

Research Paper

The Psychosocial Problems of Parental Migration on Children in Arba Minch Town

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ABSTRACT

This study's was aimed dig out the psychosocial pitfalls of parent migrated children in Arab Minch town. Parental migration has serious effects on children, particularly; it has effect on emotional, behavioral, social interaction and children's social wellbeing. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to do deeply description about the problem. And a purposive sampling technique (i.e snowball sampling technique) was used to select 30 respondents. Study revealed that economic problems, peer pressures, need to get better job opportunities and environmental factors were the major conditions for the parental migration in the region. Children of migrated parents were exposed to negative social interaction and developing emotionally and behaviorally aggression. And they experience serious psychosocial problems. Education, awareness creation and improving the living ways of family and community in general are the option less way to overcome the problem that children experiencing in the region.

Keywords: Parent, Parental Migration, Children, Psychosocial Problems

Our world is very unequal for many people around the world. Moving away from their hometown or village can be the best same times the only option open to improving their life chances. Migration can be hugely effective improving the income, education and participation of individuals and families and enhancing their children's future prospects, but it is more than that being able of human freedom (Cojocar, 2015).

Anthropological commented, interest in the study of migration. Is rather recent but advanced enough to enables us gain knowledge on questions such as the nature of culture for social change, family ethnicity have given considerable emphasis on population movement (Pottinger., 2006).

"Migration defined as a permanent or semi permanent change of residence", however' in this definition no restriction is place up on surrounding to another in the cause human life (Weinberg, 1975).

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After the Second World War period, witnessed globalization effective, communication, transformation and facilitated migration to Europe from various developing countries (Bai, 2012).

The impact of labor migration on unemployment has been considerable though many of the migrants workers would have been employed before migration a considerable number would have been unemployed at the time of migration (Meng, 2015).

Thus, the economic benefits of migration to both the country and migrant families have been substantial. Many migrant families have better maternal constitutions of life a result of their earnings abroad. On the other hand, such benefits at times come with a social cost. It is the recognition of this fact that persuaded successive governments to take measure to minimize adverse effects on migration (Baltatescu, 2014).

With the continuing expansion of the community of migrant workers, and in spite of various measures taken to the interests of migrants and their families, one would also expect certain negative outcome of migration to persist. In this regard, the psychosocial problems faced by some migrant families deserve greater attention (Pottinger, 2006).

Many women's to migrate for temporary employment, particularly as domestic despite persisting social costs of labor migration, particularly those associated with the migration of mother with small children, the exodus. Another important issue is the capacity of migrants and families to seek assistance from institutions when they faced with a serious problem. Often marginalized migrant worker families are not aware of a valuable sources of support or have no access to such sources are they may continue to suffer in silence, often letting to more severe consequences (Myer, 2008).

Parental migration does not have significant negative impact on schooling performance in rural area on the contrary people improve their school performance in family's which a migratory life the main for conducting the problem mainly resulting casualty between children school performance and parental migration. Parental migration could be parents can alter their decision to migrate in order to improve their children in performance in school (Meng, 2015).

The negative effect of parent migration on children due to the lack of parental contact with children associated with long term parental absence is the impact may differ for the absence of father versus mother or both depend up on the capability of substitute caretaker (Bai, 2012).

Statement Of The Problem

The migratory process is a phenomenon that virtually all nations have experienced and continue to experience (Fernando, 1989).

Migration has contributed to the richness in diversity of cultures, ethnicities and races in developed countries. Individuals who migrate experience multiple stresses that can affect mental wellbeing, including the loss of cultural norms, religious customs and social support systems, adjustment to a new culture and changes in identity and concept of self. Indeed, the rate of mental illness are increased in some migrate group. Mental health needs to be unique stress and cultural aspects that affect immigrants and refugees in order to best address to needs of this increasing and vulnerable population (Pottinger, 2006).

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The effects of migration indicates that it has no statistically significant negative impact on any of the following aspects such as children's wellbeing, education, nutrition, health, housing, social protection, information, communication, and emotional wellbeing. Children living in a household in which a member currently lives abroad are not less likely to attain wellbeing in any dimension, except for that of material wellbeing, regardless of who has migrated (a mother, father, or other household member (Bjorkund, 2007).

A child's gender, age and the material living standards of the household are much stronger predictors of wellbeing attainment than a household's migration status. Never less, the migrant parents' naturally tend to obtain greater opportunities from their host community or society/country. However, the researcher observed the children who left behind when their parents are migrate to Arab countries experience a lots of problems like, social and psychological conditions. In addition to these, the researcher has interest to conduct study in this particular area for different reasons.

- 1) The researcher has experience to identify different effects of parent migration on their children, for instance, children in our locality exposed to domestic violence, work load, drop out from the school and withdrawal from the school, and weak interpersonal communication or interaction with their peer groups....etc.
- 2) By reading different related literatures and articles, I got the evidence that children who lose their parent due to migration expose to stepmother or stepfather pressures or influences. Children can easily expose to psychological and social problems .For instance, depression, emotional distress, poor communication, social isolation...etc.
- 3) The rate of rural to urban and urban to urban migration is relatively in Arba Minch and surroundings.

After the end of this study, the researcher will wants to answer the following research questions

- 1) What are the effects of parental migration on the children social interaction?
- 2) What are the perceived techniques to manage parental migration?
- 3) What are the effects of parental migration on the children's emotional development?
- 4) What are the causes that induced parental migration?

Objective of the study

General objective

- To investigate the psychosocial problems of parents migrated children is in Arbaminch town.

Specific objectives

- To describe the effects of parental migration on the children's social interaction.
- To describe the perceived techniques to manage parental migration
- To describe the effect of parental migration on the children emotional development.
- To describe the cause that induced parental migration

Significance of the study

- Research finding will provide recent information for the concerning bodies.
- It will advance the knowledge and awareness on the effect of parental migration on the children.

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- It will give a meaning full understanding for the stakeholders like government and nongovernmental organizations.
- It provides some insight for future study in this particular area and related areas.

Delimitation of the study

This paper delimited to address the psycho social problem of parent migrated children in Arbaminch town, which is located 505km far from Addis Ababa and 115kms far from Welayeta Sodo.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The researcher expected to face the following challenges.

- Inconvenience and shortage of time.
- Financial problems.
- And limited materials displayed in the library.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

All terms defined according to the context of this research are the following.

Parent: - a biologically related bodies, a relative or non-relative that serve as caregiver for the children.

Migrate: - the one who leaves his/her resident area and place village to another village/place due to various reasons

Emotional development: means the growth of full range of emotion from sad to happy and to anger.

Psychosocial development: is social and psychological development.

Social interaction: developing communication and interpersonal skill.

Study design

In this study, the investigator will tried to use descriptive research design. This is because the investigator wanted to describe the problems that children who missed their parents encounter for various reasons. This study will be a good base to conduct other basic or applied research in the particular area.

Study area

This study was conducted in Arbaminch town, Gamo Gofa zone, which are located 505 km far from Addis Ababa and 115kms far from Welayeta Sodo. The study, delimited to Arbaminch town in secha sub city particular villages like Soysa, Bere and Chamo Keble.

Populations

The target population of the study was children who were missed their parents due to migration and some member of the community in Arbaminch town.

Sampling and Sampling technique

The investigators were selected 30 participants to involve in the study. During selection process, children's age, sex, and their education level were given huge emphasis. This is in order to increase the quality and the validity of the information from the participants. The entire study participants were selected through the non-probability sampling techniques particularly snow ball sampling technique.

Sampling size

Totally, 23 male children and 7 female children were taken to participate in the study.

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No.	Types of data collection	No participants	Target group
1	Questionnaires (interview)	18	Children
2	Focused group discussion	6	Children
3	Semi -structured interview	6	Children and parents (member community)

Instrument development

Open ended questionnaires and semi structure interview instruments were used for data collection. Before data collection, questionnaires, FGD and interview guideline; and observation check list were developed.

Data collection procedure

During the data collection, notebooks and tape record were used for only voluntary participants. Methods of data analysis

Using percentage, summarization and narration data analysis mechanisms were used during the time of data analysis. Because, it appropriately enables to address the objects

Pilot study

Before engaging in the real administration of data the investigations were conducted pilot study on 10-15 individuals other than in the study areas.

RESULTS

Characteristics of the Respondents

Before presenting and analyzing the data it is desirable to summarize sum of the major characteristics of the respondent such as sex, age, type of respondent, total population sample size of the migrate individual, student in the school, so the information clearly shown in the following table .

Table: 1 Demographic Information of the Respondent

Age	Alternative Response	Number of Response	Percentage
	10 -12	6	50%
	12 -14	4	20%
	14 -16	10	80%
Sex	Male	15	75%
	Female	5	25%
Educational level	1 -4	10	50%
	4 -6	5	25%
	6 -8	5	25%

As the above table disclose male and female sex ratio is proportional and the distribution of age is found in between 12 -14.

Table-2. Children's Status

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
To whom you are living currently with	Father	4	20%
	Mother	2	10%
	Relative	4	20%
	Brother	3	15%
	Sister	2	10%
	Other	5	25%

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Table 2 also indicates that about 2 (20%), 3 (15%), 2 (10%), and 5 (25%) children live with their father, mother, relative, brother, sister, & others respectively.

PART. 2. QUESTIONS RELATED TO EFFECT OF PARENTAL MIGRATION ON CHILDREN SOCIAL INTERACTION.

Table-3. Effects of parental Migration on Children's social Interaction

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
Do you think that separating from parent has an effect on your peers relation	Yes	12	60%
	No	8	40%

As indicated in the above table, the majority of participant 12(60%) of from the total sample have believe that parental separation has effect on their relationship with peer. The remaining 8(40%) of the respondents noted that there is no as such effect on relationship with their peers.

Table-5 Types of Effects

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
Type of effect on the relationship between their peers	Communication	5	25%
	Feeling inferiority	5	25%
	Stigma and discrimination	10	50%
	If any other	0	0

As indicated in the table above about 10(50%), 5(25%),and 5(25%) of the respondents forward that parent migration has effect on children's to face stigma and discrimination, feeling inferiority, & communication barriers.

Table-6. Relationship with Peer Groups

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
Relationship with your peer	Excellent	5	25%
	Very good	5	25%
	Good	8	40%
	Medium	2	10%

As shown the above table the respondents answer indicated that 8(40%), 5 (25%), 2(10%) good, excellent, very good, & medium kind of relationship with their peer group respectively. To support the above quantitative findings from semi- structured interview, FGD and observation information obtained from the children, their resident environment, parents and Keble or sub city authority body indicated that children are experiencing school dropout, school withdrawal, scoring low grade at school, feeling loneliness, and negative interaction with their peer group (i.e hostile relationship, frequent conflict & aggression).

In the interview session 10 years old child, states, **"I missed my mom due to migration before three years. Just after her leave, my dad married a new wife. In my step- mother always bit, punch me and she never want to give me any things to have in morning and**

in dinner. Her ugly action strongly affected my social interaction with my friends and other children in our home. I feel I am hostile, aggressive, hot tempered and always face conflict with my friends and school mates. And I am not in communication rather angry when I get something difficult”.

Old age mother in the community similarly present her observation as “oh..(Long silent) it is not advisable. Children are getting loneness depression and helplessness. Some of them are extremely hot, emotional distressful and weak to attend playing ground with their peers because they try to undermine themselves.”

PART. 3. QUESTIONS RELATED TO EFFECTS OF PARENTAL MIGRATION ON CHILDREN’S EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Table 7:- question related to children emotional development

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
Separating from the parents/ relatives expose children to stress	Yes	15	75%
	No	5	25%

The table above revealed that the majority of the respondents’ answer indicates that about 15(75%) believe that separating from parents or relative expose children to get stress while the remaining 5(25%) of respondents did not believe that separating from parents or relative expose children to get stress.

As the whole, the evidence from the sem- structured interview indicates that parental migration leads children to the psychological problem like emotional disturbance, loneness and anxiety or behavioral aggression .

“I you are psychologically, socially and physically hungry, what do you feel? That is all that children who missed their parents’ experiences. It is bad and that make you bad” a 43 years old gay in the community try to explain his observation and heart breaking feeling in position of the children. In frankly speaking social pressure is also other trauma for children. Maidens’, streetism and child labor the options children choice to survive their life.

PART 5 PERCEIVED TECHNIQUE TO HANDEL PARENTAL MIGRATION

Table 8 question related to managing parental migration

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
Parental migration is possible to control	Yes	14	70%
	No	6	30%

In the above table the participants responded that about 14(70%) believe that it is possible to control parental migration while the remaining 6(30%) believe that it is impossible to control parental migration.

Economic and unemployment stress major reason to leave their living residents place so it needs economic oriented solution. Creating job opportunities and education has a fertile ground to combat parental and adult migration.

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Table 9 question related to measurement for parental migration

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
What are the mechanisms use to control parental migration	Increasing income	7	35%
	creating Entrepreneurship opportunity	2	10%
	Creating awareness	2	10%
	Create new employment opportunity	6	30%
	Knowledge or education	3	15%

As indicated in the above table about 7 (35%), 2 (10%), and 2 (10%), 6 (30%), & 3 (15%) participants respond to increase income, create new employment opportunity, entrepreneurship, creating awareness, & knowledge or education respectively.

The participants in FGD indicated that all the family, community and society as well as governmental organization/NGOs should be vital to stop the expansion of migration. As the whole, lack of knowledge and wrong perception are the leading base for migration.

PART 6 CAUSES OF PARENTAL MIGRATION

Table- 10 causes of Parental Migration

	Alternative response	Number of response	Percentage
Factor for parental migration	To live better life	10	50%
	Peer pressure	4	20%
	Neighbor	6	30%

As indicated in the table about 10 (50%), 6 (30%) and 4(20%) of the participants believe that parental migration is for better life, neighborhood influence and peer pressure reasons respectively.

Table: 11 Why do people migrate?

	Alternative response	Number of response	percentage
Immediate and initiating factor of migration	Environmental factor	7	35%
	Family influence	5	25%
	Interest of him or her self	4	20%
	There is no cause any other	4	20%

As indicated in the above table the participants revealed that 7(35%), 5 (25%), 4 (20%), 4(20%), for, environmental factor, family influences, interests of him or herself, and finally there is no cause or any other respectively.

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Some of the participants in interview respond that the causes for parental migration is to living a safe living & economic situations, unemployment and peer pressure, and attitude of the society toward parental migration.

From the interview, 8-year-old child states that the problems the child missed his families due to his parents unlimited wish to improve living conditions of the family.

DISCUSSION

Majority of the respondents respond was the cause of parental migration is either of unfulfilled economic, environmental influence or peer pressure. This result is consistent with the previous study done by Martin (2009) it revealed that behind poor parent's migration, low-income, economic reason, lack of job, poverty and political reasons.

One of the effect of parental migration on children is problem their social interaction with others (Mikulincer and Shaver, 2005, Roisman et al, 2005, as cited in Bai, 2007). This study is consistent with the previous study that children who missed their parents, relative, caregiver, clearly exposed to social isolation, loneliness depression, negative social interaction with their peer group, school dropout, and frequent conflict with person near to them. It also pushes them to experience the street life and engage in child labor.

This result is consistence with the previous finding, which done by (Fernando and Vijita , 1989) which confirm that parental migration has effect on the children's' emotional development such as behavioral aggression, low self -confidence, anxiety and loneliness.

The current result revealed that, family, community, society and governmental organization are agent to handle migration through continuous education, vocational and entrepreneurship training, creating job opportunity and possible social intervention. Previous study by (Bjorkund, 2007) support the current finding.

CONCLUSION

After the detail analysis of the collected data the following conclusion were down. Lack of enough job opportunities and wrong attitude towards migration is cause for parental migration. Parental migration it was found that parental migration has effect on the children's psychosocial wellbeing. On the other hand, the children who lose their parents due to migration have high level of stress and it exposed children to have low self- confidence. Children are vulnerable to street life and child labor. All people action as individual and group level is a backbone to combat parental migration.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors carefully declare this paper to bear not conflict of interests

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