statistical, the total population size of the zone (projected based on the 2007 CSA report) is 925,667; where 458,034 are males and 467,633 are females. The majority of the population that lives in rural areas is 722,234 (about 78%), and the

rest 203,433 (nearly 22%) live in urban areas. The Zone is known for its high population density; one of the most densely populous areas even in the country; that is, 683 persons per square kilometer on average. This figure is the second largest one next to Gedeo Zone in SNNPR State (BoFED, 2017 PP. 41).

According to the regional labor and social affairs Bureau (2013), there was 7,888 unemployed youth in the selected 873 kebeles of SNNPR in which the international organizations for migration (IOM) had formed formal community conversations groups to prevent irregular migration. Among them, 377 were returnees. From kembata temabaro zone about 391 people migrated which account for 27.7 % of the total migrated people of SNNPR's in the last three years (BOLSA, 2021).

A community conversation which is carried out in *Anedegna Tunto kebele* of kembata temabaro zone is one of the Community conversation that had a good performance in preventing irregular migration. The target populations of this study were members of the community who are actors of the community conversation in the *kebele*, the stakeholders who are involved in preventing irregular migration through community conversation, and the returnees who are backed either by themselves or by a counter-trafficking organization.

Research Participant

The researcher participants are confined in community conversation. The labor and the social department had been facilitating community conversation which is held at kebele level including *Anedegna tunto kebele*. Accordingly, the Director of Hadero Tunto wereda labor department directorate director provides information about the participant of community conversation and stakeholders involved in supporting the intervention. Based on the preliminary information obtained from the directorate director of the labor department, I, the researcher identified potential interviewers and FGD participants. Therefore, the total Participants of the study were twenty one (21).

Accordingly, Five (5) in-depth interviewers were the members of community conversation and four (4) key informants from the representative of Kemebata Tembaro Zone Hadero Tunto Labor and Social Affairs Office, the prevention coordinator cell of the International Organization for Migration, an expert from the women and youth department, and general attorney of Hadero Tunto wereda were involved .

In this research, the FGD participants were categorized into two. In the first group six (6) from returnees who are backed by either by themselves or counter trafficking organizations have participated. In the second FGD groups six (6) community representatives from the community (religious representatives, *Iddir* representatives, and community leader who influential) have participated. I have involved these community representatives to obtain their expertise concerning the topic since they have immense knowledge about their community and to get information about community conversation based on their participation.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Sampling technique

The purposeful sampling technique was adopted and utilized to select relevant participants for this study. Through this sampling process, individuals who can help inform the study's central topic were purposefully selected. To facilitate this, Creswell's (2015), three components of the purposeful sampling technique was adopted and used (P. 236)

- The first component was selecting research participants – a decision was made about whom to select as participants of the study. As a basic prerequisite, I emphasized on the main actors of community conversation and returnees who are either deported backed by themselves or by a counter-trafficking organizations
- The second component was identifying the sampling technique – From the purposive sampling technique, convenience strategy was employed and used as a tool to select individuals from the pool of community conversation individuals that may come as a result of the aforementioned participant recruitment strategy; and
- The third component that Creswell (2015) suggested was delimiting sample size – In light of this, I delimited the individuals for sampling. Next up, sampling was continued until the saturation point reaches. That is, saturation point reaches when data collected from a particular study participant starts repeating that of the previously interviewed participant's contents. In other words, when new

information is not heard from a specific participant, it indicates that the sample size is already reached its ultimate level.

Accordingly, two groups of participants were selected because they are the main actors in preventing irregular migration through community conversation. The two groups included the main actors of community conversation (the members of community), and stakeholder's representatives, as well as, an individual who was either deported back by the counter trafficking organization or the returnees who backed by their determinations were grouped for focus group discussion.

Participant selection

The participants of this study were selected based on the following inclusion criteria.

- 1) Members in community conversation.
- 2) The main actors in preventing irregular migration (the representative of Kemebata Tembaro Zone Hadero Tunto Labor and Social Affairs Office, the prevention coordinator cell of the International Organization for Migration, an expert from the women and youth department, and general attorney of Hadero Tunto wereda)
- 3) parents of irregular migrant
- 4) sex : male
- 5) age: above 18 years
- 6) returned who are active participants of a community conversation
- 7) Willingness to participate in the interview.

Data collection method

Data collection methods have been comprised of an in-depth interview, key-informant interview, focus group discussion, and document review as per the needed information to qualitative case study research approach. Information from first-hand sources and document review had been converged to enhance the dependability and credibility of the data. With these data collection methods, multiple perspectives and data sources have been involved to attain the purpose of this study (Creswell, 2014).

The data were collected from multiple sources. According to Yin (2018), a major rationale for using multiple sources of evidence in case study research relates to the basic

motive for doing a case study in the first place: “to do an in-depth study of a phenomenon in its real-world context” (yin, 2018, p. 127). In the current study, each instrument built on and reinforced the others, providing the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration. To that end, in-depth interviews data collection involved an in-depth interview, key informant interviews, focus group discussion, and document review. The detailed information and perceptions about the case were gathered through those techniques of data collection.

An in-depth interview

An in-depth Interview was one of the instruments used in this study. Semi-structured interviews were used to “enhance the depth of data gathering” (Creswell, 2016: p. 267). Accordingly, an in-depth interview with five (5) community conversation members were conducted. I used open ended questions to understand deeply about the roles of community conversations in preventing irregular migration, the factor that determines the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation, and the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration.

Key informant interview

Key informant interviews with the representative of Kemebata Tembaro Zone Hadero Tunto Labor and Social Affairs Office, the prevention coordinator cell of the International Organization for Migration, an expert from the women and youth department, and general attorney of Hadero Tunto wereda were conducted. These four key informant interviews were conducted to identify the roles of community conversation in preventing irregular migration and the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration.

Focus group discussion

Two focus group discussions (FGD) with six(6) the member of community and six(6) returnees were held to understand irregular migration; identify the major role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration, to explore factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation and the

challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration.

Document review

Documentary information was collected for analysis. Creswell and Poth (2016) highlighted three types of documents in data collection: personal documents, such as letters and e-mails; organizational documents, such as reports and websites; and public documents, such as official records and archival information. The researcher collected organizational documents including community conversation discussions verbal's related to *Anedegna Tunto* 5-year discussions, and reports (from January 1—May 31, 2021).

The objective was to collect evidence to assist in answering the study's research questions of what are factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration and the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration. Or; to sort out the Cause of irregular migration identified by community conversation during their discussion sessions. In addition, the documents served "to corroborate and augment evidence from other sources" (Yin, 2018, p. 115).

Procedure for Data collection

The data collection procedure shows the actual process of data collection with the above-mentioned instruments. Instruments are checked and approved by advisors and I have collected a letter of cooperation/support from the School of Social Work. Before the interview begins officially, the purpose of the study were discussed with the labour and social affairs office of Hadero Tunto wereda, and an approval was obtained.

Then, a key informants interview with four representatives of government and non-government organizations, including the labor and social affairs organization's labor department current director, the representative the international organization for migration, an expert from the women and children department, and an attorney of Hadero Tunto werda were conducted. The key informant's interview with the representative of stakeholders had been conducted in their office.

The next set of interviews was with the member of community conversation. It had been conducted at *Anedegna tunto* kebele office where participants have been residing. The interviews included five Members from *Anedegna tunto* Kebele community

conversations. And, the semi-structured interview questions are administered by me as a researcher of this study with a one-to-one approach via transcribing the English language to the language of the participants (Amharic) ahead of time. During data collection, while interviewing, tape recording and concurrent note-taking are conducted with the consent of the participants. The interview was managed to be conducted within 30-40 minutes to properly manage the whole process.

FGD: as the name indicates focus group is an emphasis on particular issues. And, it has been introduced in a predetermined order as carefully worded, open-ended questions or topics. It was guided by a set of questions and interactive sessions with a group small enough for everyone to have a chance to talk and large enough to provide a diversity of opinions (Punch, 2006, pp. 53-54). Hence, I have formed two groups with six members in each. In one group, I have involved an elderly community representatives to obtain their expertise concerning the topic since they have immense knowledge about their community and to get information about community conversation based on their participation. The other group members were selected based on their status in the community (returnees). Accordingly availability, and assent, as well as the venue and time, were arranged in line with the participants' interest and convenience at the place where they were easily and freely share their opinion. Because I the researcher (facilitator) have ensured their confidentiality. I have facilitated in guiding the direction of the discussion and notes were taken too. So, I was playing both the facilitator and note taker roles during FGDs because this is a qualitative research approach that needs the active involvement of the researcher as a research instrument to construct knowledge with participants.

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis proceeds by extracting themes or generalizations from evidence and organizing data to present a coherent, consistent picture. Qualitative studies give data meaning, translate them, or make them understandable. Accordingly, I begun with the point of view of study participants and then found out how they understood and defined irregular migration in their kebele. Then, I, the researcher, have learned what are the cause and consequences of Irregular migration, the role that Community conversation plays in preventing Irregular migration, factors that determine the prevention of irregular

migration, and the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of Irregular migration for them.

Therefore, the thematic analysis was the major approach towards the raw data manually (Neuman, 2014, PP. 181-184). I have analyzed the data by employing the six phases of thematic analysis, which are familiar in qualitative research (Braun & Clarke, 2006). As the authors believed, the thematic analysis should not be viewed as a linear model, where one cannot proceed to the next phase without completing the prior phase (correctly) rather analysis here is a fourth and back process to check over themes. Accordingly, I employed the following six phases to analyze the data.

First, the researcher immersed himself into the data to be Familiar with the data through involving in the study during data collection time, transcribing, reading, and re-reading the data as well as has listened to the audio-recorded data at least once to become intimately familiar with the data. Techniques for data analysis have been undertaken concurrently with early data collection, such as checking interpretations with participants, transcribing, reading, coding early data and analytic memos are employed to be familiar with the data and make ease the analysis. Moreover, an audio recording, while interviewing has been used and an exhaustive process of transcribing is undertaken. An accurate transcription has indicated any nonverbal communication (e.g., tone, mannerisms, and emotional content or contextual factors) to obtain the full perspective of the participants.

Then, coding was the second phase that involves generating important features of the data of relevance to the research questions guiding the analysis. Coding was the process of exploring the data for themes, ideas, and categories and then marking similar passages of text with a code label so that they could easily be retrieved at a later stage for further analysis. Hence, I employed coding via putting in a short phrase (words) and coloring that assigns a summative or salient attribute to some portion of the data. That has made the researcher easily search the data and identify any patterns that need extra investigation. And, after coding similar concepts from participants' perspective cognizant with analytic memos searching for themes has followed. This happened through searching coherent and meaningful patterns in the data which is coded in the previous

phase. And, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes were done one after the other.

I have reflected on whether the themes tell a convincing and compelling story about the data, and have begun to define the nature of each theme and the relationship between themes. Finally, the writing was started via weaving the analytic narrative and data extracts together to tell the reader a coherent and persuasive story about the data, and to contextualize it with reviewed literature of this study.

DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE

To strengthen the validity and reliability of a case study, Yin (2018) proposed four principles of data collection: use multiple sources of evidence, create a case study database, maintain a chain of evidence, and exercise care when using data from social media sources. Collecting multiple sources of evidence allows for data triangulation and “helps to strengthen the construct validity of your case study” (Yin, 2018, p. 128).

Triangulation: The plan that looks at something from several points of perspective improves truthfulness. In social research, we construct on the principle that we learn further by observing from multiple points of view than by looking from merely a single perspective. The researcher's confidence that has a precise picture grows from the multiple measures that the researcher used compared to relying on just one, especially if each measure offers a similar picture (Neuman, 2014, P.166).

Triangulation is accomplished by asking the same research questions of different study participants and by collecting data from different sources and using different methods to answer these research questions. Hence, I have utilized multiple perspectives through applying different data collection techniques such as an in-depth interview, key informants, FGD, and document review. Therefore, I attempted to see the role, factors, and challenges of implementing CC as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto kebele* from four different directions. Then, the results from these four data collection methods' have converged to accentuate the finding of the study.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Research ethics require that the researcher must ensure the confidentiality of the research participants and protect them from any harm (Creswell, 2009). In line with this,

before officially beginning data collection from participants through interviews, the premise of the study was discussed with the potential participants. The interested research participants were provided with informed consent letters. Accordingly, they gave approval for provisions of the data collection, and the researcher guaranteed their rights.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS

This chapter presents the findings of the study that was based on the data collected from the study area through various data collection techniques including focus group discussion (FGD), in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and document review – which was discussed in chapter three. Baxter and Jack (as cited in Milki Getachew, 2014) identified that there is no single approach to report the findings of a case study. However, there are some suggested techniques like narrating the story of the participants, providing a sequential report, and/or addressing identified research questions and objectives (Milki Getachew, 2014). Based on this very reason, the current study addressed the research objectives and questions with a brief story of the members of *Andegna Tunto Kebele* community conversation and stakeholders' experiences in preventing irregular migration through community conversation.

Data from in-depth interviews, key informants, FGD with the government and non-government organization officials, the members of community conversation, the returnees, and document analysis yields the study findings. These findings were interpreted through the lenses NELM (New economics labor theory of migration) and Network Theory of Migration.

The first part of this chapter deals with comprehensive background information of the study participants. The second part presents the main themes and sub-themes that were recognized during the data analysis and synthesizing phase. In this section, the three research questions, listed in chapter one, are presented with associates derived from data collection and analysis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS

This subsection presents a brief description of the background characteristics of the study participants. The background information is supposed to clarify the current status of the study participants. Some of the background characteristics (sex, age, marital status, religion, educational level, occupation/position, work experiences, duration of participation in community conversation) are illustrated.

The study findings were based on the researcher's analysis of 9 interviews and two (2) FGD. Interviews participants include five members of the community conversation and four (4) stakeholder representatives working in different organizations. In addition, two FGD were held with the community members and returnees. Of the 12 participants, six (6) from the member of community were involved, and the rest six (6) were returnees. The summary of the background characteristics of the participants from the community conversation and stakeholders are illustrated in appendix part (see table 4.1 in the appendix part) and table 4.2 (see table 4.2 in the appendix part). An overview of FGD participants with their status in the community, their gender, and the number of years they have participated in the community conversation also illustrated in appendix. (See table 4.3 in the appendix part)

MAJOR THEMES AND SUBTHEMES OF THE FINDING

Triangulated results from all four data collection techniques produced four major themes and six subthemes were emerged (see table 4.4 in the appendix part). The core essences presented under this section are the role, factors, and challenges concerning the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation in line with the information obtained from the study participants and related document reviews. The role that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration is discussed under the first two major themes of the finding which are curbing the misconceptions of families and the entire community and entire community towards irregular migration and enhancing people's awareness of irregular migration.

THE MAJOR ROLE OF COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

What are the major roles of community conversation in the prevention of irregular migration?

Research question 1 identified the role that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*. Through interviews, FGD, and document review, findings revealed that community conversation plays a significant and inevitable role in the potential migrant, families, and communities' consciousness of irregular migration. Two Central themes have emerged about this consciousness of irregular migration.

- a) Curbing the misconceptions of families and entire community members towards irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.
- b) Enhancing community awareness of the exploitative nature of irregular migration.

CURBING THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF FAMILIES AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOWARDS IRREGULAR MIGRATION

This study revealed that the community conversation played an inevitable role in curbing the misconceptions that families and the wider community have constructed towards irregular migration. Moreover, the study indicated that there was a widespread misconception among the community members in particular among the youths towards irregular migration. In this regard, the rigorous document review of DoLSA of Kambata Tambare Zone annual report (2018), indicated that there were three wrong assumptions or misconceptions among the community members on which the potential migrants were being based on to make such uninformed decisions towards irregular migration (Department of Labor and Social Affairs, 2018). In the same vein, the study participants spoke in loud and underlined that there was a widespread misconception among the general community, especially among the youths towards irregular migration. The participants, however, indicated that since the commencement of the implementation of community conversation as the prevention mechanism of irregular migration, the misconceptions on which the potential migrants, their families and the entire community had been based to make such uninformed decisions towards irregular migration were significantly curbed.

During the data collection (through all the four data collection techniques), data transcription, and data analyzing, I, the researcher, understood that two subthemes emerged under this particular theme. These two subthemes were curbing families' misconception of irregular migration and curbing the entire community's misconception of irregular migration.

Curbing Families Misconception of Irregular migration

Community conversation plays a significant role in curbing the misconceptions or wrong assumptions on which the families of potential migrants were being based to make

such uninformed decisions towards irregular migration in preventing irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

According to the representatives of stakeholders (coded as SHR 3 and SHR 4), due to these commonly established and understood tools, the families of the potential migrants had developed awareness and also they understand that the families who send their children to the RSA through the irregular routes would be seriously punished based on the rules set through the community conversation program. More ever, Stakeholder (SHR 3) explained that “The families have been stopped their previous actions in which they invited their relatives to a big party and fundraising program to accumulate a cost for their children irregular migration.”

Some of the study participants pointed out that the bylaws and rules that were formulated and executed by the local organizations and the religious institutions such as *Idder* in *Andegna Tunto Kebele* had forced the families of the potential migrants to reconsider the dangerous consequences of sending their children through irregular migration.

For instance, one of the members of the community conversation (coded as CMM 2) said that: “Families think that if they sent their children to the RSA through irregular migration, they know that they will be punished by the bylaws and rules that are set out through the community conversation.” CCM 2 maintained this notion by saying that we – the community members – had regulated that if a family sent its child through irregular migration, that family could not participate in any CBOs such as *Idder* since the regulation was established in 2012 E.C. And added that, “Our church doesn’t provide *Idder* services to the families that send their children through irregular routes in case the children die on the route.” CCM 2 boldly elaborated that the judges of *Iddir*, Kebele chairpersons, and leaders of the youths’ and women’s leagues were among the members of community conversation and they, in turn, forced their *Idders* to formulate a binding rule and bylaws that punish a parent who sends a child irregularly. That interviewer also added “We, the members of *Idder*, don’t provide *Idder* services; we don’t collaborate in funereal ceremonies; we don’t cooperate in the coffee ceremony; if the child dies while going through that route. We believe that any family that can provide 200,000 to 300,000 birr to its child to the cost of irregular migration must also pay the cost of his funereal

ceremony. We even exclude such families from *Idder*. As a result, irregular migration is reduced in our community.”

As a result of this, the families have decreased providing their children with the cost of traveling through the irregular routes to the RSA. While playing their social roles, the community conversation members use this as a technique to discourage irregular migration among the families of irregular migrants in the study area.

From FGD with the returnees and elderly, I understood that it was the bylaws and the binding rules by the CBOs and religious institutions such as *Idder* which would punish their family to halt irregular migration. However, still, young men, women, and adults were imposed their parents to go to different countries, especially to South Africa. Parents thought that if they sent their children to RSA, they would be punished by the binding rule of the community conversation. So families stopped their previous actions in which potential migrant families invited their relatives to a big party and fundraising program. Moreover, if one parent convenes a high-level conference to call on religious leaders to accompany them in prayer is strongly punished by bylaws and binding rules by the CBOs and religious institutions such as *Idder*.

From the document review, I comprehended that actions were taken by families. For instance, Parents, families, and relatives started not to cooperate with irregular migrants by sponsoring irregular migration costs; and Families started reporting human trafficking and smuggling cases to police and cooperate with law enforcement bodies, Stop harboring or hiding irregular migrants, brokers and smugglers.

Curbing the Misconception of the entire Community

Community conversation plays an inevitable role in curbing the misconceptions or wrong assumptions on which the entire community in general, religious leaders in particular constructed about irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*. According to Stakeholder, SHR 3, “it is a community conversation and the letter from a local government that the religious leaders stopped inspiring, motivating and sending people.”

More ever, According to one of the member of community conversation, CCM 1, there is a commonly adapted saying that the members of community conversation were used to create awareness in their local language saying, “ሬሄገ ቡራ ባዱ እለም ዮን ; ሞነ ንቡራ

ባዱ እሌሞማለት ሰውየ ማይሞትበት ሀገር ሄዳለውበላችሁ የ ማይቀብር ሀገር እንዳቴዱ” meaning that “Don’t go to a land where no one is buried, thinking that you will go to a land where no one will die.”

Another members of community conversation, CCM 2, maintained this by saying “there was a trend of sending youth through organizing a big party and a coffee ceremony by religious leaders and people. However, this trend was condemned; religious leaders were also criticized for inspiring, motivating, and sending the children to be eaten by hyenas across the route. Every ware they were criticized by their names for their wrongdoing or their cooperation of irregular migration. Accordingly, they stopped praying for irregular migrants. Conversely, they started teaching the community in their church.”

Furthermore, CMM 4, also added “the poetic “አሜ ይኮ! አሜ ይቶሩ አግ ደወልቴአ፤ ለምን? ይቶሩ ለሜፈን ቀልቴአ” word was a commonly adopted saying that motivates irregular migration in our community. Accordingly, some preachers motivate an individual by saying God Show me your destiny; Say amen! And you would peacefully arrive at your destiny and called back to me. However, it is reduced, especially since the religious leaders refused to receive money from RSA since CC was implemented. They started to say that if we agree to receive this money, irregular migration is increasing in our community. ”

FGD conducted with the members of the community (including, religious leaders) also confirmed that there was a misconception towards irregular migration, and those poetic words which have been used to inspire and motivate people by religious leaders have not been utilized since the commencement of the implementation community conversation. Moreover, there is an attitudinal change and there are different factors that contributed to the current attitudinal changes among general communities and religious institutions. Accordingly, religious institutions show unexpected change towards irregular migration and the leaders of a religious institution also understood that irregular migration as one problem of the community, stopped inspiring, motivating, and sending children, as well as, engaged in teaching about the adverse effect of irregular migration for their followers.

From the data collection (through all the four data collection techniques) , I understood that among the misconceptions which were indicated in an annual report by Kembata Tembaro Zone that some preachers were preaching in their local language saying, “አሜን ይ ኮ! አሜን ይታሩ አግ ደወልቴአኝ፤ ለምን? ይታሩ ለሜሬን ቀልቴአ” meaning that “Say amen! Those who said amen had peacefully arrived in their destination and called back to their loved ones, but those of two who denied saying amen came back without any success.” is stopped and changed by the reverse message that discourages irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

ENHANCING PEOPLE AWARENESS OF THE NATURE OF AN EXPLOITATIVE IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Enhancing Community awareness on the nature of the exploitative nature of irregular migration is another major role that a community conversation plays in the prevention of irregular migration. Because the finding from study participants revealed that an attitude gap of the community towards irregular migration is by far the major factor that motivates people to anticipate the RSA (republic of South Africa).

Accordingly, one of the key informants, SHR 2, explained that there is a potential migrant who enforced parents to afford their cost of irregular migration. This informant also added, “As they motivated to change their family life through working in the RSA, they attempted to migrate through enforcing their parents to sell a land to afford for required costs of irregular migration.”

Most of the member's cc (codes as CCM1.CCM3, CCM 4, and CCM 5) explained that the attitude of the community towards the RSA for a long time is the major determinant factor of irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. One of the members of the community conversation, CCM 1, has boldly explained that a potential migrant does have an attitude gap. This interviewer also added “As their perception of advantageous employment, wages, and benefits in the RSA has a significant influence on their migration decision, they developed a feeling of prosperity within a short time. Accordingly, they were migrated by selling their parent's land to afford for required costs of irregular migration. Even they were aware of the risk and consequences of irregular migration including death opportunities across the route, they have been migrated to

RSA. For example, there is an individual who migrated leaving his wife and children before five years. While we don't have any information about his current status, his first son comes with a passport to migrate yesterday."

According to, CCM 3, "while there is a child who enforced their parents to afford for required costs of irregular migration, parents who have an attitude of prospering through sending their children are the primary motivators of migration. Most of the time, fathers motivate, encourage, and also sold their land to afford for required costs of irregular migration; and send their children abroad through covering up to 200,000 Ethiopian birr as they offer to prosper." CCM 3, and CCM 4, also affirmed that an attitude is a major factor for the potential migrant decision to leave.

From FGD with the members of a community (elderly) and returns, I understood that an attitude of a Community to the republic of South Africa is the major factor at *Andegna Tunto Kebele*. Most importantly, FGD with returns confirmed that their previous migration to RSA is a result of their attitude towards irregular migration. Therefore, an attitude is a major factor that contributes to the decision of a potential migrant. Hence, this feeling of individuals has influenced preventing the deep-rooted and long period stayed irregular migration through community conversation in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

During the data collection (through all the four data collection techniques), the major strategies to prevent exploitative irregular migration by the member of community conversation is creating awareness about the risk and consequence of irregular migration through an information campaign in between fifteen days as per their opportunities of communicating the potential migrant. On top of this, if the members of community conversation have the information about the risk and consequence of irregular migration of the cc session, and they raised an issue nearby the potential migrants, to their home environment which provided an opportunity of linking and sharing information to the target population (i.e. young potential migrant), as well as, to palaces where they get a large number of a potential migrant.

According to the representatives of stakeholders (coded as SHR 2,), the members of community conversation such as, religious leaders, influential people, the leaders of the Kebele, the leader of *Idder*, and people who have power had been Created awareness

about the risk and consequences of irregular migration for the wider community in general, and youth with future immigration intention in particular.

Similarly, the community conversation members (coded as CMM 1 and CMM 2) said that “First we called faith organization leaders, *Idder* officials, and significant elders in our *Kebele* and oriented about the community conversation and how they can play their role through teaching the society and empowering the potential migrant to make an informed decision towards their migration. Then we organized the committee members as per the manual.” CCM 1, has boldly explained that it is through the home environment that we do have aware of the risk and consequences of irregular migration and identifying the attitude of the members of a community. This interviewer also added “there is a parent who says it would be better to migrate even there will be an opportunity of death. conversely, there is a large number of the parent who says irregular migration is cannot be an option for my child, and my children life comes first” And they also asserted that it would be better to sell my land and provide initial capital for my children than linking them with the broker for irregular migration”.

During the data collection (through all the four data collection techniques), data transcription, and data analyzing, I, the researcher, understood that two subthemes emerged under this particular theme. These two subthemes were the challenges across the route and at the destination and the ever-increasing of death of the migrants on the route and the destination. During the data collection, the study participants pointed out since the implementation of community conversation as the prevention mechanism of irregular migration, these subthemes have been playing significant roles in change the attitude of the community towards irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

The challenges across the route and at the destination

All most all of the study participants pointed out that the challenges across the route and at the destination that were circulated and conveyed by the members of the community conversation had forced the community including the families of the potential migrants to reconsider the dangerous consequences of sending their children through irregular migration. According to the representative of stakeholders (coded as SHR 1 and SHR 2), the members of the community had developed a sense of fear due to these risks and consequences that a previous migrant encountered.

The majority of the members of community conversation (coded as CCM 2, CCM 3, and CCM 5) explained that the dissemination of information about the risk and consequence of irregular migration such as the existence of hunger, captured by police, raped by brokers.... etc. were the major factors that discouraged irregular migration in their *Kebele*. For instance, the member of community conversation (coded as CCM 2), maintained this by saying “when I used my previous irregular migration experiences of risks and consequence as one a community conversation facilitator, people understood the risk and consequence of irregular migration which forced them to reconsider the risk of sending their children to the RSA through the irregular routes.”

Similarly, CCM 3, boldly elaborated that there were returns in our community conversation group and they spoke loudly about the risks and consequences of their previous irregular migration to create awareness about the exploitative nature of irregular migration. That interviewer also added, “The mother of potential migrants shocked when they know about the raped of women across the route, and this makes them to reconsidered sending their children through irregular route.”

Ever-increasing of death of the migrants on the route and at the destination

From an in-depth interview with the members of community conversation (coded as CCM 1, CCM 2, CCM 3, and CCM 5), I understood that the death of the migrant on the route and at the destination is another factor that discouraged irregular migration, and the members of a community conversation had been used it as a technique for discouraging irregular migration in their *Kebele*.

More ever, one of the members of the community conversation (coded as CCM 1) affirmed that “we do have an experience of creating awareness about the risk and consequence of irregular migration, before the funereal practice of an individual who is died either on the route or at destiny”. CCM 1, also added, “there is a commonly adapted saying that the members of community conversation had been used to create awareness in their local language saying, ‘*ሬኔገ ቡራ ባዱ እለም ዮን; ሞን ንቡራ ባዱ እሌም ማእት ሰው የማይሞትበት ሀገር ሄዳለው ብላችሁ የማይቀብር ሀገር እንዳቴዱ*’ meaning that doesn’t go to a land where no one is buried, thinking that you will go to a land where no one will die.”

FGD conducted with community representatives also confirmed that awareness on the challenges across the route and at the destination, and the death of the migrants on the route and at the destination can enhance the knowledge of the community members and enabled a potential migrant to make an informed decision towards irregular migration. Moreover, from FGD conducted with returnees, most of them have developed a sense of fear towards irregular migration because of having awareness of the challenges across the route and at the destination, and the death of the migrants on the route and at the destination.

However, they loudly raised that until today there are deep-rooted unemployment and resource shortage problems in their Kebele, and also these problems are not permanently solved yet. So, except the informal and irregular practice of creating awareness about the risk and consequence of irregular migration by the members of community conversation and returnees, as well as, informal information exchange of potential migrant and the community conversation members, CC has no IGA program which had significant contribution on discouraging irregular migration.

During the document review, I had tried to review the way how the community conversation members create awareness about the risk and consequences of irregular migration while communicating with potential migrants during their multiple options. And, the process of enabling a potential migrant to make an informed decision was my focus. Accordingly, I found the IOM a facilitator's manual which composes of 12 main topics and 29 sub topics. For each session, the facilitators find summary notes on topics discussed, roles of facilitators and tools/templates related to the sessions. On average of 90 minutes is required to run a session. There are 40 sessions in the manual. As per the manual, A CC session planned once in two weeks' time. In one month, there will be two CC sessions and two social resonance programs thereby CC and social resonance activities will be completed within similar timeframe. Moreover, a community conversation has a discussion session that is devoted to igniting/ moderating irregular migration twice a year for 60 minutes, as well as, the members of the community create awareness through circulated information about the nature of exploited irregular migration. (IOM, 2019. p, 4). While this manual has a livelihood part, there is no formal IGA which is initiated by the implementers in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

FACTOR THAT AFFECT THE PREVENTION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION THROUGH COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

What are factors that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation?

Community conversation attempts to empower communities' challenges the social norms and attitudes that perpetuate irregular migration. The community conversation which is held in *Andegna Tunto Kebele* had worked to that end by creating awareness about the exploitative nature of irregular migration, as well as formulating the binding rule and by-laws that forced the families of the potential migrants to reconsider the dangerous consequences of sending their children through irregular migration. Research question 2 asked about factors that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation. From key informants' interviews with stakeholder representatives; in-depth interviews with the members of community conversations; and FGDs with the elderly and returnees, one major theme emerged.

SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INFORMATION

The finding from study participants revealed that social network and information are the primary motivational factor or immediate cause for migration in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. Social networks have provided information about migration and often influence the decision to leave. Therefore, Social networks and information are factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

All most all participants explained that there is a massive stream of irregular migration from the *Hadiya and Kembata* areas to the RSA for a long time. One of the stakeholder representatives (coded as SHR 1), has boldly explained that there is a trend of irregular migration from the *Hadiya and Kemebata* zone including *Andegna Tunto Kebele* to the RSA since the 1900s. These informants also added "as there were some migrants who were involved in better trades and employment or /and trade made better income and as the potential migrants simply had access to this information. The RSA has been a place for several people who were involved in irregular migration. When the number of these people increased, people can have access to information that is circulated from household to household at Kebele level. Accordingly, irregular migration has been

taken as a culture through a process of a social network between potential migrant and their relatives in RSA. As a result, the route become one of the main routes that people used to migrate. Most importantly, the crime group or broker has been involved in and plays a facilitation role as the bridge which connects a potential migrant with relatives of irregular migrants. Therefore, it also becomes a commonly known route to RSA.”

Another key informant (coded as SHR 3), explained it in a similar manner “irregular migration is commonly known before 1990. Most People migrated to RSA as they followed their relatives and used it as a culture. The social networks and information is an immediate factor of migration in the Kebele. Currently, it is not pressured from a family that lived in or with a potential migrant in the Kebele rather their relatives in the RSA.”

From an in-depth interview with the members of community conversation (coded as CCM 1, CCM 2, and CCM 3), this study found that a social network in which a potential migrant established for a long time motivated a potential migrant to migrate. According to, CCM 1, “The social network and information is the immediate factor of irregular migration”. Another member of community conversation, CCM 2, also affirmed that there is a social network that motivates a potential migrant through informing his/ her success and promising to cover all the cost of their journey.

From FGD with the members of the community conversation, and returnees, I understood that social networks and information is the immediate factor for the decisions of individuals to migrate in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. Moreover, From FGD with returnees, I understood that their previous irregular migration experience is influenced by information which they get from their networks. They also confirmed that Social network and informations are the immediate factors that motivate their previous migration. All most all participants of the FGD affirmed that information access from social network is more influential in their decision to out migrate.

THE CHALLENGES FOR IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AS A PREVENTION MECHANISM OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

What are the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration?

The community conversation helps community members to reflect deeply on the cost-benefit analysis to make a well-informed decision on migration. Research question 3 sought to understand the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. Almost all participants of the study were interviewed for research question 3. Interview findings yield two subthemes: Lack of legal alternative to the RSA and economic reasons.

LACK OF LEGAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE RSA

The lack of legal alternatives such as regular migration procedures poses crucial challenges to the implementation of community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. All most of all participants of the study (KII, an in-depth interview, and FGD) affirmed that the unavailability of an option to RSA is the challenge to implement community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration.

According to the explanation of stakeholders, SHR 1 and SHR 2, “even though CC aimed at combating and preventing irregular migration through messaging on the positive aspects of regular migration, RSA is out of a country of destinations for regular labor migrants”. They also stated that implementing CC as a prevention mechanism with limited or no option for regular migration is difficult.

From an in-depth interview with all the members of community conversation and FGD with them, I comprehended that an absence of a regular migration opportunity to RSA strongly challenges the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*.

From FGD with returnees, Even though Irregular migration is not the first choice for anyone at *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*, No option for regular migration to RSA increases the likelihood of opting for irregular migration. Therefore, the absence of regular migration to RSA is a unique factor that challenges the prevention of irregular migration through Community conversation.

ECONOMIC REASONS

This study revealed that unemployment and a shortage of land are important factors of irregular migration. All most all of the participants of the study affirmed that

unemployment and a shortage of land are important factors for irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

One of the key informants, stakeholder representatives (SHR), unemployment or lack of local job opportunities are the determinant factor for migration, and an economic disadvantage which includes a shortage of land also can be a challenge for preventing irregular migration through community conversation. This informant also added, “If citizens were not engaged in a local job opportunity, they would anticipate out-migrating through enforcing their parents to afford the required costs of irregular migration.”

Among the member of the community conversation, CCM 1, explained it boldly that one of the reasons for irregular migration is unemployment and a shortage of land. This interviewer also added, “If an individual who has a family with low wealth status wants to get a job, parents have to give an amount of 10,000 up to 20,000 birr for a bribe.”

From FGD with returnees confirmed that an economic disadvantage (problem) or having a family with low wealth status (e.g. land ownership), and having a family with jobs of lower-income (Employment), and their perception of advantageous employment, wages, and benefits in the destination country has a significant influence on their previous migration.

On the other hand, FGD with the members of community conversation, I understood that households with jobs of better income and remittances from their relatives would have more capacity to afford for required costs of irregular migration and send their children abroad; and this trust on the capacity of their families might encourage the youth to better anticipate out-migrating.

This study also shows that economic reasons are important determinants of irregular migration, and the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation without responding to economic factors is difficult.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the major research findings are discussed and interpreted in line with the prior studies and theoretical frameworks of this study. The discussion is organized around the three research questions and specific objectives posed in this study. All through the discussion, I have analyzed the main points of the findings which are revealed by this study. Accordingly, here I have discussed the major role of community conversation; the social networks and information as a factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration; lack of legal Alternative from the study area to RSA, and Economic reasons for the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration one after the other.

MAJOR ROLE OF COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The findings of this study revealed that the community conversation played an inevitable role in curbing the misconceptions that families and the wider community have constructed towards irregular migration, as well as, in enhancing the community's awareness about the exploitative nature of irregular migration. As the findings of this study pointed out, the formulation of bylaws and binding rules by CBOs and religious institutions such as *Idder* are serving as the backbone to mitigate the existing misconception among the villagers towards irregular migration, as well as creating awareness about the risk and consequence of irregular migration through an information campaign is the major strategies to prevent exploitative irregular migration.

Using such strategies aligned with previous studies, for instance, raising awareness, public education, disseminating information, and campaigning is common activities among domestic and international counter-trafficking organizations (DoCarmo, 2020). Additionally, Pecoud (2010) indicated that information campaigns to reduce irregular migration also occur in the countries of origin intending to deter migrants from leaving their origin. He further assumed that a lack of accurate information generates irrational and risky irregular migration behaviors (Pecoud, 2010).

NELM Model hypothesis that migration decisions are not made by individual actors but by a large unit of related people, typically households or families. Here, the

main assumption NELM can boldly be explained as people act collectively not only to maximize income but also to minimize risks and loosen the constraints created by various inadequacies of markets in source areas, including missing or incomplete capital and insurance markets; and that migration decisions may be influenced by the behavior of other actors within the prospective migrant's social group (Massey et al., 1993).

As the finding of this study pointed out, the community conversation plays a significant role in curbing the misconception of families and the entire community constructed about irregular migration. The finding also revealed that the target population of community conversation which is families or household context considers one of the assumptions of the New Economics labor theory of migration. Therefore, the finding of this study related to NELM theory through an emphasis on the household as the relevant decision-making unit (Abreu, 2012, p. 53-4).

The provision of reliable, clear, and informative information about the risk and consequence of irregular by community conversation can enhance the knowledge of the potential migrant families understanding of irregular migration and victimization, their risk and consequences, as well as, curbed the misconceptions that families and the entire community constructed about irregular migration.

The provision of information also improve a potential migrant consciousness and reduce risks and consequence during their journey and later in their time of living as illegal migrant if one they decided to migrate irregularly. The information provided before the beginning of irregular migration is not only about the risk to potential migrants, but also information about the consequence on their families and country at large. The challenges across the route and at the destination, and the death of the migrants on the route and at the destination were tools that the member of a community conversation used to enhance the knowledge of the community towards irregular migration.

Furthermore, this study revealed that awareness about the danger across the route and at the destination can enhance knowledge that enabled a potential migrant to make an informed decision towards irregular migration. Contrary to this reality, the study found by Townsend and Oomen (2015; p.5) provide three reasons why fear appeal messages might not deter migrants from embarking on the journey:

- ❖ people are generally not very good at calculating risk, and routinely discount risk in everyday decisions;
- ❖ the risk of death or injury may seem worth taking, especially compared with immediate threats to personal safety;
- ❖ Long-term risks are weighed against short-term risks and may appear more important at a given moment; for example, migrants may worry more about future obstacles to finding work or summoning family members than about immediate risks to life and limb.

However, the previous study by Browne (2015), revealed that some factors may improve the effectiveness of information campaigns. Among the factors, the trusted information received is related to community conversation in that the provision of information through the members of a community conversation can be taken as trustworthy and received by potential migrant and their families (Browne, 2015).

Moreover, the findings of this study are consistent with the key argument of the New Economics Theory of Migration in that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors but typically by families or households. Further, the decisions of migrants are influenced by a comprehensive set of factors that are shaped by conditions in the home country (Kurekova, 2011). As per Massey et al. (1993), migrant decisions are not based purely on individual utility-maximizing calculations but are rather a household response to both income risk and the failures of a variety of markets – labor market, credit market, or insurance market (Massey et al., 1993).

As can be seen in the findings, the decision of migrants is influenced by different factors including economic reasons, and lack of legal opportunities for regular migration. Accordingly, community conversation which is held in *Andegna Tunto kebele* recognizing the influence of a comprehensive set of determinants factors of migration on the decisions of migration at household's context. As the finding of this study revealed that the local community unit (kebele) pushed the community-based organization (CBOs) such as *Idder* to formulate binding rules and by-laws that forced the families of the potential migrants to reconsider the dangerous consequences of sending their children through irregular migration.

Therefore, I stand with the finding that the measure taken by community conversation including providing trusted information focusing on informing the risk and consequence of irregular migration for the potential migrant and the wider community curbed the existing misconception that the families of a potential migrant being based to make an informed decision as well as enhanced the community awareness of exploitative nature of irregular migration.

SOCIAL NETWORKS AND INFORMATION

Among the findings of this research, social networks and information are the factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation. From FGD with the members of community conversation, this study found that the members of the community tend to trust the information comes from their social network, and the success stories of other irregular migrants through their networks which they establish were the major factors that determine their previous migration.

The study by Kuschminder et al. (2015), found that the information received through social networks is usually considered more trustworthy than from other sources. Thus, such information access is more influential in their decision to out migrate (Kuschminder et al., 2015). Moreover, the existence of a diaspora or network is likely to influence the decisions of migrants when they choose their destinations (Vertovec, 2002; Dustmann and Glitz, 2005).

The network theory of migration also recognizes the vital role of social ties in the decision of migration. According to Massey et al. (1993), the network theory does not look at the determinants which initiate migration but rather at what perpetuates migration in time and space (Massey et al., 1993). Similarly, the finding of this study revealed that social networks and information are the primary motivation or an immediate cause for migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*. As such, social networks and returnees provide knowledge about migration and often influence the decision to leave. This finding is consistent with the main focus of Network theory which is the vital role of personal relations between migrants and non-migrants in the decision of migration (Kurekova, 2011). Therefore, social networks and information are the factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation.

Accordingly, a community conversation plays a critical role to challenge the widespread wrong information by social networks through providing trustworthy information about the risks and consequences of irregular migration. From an in-depth interview and FGD, these wrong words which had been used to inspire and motivate people by their social networks and returnees were challenged by the members of community conversation after the commencement of the implementation community conversation in the study area.

Because Migration gains momentum through networks mechanisms that are necessarily affected by community conversation, curbing the wrong information of social networks by the members of community conversation will be the intersection points of community conversation with migration as the members of community conversation plays a significant role in preventing irregular migration.

LACK OF LEGAL ALTERNATIVES TO THE RSA

This study revealed that the lack of legal alternatives to the RSA is a crucial challenge to the implementation of community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*. Because the previous studies by Kuschminder et al., (2015) recognized that irregular migration is due to limited options for regular migration. Though irregular migration is not the first choice for anyone; limited option for regular migration increases the likelihood of opting for irregular migration (Kuschminder et al., 2015).

The new economics labor theory of migration recognizes that “Institutional failures – credit market, labor market deficiencies” as one determinants factor of migration (Kurekova 2011, p 14). Stark (1991; 2003) largely had in mind the risk aversion of poor households in developing countries where there are rarely institutional mechanisms present, such as government programs or private insurance markets, and therefore migration provides a meaningful strategy in dealing with different market failures.

Risk aversion in the context of the NETM theory is conceptualized as the tendency of households to diversify their sources of income. Households (unlike individuals) are in a position to control risks to their economic well-being by diversifying the allocation of family labor. Sending a family member abroad, where wages and labor

markets are weakly correlated with those in local markets, provides a source of income when domestic conditions might be deteriorating (Massey et al., 1993).

The finding of this study revealed that the RSA is out of a country of destinations for regular labor migrants. This finding of the study is also consistent with the above concept of the new economics theory of migration, and the previous studies by Kuschminder et al., (2015) that recognized limited options of regular migration as the main cause of irregular migration.

AN ECONOMIC REASONS ARE THE SIGNIFICANT DETERMINANTS OF THE RSA

This study shows that economic reasons were important determinants of irregular migration. The finding of this study pointed out, the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation without responding to economic factors is difficult. In different way, from FGD with the members of community conversation, I understood that households with jobs of better income and remittances from their relatives would have more capacity to afford for required costs of irregular migration and send their children abroad; and this trust on the capacity of their families might encourage the youth to better anticipate out-migrating.

Similar to the factors this study identifies, Kuschminder et al. (2015), found that economic factors influencing irregular migrants' choice of where and how to migrate include: the cost of traveling to a certain destination; the economy of the destination country; and the perception of the mix of economic factors such as employment, wages, and benefits in the destination country. (Kuschminder et al., 2015).

The new economics labor theory of migration is also concerned with the determinants of migration through recognizes "Wages and income distribution (relative deprivation), and institutional failures – credit market, labor market deficiencies" as a central determinant of migration (Kurekova, 2011, p 14).

Moreover, the concepts of relative deprivation, risk-aversion, and risk-minimization of household incomes by Stark (1991; 2003) are consistent with the findings of this study. Firstly, relative deprivation (a household performing relatively worse than other households will be readier to send a member abroad) to be considered as one variable of migration decision. In a similar vein, the finding of this study revealed

that an economic disadvantage (problem) or having a family with low wealth status (e.g. land ownership) and having a family with jobs of lower-income (employment), and their perception of advantageous employment, wages, and benefits in the destination country has a significant influence on their previous migration of the FGD participants of returnees

Secondly, the concept of risk-aversion in the context of the NELM theory is conceptualized as the tendency of households to diversify their sources of income. Households (unlike individuals) are in a position to control risks to their economic well-being by diversifying the allocation of family labor. Sending a family member abroad, where wages and labor markets are weakly correlated with those in local markets, provides a source of income when domestic conditions might be deteriorating (Massey et al., 1993). Similarly, the findings of this study revealed unemployment or lack of local job opportunities is the determinant factor for migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*. For instance, one of the key informants, stakeholder representatives (SHR) asserted that; “If citizens were not engaged in a local job opportunity, they would anticipate out-migrating through enrolling their parents to afford the required costs of irregular migration.”

Thirdly, the concepts of risk-minimization of household income, the finding of this study revealed that an economic disadvantage (problem) or having a family with low wealth status (e.g. land ownership) and having a family with jobs of lower-income (employment), and their perception of advantageous employment, wages, and benefits in the destination country has a significant influence on their previous migration. More importantly, the findings of this study showed that economic factors were the major determinants of irregular migration. Because being poorer means having not enough livelihood assets which do not give better trust for someone to sustain on local life so that he/she aspires to out migrate in search of better life or opportunity. A previous study in 2015 by Kuschminder et al., found that migrants with less money might choose closer or more accessible locations, or more dangerous routes, meaning that socio-economic status plays a role in destination choice. (Kuschminder et al., 2015).

Furthermore, households (unlike individuals) are in a position to control risks to their economic well-being by diversifying the allocation of family labor. Sending a family member abroad, where wages and labor markets are weakly correlated with those

in local markets, provides a source of income when domestic conditions might be deteriorating (Massey et al., 1993)

Therefore, I, the researcher, conclude that economic drivers are one of the challenges that disturb the implementation of community conversation as a prevention of irregular migration in the study area. Although community conversation attempted to change the perceptions of the community and potential migrants through awareness creation campaigns in a different setting (e.g., on the religious conference), responses to irregular migration must be holistic, and respond to the economic drivers is much more important.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

This chapter has two sections, the conclusion and the implications of the study. The conclusion section concludes the study as per the research questions posed. While the implication sections present the implications of the study based on the main findings of this study. It comes up with four implications which are implications for social work, policy, practice and intervention, and future research.

CONCLUSION

This qualitative case study has explored the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration, *Anedegna Tunto kebele*. Given that, three research questions were posed and addressed. Which are: 1) what are the roles that community conversation plays in preventing irregular migration 2) What are the factors that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation 3) what are the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration? Accordingly, the above three research questions concerning the role that community conversation plays to prevent irregular migration are addressed in this section of the conclusion.

In reaction to the first research question, this study reveals that community conversation plays a significant role in curbing the misconception that a family and a wider community constructed towards irregular migration; and also to enhance the people's awareness of the exploitative nature of irregular migration in *Anedegna Tunto kebele*. Moreover, the formulation of bylaws and binding rules by CBOs and religious institutions such as *Idder* are serving as the backbone to mitigate the existing misconception among the villagers towards irregular migration.

In response to the second research question, this study depicted social networks and information were the factors or conditions that affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. Although social networks which facilitate irregular migration is an immediate cause for the youth's decision to leave, community conversation plays a significant role through providing trustworthy information to curb the widespread wrong information of social networks.

The feedback for the third research question of this study uncovered Lack of legal alternatives to the RSA and economic reasons as a challenges to implement community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration. Therefore, legal alternatives to the RSA and the provision of IGA for the potential migrants by the implementers of community conversation is the need that remained unanswered and thereby hindered the implementation of community conversation as prevention of irregular migration in the study area.

IMPLICATION

Based on the main findings of this study, I came up with four implications which are implications for social work, policy, practice and intervention, and future research.

Implication for social work

The implication of this finding for social work both as a profession and a practice to tackle irregular migration as a social problem and community conversation as an intervention mechanism to solve this social problem or heroine's crime can be categorized into three. Firstly, the need for the involvement of social work in preventing irregular migration through community conversation. Because, social work as a helping profession is concerned with a potential migrant and returnees, as well as, a wider community that is impacted by a social problem such as irregular migration. Moreover, this study indicates that community conversation did not obtain the necessary behavioral change of the potential migrant and the community towards irregular migration. It implies that the need for the involvement of social work to achieve the necessary behavioral changes of the potential migrant and community towards irregular migration.

Additionally, as the findings pointed out that community conversation plays a significant role in curbing the misconception of potential migrants, their families, and the community constructed towards irregular migration. Hence, the members of community conversation engaged in such activities which are more related to social work. For instance, the roles played by the members of community conversation including awareness creation and mass communication through providing information about the risk and consequence of irregular migration were expected from social workers during their intervention at the community level.

Secondly, this study for social work implies that to use community conversation as a support system in the process of helping the clients' behavioral change, teaching and raising the awareness of the communities to become compulsory communities. Hence, the result implicates that the need for social workers' involvement in the community conversation to change the attitude and comprehension of the communities. However, still, this community education requires the field practicum by social workers from the school of social work to integrate community conversation as one mechanism of social work practice.

The third implication for social work is an opportunity of lesson for social workers in community conversation which is held in *Anedegna Tunto Kebele*. The community conversation would enhance the knowledge and skills of the social worker if they obtained the chance of participating in preventing irregular migration as one member of community conversation for a specific period.

Implication for policy

The policy implication is concerned with the formulation of bylaws and rules by the local organizations and the religious institutions such as *Idder* in each community conversation irregular migration. Because the finding of this study revealed that the bylaws and rules which were formulated and executed by the local organizations and the religious institution had been playing significant roles in curbing the misconception among the community members. Moreover, The UN Trafficking Protocol (2004), to which Ethiopia is a party, demands States Parties to adopt legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent, to the extent possible, means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of the offense of human trafficking. While The UN Trafficking Protocol merely sanctions intentional assistance and facilitation of trafficking in persons through the provision of transportation or facilitation of the transportation of victims of human trafficking, it does not penalize families of a potential migrant who recklessly facilitate trafficking in persons through direct provision or facilitation of the transportation of victims of human trafficking (*The UN Trafficking Protocol, 2004; Art.4 (4)*).

Ethiopian Overseas Employment Proclamation (Proclamation No. 923/2016) is anticipated to reduce the number of illegal migrants crossing Arab and other foreign

countries and help to prevent human trafficking. However, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that the Overseas Employment Proclamation will only be working for foreign States with which Ethiopia has bilateral agreement (Proclamation No. 923/2016, *Art.12*). This study indicates that the Ethiopian government has not signed a bilateral agreement with the RSA. This implies that the proclamation has no working on the issues of irregular migrations from the study site to RSA and no clear provisions that penalize families of a potential migrant who recklessly facilitate irregular migration to RSA.

Therefore, the study implies that to prevent irregular migration, a community conversation which was organized at the grass-root level required to have a strong statement that imposes local organizations and religious institutions to formulate bylaws and rules that forced the families of the potential migrants who facilitate their children transportation to reconsider the dangerous consequences of sending their children through irregular migration.

The International Organization of Migration, as well as, concerned bodies should have to push/advocate for the formulation of rule and laws that punishes a parent who sends a child irregularly. The formulations of binding rule by CBOs used as an indicator of good performance of the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation.

Implication for practice and intervention

As the finding of this study reveals there was a widespread misconception among the community members in particular among the youths towards irregular migration and those misconceptions were curbed after the commencement of community conversation. However, still, young men, women, and adults were imposed their parents to go to different countries, especially to South Africa. So, this study finding implies that the implementers of community conversation should obtain a technique that identifies a potential migrant who imposes his or her parents to go to the RSA and the CC facilitators should change his or her attitude towards the RSA. By implication, the CC approach needs to have a kind of intervention that focused on an attitudinal change of identified potential migrants. And the necessary professional to help potential migrants change their behavior should be employed by the implementers of CC. Moreover, the facilitators in the community conversation have no knowledge and skill about how to change the

behavior of a potential migrant who imposed his or her parents to go to the RSA. Therefore, they recruited professionals who need to have knowledge and skill of helping process.

The community conversation has to promote returns participation in the community conversation and linking the identified potential migrant with the concerned bodies to respond to their economic drives. When migrants are subject to difficult conditions in transit, and those fleeing conflict particularly needs psychosocial support. Therefore, the responses of irregular migration should be holistic, and respond to the livelihoods and psychosocial support is vital if the potential were inspired and motivated by the wrong information of their social networks. Community conversation should also play directing migrants to legal opportunities if Irregular migration is due to limited options for regular migration in *Andegna Tunto Kebele*.

Implication for future research

This study showed that community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration is not well researched. Moreover, it is surprising that researchers have conducted so little research on the roles of community conversation in the field of migration. The academic literature lacks breadth and depth in clearly identifying and documenting the role that community conversation plays in anti-irregular migration efforts. Therefore, it needs further research. From the findings of this study, I have identified the following areas or issues that need further investigation by researchers.

- The contribution of community conversation for discouraging potential migrant decision of irregular migration.
- The integrations of the rules formulated by community-based organizations /religious institutions with modern legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent irregular migration.

In general, the above two major areas and understanding the major factors that Affect the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation requires further research. Furthermore, understanding the major factors of the prevention of irregular migration requires a detailed examination of the factors of irregular migration. So, it implies the need for mixed research to be conducted by a future researcher.

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Annex I: Interview guideline

Date

Time

Location

Participant

Age

Position

Opening

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this study. I have been researching the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration and am interested in gaining a better understanding of the role, factors, and challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration. This interview will take approximately one hour, and we will be discussing the issue related to community conversations, with an emphasis on its role, factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration, and the challenges of implementing community conversation as prevention irregular migration. I will be taking notes and recording our conversation. Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

Research question 1. What is the major role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration?

1. Could you describe the irregular migration of your warda /kebele?
2. Could you identify and describe the risk and consequence of irregular migration in your kebele?

3. Could you provide an overview of the community conversation that was carried out to prevent irregular migrations in general, *Anedegna Tunto kebele* in particular?
4. What role does community conversation play to help to prevent irregular migration?
5. What are the roles that a community conversation plays to help prevent irregular migration?
6. Could you identify and describe the major role that community conversation in preventing irregular migration?
7. How community conversation does use the causes, risks, and consequences of irregular migration to prevent irregular migration? Please describe it.

Research Question 2. What are factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation?

1. Could you identify and describe factors that increase irregular migration in general, *Anedegna Tunto kebele* in particular?
2. Could you identify the factors that the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation? If so, please identify and explain it?
3. What are the major factor that determines the prevention of irregular migration through community conversations? Could you describe how it determines the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation?

Research question 3. What are the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration?

1. Could you identify and describe the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration?
2. Could you identify and describe the challenges that community conversation currently faces or that you anticipate it will face in the future?
3. Could you identify and describe any disturbance that affects implementing community conversation in Anedegna Tunto Kebele?
4. Is there anything else you would like to share with me?

Annex II: Focus Group Discussion Guideline

Date

Time

Location

Participant

Age

Position

Opening

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this discussion. I have been researching the role of community conversation in preventing irregular migration and am interested in gaining a better understanding of the role, factors, and challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration. This discussion will take approximately one and half hours, and we will be discussing the issue related to community conversations, with an emphasis on its role, factors that determine the prevention of irregular migration, and the challenges of implementing community conversation as prevention irregular migration. I will be taking notes and recording our conversation. Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

1. Could you describe the irregular migration of your warda /kebele?
2. Could you identify and describe the risk and consequences of irregular migration?
(Please, describe the risk and consequence that you encountered during and after irregular migration?)

3. Could you identify and describe factors that increase irregular migration in general, Anedegna Tunto kebele in particular? Could you identify and describe factors that increase your motivation for your previous irregular migration?
4. Could you identify and describe the major role that community conversation in preventing irregular migration?
5. What are the major factor that determines the prevention of irregular migration through community conversations? Could you describe how it determines the prevention of irregular migration through community conversation?
6. Could you identify and describe the challenges of implementing community conversation as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration?
7. Could you identify and describe the challenges that community conversation currently faces or that you anticipate it will face in the future?
8. Is there anything else you would like to share with me?

Annex III: Informant consent

Jimma University

College of Social Science and Humanities,

School of Social Work

Informed consent and confidentiality of interviews

Good

morning/afternoon,

Mr/Mrs

_____. I am from Jimma University, College of social science and Humanities, School of Social Work. I am working on a research concerned with community conversations in which you could participate/participated. In the title, The Role of Community Conversations in Preventing irregular migration; The Case of kembata Tembaro Zone, SNNPR Ethiopia.

You will be asked to participate in a one-on-one interview located in a neutral community location of your choice such as a private agency office, whichever was agreed upon by the researcher and participant before the study. You will be asked questions about the role that community conversation plays in the prevention of irregular migration. First, I will also ask you some basic demographic questions such as your age, education, years of participation in community conversation, etc. For the researcher to accurately retain the responses you provide in the interview, the interview will be recorded using an audio recording device and the researcher will take notes with a paper and pen. If video chatting is used I will only use audio recordings, no video recordings of the interview will be used. You should know that at any time throughout the interview you are free to take a

break, ask me to turn off the audio recording device, ask me to stop taking notes, or refuse to answer any questions or stop the interview.

Your responses will not be associated with you in any way, and your name will not be tied to any of your answers or any of the research materials. Results will be used for data in a research presentation at an academic conference and possible publication in a refereed academic journal. Discomforts and Risks: The possible risks include disclosing personal information that might be embarrassing or sensitive. There are no direct benefits to you as a result of participating in this study except the potential opportunity to express your experiences and views and needs in a safe, confidential setting. Benefits to society include sharing valuable information related to community conversations. I understand that psychological care is available in the event of injury resulting from research but that neither financial compensation nor free medical treatment is provided. I also understand that I am not waiving any rights that I may have against the University for Injury resulting from the negligence of the University or advisors.

Duration/Time required from the participant: Participation will take approximately 1-hour .

Statement of Confidentiality: Due to the sensitive nature of this study, maintaining your confidentiality will be given the utmost concern. Interview notes will be kept with the researcher after transcription of each interview the audio file will be kept in for the reliability of the study. All interviews will be transcribed by June 2021. Transcribed interviews will not include any identifiable participant information. Codes will be assigned rather than names.

Right to Ask Questions: You have the right to ask questions and have those questions answered. If you have questions about this study, please contact the researcher named above, whose contact information is located at the end of the informed consent.

Compensation: Participation is voluntary and the only compensation participants will receive is the knowledge that their participation will be used to further shed light on their participation in community conversation.

Voluntary Participation/Penalty: Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may decide at any time that you don't want to participate further and may withdraw without penalty. This will not affect you in any way; including your relationship with the researcher. You may also talk to the principal investigator regarding concerns, questions, or complaints. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.

Title of the research: The Role of Community Conversation in preventing irregular migration; The Case of kembata Tembaro Zone, SNNPR Ethiopia.

Researcher: Mulualem Dimarko (09-26-10-94-15)

Participant Signature Date

I, the undersigned, verify that the above-informed consent procedure has been followed.

Researcher: Signature Date

Annex IV: Sample Transcription

ስሜ ግርማ አበበ ነው። በከምበታ ጠምባሮ ዞን ሀደሮ ጡንጦ ወረዳ ፡አንደኛ ጡንጦ ቀበሌ ..እንደ እኛ ቀበሌ ሰዎች በኢ-መደበኛ ፍልሰት የሚፍልጉት 1ኛ ከግንዛቤ እጥረት /አለማወቅ ነው። አንዳንድ ግለሰቦች አጋጣሚ ህጋዊ ባለሆነ መንገድ ተንከራትተው የሚበሉት ፤ የሚጠጡት አጥተው ደቡብ አፍሪካ /ሌላ ሀገር ያሉትን ወንድሞቻቸው በማየት ከቤት ጠፍተው ይሄዳሉ። ይህ የግንዛቤ እጥረት ነው።

እኔ ከዚህ ቀደም ትዳር መስርቼ ድንጋይ ካባ እየሰራው እያለው ፤ ሱዳን ያለው የታላቅ ወንድሜ ልጅ እሱ ጋር ስልክ ደውቼ ስጠይቅ አንድ ብር በኢትዮጵያ አስር ብር እየተቀየረ ነው ሲባል ሰምቼ እኔም ያለኝን ሁለት ከብቶች ሽጮ አስር ሺህ (10000) ብር በእጄ ይገፍና ደላላ አናግራ መተማ ድረስ ሄድኩኝ ከመተማ ወደ ገላቤቴ ከዚያም ለመሀመድ በሽር ሠጠኝ ፤መሀመድ በሽር አልወሰደኝም ፡ በእሱ ቤት ከ 9 እስከ 1:30 ስዓት ድረስ አቆይቶኝ ለሌላ ልጆች ሠጠን ። እነሱም ከ ከ 30 ደቂቃ በኋላ አባዱላ ይመጣል መኪና ታገኛላችሁ ብለውን ተለዩን ፤እኛም ጭቃ ውስጥ ገባን 1 ቀን ተኩል ተጓዝን ፤ በመንገድ ላይ በመጀመሪያ ቀን ሙሉ አንድ ቀን ለሊት ዝናብ እየጠጣን አደርን በዚህ ውስጥ አንድ ሴትዮ በማሸላ ውስጥ ኋላ ቀረች፤ ነገር ግን ማንም ዞር ብሎ አላያትም እኛ ሄደን ተበልተን ነበር ። ለትንሽ ተረፈን ጫማችን ተወሰደ፤በእኛ እየተወጋን ሄድን አንድ ቤት ላይ ከደረንስን በኋላ በሶስተኛው ቀን ተወሰደን፤ ሌላ ደላላ ወሰደን ፤ ጥሎን ጠፋ፤ ሌሎች ወታደሮች ወሰዱን ከዚያ በኋላ ለመግደል ተመካከሩ ፤ የፖሊስ ልብስ የለበሱ ናቸው። ከዚያም ሴቶች ደፈሩ ና ወንዶቹን ፈተሹ ፤ምክንያቱም አንዱ ፖሊስ ቢፈተሹ እና ቢዘረፉ ብቻ ጥሩ ነው በማለቱ ና ከፈተሹን በኋላ መንገድ ላይ ጥለውን ሄዱ መግቢያ መውጨያ አጥተን በማሸላ ውስጥ ሆነን ሊነጋ ሲሞክር ዝም ብለን የመኪና ጽምጽ ሰምተን ወደ አንድ ጎን ተጓዝን ኬላ አስፓልት አገኝን ፤ከዚያ

በኋላ ወደ ሱዳን ደረሰን ይሁን ወደ ኢትዮጵያ ሳናውቅ ኬላ አገኘን ሆ ብሎ ኢትዮጵያ /ሀበሻ እያሉ ፖሊስ ጣቢያ አስገቡን ፤ ፖሊስ ጣቢያ መግባታችን ትልቅ ዕድል ነው አልን። እዚያም ሶስት ቀን ታሥረን ፡ገላርሬ በሚባለው ላይም ሶስት ቀን ቆየን በአጠቃላይ ስድስት ቀን ከቆየን በኋላ መተማ ላይ ሼዲ የሚባል ቦታ ላይ ትንሽ ምግብ አግኝተን በላን።

በጉዞ ላይ የሴት ልጅ መደፈር ፣ሞትስቃይ አለ። ለምሳሌ ከእኛ ጋር የነበረችው የት እንደደረሰች አይታወቅም ።

የማህበረሰብ ውይይት ሚናን በተመለከተ

የማህበረሰብ ውይይት የሚያስፈልገው እንደዚህ በእኛ መንገድ የሚሄዱ ዜጎች እንዳይዘረፉ፣ እንዳይሰቃዩ፣ እንዳይጎዱ እና እንዳይሞቱ ለመከላከል ይረዳል። ሌላው እንደእኔ የሄዱ ሰዎች/ሄደው የመጡ ሰዎች አሁን እኔ የማህበረሰብ ውይይት አመቻች ነኝ ። እኔ ላይ ከደረሰው ጉዳት ተነስቼ ሳወያይ ሰዎች ይሰማሉ ። ህጋዊ ያልሆነ መንገድ መሄድ አይፈልጉም ። አስራ አምስት ወንድ እና አስራ አምስት ሴት በድምሩ 30 አመቻች አባላት አለን ። ወይ በቀበሌ በራፍ ወይ ጥላ ባለበት እንወያያለን ህበረተሰቡ የቀነሰ አግባብ አለ።

አመለካከት ላይ እዚህ ሰው ከሰራ እንደሚለወጥ አሁን ቤት ሽጠው የሚሄዱ አሉ /ወደ ደቡብ አፍሪካ የሚሄዱ አሉ። ተመለሰው ቤት ተከራይተው ሚናሩ ሰዎች አሉ።እኔን **አሁን ተመለከቱኝ ከዚያ ታስራ ተመልሼ /መጥቼ በመንገድ ላይ ስምንተኛ ክፍል ትቼ ይሄዳኩብትን ትምህርት ተምሬ 10ኛ ክፍል ተፈትኜ በዚህ ሰኔ የዲፕሎማ ሠርተፍኬት እየወሰድኩኝ ነው። በጉልበት እርሻ ሠርቼ ይሄ እዚህ ሀገር ስርቶ መለውጥ እንደሚቻል ነው።**

አሁን አንድ ሰው በህገ ወጥ/ኢ.መ.ደ.በኛ መንገድ እንዳይሄድ እንገባለን፤

የደረሰበንን ጉዳት እንገባል /። በእኛ ቀበሌ ሄደው ለምሳሌ በእኛ እድር በአንድ ቀን

ሶስት ለቅሶ የወጣበት ጊዜ ወይም ለሶስት ለቀሶ በአንድ ቀን ወጪ የሰጠንበት አለ ።

ልጆች እንዲሄዱ አባቶች እንዳይገፉ ፡- አንዳንድ ሰዎች አሉ የእኔ ልጅ ሄዶ

እኔ እንዲያልፍልኝ የሚሉ አላካከት የያዙ አሉ፤ አንዳንድ ቤት ደግሞ ወጣቶች ያስቸግራሉ ። እዚህ ጋር ልጆች እንዲማሩ እና ውጤታማ እንዲሆኑ እናደርጋለን።

ዋነኞቹ ግን አባቶች ናቸው። አባቶች ናቸው ብዙ ጊዜ የእኔ ልጅ ቢሄድ ብለው መሬት ሽጠው ፣በሬ ሽጠው ፣ባጃጅ መግዛት የሚችለውን 250000 የአንድ መኪና ግማሽ (

ከ አንድ ስው ጋር በ ጋራ ቢሰራ የእሱን ልጅ ያን ቢሰራ እሱ ልጅ እዚህ ሊለወጥ ይችላል ። ያን ግንዛቤ ውስጥ ሳያስገባ የእሱን ልጅ ለአውሬ የሚሰጥ፤ ስለዚህ

በአገኘነው አጋጣሚ በለቅሶ ፣ በስብሰባ ላይ የማህበረሰብ ውይይት በወር ሁለት ጊዜ አለ።

እሱ እያለም በለቅሶ በስብሰባ ላይ ከ አመስት እስከ ስድስት ደቂቃ ግንዛቤ እንፈጥራለን።

እዚህ ቀደም የዓይማኖት አባቶች እንዲሁም ሰዎች ፕሮግራም አዘጋጅተው ፣

ቡና አፍልተው የሚሸኙበት አግባብ ነበረ። ይህ እየተወቀሰ ፣የዓይማኖት አባቶች መርቀው ሸኝተው ልጆች በመንገድ ላይ በጅብ እንዲበሉ እያደረጉ ነው ተብሎ በየቦታው

የሰዎች ስም ተወቅሶ እንደድሮ ጸሎት አያደርጉም፤ አያስተባበሩም። ቀንሰዋል። አሁንም

የእኛ ስራ ግጥም የሚያደርጉ ሰዎችን የማስቆም ስራ እየሰራን ነው። ሌላው እዚያ ያሉ

ጌት ወረኮችን እኔ እንዲህ ሆኛለው ና ከእኔ አገናኝካለው ። እኔ ለደላላ ገንዘብ

ክፍላለው /ሰጣለው የሚሉ በአጋጣሚ የሄዱ ሰዎች አሉ ። እነሱን ለ ማስቆም እዚህ

እለወጣለው ባጃጅ እሰራለው፤ ሞትር እሰራለው ፣ ሱቅ እሰራለው ገንዘብ ላኩ በሏችሁ

ወይም ጠይቋቸው በማለት ግንዛቤ እንፈጥራለን።

በሌላ በኩል የዓይማኖት ሀባቶች በየቤተክርስቲያኑ እንዲያስተምሩ ተደርጓል። ሌላው የውጭ ዕድል ያገኙ ካሉ ...ያው የዕድል ጉዳይ ነው። ሌላው ደግሞ ገንዘብ እንዲልክ እንዲችል እያደረገን ነው። ሌላው ደግሞ ደላላ በጎረቤታችን ካለ ለፖሊስ ወይም ለቀበሌ አመራር እየጠቆምን ነው። አቁም እንደድሮ እከሌ ልጅ እኮ እንዲህ እየሰራ ሰውን እነደ መነገድ ያለፈ ታሪካችን አድርገን ሰዎችን አትነግድ ብለን ለፖሊስ የመጠቆም ስራ እሰራን ነው።

ዋናው ችግር የሰዎች የግንዛቤ ችግር ነው። ስራ ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ አለ ፤ ሰዎች አቋራጭ የመበልፀግ መፈለግ እንጂ የግንዛቤ እጥረት በደላሎች ተመርተው መሄድ የእውቀት ማጣት እንጂ ሌላ ችግር አይደለም ። በአንድ ደላላ የሚሄድ ሰውን ግንዛቤ መለወጥ ከእኛ ይጠበቃል። አትሂዱ እያልን ነው ። ነገር ግን አንዳንድ ሰዎች አይሰሙም ። እምቢ ብለው እየሄዱ ነው። ባለመኖሩ ምክንያት በእዚህከደቡብ አፈሪካ ጋር ህጋዊ ስምምነት አለመኖሩ ችግር ነው። ባለመኖሩ ምክንያት በእዚያ የሚሞቱ ሰዎች ደሞ አልባ ሆነው ይቀራሉ ። ውል ተፋርመው ቢሆን ኖሮ ግን ደመ ካልባ አይሆኑም ፤ አሁን በእኔ በቀበሌያችን በ 2012 ሶስት ሰዎች ሞተዋል ። ብዙ ጎብታም የሆኑ ሰዎች ናቸው ። እነሱን የገደሉ አልታወቀም ። እኛም ይህ ችግር ነው ብለን በውይይት እያነሳን ነው ።

በአጠቃላይ መንስሄዎች

1. በአከባቢው የነበረ ስራ ማጣት ፡ ወጣቶች የሥራ ዕድል ማጣት ፤ ወጣቶች ከዚህ በአቋራጭ ወጥተን እዚያ እንለወጣለን ማለት ግንዛቤ ይዘው ነው ያሉት
2. የቤተሰብ ግፊት አንዳንድ ቦታ አለ። የቤተሰብ ግፊት እንዲቆም እያደረገን ነው።

3. ሳቢ የምንላቸው ፣ ገሬን ሳቢ የሚባሉ አሉ። ቅድም የጠራናቸው ድህነት ን የቤተሰብ ግፊት ናቸው ። ሳቢ የሚባሉት ደግሞ አጋጣሚ የጥቂቶችን ስኬት በማየት የእኛ ወገኖች እንደሚጎዱ አውቀናል/አይተናል። እሱን ለመቀነስ እየሠራን ነው። እየተቀነሰም ነው። እንደድሮ አይደለም ። አሁን ደግሞ እንቀንሳለን ። ሙሉ በሙሉ ባናጸዳም እንቀንሳለን ።

በአጠቃላይ የማህበረሰብ ውይይት ግንዛቤ መፍጠር ፣ ትልቅ ነገር ለሰው እንደእኔ ሄደው የተለመሱ (የተሰደዱ) ከመንገድ ተመላሽ የሆኑ ደግሞ ሌሎች ወጣቶች የቀበሌ አመራሮች ፣ የህድር መሪዎች፣ የዓይማኖት መሪዎች ፣ የቀበሌ ካቢኔ በመሰብሰብ ሰዎች እንዲቀንሱ ሆኗል። ትልቅ ስራ ያለው ታች ላይ ነው። የእድር ዳኞች ደንብ ለማውጣት ስልጠና ወስደዋል ። አሁንም የማህበረሰብ ውይይት ግንዛቤ አባል ናቸው። ከ30 አባላት ውስጥ የዕድር ዳኞች ይሳተፋሉ ። እንደገና የቀበሌ አስተዳዳሪ ፣ የወጣቶች ሊግ ፣ የሴቶች ሊግ የሚባሉ አሉ ፣ እነዚህ ሁሉ በህድር ላይ ጫና ይፈጥራሉ ። ከእኛ አከባቢ በ ኢ-መደበኛ መንገድ ሄዶ በመንገድ ላይ ታስሮ (ጥቶ) ከመጣ ፣ ህድር አንሰጥም። ለቅስ አንሰጥም ፣ በና አናፈላም ፣ በደንብ ወጥቷል፣ ይህን ሁለት መቶ ና ሶስት መቶ አውጥቶ የቻለውን አባት እራሱ ይቻል ተብሎ ...አባትም የእድር አባል እንዳይሆን ይደረጋል።.....ይህ መሆኑ ኢ-መደበኛ ፍልሰትን ይቀንሰዋል።

Table 4.1. Demographic characteristics of the study participants selected from CC members

Participant's code	Age	Educational status	Religion	Marital status	Occupation/position	Duration of participation in CC
M 1	44	10	Protestant	Married	---	5 years
M 2	40	12	Protestant	Married		5 years
M 3	42	Diploma	Protestant	Married		5 years
M 4	46	Degree	Protestant	Married		5 years
M 5	49	Diploma	Protestant	Married		5 years

Table 4.2. Demographic characteristics of stakeholder representatives

Participant code	Age	Educational status	Religion	Marital status	Occupation/position	Work experience
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R 1	SH 2	BA Degree	Pr otestant	M arried	L/P/D/D	27
R 2	SH 4	M A	O rthod ox	M arried	Preventio n cell coordinator	13
R 3	SH 2	BA	Pr otestant	M arried	Capacity building officer	8
R 4	SH 8	BA	Ort hodox	M arried	Attorney	10

Table 4.3: Background characteristics of FGD participants of the study

Participants code	Their status in the community	Their genders	The number of years they have participated in the cc
	Elderly Participant		
EP1	Religious leader	Male	5
EP2	<i>Iddir</i> leader	Male	5
EP3	Influential leader	Male	5
Ep4	Religious'	Male	5

	leader		
EP5	<i>Idder</i> leader	Male	5
EP6	Influential leader	Male	5
	Returnees participant		
RP1	Returnees	Male	-
RP2	Returnees	Male	-
RP3	CC facilitator	Male	5
RP4	Returnees	Male	-
RP5	Returnees	Male	-
RP6	Returnees	Male	-

Source: from fieldwork in May 2021

Table 4. 4: Major themes and their subthemes of the findings

Triangulated results from all four data collection techniques produced four major themes and six subthemes as shown below.

o	Major Themes	Sub Themes
	Curbing the misconception that families and the wider community have constructed towards irregular migration	<p>Curbing families misconception of irregular migration</p> <p>Curbing the entire community</p>

		misconception of irregular migration
Enhancing community awareness of exploitative irregular migration		The challenge on the route and destination
		Ever-increasing of death of the migrants on the route and at the destination
Social networks and information are factors that affect the prevention of irregular migration.		.-----
Challenges for implementing CC as a prevention mechanism of irregular migration		Lack of legal alternatives such as regular migration pathway to the RSA.
		Economic reasons are important determinants of The RSA.