

Work of Migrant Youth in Informal Sector: A Case of Three Markets Khartoum State

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Abstract: *This study was conducted to investigate the situation of rural youth migrants to Khartoum state in the informal sector. The study is explanatory and descriptive in nature which provides numerical description of some part of the population and explains events using comprehensive questionnaire directed to migrant youth work in three local markets Khartoum States. The study utilized quantitative and qualitative approaches and followed cross-section design. The study area comprises three local markets in Khartoum state, Omdurman market located in Omdurman, Saad geshra market located in Khartoum north (Bahri) and Souq EL.shabiee Khartoum located in Khartoum. A sample of 300 male youth migrants were selected based on three informal activities as follows: mobilize workers business owner and shops boys. It was difficult to develop sample frame for this study. We used non random sampling; (Purposive and snow ball techniques. The study findings indicated that majority of migrant youth were less than 19 years old, 48% of youth before migration were without work while 27.3% were dropped out from education and 22.7% worked as farmers 88% of the male youth migrated searching for a job for a better life. Their socio-economic situation characterized by vulnerability, poverty and low skill to get the job outside of the informal sector. Migrant youth were self-employed because they did not have the possibility of joining the formal sector. The self-employed identified by the study was three activities mobile workers, shop boys and small business owner. Results also indicated that youth in informal sector challenged by the lack of protection, low income and no access to capital to improve their self-employed work. In conclusion, young migrants are more vulnerable when, in combination with their age and stage of life, they face isolation, exclusion, discrimination, and insecurity.*

Keywords: migrant youth work in three informal activities, vulnerability, poverty and low skill to get the job, and face isolation, exclusion, discrimination, and insecurity

Subject areas: Anthropology, Sociology

1. Background

By 2030 it is estimated that all developing regions will have more people living in urban areas than rural areas, with virtually all the world's population growth concentrated in urban areas over the next 30 years UNHABITAT, 2010:12). Rural urban migration is main cause of growing of urbanization in developing countries. Rural urban migration recently has new pattern that majority of migrants are youth. Although migration patterns have changed dramatically over the past 50 years in many respects, the number of women who migrate for work has increased "to over half the national and international migrant population *making female workers more vulnerable to exploitation*". Female migrants are now major contributors to their home country economies through their private remittances. (Tacoli, Cecelia, and Richard Mabala, 2010).

The migration literature suggests that urban migrants, who are attracted to cities and towns due to higher wage in the formal sector, may end up in a low paying informal sector, since there is more labor supply to the 'modern sector' than there isolator demand to absorb it all. So this study try to examine youth involvement in the informal sector using a sample of youth who are engaged informal sector activities namely mobile sellers and who works in laundry shops.

Objectives

- Is to explore the determinants of self-employment among rural to urban migrants' youth in Sudan, Khartoum State in particular.
- To evaluate the interrelationship between migration and the spread of informal sector in urban.
- To explore the perception of youth on their work of three selected informal activities.

2. Methodology

The study is explanatory and descriptive in nature which provides numerical description of some part of the population and explains events using comprehensive questionnaire directed to migrant youth work in three local markets Khartoum States. The study utilized quantitative and qualitative approaches and followed cross-section design. The study area comprises three local markets in Khartoum state, Omdurman market located in Omdurman, Saad geshra market located in Khartoum North (Bahri) and Souq EL.shabiee Khartoum located in Khartoum. A sample of 300 male youth migrants were selected based on three informal activities as follows: mobilize workers business owner shops boys. It was difficult to develop sample frame for this study. We used non random sampling; (Purposive and snow ball techniques.

3. Results

The data collected from migrant youth who work in informal sector in three markets of Khartoum State, The finding is organized into three sections. Section one describes the migrant youth socio demographic situation before migration. Section two describes the involvement of youth in informal sector in by describing three types of work youth involved in. Section three describes the present social life of youth in urban setting challenges and opportunities. Using of quantitative and qualitative methods to presents findings.

3.1 Profile of migrant youth

According to the definition of the age of the youth in United Nations, between 15 – 25 years old, so the sample of the was chosen between this age, 49% percent of them were between the 15 -18 years old, while 51% of them between 19 -25. Uneducated was very few among migrants youth, most educated were finished the primary level are about 38.5%, the high secondary 52.8% as well as those who continue to have a university degree about 7.7%. 48% of migrant youth had brothers and sisters out of the education .Father were the head of the household of most of the sample of migrant youth, (See table 1).

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of migrants according to their characteristics

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Age		
15 -18	147	49.0
19 -25	153	51.0
Total	300	100.0
Education levels	Frequency	Percent
Uneducated	3	1.0
primary	115	38.5
High secondary	158	52.8
University degree	23	7.7
Total	299	100.0
Brothers in school	Frequency	Percent
Yes	145	48.3
No	155	51.7
Total	300	100.0
Head of the household	Frequency	percent
No one	2	.7
Father	208	70.3
Brother	75	25.3
Other relatives	10	3.4
Total	296	100.0
Type of house hold job	Frequency	Percent
Without job	9	3.2
Business owners	118	41.7
Farmer	73	25.8
Herder	10	3.5
Tailor	3	1.1
Seller in small shops	31	11.0
Labor	29	10.2
driver	7	2.5
Employer	3	1.1
Total	283	100.0

3.2 Youth Migration process

The migration process of youth covered most of Sudan States specifically Al. Gazeera State.

Most of the sample 64% comes from Al. Gazeera, 16% from White Nile 10% from North and South Kordufan, and the rest covered other Sates .(see table 2)

Table 2: Frequency distribution of respondents according to migration from:

The place comes from	Frequency	Percent
Unidentified	3	1.0
Al.Gazeera	193	64.3
River Nile side	2	.7
Northern side	2	.7
West Darfur	4	1.3
North Kordufan	31	10.3
White Nile	48	16.0
North Darfur	2	.7
Sinnar	1	.3
South Kordufan	3	1.0
East Nile	8	2.7
Gaddariff	2	.7
East Darfur	1	.3
Total	300	100.0

3.3 Reasons for Migration

The majority 88% of the male youth migrated searching for a job for a better life; also others about 10% migrate because of poverty among the family or because of war and conflicts according to states are involved in conflict and wars. Very few about 2% they migrated to continue education. (See table 3)

Table 3: Frequency distribution of respondents according to migration reasons

Migration Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Searching for a job	264	88.0
Poverty among the family	27	9.0
War and conflicts	3	1.0
Education	6	2.0
Total	300	100.0

Most of the migrants 61% were migrated with their relatives Also others about 24.4% migrated alone by themselves in this young age, and others about 14.4% migrate with their family who decide to migrate and work in Khartoum state. (See table 4).

Table 4: Frequency distribution of respondents according to with whom they Migrate:

With whom the migration	Frequency	Percent
Alone	73	24.4
With the family	43	14.4
With relatives	183	61.2
Total	299	100.0

3.4 Work of migrant youth in informal sector:

This section presents the involvement of youth in three informal activities of the three markets. The result gives a picture of the situation of migrant's youth in informal sectors the intense linkage between migration and informal sector. The urban informal sector, in three markets unlike its formal counterpart, includes all activities that are unregulated and small scale in nature. Not much attention was given to this unregulated. The majority of the migrant

youth created their own employment and starts their own businesses, or work for small-scale family run enterprises. The self-employed identified by the study were three activities mobile workers, shop boys and small business owner.

3.5 The ways migrant Youth got job in urban informal sector:

The study indicated well linked and network among migrants in urban setting with their counterparts in rural areas. Majority got work through their relatives special the boy shops whom they worked in shops belong to people from their place of origins. See figure (1)

Mobilize workers said during group discussion *“As youth said in group discussion we have people migrated before us and involved in the same work, And also our friends who accommodated us in the same houses helped us to work as mobilize workers”*.

Business owner said *“people comes from the same place helped us to develop our small business”*

Other said *“Youth migrant who migrated before us also helped us”*.

Shop boys said *“it was easy to get work in our relative’s small shop that migrated also from our area”*.

The migrant youth reached Khartoum looking for work got help from different people to get work in informal sector of three markets of Khartoum State

Figure (1): Ways of migrants youth got the work in urban markets

The ways of finding the work	Mobilize workers	Business owner	Boy shops
Friends	21.0	12.9	3.8
People from my area	68.5	72.9	93.8
Alone	10.5	14.3	2.4
Total	100	100	100

Business owner said that people comes from the same place helped us to develop our small business

Other said: Youth migrant who migrated before us also helped us

Shop boys said it was easy to get work in our relative’s small shop that migrated also from our area.

Income gained:

The work of informal sector is very profit that majority of them got enough income from their work special the shop boys and business owners see figure (2)

Table Frequency distribution of the youth according to enough of the money they gained from the work

Figure (2)

The money gained is	Mobilize workers	Business owner	Boy shops	Total
Enough	76.7	90	92	
Not enough	23.3	10	8	
Total	100	100	100	

Spent of income:

Migrant youth spent most of their income on their own expenses, see figure (3):

Spent of income

Spent the income	Mobilize workers	Business owner	Boy shops
Send money to my family	50	40	40
My own expenses	50	60	60
Total	100	100	100

All the migrant youth mention during group discussion *“life is very expensive in Khartoum”*

So we spent most of our income on our selves the rest sent to our families. So it was difficult for us to save some money”.

Challenges and constraints

The Young migrant expressed the hard ship of their work specifically the mobilize workers and boy shops

Figure (4): hardship

Hard work	Mobilize workers	Business owner	Boy shops
Yes	76	42.8	56
No	34	57.2	44
Total	100	100	100

During in-depth discussion Majority stressed that *“the work in the shop is takes more than 10 hours, in which we open the shop before the owner come, we clean the shop, tide up and put the goods in order, and after the day finished we also close the shop, beside we bring the goods from the store and put it in the shop to sell and we sells the goods for the consumer, all these work with income not enough to our needs and expenses”*.

Mobilize workers said *“It is very hard job moving and walking long distances running from local authority”*.

Figure 5: The protection of the work of Informal Sector

Protection of the work in informal sector	Mobilize workers	Business owners	Boy shops
Yes	3	10	25
No	97	90	75
Total	100	100	100

Mobile workers Said, *“that the local administration is the main constrains they face in their business, During in-depth discussion Majority stressed that “the local administration come and took monthly fees as taxes from us while it doesn’t safe us from any problems faces us on our work”*.

A Business owner the local administration come and took monthly fees as taxes from us while it doesn't safe us from any problems faces us on our work".

the business in the informal sector wasn't protected from any constrains or problems facing our business as well the local administration don't protect our business from any natural disasters in spite of they come monthly and took a fees without any services.

4. Discussion

4.1 Socio demographic characteristics of migrant youth

The study found the young age of migrant youth some of them on the age group 15-18 and other on the age 19-25, this goes with definition of the youth of UN. It also supported by the World Bank (2006), a third of total migrants from developing countries are aged 12 to 24. Sudan has a very young population More than a third of all migrants worldwide are under the age of 29 (UNDESA, 2013), two thirds of Sudanese are under the age of 34. Over 20 % of young people are unemployed. A quarter of youth living in urban areas and half of those living in rural areas are poor. The result indicated high literacy rate of migrant youth but majority of them could not continue their education for socio economic reasons (poverty). The study indicates high education dropped out among the brothers and sisters of migrant youth. According to ILO 2010, almost 72% of households living in extreme poverty, on less than US\$ 1.25/day, live in rural areas, where the majority of the working poor and food insecure households are also found in .Sub-Saharan Africa. It also indicates rural areas in Sudan lack education services. Rural youth are often found in unpaid family work, especially in agriculture, or employed as own -account, wage casual and seasonal workers in the informal economy, where they earn low wages, have limited job security and insufficient access to social protection.(Leavy And Smith 2010).

Livelihood of migrant youth in their place of origin characterized by lack of services. Majority of youth migrated with their relatives this shows the pattern of rural urban migration in Sudan. The results with definition of migrants as "persons, and family members, moving to another country or region to better their material or social conditions and improve the prospect for themselves or their family". (IOM, 2011), FAO (2011) has provided arguments explaining the higher propensity of rural youth to resort to internal migration. youth migration data in Sudan indicated approximately one-fourth of all migrants are less than 18 years old, and that after age 12, the likelihood of migrating separately from parents begins to increase, with steepest increases between ages 15 and 17 (Yaqub 2009a).

The rural youth migrated from scattered areas of rural Sudan majority from Al. Gazeera Sate comes from different villages from which it's a big state near to Khartoum, also from the white Nile they came searching for a better work and good livelihood .

4.2 Reasons for Migration

The decision of whether to migrate or not is one of many important decisions that young men and women make throughout the developing world. **The results indicated majority of youth migrated searching of the jobs as majority before migration were unemployed** .General trends Opportunities are often tied to current location, and many young migrate to work or attend school, leaving their parents and natal homes behind (Global Migration Group 2014; Smith and Gergan 2015).

The study indicated migration was livelihood strategies available to rural youth .Same results found by (World Bank 2008) Youth migrated to, facilitate access to goods and services, or invest in income-generating activities. Unavailability work of areas where the youth migrated from was reason moved them to urban sector. According to ILO Unemployment rates for youth are almost three times higher than adults ones in all regions of the world, ranging from nearly two times in Sub-Saharan Africa (ILO 2010), FAO (2011) has provided arguments explaining work in the agricultural sector suffers from a negative perception i.e. it is often associated with low returns, drudgery and demanding work but at the same time low social status.

The study findings indicated most of the youth migrated with their families. This result supported by study by (Leavy and Smith, 2010).migration among young adults determined by decisions within the family level, as part of household livelihood strategies. This is particularly true in contexts of lack of social safety nets and weak capital markets, migration is often a strategy to escape situation of distress due to severe livelihood constraints.

4.3 Work of migrant youth in informal sector:

The findings of the research indicated migrant youth found work in the informal sectors .Due to rural-urban migration patterns, urban labor supply tends to grow faster than the working age population, further increasing the pressure on urban labor Market, (Grant 2012). There were no data and statistics of the informal sector in Sudan and is not included in the GDP account as a separate sector, (Hagir Elzubeir Abdelmageed, 2009). The informal sector, informal economy, or grey economy is the part of an economy that is neither taxed, nor monitored by any form of government.

The migrants youth involved in three activities as mobilize workers, business owner and shop boys, The study finding indicated that most of migrant youth found job as mobilize workers because is easy job do not need training or official permission that the informal sector can play a role as a safety net in periods of economic stress and crisis (Amir and Barry, 2013). see for example Dimova, Gang and Landon-Lane, 2006) The informal sector in periods of crisis can be flexible enough to quickly handle large numbers of workers displaced from the formal sector and can help mitigate the drop in household income that accompanies such dislocation.

Majority of youth their relatives helped them to get work in the three markets .This indications of the expand of the

informal sector as old migrant considered as pull factors to attract youth to migrate to work in informal sectors at urban setting.

Migrant youth indicated that their work in informal sectors was not protected and challenged. At most all of them they were not able to save enough money to improve their self-employed works. The findings also revealed the work of youth in informal sectors challenged by the lack of capital and low access to credit as to improve their work. Despite the challenges migrant encountered they did not plan to return back to their place of origin on even did not have plan to improve their work in the informal sector.

The findings of the study have theoretical as well as practical significance. This micro level study gave insights to understanding the importance of youth work in the informal sector in Khartoum state. Socio-economic situation of rural youth characterized by vulnerability, poverty and low skill to get a job outside of informal sector. As indicated by (Sommers, 2010). Youth are over-represented among the urban poor most rural migrant youths, live in unplanned settlement areas, often in difficult conditions and are vulnerable to high levels of unemployment and under employment. These results are in line with the UNHABITAT (2010), which indicated that the young age of rural migrant youth and confirmed the argument of the new pattern of rural urban migration that involved the young male. Poverty was the push factor of the rural youth and their families most of them migrated because of poverty of their families and youth who migrants alone were looking for means of living in urban area. This result also in line with the IFAD (2007), which indicated that poverty in the Sudan is deeply entrenched and is largely rural.

The migrant youth interviewed were self-employed because they did not have the possibility of being wage-employees. In this sense, they were self-employed because they had no choice –The migration literature suggests that urban migrants, who are attracted to cities and towns due to higher wage in the formal sector, may end up in a low paying informal sector, since there is more labor supply to the ‘modern sector’ than there is labor demand to absorb it all (Potts, 2007). Urban work is highly competitive and migrant youth are most likely to be found in a range of vulnerable, informal, irregular and often illegal occupations (World Bank, 2007). The youth migrants face many challenges in their informal self-employed work all the challenges related to their poverty and vulnerability. The youth migrants become more susceptible and less competitive in urban areas because of lower endowment in education, experience, financial capital and social network (Ursula 2012). The study also revealed that in spite of the challenges faced the youth have no desire to go back to their place of origin. Surveys with migrants highlighted their uncertainty about and reduced expectations from staying in town as the urban economy declined in recent years (Potts, 2007; Grimm *et al.*, 2012). However, migration remains a viable livelihood option for rural youth in many contexts, in the absence of opportunities in the rural areas (Tacoli and Mabala, 2010).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

It can be concluded that young age of migrant’s youth this indication of high drop out of education and lack of work in their rural area. Moreover youth migration was only livelihood strategies available to them. Study concluded that the young age of rural migrant youth confirmed the argument of the new pattern of rural urban migration that involved the young male.

We found that having contacts in the destination city is very helpful and make migration less expensive. We see no evidence of conflicts and tension between migrant youth and local communities. The majority of migrants leave their village with reasonable expectation about life in urban areas and they are now generally satisfied with their life.

It is found that migration among young adults determined by decisions within the family level, as part of household livelihood strategies.

It can be said that the result of the study gives insights to understanding the importance of youth work in the informal sector in Khartoum state.

It is found that Poverty was the push factor of the rural youth and their families most of them migrated because of poverty of their families this and indication indicated that poverty in the Sudan is deeply entrenched and is largely rural.

In conclusion, the current rural youth migration to urban areas patterns in Sudan is complex and widely articulated with pull-and-push factors. Most of the rural youth migrants are less educated than urban residents and tend to fill the least skilled jobs available in cities.

The study focuses on migrant youth because they represent a specific category of migrants whose unique needs, rights and challenges are not addressed as part of the larger migration policy debate.

The migrant youth were self-employed because they did not have the possibility of being wage-employees. In this sense, they were self-employed because they had no choice. Moreover it can be said that urban work is highly competitive and migrant youth are most likely to be found in a range of vulnerable, informal, irregular and often illegal occupations.

It is concluded that the lack of integration of the youth with Khartoum State community because they did not have time and their livelihood style isolated them from community

In conclusion, young migrants are more vulnerable when, in combination with their age and stage of life, they face isolation, exclusion, discrimination, and insecurity. Moreover, in the migration process young people can lose their social networks and may also be without parents or family members to provide guidance and care.

The data indicate that informal self-employment attract youth migrants, mainly because it has relatively less resource requirement than other activities. Almost all of the randomly selected youth engaged in informal self-employment in Khartoum State.

Most of the youth in street-based self-employment aspire to move out of that occupation. The majority of these youth indicate that they have started taking concrete steps to achieve their objective of transiting to a better occupation. The majority of the youth migrants are also vulnerable and food insecure since they do not have the social network that can provide them with informal safety net during crisis.

The informal sector plays various economic roles for some in the informal sector is bad in the sense that workers in the informal sector are not covered by legal protections that workers in the formal sector face.

5.2 Recommendations

The researcher recommended improving the male youth who migrate for better life by:

- It should be equality of resources distribution where most of Sudan's economic capital and social services are concentrated in Khartoum state this will reduce from the response to natural and man-made disasters by establishing of development projects in the states to generate conditions for stability in those states and to establish economic and demographic balance between the states.
- Also empowering the migrants by health and education and economic services, livelihood and job opportunities and putting the social integration process. However, each ethnic group has its own culture, values system and specificities that tend to influence the speed of integration between various ethnic groups. This is a basic step in developing the migrant areas.
- To provide economic returns to their families by increasing the capital markets to reduce poverty and food insecure households.
- To Offer education opportunities to motivate youth migration to continue their education, by access or fund continuing education. In which education contributed significantly too many decisions to migrate.
- To access adequate education opportunities and productive asset, this accessing employment in rural areas and stop a push factor of migration.
- Youth should see migration as a strategy to cope with limited employment opportunities, by using migration as a strategy to overcome their desperate poverty.
- To take advantage of the opportunities and services available in the cities. Also migrants should associated with rural youth aspirations and perceptions of farm life, by improving the migrants needs from various services, as water, electricity, housing in their rural areas, which these needs linked to the type of work performed, and to increase profits, mobility and high status associated to working in agriculture sector belong to their farm life.

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