

**ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES
FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO ETHIOPIA, A CASE OF RETURNEES IN ADDIS
ABABA, ADDIS KETEMA SUB-CITY**

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fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Social work**

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled “ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RETIEGRATION OF RETURNEES FROM SAUDI AREBIA TO ETHIOPIA, A CASE OF RETURNEES IN ADDIS ABABA, ADDIS KETEMA SUBCITY” submitted by me for the partial fulfilment of the MSW to Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to another institution for the fulfilment of the requirement for any other programme of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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ACRONYMS

IOM - International Organization for Migration

RMMS - Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

EU - European Union

UNOCHA - United Nation office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

ICHRP - International Council on Human Rights Policy

AVRR - Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

USAID - United States Agency for International Development

ACP - African Caribbean and Pacific

ILO - International Labor Organization

FDRE - Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

PEA - Private Employment Agency

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

NISS - National Intelligence and Security Service

MoLSA - Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

MoWCA - Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

TVET - Technical Vocational and Education Training

COC - Certification of Competence

ABSTRACT

This thesis which is entitled “Assessment of Socio-Economic Reintegration of Returnees from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia, a Case of Returnees in Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema Sub City” has been carried out with an objective to explore the socio-economic reintegration of returnees from Saudi Arabia in Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema Sub City, to identify their needs and investigate the socio-economic challenges faced during the reintegration process. The research has employed a qualitative research method and purposive random sampling was used in selecting the research participants. The study has used different tools during the investigation that include both interview, focus group discussion and document analysis. During the study major challenges include lack of effective coordination, duplication of efforts, and lack of clarity on mandate were uncovered. I conclude with recommendations and suggestions to be set out at community/returnee family level and overall stakeholders’ level.

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 Background

Migration is the movement of a person or group of persons, either across an international border, or within a state. It encompasses any kind of movement of people as migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification (IoM, 2015).

Globally, Socio-political, economic and ecological factors are the main forces driving migration. Rising communal violence worldwide, often because of ethnic or religious intolerance, has led to increased level of migration. Economic disparities between developing and developed economies encourage the movement of skilled labour from the former to the latter. Changes in the ecological environment have the potential to worsen food and water resources may push people to migrate to countries where these resources are more readily available over the 21st century (Mervyn Piesse, 2014).

Africa is often seen as a continent of mass displacement and migration caused by poverty and violent conflict. According to Flahaux and De Haas Comparative Migration Studies (2016), refugees and 'people in refugee-like situations' represented 2.4 million or 14 per cent of international migrants in Africa.

Bakewell & Bonfiglio (2013) argued that although it would be impossible to deny the importance of conflict as a cause of (forced) migration in the region, it would 'equally wrong to neglect the ongoing, perhaps mundane social processes that drive mobility such as the search for an education, a spouse or a better life in the city' (Bakewell & Bonfiglio, 2013, p. 4).

The migration of Ethiopian weather internal and external is similar to other African countries due to economic, political and conflict reasons. Ethiopia is one of the world's poorest

countries with per capita income of \$550 is substantially lower than the regional average (World Bank, 2016,). This is one of the push factors for international migration of the country.

Even though Ethiopia has experienced migratory flows throughout its history, the movement of Ethiopian civilians became substantially greater in the late 1960s and 1970s (Berhanu, Kassahun, Seid & Zekarias, 2004). Especially after the 1974 revolution, large migration flows started to arise. Most of the migrants from Ethiopia were refugees, escaping political conflict, famine, and persecution often by their own government (Bariagaber, 1997, De Waal, 1991). The refugees from Ethiopia are depicted as “a mass of fleeing individuals primarily interested in safely and quickly reaching neighbouring countries” (Bariagaber, 1997, p. 27). Motives to flee have changed over time. However, migrants initially fled for political reasons to escape conflict. In later years, the motives of Ethiopian migrants to flee their country shifted to more economic motives (Bariagaber, 1997, p. 27).

The migration situation from 1991 to 2016 has been more worsen comparing pre 1991 in Ethiopia. In urban areas, the high unemployment rates lead to a perpetuated dream of international migration. (Mains, 2007, p. 668).One of largest current international migration flows is Ethiopian women migrating to the Middle East as domestic workers, which also often occurs through trafficking (Sonja Fransen and Katie Kuschminder, 2009)

The profile and methods of international trafficking are similar to internal trafficking. Women trafficked to the Middle East are generally between 20-30 years of age, and children as young as 13 are trafficked (IOM, 2006). The women who leave are living in poverty, and few have completed high school. The majority of women being internationally trafficked are from urban areas, with a large number coming from Addis Ababa. International trafficking often occurs via the same method that internal trafficking does: through brokers who connect to people through facilitations. Again, facilitators are known by the individual and trusted

(IOM, 2006). Due to challenging living and working situations such as lack of knowledge, skills, cultural barriers and language incompetency there are many returnees from different Arab countries to their homeland.

With approximately three million young Ethiopians entering the labour force every year, ensuring productive employment opportunities for them poses a challenge in both rural and urban areas of the country. As a result, growing number of Ethiopians have been looking for job opportunities either in other regions within the country or abroad, through regular and irregular channels (European Union, 2014). The study attempts to indicate the migration causes of migration, the challenges and reintegration processes.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Ethiopia has experienced political instability, war, famine, and economic hardship over the course of its history. These issues characterised the entire Horn of Africa region. As a result, Ethiopia has known many types of migration over the years (Sonja Fransen and Katie Kuschminder, 2009).

Ethiopia is an important country of origin, transit and destination for people in mixed migration flows in the Horn of Africa region. Mixed migration movements into Ethiopia predominantly include refugees, trafficked persons, irregular and economic migrants from neighbouring countries particularly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen (RMMS, 2014).

Current migration patterns in Ethiopia are driven by political violence, poverty, famine, and limited opportunities/war and political violence, ecological degradation, famine and poverty (Sonja Fransen and Katie Kuschminder, 2009).

In addition to a lack of economic opportunities, social factors are playing a role in people's decision to migrate. Pressure from family, elders and religious leaders on young people is common, especially in villages that have seen successful returnees (European Union, 2014).

One of largest current international migration flows is Ethiopian women migrating to the Middle East as domestic workers, which also often occurs through trafficking. Since 2009, about 459,810 legal migrants have left Ethiopia, of whom 94.3% were women domestic workers (European Union, 2014).

The preferred destination of regular migrants is Saudi Arabia (79%), followed by Kuwait (20%) and Dubai (1%). While a minority of men migrate through regular channels due to lack of legal job opportunities, they represent a higher percentage of irregular migrants. According to Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) research conducted in 2014, only about 30-40% of Ethiopians who migrated to the Middle East and Gulf countries in 2012 did so as regular labour migrants meaning that about 60-70% travelled irregularly, with many either trafficked or smuggled (RMMS, 2014).

In November 2013, Saudi Arabia decided to expel irregular migrants, leading to some 163,000, (100,688 male, 53,732 female and 8,598 children), Ethiopian migrants being forcibly repatriated to date. Many have been victims of trafficking, reported harsh treatment in Saudi Arabia, and some have lost most or all of their belongings. Some of the Ethiopian returnees lived in Saudi Arabia for more than two decades and have come back home empty handed. Many returnees were held in detention centres with limited access to meals, public utilities, and a general lack of privacy. Due to the difficult situation in detention centres, many returnees suffered severe medical conditions, such as physical and psychological trauma, psychiatric illness due to gender based violence/ suspected rape and respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia. Hence, returnees arrived with complex economic and

psychosocial problems requiring integrated efforts to reintegrate them effectively. (IOM, 2014)

As of December 2013, IOM has provided post-arrival assistance (including provision of food, water, health support and NFIs) to over 120,000 returnees who started arriving since 13 November 2013. Seven transit centers (Bole Airport, Gerji TC2, Millennium, Kotebe University College, Civil Service University 1 and 2, Addis Ababa Leadership Institute) were opened to accommodate the returnees. Returnees with severe health conditions have been referred for specialized medical assistance and psychosocial support. (The migrant, 2013)

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

The reintegration of returnees in the Ethiopian labour market as well as their reinsertion into their communities and reunification with their families has become a major challenge for the Government of Ethiopia. For instance, committees that was established at sub-city and woreda levels to facilitate reintegration lack coordination and fails to meet the expectations of returnees.

Further, the reintegration committees appear to struggle with budget shortages, poor access to finance and an inability to control illegal brokers. (European Union, 2014)

A lack of adequate support and coordination by government and development actors is creating frustration among the returnees and encouraging re-migration by some of the returnees. (IOM, 2014)

Hence, the reintegration challenges of returnees and the effect of the government's intervention which was aimed at ensuring successful reintegration of the returnees shall be the subject of further scrutiny in this research.

This study is meant to identify challenges or gaps in the reintegration supports made by the government and other stakeholders to these returnees and find ways to sustain their families and contribute to the development of their country.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General objective

The general objective of the study is to assess socio-economic reintegration process for Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia to Addis Ababa to reduce the suffering of the migrants.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- ✓ To explore socio-economic reintegration of returnees of Saudi Arabia to Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema Sub-city.
- ✓ To identify the needs of returnees of Saudi Arabia in the study area.
- ✓ To investigate socio-economic challenges faced during the reintegration process of returnees of Saudi Arabia.

1.4 Research questions

The study tried to answer the following questions:

- 1) What has been done to reintegrate the returnees of Saudi Arabia socially and economically in Addis Ababa?
- 2) What are the needs of returnees of Saudi Arabia in the study area?

3) What are the challenges faced during the reintegration process of returnees of Saudi to the study area?

1.5 Significance of the study

Many Ethiopians flee to Arab countries for the sake of better job opportunities through legal and illegal journey. In November 2013, Ethiopians living in Saudi Arabia were forced to leave Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Consequently, they were tortured, raped, robbed by citizens and governments of Saudi Arabia. After all, the combined efforts of the Ethiopian government and the international organizations made many Ethiopians returned to their homeland. The government and other stakeholders have been engaged in providing post-arrival and reintegration assistance to the returnees such as Emergency medical assistance, Transportation within Addis Ababa and onwards, Cash allowances for reintegration and transportation, Psychological aid, treatment, and referrals, Family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied minors.

The researcher believes a concrete descriptive account and explanation of the socio-economic reintegration process of returnee from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia is helpful to fill existing knowledge gaps and provide insights for policy makers to design appropriate policy to respond to such eventualities. This study gives insight into the impression of the problems related to reintegration of returnees to the local community, government and NGOs as well and professional workers to understand the multidimensional needs of returnees.

The arrival of a large influx of deportees was a very important reminder on the need for policy about migration and deportation. Thus, the study would help pertinent stakeholders in appropriating preparations and reintegration packages in alleviating the various needs and problems of returnees. The study tried to explore best practices of reintegration of returnees from different stakeholders and share experiences for government and non-governmental

organizations. In addition, the assessment hopes to help formulate well-informed and effective strategies to minimize adverse social and economic effects that KSA mass deportation may have in the affected areas. It also seeks to propose sustainable reintegration support targeting the returnees' most pressing needs.

The study has significance to promote social work practice by identifying interventions at macro, mezzo, and micro levels and examine their effects towards successfully reintegrating the returnees into the socio-economic system of their respective communities.

1.6 Operational definition of terms and concepts

Returnee: an irregular migrant who had stayed in the KSA and came back to his country of origin (IOM, 2015).

Reintegration: re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or a process, e.g. of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence (IOM, 2015).

Economic Reintegration: the process by which a migrant is reinstated into the economic system of his or her country of origin, and able to earn his or her own living (IOM, 2015),

Social Reintegration: the reinsertion of a migrant into the social structures of his or her country of origin (IOM, 2015).

Socio-economic reintegration: the process by which a migrant is restored into both the social and economic system of his or her country of origin (IOM, 2015).

Irregular Migrant: is a person who lacks legal status in a transit or host country. It refers to people who entered the territory of the state without authorization, as well as to those who entered the country legally and subsequently lost their permission to remain (IOM, 2015).

Regular Migration: migration that occurs through recognized and authorized channels (IOM, 2015).

1.7 Chapterization of the study

The Chapterization of the study is elucidated in the following way:

Chapter one included an introduction part to the subject matter of the study, nature of the problem, research questions, and objectives of the study and the scope and relevance the study. Chapter two dealt with conceptual framework of the study or related literature review. Chapter three present the research design and methodology of the study. Chapter four focused on the findings of the study based on the analysis of the data gathered using various tools. Chapter five, is the final and left for the conclusion and recommendation part of the study.

Chapter Two: Review of related Literature

2.1 Irregular Migration Defined

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

Koser (2005) indicated that those who enter a given country without having proper authorization; people who stay longer in a country in breach of authority; those who moved in by the help of smugglers or due to human trafficking and those who deliberately violate the asylum system shall be included in the irregular migration. An irregular migrant or otherwise known as a migrant in irregular situation is therefore ‘a person who, owing to unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country’ (IOM, 2011). Thus, in the context of the above given definition, it is not only entering a country without authorization that constitutes the irregular situation upon a person, but also staying in the a country beyond the maximum time allowed in a visa may establish irregular migration, even if the entry has initially occurred through regular migration channels (ICHRP, 2010). On the other hand, the IOM (2011) defined regular migration as a migration that takes place via the recognized or authorized channels.

Generally, the definition of irregular Migration does not have universal standard as various personalities and organizations put different perspectives in the concept based on attributes such as legality and channel of migration, duration in destination, etc.

2.2 Migration situation in Addis Ababa

Saudi Arabia is one of destination countries in Middle East for migrants from all parts of Ethiopia including Addis Ababa. They have been migrating to Saudi Arabia for long time due to many pushing and pulling factors of migration. The migrant uses different means to reach their destination country including regular and irregular migration (Gudetu, 2014).

According to IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programs, the main push factors for migrating are economic problems, peer influence, social and cultural factors such as lack of social services (IOM, 2014).

Among the pull factors, better paying jobs and lucrative informal business sectors are the leading ones. Influence by migrants originating from their locality, mainly family members and friends residing abroad, is also another common pull factor. The high demand for domestic workers in the KSA is a key pull factor for those who use the eastern route (IOM, 2014).

With the help of traffickers and smugglers, irregular migrants from Ethiopia follow three main migratory routes, that is, the Northern, Southern and Eastern routes (IOM, 2014).

Regarding regional share of the returnees, three regions received about 90 per cent of the total returnees. More than 42 per cent of the returnees were from Amhara, 26 per cent from Oromia and 22 per cent from Tigray. Returnees from Addis Ababa City Administration constitute 2.39 % of the total returnees from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A more detailed look at the zones within regions where returnees came from is shown in Figure 1. Accordingly,

Addis Ketema Sub City is grouped under the top 40 zones based on the distribution of the number of returnees per zone/sub-city (IOM, 2014).

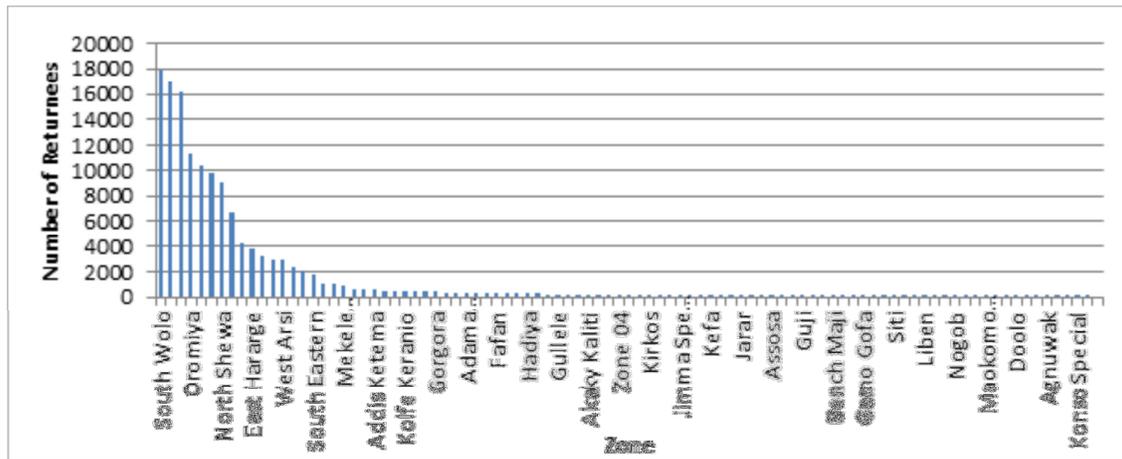


Figure 1 Distribution of returnees per zone / sub-city

2.3 Push and Pull Factors for Irregular Migration

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

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

gender stratification, family disruptions (economic, or marital disruptions), family dysfunctions (caused by drugs, alcohol, or violence), dislocation and displacements caused by civil unrest, conflict, disasters, and domestic violence, rampancy of traffickers, illegal brokers, greedy individuals and illegitimate employment agencies or recruiters among others could be cited.

Palitza (2006, as cited in Abebaw, 2013) pointed out the fast and uneven economic and political advancement, globalization and the accessibility of improved cross-border transportations altogether contributed for the global human trafficking extent to reach the unprecedented level. Moreover, according to the USAID (2007, as cited in Samuel, 2012) in African context, poverty and lack of security have been the major pushing factors that resulted in an epidemic of trafficking throughout the continent.

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

According to Frescura (2006, as cited in Abebaw, 2013) the false promise for support and care, secure employment, nice accommodation, and a better prospect of life were among the common attraction techniques employed by brokers, smugglers and traffickers to convince and trap the vulnerable people who always aspire for better life. Likewise, Horwood (2009, as cited in Samuel, 2012) in his assessment undertaken on Ethiopians residing in the Republic of South Africa found out that among the entire interviewees 52% of them attributed their decision to leave their country of origin to unemployment and lack of promising opportunities.

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

2.4 Overview of Return Migration

There is increasing evidence of frequent return migration globally (Wahba, 2005). There are few countries that have a registration system for return migrants. There is lack of data on the magnitude of return migration and the rate of re-migration, the characteristics of returnees, and the returnees living conditions after return (Go, 2012). The countries use the documentation to track the returnees and provide different services (Houte, 2014).

The return migration to home country could be temporary or permanent. The decision to return is related to structural or individual factors (Martin, 2003). The structural aspect might be linked to the situation of host or home country. Changes in the migration policy and laws or access and demand of labour market in host country may influence migrants' decision to return to their country. Country of origin rehabilitation and reintegration services may also attract migrants to return to their country. On the personal level, age, gender, duration of stay, saving, and family circumstances can be considered as contributing factors for a decision to return (Martin, 2003). In addition, return of migrants is influenced by educational level, and financial capacity. The return migration is also related with returnees' future life in political, social, economic, and cultural aspects in country of origin (Houte, 2014). The positive

contribution of return migration in home countries development is gaining recognition worldwide (Willoughby, 2009). Return migration benefits the home country through remittances, increased productivity, and skills transfers by return migrants. However, return migration cannot automatically contribute to development or benefit home country. To bring the development potential of return migration, sustainable reintegration is essential (Willoughby, 2009). If the returnees couldn't reintegrate to the community successfully, this may lead to waste of potential and productivity (Wahba, 2005). The successfulness of rehabilitation and reintegration efforts might be influenced by the context of return, physical and psychological condition of returnee, and the migrant's experience abroad. Hence, return migration is complex; it is difficult to outline indicators that can be used to measure the sustainability of return.

2.5 International and National Policies on Return Migration

2.5.1 International Policies/Laws

International migration and return migration are major global issues that affect international policy agenda. The rise of migration over the years has an implication for international community to regulate labour migration and protect migrant's rights. There is no international regulatory framework that protects economic migrants. A widely known framework was formulated only to regulate the status of refugees in 1951 (Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees). The other agreement indirectly related to migration is Protocol on the Trafficking of People. It was ratified in 2000 and signed by 129 countries. There is one convention that standardizes the rights of economic migrants and their families (Antonio, 2011). The agreement is called International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It was enacted in 2003 and signed by 33 countries.

2.5.2 National Policies/Laws of Ethiopia

The key laws that are relevant to migrant workers included in international conventions ratified by Ethiopia, FDRE constitution, Criminal Code, and Employment Exchange Services Proclamation.

Ethiopia has ratified international instruments that guarantee the rights of employees and migrants which included International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. According to FDRE Constitution, any international instrument ratified by Ethiopia will be part of national law. Even though, these conventions were signed by Ethiopia, they were not directly implemented due to adaptation procedures (Kebede, 2001). However, the instruments influenced the existing national laws including FDRE constitution and criminal law.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) constitution under Article 18 states that trafficking in persons and inhuman treatment is forbidden (FDRE Constitution, 1994). In addition, Article 32 stipulates that any Ethiopian have a right to leave the country, a right to reside in other country and a right to return to his country (FDRE Constitution, 1994). The Criminal Code also addresses issues related to unlawful sending of Ethiopians for work abroad, trafficking in women and children, and enslavement (FDRE Criminal Code, 2005). The other national law which directly addresses migrant workers is Employment Exchange Services Proclamation 632/2009. The proclamation deals about obligation of private employment agencies (PEA) and establishment of national committee. It lists out the responsibilities and duties of PEAs in sending workers abroad. This proclamation is a good ground to make accountable PEAs as many migrant workers are exposed to abuses by their sponsors and employers. On the other hand, the national committee responsibility is to

protect the rights, safety, and dignity of citizens. In addition, the committee is responsible to ensure the proper implementation of the proclamation; to carry out resettlement programs to returnees; to conduct studies in order to conclude bilateral agreement; to ensure legal action is taken against perpetrators in destination countries; and to ensure persons engaged in unlawful employment exchange are brought to justice (Employment Exchange Proclamation, 2009)

Hence, no international legal framework concerning return migration and reintegration of returnees is established and in practice towards the issue as far as legal environment is concerned. Likewise, specific and comprehensive legal packages dealing with return migration have not be developed in Ethiopia though it has signed International conventions and other legal instruments designed to protect the rights of migrants,. However, some progress such as Employment Exchange Services Proclamation 632/2009 has been witnessed in giving due emphasis to returnee since the expedition of Ethiopian migrants from KSA in 2013.

2.6 Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees

The rehabilitation and reintegration of migrant returnees incorporates psychological, physical, social, and economical aspects. Effective reintegration needs collaboration and cooperation of government institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and communities (Wickham, 2009). The human rights of migrants should be also considered, respected, and protected at all times in return migration program (IOM, 2010).

The types of rehabilitation and reintegration efforts range from micro level to macro level. The micro level assistance includes transportation services and provision of allowance. On the other hand, the macro level effort incorporates a variety of social, educational, and economic support (IOM, 2011).

One of the major issues in return migration is to measure in what extent the return program is sustainable or successful. The contributing factors for effective reintegration program included number returnees, collaboration with the country of origin, community perception towards returnees, the budget allocated for the program, and participation level of returnees in planning and implementation the program. In addition, the role of returnees as a productive member of the community matters in successfulness of reintegration effort (IOM, 2011). The means of return to country of origin also matter to successfully reintegrate migrants. Detention and deportation/involuntary return are one of the ways of return. These practices have become increasing and common in most destination countries (Kleist & Milliar, 2013). Deported migrants are more likely return with empty handed or lost saving and belongings (Kleist & Milliar, 2013). The migrants might or might not have acquired education and skills while they live in destination country. This factor highly contributes to their economic reintegration in their country of origin. The assessment conducted on Ethiopian returnees from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) highlighted that most of the returnees have lower educational level with only 3.4% reached preparatory level or above (Temesgen, 2014). The survey also indicated that only 32% of the returnees have skills that can be used to generate income. In addition, the socio-economic situation of the returnees deteriorated when compared to pre-migration (Temesgen, 2014).

The other major factor in reintegration of returnees is the livelihood challenge. The unplanned return of migrants may create a problem in the financial system of their family. The problem will be aggravated if the families entered into debt to finance the migration (Kleist & Milliar, 2013). In addition, the involuntary return constitutes the end of remittances. Families who have relayed their major income on the remittances will be more affected. Inclusion of these households in reintegration program is vital to avoid livelihood problems (Kleist & Milliar, 2013).

The social aspect of reintegration is also a major concern especially for involuntary returnees. The community might be suspicious about the deportation by giving different assumptions and gossip such as criminal or immoral behaviour abroad (Kleist & Milliar, 2013). Due to these negative feedbacks from the community, returnees may isolate themselves from engaging in social life.

The health condition of involuntary returnees is another matter that should be considered in reintegration process. Returnees may have different health problems including physical and psychological due to their experience of irregular migration and deportation. Some of Ethiopian returnees from KSA have psychological trauma, physical disability and other chronic problems (Temesgen, 2014).

2.7 Reintegration of Returnees

When we speak about the reintegration process for migrant returnees specifically, we are referring to economic and social re-inclusion following the migration experience. This re-inclusion is normally multifaceted and expected to at least occur in social, cultural and economic arenas. In the term reintegration, the prefix “re”, which comes in front of the word integration, basically connotes that the person under consideration was previously integrated and this time, the reintegration assistance is meant only to revive and bring back the previous situation (Brunovskis & Surtees, 2012). The IOM’s Glossary of Migration (2011a) defined the concept reintegration as “Re- inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or a process, e.g. of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence (p. 82). The UNHCR (2004) Handbook for Repatriation and Reintegration Activities defined reintegration as "the achievement of a sustainable return i.e. the ability of returnees to secure the political, economic and social conditions to maintain their life, livelihood and dignity" (p. 4). The International Journal of Refugee Law (2001, as cited in the Asia Foundation, 2005) defined reintegration as “the process of inclusion and rebuilding relationships within a

community in the country of origin at four levels: physical, socio-economic, socio-political, and cultural” (p. 20).

In order for successful reintegration to occur, three elements to be considered:

- 1) Opportunities to become self-sufficient,
- 2) Access to social networks and
- 3) Psychosocial health

Without access to income-generating activities that allows returnees to meet their and their dependents’ basic needs, it is difficult for return to become successful. There are exceptions wherein vulnerable migrants are unable to become self-sufficient, such as in the case of migrants with mental health problems. Nevertheless, in these cases, alternatives guaranteeing returnees’ basic needs will be covered need to be sought (Ruben, Van Houte & Davids, 2009).

Social networks form another important element of reintegration, as these contacts can accompany returnees through the reintegration process by welcoming them back in the community, providing them with information and social capital, and assisting them in difficult situations through safety nets. These networks will also provide emotional support, which is linked to the third element, psychosocial health (European University Institute, 2011).

Migrants’ return might be accompanied by feelings of shame, loss, failure, disorientation, anxiety, insecurity and stress, which will hinder the reintegration process. Poor economic prospects and security concerns will further destabilize the psychosocial well-being of the returnee. It is also important to consider that the person returning is not the same one that left, as the migration experience would have shaped who he or she is. Psychosocial support may

help the returnee to readjust and become reinserted in the society of his or her country of origin.

While reintegration projects should, therefore, aim at addressing all three elements described above, financial constraints or lack of coordination with local actors often impedes this. Psychosocial support, which should begin pre-return, often needs close follow-up, and facilitating reinsertion into social network in the country of origin will likely require previous work with family members, neighbours and community leaders. Both processes demand time and money (especially when more remote locations are concerned) and must be led primarily by the country of origin, where the migrant will return and undergo the process of reintegration.

Another indispensable component for successful reintegration is the migrant's motivation, ownership and active participation in the reintegration process. Therefore, pre-departure and post-arrival counselling, information sharing and individually targeted support are vital. In addition, the extent of successful reintegration also depends on the migration experience itself; the amount of time spent abroad, the conditions that influenced the return decision and the situation in the country of origin (J.P. Cassarino Jean, 2009).

The situations in the country of origin include the economic conditions, the political and social stability and security of the country, and the availability of social networks. In the case of migrants who were trafficked or subjected to exploitation by criminal actors, successful reintegration measures also, need to include certain other elements, such as the mitigation of security risks. This also needs to be considered for migrants who left the country due to threats to personal security, such as gang violence. However generous reintegration assistance may be, they will not be able to reintegrate as long as violence persists (Carim East, 2013).

With regard to the return decision, readiness to return and a freely taken decision support the reintegration process. Readiness is often linked to savings and/or experiences earned abroad that facilitate reintegration in the country of origin. The longer the migration period and the fewer the personal links to the home country, the more difficult the reintegration process will be and more support will be needed for it to be successful (Carim East, 2013).

2.8 Economic Reintegration

2.8.1 Background

According to the IOM's (2011) definition, economic reintegration is the process by which a migrant is reinstated into the economic system of his or her country of origin, and able to earn his or her own living. According to Surtees (2012) within the context of reintegration, economic empowerment is all about returnees equipping themselves with the skills, resources and confidence to economically support themselves and their families and, in the longer term, contributing to the economic well-being of their communities. Surtees indicated that the typical integral components of economic empowerment program may incorporate vocational training, job placement, micro-enterprises or income-generating activities, business training and business start-up support (Surtees, 2012).

Assistance to returnees upon their arrival in countries of origin generally consists of reception, inland transportation and reintegration assistance, as well as return monitoring and evaluation. In addition to basic post-return assistance, varieties of responses have been developed in order to ensure the appropriate delivery of reintegration assistance geared towards the promotion of economic reintegration. Nevertheless, the existence of a stable political and socioeconomic environment is an important factor contributing to the sustainable reintegration of migrants. It is thus imperative for reintegration projects to contribute to addressing the root causes of irregular migration and to incorporate the development or reconstruction needs of communities of return, especially where return takes

place in a post-conflict/stabilization environment (Ana Fonseca, Laurence Hart and Susanne Klink, 2015).

Economic reintegration forms the basis for the self-sufficiency of the returnee. Feelings of belonging in the country of origin and defining a new identity depend on providing for oneself and one's family, as well as on access to housing, health care, and other services enjoyed by the wider population. IOM carried out a reintegration project in India for young women who had been forcibly prostituted and were thereafter ostracized by their communities. Through a joint project with private companies, local government and civil society, these victims of trafficking were able to develop profitable businesses. As breadwinners, they were gradually accepted back into their communities (Carim East, 2013).

2.8.2 Challenges to Economic Reintegration

Despite its importance and the amount of resources devoted to facilitating economic reintegration, certain challenges recur regardless of the context in which it takes place. The skill set of the returning migrant may not be well matched to the economy in his or her home community, and, depending on his or her personal networks, he or she may not have easy pathways to enter the private sector. Moreover, depending on the amount of time spent away, economic activity in the community of return may be drastically different compared to when the migrant left it. Creating a sustainable livelihood can also be difficult as a result of structural challenges in the country of origin. Labour markets may be underdeveloped in communities of return, and economic opportunities may be low for the population as a whole, not just for returnees (Ana Fonseca, Laurence Hart and Susanne Klink, 2015).

2.9 Social reintegration

2.9.1 Background

Strategies such as group reintegration projects and building returnee networks greatly contribute to the social reintegration of returnees who have little to no social network upon their return to the country of origin. Group reintegration projects not only contribute to the economic betterment of returnees and the surrounding community, but also provide a social support structure for them. Returnee networks are important because of the shared experiences of returnees, but it is also important to consider methods of integrating returnees into the wider community to prevent them from becoming too insular. Migrant resource centres that cater to migrants in destination countries, such as the “House of Rights” in Costa Rica, facilitate events and provide services, such as socio cultural activities, legal and psychological support, for the community that address common interests (www.desamparados.go.cr/index.php/2012-07-06-20-07-58).

2.9.2 Challenges to Social Reintegration

Returnees are not always perceived positively by those who have never migrated. Tension can develop between local populations who persevered through poverty, conflict or crisis and populations who left in search of better living and economic conditions.

Moreover, competition for social standards and roles, which may have changed during the absence of the returnee, can increase tensions between local populations and returnees receiving financial reintegration assistance. In addition, stakeholders involved in social reintegration – host governments, governments of countries of origin, civil society and the community of return – are diverse and may be difficult to coordinate.

Returnees must also cope with a changed support structure in their community of return. A returnee’s family and social networks often change while he or she is abroad, especially over

long periods of time. Therefore, returnees often need to rebuild their networks, which are important for social capital, information, safety nets and access to the job market.

This is especially crucial for vulnerable migrants or migrants who have survived violence, for example, trafficking in persons (Ana Fonseca, Laurence Hart and Susanne Klink, 2015).

2.10 International Rehabilitation and Reintegration Support Schemes for Returnees

Voluntary and forcible return has positive and negative implications on the life of returnees respectively. Voluntary return by itself is an empowering process for migrants as the decision doesn't come from outsiders. Moreover, migrants will have ample time to prepare emotionally and financially. On the other hand, compulsory return puts migrants in a difficult situation especially in economic and social reintegration. Economic reintegration would be difficult for deported returnees as they might not have good preparation financially to fulfil basic needs upon return. Social reintegration is also difficult since there is long separation with family members, friends, and community members. In addition, female returnees may have additional burden in taking care of children and supporting families.

There are various rehabilitation and reintegration support schemes for returnees implemented around the world. IOM (2012) in its assessment report indicated that the Vietnamese government provides the following reintegration supports for the identified trafficking survivors: support for essential needs and travelling fees, medical support, temporary shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance, educational or vocational training assistance, loan facilitation and short term allowances meant to overcome financial difficulties (p. 22). IOM's assessment also revealed that international organizations are involved in the provision of reintegration support like counselling, education, legal aid, vocational training, and grants based on individual reintegration plan. Normally, the reintegration plan contains options for education, vocational training, income generation activities, and it is designed in such a way that trafficking survivors are supported to realize their self-set reintegration goals. (p. 23). In

Philippines, the reintegration program has two major elements that are psychosocial and economic support (Go, 2012). The psychosocial component includes family counselling and stress debriefing. The economic element incorporates community based income-generating projects, skills training and credit lending. In Sri Lanka, the reintegration and return scheme includes providing a migrant worker card to returnees to enable priority access to services; providing assistance services at airport; guidance and skills for reintegration; exemption of tax for certain period for returnees' involved in small business enterprises; developing an ward scheme for outstanding migrants; and providing special benefits to children of migrants workers, such as admission to school and education benefits. These schemes were developed in consultation with stakeholders (Rambukwella, 2008).

2.11 Previous Studies on Reintegration Challenges

In a nut shell, multifaceted features may account for challenges of reintegration. According to Surtees (2012) a number of factors could be considered as impediments to reintegration, among which mainly the economic, social, cultural and political factors of the country where the reintegration activity is undertaken may assume the front position (p. 3). Hence, in this particular section an attempt shall be made to shed light on the challenges of reintegration as pointed out by various previous studies. As far as the push factors for irregular migration are concerned, different studies confirmed that economic reasons are placed at the forefront in leading people towards migration (Kanko, Bailey, & Teller, 2013; Abebaw, 2013; ILO, 2013; Samuel, 2012). Thus, in order to ensure successful reintegration, returnees who had been forced to migrate initially due to economic problems should be able come back to an improved economic situation in their country of origin. In line with this, most of the underneath discussed studies gave special emphasis to the economic challenges encountered by the returnees in their reintegration endeavours. Tukhashvili (2013) conducted a study, which was aimed at finding out the socio-economic problems of returning migrant's

reintegration in Georgia. In the study, the researcher indicated that among others, the economic and social challenges to which the returnees came back in their country of origin affected the likelihood of having successful reintegration and many of them could not find employment or employed in unfair working conditions. Furthermore, the researcher uncovered the greater possibility of witnessing remigration of the returnees who have faced reintegration challenges.

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

Kato (2007) studied the reintegration of Thai Female returnees having children from Japan. In this study, the researcher tried to qualitatively analyze the overall reintegration process and challenges of returnees based on the case studies of women returnees in the Chang Rai province of Thailand. The study indicated that the returnees faced numerous reintegration challenges mostly attributed to lack of skills, and absence of any socio-economic assistance in the province. In her research, Kato uncovered the extra-burden expected of those returnees who came back having children in the course of the reintegration process than women returnees without children. The research indicated the fact that the women returnees at the outset was forced to decide to return due to their pregnancy to their Japanese partner while they were in Japan. Owing to their illegal residence status in Japan, they were not eligible to access the benefits of the country's health care system, which triggered them to return to their country of origin. Finally, the research shown that none of the women returnees who came

back having children managed to get secure employment opportunities in Thailand and some of them left to live on the money sent to them from their Japanese partners and former husbands. Still, these groups of returnees were in a better position for reintegration than women returnee with children having no remittances and identified husbands in Japan.

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

Chaulagai (2009) studied the Nepalese trafficked women's experiences and perception of their reintegration. He conducted a qualitative exploratory study aimed at finding out the major hurdles underlying in the reintegration of trafficking survivors back to their community of origin in Nepal. In the course of conducting the study, the researcher gathered data via 18 in-depth interviews and six focus group discussions with actual trafficking survivors and key informant interviews from some NGOs. The study revealed that the stigma coming from the local community and the surrounding family members against the trafficking survivors was the principal obstacle for the reintegration process because the indigenous community considered survivors as "loose women, community polluters, and destroyers of social prestige and blamed them for being prospective traffickers." The study further indicated that the self-stigmatization of the trafficking survivors was also the other contributing factor impeding the overall efficacy of the reintegration process. The study pointed out that working towards the realization of economic independence for survivors would be highly beneficial and a crucial step in making the overall reintegration process a worthy endeavour to undertake.

Adhikari (2011) attempted to investigate the reintegration challenges and experiences of women returnees employing self-identity, social stigma, and empowerment as the guiding

social theories. The findings indicated that domestic violence, sexual and verbal abuses, inadequate and inconsistent income source made the reintegration process so bumpy. As well, the negative attitude or stereotype originating from the community and enduring stigmatization have not only resulted in disempowerment and unsuccessful reintegration, but further brought to the survivors a feeling of shame, humiliation, and disgrace.

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

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

Chapter Three: Research Design and Methodology

3.1 Research Design of the study

Qualitative research design was used in the course of undertaking this research. As Royse (2004) indicated, qualitative research paradigm is suitable to acquire thorough and rich comprehension of the subject matter to be investigated. In line with this theoretical assertion, this study employed a qualitative cross-sectional methodological approach in view of assessing the socio-economic reintegration of returnees from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Addis Ababa.

To this end, the study deployed a qualitative method of data collection tools of in-depth interview and observation. The data is presented qualitatively using description. However, a quantitative presentation of data is applied on presenting the background of the participants through tables that employed frequency and percentage. This is done to maintain clarity of the background data of the participants.

3.2 Description of Study Area

The research site for this specific study is one of the most densely populated Sub-Cities of Addis Ababa, Addis Ketema. Addis Ababa is one of the most populated cities situated at the heart of Ethiopia with an estimated population of 3,384,569 according to the 2007 population census, with annual growth rate of 3.8 % (CSA, 2008). This number has been increased from the originally published 2,738,248 figure and appears to be still largely underestimated. The city has ten sub cities including the main target of the study, Addis Ketema Sub-City.

Regarding returnees of KSA, returnees from Addis Ababa City Administration constitute 2.39 % of the total returnees from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Besides, the study area constituted the highest share of returnees in the City. Hence, Addis Ketema Sub City is

grouped under the top 40 zones based on the distribution of the number of returnees per sub-city (IOM, 2014).

3.3 Universe of the study

This study covered 229 Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia to Addis Ketema Sub-City of Addis Ababa City Administration.

3.4 Sampling

Purposive random sampling was used in this study. This technique is widely used in qualitative research to identify and select individuals or group of individuals who are knowledgeable about study interest (Creswell, 2002). There are numerous designs of purposeful sampling that ranges from criterion based to convenience (Palnikas, Hortwit, & Green, 2013). Thus, the factors, which were considered in selecting the sample, include being returnees from KSA and accessibility or experience to any socio-economic reintegration programs.

As far as the size of the research participant was concerned, 143 returnees were included as research participants. The sampling is based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970), who provided a table in which no calculations are needed to determine the size of the sample. Moreover, the study participants consists of returnees from various socio-demographic background such as male, female, married, divorced, single, and from diverse age and educational background etc. In addition, eight participants from families of returnees and another eight participants from line stakeholders were represented during two separate FGDs.

3.5 Sampling Method

The research participants were selected purposively taking into account the participants' relevance towards meeting the objective of the research. Each of the research participant's in in-depth interview was selected in line with sample selection criteria. These include:

Migrant Saudi Arabia Returnee who was amongst the recent mass deportees.

A returnee who was living in Addis Ketema Sub-City of Addis Ababa at the time of his/her participation in this particular research.

Thus, three groups of participants were selected because they are the main actors in the rehabilitation and reintegration process. The three groups included returnees from KSA, their families and institution representatives.

3.6 Data Collection Tools and Procedures

3.6.1 Interview Guide

Before starting the data collection, interview-guiding questions were developed for in-depth interview purpose. The items embodied in the guiding questions were first prepared in English and then translated into the national language (Amharic) since the interview was conducted with Amharic speaking informants. This in turn, helps to establish a sense of trust and mutual understanding among research participants in the study.

In-depth interview was employed with returnees to identify how the reintegration helps to improve the lives of returnees and to identify major challenges in support services and assistance. In addition, the interview has helped to get a detail insight on the situation of female returnees. It also enabled the researcher to get as much information as possible from the informants' experiences.

The interview was conducted with selected returnees from KSA in Addis Ketema Sub-City in Addis Ababa who were selected in line with sample selection criteria discussed earlier in this chapter.

3.6.2 Observation Guide

The researcher tried to observe the situation of returnees at working and living place. To this end, observation guide was first prepared and employed during the observation. A close study of the livelihood of the returnee was conducted. In addition, the physical condition, their health status, and the interest towards the occupation were also observed.

Observation sheet was prepared to record or gather information on the surrounding environment, personal and environmental hygiene and housing conditions of the returnees.

3.6.3 Focus Group Guide

Three separate FGDs with families of returnees, government stakeholders and non-government stakeholders were conducted to assess and analyze the existing assistance, services, beneficiaries' participation, and improvement in the living condition of the target groups. The stakeholders composed of Women and Children Affairs, Micro and Small Enterprises Development, Social and Labour Affairs and Youth and Sport Offices.

3.6.4 Document analysis

The primary data collected using above methods of data collection was substantiated reviewing the secondary sources of information. The materials that were used in this case include both published and unpublished reports from local government offices and non-government organizations in relation to socio-economic reintegration of returnees in the study area.

3.7 Data Processing

The data is presented qualitatively using description. However, a quantitative presentation of data is applied on presenting the background of the participants through tables that employed

frequency and percentage. This is done to maintain clarity of the background data of the participants.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Adequate information and explanation were given to all participants about the whole purpose and intent of the study, actual and potential benefit of the research. Written informed consent was also acquired before starting the in-depth interviews and FGDs. In addition, to ensure the degree of confidentiality names of the participants were changed by code numbers. The code was used to conceal the identity of participants and to protect their privacy, as it is an important part of protecting research participants' anonymity (Marvasit, 2004).

The researcher respected professional integrity through exclusively including study participants views and experience as they expressed in the interviews. Factual accuracy was also ensured by avoiding suppression or misinterpretation of data. The interpretation of the data was made carefully to respect the validity of the findings.

Chapter Four: Results and Analysis

The study findings are presented in this chapter. The data was gathered through in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions, and observation. Overall, this chapter provides data presentation that included background information and description of major themes.

4.1 Description of participant background

Table 1 Age and Sex Distribution of Participants

| Age categories | Sex | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| | Male | | Female | |
| | Frequency | % | Frequency | % |
| Below20 | - | - | - | - |
| 21-28 | 16 | 11 | 43 | 30 |
| 29-38 | 31 | 21 | 53 | 37 |
| Above 45 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 47 | 33 | 96 | 67 |

Source: Own Survey 2016

The above Table 1 shows that out of the total participants (143) of in-depth interview, 96(67%) were females and the rest 47(33%) returnees were males. The current age of the study participants ranges from 21 – 38. The participants’ age at migration ranges from 16 – 28; this age bracket shows that some of the migrants were underage for employment and it also reflects child labour exploitation.

On the other hand, there were eight participants from families of returnees and six participants representing Addis Ketema Sub-City Women and Children Affairs, Micro and Small Enterprises Development, Social and Labour Affairs and Youth and Sport Offices who participated in FGDs.

From the above table, it is shown that the participants migrated to Saudi Arabia at young age. Besides, the participants are young and in productive age group currently. As far as the sex of participants are concerned, female returnees constituted the majority of the participants in the study.

The highest duration of stay in Saudi Arabia was 12 years and the lowest was 1 year and 7 months.

Table 2 Social Variables of Respondents

| Social Variables | | Numbe | Percent |
|---|--|--------------|----------------|
| Current occupation status of returnees | Self-employed | 49 | 34.3 |
| | Employed in government and private organizations | 11 | 7.7 |
| | Unemployed | 83 | 58 |
| | Total | 143 | 100 |
| Marital status before migration | Married | 23 | 26.1 |
| | Divorced | 8 | 5.6 |
| | Single | 112 | 78.3 |
| | Total | 143 | 100 |
| Level of education before migration | Illiterate | - | - |
| | primary (1-8) | 89 | 62 |
| | High school(9-10) | 43 | 30 |
| | Preparatory (11-12) | 11 | 8 |
| | Total | 143 | 100 |

Source: Own survey 2016

Assessing the current occupation of returnees, 49 participants (34.3%) are self-employed, and 11 participants (7.7%) are employed in government and private organizations. The rest 83 participants (58%) are unemployed.

The relationship status before return indicated that 112 participants (78.3%) were single, 23 participants (16.1%) were married and eight participants (5.6%) were divorced. Currently, most of the participants' (82.5%) marital status is either single or divorced.

All of the study participants were enrolled within formal education system. Accordingly, 89 participants (62%) were in primary education level (1-8), 43 participants (30%) were in secondary education level (9 - 10) whereas 11 respondents (8%) completed grade 12th.

Concerning educational background, the above figure shows that the study participants have low educational levels. Thus, Migrants with lower qualifications are more likely to engage in jobs that requires low skills. It also hinders migrants from easily adopting destination country work and social environments. Moreover, this may challenge the reintegration interventions as skill trainings and small businesses require returnees' academic knowledge and competence of skills to make them productive.

With regards to marital status, it is shown that most returnees are currently either single or divorced. Migration partially affects family cohesion especially for women.

4.2 Respondents' View on Main Causes for Migration

There are different underlying factors that may lead people towards migration.

Table 3 Cases of Migration

| | | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Cause of migration | Unemployment | 25 | 17% |
| | search for better lives | 42 | 29% |
| | lack of opportunities | 34 | 24% |
| | Poverty | 21 | 15% |
| | Family & Friends' Pressure | 13 | 9% |
| | following promises by smugglers | 8 | 6% |
| | | 143 | 100% |

Source: Own survey 2016

In relation to cause for migration, economic problem took the leading position of the underlying reasons of the migration to KSA. Accordingly, search for better lives was mentioned by 42(29%) participants followed by lack of opportunities and unemployment that

was mentioned by 34 (24%) and 25(17%) participants. Poverty, Family & Friends' Pressure and following promises by smugglers were also attributed for the cause of migration by 21(15%), 13(9%) and 8 (6%) participants.

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

Similarly, representatives from MSED and WCYAs also asserted that the government has identified economic factors as the main reasons for migration from various discussion forums with returnees, community representatives and stakeholders and has been working to do away with that.

4.3 Returnees Experience before Deportation

Only 9 (6.3%) of the study participants had legal status before travelling to Saudi Arabia. The rest 134 (93.7%) participants migrated to Saudi without having legal documents. One of the study participant said that "I went to Saudi Arabia to celebrate *Haji* and *Umra* holiday and stayed there for 12 years without having legal documents". Migrants lost their legal status after quitting job with first employer. This is due to employers usually held their employees passports and refuse to give back when requested.

Another study participant explained that she ran away from first employer because of repetitive assignment to extend work for their relatives and friend. In addition, study participants suffered from psychological abuse, physical violence, long working hours, confining in a room, refusing to pay salary, withholding foods, and attempt to kill.

4.4 Deportation Process of Returnees

The study participants explained that deportation of migrants started immediately after Saudi Arabia government grant period for regularization of migration status elapsed. Saudi Arabia government used to announce a simple warning on expulsion of illegal migrants from the country in previous time. Study participants described that “in November 2013, when the government informed illegal migrants’ to leave the country, we thought it was a simple warning and didn’t prepare for it”. The deportation process involved taking illegal migrants from houses and streets to detention centres. Returnees were not able to collect their salary and belongings due to the immediate actions were taken by police officers.

Returnees were detained from fifteen days to one month before returning to Ethiopia. In detention centres, access to food, water, and latrine was limited. Study participants explained that they were detained in open field in harsh weather and uncomfortable situation. While residing in open field, they get robbed by strangers’/gangs at night. As the informants indicated bad treatment by police officers and not knowing the exact return date had negatively affected returnees’ psychological wellbeing. There were also migrants with severe physical and mental problems.

One participant said “there was rape against female migrants by strangers/gangs, and we have gone through harsh experience during the deportation process”.

In addition, another participant mentioned her experience as follows:

I used to send money to my family by using informal financial system. There was a shop owner around a place where I had been working. I used this system to save and send money since the beginning. When the deportation began, the shop owner denied taking around 20,000 ETB from me. Moreover, I was not able to bring my cloths and belongings.

Data from FGD participant from WCAs office confirms that women returnees were empty handed when they came to Ethiopia. He/she further explained that “there were returnees with

physical and mental health problem”. The returnees’ hygiene condition was pointed out as a problem. There were pregnant women and women with more than two children. Victims of trafficking were also one of the segments from the returnees. In addition, representative from OSLA explained returnees’ situation as follows:

We have witnessed returnees who came empty handed. Most of them had mental health problem. They were aggressive and engage in dispute and conflict with other beneficiaries in temporary shelters. Some of them didn’t get their salary and belongings. Others were raped by their employers, strangers when they were living in streets due to lose of job in Saudi. The money they brought with them ranged from 10 – 500 Riyadh. Lack of adequate medical treatment and suffering and maltreatment in detention centres deteriorated their psychological and health condition.

4.5 Actors’ Role in Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Returnees

To deal with the emergency situation, taskforce was established by government at federal level. The taskforce included Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Security, National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth, Women and Children (MOYCA), Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister Office, IOM and other CSOs.

At Addis Ababa level, BoLSA at City, Sub-City and woreda level is directly in charge for overall rehabilitation and reintegration support of returnees. During the emergency, the Bureau recruited youth volunteers; established temporary reception centres; and provided accommodation, food and medical treatment.

BoMSED is responsible to arrange vocational trainings, business start-up loan and shed/working place for returnees.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responsible to assist the return of migrants to country of origin. The organization assisted migrants with providing transportation

allowance, food, shelter, and non-food items including blankets and soaps. In addition, post arrival health assistance was provided in collaboration with government health team.

Non-government organization like Agar Ethiopia had a role of rehabilitation and reunification of female returnees with severe mental health problem. The organization provided shelter, food, clothing, counselling, medical treatment and skill training. Moreover, the agency reunified returnees with families after they gained their mental health.

4.6 Rehabilitation and Reintegration Supports Offered to Returnees

Following the Saudi Arabian government's crackdown on the irregular migrants nearly over one hundred sixty thousand Ethiopians were evicted forcefully and most of these returnees have received various rehabilitation and reintegration assistances.

The government, non-governmental organizations and international intergovernmental organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other stakeholders provided the assistances. During the start of the mass eviction, the government of Ethiopia has allotted a considerable amount of budget and availed various assistances for the returnees. Thus, the government has allotted 50 million Birr for the reintegration of the returnees (UNOCHA, 2013).

The information gathered from participants indicated that the reintegration support provided for returnees included food, water, shelter, non-food items, counselling, skill training, shed/working place and start-up capital as form of loan.

According to the FGD participant at the Addis Ketema Labour and Social Affairs, although the mass deportation of citizens was not anticipated ahead of time, the FDRE Government and the City Government of Addis Ababa allotted significant budget which was aimed at ensuring successful reunification and reintegration of Saudi Arabia returnees in their country of origin. Among others, official welcoming ceremony was held at the Bole international

airport, seven days psychological training aimed at bringing attitudinal change on returnees was offered, skill trainings on various income generating business or vocational fields were given based on the interest of individual returnees, organizing and engaging returnees through micro & small enterprises, start-up loan facilitation from Addis credit and finance institution and availing of working sheds or business centres for organized returnees could be mentioned as the major interventions of the city government.

According to FGD participants from WCAs office, on-government organization and health facilities provided a rehabilitation service for returnees with mental and physical health problems and reintegrated them to the community. Most of returnees with simple mental health problem were rehabilitated in short period of time. The returnees with severe mental health problem got medical support from Amanuel Hospital. One participant indicated that returnees with physical health problem such as spinal cord injury, broken arms, broken legs, and half-paralyzed have medical treatment and follow up. They were treated with physiotherapy treatment and medications.

Study participants took psychosocial training for five days. The training was conducted for 2000 returnees at the same time. The training content incorporated topics related to how returnees can change their life in Ethiopia. These include coping up methods, life skill training, possible opportunities to pursue their future life etc. During the training, there was a discussion between government officials and returnees on reintegration efforts.

All of the study participants were enrolled in different government Technical, Vocational, Education, and Training (TEVT) colleges immediately after the psychosocial training. The skill trainings were on sewing, business skill, shoes making, food preparation, hairdressing, wood work, poultry, fattening cattle, marketing, and others. The trainings were conducted based on returnees interest. The average time for the training was from one and half to two

months. Social and Labour Affairs representative described that during the training, Officers were following up returnees' progress. The trainees took Certification of Competence (COC) exam after they completed the skill training.

After completion of training, Small and Micro Finance Enterprise supported returnees to form small business cooperatives and provided loan for business start-up. The average loan provided for one business cooperative ranges from 20,000 to 50,000 ETB. Shed/working place was provided for returnees who completed the skill trainings. Half of study respondents started a small restaurant business in the shed provided by the enterprise. The rest of participants didn't start a business due to the poor infrastructures of working places.

Participant returnees have appreciated the government and other non-governmental stakeholders' initiative for the warm welcoming they were given upon their arrival and the reintegration assistances that have been provided to them. Besides, the entire participant returnees verified that they had received the short term reintegration assistances and still, most of them also stated that they have been receiving long term reintegration assistances from the government.

In this regard, amongst the research participant returnees, Fekadu's post- return experiences could be worth noting here:

Like any other returnees, as part of the short-term reintegration assistance, Fekadu had received a week long psychological training; he was given \$50.00 which was around 900 Ethiopian birr for transportation from the IOM Office in Addis Ababa. As part of the long-term reintegration assistances, he received skill training in Food Preparation which was his area of interest and also exactly a field that he used to engage in while he was in the KSA. Moreover, he was offered the chance to sit for COC exam in which he managed to pass, he has also got the opportunity to be organized in micro & small enterprises to involve in the

field he received skill training on, being together with other returnees and also got start-up loan facilities from the micro finance known to be Addis Credit and Saving S.C.

4.7 Strengths and Limitations of Service Providers

The main strength of service providers is the provision of skills training, loan arrangement, and shed/working place. It was stated as the most valuable aspect of reintegration effort. Representative of Micro and Small Enterprise Development Office expressed that *“the major strength was the government commitment to effectively reintegrate the returnees”*. He further elaborated that *“the government has tried its best to support the returnees in every aspect”*.

Government officer from Addis Ketema Sub City Labour and Social Affairs Office stated that *“there was high motivation and interest from service providers to support returnees when they came to Ethiopia”*. There was also an attempt by service providers to stop secondary movement through awareness raising and community conversation activities.

According to FGD held with Women and Children Affairs Officer expressed that *“allowing returnees to stay in the shelter until they rehabilitated and family members found was an important aspect of service provision”*. Strong support for the reunification of returnees with their family members was mentioned as one of the strengths.

Despite the afore-mentioned strengths in providing socio-economic reintegration assistance, returnees have faced multifaceted challenges. Among the various challenges, the returnees of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have faced the following major reintegration challenges:

4.7.1 Economic Challenge

As per the confirmation of the participant returnees, if not the worst, they came back to the same economic situation which they had left previously. In accordance with the claim of all research participant returnees, even after their return, in spite of the government's support, the

economic challenge which had led them to the migration in the first place still has continued to hamper their attempt to successfully reintegrate. In the course of post-return reintegration endeavour, the following points were indicated by the participant returnees as the major factors which were contributing to their economic challenges.

4.7.2 Difficulty to Earn Sustainable Income

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

Those returnees who have been organized and started business indicated the fact that the vast majority of the incomes generated by their business goes to the repayment of the start-up loan and due to this, they could not get an income to live on. Most of them testified that this time they are living by expending the money they have brought back from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Some of them asserted that they are living on the irregular financial support they are getting from the family members and friends here and back in the KSA. Some of them attributed their failure to get regular and adequate personal income to the fact that they gave priority to the repayment of the loan they have received as a start-up capital from the micro-finance. Here, Kebede's lived experience would be worth considering. According to his assertion, after getting skill training in food preparation, he started a cafe and restaurant business being organized with ten other returnees after having secured one hundred thousand birr as a start-up loan from the Addis Credit and Finance S.C. However, as per the loan procedure's requirement, they are supposed to regularly pay 5,000.00 (five thousand birr) as a loan repayment every month. Nevertheless, in the end, after having discharged the challenging loan repayment commitment, they may share from 200 up to a maximum of 400

hundred birr per month if there is any remaining sum to be shared among the members. However, as per his claim, this negligible income could not be in any way sufficient to live on and in most cases, he is using the money for transportation to and from the cafe on a daily basis and no more.

4.7.3 Inability to Get Employment with the Skill Training

Participants indicated that the skill training was not adequate enough in terms of duration and its contents to access and compete for other job opportunities. Thus, the various skills trainings delivered at the time only stayed for 21 days despite certificates of recognition were awarded by the government. Hence, the trainees were not acquainted with the expected knowledge, skill and practical experience

At this juncture, the lived experience in Jemal's own words would properly elucidate the challenge further:

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

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

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

4.7.4 Difficulty to Access Start-up Loan

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

Likewise, it would be sensible to point out what Abel has faced in this regard in his own words: *I was asked a personal guarantee to access start-up loan and I could not get a person who could be a surety for the loan. I tried to access the loan via reciprocal surety-ship with my colleague involved in another business, but they declined to allow me claiming that the two trade licenses were not similar and this scheme could only be allowed for applicants whose trade license are issued on the same business category. Hence, I could not start the business and earn a living for the last seven and more months.*

4.7.5 Inadequacy of the Loan Repayment Grace Period

The participant returnees who have been organized in micro-enterprises and those who have managed to receive the start-up loan claimed that they were forced to start the repayment of the loan immediately without getting adequate grace period at least until their business begins

to generate sufficient income for the repayment. In the normal course of things newly established businesses could not generate sufficient income like other businesses that stayed longer in the business. But, in clear breach of this convincing fact, Kebede and his colleague in the cafe and restaurant business were forced to start the monthly repayment of 5,000 (five thousand birr) just at the time exactly when they started the business without getting any grace period at all.

4.7.6 Excessive Size of Members in a Business

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

4.7.7 Market Problem of the Sheds Allocated:

Besides, those returnees who have been organized in micro & small enterprises raised the critical market problem they have continued to face. Fekadu's case could further explain the problem. Fekadu was organized with eight other returnees and received a store like business center for running the cafe and restaurant business around Kaliti area. According to his claim, the place which was provided to them did not have any market opportunities and totally not convenient for the business

4.7.8 Failure to fulfil Infrastructures for Allocated Business Sheds:

Participant returnees also raised the responsible city government organ's failure to fulfil the necessary infrastructure as the other source of economic reintegration challenges. In this

regard, to substantiate the matter further, it would be significant to look into the actual encounters of some of the participant returnees. Accordingly, Shimelis was organized with other eleven returnees to engage in a cafe and restaurant business with the Shed given to them on the fourth floor of a building around Akaki. According to Shimelis, *infrastructures like electricity and water services have not been fulfilled so far and the shed has no toilet facilities. He questioned in his own words that "how could it be possible to run a cafe and restaurant business in the absence of such critical facilities"*.

4.7.9 Social Challenges

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

4.7.10 Declining Family Care and Support

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

4.7.11 Family Pressure

Participants also unveiled the mounting pressure originating from the closest family members which was countering the overall endeavour towards reintegration. The pressure could be manifested through different forms. Among others, the family members could undermine the reintegration-aimed efforts of the returnees; still some family members could encourage remigration. In this regard, Fekadu's lived experience could be worth considering:

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

4.7.12 Peer Pressure

The reintegration effort of the participant returnees was not only challenged by the pressure emanating from the closest family members, but also by the pressure originating from the colleagues residing back in the KSA. As part of the social challenge, the continued call and encouragement for remigration coming from the friends of the participant returnees who are currently living in the KSA could also be taken as the other social factor countering the overall reintegration endeavour.

4.7.13 Community Misconception

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

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

Cultural difference and negative attitude towards returnees associating with bad character have negatively affected the socio reintegration of returnees.

4.7.14 Self-Imposed Social Isolation

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

4.8 Returnees Current Socio-Economic Situation

IOM official highlighted that “most women migrants travelled in irregular migration and engaged in low professional activity which contributed to returnees’ health situation. Female returnees’ health condition is restored after the rehabilitation and reintegration activities”. These efforts enabled returnees to generate income and have a good relationship with other people. Moreover, returnees’ economic situation is improved when it is compared to their situation before two and half years ago.

On the other hand, returnees' socio-economic situation is declined compared to migration period. Returnees were engaged in full and part time job with satisfactory payment while living abroad. They were able to support others and were not financially dependent on family. Even though, some of the returnees engaged in income generating activity after return, the earning is not adequate to cover living costs. However, spending their day at work is somehow a relief for mind. Half of the respondents are not engaged in business activities yet and they are fully dependent on family.

4.9 Returnees Future Plan

In this particular section, the future plan as expressed by the participant returnees shall be briefly illuminated. Given the economic challenges to a greater extent and the social challenges to lesser extent, the participant returnees' future plan is highly tilted towards the pessimistic and gloomy standpoint.

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

In this regard, Fekadu stated that although I understood that irregular remigration is the undesirable and risky option to resort into, in view of escaping from the current economic

difficulty I have been facing here, I took a stand of not having any other better option than remigration to the KSA. Thus, he shared his future plan in his own words:

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

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

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

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

Addis Ketema Sub City Labour and Social Affairs official, on his part, indicated that “there are some returnees who want to be returned to Saudi Arabia if the migration is legalized by Saudi Arabia and Ethiopian government”. Prior education, current socio-economic status, and skills acquired after return contributed to their decision to migrate again.

Conclusion of the above analysis, the researcher comes up with the following results from the study:

- The majority of the research participants are young, unemployed and with low level of educational background.
- 85% of the respondents attributed economic factors for the cause of migration. These include unemployment, poverty, lack of opportunities and search for better lives.
- 93.7% participants migrated to Saudi Arabia without having legal travel documents.
- The returnees have faced multiple mistreatments during the deportation process from government of Saudi - Arabia and their employers and other citizens’ of Saudi- Arabia. They were detained in open field where food, water and latrine was limited. There were also migrants with severe physical and mental problems.
- To deal with the emergency situation, taskforce was established by government at federal and regional (City) level composed of line stakeholders like Ministry of Foreign Affairs Federal Police, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth, Women and Children (MOYCA), Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister Office, IOM and other CSOs.
- Following the deportation of illegal migrants from Saudi-Arabia, The government, non-governmental organizations and international intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders provided rehabilitation and reintegration assistances to returnees. These include

food, water, shelter, non-food items, counselling, skill training, shed / working place and start-up capital as form of loan.

- Despite the above-mentioned provision of supports, returnees encountered various challenges to bring socio-economic reintegration of returnees in the study area. Economically, difficulty to earn sustainable income, inability to fulfil the requirements set to assume legality for starting business and loan inadequacy of time to repay loan and poor infrastructure of working places were some of the problem identified by participants. On the other hand, declining family care, support, and community misconception towards returnees has adverse effects for social reintegration of returnees.

- Though improvements in the lives of some returnees have been witnessed, the current socio-economic situation of returnees have not been satisfactory as the result of this the returnees have engaged in low level economic activities and even required to face remigration challenges using the available means.

Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The study illustrated the socio-economic reintegration process and efforts implemented for returnees from Saudi Arabia. The sudden influx of large numbers of returning migrants brought the attention of many stakeholders including governmental and non-governmental institutions.

In response to the emergency, the government and non-governmental organizations managed to mobilize resources in short period of time and offered supports to returnees. The support ranged from return and upon arrival assistance to rehabilitation and reintegration to family and community. However, lack of resources and low commitment from different stakeholders at later stage poses a significant challenge to adequately provide all rehabilitation and reintegration needs.

Most of economic reintegration programs such as skill trainings, loan arrangement, and shed/working place provision were provided by government. These efforts were linked with existing government structures such as TVET Colleges, Sub Cities Labour, and Social Affairs Offices and Small and Micro Finance Enterprises. This allowed in offering the support for many returnees at the same time.

Even though the returnees were provided with all packages of economic supports, the continuation of the small business cooperatives is questionable as it requires appropriate shed, strong technical support, and teamwork among cooperative members. The economic reintegration of women with physical disabilities and women who have children is also an issue. In addition, the social reintegration aspect didn't get adequate attention of service providers. Overall, the sustainability of reintegration depends on the effectiveness of

psychological, social, and economic efforts on returnees' life as well adequate duration of marketable skills trainings.

Lack of effective coordination, duplication of efforts, lack of clarity on mandate, lack of comprehensive guideline, and lack of reliable monitoring and evaluation are the major challenges of service providers. The needs of returnees are diverse and multiple. This matter requires well planned and coordinated efforts from all stakeholders concerned.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, possible recommendations are outlined as follows:

5.2.1 At government level

- ❖ The issues identified above need to be addressed within particular framework dealing with rehabilitation and reintegration. There should be a clear national policy and guideline on the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees which encompasses the detail strategies and programmers for addressing the needs of migrants. The formulation of the policy and guideline should involve all stakeholders including returnees and community members. The role and responsibilities of stakeholders should be outlined to avoid duplication of efforts and to establish effective coordination.
- ❖ Technical support should be offered for returnees engaged in income generating activities. There should be strong follow up and assistance to effectively address returnees' concerns and to monitor the progress of the business.
- ❖ Supplementing the existing Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) or strengthening the Business Development Services (BDS) support and micro-credit provision with a package that will help returnees' kick-start their businesses and see through until they are ready to be included in the ordinary MSE development framework of the country. This will help in

avoiding the requirements for collateral by Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and encourage the use of micro-finance services.

- ❖ Designing targeted packages to economically empower female returnees' especially female family heads. Any assistance provision related decisions should involve returnees, community and other relevant stakeholders.
- ❖ Female returnees faced many challenges while living abroad, during deportation and after return due to the low status that they have in communities. The programs should be inclusive of women with disabilities and women with children to effectively rehabilitate and reintegrate all segments of returnees.

5.2.2 At stakeholders Level

- ❖ The involvement of stakeholders such as Ministry of labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Women and Children (MoWCA), Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency (MSEDA), Federal Police and the National Anti-Trafficking Taskforce for full implementation of comprehensive programs of psychological, social, and economic schemes on migrant workers highly contributes towards effective rehabilitation and reintegration. Female returnees face difficulties in social and cultural adjustments and suffer from stress and depression. Continuing support in the form counselling and therapies are very essential.
- ❖ Supporting and strengthening rehabilitation centers that provide holistic services in shelters would be very helpful to extend the existing support for other returnees.
- ❖ Facilitating sustainability is a crucial element of migration related assistance to returnees. The issue of sustainability needs special attentions by stakeholders as returnees continues to keep the option to return back. In addition, active participation of the returnees throughout the whole rehabilitation and reintegration process is vital in ensuring long-term commitment.
- ❖ Engaging the community based associations/organizations would help to easily address the community on the issues of social reintegration.

5.2.3 At family Level

- ❖ Massive awareness raising and behavioural change on the risks of irregular migration needs to be provided for the family of returnees/communities.
- ❖ It is also important to engaging the family and the community in the reintegration process.
- ❖ They also need to be taught to assist on the possibilities of finding livelihood in the country as an alternate to migration.

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Annex I: Interview Schedule for Returnees

Introduction: Good Morning / Afternoon, “My name is Meron Mengesha, I am a post graduate student of Social work at St. Mary’s University(SMU) the program offered in partnership with Indira Ghandi National Open University (IGNOU).

The overall objective of this research is to assess the socio-economic reintegration process towards Saudi Arabia returnees in Addis Ababa. For the purpose of this research, this guiding question is designed to solicit key information from returnees from Saudi Arabia. Your answers are kept confidential , you name is not written on this form ,you are entitled to withdraw from the process at any time, the outcome of this research will only used for academic purpose.

I. Returnee Profile

A. Personal background

Name: _____

Age: _____

Education: _____

Region and Town of origin: _____

Relationship status before return: _____

Place and time of migration: _____

Duration after return: _____

Relationship status after return: _____

II. Guiding Questions

1. How long did you stay in Saudi Arabia? Were you a legal immigrant?
2. What job were you actually doing there? How much was your salary?
3. What motivated or initiated you to go to Saudi Arabia?
4. Were you having a job before you leave? If so, what kind of job were you engaged in?
5. Would you please share with me your experience of returning to Ethiopia? How was the deportation process, the process of return, transportation, and experience at Bole International Air Port?
6. Were there any rehabilitation and reintegration support offered to you? If yes, how was the rehabilitation and reintegration process involved when you returned from KSA? Who has provided support?
7. What type of rehabilitation and reintegration activities (shelter, psychological, medical, social, training, technical, and financial support) were carried out? How long?
8. What specific skills did you have before you travel to KSA? What specific skills did you acquire in the reintegration process?
9. Are you currently employed? If so, what is your current occupation? What is your reaction for your current job?
10. What is your view towards the overall process of reintegration?
11. What were the strengths and limitation of service providers in reintegrating the returnees?
12. What were your opportunities and challenges after you returned to Ethiopia?

13. How is the social support in regards to your reintegration to the community? How is your relationship with the community?
14. How is your economic status and social life now?
15. Can you describe the actual benefit you received from the process? What is the outcome of the reintegration process in your life?
16. Was there activities promised by the different Government and Non-governmental organizations (actors) involved reintegration?
17. What is your future plan?
18. What are your suggestions to Social workers, governmental organization and other organizations to alleviate problem concerning repatriates and migration in general?
19. In your opinion, what measures should be taken to avoid problems faced by returnees and to effectively rehabilitate and reintegrate them to the community?
20. Related to your experiences and the purpose of this study, is there any issue that you want to add? Do you think you have told me everything important?

Annex II: Focus Group Discussion Guide for Families of Returnees

- 1) What assistance has been delivered to bring economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 2) What changes/progress has been registered in the family owing to programs implemented to address economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 3) What more could be done to address economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 4) What kind of services/projects (such as legal, socio-cultural activities and psychological support) has been employed by families, community, government and non government organizations to contribute to social reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 5) What changes has been resulted in strengthening the social network of returnees and their families in the area?
- 6) What more could be done to address social reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 7) What are the challenges faced by returnees and their families in addressing the socio-economic reintegration of returnees in the area?

**Annex III: Focus Group Discussion Guide for Governmental and
Nongovernmental Organization Key Informants**

- 1) What assistance has been delivered to bring economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 2) What changes/progress has been registered owing to programs implemented to address economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 3) What more could be done to address economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 4) What kind of services/projects (such as legal, socio-cultural activities and psychological support) has been employed to contribute to social reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 5) What changes has been resulted in strengthening the social network of returnees and their families in the area?
- 6) What more could be done to address economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 7) What are the challenges faced in addressing the socio-economic reintegration of returnees in the area?
- 8) What do you suggest for future in terms of policy issues ?

Annex IV: Observation Guide for the researcher

This observation guide is prepared to assist the researcher to provide better directions while carrying out the observation of the living and working environment of research participants.

1. Overall observation of existing institutions resources, capacities and coordination to manage the reintegration process.
2. Observation of housing, physical conditions of returnees and the surrounding environment they are living in.
3. Are the returnees engaged in income generating activities? If yes, observe what kind of business activity they do, their working condition, and financial capabilities. (With a purpose to understand if returnees are economically reintegrated)
4. Is there any evidence visible on healthy social relationship between returnees and communities? (With a purpose to understand the if returnees are socially reintegrated)
5. Identification of particular vulnerabilities and disabilities of returnees that may hinder reintegration.