

Oasis: A Good Side Story of Female Returnee Migrant Domestic Workers in Ambo Town

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Abstract:- Migration has become one of the most significant social and economic agenda of contemporary of our era, and it is in which significant number of population flows from the poor countries to countries, which can afford job opportunities better than the origins. Ethiopian women consider migration for domestic work to Arab countries in pursuit of economic betterment for themselves and their family members. The study aimed at investigating opportunities gained by female returnee migrant domestic workers in Ambo town. The study was descriptive qualitative case study and cross sectional design. Non-probability sampling of which purposive and snowball sampling were employed. In-depth interview and observation of data collection methods were used, and the collected data were thematically analyzed. The study vividly revealed that female domestic workers were motivated to migrate due to better wage at destination countries and hearing success stories of others. International migration is considered as livelihood strategy. Returnee domestic workers have attained opportunities of living better life in spite of wretched hardships and outrageous experiences at origin, in the process and at destination. Female returnee migrant domestic workers have learnt various skills and knowledge and they have also saved remittances, which is potential to engage in income generating activities and businesses. The study concludes that optimization of opportunities gained gets vitality and imperativity so that returnee women can be economically empowered and thus positively impact their livelihood.

Keywords:- Ambo Town, Female Returnee Migrant Domestic Workers, Good Side Story, International Migration, Oasis, Opportunity Gained.

I. INTRODUCTION

Migration can be defined as a process of moving, either across an international border or within a state, whatever its length, composition and causes. It includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people and economic migrants. It is the movement of people from one place to another within a country, or from one country to another for different reasons (International Labor Organization (ILO), 2011). Of the types of migration, International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2004) indicates that international

migration is becoming one of the central issues of our time. It defines international migration as the movements of persons, who leave their country of origin or the country of habitual residence to establish them either permanently or temporarily in another country through crossing an international frontier.

Migration has become one of the most significant political, social and economic agenda of contemporary of our era, and it is in which significant number of population flows from the poor countries to countries, which can afford job opportunities better than the origins. Bekele (2017) stated that migration, particularly international migration, in the 21st century has fundamentally changed the global agenda and become the center of attention for the international community.

ILO (2018) reported that migration from Ethiopia has grown over the past three decades with the primary migration corridor being to the Middle East. Emigration also occurs to regions of the global North such as North America, Europe, and Australia as well as to other countries in Africa. However, migration to the Middle East is the most common and is of a temporary nature, meaning that the majority of migrants return to Ethiopia after a few years abroad.

Women, among different segments of the population, are pushed for various factors to Arab countries in order to overcome the poverty they are in. It is asserted that poverty, unemployment, family pressure and family emergency are among the pushing factors (Naami, 2014). Moreover, Nisrane (2020) depicted that the Ethiopian female return migrants explained that extreme poverty and the desire to change the economic status of their family motivated their migration journey to the Arabian Gulf countries. Bhadra (2007) indicated that the basic reason for migration for work is to seek better employment opportunities outside the country of origin. Selamawit (2013) pointed out that as economic deprivation from the sending countries is served as a push factor, and economic development in the receiving countries that would result in high demand of cheap foreign laborers play significant role in attracting migrant workers.

A study undertaken by Nisrane, Osseward and Need (2020) on the exploitation narratives and coping strategies of Ethiopian women return migrants from the Arabian Gulf and pointed out that a large number of unskilled women from

developing countries engage in international migration as domestic workers. Busza et al., (2017) studied on learning from returnee Ethiopian migrant domestic workers and revealed that Ethiopian women consider migration for domestic work to be a good way to earn and secure a promising future. Ethiopian domestic workers primarily migrate to Arab countries in pursuit of economic betterment for themselves or their family members (Naami, 2014).

Migration represents both an opportunity and a challenge. While well-managed it may foster progress and welfare in origin as well as destination countries, and its mismanagement may put social cohesion, security and national sovereignty at risk (Boubakri, 2013). As a benefit, labor migration eases unemployment pressures and contributes to development through remittances, knowledge transfer, skills, information and the creation of business and trade networks (Bhadra, 2007; Naami, 2014). Precisely, Mcauliffe and Ruhs (2018) vividly underlined that migration can generate very large benefits for migrants, their families and countries of origin. In line with this, Jackson (1986) revealed that migrants return with money, fresh and progressive ideas, which may give the appearance of stimulating agricultural and other economic improvements. Likewise, the International Council on Human Rights Policy (2010) report specifies that migration pays back several migrants. It supports them in making money, establishing family abroad, or they get skills which they can take back to the place of origin.

On the other hand, it is well recognized that there are myriads of challenges encountered ascribed to migration. Atinkut and Muna (2018) studied on depression and coping mechanism among returnee migrants from Middle East countries and depicted that headache, stomachache and irritability were most frequently reported core symptoms of depression by most of returnees, but suicidal thoughts, pessimism, and sadness occur as well. Likewise, imprisonment, ill health condition without access to medical care, serious physical injury from combat situation, witness of beatings to head or body, witness of torture, forced for separation from family members, isolation from others, for lack of shelter, lack of food or water, for evacuation under dangerous conditions, witness of rape or sexual abuse and physical abuse like beating to the body were highly reported traumatic experience by domestic migrant returnees. Furthermore, Bulti (2019) did an assessment on report of migration, return and remittances of Ethiopian domestic workers from Lebanon and portrayed that they had faced severe physical and emotional abuses, mainly by the female employers/madams and often had been sexually harassed by the husband and the older sons.

The young women who had returned from the Middle East were between 18-24 years old. They had left with high hopes about earning a lot of money but often faced with hardship, exploitation and abuse (de Regt, 2016). Henneby (2017) carried out on addressing women migrant workers and stipulated that migrant workers often experience precarity in their migration journeys, increase migrant vulnerability to exploitation, economic and financial exploitation, enduring

physical harm, rights abuses, sexual abuse and various forms of coercion. While dreams of a better, more financially secure future pull adolescent girls to the Middle East, many return home empty-handed, and some – the victims of the worst forms of abuse – have serious medical and psychological needs (Jones et al., 2014).

Domestic workers in particular are always at risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuses, including confinement, underpayment or non-payment of wages, cultural isolation and discrimination as well as a range of other abuses, since their living and working conditions are entirely dependent on the personal relationship between the worker and the employer (Bulti, 2019; Timothy & Sasikumar, 2012).

Almost all studies have unvaryingly portrayed that significant number of returnees have left empty handed because of over usage by consumption and remittances, and experienced harsh hardships in the process, during their stay and during return, which predisposed them to medical and psychological problems. These studies dealt with predominantly experiences of female returnee migrant domestic workers in which they were negatively impacted. Within this view, Nisrane (2020) shared that the precarious position of Ethiopian as well as Asian female domestic workers in the Arabian Gulf countries is well documented. In addition, pushing and pulling factors and coping mechanisms of exploitation experiences of returnee domestic workers were well indicated.

However, what is missing in the previous studies is the good side story of female returnee migrant domestic workers from the strength perspective. Therefore, the study aimed to investigate opportunities gained by female returnee migrant domestic workers in Ambo town.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

International migration is a complex phenomenon that touches on a multiplicity of economic, social and security aspects affecting our daily lives in an increasingly interconnected world. Migration is a term that encompasses a wide variety of movements and situations involving people of all walks of life and backgrounds. Migration has helped improve people's lives in both origin and destination countries and has offered opportunities for millions of people worldwide to forge safe and meaningful lives abroad (Mcauliffe & Ruhs, 2018). Timothy and Sasikumar (2012) pointed out that international migration is best viewed as a process that offers immense scope for social and economic mobility.

Andall (2018) indicated female migrants have family care responsibilities in the country of origin that are not always easily reconciled with their employment options in the migration destination country. In addition to providing financial support to their households, when women move as primary migrants they also have to organize the logistical arrangements for the care of young children or other vulnerable family members left behind.

ILO (2018) recognized Ethiopia as a major sending country of migrant domestic workers to the Middle East, has been recently faced with significant number of voluntary and forced returned migrants. With the increasing number of returnees and with approximately three million young Ethiopians entering the labor force every year, ensuring productive employment opportunities for them poses a challenge in both rural and urban areas. Selamawit (2013) stipulated that labor migration as domestic worker abroad now a day is considered as an escape from such kind of marginalized life style. The migration of domestic workers annually is disguised by voluntary labor migration; seeking better job opportunities and livelihood.

When properly exercised, labor migration has far reaching potential for the migrants, their communities, the countries of origin and destination, and for employers. Today, a growing number of both sending and receiving countries view international labor migration as an integral part of their national development and employment strategies. For countries of origin, labor migration eases unemployment pressures and contributes to development through remittances, knowledge transfer, and the creation of business and trade networks (Naami, 2014).

Tendency of Migration for Escaping Feminization of Poverty

Migration is considered as an opportunity to get out from trap of poverty. As women are more than half of a total population of a country, they are overwhelmingly impacted by poverty since they are informal sector in which they are less paid, which then characterize feminization of poverty. Similarly, Jayasuriya and Opeskin (2015) portrayed that remittances that flow from low-skilled labor migration are critical to many developing countries, yet these economic benefits can come at a high price. Roughly half of all migrant workers are women. It has been widely argued that the rise of the large-scale labor migration of domestic workers is creating an unprecedented economic opportunity for developing countries. A distinctive feature of the current international migration is that almost half the population movement consists of women (Thimothy & Sasikumar, 2012).

III. METHODS

Study Design

The study employed descriptive qualitative research design as it helps to put the detailed picture of the subject matter. Creswell (2007) suggested that qualitative research allows the participants to discover their own experiences and perspectives of a phenomenon in verbatim. Accordingly, the current study employed qualitative research method as it provides the most appropriate way of investigating the issue under study in detail. As Krueger and Neuman (2006) displayed, descriptive research presents a picture of the specific details of a situation in a very detailed manner. Hence, it was employed and then the opportunities gained of the study participants was attempted to be described in detail. Detailed descriptions of the physical and social environments

as well as physical appearances of the study participants were also exhaustively made.

The study employed case study for the fact that it investigates and describes contemporary real-life phenomenon through detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions through employing multiple data collection methods as Creswell (2007) asserted. Therefore, the researchers focused on a few research participants and then examined their holistic lived experiences in detail employing an in-depth interview, key informant interview and observation. Of the types of case study (single instrumental, collective or multiple and intrinsic case study) as stated by Creswell (2007), single instrumental case study is employed since it best fits as the unit analysis of the study is only the returned migrants. Based on time dimension, the study employed cross-sectional design. According to Creswell (2012), cross sectional research is useful to obtaining an overall picture at one point in time. Upon this, data were collected and concurrently analyzed within a defined period of time frame from August to October, 2020.

Study Area

The study was conducted in Ambo town, Oromia Regional State, which is about 110 km away from Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Ambo is one of the centers for the Western parts of Oromia whereupon migration to the town from different directions, mainly rural-urban migration had been common. Moreover, it is one of the densely populated towns as a result of which unemployment rate is very high. To this end, international migration is considered as one of the response to escape poverty. Accordingly, women international migration is usual at the study area. It is indicated that significant number of women migrate to the Middle East (Focal Person from Social and Labor Affairs Office, 2020). Besides, the researchers were familiar to area and have had preliminary information about the issue understudy.

The Study Participants and Inclusion Criteria

The study incorporated the return migrants. Upon this, two inclusion criteria were considered for women migrants. First, women migrants, who lived between one and two years at the destination as domestic workers, were selected as they are believed to acquire rich experiences between the stated years. Secondly, those who have shown their willingness to be part of the study were included.

Sampling Technique

Non-probability sampling was utilized in the study. From the common type of non-probability sampling techniques; purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used by the researcher of this study to select the participants of the study. Dejong, Monette and Sullivan (1994) stipulate that investigators use their judgment and prior knowledge to choose people from the sample who would best serve the purposes of the study. Accordingly, the researchers have selected some participants from target population purposively, those who can best fit the issue under discussion rather than worrying the representativeness of the

study.

Secondly, snowball sampling was employed after some participants have been identified based on pre-defined inclusion criteria by purposive sampling. Snowball sampling was chosen because the migrated women were not easily accessible. To confirm this, Bhattacharjee (2012) asserted that in snowball sampling a researcher who may identify a few participants that match the criteria for inclusion in a study, and then asks them to recommend others they know who also meet the selection criteria.

Sample Size

The sample size for this study was determined by data saturation, as the sample sizes of qualitative research are influenced by idea of saturation in which a researcher stops collecting data when gathering fresh data no longer reveals new properties (Creswell, 2014). Accordingly, six returnee participants of the study were interviewed and thick and rich data were collected until all of the pre-stated research questions were answered.

Methods of Data Collection

While deciding about the method of data collection to be used for the study, the researcher should keep in mind two types of data: primary and secondary. The primary data are those which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character. The secondary data, on the other hand, are those which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through different data analysis processes (Kothari 2004). For this study, the researchers have used both primary and secondary data sources in order to generate data. From primary data sources, in-depth interview and complete-observation were utilized. The available written materials such as books, book chapters, journals, articles, master theses, electronic materials and others documents were reviewed as secondary data sources.

Methods of Data Analysis

As the study is qualitative case study, thematic data analysis was employed. As Creswell (2007) stated, the most common elements of qualitative data analysis includes coding, categorizing and theme. Accordingly, the researchers attempted to reduce the collected data into manageable themes from field notes and tape recorder. Since coding involves a systematic recording of data, codes to cover key themes, ideas and concepts that were collected from the study site were used. Categories and sub-categories for codes were developed. This means that data collected through in-depth interviews, key informant interview, and observations were thematically categorized and analyzed. Then, detailed analyses were categorized according to their similarity and difference of ideas. Besides, thematic ideas were identified and categorized based on the research questions. Then, headings for the categorized themes were given. Finally, the researchers came up with the headings and sub-headings in the data presentation.

Data Quality Assurance

Data quality in qualitative research is ensured through trustworthiness approach, which is in turn ensured through four criteria, comprising credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Credibility can be captured through prolonged engagement and data triangulation. Through prolonged engagement, the current researchers established good rapport and built smooth relationship with the study participants to make them relax and freely disclose their experiences. Data triangulation is accomplished through different data collection methods and helps to look at things from several angles. Hence, the data collected through in-depth interview, key informant interview and observation were triangulated. Transferability can be achieved through thick description and purposive sampling. Thus, this study enhanced transferability through describing the issue under study in exhaustive, comprehensive and in-depth manner. To ensure dependability, data were collected carefully and participants were contacted twice for more clarification. To augment confirmability, transcripts were double checked by a bilingual translator competent in Afan Oromo and English.

Ethical Considerations

The researchers attempted to maintain ethical issues for the safety, privacy and confidentiality of the participants. To ensure anonymity, pseudo names were used. In order to make them confident, an interview was held at their home and workplaces based on their consent.

IV. RESULTS

Opportunity Gained Ascribed to Migration

Findings of the study reveal that there were a lot of opportunities that the study participants gained attributed to their migration. Participants of the study were able to achieve their objective of supporting themselves and their respective families. The researchers' observation also exhibited that the life of such study participants was improved.

For instance, one of participants of the study, Wolela, revealed that she had got a golden opportunity on account of her international migration. Her background before her migration indicates that she was living in miserable poverty. Her parents were not able to address the basic needs of their children. Encompassing ten (10) family members, her parents were living in a rented house. Shortage of food and lack of clothing were also among her family's robust challenges. Since she could not stand- against such challenges, she along with her family chose international migration as an indispensable opportunity in order to support herself as well as her family. Subsequently, she was able to achieve her main objective. She was able to support herself and her family. She purchased two hundred (200) square meter land for her family. She also provided them with substantial support in constructing house on the purchased land. What is more, she purchased two hundred (200) square meter land and constructed a house for herself. Shortly after, she married and gave birth. Her husband was a barber. He had also a shop. To this end, Wolela became a shopkeeper. She was also selling traditional coffee in front of the shop. "I can sell more than

eighty (80) cup of coffee, which is calculated to four hundred (400) birr). I can get at least three hundred (300) birr net profit per day," she said.

As a subsequent, she stated that she was so happy with her family, and thus she was leading a decent life with her child and husband. She also revealed that she is extremely thrilled for helping and seeing her parents' relieve from rent of the house and for living within their own house. "Since I have gotten what I wanted, I do not have any repentance for dropping out from my education," she said.

The other participants of the study, Gadise, also exposed her international migration as a good opportunity. As her family's living conditions indicated, she was the poorest of the poor.

At the age of six, she lost her mother, who was the main breadwinner of her family. After the death of her mother, her father could not address the basic needs of his family. To this end, Gadise got employed as a domestic worker at the age of seven (7) and tried to support her family though she was supposed to be enrolled to school. The support she provided, however, could not improve her family's living condition, as her monthly salary was so scant. Therefore, she migrated to the Middle East to address her own as well as her family's problems. As she intended, she was able to lift herself and her family out of abject poverty. For instance, she was able to purchase four hundred (400) square meter land and constructed a 'splendid' living house. She also well-furnished and filled it with essential household utensils. What is more, she was able to open a mini café and begun to generate good income out of it. The researchers' observation also confirmed what is stated. It was also revealed that she was married to a 'good' person, who properly discharges his roles and responsibilities. As she stated, he was a small taxi driver locally named as *Bajaj*. She, in collaboration with him, has planned to purchase a minibus by selling half of her land and by bringing together their other savings. With this, she was able to address the basic needs of her family.

Moreover, she was able to develop her skills, mainly of food preparation skill at the destination. As a result, she had been preparing food for one foreigner upon her return and thus earning two thousand (2000) birr per month. She had also acquired and properly developed communication skills in Arabic language. In short, she had got remarkable opportunities ascribed international migration. Although challenges she encountered is indisputable, the resources she accumulated and the skills she developed helped her as a coping mechanism as she stated and as the researcher's observation was concerned.

The other participants of the study, Sifan, also gained 'good' opportunities upon her return. The main driving factor for her migration was a desire for a short term change. As she envisioned, she had achieved her objective. By the income she generated as a migrant, she was able to purchase two hundred (200) square meter land and constructed a house. Besides, she opened a mini café and beauty salon, and thus

she had been generating a good income. Then, after some time, she revealed that she got married and gave birth to a son. Then, she along with her husband purchased four hundred (400) square meter land and constructed a house again for the purpose of renting. Accordingly, she stipulated that the total capital she, along with her husband, has was estimated to eight hundred thousand (800, 000) birr.

As a result, she expressed that she had been leading a decent life along with her family. She also stressed that she does not regret for dropping out from her schooling, and confirmed that she made the right decision. In view of this, she specified as stipulated underneath:

Some of my schoolmates are still at school; the others had not got a pass mark at grade ten national exams and now some of them are working in different factories. Compared to them, I am self-reliant and leading a good life. So, there is nothing that regrets me. What is more, she uncovered that she was able to develop and capitalize on her life skills, including self-confidence, decision making ability, interpersonal relationship and communication skills.

The other participants of the study, Fayise, added the opportunity she gained as follows:

Before immigration, I did not know all about the walk of life. After immigration, however, I learned a lot. I learned how to fight against and cope with any challenge that encounters me. Though I suffered a lot, I learned a lot out of it. For me, Arab Country is just like a well-known University, where you can get the opportunity to learn many things-be it good or bad. From now on, as a result of the experiences that I accumulated, there shall be no challenge that I cannot overcome. I also added Arabic communication skill. Before immigration, I never heard even the existence of such language. I didn't know a single word, but know I can properly convey a message. Therefore, if I want to immigrate again, there is nothing that precludes me.

Buzunesh also migrated in order to escape poverty, mainly of economic problem. The activities on which her parents engaged were not productive. The income they generated had never been sufficient enough to address their basic needs as she expressed. That is, her family's economic problems were identified as the main motivating factor for her decision to emigration. Upon her return, however, she was able to lessen her own as well as her family's problems. As she unveiled, although there were many challenges she encountered at the destination, the benefits she gained prevail over. She recounted as:

Challenges exist everywhere. Even if you live with your family and within your country, it is impossible to be free from challenges in life. In order to get something, you have to also compromise something. So, even if I had encountered abuses at the destination, it was not left in vein. There were many things that I profited as a result.

The remaining participants of the study, Koket, described that she along with her sisters was able to play unspeakable role in the improvements of the life of her

families solely because of her noticeable decision to international migration. As she explained, before her migration, her family members were suffering from dreadful problems to the extent of disability to address their basic needs. She elucidated that her father was a tractor driver and he was the only source of income for her family constituting eight members. Her father, however, got retired. Since then, her family began to suffer from lack of basic needs. They suffered a lot. Dining one time a day became unthought-of let alone other issues as her father's income after retirement got too diminished. At this point in time what came to their mind as a family was immigration to Arab country regardless of the anticipated challenges at the destination country.

Accordingly, Koket's family, through a lot of ups and downs, borrowed money and facilitated her emigration. Fortunately, she immigrated and employed. Right after a few months of her emigration, she began to support her family and paid back the borrowed money. Right after a year, she covered the required cost and facilitated for the immigration of her younger sister to the same town and thus her sister was also employed as a domestic worker. Again in the same year, she (Koket) was able to purchase 165 square meter land for herself. Then, a few months after the arrival of her sister, both of them brought together their savings and constructed an abode for their family back home. Again almost after a year, she purchased 200 square meter land and constructed good house for herself alongside continuing to help her family with her sister.

As a result, she was able to change her own as well as her family's life. Her family's basic needs were astonishingly improved. For instance, Food, clothing, house utensils, furniture, housing and other related needs were addressed beyond what was anticipated. It was not ended with these, she also in consort with her sister purchased a small taxi locally named: *Bajaj* for her younger brother. Almost after five years of exile, she turned back home and married to a person of her desire and produced one child. Her life as she explained and observed demonstrated that she was living a better life. She also acknowledged that she was so thrilled with her life and for extraordinarily improving her family's life. She elucidated the scenario as:

"I am proud of myself for doing my best in improving my family's life more than mine. What I am thrilled with always is seeing my parents smiling face. What is more cheerfulness than lifting ones family from abject poverty." My mother always says: "Below God, my children are my everything; they are my guardians. I do not regret if I die right now; I have seen everything through them. They have uplifted my once looked down head" she stated.

The study's findings also unveil that international migration has positively contributed to the return migrant's marriage. It was identified that four of the return migrants (Wolela, Fayise, Gadise, Sifan and Koket) were married after their return because the income they have to generate had attracted their male counterparts. For instance, one of participants of the study, Gadise, stated:

Compared to females those who did not migrate, males prefer the returnees because they believe that the returnees have money. As you know life is getting difficult and difficult. Everything is inflated. Males alone as a bread winner cannot address all the needs. Thus, if the returnees have some savings and males also do have some, they bring together and do something. Let alone marrying the returnees, males send their wives isolating from themselves and their children, and take responsibility to take care of the children until their wives return though they know that there are so many challenges at the destination.

V. DISCUSSIONS

The study explicitly discussed that female domestic workers were forced to migrate because of poverty, unemployment, underpayment and lack of accessing to properties at origin. In addition, they were pulled to destination countries due to attractive payment and hearing of success stories from those who have already migrated. This finding is congruently fitted into the existing literature. Extreme poverty, unemployment, family pressure, economic deprivation of sending countries, and planning to change status of family members were considered as pushing factors for female domestic workers (Naami, 2014; Nisrane, 2020; Selamawit, 2013).

Regarding pulling factors, Bhadra (2007), Mcauliffe and Ruhs (2018) and Naami (2014) stated that female domestic workers were motivated to migrate due to several reasons including seeking attractive payment and better employment opportunities, securing a future promises and pursuing economic betterment for themselves and their family members.

The study vividly revealed that female returnee migrant domestic workers have gained opportunities by buying land for themselves, sending remittances, constructing houses for their family members, starting living better life when compared with before migration, fulfilling necessary basic needs relatively for themselves and other family members, filling materials and utensils of house, and equipping themselves with information, knowledge, skills, and involving in various income generating activities. Correspondingly, this finding of the study shares with the existing knowledge in the literature. Benefits of migration can be explained in terms of sending remittances, knowledge transfer, equipped with skills and involvement in business and trade activities (Bhadra, 2007, Jayasuriya and Opekin, 2015; Naami, 2014).

What is more, Jackson (1986) revealed the return of migrants with fresh and progressive ideas, and added that the money and ideas that migrants may bring back to their home communities may give the appearance of stimulating agricultural and other economic improvements. Concomitantly, participants of the study had gained pleasing opportunities irrespective of the challenges they encountered. It was indicated that they were engaged in different income generating activities. They were also able to accumulate assets and savings, and thus they were productive and happy

with their life. Correspondingly, the International Council on Human Rights Policy (2010) report exhibited that migration pays back several migrants like in making money, establishing family abroad, or gaining skills which they can take back to the place of origin. Here, except establishing family abroad, the others are consistent with the current study's findings.

Study conducted by Chekole (2017) reveals that international migration affects marriage possibility positively. It is stated as: "The migrant returnees can easily marry whom they want (p.63)". Similarly, the study demonstrated that international migration has positively contributed to the marital status of the returnees. It was implied that males prefer females who do have income as being a breadwinner alone has been getting difficult and difficult attributed to the day in day out increments of cost of living.

VI. CONCLUSION

In international migration, female returnee migrant domestic workers have gained opportunities in spite of hardships and sufferings including fear of deportation with empty hand, desperate journey, detention or imprisonment, starvation, physical abuses, sexual abuses (rape), psychological problems, health problems, hunger, thirsty, and labor exploitation at origin, in the process and at destination. This is what makes it oasis as the stated opportunities were gained after throbbing sufferings and dreadful experiences.

With regard to opportunities gained, the study reveals that there were a lot of opportunities that the study participants had gained attributed to their immigration. Many of them were able to achieve their plan of supporting themselves and their respective families. They were able to lift themselves and their families from abject poverty, as they were in a miserable poverty before their emigration. They also accumulated important assets that are deemed important in their life.

The study undergone did not address roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations in optimization of available resources and assets of returnee domestic workers. Thus, the study implied further research needs to be undertaken on roles of concerning stakeholders in optimizing female returnee migrant domestic workers' resources and strengths in consideration of economic empowerment perspective.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study clearly depicted that female returnee migrant domestic workers have learnt various skills and knowledge and they have also saved remittances, which is potential to engage in income generating activities and businesses. In order to optimize available resources of return domestic workers, concerning stakeholders, for instance, governmental organizations (Labor and Social Affairs Office, Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office, and Job Opportunity Creation Office and other related offices) and non-governmental organizations should provide training how to

more engage them in different business activities and save their remittances appropriately to be benefited in turn eventually.

The study implied that for female returnee migrant domestic workers, international migration is seen as a livelihood strategy. They have gained opportunities so that they started living better life when compared with before migration in spite of miserable hardships and painful maltreatments. In order to further optimize existing resources and assets of returnee domestic workers as well as addressing inflicted challenges, Ethiopian government should work further in creating smooth bilateral relationship with destination countries in which domestic workers can get protection.

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