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# CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF RURAL URBAN MIGRATION: THE CASE OF SODO TOWN, WOLAITA ZONE

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## ABSTRACT

## **Article History**

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#### **Keywords**

Migration Conflict Indigenous institutions Transformation Livelihood Productivity. The study was about Causes and Consequences of Rural Urban Migration: the case of Sodo town, Wolaita Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia with specific objectives of to assess factors that aggravate rural urban migration; and to examine the consequences of rural urban migration in study area. Two stage sampling technique was used to select the 40 sample respondents from the total population. As far as the causes of migration is concerned, 35%, 32.5%. 17.5% and 15% were found to migrate due to some reasons like resource conflict, lack of job, lack of housing service, and lack of food respectively. As a result, local, regional or federal governments should give due emphasis for strengthening indigenous and formal institutions in such a way that they able to mange resource conflicts; and ensure transformation of agriculture in which case productivity would to increase food supply; and improve the lively hood of rural people. The study has also revealed about 47.5% and 25% of the total respondents were female and children below 15 years of age which shows especial emphasis should be given to educate children and to empower women. Further, about 62.5% and 67.5% were landless and unemployed as a result which the local, regional and federal governments should place especial attention to reduce unemployment by mobilizing rural people to effectively handle or manage their land and ensure productivity via increased employment there.

**Contribution/ Originality:** This study contributes in the existing literature that it points out improving agricultural productivity in rural areas among others should be the hot agenda for governments. Thus, this task will make more people get employed in agricultural sector as a result of which unemployment diminishes and livelihood improves. Further, appropriate land management practice is key issue for improving productivity and ensuring sustainable development mainly to reduce rural urban migration at remarkable rate.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1. Background of the study

Human migration is a physical movement of human beings from one place to another; some of it involves long distance in large group. Historically, this movement was nomadic often was causing significant conflict with the indigenous population and cultural assimilation, currently only few nomadic communities have refined this form of

life style. In modern time, migration has continued under the form of both voluntary migration and involuntary migration with include the slave trade, illegal trafficking of human being and ethnic cleansing.

Thus, as to migration patterns are different and complex, the most important migration from the standing point of long run development is rural-urban migration. But migration also takes the form of urban-urban and even urban-rural. Rural-urban migration is the movement of people from rural areas (village to urban centers).

Literatures also state that one noticeable aspect in the society today is the rate at which people migrate from the rural to urban centers. While the urban centers are increasing in population, rural –urban migration are the most important types of migration as it has significant impact on the population dynamics of cities. Since cities have potential for the development of economic activities, they attract migrants due to agglomeration economies. According to Machel (2004) the population of most cities in developing countries has rapidly been growing; often doubling in size every fifteen years.

The migration on literature has come to regard a rural-urban migration as the major contributing factor to the ever-present phenomenon of urban surplus labor which intensify already serious urban unemployment problem (Machel, 2004).

According to Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (2006) population growth in urban areas has increased over the last few decades. For instance, the United Nations (UN) documents that 40% of the total least developed countries population lived in urban areas in 2000, compared to 26.1% in 1975. More specifically, 34% of the 2000 sub-Saharan Africa population was urban– a jump of more than 62% over the 15 years. Rural–urban migration has been one of the most common phenomenons in the past centuries; it has contributed a lot in the urbanization history of many countries of the world. Basically, the movement and transfer of rural population to the urban areas have not always been great problems as it is today (United Nations (UN), 2014).

Internal migration flows in Ethiopia are currently large than external flows, but the exact number of people who migrate internally is not known. Although internal migration basically occurs in the form of rural urban migration, resettlement, etc., policies have also a substantial contribution in the size of migration in the country. Internal migration in Ethiopia has traditionally occurred at migration when the wife moves to live in husband's community. In addition to this traditional internal mobility, urbanization in Ethiopia is also the major cause of migration (Tom, 2018).

According the Sodo Town Manispality (2017) the pattern of rural to urban migration is also an issue for Wolaita Sodo town. As the town is the capital of the Wolaita zone, many youths have been migrating from the surrounding rural areas to the town. The increasing size of migrants in the Sodo town has a great implication for adequate supply of public services like housing, water, electricity, health and education services, etc. Consequently, this study has aimed at assessing the socio-economic impact of rural-urban migration in the study area.

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

The movement of people from place to place is an important component of population change which has its own spatial as well as temporal characteristics. In the current period of globalization, an improved and sophisticated means of transportation and communication are playing a key role in facilitating the interaction of people around the world. As a result, the rate of migration is easing both at national and international level (MoFED, 2006).

According to World Bank (2008) in developing countries, internal migration has more persisting. The migration from rural to urban area has been a common demographic change in most LDCs. The intensity of such movement has been strongly related to change in income, health services, education, road, water, etc. Besides this, the sudden natural disasters or the gradual deterioration of physical environment due to human movements, including drought, famine, land degradation, volcano etc. are the major problems influencing the urban livelihoods today. The population growth pressure in rural areas, the declining productive capacity of the land, land degradation and fragmentation are all reasons for rural-urban migration.

In Ethiopia, rural-urban migration has quite common especially in areas where drought is frequently historically documented. A study by Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) recorded that rural to urban migration in Ethiopia originates from the drought prone areas of northern region to Addis Ababa for many years (Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA), 2012).

According to Atnafu *et al.* (2014) the complexity of the migration process and a range of push and pull factors which may influence an individual's decision to migrate from a rural to urban centers has been clearly demonstrated by demographers, economists and evolutionary anthropologists. Accordingly, migration has generally viewed as a strategy of risk avoidance and resource diversification. Risk avoidance could be from local resource shortages. For instance, competition for small heritable agricultural plots and the aim of saving a family life during shocks is said to motivate a household member to migrate. Resource diversification has anticipated through new income generating opportunities and improved access to education available in urban center. However, the migrants usually incur costs both in money and time spent away from rural substance tasks.

Migration decision has strongly influenced by socio-economic factors. Due to the risk avoidance and resource diversification motive, most people decide to migrate from rural to urban areas; and this is very common phenomenon in the study area. The rural to urban migration has both positive and negative effects on leaving as well as areas receiving areas. Previous Studies (De *et al.*, 2017) has analyzed the positive and negative effect of rural-urban migration on leaving areas. The studies found that the motive for additional source of income; accumulation of capital, and flow of intangible benefits constitute a positive impact for leaving area. And shortage of labor during peak agricultural seasons, decreasing agricultural production, and migrants' vulnerability to infectious disease constitute a negative effect for leaving areas.

However, the aforementioned studies failed to show the impact of the rural to urban migration on the recipient areas, more specifically Wolaita Sodotown. This study therefore was undertaken to fill this research gap by assessing the causes and consequences of rural urban migration in Sodo town, Wolaita zone of Southern Ethiopia.

## 1.3. Research Questions

On the basis of the problems discussed above, the researcher aims at answering the following research questions:

- What is the impact of rural-urban migration on unemployment in the study area?
- Does rural urban migration have impact on housing in the study area?

## 1.4. Objectives of the Study

## 1.4.1. General objective of the Study

The overall objective of this study was to investigate causes and consequences of rural-urban migration in WolaitaSodo town, Southern Ethiopia.

#### 1.4.2. Specific Objectives of the Study

- To assess factors that aggravates rural urban migration in the study area.
- To examine the consequences of rural urban migration in study area.

## 1.5. Significance of the Study

This study was identified socio-economic impact caused by rural-urban migration in the study area. Then, the result of this has been benefit to the governmental and nongovernmental organization in designing strategies to reduce the negative effects of migration in recipient areas. The study may also be used as a reference material for further study by researchers who wish to study on similar subject matter.

#### 1.6. Scope and Limitation of Study

Migration, as it is known, is everywhere. However, trying to cover the vast area takes much time, requires enough money, and detailed data on the overall perception and attitude of the society in general and migrants in particular so as to reach at concrete conclusion. However, this study only incorporated its impact on housing and unemployment in the study area by collecting one time cross sectional data for the current year.

When I conduct this study there were some hindrance factors that affect the effectiveness of my study. These factors were lack of experience about how to work research, involuntariness of respondents in giving, adequate information that is necessary for study, lack of enough organized secondary data in town, and lack of reference book in a library.

## 2. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

#### 2.1. Description of Study Area

Wolaita Sodois a town in southern Nation Nationalities and people regional state (SNNPRS), Ethiopia. Woliata zone is bordered to the south by Gamo Gofa and Dawuro Zones; to the north east by Kambata Tambaro zone, to the North Hadiya Zone; and to the south west by Sidama Zone. Wolaita Sodo town is the capital of the Wolaita zone; and located about 312 Km distance away to the south from the capital of Addis Ababa.

## 2.2. Data Types and Source

Data was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was obtained from respondents that are selected by preparing questionnaires and interviews. Secondary data was collected from different sources such as research paper, written documents and books.

## 2.3. Sampling Technique and Sample Size

Two stage sampling technique was used to select the sample respondents from the total population. Thus, in the first stage, Sodo town was purposively selected among different towns in the zone based on the number of people migrating to the town. Then, the list of all migrants was obtained from the municipality. In the second stage, 40 respondents were randomly selected and interviewed.

## 2.4. Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, mean, etc. were used for analysis of data. And, inferential statistics like  $X^2$  were also employed to strengthen the findings.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 3.1. Causes of Rural-Urban Migration

#### 3.1.1. Demographic, Economic and Other Factors

Migration usually studies the socio-economic and demographic nature of migrants, who are involved in the mobility. The focus of different studies emphasize on the nature of migration in relation to sex, age, marital status etc. knowing characteristics that the rural-urban migration about the possible influence that the rural-urban migration would have the place of origin and destination.

<b>1 able-1.</b> Sex of respondents.							
	С	<b>Causes of migration(N=40)</b>					
Sex	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	X²	Asmp. sig.
Male	3(7.5)	2(5)	9(22.5)	7(17.5) 7(17.5)	21(52.5)	2.7	0.441
female	4(10)	4(10)	4(10)		19(47.5)		
Total	7(17.5)	6(15)	13(32.5)	14(35)	40(100)		
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Table-1. Sex of respondents.

**NB:** Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level. **Source:** Own survey, 2017/18.

## 3.1.1.1. Sex

As far as the sex composition of sample respondents is concerned, 52.5% and 47.5% respondents were male and female respectively Table 1. Thus, as shown in the table, male people (22.5%) were found to migrate mainly due to lack of job and other reasons like conflict and lack of peace (17.5%) respectively. The remaining 7.5% and 5% were found to migrate due to lack of housing service and lack of food respectively. Similarly, females were found to migrate mainly due to other reasons (17.5%). Further, lack housing service, lack of food, and lack of job take equal share (10%) as cause of migration for females.

#### 3.1.1.2. Age of Sample Respondents

	Table-2. Age of respondents.						
		Causes of	migration	(N=40)			
Age	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	X²	Asmp. sig.
Age <15	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	2(5)	6(15)	10(25)		
(16-25)	4(10)	2(5)	2(5)	7(17.5)	15(37.5)		
(26-35)	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	4(10)	1(2.5)	9(22.5)	10.87	0.054**
(36-45)	1(2.5)	-	4(10)	-	5(12.5)		
>45	-	-	1(2.5)		1(2.5)		

NB: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level. Source: Own survey, 2017/18.

As shown in Table 2, most of the migrants(37.5%) were youth in the age range of 16 to 25 years who migrated to the town mainly due to some reasons like conflict(17.5%), lack of housing services in rural areas(10%), lack of food(5%), and lack of job(5%). And, about 25% of the migrants were children below 15 years who migrated to the town due to factors like conflict (15%), lack of job (5%), lack of food (2.5%), and lack of house (2.5%). Further, about 22.5% of the sample respondents were the age range between 26 to 35 years who migrated to the town mainly due to lack of job (10%), lack of food (7.5%), lack of housing services (2.5%) and some other reasons like conflict (2.5%). In addition, about 12.5% of the sample respondents were between the productive age group of 36 to 45 years who replied the cause of migration to be lack of job (10%) and lack of housing services (2.5%). Finally, about 2.5% of the respondents were above 25 years who migrated to the town due to some reasons like conflict. Thus, almost all (99%) of the migrants were either children below 15 years age or young and productive group between the age 16to 45 years. Hence, the effect is not negligible since children and young men are the back bones of any economy. The X<sup>2</sup> test also confirms the case as the X<sup>2</sup> value 10.87 is significant at 5% level of significance.

Table-3. Distribution of respondents by education.							
	Ca	uses of mig	ration(N=	=40)			
Education	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	$\mathbf{X}^{2}$	Asmp. sig.
Illiterate	2(5)	2(5)	2(5)	1(2.5)	7(17.5)		
Elementary (1-4)	2(5)	-	4(10)	4(10)	10(25)		
Secondary (5-10)	2(5)	3(7.5)	1(2.5)	4(10)	10(25)	20.4*	0.06
High school (11-12)	-	1(2.5)	-	3(7.5)	4(10)		
Higher education	1(2.5)	-	6(15)	2(5)	9(22.5)		

#### 3.1.1.3. The Education Status of Respondents

NB: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level. Source: Own survey, 2017/18.

As depicted in Table 3, majority of people were found to migrate with education status of elementary school (25%) and secondary school (25%) whereas the least number (10%) of people migrate with the education status of high school. Further, the number of people who migrate with the education status of higher education (e.g. degree, diploma, etc.) was also not negligible (22.5%) followed by illiterate (17.5%). Thus, as to this study, migration takes place with all level of education except the difference lies in the number of people migrate in each level of education. The X<sup>2</sup> test also suggests there exists a considerable difference since the value of (X<sup>2</sup> =20.4) is significant at 10% level of significance.

# 3.2. Consequences of Rural to Urban Migration 3.2.1. Effect on Income

	C	auses of n					
Income	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	X²	Asmp. sig.
Monthly						2.00	0.572
income(birr)							
[300-3171]	7(17.5)	6(15)	13(32.5)	10(25)	36(90)		
>3171	-	-	-	4(10.5)	4(10)		

Table-4. Monthly income of sample respondents

**NB**: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level. **Source:** Own survey, 2017/18.

As shown in Table 4, majority of people (90%) earn income range birr [300-3171] whereas relatively very few people (10%) earn monthly income of above birr 3171. Thus, almost all migrants were low income earners. And, they were found to migrate mainly due to lack of job (32.5%), other reasons (25%). lack of housing services (17.5%), and lack of food (15%). Thus, as to this study, migration might have worsened people's monthly income as result of which migration itself was aggravated.

# 3.2.2. Effect on Asset Ownership 3.2.2.1. House Ownership

As shown in Table 5 about 42.5% of the sample respondents have access to housing services but still found to migrate due to lack of job (17%), some other reasons like conflict (17.5%), lack of food (7.5%) whereas about 57.5% have no housing services and migrated to the town due to some reasons like conflict (17.5%), lack of housing services (17.5%), lack of job (15%) and lack of food (7.5%). Thus, other factors like lack of peace, conflict, crime, etc.

take a lion share as cause of migration for both who have access to housing services and those who have no access to housing services in the study area.

	Cau	ses of mig					
Housing service	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	$\mathbf{X}^{2}$	Asmp. sig.
Yes	-	3(7.5)	7(17.5)	7(17.5)	17(42.5)	0.00	0.07
No	7(17.5)	3(7.5)	6(15)	7(17.5)	23(57.5)	0.22	0.97

	Table-5. House ownership of the sample responden	its.
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NB: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level. Source: Own survey, 2017/19.

## 3.2.2.2. Effect on Land Holding

Table-6. Land ownership of sample households.							
	Cau	ses of migr	ation(N=4	<b>40</b> )			
Land holding(hectare)	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	$\mathbf{X}^{2}$	Asmp. sig.
Land less	6(15)	6(15)	7(17.5)	6(15)	25(62.5)		
Very small size (<0.25)	1(2.5)	-	2(5)	3(7.5)	6(15)	9.64	0.083
Very small and not productive	-	-	4(10)	5(12.5)	9(22.5)		

NB: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level.

Source: Own survey, 2017/18.

As can be seen in Table 6, most of the respondents (62.5) were landless. And, the land less were found to migrate due to lack of food(15%), lack of job(17.5%), other reasons(15%) and lack of housing services(15%). Further, 15% of respondents were used to have a very small size (<0.25 hectare) of land who migrated mainly due to lack of job (10%). The remaining 22.5% respondents owned very small (<0.25 hectare) but not productive land who were found to migrate due to lack of job (10) and other reasons (12.5%). Therefore, migration in one hand brings a remarkable pressure up on land holding; and in other hand it can be caused due to a lack of land or small and non-productive land. The X<sup>2</sup> test also suggests the same as the value 9.64 is significant at 10% level of significance.

## 3.2.3. Effect on Employment

Table-7. Effect on employment.							
	Cau	Causes of migration(N=40)					
Increased unemployment	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	$\mathbf{X}^{2}$	Asmp. sig.
Yes No	5(12.5) 2(5)	2(5) 4 (10)	13(32.5) -	7(17.5) 7(17.5)	27(67.5) 13(32.5)	6.7*	0.083

NB: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level. Source: Own survey, 2017/18.

As indicated in Table 7, most of the respondents (67.5%) replied migration to aggravate unemployment out of which 32.5%, 17.5%, and 12.5% migrated due to lack of job, other reasons and lack of housing services respectively whereas the remaining 5% migrated due to lack of food. About 32.5% of the total respondents replied migration might not have aggravated unemployment. And, they replied the reason for migration to be other factors (like conflict, lack of peace, etc.) (17.5%), lack of food (10%), and lack of housing services (5%). Thus, migration brings a

remarkable pressure up on unemployment and it again might be caused due to unemployment. The  $X^2$  test also confirms the effect to be strong as the  $X^2$  value 6.7 is significant at 10% level of significance.

## 3.2.4. Moral and Psychological Effect

Table-8. Moral and psychological effect.							
	(	Causes of migration(N=40)					
Has moral and psychological damage	Lack of housing service	Lack of food	Lack of job	Others (e.g. conflict, etc.)	Total	X²	Asmp. sig.
Yes	5(12.5)	5(12.5)	6(15)	13(32.5)	29(72.5)	1.96	0.74
No	2(5)	1(2.5)	7(17.5)	1(2.5)	14(35)	1.26	0.74

NB: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage out of total \*=significant at 10% level of significance, \*\*=significance at 5% level

Source: Own survey, 2017/18.

As can be seen in Table 8, 72.5% of the sample respondent replied migration to have high moral and psychological damage. And, they were found to migrate due to reasons like conflict (32.5%), lack of job (15%), lack of food (12.5%), and lack of housing services (12.5%). And, it was evident that 47.5 % of the sample respondents were female Table 1. Further, about 25% of the sample respondent was children below 15 years of age Table 2. Thus migration has brought moral and psychological damage on females and children below 15 years. The remaining 35% of the sample respondent replied migration to have no remarkable moral and psychological damage; and migrated due to lack of job (17.5%), lack of housing services (5%), lack of food (2.5%) and some other reasons like conflict (2.5%).

# 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 4.1. Conclusions

Based on the results and discussions made, it can be concluded that:

- Some factors like resource conflict (35%), lack of job (32.5%), lack of housing services (17.5%), and lack of food (15%) were among the major reasons which cause rural urban migration. And, a remarkable number of migrants were found to be female (47.5%) and children below 15 years of age (25%). In addition, migration takes place with all level of education where elementary education (25%), secondary education (25%) and no formal education or illiterate (17.5%) take a lion share.
- As far as the consequences of migration is concerned, it brought a significant pressure up on land holding as 62.5%, 22.5%, and 15% of the total respondents were landless, owned very small land(<0.25 hectare), and very small and non-productive land respectively. This would happen mainly due to that they might have rented out their land or were not focused on land management issues as they already decided to migrate.
- The study has also depicted that migration brought a remarkable effect up on employment as 67.5% of the total respondents were still unemployed and migrating due to lack of job, lack of food, lack of housing services, and some other reasons like conflict.
- Finally, the moral and psychological damage faced by the female (47.5%) and children below 15 years (25%) is not negligible as 72.5% of the total respondents replied that it brought a strong moral and psychological damage.

## 4.2. Recommendation

Based on the analysis and conclusion, the following points could be considered as policy implication:

- Resource conflicts should be avoided via strengthening the local institutional values like local mediation rules (e.g. *Shimiglina* or *Chima*, etc.). In addition, fair distribution and utilization of resources should be ensured by making the formal rules and regulations transparent for every people.
- Much more should be done for increasing productivity of the agricultural land. Thus, people should sense ownership for the land they currently own regardless of its size. Hence, agricultural agents should teach and work closely with farmers in such a way that farmers give due focus for land management issues and increase productivity and production as a result of which their lively-hood could be improved and food supply will also be increased.
- Both local and regional or federal level development agendas should give due emphasis for children and women because transformation can never be achieved without a due concern for children and active participation of women. Hence, children should be educated and women should be given equal chances to participate in every social, political and economic issue as well.
- Every development activity or agendum should be in a direction that it would certainly minimize unemployment and increase productivity or production. Hence, local, regional and federal governments should take this topic as key or hot issue work toward zero unemployment and migration.

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## **APPENDIX: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

## Dear Respondents;

This questionnaire is prepared to collect information about socio-economic impact of rural-urban migration in Sodo Town. The questionnaire will be used for academic purpose only and the output of the study will be depends on the accuracy of the information. My special gratitude goes to you for your correct information.

- General background of migrants before migration
- Sex: Male Female
- Age: <15 16-25 26-35 36-45 >45
- Marital status marred: marred single divorced window
- Place of birth: Sodo
  out of Sodo
- If your answer is out of Sodo, where did you come from? Rural urban
- How long has you live in Sodo?
  - Year More than Year month or more than month
  - Information after migrating and consequence of migration
- What kind of problem do you face when you come to Sodo?
  - Housing
  - Lack of food
  - Last of job
  - Cultural difference
  - Information problem
  - Other places specify
- Current educational status after migrating to Sodo?
  - Illiterate
  - 1-4
  - 5-8
  - 9-12
  - Certificate

Diploma

- Degree and above
- Education level before migration to Sodo?

	Illiterate	Certificate
	1-4	Diplomas
5-8	9-12	2 Degree and above

- Are you employed?
- Yes no
- If the answer is yes for question number 3 what is your occupational states

Employed in public organization employed in private company undertaking on own business other (specify) .....

• What is the nature of your present work?

Permanent temporary

- How much is your monthly income?..... birr(if applicable)
- Are you satisfied with your current employment?
  - Yes No
- If the answer for question number 8 is no what is your reason?

The return is too low other (specify)

Current job is less secure

Do you have your own house?

Yes No

.

- If the answer for question number 10 is no, what kind of arrangement? Rent depend on relatives street vender other specify
- If rented, how much month payment .....in Birr?
- How do you see the rental price? very expensive moderate cheap
- Have your been accused in crime? Yes
  No
- What do you think is the most challenging for you as a resident of Sodo town?

Housing price Healthy facility Emp't insecurity Water access Electricity service.

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