Demographic and socioeconomic dynamics of out-migration of the vulnerable in Southern Ethiopia: Analysis of decisions, reasons, networks and Consequences

By

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Main objective

This study was intended to examine the nature of migration decision makings (reasons, consequences, migration networks and remittance) among households in Southern Ethiopia based on the data from 11162 randomly selected households, collected by the regional government.

Brief description of the study area

The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), one of the nine states making the federal government of Ethiopia, is located in the southern part of the country. The geographic location of the region is between 4° 43' and 8° 58' north latitude and 34° 88' and 39° 14' east longitude. It shares boundary within the northwest and Oromia region in the north, east and southeast. It also shares international boundaries with Kenya in south and South Sudan in southwest. With an area of 113,539 square kilometers, it accounts for about 10 percent of the total area of the country. Administratively, the region is divided in to 14 zones, one city administration and 4 special woredas/districts. These include Hadiya, Sidama, Gedio, Silte, Gurage, Kambata Tembaro, Gamo goffa, South Omo, Bench Maji, Kafa, Sheka, Dawro, Wolyta and Segen people's zones and Basketo, Yem, Konta, and Halaba special woredas. The state capital of the region is Hawassa which is administrated under city administration at the status of zonal administration (BoFED, 2006). The region is multi ethnic with 56 nations and nationalities living together. The nations and nationalities have their own language, culture and tradition which give the region an appearance of mosaic of people and cultures. According to the 2007 Census by CSA, women account for 50.48% of the region's population.

Methodology

The main data for this study were generated through both primary and secondary sourcesThe household survey data were collected from women respondents, key informants at four different levels (kebele, woreda ,zones and Region). The initial sample size estimated was 9664 , and with contingency the final size became 11162. Once the sample size was determined, the individual households were selected using multistage sampling technique. Two representative districts from each of the 16 zone of the region were selected randomly, giving a total of 32 study districts.The data were analyzed using bivariate (Pearson's Chi-Square) and multivariate (Logistic regression) using the migration decision as main dependent variable.

Results

The results indicated that many rural households (1032 households) are sending at least one person to urban areas during the reference period mainly because of economic reasons and demographic pressures. Children, women and youth account for more than 52 percent of the total volume of out migration during the reference period (five years). Disaggregated by gender, males are more prone to migrate compared to females due to cultural and familial reasons discussed in the paper. There are gender differentials in terms of reasons for migration, consequences (positive and negative) of migration, networks and remittance of migrants back to their place of origin. The logistic regression analysis depicted that some variables such as gende, dependent member of household, family type, land size and asset ownership affects the nature of migration decision. On the other hand, the linear regression model revealed that frequency of remittance is strongly affected by such variables as sex, household income and communication a migrant has with his/her place of origin.

Conclusion

The study concluded that migration in the region is more household (group) decision, and is shaped by gender and certain household demography. The policy implication of the study is high as it calls for short and long term interventions required in both areas of origin and destination.