

## **DIMENSIONS AND DETERMINANTS OF RURAL URBAN MIGRATION IN ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF HOSANNA TOWN**

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### **Abstract**

*This study was conducted in 2018 to assess the determinants of rural-urban migration in Gofer Meda sub city of Hosanna Town, South Ethiopia. For this study a descriptive cross-sectional survey design with a mixed approach was employed. A sample of 200 households from 1200 households was taken proportionally using random sampling technique. Questionnaire and key informant interview were used to collect primary data. Secondary data were collected from various sources like documents and online resources. The research used both quantitative and qualitative techniques for the data analysis. The finding of this study reveals that rural-urban migration in the town is a recent phenomenon that came into existence since 2010 G.C. The results of the study showed that youths who are likely to migrate are predominantly aged between 25 to 34 years, and earn incomes of less than 1000 Eth. Birr per month, are male, have primary education, are currently not employed. Youths migrate for a number of reasons which include the need for temporary and permanent job opportunities, access to social services and infrastructure, as well as schooling opportunities. Factor analysis showed that there are three factors which are critical in rural to urban migration and these are availability of social services in rural areas, which is likely to deter youths from migrating. However, presumed stable jobs in the towns coupled with an inauspicious social environment in rural areas are likely to give incentive to youths to migrate from rural to urban areas. Study recommended built integrated rural development strategy to increase agricultural productions by increasing rural labor productivity through improving farm technology and built housing and provide social services.*

**Key Words:** *Rural Urban Migration, Migrants, Determinants, Hosanna, SNNPR*

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### **Introduction**

In a Historic manner, rural to urban migration has played a prominent role in the urbanization process of many countries and carry on to be significant in scale, even though migration rates have decelerated in some countries (Lall *et al.*, 2006). According to a report from

the United Nations Population Division (2003), the urban population is estimated to speed up at 1.8 per cent per annum, while total population rate is forecasted to be 1 percent yearly. This would have resulted in an urban population of 5 billion, or 61 per cent, by 2030. The rural population on the other

hand is expected to slow down from 3.3 to 3.2 billion between 2003 and 2030. Large scale urbanization is nothing unusual when seen from a historical viewpoint. Previously, it has taken place in Europe during the industrialization period.

According to Adepoju, (1983), rapid development of rural-urban migration has been a common feature of developing countries which happens in response to natural and human made factors. For instance, the general expansion trend in Nigeria influenced rural-urban migration to a larger extent (Lnych, 2005). The widespread scale Sahelian drought of 1972-74 forced many northern Nigerians, and those living nearby countries to run away to Nigerian cities in search of food and works. This is a case in point of a situation where economic development focused in the cities failed to drop down to the rural areas (Lynch, 2005). This indicates there are a high possibility of income getting, education and other provision of facilities in urban areas than in rural, which in turn are suggestively affecting rural-urban migration (Michael, 2005; Ullah, 2004).

Ethiopia is challenged by different migration patterns and dynamics, which have significant political and socio-economic a complex consequences of action for the country (IOM, 2008). Over time, the share of the Ethiopian population that has migrated from outside their Woreda of current residence has greater than before from 11.4 percent of the population (4.54 million people) in 1984 to 12.9 percent of the population in 1994 (6.92 million people) to 16.5 percent of the population (12.21 million people) in 2008 (Woldie *et al.*, 2010).

According to the Third National Census 2007, the total population of the SNNPR was 14,929,548, from which 7,425,918 were male and 7,503,630 were female (SNNPR, 2007; CSA, 2007) from the stated total population 2,075,332 were migrants and of this, 995,997 male and 1,079,335 female respectively. The percent of migrant population in the region was 13.9. The region's population accounts for 20% of the whole population of the country, which makes it the third populous region in the country following Oromia and Amhara regional state. According to a current estimate, about 8 percent of the total population of the region is residing in urban areas while the greater parts of the populations (92%) are living in rural areas (CSA, 2007).

To have a better understanding about push and pull factors that can be considered as rural-urban migration and its dimensions and implication to the areas of origin and destination, the researcher found that it is important to investigate the economic, social, cultural and other implications of rural out-migration and impacts on the migrants themselves as well as on the place of destination. The exodus of people from rural to urban centers has becoming serious problems of most small and growing urban areas in the region in generally and the study area specifically.

Not only the large metropolitan cities like Addis Ababa, but also small towns like Hosanna have been experiencing high in migrant streams. But, the towns and cities of Ethiopia are finding it increasingly difficult to absorb the migrants into gainful jobs and are struggling to provide adequate living conditions for the new arrivals. In spite

of the above noted prevailing situations, there is lack of sound knowledge and understanding of rural – urban migration in relation to the causes and consequences in both areas of origin and destinations. Similarly, there is apparently little research work at empirical level on determinants of rural-urban migration in the country at large and Hosanna in specific. Therefore, analysis of determinants of rural-urban migration is important and thereby to provide significant data and analysis for policy making for launching suitable planning and response strategies to the developing challenges and problems.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

The migration of people from place to place is significant component of population variation which has its own spatial as well as temporal characteristics. It is these spatial characteristics that are prominence for geographers. In the period of globalization, an improved and sophisticated means of transportation and communication are playing a vital role in assisting the collaboration of people around the world. As a result, the rate of migration is alarmingly growing both at national and international level. In unindustrialized countries, internal migration is more persistent. In Ethiopia, rural-urban migration is quite common principally in areas where drought is frequent. Therefore there is evidence on how rural urban migration affects urban poverty along different dimensions in order to guide the government efforts to improve the living conditions in cities (MoFED, 2009).

Rural to urban migration over the same period has ascended from 1.30 million people in 1984 to 3.26 million in 1998, but the share of rural-urban

migrants in total population is still small, having risen from 3.3 percent in 1984 to only 4.4 percent in 1998 (Woldie *et al.*, 2010).

In Ethiopia, much had not been done to study Dimensions and Determinants of Rural Urban Migration. From the available limited literature on the subject a few have attempted to study these aspects of urban-ward migration such as Shack (1973) in Addis Ababa, Bjerren (1985) in Shashemene, Kebede (1991) in Nazareth, Birru (1997) in Arba Minch etc. Some of these studies are from the anthropological point of view and concentrated only on Addis Ababa North Regions and the nearby towns.

Though actual data is scanty, it is believed that Hosanna town received a number of migrant populations each year. Hosanna town encountered a series of problems due to rapid population growth. Based on the unpublished documents of Municipality (2015) of the Hosanna town the population size of the study area increase from time to time); according to CSA in 2007---- the total population was 69,995 from this 3941 were migrants; in 2014 -106,737 from which 35,476 were migrants (the Third National Censuses) and in 2018, after five years, the population estimated reached 1,456,233 – based on the plan of 2007 censuses (Hadiya Zone BoFED, 2015). This indicates that the town experiencing a high number of in- migration mainly from Hadiya Zone and nearby Zones. At the present time the town faced serious of problem within and around due to high population density. For instance some of the main problems in the eyes of the researcher are environmental pollution, natural resources degradation, overpopulations, social unrest (theft,

crime, and pick pocket), high living cost and poor urban amenities.

Therefore little or no empirical research has been carried out in the area on such a crucial issue encompassing all the above process makes the topic pertinent and timely. But present study which makes different from earlier work is that it focuses exploring dimensions and amp; determinants which causing migration to Hosanna town and its implication on sending areas of the migrants, on migrants themselves as well as on the receiving areas. So the current study would fill the knowledge gap in this way and make recommendation on dimensions and determinants of rural urban migration towards the town.

#### ***General Objective of Study***

The general objective of the study is to understand the dimensions and determinants of rural- urban migration to Hosanna town, SNNPR.

#### ***Specific Objectives***

1. To assess the dimensions of rural-urban migration to Hosanna town
2. To examine the major determinants of rural-urban migration in the study area.
3. To identify the consequences of migration to Hosanna town.

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

The study is limited to those migrants from Hadiya Zone and other surrounding zones and regions to Hosanna town. The researcher explored dimensions and determinants of rural-urban migrations to Hosanna town. The study is limited to 200 sample migrant household heads.

## **Literature Review**

### ***Causes and Determinants of Migration to Hosanna Town***

In the surveyed area, there are several reasons for population mobility from place to place. Reasons for migration to urban centers in particular are more complex. But, the causes of migration are usually identified mainly in terms of categories, namely “pushing” and “pulling” factors. For instance, people of a certain area may be pushed off by poverty and other natural factor to move towards towns for employment (Mandefro, 2013)

### ***Consequences of Migration***

The consequence of migration on both the places of destination and origin is very complex and requires thorough understanding of various behavioural contexts. Though, in general, the consequences depend on the dimensions of migration, the degree of flow of remittance, and the type (characteristics) of migrants that dominates the migration flow. In industrialized countries the flow of labor from areas of low marginal productivity to high marginal productivity is normal and is accepted as an ingredient for development by raising labor efficiency at the places of origin as well as destinations. On this ground, rural-urban migration is a population movement from relatively low income rural activities to higher income industrial and service sector so that the level of income of migrants can be increased (McCatty (2004).

Therefore, it is considered as generating various benefits to the migrants. Contrary to this, migration particularly in the push stream of movement is found to be the major bottleneck for development in both receiving urban and departing rural

areas in developing nations. This is because most of urban areas of less developed nations are ineffectively urbanized and hence are not found to have the capacity to fruitfully absorb the rural migrants in gainful jobs, neither to provide housing or various other social services and amenities. The high rate of overcrowding and unemployment is increasingly causing several social,

psycho-social, cultural, political and economic problems in the towns, making them quite unstable social organizations in perpetual tension and stress. In spite of this frustrating state of affairs, the movement of people continues to urban areas due to the perceived, though false expectation of better living and working conditions in urban areas.

**Analytical Framework**

**Determinants of rural-urban migration**

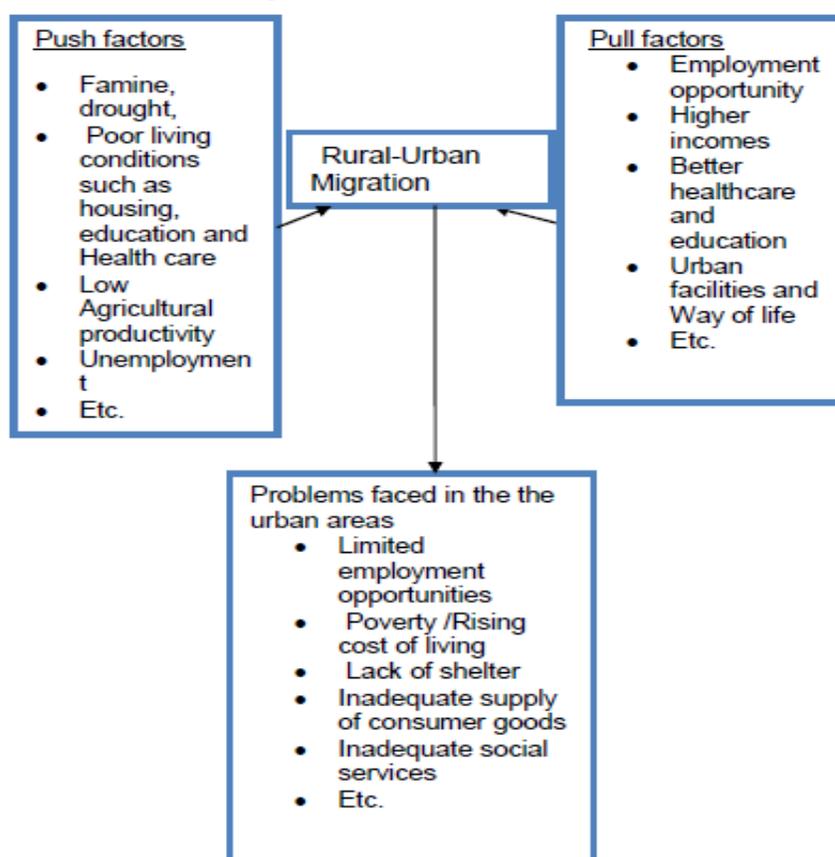


Fig. 1: The conceptual framework for the analysis of rural-urban migration

**Description of Study Area**

Hosanna town is the administrative and commercial center of the Hadiya zone. The town of Hosanna has been declared a model town by the regional state government. The town has got its new administration structure in 2004

consisting of three sub-towns and within eight kebeles. Hosanna town is located south west of Addis Ababa at a distance of 232 km via Alemgena-Butajira route, 280 km via Wolkite route, and 305 km via Ziway. Hosanna is located in south-west of Hawassa (the capital of SNNPR) at

approximately 168 km via Halaba-Angeca and 203 km via Halaba. The absolute geographic location of Hosanna is from 7° 30' 00" to 7° 35' 00" North latitude and from 37° 49' 00" to 37° 53' 00" East longitudes.

The administrative area of Hosanna town is 10,414.3 hectares; out of these 4,585.48 hectares of the town has been master planned (HTAMO, 2015/16).

was growing on the average by 8.15 percent per population growth while during 1996- 2007 the growth rate has increase to 13.31 percent population growth rate. This rate further increased to 9.7 percent growth rate during 2007-2014 (CSA, 2011). The rapid population growth and town expansion was rural to urban migration as result of remittance send from South Africa in the town. But today

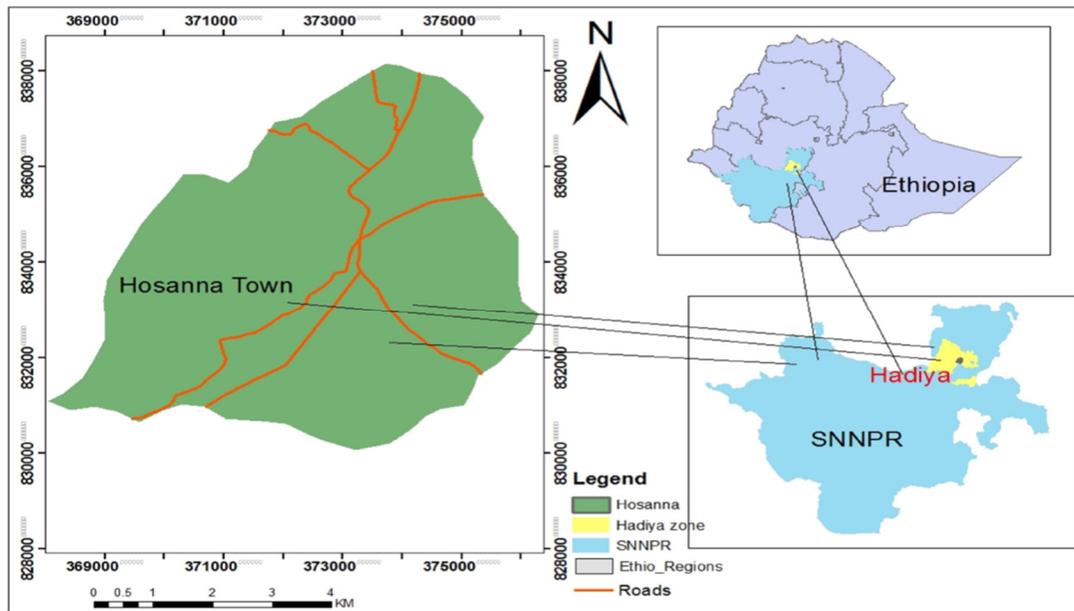


Fig. 2: Map of the Study Area

**Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Town**

The total population of Hosanna was 13,467 female and male 31,701 in 1984 and 1994 respectively (CSA; 1984, 1994). Within ten years’ time, the town’s population reached 69,995 (more than double) (CSA, 2007). Based on CSA 2007 the population census result, the current population of the town is projected to 97,184 at the end of 2013 out of which 49,322 (50.8%) and 47,863 (49.2%) are estimated to be male and female respectively, (CSA,2014). Between 1986 and 1996 the population size of the town

Hosanna has a total population of 106,737 of whom 52,431 are men and 54,306 are women (Hosanna Town Finance and Economic Development Office, projection 2015/16).The residents of Hosanna has been different religious followers among them Protestant, Orthodox, Catholic, Apostolic, 7thday Adventist and Muslim were found and with regard to ethnic groups Hadiya, Amhara, Gurage, Silte and Kambata, and others have been living in the town and the Hadiya ethnic group dominate most of the town.

**Methodology of the Study**

For this study a descriptive cross sectional survey design with a mixed

approach was employed. Both primary and secondary sources of data were used. Detailed open and close ended questions pertaining to the determinants of rural to urban migration were incorporated after reviewing related literature in line with the objectives of the study. Questionnaire was the main data collection instrument administered to the sampled household heads besides data collection through key informant interview and focused group discussions. The interview was conducted with elders who can give their participant experiences of the past and present developments, administrators, planners and other concerned authorities of the town, administrator of sample *kebeles*, selected migrants from each of sampled *kebeles*. Binary logistic regression model was used to study the determinants for population mobility from place to place as well as their living standers. In the study, one dependent variable and several independents variables (explanatory variables) were selected for the analysis.

Notes were sufficiently and carefully taken from the interviewees who were considered knowledgeable and rich to provide explanations on income, patterns, causes, and consequences of rural urban migration. Next, sample household heads were selected from each sampled *kebele* by using purposive sampling was employed. Thus, three *kebeles* from the total eight *kebeles* were selected purposively because the researcher gathered information from Hosanna town administration that the majority of migrants settle in the three urban *kebeles*. Table 3.1 shows the sample

*kebeles* of the town and distribution of samples. Simple random sampling was employed to select the migrant household heads arbitrarily from the list of each *kebele* to be included in the sample as a sampling frame for three selected *kebeles*.

Table 1 shows the number of migrant households to be selected from the total number of migrant household heads of each *kebele*.

Table 1: Distribution of sample migrant households, *kebele's* name, number of household heads, number of sample migrant household heads Percent of respective *kebeles* of the total sample

Kebele's name	Number of migrant household heads	Number of sample migrant household heads	Percent of respective kebeles of the total sample
Jalo-naramo	4500	75	38
Heto	3200	53	26
Bobicho	4300	72	36
Total	12,000	200	100

**Variables Considered for the Study**

The dependent and independent variables used in the model for the estimation of parameters are defined as follow. Several independents were considered in this study to investigate the determinant factors of rural to urban migration. These are age, sex, and marital status, level of education, types of occupation, income level, religion and cause of migration. The dependent variable is the determinants of rural to urban migration. Hence, the dependent variable for the  $i^{th}$  migrant is represented by a random variable  $Y_i$  with two possible values coded as 1 and 0. That is

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the } i^{th} \text{ rural to urban migration} \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Result and Discussion**

***Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents***

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondent household heads

Household Characteristics		Respondent households heads	Number	%
Head of the household	Male		165	82.5
	Female		35	17.5
	Total		200	100
Age	15-24		60	30
	25-34		85	42.5
	35-44		35	17.5
	>45		20	10
	Total		200	100
	Unmarried		141	70.5
	Marital status	Married		59
	Total		200	100
Educational status	Unable to read and write		25	12.5
	Grade 1-8		50	25
	High school		79	39.5
	Diploma		36	18
	Degree and above		10	5
	Total		200	100
Current occupation	Farmer		11	5.5
	Government employee		14	7
	Private employee		20	10
	Daily laborer		69	34.5
	Unemployed		85	42.5
	Total		200	100
Income (Av. Monthly)	Less than 500 Eth. Birr		95	47.5
	500 -1000 Eth. Birr		84	42
	1001- 2500 Eth. Birr		12	6
	More than 2500 Eth. Birr		9	4.5
	Total		200	100

Survey questionnaire was distributed to 200 sample household heads residing in three *kebeles* namely; Naramo, Bobicho and Heto. The three selected *kebeles* are located in the same sub-city but are the *kebeles* known for the concentration of migrant in Hosanna. All the distributed questionnaires were filled in and returned back. Understanding about the overview of the respondents characteristics was important for further analysis of their

responses. Hence, attempts were made to describe the background of the respondents which directly or indirectly is related to the objectives of the study. Accordingly, the general socio demographic characteristics of the respondents in sex, age, marital status, current occupation, and educational status, income, occupied are presented in Table 1. Data analyzed and presented in Table1 reveals that the majority 165(82.5%) of

respondent households were male and the remaining 35(17.5%) were female. Age category of respondents as an important variable was also assessed and it was found that about 60(30%) of the respondents were found between age range of 15-24 years followed by those migrant who are aged between 25-34 years 85 (42.5%), it was found that about 35(17.5%) of the respondents were found between age range of 35-44. During the survey only a few respondents 20(10%) were found to be less than 45 years of age. Those respondents who are found beyond 35 years of age account for 42.5 percent of the total surveyed households. Analysis of marital status of respondents shows that 59(29.5%) of them are married and the remaining 141(70.5%) were unmarried. Those respondents who are married and have family are likely to fall under pressure of migration propensities options.

Respondents were also assessed with regard to their occupational status, especially their employment status during the survey period. Accordingly, migrant households who took part in the study were engaged in various activities ranging from agriculture to daily labor wage works. It was found that 85(42.5%) of

them were unemployed, Significant number 69(34.5%) of Daily laborer. The number of those who were farmers, Private employee, Government employee and Farmer were 20(10%), 14(7%), and 11(5.5%), respectively.

Migrant households were distributed across different educational levels. In the survey it was found that 79(39.5%) of them have attended high schools to 9-12 followed by those who attended Grade 1-8 50(25%), followed by those who attended Diploma 36(18%). On the other hand, it was found that 25(12.5%) of them were unable to read and write. Those respondents who completed a high school and have certificates of diploma and above represent 10(5%) of the total surveyed households.

Another socio-economic variable studied during the survey was average monthly income level of household heads. It was found that about 2/3rd of the respondents 95 (47.5%) replied that they earn less than 500Eth.Birr per month. There were also households 84(42%) who earn between 500 and 1000 Eth. Birr per month. About 12 (6%) of the respondents reported that their average monthly income exceeds 1001 and 2500 Eth. birr.

**Variables in the Equation**

Covariates	$\beta$	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp ( $\beta$ )
Age	.723	.517	1.958	1	.012	2.062
Marital status	-1.016	.608	2.787	1	0.25	.362
Educational status	.141	.191	.543	1	.046	1.151
Constant	6.498	2.551	6.488	1	.011	664.031

\* $\beta$  is the parameter estimate, SE is standard error, df is degree of freedom, Sig. is significant, Exp ( $\beta$ ) is odd ratio\*

Mathematical model for significant covariates are given below:

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{6.498+0.723 \text{ Age}-1.016 \text{ Marital status}+0.141 \text{ Education level}}}{1 + e^{6.498+0.723 \text{ Age}-1.016 \text{ Marital status}+0.141 \text{ Education level}}}$$

Coefficient of age group is positive; there is positive relation between age group and rural to urban migration. The odd ratio is 2.062; indicate that the impact of rural to urban for high age group 25-34 were 2.062 times more than that of other age groups.  $\beta_2 = -1.016$ , Implies that as marital status increases the probability of rural to urban migration decreases by 1.016 considering all other covariates statistically remain constant in the model i.e. marital status has negative effect on rural to urban migration. The odd ratio is 0.362; indicate that the impact of rural to urban for married were 0.362 times more than that of single.  $\beta_3 = 0.141$ , Implies that as education level increases the probability of rural to urban migration increases by 0.141 considering all other covariates statistically remain constant in the model i.e. education level is positive effect on rural to urban migration. The odd ratio is 1.151; indicate that the impact of rural to urban for educated were 1.151 times more than that of uneducated.

### **Conclusion**

The results of the study showed that youths who are likely to migrate are predominantly aged between 25 to 34 years, and earn incomes of less than 1000 Eth. Birr per month, are male, have primary education, are currently not employed. Youths migrate for a number of reasons which include the need for temporary and permanent job opportunities, access to social services and infrastructure, as well as schooling opportunities. Factor analysis showed that there are three factors which are critical in rural to urban migration and these are availability of social services in rural areas, which is likely to deter youths from

migrating. However, presumed stable jobs in the towns coupled with an inauspicious social environment in rural areas are likely to give incentive to youths to migrate from rural to urban areas.

The problem of rural to urban migration is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive holistic policy strategy emphasizing on income diversification to non-agricultural activities, vocational skills, public and private sector partnerships and management of value chains for effective mainstreaming of disadvantaged youths into development processes of the country.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following possible solutions as recommendations are forwarded to the concerned decision makers, researchers in the area and the administration of Hosanna town. Migration continues to be a problem not only in the study area but also in other developing countries emphasized the problem of unemployment and the overall effects of rural-urban migration in the town are discouraging.

- It is recommended built integrated rural development strategy to increase agricultural production by increasing rural labor productivity through improving farm technology, increasing farm inputs such as fertilizers, high yielding variety of seeds, insecticides, adequate agricultural extension services, price incentives and improve access to financial credit and market facilities which overcomes rural unemployment and underemployment.
- Relocation on voluntary basis for those exposed to shortage of land where there are unoccupied and

potentially productive irrigable lands which can reduce the flow of migrants towards urban areas.

- Conspicuous difference in modernization between urban and rural areas pulls many rural people to towns.
- Awareness creation of the rural community for early marriage, abduction, low school enrollment, from Hadiya Zone worded as migration to Hosanna towns is dominated by young rural female migrants.
- Constructing additional house and social service centers, such as schools, health institutions, recreational centers and so forth by taking into account the population growth of the town are important in providing needed services and better quality of life.
- Since there is perceived difference between rural-urban incomes which causes population migration, it is recommended to balance income gap between rural and urban areas through feasible regional planning strategies for the mutual development which slow down the rural outflow

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