

Prospects and Challenges of Urbanization on the Livelihood of Farming Community Surrounding Finfinne

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Abstract: Academic world has largely neglected the prospects and challenges that urbanization has been potentially posed on the livelihood of farming community living adjacent to urban. A number of studies indicated that urbanization causes both prospects and challenges in the area where the urbanization process is taking place. However, the prospects and challenges of the urbanization up on farming community living adjacent to the urban are basically missing. The empirical studies indicated that urbanization process cause upsides and downsides not only within urban perse but also on the its peripheries. This study dedicates to study the prospects and challenges of urbanization on the farming community surrounding Finfinne with particular emphasis on livelihood. The paper employs both quantitative and qualitative research method to investigate the livelihood scenario or prospects and challenges of peri-urbanization process. The baseline finding revealed that living condition of the farming community were secured and stable. However, unchecked urbanization with alarming rate induced impacts on the overall living patterns of the farming community. Accordingly, living condition have been deteriorated. The growing land dispossession accompanied by inadequate and ineffective compensation packages caused impoverishment though urbanization brought up alternative livelihood strategies. This indicates that all the necessary care should be given not to evict the community haphazardly rather due attention should be given to the community's preferences where to live and how to live. In addition, the government should subsidize the peri-urban farmers so as to empower them in order to compete in the market and utilise its opportunities. For instance, the government can provide them awareness on the know-how of business plan and entrepreneurship skills.

Keywords: Urbanization, prospects and challenges, livelihood, farming community

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

A number of alternative terms have been used to describe the geographical area termed as peri-urban. For example, Mandere (2010) enumerated as the urban fringe, the periphery, inner rural and rural commuting zone. It can also be further described as an area adjacent to built up areas of high population concentration, urban, and zone where traditional farming activities come into conflict with alternative economic, residential, and recreational interest. Douglas (2001) delineated peri-urbanization as a dynamic process where areas located at the outskirts are gradually changed into urban character. Furthermore, Maconachie and Binns (2006) defined peri-urban areas in the context of Africa as area with great dynamism and competition for basic resources and characterized with a "blurring" between rural and urban. Peri-urban interface refers to the urban fringe and geographic edge of cities which play an important role as a physical place for the movement of goods and services and a transition place from rural to urban context. This process results in different prospects and challenges on the farming community's pre-existing overall patterns.

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The urbanisation process of towns in Oromia special zone surrounding Finfinne in general, and its sprawling or horizontal expansion in particular results in prospects and challenges. In the aforementioned zone, urbanization process is increasing rapidly. The study area is highly experiencing industrial establishments, real estate investment and residential construction process which is stimulated by leasehold land policy framework. The local farming community included in this study in general, and indigeneous farmer households in particular were the concerns of this study. This is due to the farming community's exposure to the urbanization prospects and challenges in the study area. However, these changes were not rigorously studied, as long as the researcher of this study observed. This was the key rationale for conducting the study. The researcher believed that the detailed nature of these prospects and challenges deserve a rigorous study. Moreover, there is a research gap in investigating and indicating the existence of such prospects and challenges.

Statement of the Problem

The urbanisation process of towns in Oromia special zone surrounding Finfinne in general and its horizontal expansion in particular resulted in both prospects and challenges. These prospects and challenges are serious and multidimensional. The urban expansion caused several prospects and challenges on the livelihood of nearby farming community. Eventhough urbanisation brought opportunities in the area, it also has posed several challenges. Urbanization creates multiple options for economic elites, but it hurts the poor majority. This trend is very tangible in the study area. But, it was not rigorously investigated. Urban sprawl increases land conversion into urban use for different purposes. This reduced the farmland and exposed farmers to new socio-economic prospects and challenges. This leaves farmers landless and exposes them to insecure livelihood conditions. Land dispossession and eviction are the main challenges of urbanization process in the study area. This tendency poses economic disparity between few economically powerful elites and massive poor. Thus, the current urban sprawl trend creates fortune for rich and harm the majority of the community members who are incapable of adjusting themselves to urban character partly due to their background. The community lacks modern technical skills such as business knowledge and entrepreneurialship skills which aggravate the severity of urbanization challenges on the community. This indicates the existing urbanization trend does not harmonize with the interest of the community. But, these problems were not seriously studied and that is why this study was conducted.

In line with this theme, Spengler (1922) as cited in Flanagan (2010) stated that the ultimate goal of city is to suck a country and become giant. For this reason, a country becomes resourceless or dry. The study area is expected to face several complicated and tremendous challenges unless the impacts are identified and controlled before escalation. The problem become more severe due to industrial establishments that take huge land size. The vast area of farmlands are nowadays taken over by industries which consume more land. These industrial establishments increase land dispossession and eviction of farmers from their land. The detail of these challenges were not critically studied. So this research was conducted to address this gap. The open spaces in the vicinity of the towns Surrounding Finfinne are highly converted to other use without taking into account the present community's needs and the coming generation's fate. For this reason, the community in vicinities of towns of Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne become exposed to unfamiliar prospects and challenges which need meticulous investigation. Hence, this study considered the prospects and challenges of urbanisation on the livelihood of peri-urban farming community in the Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne in order to disclose the realities regarding the prospects and challenges of Urban sprawl.

Objectives of the Study

General Objective

The general objective of this research was to investigate prospects and challenges of urbanization on the livelihood of farming community living in the vicinities of the towns of Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the research were:

1. to examine prospects of urbanization on the livelihood of farming community living in the vicinities of oromia special zone surrounding Finfinne,
2. to investigate challenges of urbanization on the livelihood condition of the farming community living in the vicinities of zone surrounding Finfinne,

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

Currently, the process of urbanization is undergoing with an alarming rate. This urbanisation process in general and its horizontal expansion so called urban sprawl in particular has become a global agenda. In fact, in different countries it has different forms but commonly urban sprawl shares common patterns in terms of its causes and consequences. The prospects and challenges that come up with urbanization process in general and urban sprawl in particular is multidimensional. It causes prospects and challenges on the livelihood of peri-urban farming community.

Urbanisation can damage the livelihood of the peri-urban community. Since urbanisation reduces farmland size, it deteriorates the livelihood of farmers by degrading (pauperizing) their income source. More importantly, urbanization results in land dispossession. This aggravates the severity of challenges on the farmers since land is crucial resource for them. However, urbanization brought up market access and off farm job opportunities. It also results in inequitable resources and unfair opportunities utilisation. This creates social injustices by favoring the socio-economically privileged elites and harming socio-economically disadvantaged peri-urban community. In view of that, the social injustice can provoke popular strife. This results in catastrophic uprising that can cause different political violences. Urbanisation can create opportunities for landgrabbing to become rampant. In fact, the issue of urbanization and its prospects and challenges are too complex and wide to address. Thus, in order to make it more understandable, it is presented in figure 1 diagrammatically:



Fig1. Research Scheme (Conceptual framework) of the study

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Description of the Study Area

This study was conducted in the Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne. Finfinne, the capital city of Oromia state, was established nearly 129 years ago. Since its establishment, Finfinne has been stretching its size by including the surrounding rural areas. Starting from Tullu Dalati, the hill on which the residence of the Prime Minister is found, Finfinne stretched to Akaki in the East, Gulale in the West, Garji in the South and Entoto in the North. Recently, Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Finfinne was formed to control the urban sprawl of Finfinne city to the lands of the surrounding farming community. This Zone was created in 2008 by Oromia state. It was

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formed from parts of North Shewa, East Shewa, South West Shewa and West Shewa Zones. The Zone comprises 8 towns found around Finfinne, namely: Burayu, Dukam, Galan, Holeta, Laga Tafo-Laga Dadhi, Sabata, Sandafa, Sululta and surrounding peri-urban vicinities which were the focus of this study. The Zone in general and the kebeles near the towns in particular have undergone high pace of urbanization. Currently, the peri-urbanization process is going on at an alarming rate, in the Zone. Hence, the motive behind this study was to identify the prospects and challenges of urbanization on the livelihood of peri-urban farming community.

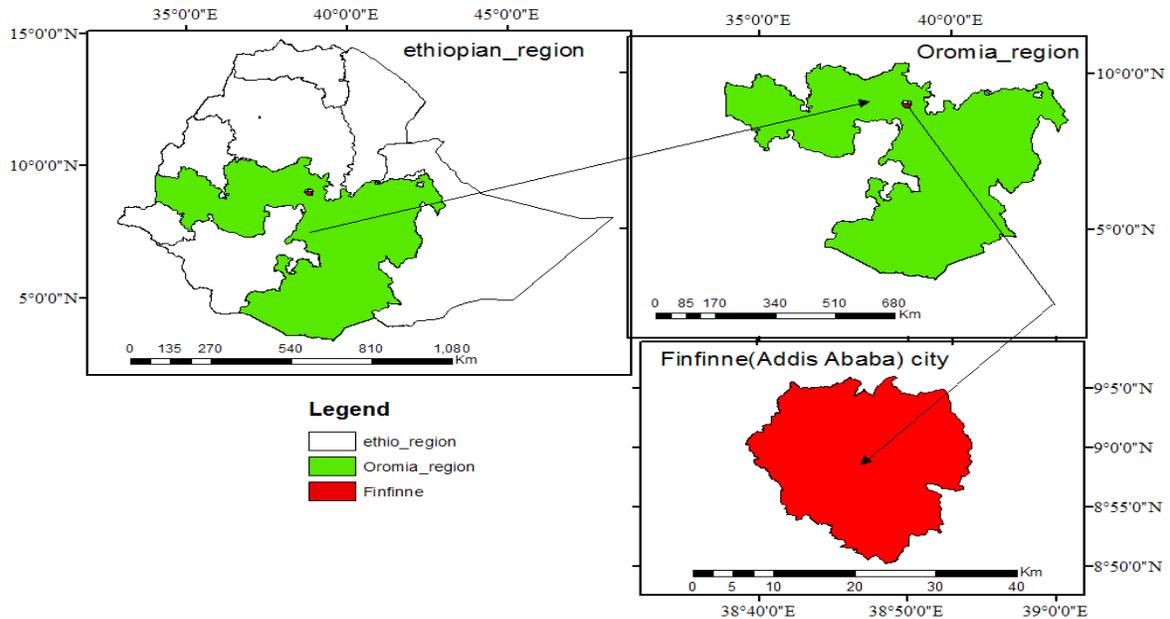


Fig2. Map of the study area

Methods of data collection

In this study, mixed method research design was employed. The quantitative data was collected by cross sectional survey method through interview schedule. This shared the larger portion of the respondents since it makes the study to be more objective, accurate and generalizable. Besides, a qualitative data was gathered to enrich the research by obtaining data in depth and address culturally sensitive issues that not addressed by quantitative approach, and qualitative data was accessed through focus group discussion and key informants interview. 384 sample households were drawn by proportional sampling techniques for household survey.

Data Processing and Analysis

The quantitative and qualitative data obtained through the predetermined data collection tools, were analyzed using appropriate methods of analysis as explained below.

Quantitative data

The quantitative data were coded and entered into a computer for analysis. The stata version 11 software was used as analysis tool. Both descriptive and inferential type of statistical analysis were used in the quantitative data analysis. The association between variables was checked or tested by chi-square tests. This test statistic determined the correlation between urbanization and its impacts. Its principle stated that when the value of chi-square is greater than critical value and p-value is less than the value of the significance level (alpha), we

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reject our null hypothesis which claim independence of two variables and accept the alternative hypothesis that claim the association or correlation between variables. The normality of variable distribution was tested and found that the variables were approximately and normally distributed. As a result, the chi-square test was used to test the association between variables so as to judge whether two variables are related or independent of each other. Accordingly, the null hypotheses will be rejected if and only if chi-square value is greater than critical value and p-value less than alpha value otherwise the null hypothesis will not be rejected (Bluman, 2009).

Qualitative data

The qualitative data was analyzed by organizing, summarizing and interpreting the data collected qualitatively. In other words, qualitative data was analyzed descriptively in the form of narration.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Economic Prospects and Challenges

Economic Status

Economic status may refer to the economic competence of the farming community. It is obvious that the majority of the farming community pursue agrarian way of life. This lifestyle and economic ability of the farmers inevitably impacted as the community come across new lifestyle of urban setting.

From table 1 it can be easily understood that more than half (58.33%) of respondents reported as they are poor (<20,000ETB yearly income) and only quarter (20.57%) of the sample households are rich (45,000-70,000ETB yearly income) while the remaining 21.09% are economically middle income (20,000-45,000ETB yearly income). The farming community members that live near to the urban setting have been land dispossessed so that more likely to expose to economic crisis. Earlier the community used to produce their material needs. As a result, they could minimise their living cost. But the land dispossession necessitated the household's livelihood pattern from production to consumption pattern. This leads to out weighting of expenditure and cause more economic impoverishment. Similar to this result Karl marx (n.d) also asserted that pauperization and material degradation is one aspect of urbanization. According to Marx's political economy few economic elites exploit the masses and economically impoverish them. This exploitation creates economic fortune for few economic elites. Similarly, in line with this result Charles (2010) reported that urbanization creates opportunities but some people particularly farmers cannot utilize these opportunities because they lack the know-how to use these opportunities. Hence, they lead subsistence livelihood since lost their land and their livelihood become deteriorated and worse off. Furthermore, the inadequate compensation they received run out without brought significant livelihood transformation of the farming community members. The community members who have not been land dispossessed less likely to be economically impoverished. They could promote and diversify their livelihood via application of new agricultural inputs. The FGD discussants also affirmed that they are incapable of surviving. Majority of the key informants interviewees reported that their economic capacity is deteriorating or getting worse from time to time. The main factor responsible for this economic deterioration is land dispossession. The land plays pivotal role in economic well being of the community. It is source of many assets and treasures. Similar to this result, study by Mandere et al. (2010) showed that economic status of peri-urban decline because of the shrinking of their agriculture land. This demonstrates that the economic status of the community become degraded as extent of urbanization increases. This implies urbanization harms the economic status of the peri-urban community and results in economical degradation of community. Unless the situation intervened, food security is more likely to outbreak. Thus, uncontrolled urbanization process deserves action to be taken so as to mitigate its challenges thereby promoting sustainable development of urban and its surrounding.

Capacity of Meeting Basic Needs

Capacity of meeting basic needs may refer to the farming community's ability to attain necessity needs. This further implies the food security trend of the farming community. As the community expose to the urban life, their food security trend possibly gets influenced

Furthermore, the data from table 1 clearly indicates that the majority of the households (67.71%) reported that their capacity of meeting basic needs is lower (atmost or no more than food) and only 20.31% households expressed their opinion that they have better capacity of meeting basic needs (atleast foods, clothes and shelter) whereas 11.98% of the households mentioned their capacity is somewhat moderate (atleast food and clothes). This difference was observed because the farmers near to the urban are more vulnerable than the farmers living at the outskirts of the peri-urban vicinity. They have changed their livelihood pattern from production to consumption pattern. They had suffice material resources that are essential for consumption at their hand. However, after urbanization process invaded their assets and treasures, they become incapable of satisfying their basic needs and wants. The members of the farming community tend to consume their cash compensation for their daily basic needs. This results in more expenditure. This can expose the community to more worsening livelihood distress. Relatively, farmers living at the outskirts have more probability to improve their economic scenario due to better farmland size. The farmers living in the remote part of peri-urban are less likely to be land dispossessed. So, farmers can produce suffice material out puts thereby minimising the economic vulnerability. Furthermore, they can promote their productivity and supply to the market thereby advancing their economic wealth. This strengthens their economic capacity so that it enables them to be self sufficient at least by food. On the contrary, the farmers living near the urban area lack adequate farmland otherwise no farmland to be utilised. This weakens their economic capacity in order not to advance. Thus, the community start to look out for basic needs and other demands. Moreover, they are unable to adapt the modern economic strategy since they are unfamiliar to such means of economic achievements. As a result, the majority of the farmers are obliged to be economically marginalised. This may be because of their low purchasing power. The focus group discussion discussants and key informants interviewees also expressed their opinion that their capacity to afford is getting declined from time to time, and they added that their purchasing power of goods and services is significantly lowered. The majority of the key informants interviewees explained that their ability to purchase goods and services decreases radically. Similar to this result, Marshal et al. (2009) reported that urbanization has the potential to increase concentration of poverty in the peri-urban zones. This may happen because of land dispossession and inadequate compensation. This results poverty prevalence and livelihood deterioration.

Land dispossession

Land dispossession is one of the many issues that always raises with rapid urbanization process; as urbanization process alarms, the land use necessarily change its form. The finding also has revealed that land dispossession of the community and high extent of urbanization are positively and significantly related. This implies as extent of urbanization alarming, the majority of the community is more likely forced to be alienated from their land. In this process the community is deprived of double things. First their land has been taken. Secondly, they have not been paid adequate compensation. Even in some cases the displaced farmers are not paid at all. Similar to this result, Bhatta (2001) mentioned that urbanization in general and sprawl in particular contribute to loss of farm lands and open spaces. Further, in line with this result, Leulseged et al. (2010) reported that dispossession of land contributes to the prevailing vulnerability of livelihoods in the peri-urban area.

In addition to this, the data in table 1 clearly shows that a large number of the community members experienced land dispossession from their long held land which put them into an insecure life situation. Out of the sample households, nearly half (43.23%) of them reported that they have been partly dispossessed and only about quarter of the sample population (32.81%) haven't been dispossessed their land whereas (23.96%) of the respondents are fully dispossessed and they are now working in the factory as daily laborers, and only few of them are running their own business and the remaining have already become jobless. Similar to this result,

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Nutter (2010) reported that farmers became factory labour workers. Unguided and poorly managed urban growth damages the economic status and livelihood of the family and the community at large. The fully land dispossessed farmers are the most sufferers. They are less likely to improve their economic well being since they lost the main economic base. On the other hand, the partially land dispossessed farmers are better to recover if they use better strategy to enhance productivity of their farmland by using new agricultural and technological inputs. The farmers who do not experience land dispossession are the most prospective to advance economically; they can use their land extensively. The market access at the local area also support them by availing technologies that boost agricultural productivity. The Focus Group Discussion discussants also confirmed that their land was taken from them and they faced several economic problems after dispossession. As a result, currently the farming community members are suffering from economic crisis. Most of the key informant interviewees also mentioned that many fully land dispossessed households are working in the factory being daily laborers. Even in the factory, these respondents are being exploited again by the factory owners who pay less.

Land grabbing

Land grabbing refers to the opportunistic snatching of the agricultural land for different purposes. The annexation of the land most often happen informally with squatter settlement. The formal structure can also create favorable fortune to land encroachment. As the farming community come close to urban setting, their probability to encounter land grabbing trend is more.

In addition, the data from table 1 indicated that two third (66.93%) of the sample households reported that there is land grabbing and only one third of the sample population (33.07%) said there is no land grabbing. This difference of land grabbing extent indicates land vulnerability disparity owing to its geographical location. The land closer to urban setting or more strategic is more vulnerable to encroachment. For example, Furi is the most vulnerable and victim peri-urban area regarding land grabbing due to its geographical vitality. On the contrary, the land found at outlying peri-urban periphery is less vulnerable to annexation owing to supervision under farmers and less attraction to the market for its time-consuming distance from basic infrastructures and market center. For example, Gafarsa Guje is less vulnerable to land grabbing owing to its geographical location. The FGD discussants mentioned that land grabbing is the common problem that speeded up the process of intrusion and encroachment of farmland and grazeland. The key informant interviewees also reported that in each and every day there are a number of illegal and informal constructions and settlements that are being undertaken. Eventhough legal measures are being taken, the land grabbing process is not halted rather escalated to sky-scraping point. In line with this result, Getahun (2014) indicated that dispossession of farmland and grabbing of land is a serious problem related to urbanization process in the hinterland. In line with this result, Gosaye (2007) also reported that poor urban management and unattractive compensation provokes informal settlement. The key issue that contributed for this effervescent problem is insecurity of land holding because the community lost sense of land possession and considered land grabbing as if governing bodies backing the process. The community's powerlessness emanated from the feeling of despondency and alienation.

Market Access

Market access may refers to the farming community's likelihood of getting and using market at short distance. The farming community living at the remote and proximate area do not have equal market access and its potential opportunities.

Furthermore, as the data in table 1 indicated more than two third (66.15%) of the respondents reported that they have market access, but only (33.85%) of the sample households responded they do not have access to market. This indicates that the farming community closer to the urban center have more likely access to market; for example, kebeles like Furi, Gafarsa Nonno, Dalati and Karabu do have more access to the market locally since they are close to the main road and urban center. On the other hand, the farming community living at the periphery do have less access to the market as they are far from the urban center. For instance, the farming community living in the rural part of kebeles like Gafarsa Guje are less likely to get access the market.

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Generally speaking, as the extent of urbanization increases the market access also increases. This enables the farmers to sell their products at local market without incurring much cost by traveling long distance. Even the farming community members who have adequate farmland can easily get agricultural inputs thereby boosting their productivity and production. On the other hand, the farmers who lack market access suffer from negative impacts of urbanization. They may expose to economic marginalisation. Unless there is fair market that matches their capacity, it will be difficult for them to get market access due to unfair competition between economically powerful elites and massive poor segments of the community.

Employment or Job Opportunities

Employment or job opportunities refers to the availability of farming alternative livelihood strategies. Farming community is highly characterised by farming activities as a predominant livelihood strategy. Nevertheless, as the extent of urbanization process increases optimistically, new job opportunities also emerge.

Furthermore, the data given in table 1 clearly indicates 54.95% of the sample households reported that they have access to job opportunity while 45.05% of respondents reported that they do not have access to job opportunities. The job opportunity doesn't become more available as extent of urbanization increases as imagined. In other words, despite the fact that the extent of urbanization increases, the job opportunity is not significantly changed. The community faced the problem of adaptation with the new livelihood strategies. The educated and skilled segment of the community get urbanization process as an opportunity whereas those who lack modern education and technical skill get marginalised. The job opportunities in the study area requires skilled human power. The industries in the area employ non-local laborers who are eligible for the industries requirements. Nevertheless, the industries agreed to create job opportunities for the local community prior to starting the investment, they failed to do so due to technical problems. The skill development need to be given as intervention program so as to mitigate this barriers. Yet, some local households who are dispossessed from their land choose to participate on those low paid jobs like guards, cleaning, etc. Moreover, the poor segment of the farming community are obliged to involve in the daily routine jobs with low payment. Similar to this result, Department for international development (2008) reported that the poor usually engage in less paid casual employment, petty trading and other low return activities. On the other hand, the households who manage their cash compensation invested and could run their business like hotel, shop, renting houses, etc. Moreover, the focus group discussion discussants also reported that they lack the required know-how that fit the available job quality.

Table1. *prospects and challenges of urbanization on peri-urban farming community' livelihood*

Variables	Categories			Total	Correlation test		
Economic status	Rich(79) 20.57	Poor(224) 58.33	Middle(81) 21.09	384 100	Chi2 43.96	df 4	p-value 0.000
capacity of meeting basic need	High(78) 20.31	Low(260) 67.71	Medium(46) 11.98	384 100	Chi2 16.84	df 4	p-value 0.002
Land dispossession	Fully(92) 23.96	notdispossessed(126) 32.81	partly(166) 43.23	384 100	Chi2 11.86	df 4	p-value 0.018
Land grabbing	Yes(257) 66.93	No(127) 33.07		384 100	Chi2 6.03	df 2	p-value 0.049
Marketaccess	Yes(254) 66.15	No(130) 33.85		384 100	Chi2 6.78	df 2	p-value 0.034
Job opportunity	Yes(211) 54.95	No(173) 45.05		384 100	Chi2 6.38	df 2	p-value 0.041

Source: Computed from own survey, 2016

Testing the Correlation Between Variables Associate with Urbanization

Economic status and Land dispossession

The economic foundation of the farming community is predominantly agricultural. The peri-urban farming community used to extract resource from their environment and meet their livelihood requirement. This livelihood is totally dependent on the land which is the main source of livelihood of the farming community. However, when the land is alienated, the livelihood of the farming community may be disrupted.

In addition to this, it can be clearly seen from table 2 that 20.57% of the households are rich (45,000-70,000ETB yearly income), 21.09% of them are middle income groups (20,000ETB-45,000ETB yearly income) and 58.33% are poor households (<20,000ETB yearly income). This figures clearly indicates that the number of poors rises as the extent of land dispossession increases. This further indicates that as the number of the poor rises, it may result in a massive poverty. This is a serious misfortune particularly for the fully land dispossessed farmers. In line to this result, Leulseged et al. (2010) demonstrated that those fully displaced people are the most suffering groups when compared with the partially displaced and the non-displaced people. It should never be expected that the majority may not become impoverished due to this land dispossession because land is a great treasure for farmers; it is every thing for them chiefly for economic utility. The farming community members who lost their land are more likely to be impoverished economically. The off farm activities around them are not compatible with the skill of the farming community. As a result, these farmers who have no piece of land to cultivate are forced to be beggars, jobless, etc. On the other hand, these farmers who lost part of their land are less vulnerable to be impoverished. These farmers, not dispossessed of their land, can enhance their productivity and boost their production by the compensation paid for the dispossessed land. They can utilise new agricultural inputs that stimulate their agricultural potential to produce better than usual. The farmers who have never been alienated their land are more likely to advance economically. The ample farmland under their control enables them to produce extensively thereby overcoming the economic crisis. The farming community members who live at the periphery do have a better opportunity to realise sustainable economic development and pursue economic well being. In line with this result, Bhatta (2010) indicated that wealth disparity and land dispossession are outcomes of urbanization that create problems against economic well being of farmers. Assets and capabilities of farming community members play a critical role in the selection of positive adaptive strategies for most of the poor people. Similarly, the more assets and capabilities the poor own, the more options available for them in selecting appropriate livelihood strategies and less vulnerable they are and vice versa (Martinez, 2007). Hence, dispossessing more farmers from their farmland entails obliging farmers to be victim of poverty or makes them susceptible for poverty striking. Due to serious land insecurity in the study area, particularly farmers who possess farm land located near the town, illegally sell their agricultural land to developers with low price, with an expectation that their land is more likely expropriated by municipality. Hence, many farmers become landless and engage themselves in low income earning activities, mostly in the daily labour. If this situation continues this way, a serious food security problem will happen against the community members who earn more from agriculture. Furthermore, the low and inadequate compensation aggravates the economic livelihood impoverishment of the farmers. In line to this result, Dejene (2011) reported that peasant farmers living on edge of these towns lost their fertile agricultural land with minimum appropriation of compensation packages. This leads to economic impoverishment. For this reason, the necessary measures should be taken just in order to secure the livelihood of farmers who may get dispossessed of their farm land. For instance, adequate and reasonable amount of compensation should be given at the right time with all required skills and business knowledge that helps them to lead a normal life. Moreover, the displaced people should be given the necessary follow up and special treatment because of their justifiable reasons of rurality background and logical claim for suffice protection and care.

Land Grabbing and Land holding security

Landholding security refers to the complete power and independent control of farming community on their possessed land. The more the land holding security of the farming community, the better the land holders care and protect the land. However, when the landholding security becomes uncertain, the landholder loss confidence on their land ownership power. This can make the land vulnerable to land grabbing either informally or formally.

Additionally, as the data from table 2 clearly indicates two third (62.76%) of the sample households expressed their agreement that they do have land holding insecurity whereas at the same time 37.24 % of them reported that they are in secured land holding circumstance. This statistical evidence clearly illustrates that the land that is converted to lease system is more likely to be encroached while the land under the control of the farmers supervision is less likely to be annexed. Thus, lease poses opportunities for land grabbing. Land grabbing vary between areas near to urban core and peri-urban periphery. The land which is found at the periphery is more or less closely supervised by farmers themselves. Thus, the land grabbing is less likely at this environs. On the other hand, the land close to urban core is totally taken from farmers and put under the municipality’s supervision. The municipality is reluctant to strictly control these lands so that the lands become inevitably exposed to unlawful settlement and construction. At the end of the day, the municipality legitimize these illegal settlers. Thus, this course of action stimulates the urban sprawl because of poor follow up and weak management. Nevertheless, in rare cases, the municipality take serious measures upon these squatter settlers. This indicates that uncontrolled urbanization leads to land holding insecurity which inturn fuels landgrabbing. This negatively affect the well being of the farming community members. In line with this result, Getahun (2014) asserted that land dispossession and land grabbing cause more damage to farmers. Generally suggesting that urbanization should be checked in so doing land grabbing can be controlled. This is viable if and only if the community become secured and protected safely.

Table2. *Testing the correlation between variables associates with urbanization*

Variable	categories	Total	correlation test		
Economic status (poor) by landdispossession	Fully(92)Notdispossess (127) Partly(165) 15.10 14.32 28.91	384 58.33	chi2 60.28	df 4	p-value 0.000
Land grabbing by landholding security	Insecured (258) Secured(126) 44.79 17.97	384 62.76	chi2 5.13	df 1	p-value 0.023

Source:Computed own survey, 2016

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter discusses the conclusions drawn based on the findings of the study and recommendations suggested to address the problems.

Conclusion

Based on the key findings of the study, living patterns of the community were safe. However, after urbanization the community has undergone several transformations which includes both positive and negative patterns changes. The previous patterns have been almost eroded and invaded by the new and incompatible patterns. Economically, the community has been impoverished through different mechanisms. The community’s economic

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status has been deteriorated. Their capacity of meeting even their basic need has been lowered. The community almost lacked diversification in generating income. The most important factor that facilitated the deterioration of the economy of the community is land dispossession. Nowadays, land grabbing is the newly emerging and prevailing problem that forced the community to suffer. The study area has been highly exposed to land grabbing which aggravated and escalated the challenges of urban sprawl. Generally speaking, the community have been victimised since they lost their fundamental patterns of life.

Recommendations

In the conclusion section, several issues related to prospects and challenges of urbanization on the livelihood of peri-urban farming community and urbanization impacts that affected the essential patterns of the community were clearly addressed. In this study, the key problems caused by the uncontrolled urbanization process were identified. The community is now at risk of land dispossession and eviction. This farming community deserves immediate and long term remedies. Therefore:

All stakeholders including the community, government, investors, scholars and individuals should work collectively to alleviate the ever increasing challenges of unbridled urbanization.

Since the problems are associated with the lease system and masterplan, the concerned body particularly the government should execute the viable and plausible activities that save the community from total devastation. Accordingly, the key suggestions forwarded as follows:

1. As much as possible, the necessary cautionary measures should be taken before eviction. Awareness should be created among the community on how to adapt new urban life style. For instance, the government can provide them awareness on the know-how of business plan and entrepreneurship skills.
2. The household who lost land from the very strategic position deserves substitute or comparable place that attracts the market. Above all, the farmers should not be economically disadvantaged rather they should benefit from it.
3. The economic capacity of the displaced households should be seriously considered in the market situation through checking the market fairness and taking necessary intervention to make sure poor households get access to market.
4. The government should subsidize the peri-urban farmers so as to compete in the market and utilise its opportunities.
5. Adequate and reasonable compensation should be paid to the displaced households.
6. Each and every urban centers need to have its own masterplan that helps to manage the resource and protect defined boundary of its own. The masterplan should not be over ambitious, but it should be smart masterplan that does not affect the neighboring villages or urban setting. The smart masterplan can be designed just inclusively by incorporating or embracing the interest of all key stakeholders.
7. The industries should not be allowed to control the vast farmland. The land should given to the local investors, from the urban boundary. The industries should not be allowed to use zoning law since it invades too much land. The government should orient industries to grow vertically, not horizontally.
8. Scholars of different expertise background should scrutinize the undetected dimension of the urbanization impacts that was not addressed by this study.

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