



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES COORDINATING  
OFFICE

**The Blessings and Blights of Trans-Human Mobility: Causes,  
Processes and Consequences of Migration to South Africa from  
Hossana Town**

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By: Getahun Mishamo

June, 2016

Jimma, Ethiopia

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This is to certify that the MA thesis research prepared by Getahun Mishamo, entitled: *The Blessings and Blights of Trans-Human Mobility: Causes, Processes and Consequences of Migration to South Africa from Hossana Town* and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Sociology and Social Policy complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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## **Lists of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

AIDS:	Aids Immune Deficiency Virus.
CSA:	Central Statistical Authority.
E.C:	Ethiopian Calendar.
EEA:	Ethiopian Expatriate Agency.
ETB:	Ethiopian Birr.
FDRE:	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
HIV:	Human Immune Virus.
HFEDD:	Hadiya Zone Finance and Economic Development Department.
ILO:	International Labour Organization.
IOM:	International Organization for Migration.
MoLSA:	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
SNNPR:	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region.
UNDP:	United Nation Developmental Program.
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund.
UN:	United Nations.
WB:	World Bank.

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## **Abstract**

*Illegal migration to Republic of South Africa has become a common phenomenon among Hadiya ethnic groups of SNNPRS. As a result, this issue is critical and a persistent challenge for the zone administrative bodies in particular and the government of Ethiopia in general. This study was aimed at portraying the contributing factors, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa from Hadiya Zone, the case of Hossana Town. To achieve this objective, the study has employed qualitative research methods. Data collection methods such as in-depth interview, FGD, case study and key informant interviews were employed. The tools used to gather the primary information were semi-structured interview guidelines, FGDs guidelines, and key informant guidelines. To this end, a total of sixteen returned migrants, five cases, three key informants and two FGDs constituting eighteen participants were selected from three Kifileketemas of Hossana Town using purposive and snowball sampling technique. Thus, the data obtained from the study participants was analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods like using narrations. Accordingly, the findings of the study showed that search for better economic opportunities, unemployment and lack of job opportunities, pressure from family and people in one's circle, brokers, explosion of population and land scarcity and histories associated with remittances were identified as push factors. While brokers' promises, better job opportunities and existence of relatives and families in the destination county were some of major pull factors of migration. Migrants have faced various problems such as imprisonments, death, sufferings due to lack of basic necessities, physical damage, loss of properties and other many challenges in different transits places, during the journey made to reach the destination country and in the destination country as well. Moreover, an attempt was also made in order to find out positive and abusive consequences of migration on the migrants and community at large. Consequently, the findings of the study revealed that improved economic status, job opportunities and combating unemployment, gaining some positive experiences and savings as positive consequences of migration. Whereas, losing of productive forces, income inequality among the people, psychological traumas among some deported migrants, newly introduced values like alcoholic behaviors, dependency on remittance and school dropout were identified as abusive consequences of migration in the study area. Hence, it requires joint efforts of all concerned bodies with regards to changing the attitudes of the community, undertaking comprehensive researches and taking appropriate policy measures concerning root causes.*

# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Human migration is not a recent phenomenon but has occurred throughout human history. People have been moving from one place to another since ancient period and it is a continuous global phenomenon that resulted due to complex mechanism involving social, cultural, economic, psychological, political, institutional and other determinants (Singh 1998; United Nations Population Fund 2005).

Whether it is legal or illegal, migration poses various consequences on the lives of migrants besides the countries of origin and destination at large. The consequences of migration have been the subject of heated debate between migration optimists and migration pessimists over the past decades. Migration optimists argued that international migration leads to transfer of capital in the form of remittances and accelerates the exposure of traditional communities to rational ideas, modern knowledge and education. To the contrary, migration pessimists have argued that migration and associated changes lead to the withdrawal of human capital and the breakdown of traditional, stable village communities and regional economies, provoking the development of non-productive communities, which become increasingly dependent on remittances (Papademetriou and Martin, as cited in Haas 2006). In the latter perspective, migration is perceived as discouraging the autonomous economic growth of migrant-sending countries. Hence, instead of encouraging development, migration is rather seen as one of the very contributing factor of poverty (Lipton 1980).

Regardless of its positive or negative consequences, permanent and transitional population movement is increasing at an alarming rate in the world due to various factors like economic instability, civil wars, political instabilities and so forth. On the other hand, the transnational illegal migration is commonly understood in security terms as a problem starting from the last two decades. This is mainly associated with terrorism and cultural differences which are seen as potential threat to national sovereignty and identity. As result, many governments and political movements seek to protect their citizens against this threat (Pecoud and Guchteneire 2006; Castel 2000). Yet, the reality is that transnational illegal movement is continued and world become experiencing many cross-border population flows. Processes like colonial paths, family

ties, other social networks, brokers, smugglers and traffickers play an important role for these cross-border human illegal flows (Adamnesh 2006).

However, it is very difficult to get verifiably accurate data on illegal migration since illegal migration has been occurring without the proper documentations (IMO 2010). Consequently, existing relevant data deals with migration in general. According to the United Nations Development Program (2012) estimate, nearly 214 million people were international migrants (live outside their country of birth) and this number is forecasted to be 232 million in 2013. However, significantly larger than the previous estimate was observed in the stock of international migration. The stock of international migrants is estimated at 244 million to 247 million in 2013 (World Bank 2015; UN 2016). Assuming that the stock grows at an annual rate of 1.6 percent, the growth rate observed during 2010-2013, the stock of international migrants will exceed 250 million in 2015 (World Bank 2015).

According to international organization for migration (2015), the stock of international migrants worldwide by 2050 was estimated to be as high as 405 million. At the same time, internal migrants will account for 740 million migrants, bringing the total number of migrants to just above 1 billion worldwide.

Coming to Africa, the number of international migrants in Africa was estimated to be 15 million in 2000. It has reached to 21 million in 2015 of which labour migrant took the lion share (African Union 2015; UN 2015). Sub-Saharan Africa plays a significant role for this greatest increase of migrants in Africa. Among African regions, it was repeatedly reported that Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world. This has resulted in mass migration of population to different parts of the world. Adepoju (2008) in his study mentioned that migration flows from Sub-Saharan Africa are occurring within a context of extreme poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDs pandemic, all of which impact migration dynamics. According to IOM (2010), the existence of regional and sub-regional economic disparities, the increased facility of travel and communication resulting from globalization, natural disasters, conflict and political instability are some of the root causes account for the growing rate of international migration in Sub-Saharan Africa.

With regards to Ethiopian experience, the situation in Ethiopia is not different from other Sub-Saharan countries. The situation of migration further perpetuated due to the prevailing poverty, unemployment, poor working conditions, less productivity, low incentives and so forth in the country. In general, various literatures have mentioned that economic and political factors were the main reason for migration in Ethiopia (Mohammed 2006). Furthermore, social and cultural aspects like social capital play significant role in the process of Ethiopians movement to different parts of the world (Hanna 2014; Girum 2013). Hence, both internal and international migrations are common phenomena to this country. However, the issue of international migration of people from this country is relatively a recent phenomenon. It has been highly growing as of the late 1970's due to political instability of the country. During the military regime, Ethiopian refugees were one of the largest numbers of African refugees in the world. Many of the inhabitants escaped to abroad seeking asylum and started to live outside their country of origin (Horwood 2009; Markos, 2001 as cited in Genene 2013; Teshome, Ajay and Charles 2013).

Nowadays, many Ethiopians, skilled and unskilled, cross border to different countries legally and illegally looking for mainly better economic opportunities. The main destinations for Ethiopians are North America, Europe, and the Middle East (Bisrate 2006; Melaku 2014; Melese 2014). By the end of 2005, more than 1 million Ethiopians migrated to the rest of the world searching for a better education and employment opportunities (Tefere and Beruk 2009 quoted in Emirta 2010). Similarly, United Nation report estimated that Ethiopian international migrants reached about 1,072,900 of which 51 percent and 49 percent were male and female respectively that makes the country with highest number of international migrants in East Africa (UN 2015). Furthermore, the flow of Ethiopians to the Republic of South Africa became noticeable beginning in 1991 just after the fall of the Military Regime in Ethiopia (Markos 2001). Since then, Republic of South Africa has been an important destination for illegal Ethiopian migrants, particularly young migrants between the ages of 18 and 35 (IOM 2013). The most common countries of transit include Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (IOM 2009).

The participants in this migration are facing both heart breaking problems and observable economic opportunities. To start with the positive side, there is inflow of remittances from the migrants that can improve their families' life at home (Habtie 2015). However, it is very difficult

to know the exact amount of remittance inflow because of the money transaction is made via illegal way (Abinet 2011). As opposed to this, most of the young adults who move illegally to the Republic of South Africa have faced serious physical and psychological traumas in their journey. According to reports of Messay and IMO, being smuggled, beatings by local police/officials, expose to unsafe journey like use of airless containers and overloaded boats, forced to travel on foot, rape, lack of basic needs such as food and water as well as robbery were some of such problems (Messay 2005; IOM 2009). Stories of death are also common problem that the migrants are facing. For instance, above 42 youths were found dead in Tanzania in June 2012 due to sealed or airless car container in their illegal journey to Republic of South Africa (IOM 2013).

There is a widespread belief in the public that brokers and traffickers play a great role in the case of such illegal international migrations (Friebel and Guriev 2002). This scenario of broker facilitated migration holds true in SNNPR. Many young boys have migrated illegally via such processes, especially from Kembata-Tembaro and Hadiya zones and are living in Republic of South Africa. According to the ILO report, almost all (95 percent) of migrants from Kembata-Tembaro and Hadiya zones of SNNPR have been travelling to the Republic of South Africa in illegal way (ILO 2011 as cited in Habte 2015).

Thus, this study was aimed at portraying the causes, processes and consequences of illegal migration to South Africa from Hadiya Zone, the case of Hossana Town.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

For the last few decades, no part of the world can claim to have remained untouched by the deepening and widening reach of migration processes. That is, migration is now a worldwide complex and a recognized social phenomenon among policy makers and academicians in the world (Alonso 2011). As a result, the problem of international migration is also common to Ethiopia. International migrants are found distributed in different countries of the world (Berhanu and White 1998; Gashew 2002; Adamnesh 2006). The Republic of South Africa is one of the main destination countries for Ethiopian out-migrants. However, most migrants to Republic of South Africa are from SNNPR especially among Hadiya and Kembata ethnic groups. Boys who are the potential labour force for the region pertaining to age and educational

background migrated to Republic of South Africa via air, water and land assisted by brokers or smugglers (IOM 2009; Habte 2015).

Although some measures are being taken by local, regional and federal governments so as to prohibit migration to South Africa, parents are still sending their sons to Republic of South Africa so as to bring money as some neighbors did for their families. The issue has become critical and a persistent challenge for the zone administrative bodies in particular and the government of Ethiopia in general.

So far Ethiopian international migrants are concerned; studies have been conducted by individual researchers as well as by various organizations. Nevertheless, most of these studies have emphasized the situations of migrants in Gulf and Middle East countries. For instance, Genene (2013) studied the antecedents and consequences of migration of school girls from Raya Kobo woreda to Middle East; Gebrehiwot and Fekadu (2012) carried out a research on causes and consequences of out migration to different African and Arab counties in Tigray region and Selamawit (2013) did an assessment about the vulnerability of Ethiopian rural women on the domestic workers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Emebet (2002) also carried out an assessment on the situation of female migrants who were working in Arab countries. On the other hand, Melaku (2014) explored the return, reunification and reintegration of returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia while investigation was made by Milki (2014) on the roles of family members and friends in youth international migration decision taking returned migrant youths in Wore-Illu woreda as a case.

However, this does not mean that the above research findings reveal absolutely similar situations in the case of migration to Republic of South Africa. The issue of migration is very complex due to the fact that migration directions, its contributing factors, processes and consequences, scale and forms of migration varies across time and countries and from one community, region and state to another (Hanna 2014). Some of the studies available on migration from Hadiya zone to Republic of South Africa, among the few, include: Abinet (2011) conducted research on the role of remittance and return migrants on urban growth and rural urban linkage: the case of Hossana Town; Dawit (2015) did research on business engagement of return migrants from the Republic of South Africa; Habte (2015) undertook research on socio-economic impacts of migration of Ethiopians to the South Africa and its implications for Ethio- Republic of South Africa

relations: the case of Kembata-Tembaro and Hadiya Zones while International Union for Scientific Study of Population (2013) carried out research on causes and consequences of young adult migration from Southern Ethiopia to South Africa: the case of Kembata-Tembaro and Hadiya Zones.

However, these the above mentioned researches (specifically research conducted by Habte and Union for Scientific Study of Population) took sample of target population from non-migrants so as to represent migrants living in Republic of South Africa and attempt has been made to generalize the finding for larger population. Besides this, all the above researchers have employed mixed approach. But, the researcher believed that it is also very important to employ qualitative research method to have deep understanding of a research problem at grass root level. Moreover, the above stated researches have not given much emphasis on various processes between the country of origin and destination.

It is also believed that, this study enables the researcher to see the issue of migration from sociological dimension applying sociological theories and methods on the contributing factors, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa in Hossana Town. Hence, with respect to the severity and magnitude of the issue, the researcher found it highly imperative to undertake qualitative sociological research on the contributing factors, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa from Hossana Town.



## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to portray the causes, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa from Hossana Town.

### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

Specific objectives are:

1. To examine the push and pull factors behind migration to South Africa in the study area.
2. To describe the role of brokers in the processes of migration.
3. To document the experiences of migrants in the processes of moving out of their home land.
4. To identify the positive and positive consequences of migration on the lives of migrants.
5. To assess consequences of migration on the study community.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

It is expected that this study will contribute understanding on the contributing factors and processes of migration, the role of broker in illegal migration to South Africa, positive and distortive consequences of migration on the livelihood of the migrants and community of study area at large. In doing so, it will initiate local government and the community as a whole to be more conscious about the issue which in turn will help these bodies to formulate strategies, programs and projects. It will also serve as a reference for researchers who might be interested in conducting research at a larger scale on study topic.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEWS**

### **2.1 Conceptual, Theoretical and Empirical Reviews on Migration**

#### **2.1.1 The Definitions and Basic Concepts of Migration**

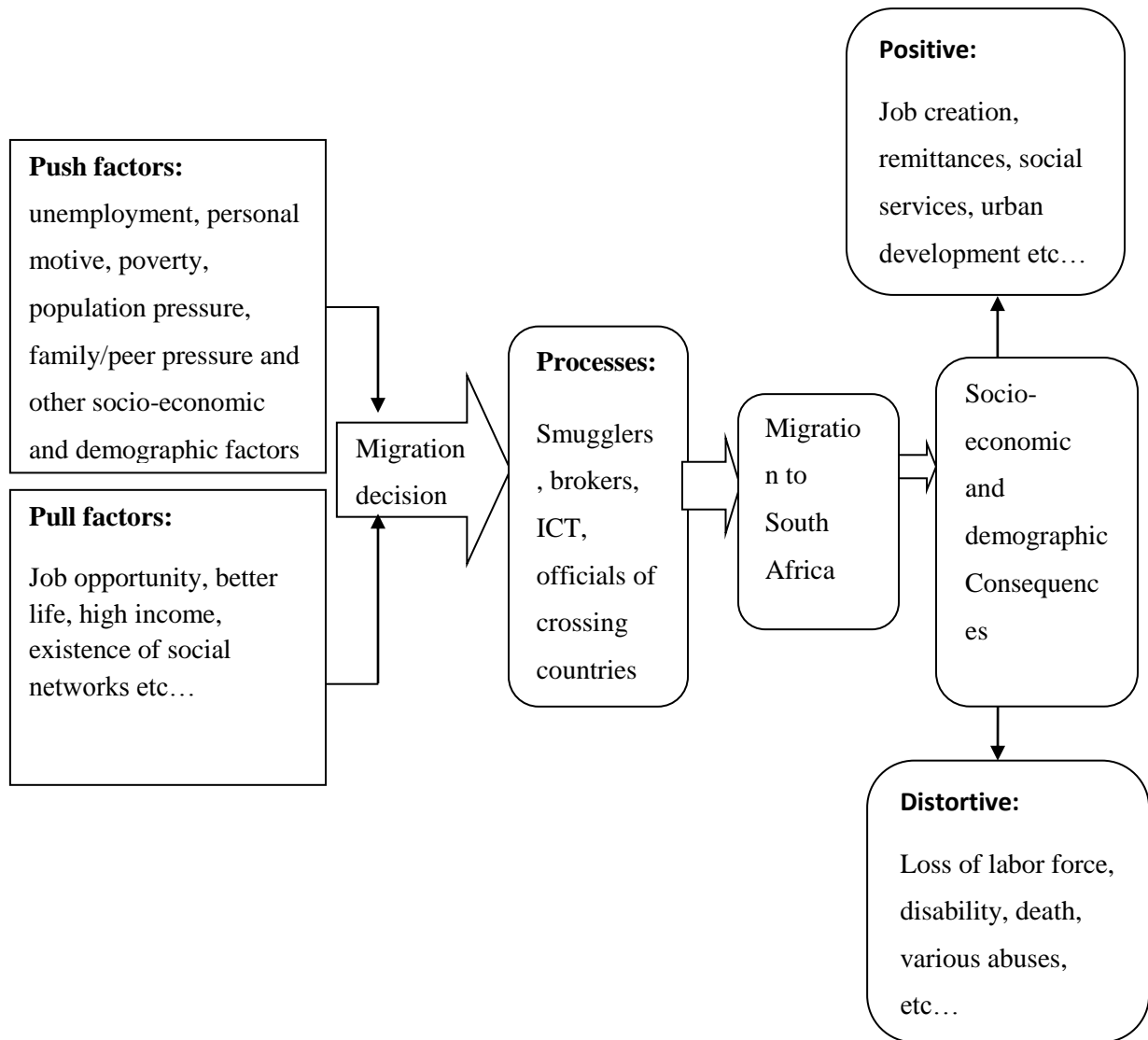
There is no universally accepted single definition of migration. Based on various issues, scholars gave various versions of definitions for migration. However, most of the researches focus on the importance of its distance and duration. The most commonly agreed definition of migration is the movement of people from one place to another within a country, or from one country to another for variety of reasons due to various reasons, which may be on temporary or permanent basis (Adewale 2005). This definition also applies in the context of this study.

Furthermore, scholars categorized migration in several patterns based on various characteristics. Migration is usually categorized as internal and external or international migration based on the type of political boundaries crossed. Depending upon length of time, (long-term migration as well as temporary and permanent migration), distance (short distance and long distance migration), members involved (individual and mass migration), decision making (voluntary and forced migration), social organization (family, class and individual migration), causes (economic and non-economic migration) and aims (conservative and innovative migration). Moreover, depending up on rural-urban nature of the area, migration becomes rural-rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban (Sinha 2005 as cited in Belay 2011). Political boundaries, decision making conditions, causes and aim of migrations and rural-urban nature are also highly applicable in this study because the study has discussed these issues in various sections.

### 2.1.2 Conceptual Frame Work

Based on various literature reviews, the following conceptual frame work was developed by the researcher.

**Figure 1: Conceptual Frame Work**



**Source:** Adapted from (Habte 2015).

### **2.1.3 Theories of Migration**

At present, there is no single and coherent theory of international migration that fully explains various aspects of migration. That is, fully understanding of contemporary migratory processes will not be achieved by relying on the tools of one discipline alone, or by focusing on a single level of analysis. Rather, their complex, multifaceted nature requires a sophisticated theory that incorporates a variety of perspectives, levels, and assumption (Massey, Joaquin, Hugo and Pellegrino 2011). For instance, Massey, Joaquin, Hugo and Pellegrino (1998) distinguish theoretical approaches of international migration into two categories: theoretical approaches explaining the initiation of migration and theoretical approaches explaining the continuation or perpetuation factors of migration.

In general, there are various theories related with the issues of both internal and international migration theories. However, this study was explained based on New Economics Theory of migration which aimed at explaining the initiating factors responsible for the mass movement of people to Republic of South Africa and Network Theory which is very important in explaining the continuation factors of migration in the study area. Additionally, push and pull factor theory was also used for this study so as to describe various push factors that force the migrants in the area of origin and pull factors in the area of destination.

#### **2.1.3.1 New Economic Theory of Migration**

The key argument is that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors, but by larger units of related people typically families or households in which people act collectively not only to maximize expected income, but also to minimize risks and to loosen constraints associated with comprehensive set of factors which are shaped by conditions in the home country particularly failures of a variety of markets – labor market, credit market, or insurance market (Stark 1991). 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. Remittances can be considered as one form of investment and an integral part in the new economics of migration research as they directly support the concept of household interconnectedness and the diversification of risk while

analytically connecting the empirical study of the causes and consequences of migration (Taylor 1999).

Coming to the applicability of this theory, it is true that the new economic theory of migration can explain factors and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa in the study area. Firstly, it is assumed that the role of family in the migration decision is very high. Family/peers or friends' decision in the issue is the basic steps so as to collect necessary financial support from other family members, relatives and friends. Secondly, it is the fact that people who migrate to Republic of South Africa send money to their families, friends and relatives for different purposes like education, holy days, funeral ceremonies, wedding ceremonies, health care expenditure, housing and others purposes that can mitigate the risks of their families. Therefore, the researcher believed that this theory is highly applicable in explaining various issue of this study.

#### **2.1.3.2 Network Theory**

The most important elements of networks in migration process are families and friends. The network theory holds that the existence of social networks of information and assistance significantly increases the likelihood of continued international migration between places of origin and destination. This is because, migrant networks will minimize the risks and costs that are associated with migration such as the difficulty of integration of migrants to the labor market in the destination country. Once the network is established, it will increase in number as new migrants join the system (Zanker 2011). In addition, the use of internet technologies in daily life has risen dramatically in recent years. Social media such as Face book and Twitter are facilitating migration in both positive (networks) and negative (human trafficking) ways. Social media are not only new communication channels in migration networks, but that they actively transform the nature of these networks and thereby facilitate migration (International Migration Institute 2012 as cited in Bisret 2006 ). However, the central significance of the social context with regard to decisions by potential migrants can be expressed in different ways. These are affinity hypothesis (the existence of relatives and friends at the place of residence reduces the tendency to migrate; information hypothesis (when relatives and friends are already living in different places, the tendency to migrate increases); facilitating hypothesis (Social networks at the place of destination are a pull factor); conflict hypothesis (Intra-familial conflicts within the

community also cause migration) and encouraging hypothesis that is families may encourage members of their family to migrate for work (Haug 2013).

The concept of social network theory and most of the above hypothesis are also believed to very applicable with regards to contributing factors of migration to South Africa in the study area. It is very difficult for an individual to participate in this migration process without social networks like encouragement from family, support of brokers in the crossing countries, support of relatives or friends in the Republic South Africa, creation of communication between the migrant and families via various social media, financial assistance of relatives in the place of origin and other networks are very decisive.

### **2.1.3.3 Cumulative Causation Theory**

The central arguments of theory of cumulative causation deals with the powerful role played by migration networks that link migrants in destinations and potential migrants in migrant-sending communities. The role of migration networks in the process of migration is often manifested in the form of having a family member who is a migrant and/or having a friend from the same community who is a migrant. These networks reduce the costs of migration by providing aspiring migrants with information about-migration process and about job availability and housing in destinations. People who come from communities from which migration is widespread are more likely to migrate than people who come from places from which migration is exceptional (Fussell and Massey 2004). In other words, this theory could able to describe the tendency for migration to alter community structure in such ways that promotes additional migration, thus leading to the logic of cumulative causation of migration (Ferework 2007). According to Massey, this theory also deals with the consequences of migration at both individual and community levels. Consequently, it changes the values and cultural perceptions. For instance, young people consider it as “rite of passage” and migration become a common household livelihood strategy (as cited in Ferework 2007).

It could be argued that the idea of cumulative causation of migration is very useful to explain youths’ out-migration from Hossana, specifically taking in to account the relevance of social networks consequences of this migration.

#### **2.1.3.4 Push and Pull Factor Theory of Migration**

This theory deals with differences in the characteristics of the place of origin and the place of destination are the starting point to the motivation for migration taking place (Bhende and Kanitkar 2003; Rwelamira 2008 and Ayman 2002 as cited in Belay 2011). Among the push factors, high population growth, population pressure on the existing natural resources, over exploitation of natural resources, drought, floods, and natural calamities like earthquake, and famines and acute social, religious or political conflicts are force peoples to migrate to other places for reasons of livelihood security. On the contrary, new job opportunities, access to education, pleasurable climatic conditions, etc. are pull factors which invite people to destination areas (Dawit 2009). Some of these aspects of push and pull factor theory can also be applicable in the case of this study as clearly stated in the discussion part of this thesis.

#### **2.1.4 Empirical Reviews**

##### **2.1.4.1 Global Experiences**

Migration is a complex global phenomenon caused not only by economic factors, but also by social, psychological, political, cultural, environmental, health, education and other structural or institutional as well as individuals' factors (Singh 1998). It has also both positive and negative consequences in both places origin and destination. According to research conducted on the impact of migration on economic and social development by Authors, country migration and the resulting remittances lead to increased incomes and poverty reduction, improved health and educational outcomes and promote economic development for sending country. However, these advantages might come at substantial social costs to the migrants and their families. As this study pointed out, they face challenges of integration of immigrants, job competition between migrant and native workers and fiscal costs associated with provision of social services to the migrants and other challenges (Ratha, Mohapatra and Silwal 2010).

Datta also made an attempt to analyze causal factors of migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal. The author found economic push factors that motivate people to leave Bangladesh. Some of these are instability and economic depression, poverty, lack of employment opportunity, struggle for livelihood, forced grabbing of landed property from minority group and lack of industrialization in Bangladesh. About 56 percent of the respondents expressed that lack of employment/economic insecurity would be the probable cause of this migration. Among the

demographic factors, lowest human development index considered as the most important cause of illegal migration. In addition to these, social discriminations, religious factor, social insecurity like political instability and terrorism were also responsible for the mass out-migration. Finally, the researcher revealed that geographic proximity and linguistic and cultural similarities between the two counties also play a significant role behind this migration (Datta 2004).

With regards to the significance of informal social networks in international migration, the Asian Foundation has also conducted a research by taking unit of analysis from illegal labour migrants of Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The research finding illustrated a vital role of the family members and community members for prior consultations, support system during the migration process, significant source of information and contacts to facilitate the initial process. The reliance of informal social networks within the migrants' community plays a crucial role in connecting the migrants with the intermediary agents (Asian Foundation 2013). This shows that how social life or social networks are more powerful in transnational migrations although there are laws which prohibit entering state boundaries.

Qualitative research was also carried out by Castel on causes, context and consequences of youth international migration in Central and South-East Mali. The authors' findings revealed that migration by young people is much more than an economic phenomenon. As indicated in this research, participants have got some positive migration experiences like they were able to achieve their economic goals, improve their linguistic skills, gained new entrepreneurial skills and ability to negotiate the modern world. Hence, it becomes a very important development tool and one which can bring significant advantages both to individual migrants and to their home communities. However, the study also stated that there were different hardships experienced by young migrants such as exploitation, poorly paid or not paid at all, accused of lying or theft, lived in poor conditions with insufficient food or medical care and other challenges (Castel 2003).

#### **2.1.4.2 Empirical Literatures on Realities in Ethiopia**

It is also possible to mention some empirical researches that have been conducted on contributing factors and consequences of international migration. According to Berhe (2011), the major factor in international migration is the economic status of the migrant and the social capital. In his study of determinants of internal and international migration in Ethiopia, the



author stated that wealth and network variables are found to be very important in international migration. It is mainly those households who have the network and/or the capacity to finance migration who send household members abroad.

Gebrehiwot and Fekadu (2012) carried out a research on causes and consequences of out migration to different African and Arab counties in Gulomekeda district, Tigray region. The research finding indicated that poor households with weak social ties with those living abroad, low level of education, distance from market center, limited access to information, drought, landlessness and unemployment are the key factors for illegal migration in the study area. The negative consequences of the out-migration on the livelihood of the rural people include death of immigrants, losing productive labor, increases domestic dependency and opening door for the spread of HIV/AIDS. The results suggested that development strategies should be put in place in order to design integrated interventions that contribute in reducing poverty and which is the main contributing factors for migration.

Milki (2014) also examined those causal factors behind mass out migration of youths to Arab countries in Wore-Illu Woreda, South Wollo of Amhara region. Particularly, the author gave due attention on the roles of family members and friends in youth international migration decision. The author concluded that intersection of multiple stressors: poverty, harmful traditional practices, family breakdown and being a member of reconstituted family, pressure of family members and friends, feelings of inferiority and desire of independence made youth vulnerable for international migration. The finding unearths the roles of family members and friends at four operational phases of migration which are in the pre-migration phase, on the journey, at the destination country and on return. At the end, the study recommended that all concerned bodies should work cooperatively to curb the incidence of illegal migration by giving focus at micro and mezzo level intervention.

With regards to migration experiences in Hadiya Zone, both internal and international migration is one of the common phenomena among Hadiya people of SNNPR. Particularly, international migration to Republic of South Africa is highly observable among youths in this zone (Solomon 2008 as cited in Melese 2014). Starting from 1990s, many boys who have potential labour force with different age and educational background migrated to Republic of South Africa. Concerning this issue, researches were conducted in Hadiya zone in general and in Hossana Town in

particular. For instance, Abinet (2011) has conducted research on the role of remittances and returns on urban growth in the case of Hossana Town. Accordingly, the findings of this study indicated that remittance and return migrants were positively contributed for increase in both investment and consumption in general. On the contrary, the impact on price of products, income inequality and dependence get worse due to introduction of remittance and return migrants in to Hosanna's economy.

Moreover, there are empirical evidences directly or indirectly deal with the consequences of illegal migration to Republic of South Africa. For instance, most of the young adults who move illegally to Republic of South Africa had suffered problem of being smuggled, beatings by police/officials, expose to unsafe journey, forced to travel on foot, rape, death, lack of basic needs such as food and water as well as robbery (Messay 2005; Habte 2015; IOM 2009). So as to mitigate this problem, the government of Ethiopia has made an attempt via various mechanisms. In addition to various awareness creation programs, the government has developed different legal frameworks as discussed in the following section. However, the problem is still observable and challenging issue for the zone administrative bodies in particular and the government of Ethiopia in general. Students, teachers, unemployed people and other sections of society especially male youths are migrating to Republic of South Africa illegally (IOM 2013).

#### **2.1.5 Overviews of the Policy Environs**

Theoretically speaking, every Ethiopian citizen has the right to move and work at abroad as stated in the constitution of the country. Therefore, moving from Ethiopia to other country is a constitutional right of every individual (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian Constitution 1995 Article 32). In addition to this, the rights of migrant workers are directly or indirectly addressed under the major International Human Rights Conventions. According to the FDRE constitution of (1995), all International Human Rights Conventions ratified by Ethiopia have become part of the national law. Ethiopia has ratified various conventions and bilateral agreements at international level. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1996) , International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution (1994) are some of them (Emebet 2002).

However, the policy framework in Ethiopia regarding migration is very weak. Ethiopia does not have powerful comprehensive migration legislation except the Private Employment Agency Proclamation 632/2009. The Employment Exchange Service Proclamation 632/2009 imposes different obligations and responsibilities on the Private Employment Agency and Labour and Social Affairs Ministry of Ethiopia (Emerta, Getachew, Kassahun and Tewodros 2010). The motivation of the proclamation itself concerns the protection and safety of Ethiopians sent and employed abroad. This proclamation stipulates the preconditions necessary to obtain a license to establish an agency that facilitates employment of Ethiopians abroad. It also requires the agency to establish an office in Ethiopia and a branch in the country it intends to send the workers. The Ministry obliges the agency that it has to give proper orientation to the worker before the contract is signed; facilitate remittance of earnings; annually report to the MoLSA about the condition of the worker; keep appropriate records of the worker and upon termination of work contract notify the nearby embassy about the condition of the worker. The proclamation also deals with regards to minimum conditions of work and illegally transferring workers and its penalties (Habte 2015). Few issues related with employment service were also discussed under labour proclamation 377/2003. Article 170 (2) of Ethiopian labour law states that, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) has the mandate to establish an employment service; article 172 determines the manner in which Ethiopians are employed outside of Ethiopia and article 175 provides that an Ethiopian national can be employed outside of Ethiopia if MoLSA has obtained adequate assurance that his rights and dignity shall be respected in the country of employment (Federal Nagarit Gazeta 2004). Furthermore, there are proclamations such as proclamation number 736/2012 and number 737/2012 which deals with against the Smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air and Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children respectively.

With regards to the issues of diaspora, the government is also working in developing policies and programs that focus on institutional support for them. One of these institutions is the Ethiopian Expatriate Affairs (EEA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established in January 2002 as the General Directorate in charge of Ethiopian Expatriate Affairs. It supports the Diaspora by recognizing their roles to their country's development (Adamnesh 2006). In addition to this, the country also formulates more compressive diaspora policy in 2013. The general objective of this policy is to build a strong relationship between diaspora and their country of origin and

encouraging and facilitating conducive environment for the participation of diaspora on democratization building process to benefit their county and to benefit from their engagement and to preserve their rights and interests abroad (Ethiopian Diaspora Policy 2013).

Although the government of Ethiopian is trying to deal with diaspora and migrant issues, migrants have been faced various challenges in different countries. For instance, in April 2015 many Ethiopians have faced attacks from the citizens of Republic of South Africa due to xenophobia movements. The worldwide spike in xenophobic attacks against immigrants in general urged a number of foreign governments to begin deporting their citizens. In this attack, more than 2000 people were displaced and at least seven people including Ethiopians were killed (Habte 2015). Furthermore, Ethiopians who migrate to the Middle East and Gulf countries to seek for employment have been faced various challenges. Because of this, Ethiopian government has banned its citizens from migrating to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to stop the widespread human rights abuse and inhumane treatment Ethiopian domestic workers face in this country. This ban raises discussions and debates among citizens in different social forums (Selamawit 2013). However, Ethiopian government is currently publicizing that the ban is over and earlier Employment Exchange Service Proclamation was improved. However, due to unavailability of the document, the researcher could not state the overall content of this newly improved Employment Exchange Service Proclamation.

With regards to the application of such legal ground, it is very difficult in the case of Republic of South Africa due to the nature of illegal migration except combating human traffickers and smugglers who are involved in this process. This is because of absence of legal procedures between the origin and destination countries on migration aspect. In addition, there are no legally established private agencies in Ethiopia who have taken work license from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to create employment or job opportunities in the Republic of South Africa.

## CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS

### 3.1 Study Area Description

Hadiya Zone is found in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional (SNNPR) state. Geographically, Hadiya zone is located at 7°03'19" - 7°05'1" North latitude and 37°02'14" - 38°02'13" East longitude. Hadiya Zone is now divided into 10 woredas (Lemo, Soro, Misha, Gombora, Anlemo, Gibe, Duna, Shashego and East and West Badawacho) and one Town administration, Hosanna (Hadiya Zone Finance and Economic Development Department 2009).

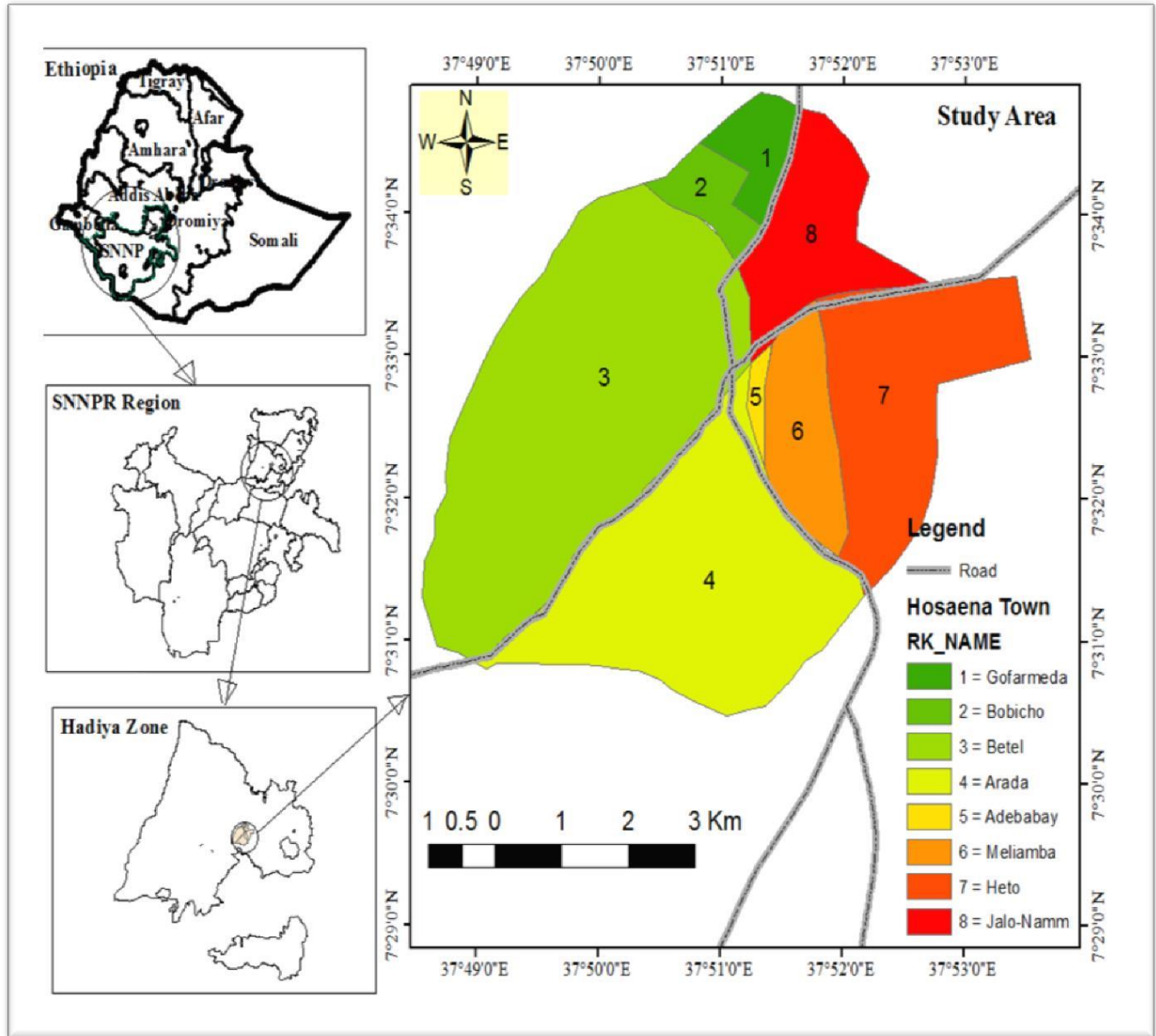
Hosanna Town, the capital of Hadiya zone, was established as a municipality in 1942 E.C. Currently, it is one of the 22 reform Towns in SNNPR and has got a second grade status similar to that of Dilla, Arba-Minch and Woliata Soddo (Hosanna Town Administrative Municipality Office 2010a as cited in Abinet 2011). Being an administrative capital of Hadiya Zone, Hosanna Town provides a base for many public and private institutions that operate in the zone. It is also a major transportation hub, being at the center of six national and regional transport routes. Since May 2008, the Town is led under Town administration with three sub-city and eight *kebeles*. Hosanna Town is located south west of the capital Addis Ababa about 232 km distance. It is also located 168km away from Hawassa (the capital of SNNPR) via Halaba-Angecha and 203km via Halaba-Shinshicho. The Town is mainly characterized by highland (dega) climatic conditions. The Town is clustered in to three kifleketemas (Addis Ketema, Sechidunna and Goffermeda) and each kifleketemas further clustered in to *kebeles* (HFEDD 2010).

The total population of Hosanna Town was 31,701 in 1994 (Central Statistical Agency 1994). Within ten years, the population became more than double and reached 69,995 out of which 35,523 and 34,472 male and female respectively. Based on CSA 2007 population census result, the current population of the Town is projected to reach 89,251 at the end of 2010 out of which 45,307(50.8%) and 43,944(49.2%) are estimated to be male and female respectively (CSA 2007). In addition to Hadiya people, there are other Nations and Nationalities of Ethiopia such as Kembata, Guraghe, Silte, Amhara and others who are living in Hosanna Town (Hadiya Zone Socio-Economic Profile 5/6 E.C.).

As far as economic activities are concerned, major livelihood activities of the residents of the Town are based on small and medium scale trade, government employment and farming in the surrounding areas. The major trade activities in Hosanna Town include small scale trading and

micro enterprises, hotels, retail trading, cereal marketing, medium scale industry products like flourmills, cloth making (weaving and sewing) and livestock product marketing and so forth (Abinet 2011).

**Figure 2:** Location Map of the Study Area



Source: CSA 200

## **3.2 Research Methods**

### **3.2.1 Study Design**

Among the five popular types of qualitative research designs (narrative, ethnography, phenomenology, case study and grounded theory), case study design was employed in this research. Case study design lets the researchers looking into the real life experiences of an individual or a group through in-depth interview and observation so as to understand a larger class of (similar) unit observed at a single point in time or over some defined period of time (Gerring as cited in Baškarada 2014). Thus, it is believed that this design provided an opportunity for the researcher to gain a deep and holistic view of the research problem and facilitated understanding and explaining a research problem.

### **3.2.2 Data Collection Methods**

In order to meet the objectives of this study, the researcher employed only qualitative data collection methods. First-hand information was collected from March 1- 20, 2016 using qualitative data collection methods mainly in-depth interviews, key informant interview, FGDs and case studies.

#### **3.2.2.1 In-depth Interview**

The in-depth interview was conducted so as to get richer information from the return migrants with regards to identifying some push and pull factors that forced individuals to participate in the course of migration to South Africa, positive and abusive consequences migration in the study area, processes of migration and the role of brokers in the migration process. In depth interview was guided by semi-structured open-ended interview guidelines that were prepared in compliance with the research objectives. The researcher did not pre-determine the number of participants in in-depth interview. The researcher continued dealing with the study participants until data saturation reached. Hence, the researcher continued to interview sixteen interviewees. The researcher gave due considerations in capturing all necessary information while making interview with migrants and key informants. Furthermore, strong effort was made so as to support the whole process of in-depth interview with different mechanisms such as tape record and taking notes.

### **3.2.2.2 Key Informant Interviews**

key informants interview was also conducted with the aim of getting a broader insight of the root causes and consequences of the problem, identify efforts made in reducing the problem of migration in the study area, identifying role of brokers in the migration process, identifying issues related with policy frameworks and its applications and so as to generate data on other issues related with the problem. For this purpose, the researcher has interviewed three key informants selected from Hadiya Zone Labour and Social Affairs Office, Hadiya Zone Administrative Office and one knowledgeable individual from Hossana Town.

### **3.2.2.3 Focus Group Discussions**

FGDs were also arranged as a part of the data collection method so as to increase the reliability of data collected by other methods. Two FGDs were conducted with various sections of society. One of the FGDs was conducted with government representatives/experts who are working together concerning the issue of illegal migration. They were recruited purposively from the Labour and Social Affairs Office of Zone and Town, Hossana Town Administration, Zone Administrative Office, Zonal Youths Offices, Hossana Town Police Department, Hadiya Zone Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Office, Hadiya Zone Women's and Children's Affairs Office and so forth. The FGD had 10 participants. The second FGD was held with eight return migrants from Republic of South Africa.

In order to let the participants prepare and smoothen the discussion, FGDs checklist was given to each participant before getting in to the formal discussion by the support of discussion moderators.

### **3.2.2.4 Case Studies**

Case study was also used so as to generate data on unique experiences of some individual migrants. Consequently, five cases were selected purposively from returned migrants and their experiences were discussed in order to support information generated from other methods.

### **3.2.2.5 Document Review**

Different documents and reports specifically from Hadiya zone Labour and Social Affairs Office has been reviewed to explore more evidences with regard to youths' migration and its



consequences and to obtain general overview of flow of migrants to the Republic of South Africa.

### **3.2.3 Data Sources**

This study employed both primary and secondary sources to generate pertinent data. The primary data was collected from first-hand information through FGDs, case studies and in-depth interviews with return migrants and key informants. Secondary data was also collected or obtained from relevant sources mainly from reports of Hadiya zone Labour and Social Affairs Office. In doing so, it helped the researcher to substantiate the data collected from primary sources.

### **3.2.4 Sampling Techniques**

This qualitative research was not based on statistically representative sample. The study has employed both purposive and snowball technique to select respondents. Purposive sampling is appropriate in a situation when the researcher wants to identify particular types of cases for in-depth investigation. In addition to this, purposive sampling is one form of non-probability sampling techniques, is best suited when it is difficult to determine the probability of any given element that would be selected in sample. It is also an important research tool when the target population is difficult to locate or identify (Gill and Johnson 2002). Due to the complex nature of the problem under study and the difficulty of easily accessing migrants who have returned from South Africa through probability sampling, purposive sampling was employed. Consequently, some return migrants were selected purposively as target population for this study and the selection was made based on their full consent. Some key informants were selected using purposive sampling. However, it was very difficult to find all the respondents via purposive technique. As result, snowball sampling technique was best suited option. Hence, this study was employed both purposive and snowball techniques and sample size was determined depending on data saturation point.

### **3.2.5 Data Collection Instruments**

To collect appropriate data, semi-structured open-ended interview guide was prepared. Separate interview guide for both return migrants and key informants was prepared. The interview guide was broken in to various sub topics depending on the objectives of this study. In addition to this, FGDs guide was also prepared for FGDs participants.

### **3.2.6 Techniques of Data Analysis**

This research finding was analyzed qualitatively since it is qualitative in nature. During data analysis, both narrations and thematic analysis was employed. In line with this, the researcher translated all the interviews conducted in Amharic into English without losing their original meanings and contents. During transcription of Audio-records, the researcher was carefully and repeatedly listens to interviews. Then, data was coded in to conceptual categories of similar meaning and arranging the data into various categories depending on different characteristics. Finally, data was analyzed via thematically according to the themes such as contributing factors, processes and consequences of migration. Moreover, narrations were also used so as to analyze important points and expressions. That is, important feelings and expressions were analyzed through direct quotations.

### **3.2.7 Data Validity and Reliability**

The researcher has used various strategies so as to ensure the validity and trustworthiness of the study. Strong effort was made for the credibility which refers methodological procedure has used to keep similarity between what study participants said and what researcher presents about them (Jensen 2008). Hence, researcher strived to keep the originality of data at different phases. In addition to this, an attempt was made to triangulate different qualitative data obtained from returns with key informants and FGDs results so as to increase reliability of the study. Furthermore, opportunities for scrutiny of the study by colleagues, peers and academics have been used and relevant and important feedbacks were included in the study so as to insure its validity. Apart from this, verification of reliability was assured by posing as many different questions as possible and raising the same questions in different ways. In order to assure the reliability of the instrument, pilot study was conducted on three returned youths.

### **3.2.8 Ethical Consideration**

In order to get an informed consent from the respondents, the researcher has provided adequate information and explanation about the research, its objectives and its benefits to all participants in the study. The researcher also informed all participants, which they have the right not to take part or withdraw from the research at any stage without any implied deprivation or penalty for their rejection. The researcher also informed all participants on their right to anonymity and confidentiality of the personal information they give during the data collection and information

obtained from the respondents were promised to be kept confidential and will be used only for the purpose of this study. The researcher has given weight for the ethics of research and did all the bests to assure the safety of study participants in the research procedure. So as to create conducive environment, the researcher has got cooperation letter from Jimma University. Besides these, some written rules was developed so as to get better consent from study subjects.

### **3.3 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

#### **3.3.1 Scope of the Study**

Geographically the scope of this research was delimited itself to Hossana Town Administration only and special emphasis was given to find out factors, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa. Due to factors like place, time and budget constraints, it was difficult to collect data from out migrants who are living in South Africa. Hence, the return migrants from South Africa were target population for this study in which first hand data was generated. In this case, return migrants from other parts of the world were not part of this study. Although migrations have various implications in the destination countries, this research has focused mainly on the factors, processes and consequences of migration at place of origin specifically Hossana Town. The research finding was not generalized at larger population level due to various reasons like the issue of sample size and the unique nature of the problem and research method.

#### **3.3.2 Limitations of the Study**

One of the limitations of this study is related to the focus of the study. Although there are a lot of issues of migrations, it focused only on the factors, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa. The other challenge of this research was linked with the failure to collect data from out migrants or migrants living in Republic of South Africa. Due to the financial and time constraints, it was difficult to collect and document experiences of migrants living in Republic of South Africa. For these reasons, the researcher has faced some limitations on providing a comprehensive and precise picture of contributing factors, processes and consequences of migration to South Africa in the study area.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

This chapter presents the main findings gathered through different data collection techniques (Case studies, in-depth interviews, Focused Group Discussions and key informant interviews) which are previously discussed in the research methods section. Since the research design is case study, there is no single acceptable approach to report its findings. Case study deploys variety of research methods (Baxter and Jack 2008). Hence, information obtained through such methods is presented to highlight the overall contributing factors, processes and resulting problems of illegal migration to Republic of South Africa from Hadiya Zone, the case of Hossana Town. Accordingly, the study is presented in a systematic way of reminding the specific objectives of the study. Besides this, data analysis and interpretations have mainly been reported from the point of view of the subject or study population who has real experiences of different issues raised in the study.

The whole chapter consists of five sub-sections. The first sub-sections deal with data presentation on the demographic and socio economic characteristics of the respondents. In these sections, demographic and socio-economic features of the respondents have been presented. The second section deals with various factors that push or initiate migrants to reach at the decision with regards to illegal migration to Republic of South Africa in the study area. The third and fourth sub-sections discuss about the role of brokers in the processes of migration and the experiences that migrants have faced in the processes of moving out of their home land respectively. In these sections, the role of brokers in the illegal migration, the ways of migration, routes of illegal migration from Ethiopia to the Republic of South Africa, various challenges that migrants experience on the process of moving out their home country and other issues were analyzed. Lastly, the fifth sub-section focuses on the positive and distortive consequences of migration on the lives of migrants in particular and on the study community at large.

#### 4.1 Demographic and Socio-economic of the Characteristics of the Informants

Different individuals were participated in this study as informants. However, the following table provides only summary of the attributes of selected returned migrants in which primary facts have been collected via in-depth interviews and case studies.

Table 1: Description and summary of Informant Profiles

code	Sex	Age	Education	Religion	Marital status	Current Occupation	Number of Dependents	Duration stayed
01(*)	M	21	12 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Trade	-	5 years
02(*)	M	24	12 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	-trade	-	4years
03(*)	F	26	11 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Married	Trade	4	4 years
04(*)	M	24	10 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Service	-	3 years
05(*)	M	23	12 <sup>th</sup>	Catholic	Single	-	-	3 years
06	M	29	Diploma	Protestant	Divorced	Trade	3	4 years
07	M	32	Degree	Protestant	Married	Gov.offic	4	3 years
08	M	21	9 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Trade	-	6 years
09	M	23	11 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Trade	-	4 years
10	M	31	10 <sup>th</sup>	Orthodox	Single	Trade	-	4 years
11	M	25	10 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Married	-	-	2 years
12	M	25	7 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Service	-	5 years
13	M	22	9 <sup>th</sup>	Orthodox	Single	Trade	-	5 years
14	M	27	10 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Service	-	3 years
15	M	27	10 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Married	farming	-	4 years
16	M	28	Diploma	Orthodox	Married	Trade	-	4 years
17	M	22	8 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Trade	-	4 years
18	M	35	Degree	Protestant	Married	Gov.offic	5	4 years
19	M	24	12 <sup>th</sup>	Protestant	Single	Service	-	3 years
20	M	28	11 <sup>th</sup>	Orthodox	Married	Trade	-	4 years
21	M	21	6 <sup>th</sup>	Muslim	Single	Trade	-	4 years

NB: (\*) Indicate migrants selected for case study.

Although it very difficult to reach in to conclusions based on data generated from few numbers of informants, it is possible to discuss some aspects with regards to informants profile by support with other sources of data. Hence, some of selected demographic and socio-economic background characteristics (sex, age, educational level, religion, marital status, current occupation as well as year of residence in Republic of South Africa) are discussed as follows.

#### **4.1.1 Sex**

As shown above, twenty one returned migrants are interviewed for the purpose of this study. Among these, almost all (twenty) male returnees are participated in the in-depth interview. Regarding sex of migrants, one of the key informants said the following:

*Females are not dominant participants of migration to Republic of South Africa except very few of them may migrate mostly due to marriage case. This may be associated with financial problems. That is, so as to participate in the migration process, it needs high amount of money. However, women have very limited access to educations, resource and employment opportunities and the probability that they migrate is much more limited than that of men. Besides this, society is also preferred males to participate in the migration because they perceive that the whole migration process is very difficult for females* (Anonymous key informant interview: retired knowledgeable individual, Hossana town, March 16, 2016).

#### **4.1.2 Age**

The returned youth participants of this study fall in the age range of twenty one to thirty five years. In other words, the average age of returnee youth interviewed became twenty eight years. This shows that young populations are found highly participant in the process of moving out from the study area to Republic of South Africa. This shows there is possibility losing group representing the active population of the community in which they can play a significant role in the development of the society and can bring a significant change. Similarly, key informant interview and FGDs participants also repeatedly reported that losing group representing active population as one of the most abusive consequences migration in the study area.

### **4.1.3 Educational Status**

The finding of this study disclosed that all the interviewed research participants were literate ranging from grade six to degree level education. However, the profile of the study participants showed that most of the youths are participating in the migration process by quitting their education. Supporting this, one of the key informants said that:

*The importance of education is perceived as useless business. By observing some succeeded individuals, students prefer migrating to Republic of South Africa as best strategy to improve economic status. Parents also prefer sending one of their sons to abroad than schooling them. Because of this reason, the problem of drop out of school for the reason of joining the migration process is one of another main challenge in the study area (Anonymous key informant interview: knowledgeable individual, Hossana town, March 16, 2016).*

### **4.1.4 Religion**

Most of the youths who participated in the research were Protestant Christians (sixteen of them) and the remaining four were Orthodox Christians; one was Catholic and one was Muslim. An attempt has been made so as to generate data with regards to the role of religion in the migration decision. As data collected from the key informants and FGDs, they believed that most of the participant in this migration process is protestant religion followers since it is the dominant religion in the study area. But they confirmed that there is no any relationship between the dominant religion and migration decision.

### **4.1.5 Marital Status**

With regards to their marital status, out of the twenty one returnees most of them (thirteen of them) are single; seven of them are married (five of them are married after return) and one is divorced. Similarly, the research participants also confirmed that youths who are not married are more prone to migration to Republic of South Africa.

### **4.1.6 Current Occupation**

As we have seen in the above table, except two individuals who are currently doing in government offices (in Hadiya zone culture, Tourism and Government Communication Office and Micro finance Office), most of the returned migrants are participated in business activities

with their savings brought from Republic of South Africa. Some of their business activities include small and medium scale trade and service sectors such as transportation, small scale trading and micro enterprises, hotels, retail trading, cereal marketing, flourmill, livestock product marketing in the surrounding areas and the like. By doing so, they are contributing in terms of creating job opportunities for unemployed families and for other people.

#### **4.1.7 Duration Stayed**

The information gained from returnees reveals that they stayed in Republic of South Africa averagely more than three years. During their stay, all most all of the respondents reported that they were engaged in business activities like shops. Similarly, the main motive behind coming back to their homeland was running better businesses activity by the money which had saved while staying in Republic of South Africa. Besides this, few of them also mentioned that their own health problems, familial problems (e.g. the need to look after an elderly parent), fear of facing various attacks in Republic of South Africa, desire to have marriage and raise children in their home country as motive behind coming back.

#### **4.2 Major Contributing Factors to Migration**

With regards to migration to Republic of South Africa, the empirical data collected in the field revealed that this migration is influenced by economic, social and other related factors. From the collected data, it is easily understandable that migration from Hossana to Republic of South Africa is associated with various complex phenomena such as poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunities in places of origin, population pressure with agricultural land scarcity, false promise of brokers, the perception of the community (family, peer and the society at large), existence of social network in the destination area and other contributing factors. These factors combined with other related conditions forced individuals to look for a better way of living by moving out from their home land to Republic of South Africa. In general, migration to Republic of South Africa from study area was caused and facilitated by several of economic, social, institutional and other relatable conditions. In the following sections these contributing factors are discussed in detail mainly depending on the perspectives of study participants.



#### 4.2.1 Histories Associated with Remittance

Some of the succeeded youths migrated from the area and residing abroad in Republic of South Africa send money to their parents, siblings and relatives at different occasions. In addition, they have also bought luxury materials like cars and built houses for themselves and their parents in their place of birth and Hossana town as well. Because of this, many of youths are realized that they can also get similar benefits as their neighbors or friends. That is, they desire to be successful man and change life of themselves and their parents in a very short period of time in the future as their neighbors did. As a result, they decided to migrate out from their homeland to Republic of South Africa. In supporting this argument, the following is echoed by a return migrant:

*I had a close friend in our neighbor when I was student. He has two brothers in Republic of South Africa. He often told me that his brothers sent much amount of money to his parents and siblings during various occasions. Since they are our neighbors, I also practically observe some visible changes observed in the lives of this family. For instance, they built iron sheet houses; they bought new closes very frequently and the way they celebrate various holly days were also very attractive than my family. In general, they lead very luxuries life in our neighbor. This motivated me to go to Republic of South Africa so as to change the lives of my selves and my parents as my neighbors did. Hence, I dropped my education and I started asking my parents daily to send me abroad. Then, they started to collect money and finally I migrated to South Africa (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 5, 2016).*

FGDs and key informant interview also assures that histories related with remittance has positive contribution in motivation youths so as to participate in migration to Republic of South Africa. For instance, during FGDs discussion with government office representatives:

*Remittances became important source of revenue for some poor families who send their children to Republic of South Africa. They could able to get money for different purposes like to buy closes, to build better houses and to celebrate public Holy days. Youths are also observing those successful migrants who could able to create employment opportunities with their remittances at homeland. As a result, youths including parents*

*dream to arrange ways to migrate abroad and want to collect remittances as one of their neighbors did (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 8, 2016).*

#### **4.2.2 Unemployment and Lack of Economic Opportunities**

Unemployment and lack of employment alternatives and economic opportunities are forwarded by the informants as a contributing factor for migration in the study area. The desires to improve one's economic status and escape from poverty are the primary motivations of migrants who seek employment abroad. Before they migrated to Republic of South Africa, majority of the returnees who participated in the study were come from rural areas where agriculture and related activities are the only available means of employment opportunities. That is, agriculture is the dominant livelihood strategy and source of employment for limited number of individuals. Besides agriculture, there are no any industries and service sectors to absorb the increasing number of unemployed youths in the area. Consequently, they prefer migrating to a different country as an option for youths to get economic opportunities and improve lives of their families and themselves. In addition, unemployment was also mentioned by the study participants as other main economic factor for the existence of migration in the study area. Informants explained that due to various constraints they were unemployed before their migration which is associated with different factors like failure in education, lack of skill how to run and create jobs, lack of sufficient employment opportunity, familiar poverty and other related factors. In-depth interview with an informant reveals that:

*I have completed my grade 10th education. But I failed to pass the national examination. I made an attempt to find job so as to support myself and my families. However, it was very difficult to find job. Therefore, I decided to migrate to South Africa before four years ago. Even though I heard that migrating to Republic of South is very difficult, it was the only available option for me to support my family and to improve my economic conditions (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 4, 2016).*

Similarly an interview with other informant also confirms that lack of employment and economic opportunities motivate migrants to search for job opportunities in other countries. He mentioned that:

*My families were very poor. While I was in elementary school, I used to participate in petty trade so as to support my poor families. I drop out my secondary education and made an attempt to get better job, but I could not find any job. Then, I decided to migrate to Republic of South Africa. I told my decision to my family so as to get their support. However it was very difficult to collect sufficient money for my migration because it needs up to sixteen thousands at that time. Then, my family decided to rent one hectare of our land for very long period of time which was the only property and we had got some amount of money. Besides this, they also borrowed some money from others. Finally, I could able to collected enough amount of money and I migrated to South Africa (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 13, 2016).*

From the above stated precise examples of the informants, it clearly seen that there is contribution of poverty, lack of employment and economic opportunities leading migrants to search for employment and better ways of life in a different country. The stories of the informants tell us that there is a strong desire on the part of the migrants to improve their economic conditions and support their family. In other word, if they become unable to improve their life because of lack of job opportunities and other economic opportunities, they forced migrate other countries where they perceived there is job access and better economic opportunities.

During the focus group discussions held and reports of key informants, the participants stated the aforementioned unemployment and lack of economic opportunities in similar manner. They pointed out that although the concerning bodies dealing with unemployment and poverty reduction issues, there are still problems in addressing the economic problems of many youths. They mentioned economic reasons like poverty, lack of sufficient job opportunities in both formal and informal sectors, existences of unemployment associated with lack of various economic opportunities that can accommodate unemployed youth are the main reasons for out-migration of youths in the study area.

Supporting this, one of the key informants stated that:

*It is known that the government has developed various strategies so as to reduce poverty and to create jobs. Due to structural and financial problems, all unemployed individuals are not benefiting from the government strategies. To my mind, still there are many*

*youths including graduated individuals who are suffering from lack of job opportunities in this area and hence living with poverty. Therefore, poverty and lack of job opportunities can be considered as main contributing factor for out-migration of youths in this area (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 9, 2016).*

However, some of the FGD participants have strongly opposed poverty and related issues like lack of economic opportunities as the main contributing factor of migration to Republic of South Africa. So as to justify their arguments, they have raised problems such as waiting employment opportunity from government rather than creating jobs and low demand towards domestic works. For instance, one FGD participants stated his argument as:

*I had chances to observe what kinds of youths are participating in the process of migration to Republic of South Africa. I strongly oppose poverty, unemployment and lack of job opportunities as the main contributing factor for this migration. Look they pay eighty thousands to one hundred twenty thousand Ethiopian birr. For me, a person having this amount of money cannot be considered as living in poverty or he/she has no economic opportunities. He/she can create a lot of economic opportunities with this amount of money and can lead better life and can support his family as well. For me, it is because of their strong desire to become a wealthy man in a very short period of time is the main reason behind this migration (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 9, 2016).*

One of the key informants also added that:

*I have evidently observed many individuals with better off others were participated in this migration process. That is, I had an opportunity to observe many individuals who engaged in better business activities and who had better houses or even cars were migrated. They covered all the costs of migration process by selling their property. Hence, it is very difficult to say poverty and unemployment are the main contributing factor for the youths' illegal migration in this area. For me, search for better income sources is the most contributing factor (Anonymous key informant interview: Officer from Hadiya Zone administrative Office, Hossana town, March 12, 2016).*

In reaction to the above argument, during FGD with selected returns, one of the participants explained that:

*It is very difficult to create job opportunities here because we could not get money to run such activity. Nobody wants to support this kind of plan. However, everybody including our close relatives and families are very pleased and get ready to support us with maximum effort if you tell them you are going to go abroad. They believe that they will alleviate their poverty as the other youths did by sending money. So they could tolerate whatever cost needed for this purpose. Even they are very happy to sell or rent the only property or resource they have including land. Besides our families, other relatives and friends are also very happy to give us financial support for our migration than process creating job opportunity here. Hence, I agree that unemployment and lack of necessary support from families and other bodies for domestic works can be one of the major contributing factors for migration to Republic of South Africa (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 9, 2016).*

#### **4.2.3 Pressure from Family and People in One's Circle**

Pressure from families, friends and community at large is also reported as one contributing factor for the illegal migration to Republic of South Africa. As in-depth interview made with return migrants, there were some reports that assure the influence of their families that forced them to participate in the migration process. Regarding this, one of the informants indicated his experience as follows:

*My parents always explain about positive changes observed in our neighbors who have sons in Republic of South Africa. Sometimes they become jealous among neighbors. They started to collect money for the process of migration. Furthermore, they contacted brokers who are going to facilitate the process of migration to Republic of South Africa. Then they told me to quit my education and to go to abroad as others did. Even though my intention was education at that time, it was very difficult to reject my parents' decision. Hence, I had accepted their plan and forced to migrate (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 6, 2016).*

Similarly, some of the returned migrants stated that their decision to illegal migration to Republic of South Africa was highly influenced by ideas of their family members. They perceive that after a few years of work in the Republic of South Africa, they will get better support economically. As of FGD held with concerned government bodies revealed, sending one or more sons to Republic of South Africa is believed to be as great prestige in the communities. Therefore, families try to compete with one another by sending their sons to Republic of South Africa by paying their maximum efforts like borrowing money from others and renting their lands. In general, it is very difficult to deny the role of family even in the case of those migrants who had themselves made the decision to migrate. That is, they were supported by parents in one way or another.

Furthermore, the perception of the community is also another contributing factor that has been playing an important role for the illegal migration of youths and adults in the study area. With regards to this idea, one of the key informants mentioned the following:

*As I have observed, there is attitudinal problems among most community members with regards to migration to Republic of South Africa. As a result, community members like religious leaders, peers, elders, relatives and family members encourage the youth and adults to migrate to Republic of South Africa in a number of ways such as by praying, directly contributing money, by contacting brokers and by giving traditional blessings and by other contributions. Therefore, concerned bodies should have to strive to bring positive changes with regards to community attitude (Anonymous key informant interview: knowledgeable individual, Hossana town, March 16, 2016).*

#### **4.2.4 Explosion of Population and Scarcity of Land**

In-depth interview made with study participants also revealed that scarcity of agricultural land associated with high population pressure in the study area is one the contributing factor behind illegal migration to Republic of South Africa. In this case, the following interview has revealed:

*I have five brothers and two sisters. Besides this, my father has less than half hectare of land which is very difficult to lead lives of this family. Therefore, my father always forced to plough other people's land for share. However, he gains very less products which are not much profitable as compared to costs was incurred for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides*

*and others. As result, my families became poor for long period of time. It becomes very difficult for my father to feed all his families and we have been faced various problems. Hence, my family started to talk with other relatives living in Republic of South Africa to get their support in the process of migration. Besides this, I had also some amount of money in my hand. Thanks to my families, relatives and friends living in Republic of South Africa, I had got a chance to go to Republic of South Africa (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 15, 2016).*

With the same instance, some other informants also reported that scarcity of agricultural land as one of contributing factors that forced them to leave homeland and go abroad. In addition to these, FGD results and interview with key informants also asserted that it becomes very difficult for many families so as to feed their family properly and as well to build a house because of shortage of land. Therefore, they plan to send one or more son/sons abroad as livelihood strategy/ to bring money to as to secure the economic condition of family.

#### **4.2.5 Search for Better Income**

Almost all of the research participants were strongly talking about the income differences between their homeland and Republic of South Africa. As pooling factors, Republic of South Africa is perceived by the migrants as greater economic opportunities, better income, and better employment accessibility. Because of this, including government workers and those who had job were also participants in the migration process. In explaining this issue, one of the research participants explained as follows:

*Before I migrated to Republic of South Africa, I used to work in Southern Region FBC Wolkite branch. I have two sons and one daughter. Besides, there are other families (including father, mother and my wife) who need my support. However, my salary was not enough to lead lives of these families. That is, I could not cover all the expenditures of my family for various demands. I started to look for other job opportunities and a friend who was living in South Africa advised me to go to there. Finally, I quit my job here in my homeland and went to South Africa in searching for better income (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 16, 2016).*

FGDs with government office representatives and return migrants, key informant interviews and in-depth interview with returns have also confirmed that better income and employment opportunities was main pull factors that have been attracting youths and adults to the Republic of South Africa.

#### **4.2.6 The Presence of Relatives or Friends in South Africa**

As data collected from informants, all of the participants reported that there were greater contributions of their relative/friends starting from very begging to final destination. As explained by the informants, they had got supports from their relatives or friends who were living in Republic of South Africa in terms of various ways. As indicated by the interviewee:

*Beside support provided by my family here in Ethiopia, I had got various supports and other assistance from my brother in South Africa. He motivated and supported me in many ways. First of all, I was motivated by his support that he did for my family and I was always dreaming to go to there so as to support my family and to improve my economic status as he did. Besides this, I got full information about the whole process of migration including how I contact brokers. Furthermore, he covered all the necessary cost for the migration and after I arrived there he provided me with initial capital to run my business and thought me how to run it. In general, I can say that it is very difficult to go to Republic of South Africa without getting the support of others (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 17, 2016).*

The stories of some informants, key informant interview and FGDs results also showed that youth's conception of moving-out from study area to Republic of South Africa is also highly shaped by strong support of relatives or friends who were migrated before and living in South Africa.

#### **4.2.7 Brokers' Promises**

As it has been noted by the research participants, brokers or recruiters are playing huge role in the migration of youths to the Republic of South Africa in the study area. Their role in the whole process of migration is clearly stated in the following sub sections.

To sum up this sub section, combinations of various push and pull factors that shape thoughts and decisions of migrants were identified. However, still it is possible to pay attention to which



of the aforementioned factors had mainly played greater role in shaping thoughts and decisions of migrants in the study area. Accordingly, most of study participants raised poverty with other related development issue like lack of job opportunities had played important role at initial phases of migration to Republic of South Africa. By taking in to account the issues of current job opportunities and the amount of money currently pay for their migration process, most of the study participants disagreed the issue of poverty as the main causal factor for the migration in the study area. Currently, the dream of earning a better income in a relatively short period of time is the unifying theme among majority of the study participants and hence considered as the most paramount factor in inducing youths to migrate to Republic of South Africa illegally. Unemployment and proliferations illegal brokers were also mentioned as other more pertinent casual factors next to search for better income.

### **4.3 Brokers and Migration to Republic of South Africa**

#### **4.3.1 The Role of Brokers in the Processes of Migration**

As stated by the research participants, proliferations and promises of illegal brokers have great role in the process of moving out from their homeland to Republic of South Africa. They have strong linkage starting from Ethiopia via transit countries up to the Republic of South Africa. For instance, one of key informants described the role of illegal brokers as:

*The most challenge with regards to efforts in minimizing or curbing this social problem is existence of illegal brokers who are undertaking their activities in a hidden way. Illegal brokers are playing a significant role for the growth of illegal migration to Republic of South Africa in the study area. They play numerous roles in terms of like create networks with different bodies in crossing borders existing between the country of origin and destination. In addition to these, they arrange transport and accommodation, supplying false passports or corrupting immigration officials, hiding people in trucks and other roles which can help migrants to cross different countries illegally. In short, I can say that no one can dream to migrate to Republic of South Africa without the contribution of illegal brokers (Interview with key informant: Head of Hadiya zone Labour and Social Affairs Office, Hossana town, March 15, 2016).*

In connection to the views of returnees on the brokers, they also argued brokers as key players in the process of migration to Republic of South Africa. In line with this idea one of the informants stated as follows:

*It is very difficult to migrate to Republic of South Africa without help of different brokers in different transit countries. Since it is illegal migration, getting assist from brokers is the only option. This does not mean that the migrants will not face any challenges from brokers during moving out. At initial stage, they try to persuade by providing you good promising and prosperous and luxurious life of abroad. They may tell you that you will not get hurt at any stage of migration processes. From my experience, I have faced challenges like beatings and communication problems from different brokers specifically after Kenya (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 7, 2016).*

Furthermore, all of the returned migrants, key informants and FGDs results were also agreed with the above statement. That is, study participants reported that there was a great role of illegal brokers in youths' migration to Republic of South Africa. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that the proliferation of illegal brokers is the fundamental reason for the youths to move-out to Republic of South Africa although sometimes families and migrant themselves have their own contributions in contacting brokers.

#### **4.3.2 Criteria Used by the Brokers.**

As data collected from different research participants, the main goal of illegal brokers is making business/money for themselves. As result, migrants are supposed to pay money as the main criteria. In addition to this, they raised the issue of passport as criteria. However, their role is also very high in facilitating the issues of passport and visa. As data collected from the returns, the migrants use their passports till they arrive into Kenya and cross the border to Tanzania. Once they arrived the border of Tanzania, they terminate their passports to avoid being known as Ethiopians and being deported back if detained by the officials.

In relation to the conditions of payment, the payment is not fixed. It varies depending on the type of social relations, time dimensions, type of brokers, using different combinations of types of transport and taking different routes, unexpected delays during moving out, obstacles and unreasonable additional payment requirements and based on other issues. Because of these

reasons, the final amount of money to the migrant person may be much more than the sum that was initially agreed. Although they may ask additional payment later, the total agreed payment was made in cash before they involved in moving out process. But, there were still few informants indicated that there are brokers who took some amount of money before migration and the remaining after they had crossed few transits. One of the informants describes such conditions as follows:

*After I contact illegal broker, we had reached at an agreement with regards to the amount of the money I have to pay. Accordingly, we agreed to pay 45,000 Ethiopian Birr. However, at that moment I had only 35, 000 birr at my hand. Hence, we made an agreement to pay the remaining 10, 000 birr after we reached Malawi and he promised that we will reach there within two weeks. Then, I gave an assignment for my families to collect the remaining amount of money as much as possible. However, we had faced a lot of challenges in the process of migration and it took more than three months to reach Malawi. Because of this, they calculated extra expenditures and as result they asked me extra 7, 000 birr as opposed to our agreement. Therefore, totally I paid 55,000 Ethiopian birr (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 19, 2016).*

As data collected from the FGDs, currently migrants are expected to pay seventy thousand to eighty thousand Ethiopian birr for land travel and one hundred twenty thousand to one hundred forty thousand Ethiopian birr for air plane travel although there are a lot of issues taken in to considerations which can affect the amount of money to be paid for the illegal brokers as stated above. In most cases, the source of financing for the migration is come from participation of many individuals/sources like sale of private assets, loans or borrowing from relatives, diasporas/friends living abroad and participation of others. Therefore, the decision for a youth to migrate to Republic of South Africa is not only just a personal decision but it is also a strategic and economic decision by other family or group decision.

### **4.3.3 Actors Involved**

Identifying the actors or brokers who are involved in the activity of illegal migration to Republic of South Africa is one of discussion point during FGDs held with selected government office representatives and return migrants. Moreover, data was also collected from key informants. Accordingly, they reported that many of actors are involved in the migration process of youths

from study area to Republic of South Africa. For instance, returned migrants, retired and active government official and government workers, elders, polices who are working around borders of crossing countries, religious leaders and preachers, traditional money lenders and others are participating directly or indirectly in the migrations process. Their participation can be explained in terms of persuading and selecting potential migrants, giving traditional blessings/elders, contributing money, lending money, facilitating false visa, hiding brokers and in terms of other unmentioned activities.

Moreover, variety of individuals who are engaged in different business activities including transportation, tourism and hotel are also playing a great role in facilitating and maintaining the migration process via distributing false information, hiding brokers and migrants, facilitating transportation process, creating social networks with concerned bodies and other functions which may help brokers to run their activities easily.

#### **4.3.4 Exploitation and Abuse**

At the beginning, brokers make promises to migrants about the good journey which is free from any exploitative and abusive conditions. But contrary to this, migrants have faced unpleasantly heart breaking happenings. As the stories of the informants show, suffering different kinds of extensive exploitations and abuses are also everyday reality for the majority of migrants of Republic of South Africa. These abuses can include demand for higher payments from migration agents or brokers, greater exposure to robbery, frequent violations of physical integrity like punishment, intimidations and other various violations. These all forms of exploitations and abuses usually occur at the point of transits, during transportation to the place of destination and at all stages of migration. Based on the stories of informants, these various forms of abuses and exploitations are clearly discussed in the following sections.

#### **4.3.5 Measures Taken by the Government**

The brokers' role is also among the substantial contributing factors of illegal migration in the study area. Therefore, identifying what has been done by the government of the zone in reducing this problem was one of the concerns of this study. As one of key informant stated:

*In in recent times, migration to Republic of South Africa is given a due consideration in our zone. The government of the zone has started combating the problem by establishing*

*the task force up to Kebele level. These task forces are responsible for day to day follow up of the overall human trafficking actions practicing in the area and taking appropriate actions. Different awareness raising programs at all levels against human trafficking has been conducted. Following this, some positive changes have been observed as compared to earlier times. For instance, some brokers were put in jail and sentenced. Some of known actors also left this zone. Besides this, we are working with other concerned bodies like IOM with regards to deporting migrants from different transit countries. But, it is fact that still there are brokers running their activity in a hidden way (Interview with key informant: Head of Hadiya zone Labour and Social Affairs Office Hossana town, March 15, 2016).*

The persistent situation of the problem is also accepted by all study participants. Besides this, the returns reported that governments' role is very low in terms of giving entrepreneurship trainings for those return migrants who have financial capacity and rehabilitating the deported migrants.

#### **4.4 Trafficking Process and the Experiences Faced by the Migrants during Moving Out**

From their homeland to Republic of South Africa, migrants pass through different transit places and face various problems. In other word, they pass via different processes and they also experience different problems in transit places and the journey made to reach the destination places. Consequently, attempt is made to identify and discuss about the experiences faced by the migrants while they were in the transit places and the problems they experience on their journey to reach the destination country. In addition to this, this topic will also deals with the various processes through which migrants pass before reaching the destination country,

##### **4.4.1 The Trafficking Process**

###### **4.4.1.1 The Recruitment Process**

Brokers use different methods to encourage potential individuals to migrate to another place and improve lives of their families and themselves. As noted by returnees and key informants, brokers encourage and persuade potential migrants by using different mechanisms. For instance, they tell them stories of success individuals who were migrated before and encourage young youths to attempt the same. They also promise they can easily reach the country where they are

dreaming and they promise to pay back their money if they failed to reach the intended destination. In certain cases, they told success stories of some individuals who were migrated before so as to encourage young youths to attempt the same and they told they were very successful in their activities. As stated by one of key informants, they have their own local brokers who are responsible to preach and persuade youths within the villages in urban and rural settings. These local brokers bring different potential migrants from their surroundings to main role players who operate in the nearby villages and towns and they will get payment for their service they provided. For this purpose, most of time they use return migrants tell them formerly which broker he/she had used before, to tell good stories and pressurize friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same and other functions. During FGDs with government representatives, a participant added that there is also possibility of direct involvement the main agents or brokers in recruitment of migrants by using various mechanisms such as social relations. Through such and other processes, they can easily persuade and mislead individuals who seek work abroad. Finally, brokers who received the migrants from the local brokers arrange ways of transportation and send them directly to the final transit town.

To sum up, brokers in the study area use various recruitment methods. Among other things targeting of potentially interested persons, informal networks of families and friends, informal advertisements about their success concerning the issue, using local brokers others are the common techniques used by brokers to recruit potential migrants. In fact there are also direct involvement of families and migrants in contacting brokers because; it is very difficult to migrate to Republic of South Africa without technical contributions of brokers in different transits.

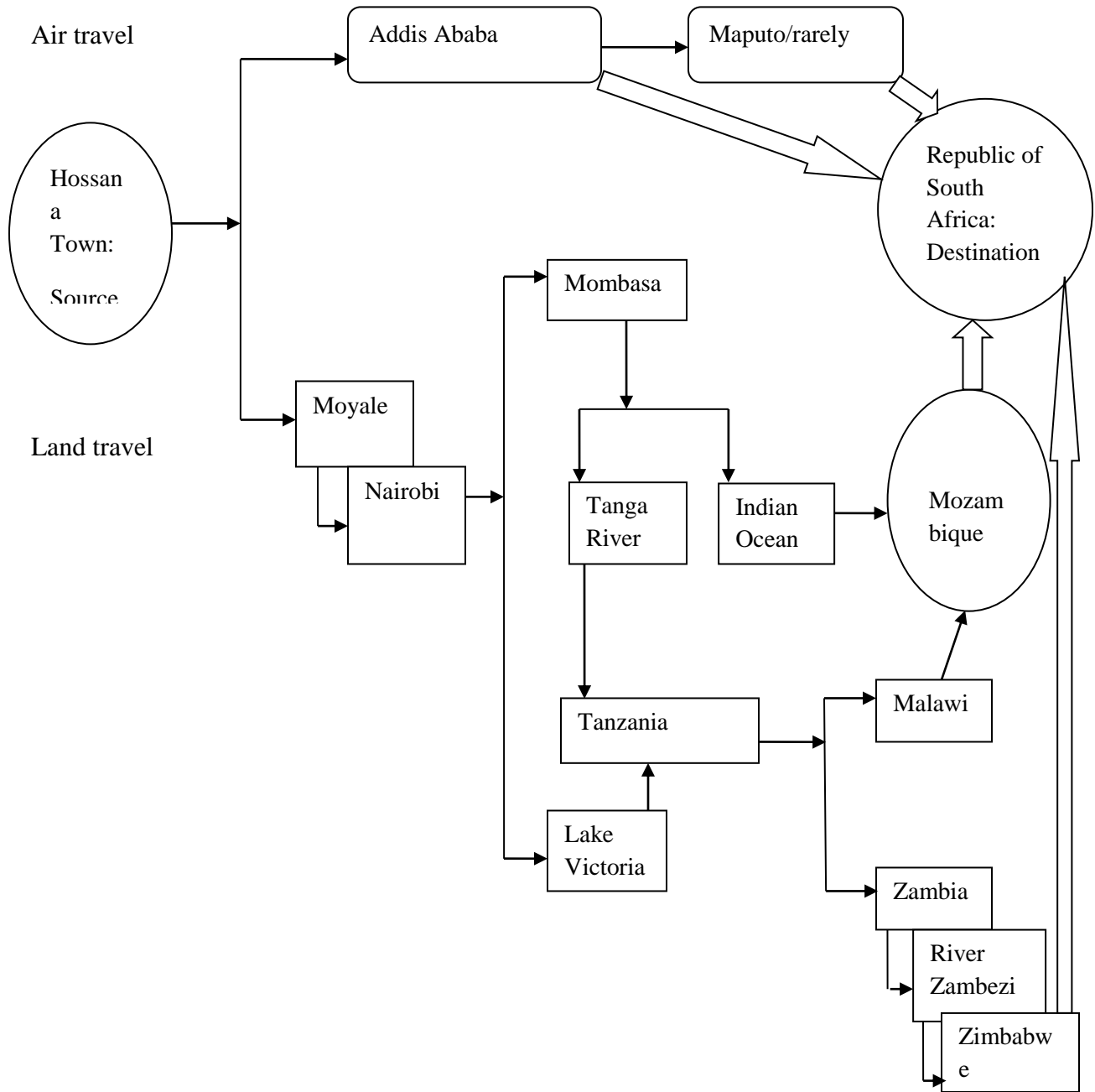
#### **4.4.1.2 Routes and Transportation Process**

Transporting the migrants from their local residential area to the transit places is the next step that comes following the activities like taking money needed for the migration and recruitment of potential migrants. The migrants were not transported to the intended places directly from their place of origin. Rather, the local brokers who gather the migrants from different rural villages and towns will tell them where and at what time they should go and whom they should contact. The in-depth interview conducted with returnees revealed that there are options in terms of both travel routes and types transportation for the migrants so as to reach Republic of South Africa. However, these options are determined by various factors like economic status of the migrants,

choices of brokers and based on other factors. As noted by the informants, flying directly to the Republic of South Africa or sometimes to Maputo is one of the safest travel although it is very costly and needs more time to get the chance because it needs having necessary preconditions like obtaining a passport, visas, ticket and the like. For this kind of migration, Addis Ababa is the major hub for the migrants. On the other hand, a combination of transportation system like road travel using cars and foot walk are used as an alternate to direct air travel. In addition to these, some return migrants reported that they used boats to travel some distances over the Indian Ocean when the overland route is unsafe. As told by the informants, land transportation system using this route is exclusively used to transport migrants because of number of reasons. As compared to air travel, the second option is cheap as well as easy for the brokers so as to facilitate the process of migration within a short period of time.

For this kind of travel route, Nairobi is a major center for the selected migrants where smuggled migrants come from Hossana to Kenya via Dilla and Moyale and make contact with the major actors. However, there are processes at the border of Moyale/ before they enter into Kenya. As soon as they arrived Moyale town, a local broker collects migrants and takes them to the place prepared for them until arranging ways such as legal visa for further travel to Kenya. For the purpose of avoiding risks of inspection by police, places used to keep migrants are often located in the outskirts of the town and sometimes they use hotel rooms and houses in the town. In this kind of travel, the most common countries of transit include Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

**Figure 3: A Diagrammatic Sketch of the Routes of the Migration to Republic of South Africa**



**Source:** Done by the researcher based on literatures and interview with returnees.



#### **4.4.2 The Experiences Faced by the Migrants during Moving Out.**

As one of the main challenges of human trafficking, migrants/victims face different challenges at different stages of the moving out process. That is, migrants experience different challenges in various transits and during their travel to the destination countries before reaching the destination. One of the objectives of this study is to document the experiences faced by migrants during moving out their home land. Hence, in this section of the thesis an attempt has been made to present what the study found out regarding these different experiences faced by the migrants by collecting data mainly from the returnees.

##### **4.4.2.1 Experiences Faced During Travel to Moyale Town**

As mentioned by the returns, there was no such difficult experiences that they faced during travel to Moyale. During this time, they are promised that they will have short and safe travel to Republic of South Africa. At this time, they know nothing about the experiences waiting ahead in the transit town and in their travel to the destination country. As in-depth interview with a return showed, migrants face some minor problems in their travel to Moyale town like other normal travelers, not as victims of trafficking.

However, starting from the border of Moyale (before entering Kenya) they begin facing a lot of challenges at different transits and during travel to destination. Some of these challenges are described as follows based on data collected mainly from returns.

##### **4.4.2.2 Places Used to Keep Migrants**

As stated by the informants, it is a common thing for migrants to stay in various towns of transit countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique for weeks or even months due to different reasons. For the purpose of hiding the migrants from police, military officers and other officials, brokers use different mechanisms. Although there are brokers who use hotel rooms and some house inside different towns, in most cases the brokers use small and suffocated houses situated outside of the main towns to keep the migrants until they transfer them to the other transit. According to an in-depth interview with a returnee, the migrants have faced various problems as well as exposed to various violations of rights in the keeping places. The above informant stated that migrants are forced to sleep in crowded manner in a small-suffocated room, forced to live in small huts without enough food and water for prolonged period of time and they are not allowed to leave.

Moreover, sometimes migrants are left for days without getting something to eat or drink. Due to these conditions, migrants are exposed to various health related problems or various kinds of disease which sometimes causes death stories on migrants. In this regard, a case revealed the following about the places where he spent the days his departure to Republic of South Africa and challenges he observed in these places.

#### *Case 1*

*Starting from Moyale, he used to live in different places at different circumstances. For instance, brokers put him in a narrow room with a small bed with other many migrants in transit countries/towns like Moyale, Kenya and Tanzania. In addition to this, he exposed to heat during day time and cold during night time. He had faced various sufferings especially he exposed to various kinds of disease caused by the hot/cold weather conditions and lack of food. Thus, he caught with various diseases like malaria and typhoid. It was very difficult to get proper treatment. Sometimes the brokers give some anti-pain which cannot cure your disease. Furthermore, the saddest event that he cannot forget is the death of his friend. He passed away in Tanzania as result of unknown disease. He took phone number of his family from his pocket and left died body in the forest. It was very horrible time for him to call to his family and tell that he left died body in the forest without burial ceremonies. But, he had no option other than telling the fact. Finally, he told to his family the event via phone call and he started his travel. He lost all the hopes and even he made an attempt to return back. However, it was very difficult to return back because he did not know how to return back.*

#### **4.4.2.3 Request for Additional Payments**

According to some informants, brokers force them to pay additional money especially after reaching Malawi. They tell various reasons why they are doing so. For instance, they inform the migrants that the money they paid is only used to facilitate their exit out of the country, not to cover other costs like food, transportation cost and shelter cost. They also tell them they are dealing with experienced traffickers who can pass them safely but it needs certain amount of money. Therefore, they are expected to make additional payment as opposed to initial agreement. Furthermore, additional payment will increase if the migrant is caught by police or any unconditional delay occurs. During such situations, migrants are forced to charge additional

payments and they have no options rather than contacting their families via phone and tell them to send that amount of money for the brokers through different informal networks created by them. Accordingly, many victims' families forced to look various options like getting money from traditional money lenders to pay the additional payment asked by the traffickers and so as to progress the traveling process by hopping that their son will return the money in a short period of time. As informed by some informants, sometimes this will create a long lasting effect in the whole family. The following case explains the situation as follows:

#### *Case 2*

*While he was in Hossana, the man who arranged his migration process asked about 50,000 birr. His families, relatives, friends and others contributed for this amount of money and finally he had collected it. The local broker told that it will cover all his traveling cost to Republic of South Africa. But after he arrived in Malawi, the travel was delayed for two weeks. After two weeks, he asked by the main brokers to make additional payment. They told him that they incurred additional and extraneous costs for foods, houses and for other issue. Then they told him that he will start his travel if and only if he will make additional 10,000 birr. Therefore, he is forced to tell this issue for his family. They sent the money by borrowing it from traditional money lenders since they didn't have that much birr at the time. They hoped that he will return back the money as soon as possible. But he could not pay back the money at short period of time as they perceived. Because he was caught by police and arrested for two years in Lilongwe prison in Malawi. Thus, his whole family had faced number of challenges so as to pay back the money to traditional lenders.*

It was also reported that the brokers make payment arrangements related to deporting died bodies. If a migrant is died in his way out, they arrange some payment agreements with died migrants' families or relatives. During FGD held in Hadiya zone Labour and Social Affairs Office with concerned bodies, one of the FGD participants mentioned that:

*Last year, my brothers' son passed away in Tanzania because of car accident on his way to Republic of South Africa. It was very difficult to us to left his body in the forest for wild animals. Hence, his brothers who are living in Republic of South Africa and his families*

*including me made attempt to bring his died body. We tried to deal with brokers who can do this. However, the worst thing was that they asked us to pay 250,000 birr. Finally, we paid the money because all of his families wanted to celebrate death (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 9, 2016).*

As narrated above, the motive of the brokers are making their own business by collecting money with all available means. Hence, it is common to hear additional payment issues from brokers.

#### **4.4.2.4 Crossing the Border**

In the earlier parts of this thesis, it was stated that migrants have experienced faced different problems related with places of keeping migrants. But, the stories of heart breaking happenings and experiences continue till they reach the destination country. Among these, practices related with crossing various borders of different countries are one of the most challenges for the migrants. Starting from Kenya, migrants have to walk on foot some distances through the deserts so as to enter/cross border of different countries at different times. As stated by some informants, in order to avoid the risks of being caught by border police, the traffickers in different borders prefer crossing during night time. During the day time, migrants will hide in the forests and it is very difficult to refuse their order as well as trying return back. They threatened or beaten by the traffickers if they refuse to accept their order. In such settings, they suffer a lot as result of lack of food, water, weather conditions, beaten and robbery by traffickers, eaten by wild animals and other sorrows as forwarded by the informants. Furthermore, an individual migrant who cannot cope up with the walking step of the traffickers will be left behind and died a terrible death without getting any help from others.

On the other hand, there are migrants who cross borders by boats. As data collected from returnees, Lake Victoria, Tanga River, Zambezi River and Indian Ocean are some of water bodies that migrants should cross during their moving out. As stated by the informants, it takes five to seven days of long journey including night and they experience difficult and very serious traveling time specifically crossing border of Tanzania via Lake Victoria and getting in to Mozambique via Indian Ocean. These groups of migrants are also highly vulnerable and face a lot of challenges and harsh condition. Starting from the first day to use boat to the last day of crossing the borders of intended transits, they suffer from a number of problems on their way. As narrated by one of informant, the boat trips are very risky because the boats are small and not

prepared for a large number of travelers. Overloading of passengers is also common. Moreover, migrants are sometimes forced to jump off the boat and forced to travel by themselves so as to avoid being caught by polices and in some cases because of the problem of the boat itself. In this case, those migrants who do not know how to swim will expose to death. As discussed above, they are also vulnerable and prone to various experiences such as disease, physical injury and permanent disability, lack of food, lack of water, unfair treatment and violations of rights by the traffickers.

As described by one of the informant, the migrants also used false visa to cross different borders which is relatively better for the wellbeing of the migrants. However, it is very difficult to get legal visa to cross border in each crossing countries. Because of this reason, most of the migrants use the above explained mechanisms so as to cross borders.

#### **4.4.2.5 Starvation and Thirst**

After the migrants leave from Moyale, they use all available means of transportations systems such as using boats, car and walk on foot all the way to the destination towns/places. For the purpose of avoiding caught by the border officials/polices; brokers transport the migrants using uncomfortable times like night and using unsafe and unregulated routes as discussed above. These unregulated routes are extremely dangerous because of the physical nature of the journey and lack of essentials such as water, food and shelter along the route. As for his experiences, case three revealed that:

Case 3

*At the beginning of his journey, the brokers promised that there will be enough food in his journey. In addition to this, they told him the journey will take only few hours. As result, he did not try an attempt to have enough foods with him. As opposed to his promise, his whole travel was full of difficulties as result of mainly lack of basic necessities. He was suffered a lot due to lack of water and food while he was crossing borders in different countries starting from Kenya. He used to walk long distances on his foot in different geographical conditions such as Selo desert in Kenya. During such conditions, it was very difficult to find food to eat and hence he had faced hunger and starvation. He forced to continue his journey*

*without having eaten any food for days. As a result, he used to eat a piece of bread for three days which he begs it from one of the migrant. He also suffered much from lack of water. Sometimes he used to drink salty, impure and very infected water so as to survive or keep himself alive and to get in to his dreamed destination.*

Thus, hunger and thirst are the other major challenge that the migrants face in their moving out from their homeland to Republic of South Africa. Due to the lack basic necessities and exposure to some diseases, some migrants become weaker and weaker in their way and left behind.

#### **4.4.2.6 Death**

As described above, it is also common hear stories of death during their course of moving out of their country to Republic of South Africa. From the day they left Moyale town on wards to the time they reach the destination country, they pass through different situations and dangerous journey which can threaten the lives of many migrants. Individual migrant who cop up with different hardships will arrive the destination country. On the other hand, victims who cannot capable to survive the encounters will die out before reaching the final place. As mentioned by the informants, they damaged by wild animals, beaten by police and brokers, starved and thirsted, exposure to various diseases, suffocations and lack of oxygen inside the container truck, car accident, chronic shortage of water and food during their journey, overloaded boats and other reasons are some of the potential challenges that may leads migrants to death. In other word, significant number of migrants found dead in different transit countries before seeing the destination country and achieving their vision of changing their life. Thus, death is one of the major experiences that migrants in the study area face in their journey to Republic of South Africa. FGDs participants and key informants also repeatedly raised the issue of loss of lives of many youths as one of the most abusive consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa. One of the FGD participants mentioned that:

*My house is very close to main road. Every day, it is common for me to hear death stories of migrants in Hossana. For me, it is very sorrowful to observe several deaths. As result, I am worrying about what will be happen to this community of the town and the Zone in general (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 9, 2016).*

The data collected from Hadiya Zone Labour and Social Affairs Office also strengthen this reality. For instance, more than two thousand five hundred youths were died within four years (2013 up to 2016) as result of migration to Republic of South Africa (Hadiya Zone Labour and Social Affairs Office Report 2016).

#### **4.4.2.7 Imprisonment**

Suffering from long time prison is also another serious problem that migrants experience in their moving out from the study area to Republic of South Africa. As data collected from the informants, the migrants had been faced being captured by the border guards during their attempt to cross the different borders in different transit countries. They are regularly arrested and imprisoned in prisons especially in Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi. Ganbo in Moyale, Marsabet and Pangani in Kenya, Dudusa in Tanzania and Lilongwe in Malawi are some of well-known prison centers. They have mentioned various experiences and suffering during their stay at these prisons. Human right violations and abuses or inhuman treatments are evidently committed by government authorities or polices. An experience narrated from the following case is an indication of such situations and narrated as follows:

##### Case 4

*During his moving out to Republic of South Africa, he was caught by police in Tanzania and the officials jailed him for two years. When he was in prison, he had faced so many worst experiences. As he narrated, the prison was overcrowded. There was a shortage of water and food. Authorities gave him very small amount of food once in a day. There was no bed at all and he slept in the ground for about a year. The custodial house was badly damaged and thousands of them in a prison also had very few latrines. Besides these, prison keepers also force him to engage in different labour works. So, he was sick and some of his friends were died. Generally speaking, it was the most difficult challenge that he ever encounter. But after one year, his families paid money to brokers and then they took him from the custodial. After he had taken two week rest, he started another journey to South Africa.*

## **4.5 Consequences**

As we have seen in earlier sections, migrants have faced number of challenges in their way moving out from their homeland to Republic of South Africa. Besides, understanding the various problems faced by the victims, identifying positive and distortive consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa is also one of the objectives of this study. Migration has its own positive and distortive consequence in the area of origin, destination and transit places and on the participant themselves as stated in the review of empirical study parts. Thus, this section presents the major positive and distortive consequences of the migration to Republic of South Africa mainly on the lives of migrants and community at large.

### **4.5.1 Positive consequences**

#### **4.5.1.1 Improved Economic Status**

As mentioned by the research participants, successful individuals/young adults returned from Republic of South Africa have been supporting their families or elderly parents. As a result, they could able to reduce exposure to the risk of staying without supporting in times of economic crisis. In this study, attempt was made to collect information about whether the migrants send money to their families. Accordingly, almost all return migrates reported that they used to send money for their families or relatives during various occasions like holy days, funeral ceremonies, for the purpose of education costs, so as to build houses for their families and for themselves and for other many purposes. This makes some informants to feel that they have played great role in reducing poverty of their families and brought significant change in the lives of their family in place of origin.

Supporting this concept, one of the informants mentioned that:

*Before I went to the RSA, my families were very poor. During my stay in South Africa, I used to send money to my families many times for different purposes like constructing houses, educational costs for my siblings and other purposes. Currently my families are living much better life in many aspects than they were before. Furthermore, I have my own house and I am running business activities. Thus, I felt that I met the expectations that I had when I left this country although I had faced number of challenges (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 7, 2016).*



It is also evident from the focus group discussions and key informant interview that some parents in the place of origin are pleased with the progressive changes brought as result of sending their sons to Republic of South Africa. Among these perceived positive changes, special mention was given to cover the family's cost for basic necessity, cover the credit for agricultural input, cover the cost of education and teaching materials for children, covers the entire cost of the holy days, getting better access to medical treatment, purchase of cattle, constructing iron-roofed houses and the like. Consequently, it contributed to the improvement of the living conditions or economic status of migrants and their families.

#### **4.5.1.2 Job Opportunities and Reducing of Unemployment**

Most of the migrants were unemployed before their migration. However, successful migrants had accumulated some amount of money in short period of time. After returning back, they involved in various income generating activities like transportation industry, hotels and cafeterias, grain store, flourmill, intensive agricultural activity like poultry and modern animal husbandry, supermarkets and other small enterprises. Besides, they could able to build their own assets such as house, business centers, vehicles, livestock, etc.

As mentioned by the informants, some returnees are engaged in some business and investment activities. By doing so they are creating employment opportunities for other people as well. Accordingly, they hired employees under them and created jobs for some individuals or for their relatives. In this regard, one of the informants expressed his experience as follows:

*As compared to life before migration, current living condition is better. I have built a house for myself and for my family. Besides this, I am running business activities specifically supper market, grain storing and public transportation activities. By doing so, there are above fifteen workers under my business activity (In-depth interview with a return migrant, Hossana town, March 8, 2016).*

FGDs results mainly discussion held with returns also confirmed that return migrants are playing positive contribution in terms of creating job opportunities for the unemployed individuals in the study area. They perceived their contributions as one mechanism of ensuring the wellbeing of some individuals which otherwise would have to be met by the government. Thus, they are sharing some burden of local government as forwarded by the FGD participants.

#### **4.5.1.3 Experiences and Skill Acquired**

As stated by the returns, they had exposed to new skills that have high contribution to their homeland life. While they stayed abroad, return migrants gained new and useful skills that are vital for their future living status in the home land especially in Hosanna town. Some of these skills and values are better skills concerning entrepreneurship, hard-work habit, strategies of holding or approaching customers and the good habit of saving.

During FGDs with concerned government office representatives, one of the FGDs participants mentioned that:

*I have some friends who came from Republic of South Africa. I was observing what they are doing. I was surprised by their restless long hour working habit. They always like any kind of work very much. Some them brought little amount of money from Republic of South Africa. Currently, they have enough capital in their hands because of their hard working habit. Therefore, I can say that they are equipped with new skills, experiences and hardworking tradition which can contribute to positive changes in their life (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 9, 2016).*

On the contrary to this, one of the key informants strongly opposed the above idea. He believed that they had exposed to range of new social values and practices and they adopt these new life styles partly or completely. Their exposures to new experiences are in one way or another affecting other community members in terms of various aspects. He mentioned that new livelihood strategies like corrupting officials with their money so as to get something easily, alcoholic behavior, weak patterns of social interaction and other strange values which can negatively affect the other community members are born and integrated into local culture of society. He also added that they have entrepreneurship skill gap in terms of diversifying their business activities that enable them to be successful and sustainable. For instance, most them are working similar business activities like vehicles/transportation activities.

#### **4.5.1.4 Coming Back with Savings**

Almost all returnees reported that they used to send money for their families for different purposes although they did not know the actual amount of money that most of them send to their relatives and families in different times. However, all of the informants reported that they

brought back some amount of savings ranges between two hundred fifty thousand to seven hundred thousand Ethiopian birr. As stated by research participants, this enhanced the migrants' effort with regards to household investments in education, entrepreneurship and health.

FGDs participants and key informants interviews also indicated that many migrants return from Republic of South Africa with their capital to invest in the town. In other word, they argued that return migrants' money has operated the investment activities in the town which can be explained in terms of increased demand for land and residential or commercial houses. As result, non-migrants possessing these assets sell at expensive price which indirectly contributing even for the non-migrant dwellers. On the other hands, investing on construction of commercial (business) buildings and living houses constructed by returnee contribute in mitigating the housing problems of the town. In general, migrant's savings has paramount importance in terms of increasing the income level of individuals, job opportunity creations, development of the town, provision of basic necessities and infrastructures and the like.

In sum, among the above mentioned economic consequences, improvement of economic status of migrants and their families and issues related with savings are more noticeable among research participants.

#### **4.5.2 Distortive Consequences**

Migrants had also faced various challenges at country of destination and country of origin. Thus, this sub topic will deal with some major challenges they faced in destination country and distortive consequences of out migration to Republic of South Africa on the participants and family/community in origin.

From the returnee's side, they reported that they have been faced different challenges during their stay at Republic of South Africa and after their returns as well. Most of the respondents described life at South Africa as having both benefits and full of challenges. To mention some of the challenges raised by the return migrants, it was very difficult to get legal status of living in South Africa which affect the freedom of movement. Migrants are expected to pay high amount of money for the officials so as to get six month or yearly legal status card/temporary card. Besides this, they suffer from an array of physical and psychological health issues and property lost stemming from discrimination and even violence of the citizens of South Africa.

Consequently, many homes and shops were looted as well as many of their friends were died as reported by the informants. Many of them were deported to their home land as result of serious health related problems which can lead migrants for permanent disabilities.

In line with the issues of disability, the following case explains that:

#### Case 5

*He is 23 years old from Betele Kebele. Currently, he is living in his brothers' house. He quit his education from grade 9<sup>th</sup> and he migrated to Republic of South Africa before three years ago. He has two brothers there and he joined them. After three year stay, he had faced a serious health problem. That is, gangsters broke and entered his shop while he was in bed and they robbed all his property. Finally they shoot him at his back with their gun. As result, his spinal cord became out of function. Finally, he became badly paralyzed and using wheel chair since he could move by himself.*

It is also known that the migration processes needs huge amount of money in which the sources can be one's own property, contributions of others, debt arrangements and other sources. However, there is possibility to end up in prisons as well as deporting back to homeland. As reported by the FGDs participants, this can cause various distortive consequences up on the lives the migrant and migrant's families such as loss of employment status, loss of asset ownership, fail to pay back debts that their parents arrange for the journey and other problems. This further exposes the migrant or/and the whole family to experience degradation of living standards which can also cause long lasting effects on migrants. As reported by the FGDs participants, psycho-social problems such as feeling of being isolated, loneliness, hopelessness, lack of self-confidence and other psychological traumas were common among deported migrants.

Moreover, they also added various issues with regards to the distortive consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa mainly on family/community. They elaborated that they are losing many youngsters and adults including educated persons who have potential of changing the zone and the country as well. They also mentioned that school dropout situations as observable problem in the study area. Even including kids are dreaming to migrate Republic of South Africa which makes the participants to worry about future prospects of the community.

They worried about creation of uneducated community and seeing huge generational gaps between current and future generation.

Economic inequality among the people, dependency on remittance and brain drain also identified as distortive consequences of migration in the study area. They also mentioned that they are observing some newly introduced values and diffusion of culture as result of migration in the community. Among these, divorce issues and extravagant practices during funeral ceremonies were raised repeatedly. Spontaneous spatial expansion and current sprawl of Hosanna town due to illegal construction of houses is also described as distortive consequences. As stated by the informants, urban expansion without the frame of the city's development plan make basic infrastructure inaccessible.

As forwarded by one of FDG participant:

*The other social consequence of migration is dependency on remittance. I witnessed some of my friends' families who always wait for remittances rather than creating job opportunities. On the other hand, it also caused income inequality among families who have sons abroad and who did not (FGD participant, Hossana town, March 1, 2016).*

The issue of income inequality and problems related to living costs were also the main concern of most of the research participants.

To sum up this sub section, among the above discussed consequences, losing human resource because of death of migrants and brain drain was mentioned as the most serious abusive consequences of out migration in the study area.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Discussions**

Illegal migration of youths or adults to Republic of South Africa is becoming very common in Southern Nations Nationalities and Regional State specifically among Hadiya and Kembata ethnic groups (IOM 2009; Habte 2015). Because of this, the issue of illegal migration to Republic of South Africa in the study area is one of top agenda among administrative bodies and all government sector offices. Thus, this qualitative study is conducted with the main intention of portraying some relevant findings concerning aforementioned social issue.

Throughout the discussion, the researcher has made an attempt so as to discuss major findings of the study in line with research objectives. These are: analyzing the key contributing factors which expose youth for illegal migration to Republic of South Africa, the migration process and the various challenges faced by the migrants during their moving out of homeland, the roles played by brokers/traffickers in the migration process and finally the researcher made an attempt to examine some positive and distortive consequences of migration in the lives of participants and community at large mainly in the place of origin. Besides this, some of selected research findings are discussed based on theoretical explanations and empirical reviews.

To start with some demographic features of the informants, the literature indicates that illegal international out-migrations in Ethiopia especially in the case of Middle East and Sudan dominated by females (Emebet 2002; Milki 2014). Unlike, returnees in the case of study area show a different pattern. In other word, migration to Republic of South Africa is dominated by males in the study area. Studies on migration have shown that young adult age groups are more likely prone to migration even though the occurrence of migration can be seen at all age levels (Clark 1986; Goldstein 1976). In the same fashion, young populations are more prone to this migration in the study area. Besides this, religious backgrounds of the migrants and the destination country has also important role in the migration decision of Ethiopian migrants specifically in the case of migrants of Middle East (Hailemichael 2014). With regards to migrants to Republic of South Africa, there is no such relationship between the dominant religion and the migrants' decision to leave their homeland.

As stated in the literature, there is no a single phenomenon that force all individuals to look for migration as option. Rather, various factors are regarded to causes of migration in Ethiopia (Mohammed 2006; Girum 2013). Similarly, the empirical data collected in the field also reveals that migration to Republic of South Africa is influenced by economic, familial, social and other related factors as described below.

There is a general consensus among many scholars in Ethiopia on the fact that illegal migration is closely related to poverty and other developmental issues like lack job opportunities even though they argued that it is not necessarily caused by these issues. That is, many scholars who have conducted research on illegal migration issues agreed poverty the main contributing factor for illegal migrants from different parts Ethiopia (see Girume 2013; Hailemichael 2014; Milki 2014; Woldamlak 2014). According to the finding of the study, poverty, absence of job opportunity and unemployment were identified as contributing factors motivated the youths to migrate to Republic of South Africa in the study area. It was explained by the participants that there is unemployed youths including graduates. As a result, youths are participating in the migration as other livelihood strategy. Therefore, poverty, unemployment and lack of job opportunities in the study area have been forcing youth's migration to Republic of South Africa they perceived there is job access and better economic opportunities.

As opposed to the above mentioned empirical evidences; poverty, unemployment and lack of job opportunity were not the main concern of research participants specifically FGDs participants and key informant interviews. Findings showed that youth's migration in the study area is not highly aspired by the above stated factors. Rather their strong desire to search better income or to collect money in a very short period of time is mentioned as the most important contributing factor for the youths to leave their homeland. Because of this, economically better off people including government workers, people who were engaged in business activities and others have been also participating in the migration process.

An attempt has been also made so as to thoroughly investigate to what extent families and community at large have role in pushing youths to participate in the migration process in the research area. According to Bisrat (2006), families were important actors in shaping the migration decision with regards to skilled international migrants in Ethiopia. Furthermore, the new economic theory of migration argued that migration decisions are not made by isolated

individual actors but by larger units of related people typically families or households in which people act collectively (Stark 1991). In the same way, this study also revealed that families and community at large are playing an important role in pushing youths so as to participate in illegal migration to Republic of South Africa. As it was investigated by the study, some parents viewed sending their son to Republic of South Africa as a better mechanism to secure the economic condition of family. Therefore, the attitude of parents towards migration became another contributing factor that has been playing an important role for the illegal migration of youths and adults in the study area.

It was found that histories related with remittance have also positive contribution in motivation youths so as to participate in migration to Republic of South Africa. As study finding shows, some households of out migrants are living better life in the study area. This has been stimulating youths for subsequent out-migration in the study area. Study conducted by Hilemichale (2013) and Haas (2010) came up with similar findings with this issue.

Reports corroborate that Hadiya zone including neighboring zone are one of the highly populated areas of Southern Regional States. Besides this, living condition of the community is further affected by the scarcity of sufficient fertile agricultural land (Habte 2015). Study participants have also reported that scarcity of agricultural land as one of contributing factors that forced them to leave homeland and go abroad. With regards to this issue, Gebrehiwot and Fekadu (2012) carried out a research on causes and consequences of out migration to different African and Arab counties in Tigray region and come up with finds that proves landlessness as one contributing factor in the study area.

The network theory holds that the existence of social networks of information and assistance significantly increases the likelihood of continued international migration between places of origin and destination. Once the network is established, it will increase in number as new migrants join the system. According to this theory, families, various information technologies, facilitators like brokers, friends living in destination country and the like can be the role players in the process of migration (Zanker 2011). This study also confirmed this reality. That is, social networks found to be another important influencing factor in youth's migration decision in the study area.



As far as the role of brokers is concerned, there are empirical evidences which assure the brokers as the main actors in both internal and international migrations (see Melaku 2014; Lalem 2002; Hilemichale 2013). This study also showed that illegal brokers found to be another important influencing factor in youth's migration decision in the study area. Using various recruiting mechanisms, they have been easily persuading and misleading individuals who seek work abroad. According to research finding, involving many actors in the process of migration is one of the strategies that brokers use so as to recruit potential migrants. For instance, returned migrants, retired and active government official and government workers, elders, polices who are working around borders of crossing countries, religious leaders and preachers, traditional money lenders, individuals who are working business activities and others have been contributing for the illegal brokers. Their participation can be explained in terms of persuading and selecting potential migrants, giving traditional blessings/elders, disseminating false information, contributing money, lending money, facilitating false visa, hiding brokers. As a result, illegal brokers and the attitude of community at large became one of the most challenging issues for government of the zone in dealing with this social problem. Thus, this cause was found to be significant in which all key informants and FGDs held with government office representatives and returned migrants supported.

The study has also sought to examine the migration process and the various problems being faced by the migrants faced in the processes of leaving their home land. Consequently, the research participants have mentioned that migrants in the study area have been experiencing various problems in transit places and the journey made to reach the destination places. Among others, places used to keep migrants and crossing the border are one of the most challenges in which migrants tempted into different problems. For the purpose of hiding the migrants from police or other individuals, brokers forced migrants to stay in improper places and similarly forced them to make dangerous journey during crossing borders of different transits. During such conditions, the migrants experience the most horrible challenges such as forced to sleep in crowded manner, forced to walk long distances on foot, forced to use unsafe transportation systems like use of closed and airless containers and overloaded boats. Furthermore, returnees also pointed that the migration to Republic of South Africa is characterized by travel in dark, robberies, beatings from brokers and polices, badly damaged by wild animals and other problems which can absolutely maximize the travelers' vulnerability and abuse. These situations expose

migrants to various human right violations as well as expose them to number of health related problems or various kinds of disease which sometimes causes death stories on migrants.

Besides the above mentioned challenges, it was also reported that migrants have been forced to pay additional money because of different reasons propagated by the brokers. Consequently, migrants' families are forced to engage in to dangerous processes like getting money from traditional money lenders and renting their land resource hoping that their son will return the money in a short period of time. Suffering from long time prison is also another serious problem that migrants experience in their moving out from the study area to Republic of South Africa. As data collected from the informants, the migrants had been faced being captured by the border guards during their attempt to cross the different borders in different transit countries. They are regularly arrested and imprisoned in different prisons of transit countries. During their stay at these prisons, it is common to see stories of the abuses suffered by the migrants such as lack basic needs (food and water), overcrowded situations of prison and other and abuses were evidently committed by government authorities or polices.

As far as challenges of international migrants are concerned, there are studies conducted by various scholars. However, most of these studies are highly concerned on the investigation of the challenges that Ethiopian migrants experience in destination and homeland. In other words, these studies did not give much focus on the challenges that the migrants face before they reach the destination countries (for instance, see Girum 2013; Hana 2014; Melaku 2014; Milki 2014; Selamawit 2013; Woldamlak 2014). These above mentioned studied have also showed that the most challenge for the migrants are related with various abuses in destination countries. In the case of South Africa, migrants have faced most changes in the migration processes than in the destination country (Republic of South Africa).

Regarding its consequences, it has both positive and abusive consequences in the migrants and community at large. In line with positive consequences, it contributed to the improvement living conditions or economic status of migrants and their families. While they stayed abroad, return migrants also gained new and useful skills like good saving habit and creating job opportunities. As reported by the returns, they also brought back some amount of savings. This enabled them to participate in different business activities that further creating employment opportunities for other people.

With regards to abusive consequences, there are youths who are suffering from persistent disabilities. Thus, they are living with various psycho-social problems such as feeling of being isolated, loneliness, hopelessness, lack of self-confidence and other psychological traumas. Challenges like loss of employment status, loss of asset ownership and fail to pay back debts that their parents arrange for the journey are also common among some migrants. This can cause degradation of living standards of the whole family. Moreover, this study also found income inequality among the people, spontaneous spatial expansion and current sprawl of Hosanna town due to illegal construction of houses, dependency on remittance, loss of productive human resources because of permanent migration of some youths, death and brain drain, spoils the good image of the study community and the zone at large, school dropout and newly introduced values and cultural diffusion such as divorce and alcoholic behaviors are identified as some distortive consequences of migration in the study area. Habte (2015) also mentioned some of the above stated abusive consequences in his study.

## 5.2 Conclusions

This study has been principally emphasized on portraying causes, processes and consequences of migration to Republic of South Africa from Hossana Town. Accordingly, the findings of the study showed that search for better economic opportunities, unemployment and lack of job opportunities, pressure from family and people in one's circle, explosion of population and land scarcity, histories associated with remittances, brokers' promises and existence of relatives and families in the destination county were some of major contributing factors of migration.

During moving-out processes, migrants have faced various experiences such as imprisonments, death, sufferings due to lack of basic necessities, physical damage, loss of properties and other many challenges in different transits places, during the journey made to reach the destination country and in the destination country as well.

Besides, an attempt has been made to come up with an assessment and understanding with regards to positive and distortive consequences of migration on migrants and study community at large. Consequently, the findings of the study revealed that improved economic status, job opportunities and combating unemployment, gaining some positive experiences and savings as positive consequences of migration. While, losing of productive forces, income inequality among the people, psychological traumas among some deported migrants, newly introduced values like alcoholic behaviors, dependency on remittance and school dropout were identified as abusive consequences of migration in the study area.

Based on these findings, it is very important to show researcher's stance whether migration to Republic of South Africa from Hossana Town outweighs blessings or blights. Accordingly, the researcher's position definitely tended to blights which can be justifiable in terms of various facts. Among these, the study community is losing very young population including educated individuals who can play a significant role in overall development of the community.

Thus, there is an urgent need for applying existing policies measures and further comprehensive studies that encompass the migrants' situation in both origin and destination countries should be conducted by concerned bodies so as to mitigate the problem.

### 5.3 Recommendations

It is true that bringing positive changes with regards to the attitudes of youths and community toward migration need the collective efforts of all concerned bodies. The finding showed that the problem is very much interwoven and deep rooted and which requires strong joint effort to address the root causes and to minimize negative consequences of this migration. Hence, the researcher recommends the following issues to be undertaken by different concerned stakeholders so as to reduce the problem in the study area.

- ❖ As it is revealed in this study, migration from Hossana town to Republic of South Africa is caused by varieties of factors. As a result, strategies that aimed at reducing the negative consequences of migration shall address these root causes. That is, federal government, regional states, nongovernmental organizations and other concerned bodies shall ensure that their interventions address major causes that induce youths to migrate, specifically creating better job opportunities since search for better job opportunity is the major cause of migration in the study area.
- ❖ As stated in the research findings, there is attitudinal problem among majority of the community member with regards to migration to Republic of South Africa. Parents viewed sending their sons/daughter as privilege and mechanism of insuring one's economic status. Therefore, it is important for the federal, regional and zonal government and other concerned bodies to develop further awareness creation campaign programs at lower level so as to change attitude of youths, parents and community at large.
- ❖ Due to the financial and time constraints, it was difficult to collect and document experiences of migrants living in Republic of South Africa. For these reasons, the researcher has faced some limitations on providing a comprehensive and precise picture the problem in both origin and destination countries. Therefore, further studies that encompass the migrants' situation in both origin and destination countries should be conducted by universities and other concerned bodies so as to provide comprehensive and precise picture of the problem.

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# Appendixes



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**Appendix I: In-Depth Interview Guide for Return Migrants**

The objective of this interview guide is to gather information on causes, processes and consequences of Migration from Hossana Town to Republic of South Africa. The information that you are going to provide has significant role with regards to achieving the objectives of this study. Therefore, you are kindly requested to provide accurate information as much as possible. I confirm you that all data given by you will be used for only academic purposes and will be treated confidentially.

**Thank you very much for your cooperation.**

**A. Profiles of Interviewed Migrants**

- i. Sex..... Age..... Marital status..... number of dependents .....  
Current occupation..... health status..... Religion.....  
Educational level.....
- ii. How long have you been stayed there?

**B. Contributing Factors for Migration**

- i. Did you have occupation before migration? If so what was the main sources of livelihood? If not why? Did you secure job after return? Could you explain about it?
- ii. How did you hear about migration to RSA? Who were the sources of information to you?
- iii. Was your migration legal or illegal? Why do you select such methods of migrating to RSA?

- iv. Who arranged and facilitated the migration process for you? Probing : family, friends abroad, agency, brokers, traffickers etc
- v. What factors forced you to migrate to the Republic of South Africa from your locality? Probing : Personal, community, structural/institutional, familial etc
- vi. Are there factors that attracted you to migrate to South Africa? If so, what were the factors?

### **C. Consequences of Migration**

- i. How would you describe your life after return to here?
- ii. Why did you return? Who arranged the processes of returning to Ethiopia?
- iii. How did you evaluate the number of years you stayed in South Africa? Wasted or productive?
- iv. Do you feel that you met the expectations that you had when you left this country? What positive aspects would you highlight from your time abroad?
- v. Did you bring back savings? What did you invest them in? Probing: business activities, purchase of properties, etc.....
- vi. Did you used to send money to Hossana? To whom did you send? Is some of the money received saved?
- vii. What significant changes did you made in the life of your parents/ family or relatives in your place of origin after you migrated? How?
- viii. Did you have communications with your family when you were in RSA and do you think these relationships were affected by distance?
- ix. What skills/experiences have you acquired from your migration?
- x. How do you describe the distortive consequences of migration on yourself and your family that left behind? Health, economic , familial, etc
- xi. Did you have any orientation or training about the country where you were going?
- xii. Did you face the loss of any properties when you were returning? If so explain it?

### **D. Role of Brokers in the Migration Process**

- i. How do you explain the role of brokers in the processes of moving out from your homeland?

- ii. How do local brokers conduct their work? How they recruit, transport and treat migrants?
- iii. How did you contact the broker? Where? Through what means of communication?
- iv. What criteria were you asked to fulfill before moving to RSA? Probing: Money, medical certificate, passport, etc
- v. How much money in Ethiopian birr did you pay to migrate? From where you get the money to pay for the brokers and how was the payment made?
- vi. How are the chains of brokers on your way from Hossana to RSA? Are there networks? How does it operate?
- vii. Did the brokers attempted to abuse you? If so what kind of abuse? Probing: sexual, extra payments, physical, psychological etc...

**E. Processes and Experiences Faced by the Migrants during Moving out.**

- i. How was an entire cycle or process of the journey made to reach the destination place? How many points are there in the middle countries? What were your experiences?
- ii. What were the difficult challenges that you have faced repeatedly in the process of leaving out your country?
- iii. Who do you think are the possible sources of those challenges? In what way? Probing: Individuals, government, community?
- iv. Is migration a good thing or a bad practice in your judgment? Can you recite some unique cases that you have encountered on your way to RSA?
- v. What was your main destination city/town in RSA? How long did you plan to stay there?
- vi. Did you have a legal status? Did you have freedom of movement there?
- vii. What were the roles of Ethiopian Consulate or Embassies in your migration cycles, when arriving Republic of South Africa or their efforts upon your return to Ethiopia?
- viii. Do you have anything to add or discuss which is relevant to the topics we have raised so far?



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**Appendix II: Interview Guide for Key Informants.**

The objective of this interview guide is to gather information on causes, processes and consequences of Migration from Hossana Town to Republic of South Africa. The information that you are going to provide has significant role with regards to achieving the objectives of this study. Therefore, you are kindly requested to provide accurate information as much as possible. I confirm you that all data given by you will be used for only academic purposes and will be treated confidentially.

**Thank you very much for your cooperation.**

1. How do you explain the problems of illegal migration of youth from Hossana to Republic of South Africa? What do the legal frameworks say about it?
3. What do you think are factors that attracted youths to migrate to South Africa?
4. Do you think that migration to Republic of South Africa has any positive values on the lives of migrants, households and community/in your locality/ at large? If so, in what ways?
5. Do you think that migration to Republic of South Africa has distortive effects on the lives of migrants, households and community/in your locality/ at large? If so, what are these?
6. Are there illegal brokers here? What measures did you take to limit their activities?
7. Can you explain what you have done so far to mitigate illegal migration to Republic of South Africa? What are the roles of stakeholders in controlling the illegal movements? What were some challenges faced in this process?

8. What do you suggest to be done in the future so as to mitigate this societal problem? Probing from community side, from government side, from migrants' perspectives?

9. Do you have anything to add or discuss which is relevant to the topics we have raised so far?





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**Appendix III: Interview Guide for Focus Group Discussions**

The objective of this interview guide is to gather information on causes, processes and consequences of Migration from Hossana Town to Republic of South Africa. The information that you are going to provide has significant role with regards to achieving the objectives of this study. Therefore, you are kindly requested to provide accurate information as much as possible. I confirm you that all data given by you will be used for only academic purposes and will be treated confidentially.

**Thank you very much for your cooperation.**

**General information:**

- ❖ Discussion date.....
- ❖ Number of discussants.....
- ❖ Type of participants .....
- ❖ Name: 1<sup>st</sup> ..... 2<sup>st</sup> ..... 3<sup>st</sup> ..... 4<sup>st</sup> ..... 5<sup>st</sup> .....  
6<sup>st</sup> ..... 7<sup>st</sup> ..... 8<sup>st</sup> ..... 9<sup>st</sup> ..... 10<sup>st</sup> .....
- ❖ Age: 1st ..... 2st ..... 3st ..... 4st ..... 5st .....  
6st ..... 7st ..... 8st ..... 9st ..... 10st .....
- ❖ Moderator.....

1. How do you explain the problems of illegal migration of youth from Hossana to Republic of South Africa?

2. What do you think are the contributing factors which influenced youth migration to South Africa?

3. What do you think are factors that attracted youths to migrate to South Africa?
4. Do you think that migration to Republic of South Africa has any positive values on the lives of migrants, households and community/in your locality/ at large? If so, in what ways?
5. Do you think that migration to Republic of South Africa has distortive effects on the lives of migrants, households and community/in your locality/ at large? If so, what are these?
6. Are there illegal brokers here? If so, who are the participants in this process?
7. What measures did concerning bodies have been taking to limit the activities of illegal brokers? Do you believe that these measures are bringing significant changes?
8. What do you suggest to be done in the future so as to mitigate this societal problem? Probing from community side, from government side, from migrants' perspectives?
9. Do you have anything to add or discuss which is relevant to the topics we have raised so far?

### **Declaration**

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and it has never been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources of material used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Name: Getahun Mishamo Gujabo

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This thesis is submitted for examination with my approval as an advisor of the candidate.

Advisor's Name: Dr. Tesfaye Zeleke

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: June, 2016