

Cause for Women's Unemployment and Its Obscurity on their Life in Dire Dawa: The Case of Genda Tesfa Sub- Quarter

Shambel Tufa Telila

Dire Dawa University

Abstract: *The rationale of writing this paper was to investigate the cause of women's unemployment and its obscurity in Dire Dawa city in sub-quarter of Genda Tesfa. The study tried to examine the causes of women unemployment such as level of education, marital status and rural- urban migration from the surrounding area of Hararghe to urban centers of Dire Dawa particularly to Genda Tesfa sub-quarter. The researcher found that majority peoples who were migrated from rural areas of Hararghe to the sub- quarter of Genda Tesfa were the migrants who speak Afan Oromo language, and the peoples of Genda Tesfa speak Afan Oromo too. These make the migrants to have safe place to reside for future striving for job. The researcher used both primary and secondary sources of data to explore the causes for women unemployment and obscurity in Genda Tesfa sub-quarter. Anthropologists need to have a concern about the ethical consideration for the society under study (the host society). Everything about the society under study would be kept in secret or not exposed without the consent of these societies. The study also has its own methodology, study design, source of data, instruments of data collection, and qualitative methods of data analysis and interpretations. Lastly the researcher tried to conclude the finding with single paragraph.*

Keywords: Women's unemployment, the obscurity of unemployment

1. Background of the Study

Poor people have severely limited access to and control over key assets, including land and physical and human capital. Lacks of production and human capital possession, the poor have low income and low consumption. Most poor people are also inadequately educated and generally less healthy than the rest of the population. Many depend for their livelihoods on low-productivity subsistence agriculture or on the informal sector, where returns to labor and capital are generally low. Workers in the informal sector have low incomes, limited protection and frequent spells of unemployment. These factors, coupled with lack of access to institutions that shape policies, prevent the poor from acquiring the capabilities for decent work (UNECA, 2005).

Unemployment has a significant impact on poverty, homelessness and affects family cohesion. It causes hopelessness and other social evils such as crime, violence, break up of families, alcoholism and prostitution. Unemployment is one of the most serious problems facing the continent of African. In accordance with IMF and World Bank (IMF, 1999 and World Bank, 2002) report, most of the African countries applying structural adjustment of measures which have retrenched large number of public-sector workers (United Nations, 1996). The international accepted measurement of unemployment is based on the following three criteria that must be satisfied simultaneously; "without work", "currently available for work" and "seeking work" (ILO, 2003).

Women unemployment represents a growing concern worldwide. According to the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1996, "More than one billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in

unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries" (United Nations, 1996).

"Women now account for a growing percentage of the world's poor" and a publication of the United Nations Development Program states: 70% of the world's poor are women. Women workers everywhere habitually have much higher rates of joblessness and much lower earnings than male workers. In many contexts, women are also concentrated in low-skill informal work or in hazardous forms of work that are ill-suited to their age and experience. Employment outcomes are typically worst for former women laborers and other early school-leavers, groups with least opportunity to accumulate the human capital needed for gainful employment (UNDP, 1995). According to ILO reports, women workers dominate the informal sector, concentrated in activities such as unpaid agricultural work, food processing, street selling, insignificant cross-border trading, marketing of processed and semi-processed agricultural products and household domestic duties. Only a small but growing percentage of women work in the formal sector: For Example, in teaching, nursing, mining services, manufacturing and lower-level clerical jobs (ILO, 1986).

The gender dimensions of unemployment can also disregard the female through an analysis of the share of employed people in the working-age population (those aged 15 years and older) or the unemployment to population ratio. In most countries this ratio is lower for women than for men. The unemployment rate of female and male in South Africa was 15 and 8.1 percent respectively. Similarly, the unemployment rate of female and male in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008 was 8.2 and 7.2 percent respectively (ILO, 2009).

Ethiopia remains one of the world's poorest countries with a per capita income of just US\$102 in 2003, or approximately

US\$800 at purchasing power parity. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line of less than one dollar a day at purchasing power parity is estimated to be 2 percent for 2000, while 78 percent of the population lived on less than two dollars a day (again, at purchasing power parity) (CSA, 1984).

The economy is predominantly agricultural, as the agricultural sector accounts for about 80 percent of employment, and about 50 percent of GDP (MOFED, 2002). As part of Africa, a high level of un- and underemployment is one of the critical socio-economic problems facing Ethiopia (Andreas, K, 2008). Women are more likely to be employed in jobs of low quality, underemployed, working long hours for low wages, engaged in dangerous work or receive only short term and/or informal employment arrangements. Unemployment and underemployment reflect the failure to make use of an important factor of production, labor, for fostering economic growth (ILO, 2010).

In Ethiopia, unemployment rates have increased more for women than for men over the five years prior to 2004. In 1999, the women unemployment rate among women was 17.3 percent, compared to 6.8 percent among men. The urban female women unemployment rate was 43.7 percent compared to 29.4 percent for urban male and women (CSA, 2005). According to Ethiopian labor force survey report that unemployment rate of female and male at country level were 12.5 percent and 4.3 percent respectively (MOLSA, 2003). Similarly according to the 2005 the Ministry of Ethiopian Labor Force Service reveals that unemployment rate of female and male were 7.8 and 2.5 percent respectively (MOLSA, 2005).

The existing circumstances call for intervention in view of maximizing the number and magnitude of women at the work place. To this consequence, there is a need to identify major factors that affect the amount of participation of women at the work place. In light of the objectives of this study the researcher tried to access the causes of women's unemployment and its obscurity they face.

2. Ethical Consideration

Permission is a key question for the Anthropologist to seek solutions for problems of societies under study, they must have to consider the consent of the host community about the research whether the research had a risks to these community under study. The researcher has the responsibility to avoid the risks that these societies will face due this study; they have to continue their everyday lives without interlude of the researcher in to their social and economic affairs to investigate problems. That is why Anthropologists need to get permission to study societies at their original setting in seeking solution for problems that they have faced or bring negative impact to the communities under study. Everything about the society under study would be kept in secret or not exposed without the consent of these societies.

Therefore, this study did not affect any body negatively either communities in focus or others who are in methods for realization of the paper. The researcher gave much attention

for dignity, self –esteem, privacy life and democratic thinking, for people under study and for informants and discussants in data collection. It also was not against interest of any others societal groups.

3. Methodology

3.1 Study Design

This study was designed on the causes of unemployment women and the obscurity they have been facing because of unemployment, for women's who live in Dire Dawa city in general and specifically those who live in place commonly known as the sub-quarter of Genda Tesfa (Village of Hopes). The rationale for the selection of the area was there are more numerous women's who are working in Dire Dawa University Students' Cafeteria as cooks, waiters, tickers and daily laborers (Coolies) due to their low level of education when compared to other quarters of Dire Dawa City. Therefore, the research was designed to investigate the cause unemployment for women's who were found in the Dire Dawa in quarter of Genda Tesfa and the gloom they faced.

3.2 Source of Data

Primary and secondary sources data were used in this research. The primary sources were collected from the field in accordance of the designed instruments to collect data such as interview and group discussion. Secondary sources of this study were collected from published and unpublished sources collected from different offices of Dire Dawa city. Therefore, the researcher used both primary and secondary data sources to conduct the research and to investigate the intended problems.

3.3 Instruments of Data Collection

The researcher had applied three types of data collection instrument which include interview, field observation and focus group discussion. Interview was employed for those who were volunteers to be interviewed to investigate the issue under study.

The investigation was also made by field observation and focus group discussion methods through arranging the discussants into groups according to their level of education and marital status they had. Secondary sources used by a researcher were to relate the relevant literature on women's unemployment with primary sources obtained from the field.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

Data's were analyzed through qualitative method of data analysis. The data's collected from the field through interview, field observation and group discussions were triangulated in manner to sound the problem and seek solutions. Primary data sources were analyzed only through qualitative method of data analysis and strengthen its reality by literatures written by different authors.

Analysis and interpretation of the data were based on the responses obtained from the informants and the discussants,

and the data obtained from the secondary documents of governmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition secondary sources from different published and unpublished sources were used to strengthen the validity and reliability of the finding of the research by the researcher.

4. Findings and Discussion

4.1 Unemployment Related With Low Level of Education

The researcher has examined that education has powerful effects on labor force for one country's development and prosperity and as many other literatures suggested it. As the researcher tried to investigate the unemployment issues related to women's of Genda Tesfa sub-quarter of Dire Dawa, the level of education is the key ones employment in all qualified places of organizations.

Majority of or more than (85%) Genda Tesfa women were at primary level of education or some of them were illiterates. Thus, majority of the women's of Genda Tesfa were hired at Dire Dawa University Students' Cafeteria Service as cooks, waiters, tickers as well as daily laborers.

The researcher also showed that the level education had negative effect on livelihood of the women and their family. This condition or the condition related with level of education caused troubles on their life and their family. The level of education is become now a day a flaming issue for employment in Dire Dawa particularly in Genda Tesfa sub-quarter.

As discussed with informants, discussants and observed by the researcher himself, the main problem was the inconsistency of the skills of workers for those who are at low level of education and for those who are illiterate in accordance of their level of education. This made the informants and discussants not to be hired at governmental and non-governmental organizations to get jobs. This shows that they were disappointed with skills they have at work because of low level of education.

Therefore, the government and non-governmental organizations should have to encourage women's learning for more being competent and productive workers everywhere in the country development.

4.2 Unemployment Related With Marital Status

With the regard of marital status of the residents Genda Tesfa (Village Hopes), immense numbers of women's informants and discussants agreed that these unemployment was worries that the always thinking that they have already married. Thus, the researcher understands that women's in Genda Tesfa sub-quarter were nervous about their unemployment, even though they have married at their low level of education and some others are illiterates.

The study illustrated that one means for their unemployment was that their marital status in addition to low level education and their family background which made them to be distressed and dissatisfied. This is to mean that, majority of their families were victims of leprosy disease who were

supported by Germany Humanitarian Aid to eradicate the diseases. That was why because of Germany Humanitarian Aid their offspring's were not victims of the disease.

Therefore, the researcher found that women's were married at their early age to support their family who were victims of the disease. Even the sub-quarter called Genda Tesfa was called after the victims meaning (Village of Hopes) to show the future hopes of the leprosy victim's offspring's. The unemployment related with marital status was more complicated than that of level of education; this is because children's were not sent to school because of their inefficiency financial source to support their victimized families, that they do not have legal access to education. For the working age population, one of the most determinant factors on individual well-being is the experience that they have in employment. Those who are not employed are affected by income generation, physical, mental and emotional penalty.

The immediate outcome for unemployed Genda Tesfa women's was be deficient in income to fulfill basic needs, to hold assets and to have important goods at their home. It self-evident that lack of income leads to poverty, disparity and leads to inability of being poor to save. This income is not sufficient to fulfill their basic needs as well as live a life from hand to mouth. Unemployment has severed negative impact not only on the individual well-being but also it has harsh impact on the society. Unemployment may act as a social temper, in which people become unhappy and dishonesty about their life.

4.3 Unemployment Related with Migration

With regard to another important cause for the women's unemployment in Genda Tesfa sub-quarter that was the rural-urban migration from adjacent areas of East and West Hararghe zones of Oromia to the urban centers of Dire Dawa, particularly to sub-quarter Genda Tesfa. The reason for migration to urban areas of Dire Dawa was seeking for better life in urban centers. With regard to the migration to Genda Tesfa sub-quarter was that the people of Genda Tesfa (Village of Hopes) were Oromo ethnic group who speakers of Afan Oromo which made the migrants to come to the area.

Migrant with low level education were migrated to the city of Dire Dawa in particular place called Genda Tesfa from Eastern Oromia were people who seeking employment in daily labor, in both households and construction.

This caused obscurity among the original peoples who are living in sub-quarter of Genda Tesfa, in Dire Dawa City. This was because they were competing with migrants to be in employed in daily labor hard work. In addition to this, migrants with low level of education who are looking for better jobs to live better life frankly discussed the actual situation without hiding their feeling.

Finally, with the discussion with the migrants, they responded that due to unemployment in place of hopes, they are suffering from physical, mental and social problems for both in their social setting.

5. Conclusions

In this study the researcher tried to explore the cause of women's unemployment and its consequences on their life. After the data has been collected through different techniques of data gathering using the interview, field observation and group discussion, and it was analyzed in accordance to improve the issue under discussion and at the same time Secondary sources of data's were used to strengthen the analysis of the study.

Unemployment related with low level of education in study paper was common as it was common to the country itself. The level of education is one the most important determinant factor for employment everywhere in the world in developing and developed nations of the world. Thus, the government of Ethiopia has to look for solution or other option to low level of education particularly for women's. Educations have to play a leading role to eradicate poverty and have to play a leading role for country's development as a whole.

With regard to unemployment related with migration the researcher found that peoples who are migrated from place to place are people with low level of education who are striving for better life in urban areas. But the problem is their level of education hindered them to get what they are dreaming and seeking for which affects their whole life through different ways such as, brings frustration and disappointment, crime (robbery, prostitution) and led to increase poverty.

However, it is important to note that the constraint that these migrant faces according to this study was, they have faced hopelessness, jobless and disappointments as they have got a limited resource access. As a result that it is impossible for those job seekers to find what they are always dreaming while they were at their home, but can be used as start for further in depth investigation. by the other researchers by giving special attention to it as women's unemployment was going worsened today in the country.

References

- [1] Andreas, K (2008). *The Psychological Impact of Past Unemployment and Future: Unemployment Risk*: Working Paper No. 13 April 2008.
- [2] Central Statics Agency (1984). *Population and Housing Census Analytical Report*: September 1989, Addis Ababa.
- [3] Central Statics Agency (2005). *Report on Labor Force Survey 1999* (Statistical Bulletin), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- [4] International Labor Organization (2009), *Global Employment Trends*. International Labor Organization. Geneva
- [5] International Labor Organization (2010). *Growth-Employment-Poverty Reduction Linkages: A Framework for Recovery and Accelerated Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals*, Economic Report on Africa 2010.
- [6] International Labor Organization (1986) *Youth Employment and Youth Employment Programs in*

Africa: A Comparative Sub-Regional Study, the Case of Ethiopia, Geneva.

- [7] International Labor Organization (2003) *Active Labor Market Policies in Support of Ethiopia's Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP)*, Ethiopia Employment Mission Report, Addis Ababa: ILO.
- [8] Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) (2002). *Ethiopia: Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program*: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- [9] Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) (2003). *Ethiopia Unemployment Mission* Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- [10] United Nation Development Program (1995), *Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China* (1995)
- [11] United Nation Economic Commission Agency (2005). *Economic Report on Africa 2005: Meeting: The Challenge Of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa*: Addis Ababa. Ethiopia.
- [12] United Nation (1996) *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities*. 3rd Revision, Statistical Papers, Series M, No.4. Review.3. New York
- [13] World Bank (2002) *The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: Developing Exports to Promote Growth, Sector Review*: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia