



ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF URBANIZATION ON THE MODJO TOWN'S PERIPHERAL COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD, OROMIA, ETHIOPIA

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Abstract

Urbanization is a dynamic set of processes, responding to changing values and perceptions of the basic characteristics of rural versus urban areas. These processes in different countries reflect the differential development of human principles. Any process of change generates stresses, and urbanization processes are no exception. In the peripheral farming communities affected by the processes, pressures are applied up on natural resource base, and socio demographic structures can be changed. This study area is located in Oromia Regional State, East Shoa Zone, Lume Woreda which is 73 km East of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The researcher used a case study research design that investigates complex and contemporary societal phenomena in depth, and the researcher made an attempt to take 40 representative samples of households from these dislocated peripheral farming communities. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques will apply for this research, this study would develop guidelines for key informant interview, FGD and questionnaire, to analyze the collected data with the application of SPSS 22 where used in this study.

Urbanization is the phenomenon come through centuries around the world and it is impossible to stop it. Most of urbanization experiences indicate that it is expanding towards the peripheral areas. As urban growth horizontally further land is needed from the peripheral communities. The peripheral farming community was not made participant on the decisions about the kinds and amount of compensations and related benefits to them for the farming land displaced from them, for the property they lost and hence for their livelihood interruption and the resulting effect on their family.

Introduction:

In many parts of the world, Urbanization and urban growth are considered as a modern way of life which marks economic growth and development. In many countries this indicates the level of urbanization and socio-economic status of the inhabitants is linked. In Ethiopia Urbanization faces a number of problems due to sometimes unplanned settlement and slums which distinguish some of the larger cities of the country (Tamirat, 2016). The problem of rapid and uncontrolled urban growth and its consequence on regional landscape in the country have been a serious concern for researchers. The magnitude and scope of problem of urbanization goes higher when the wastes are dumped on the surrounding groups of communities from schemes of urban (Adeboyejo, 2007).

Statement of the problem:

Urbanization is one of the demographic trends of the current century where cities and towns rapidly expanding through a continuous process of urban growth towards the peripheral farmlands. In Ethiopian urbanization is expanding in unexpected rate resulting to the farming community displacement associated with loss of agricultural land, agricultural production and change of their livelihood (Eyasu, 2007). According to the experience of urbanization in Ethiopia, agricultural communities are relocated and left with little compensation, with no training for other skills. The government expects them to use the small compensation money for investments in new livelihoods (Gittleman, et al., 2009). In this country, urbanization is expanding in unpredicted rate resulting to peripheral community displacement with related loss of farm land and change of their livelihood. It has been pointed out that even planned displacement has its own negative effect on the livelihood of the community (Tamirat, 2016). The same occurrence is seen in Oromia Regional States cities and towns. In Oromia there is rapid horizontal urban expansion. Among the region's towns Modjo is one of the fastest expanding towns towards peripheral farming communities.

Objectives of the Study:

- ✓ Identify the effects of urbanization on the livelihood of peripheral farming communities.
- ✓ Assess appropriateness of compensation packages pursued by government in order to improve the livelihood of the communities.
- ✓ Identify the coping mechanisms that the affected community developed as a new means of a livelihood.

Scope of the study:

The research will be conducted at peripheral farming communities' areas of Modjo town, Oromia Regional state. The town has been expanding horizontally over the peripheral areas to include lands that were previously under the rural villages. With the expansion of town, farmers are displaced; land use pattern was also changed from agricultural land to industrial and urban residential purposes. Therefore, this study focus on the effects of rapid expansion of Modjo town and respective land use changes for farming communities who earn their livelihood from farmland. This study covers people located at periphery of the town that previously lost their farm land and faced the environmental deterioration due to urbanization.

Causes of Urbanization:

According UNEP (2002) estimation, the rapid increase of the world's urban population coupled with the slowing of rural population growth has led to a major redistribution of the population over the past 30 years. In addition to the world's urban population increase, rural-urban migration due to natural disaster, unemployment in rural area, food insecurity, and social insecurity causes rapid urbanization especially in developing countries like Ethiopia (Tegene, 2002). The major reasons for raising the level of urbanization are rural-urban migration, geographical expansion of urban areas through annexation and transformation and re-classification of rural villages into urban settlement (Cohen, 2005 cited in Teketel, 2015). The rural-urban migration movement of people from the rural to the urban areas is the most important cause of urbanization in Africa. In addition to this the predominance of young adults and more or less equal proportions of males and females whose desire for large families are high. High birth and low mortality rates Africa has the highest fertility and natural rates of increase in population in the world. This causes urbanization in the continent (Nsiah-Gyabaah, 2003).

Trends of Urbanization:

The United Nations (2005) estimates that by 2030 urban areas of Africa and Asia continents alone will double the number of their populations relative to 2000 levels with a total increase of 1.7 billion. By the same year, the UN is expecting urban population world-wide to reach 5 billion (Greenwood, 2009). The world is inevitably becoming urbanizing. By 2030 all developing regions of the world, including Asia and Africa, will have more people living in urban than rural areas (UN-HABITAT, 2011). According to UN World Urbanization

Prospectus (2006), the last three decades has witnessed rapid urbanisation processes in many developing countries especially Africa. The major features of urbanisation process in many places being population growth, unplanned urban expansion, and an increase in informal settlements. It is projected that the urbanisation process in Africa is likely to continue at a rate 1.1% for next thirteen years (Chembo, 2011).

The Effects of Urbanization:

The effects of urbanization on peri-urban environment and livelihoods can be seen in two different ways: positive and negative. Well planned and managed urban expansion and development can serve as a positive development factor. The profit could be seen in terms of high demand on agricultural produces, access to developed extension services, and opportunities to non-farm employment .However, unplanned urbanization, like in most developing countries, negatively affects the natural environment and livelihoods in peri-urban areas (UN-HABITAT, 2010).

Research Methodology:

In this research, the researcher used a case study research design that investigates complex and contemporary societal phenomena in depth. The case study research design allows the researcher to use a variety of data sources and research methods. This research design can predominantly be employed in relation to the discovery of information following an inductive logic, to describe what is happening in the case study setting (Achamyeleh, 2013). Thus, the case study approach creates an opportunity to combine different data collection techniques such as questionnaires, interviews, FGDs, and secondary (document) analysis. Hence, to maintain triangulation in its findings, the design manifested the basic features of both the qualitative and quantitative researches. In order to accomplish the main goal of the research, both primary and secondary sources of data will be been collected and used. The primary data will be collected from focus group discussions, in-depth interview of the key informants, observations and questionnaires. The secondary one will be collected from all available written documents. The researcher made an attempt to take 40 representative samples of households from these dislocated peripheral farming communities. A list of the displaced households would be generated from roasters of the town's investment office, to form the sampling frame for simple random sampling. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques will apply for this research. With regard to non-probability sampling,

the researcher purposively select two peripheral kebeles that surrounding Modjo town in which the highest expansion of the town has been observed.

During data analysis and interpretation, qualitative and quantitative data obtained from interviews, FGD and questionnaire the researcher used to explain such changes and identify determinants of change, including adaptive strategies and issues related to urbanization. Both qualitative and quantitative (descriptive statistics) methods were used in hybrid form to analyze the collected data with the application of SPSS soft ware version 22.

Demography of the Respondents:

Distribution of the Respondents		Frequency	Percent
Age	31-40	3	7.5
	41-50	13	32.5
	>51	24	60.0
Gender	Male	34	85.0
	Female	6	15.0
Marital Status	Married	34	85.0
	Divorced	3	7.5
	Widow	3	7.5
Occupation	Farming	34	85.0
	Merchant	4	10.0
	Others	2	5.0
Education Status	Illiterate	6	15.0
	Read and Write	10	25.0
	Primary Level	21	52.5
	Secondary Level	3	7.5
years of living	16-20	5	12.5
	>21	35	87.5

Table - 1

As indicated from the above table - 1 the respondent's majority of the households are the age group of above 51(60%), 32.5% are between 41-50 and 7.5% are between 31-40. This indicates that majority of the respondents are an age group with highest life experiences in their socio-economic dynamics including urbanization of Modjo town and its expansion in the area under the study, the gender distribution of the respondents, out of the total samples majority 34(85%) were males (male-headed households) rest 6(15%) were female (female-headed households), the marital status of the respondents, majority 34(85%) of them were married. About 7.5% of the respondents were divorced in different cases and the rest 7% were widow samples, the household respondents 34(85%) were engaged on farming

activities in the study area. The remaining 4(10%) and 2(5%) were engaged on trade and other activities respectively. This means majority of the households displaced/dispossessed from their land due to urbanization in the study area were farmers, the educational background of the respondents table 5 implies that 6 (15%) of the households were illiterate, 10 (25%) of the respondents could read and write, more than half of the respondents 21(52.5%) were studied from grade 1 to 8 and only 3(7.5) of them attained secondary (grade 9-12) educational level. 35(87.5%) respondents lived in the study area and well understood the effects of urbanization in the peripheral area. Only 5(12.5%) lived in the area between 16 to 21 years. This result indicates that most of the dispossessed/displaced respondents were original community in the area.

Awareness, participation and benefit gained from urbanization program:

Item	Response	Frequency	Percent
Awareness	Through public orientation	28	70.0
	By training	2	5.0
	Both	5	12.5
	No awareness	5	12.5
Participation (decision making)	Yes	21	52.5
	No	19	47.5
Benefits (21)	Raised own interest	19	47.5
	Access to benefit packages	2	5.0

Table - 2

As shown in table - 2 there was awareness of the urban expansion program in the study area by the sample respondents through the means of public orientation 28(70%), training 2 (5.0%), and both by the town administration 5 (12.5%), no awareness administration 5 (12.5%), Even though majority half of the respondents 21(52.5%) had the awareness of the town's expansion program in the area, almost half 19 (47.5%) were not the participants of the expansion program, 21(52.5%) respondents were participants of the urban expansion program. This implies that participation of the community in the program is low. Those respondents who participated in the urbanization program 19(47.5%) were raised own interest, while 2 (5%) had access to benefit packages.

Compensation packages to improve the livelihood of the communities:

Item	Responses	Frequency	Percent
Compensation Obtained	Yes	40	100.0
Promised Compensation	Money compensation	20	50.0
	housing plots	1	2.5
	Job opportunities	1	2.5
	All	3	7.5
	Others	15	37.5
Gained Compensation	Money compensation	39	97.5
	Others	1	2.5
Decision makers on compensation	Government body	40	100.0
Reaction on compensation	Satisfied	8	20.0
	Dissatisfied	32	80.0

Table - 3

As shown in table - 3, all of the respondents 40(100%) were obtained compensation due to they lost their farming land following horizontal urban expansion in the area, while they were unable to obtain what promised for them. As seen from the table what promised for 20(50%) was money compensation, for the rest 15 (37.5%) the promised compensations were other kinds like infrastructure development in the area, different services, and alternative farming land. Only for 1(2.5%) respondent housing plots was promised when the government body taken his farming land for housing purpose. Job opportunity in the industry was also the promised compensation for a single respondent (2.5%) in the study area.

Even though all the respondents obtained the compensation because of their lost asset, the promised compensation package and the gained compensation was different. For half of the respondents alone money compensation was promised but 39(97.5%) of the respondents obtained monetary compensation and 1(2.5%) gained alternative land from other area. As understood from the table the sole decision maker on compensation package was government body. Due to the inappropriateness of compensation package the respondents compliant was not properly reacted. This implies that 32(80%) of the respondents were dissatisfied by the reaction of the government's body and only 8(20%) of them were satisfied.

Conclusions

Urbanization is the phenomenon come through centuries around the world and it is impossible to stop it. As urban growth horizontally further land is needed from the peripheral communities. The town administration did pledge to offer appropriate compensation of money, housing plots, to create job opportunity, to provide different social services, and trainings. But practically the promise was not implemented. The town officials had no definite displacement and compensation policy although different international, national legal provisions and scholar findings have an advice on it. As a result of this, decision of compensation remained under the government program. Because of this, the rights and legal provisions of compensation and benefits land displaced households were deserved for by law remained at the table of conciliation. The urban expansion, that was carried out in this manner had brought a significant negative effect on the livelihood elements of the peripheral farming-community as this study examined. Moreover, the social value this community had before declined from above moderate through very high to very low while natural assets declined. In fact, most of the samples respondents were agree with urban expansion if it was be run by a responsive institution, was to be participatory, willingness based and promissory to them.

As a copying mechanism, the households engaged in to different livelihood strategies. Some migrated in to rural areas and pursued small farming while some others who were wealthy and powerful even before moved in to urban centers and set up their own urban business. Majority however stayed at their residence which was limited to allotted plot and engaged in different works like petty trading, daily labor and guardsmen. In a regard to the newly started livelihood output, the findings shown that, most of the households believed that they had not secured their livelihood while the rest, especially those who were migrated in to other country know began small business.

Recommendations

Public discussion should be convinced to further strengthen development of towns. Residential home sites should be given to farmers whose land has been taken for different purposes. Farmers should be given enough money for compensation of their land and also offered training on the proper use of the money. Continues training should be given to the

farming community to fulfill the educational qualification of this community to cope up with urbanization and modern way of life. Officials take the initiative and ask those who cause problem to farmers including the issue of pollution although there is a responsible office of environmental protection. Environmental policies should be implemented in urban areas to create clean, attractive and hospitable township. The government work critically on the organizations that work on farmers issue especially on peripheral farming communities. These organizations or institutions have been filled with skilled, responsive and committed professionals whom can solve the farming communities' problem. To ensure sustainable livelihood to cope up with the effects of urbanization, all concerned body particularly the involvement of peripheral farming communities is very important. Thus, priorities should be given to the awareness and participation of the farming community in the forgoing programs and decision making process before actual implementation of the program.

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