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CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF URBAN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN KEMBATA TEMBARO ZONE, SNNPR, ETHIOPIA

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AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

The sole author designed, analyzed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Due to rapid population growth and low level of economic performance youth unemployment in developing countries particularly in sub-Saharan Africa has been worsened. The major purpose of this study was to investigate the causes and consequences of urban youth unemployment in Kembata Tembaro zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia. Towards this end, a multistage sampling technique was employed to gather data from 300 randomly selected youths of which 132 were employed and 168 were unemployed within the study area. For this study both primary and secondary sources were used to collect both primary and secondary data. Different data collection techniques like questionnaire, key informant interview and focus group discussions were entirely used to collect primary quantitative data, whereas different published and unpublished sources were used to collect secondary data. The study findings revealed that the key causes of unemployment identified during this study includes low levels of education, lack of sufficient skills, job preferences and low job opportunities, rural to urban migration, still as misguided education policies and corruption. However, the most consequence of urban youth unemployment within the study area includes poor standards of living, psychological impact, high dependency, corruptions, suicides and dependence. Moreover, the result from the binary logistic regression model revealed that, education level of the household head, sex of the youth, age of the youth, skill match and education of the youth and access to market information had significantly and negatively influenced youth unemployment within the study area. Thus, government should design policies to reform the education curricula in both secondary and vocational schools to stress skills development, increase job opportunities for fresh graduates, facilitating information access in time of job search, enhancing good governance and thereby avoiding corruption, facilitating either formal or informal educational opportunities for household heads and etc.

Keywords: Youth; unemployment; management; regression; job preferences; job opportunities; corruption dependence.

1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Unemployment had been a big problem of international economy from the period of great depression when high level of unemployment registered in the world. According to ILO [1], "globally youth unemployment registered nearly 70.9 million and therefore the youth unemployment rate was 13.1 and it had been highest within the Arab States, at 30.0 in 2017. Moreover, by 2018, the world

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number of unemployed youth is predicted to rise by another 134,000, to achieve 71.1 million and youth percentage is anticipated to stay at 13.1 per cent over the following few years; where a small jump to 13.2 per cent is anticipated" [1]. Though the seriousness of the problem may vary from one country to a different in several magnitude unemployment still exists all told country within the world [2].

For example, Sub-Saharan Africa's unemployment rate stood at 7.2 per cent in 2017, basically remaining unchanged. Because of the region's strong labor force growth the number of unemployed increased by over 1 million. While the percentage is comparatively low as compared to the other developing regions, the rate masks the cross-country heterogeneity prevalent within the region. According to ILO [3], "a little progress has been made in narrowing the gender gap in sub-Saharan Africa over the past decade".

"Ethiopia is characterized by highly growing labor force with an increasing proportion of youth and employment growth is insufficient to soak up this high proportion of labour specially the youth part in several sectors of the economy ([4], cited at Aynalem Sh. and Mulugeta D. (2018). Consistent with Martha [5], despite the recent economic growth witnessed in Ethiopia, youth unemployment is high and rising". Moreover, according to Ethiopian labor force survey report, the percent of urban youth at country level was 22.9 while it had been only 3.1% in rural areas labor force Survey [6]. "A labour survey report indicated that in 5 urban areas the estimated unemployment rate was 41.3% and the incidence of youth unemployment was 45.5% and 35.7% for females and males respectively" ([4] cited in Aynalem Sh. and Mulugeta D. 2018).

"In Ethiopia, several factors contribute to youth unemployment like negative financial performance, low education level, low entrepreneurship, mismatch skill and low awareness among the youth" (Nayak, 2014). "Moreover, the potential causes of unemployment in urban Ethiopia comprise highly increasing rate of youth labor, the intensive internal migration, literacy rate, poor to modest macroeconomic performance, low level of job creation and low level of aggregate demand within the economy" [7,8]. Additionally, high population growth, highly increasing rural-urban migration and low economic development have high contribution for present high unemployment level. Due to this, specifying the underlined causes prompting unemployment of urban youth residents should be the primary step to come back up with the appropriate solutions for the problem [2].

Kambata Tembaro Zone is found in S/N/N/P Regional State. According to population forecast of Ethiopia for all regions at woreda level from 2014 – 2017 total population of kambata tembaro zone is 902,073 from which 442,883 are male and 459,190 are female [9]. Out of this population, 28.7 % (14.1% male and 14.6% female), are youths aged between 15 to 24 years. According to CSA [10], youth unemployment rate in Kembata Temabaro zone is found to be 26.64 percent of which 12.63 percent of them are male and 14.01 percent are females, which is one among the highest within the country. This fact displayed that youths are the most affected segments of population due to this problem. Due to this most of young population within the area exposed to dangerous human trafficking problems with unsafe international migration (specifically to the Republic of South Africa). So that, most of them are losing their pricier life on this evil journey. Moreover, the determinants of youth unemployment in the area weren't well assessed. In this stand, this study was conducted to look at demographic and socio-economic determinants of youth unemployment within the study area. Consequently, the result will provide information for designing relevant program and strategy to reduce the problem of youth unemployment within the study area. Therefore, the aim of this study was to explore the causes and consequences of youth unemployment within the study area with special emphasis on urban unemployed youth.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Research Design

The study is cross-sectional type as mainly it is designed to use primary data which is collected during a single period of time mainly through questionnaire, interview and group discussion. Additionally, the study adopted both qualitative and quantitative research approaches as data obtained was analyzed qualitatively through discussion and quantitatively using descriptive statistical tools.

2.2 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

For his study used multi stage sampling technique to select respondents from the study area. Within the first stage, five woredas namely Angacha, Kacha Bira, Demboya, Doyogena and Durame town administration was purposively selected out of eight woredas in kembata Tembaro Zone. Within the second stage, the respondents within the five selected woredas were stratified in to 2 strata of male population and female population. This sampling includes drawing a sample from each stratum in

proportion to the latter's share within the total population. It gives proper representation to every stratum and its statistical efficiency is usually high. Within the third stage, sample respondents were selected from each stratum by using simple random sampling technique. Finally, total of 300 sample respondents were selected from unemployed population by using model developed from Kothari (Kothari, 1990).

That is, $n = \frac{pq\left(\frac{Z\alpha}{2}\right)^2}{\varepsilon^2}$ where, n is sample size, P is the proportion of youth who are unemployed, q is the proportion of youth who are employed, ε is marginal error, (ε = 5% is accepted. $Z_{\alpha/2}$ = Confidence interval at 95% is assumed ($Z_{\alpha/2}$ = 1.96)).

The sample size was estimated, n= [(0.2664) (0.7336) $(1.96)^2$] / $(0.05)^2$ = 300

Where q =1-p, q=1- 0.2664 = 0.7336

2.3 Data Sources and Methods of Data Collection

In this study, quantitative data collected from both primary and secondary data sources were entirely used. The primary quantitative has been collected from the sample respondents within the study area. However, secondary data were organized from local offices, higher government organizations, and various published and unpublished sources. To collect primary data a well-designed semi-structured questionnaire with both open and close ended questions were prepared and distributed to the sample respondents.

2.4 Method of Data Analysis

In this study descriptive as well as econometric methods of data analysis were used. Descriptive statistics like mean, percentage, standard error, standard deviation, minimum and maximum were used whereas econometrics model like binary logit model was employed to investigate the required data collected from the sample respondents within the study area.

2.5 Econometric Model Specification

For estimating binary choice models three types of models have been proposed such as the linear probability model, logit and probit models represented by linear probability function, logistic distribution and normal distribution function respectively [11]. According to Hosmer and Lemeshow [12], "the major point that distinguishes these functions from the linear regression model is that the outcome variable in these functions is dichotomous". Moreover, probit model which is associated "with the cumulative normal probability function and the logit model which assumes cumulative logistic probability distribution are very close to each other except at the tails". Thus, we are not likely to get very different results using the logit or the probit model.

According to Maddala [13], "the choice between the logit and probit models revolves around practical concerns such as the availability and flexibility of computer programs, personal preference, experience and other facilities because the substantive results are generally indistinguishable". In this study binary logit model was employed because they are appropriate when the decision maker chooses between two alternatives (youth unemployment status which takes the value of 1 if the youth is unemployed and 0 otherwise).

Based on Gujarit [11], the functional form of binary logit model is specified as follows;

$$\mathrm{Pi} = \mathrm{E}(\mathrm{Y} = 1/\mathrm{Xi}) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-(\beta 0+\beta \mathrm{i}\mathrm{Xi})}} \quad (1)$$

This can be simplified as:

$$\mathrm{Pi} = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\mathrm{Zi}}} \quad (2)$$

The probability that a given household being unemployed is expressed in equation 2 but the probability of the household employed is given by:

$$1 - Pi = \frac{1}{1+e^{Zi}} \quad (3)$$

Thus we can write this as:

$$\frac{Pi}{1-Pi} = \frac{1+e^{Zi}}{1+e^{-zi}} = e^{Zi} \quad (4)$$

Then (Pi/1-Pi) is the odds ratio of the probability that a household unemployed to the probability that it was employed.

Finally, taking the natural log of equation (4):

$$Li = ln\left(\frac{Pi}{1-Pi}\right), \ \mathrm{Zi} = \beta_{0+} \ \beta_1 \ \mathrm{X}_1 + \beta_2 \mathrm{X}_2 + \ldots\ldots + \beta_n \mathrm{X}_n \quad (5)$$

Where, Pi is a probability of the household to be unemployed or not which ranges from 0 to 1. Zi is

a function of explanatory variables (Xi) which is also expressed as: $Zi = \beta_0+\beta_1X_1+\beta_2X_2+.....+\beta nXn$ (6)

where,

β_0 is an intercept, β_1, $\beta 2$…….. βn are slopes of the equation in the model Li = is log of the odds ratio, which is not only linear in Xi but also linear in the parameters. Xi = is vector of explanatory variables affecting youth unemployment status. If the disturbance term (Ui) is introduced, the binary logit model becomes: $Zi = \beta 0+ \beta_1 X 1+\beta_2X_2+.....+\beta n X n + Ui$ (7)

2.6 Hypothesis and Definition of Variables

2.6.1 Dependent variable

Youth unemployment status (UEMPLTSS): Unemployment status of the youth is binary dependent variable which takes the value of 1 if the youth is unemployed and 0 otherwise.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Generally, this section is structured in to two sub sections. In the first sub section the descriptive statistical results were presented. In the second sub section the econometrics model results for the factors affecting the youth unemployment within the study area was analyzed and presented.

3.1 Results of Descriptive Statistics

3.1.1 Status of urban youth unemployment in the study area

Depending on the collected data the respondents were categorized in to two groups such as employed and unemployed. Accordingly, the result from the descriptive statistics revealed that from the total respondents 56% of them were unemployed, whereas the remaining 44% were unemployed in the study area (Table 2).

3.1.2 Causes of youth unemployment in the study area

Results from descriptive analysis indicated that out of the total respondents about 41.66% of the respondents responded that the major cause of urban youth unemployment in the study area was limited job opportunities. In addition to this, about 14% of the respondents responded that limited access to financial resources was another cause of youth unemployment in the study area. In addition to this, about 10%, 10 % and 4% of the respondents indicated that misguided educational policy, corruption and job preferences respectively were the other causes of youth unemployment in the study area (Table 2). However, about 8.33% of the respondents indicated that lack of work experience was another cause of youth unemployment in the study area.

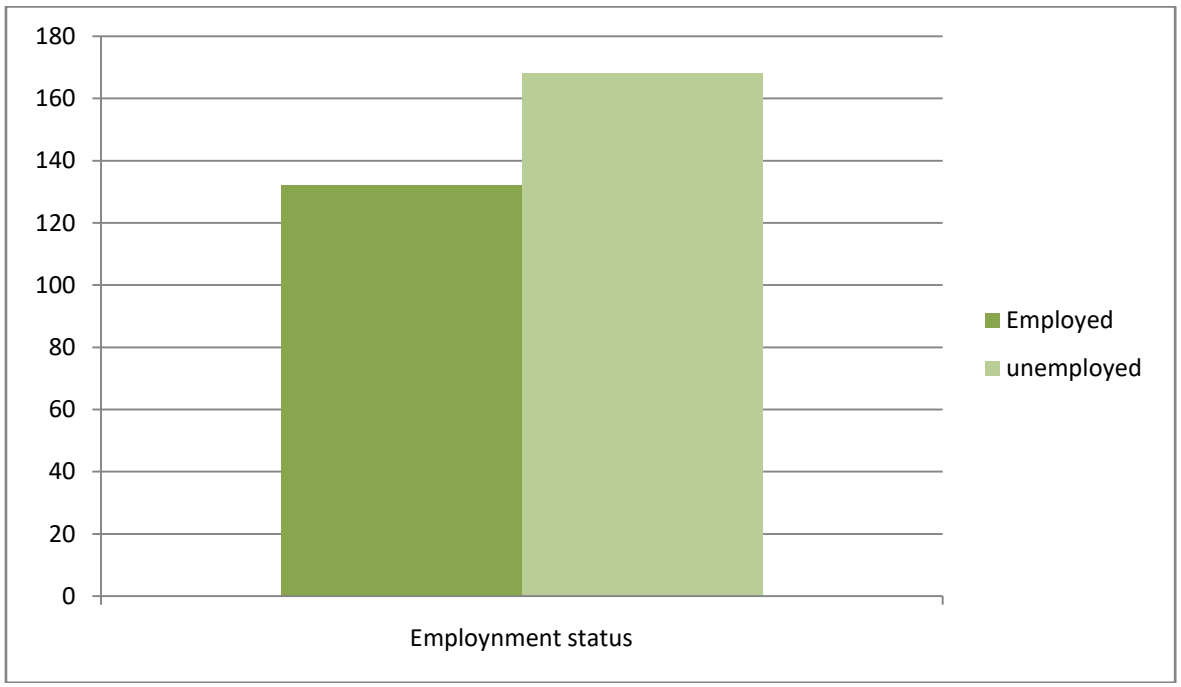

Fig. 1. Unemployment status of the youth in the study area
Source: Own computation result based on survey data, 2020

Table 1. Explanatory Variables and their expected sign

Variables	Variable type	Measurement unit	Expected sign
Education head (EDCHH)	Continuous	Years of schooling	-
Sex of the youth (SXYUTH)	Dummy	1= male, 0 =female	-
Access to credit (ACTCRDT)	Dummy	1 =Yes, 0 =No	-
Job opportunity (JOBOPTNT):	Dummy	1=Yes, 0=No	-
Marital status (MRTSS)	Dummy	1 =Married, 0 =Unmarried	-
Information access (ACTMINF))	Dummy	1 =Yes, 0= No	-
Skill match (SKLMTC)	Dummy	1 =match, 0 =mismatch	-
Work experience (WORKEXP)	Dummy	1=experience, 0 =no experience	-
Migration status (MGRTN)	Dummy	1=migrant, 0= non-migrant	+
Education Youth (EDCYOUTH)	Categorical	0= illiterate 1= primary education 2=secondary education 3=certificate and diploma 4= Higher education	-

Source: Own computation based on literature, 2020

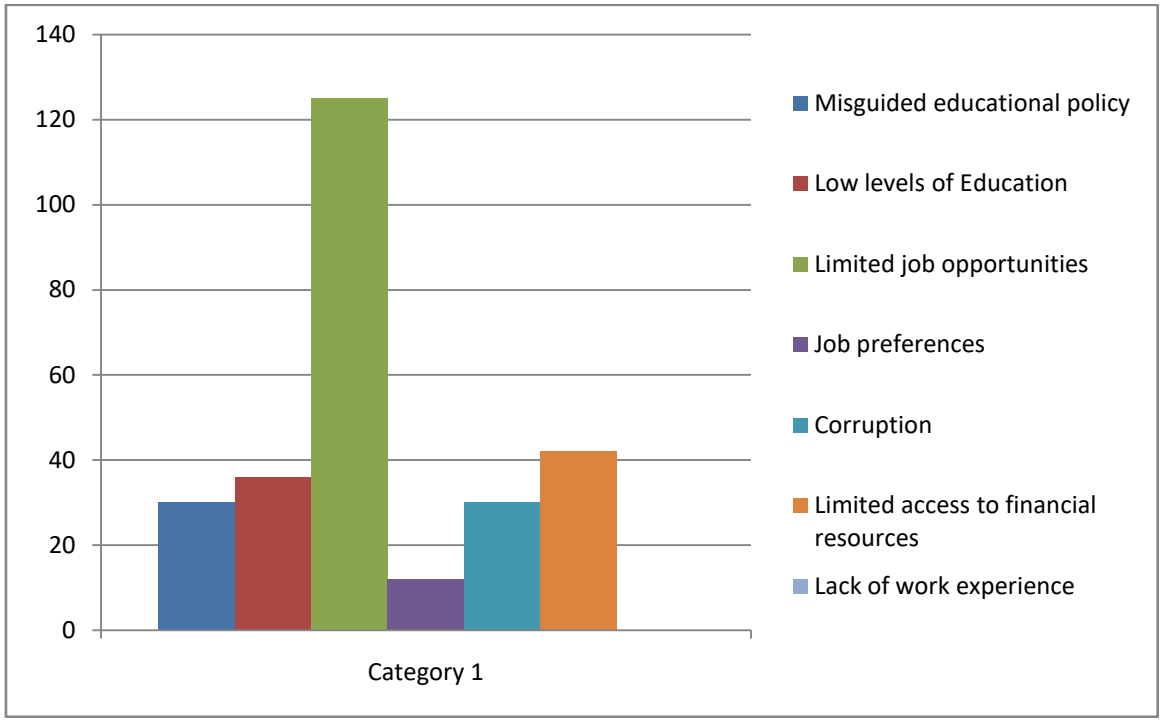

Fig. 2. Causes of youth unemployment in the study area
Source: Own computation result based on survey data, 2020

3.1.3 Consequences of youth unemployment in the study area

The descriptive statistics result shows that, that from the total respondents the majority (46.66%) of the respondents suggested that the main effect of youth unemployment in the study area was youth dependency rate. Poor standard of living and psychological impact were the other outcomes of youth unemployment in the study area. Accordingly, from the total respondents 30% and 20% of respondents indicated that the effect of youth unemployment in the study area is that psychological impact and poor standards of living respectively (Table 4). On the other hand, about 10 (3.33%) of the respondents argued that the other effect of youth unemployment in the study area is the expansion of crimes and drug addiction.

Table 2. Consequences of youth unemployment in the study area

Consequences of youth unemployment in the study area	Frequency	Percentage
Psychological impact	90	30
Poor standards of living	60	20
High dependency rate	140	46.66
Crimes and drug addiction	10	3.33
Total	**300**	**100**

Source: Own computation result based on survey data, 2020

Table 3. The binary logistic regression model result

Variables	Coefficient	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	P-Values
EDCHH	-0.047	0.789	0.030	0.000***
SXYUTH	-0.108	0.563	0.154	0.036 **
ACTCRDT	0.047	1.265	0.348	0.392
JOBOPTNT	-0.008	0.954	0.011	0.000***
MRTSS	-0.022	0.929	0.254	0.789
ACTMINF	-0.123	0.532	0.151	0.027**
SKLMTC	-0.090	0.619	0.174	0.089*
WORKEXP	-0.028	0.839	0.237	0.537
MGRTN	0.020	1.09	0.303	0.733
EDCYOUTH	-0.045	0.770	0.087	0.021**
_cons	1.344	88.14	69.29	0.000

****, **, * shows significance at 1%, 5% and 10% level respectively*
Source: Own computation result based on survey data, 2020

3.2 Econometric Model Result

3.2.1 Factors determining youth unemployment

Binary logistic regression model was used to estimate factors determining unemployment status of the youth in the study area. Moreover, the independent variables were tested for the existence of the problem of multcolinearity, heteroscedasticity and model specification using VIF, hettest and link test respectively. Accordingly, the variance inflation factor shows that there was no serious problem of multicollinearity between all the continuous explanatory variables since the mean VIF was 1.08 which is by far lower than 10.

Similarly, values of the coefficient of contingency (CC) was used to test the existence of multicollinearity between the discrete explanatory variables. Since the value of contingency coefficient was below 0.75, this shows that there was no problem of multicollinearity among the discrete explanatory variable. To detect the problem of heteroscedasticity the Breusch-Pagan/Weisberg test of heteroscedasticity was used and the result indicates that there was no problem of heteroscedasticity since the p-value was insignificant (Prob > chi2 = 0.7715). Finally, the link test was used to test the model specification or estimation. The result from the link test revealed significant _hat (p-value =0.003) and insignificant _hats q (p-value= 0.841). Thus, based on the link test the model specification was found to be appropriate and there was no relevant explanatory variable excluded from the model or irrelevant variable added to the model.

Job Opportunity (JOBOPTNT): The binary logistic regression result indicated that, availability of job opportunity influences the youth unemployment status negatively and significantly at 1% significance level. This implies that, a rise in job opportunity results in increase in the probability of being employed. Moreover, the result from the logistic regression revealed that, holding all things constant an increase in job opportunity by one year results in decrease in the probability of being unemployed by factor of 0.954 (Table 3). This is mainly due to the fact that, new graduates will find it difficult to access jobs due to lack of job opportunity. Thus, the finding of this study was in line with the works of Qayyum [14] and Echebiri [15].

Education Head (EDCHH): Educational background of the household head was one of the important determinants of the youth unemployment in the study area. As expected, education of the household head had negative and significant influence on youth unemployment in the study area at 1% significance level. In addition to this, the result of the logistic regression model revealed that, the probability of

being unemployed decrease by factor of 0.789 for youth with educated household heads (Table 3). In other words, youth with educated households were 0.789 times more likely to be employed than their counterparts. The possible reason for this finding was that educated household heads in the study area pay any sacrifice for the youth by opening a further education opportunities until they get employed in different institutions. Thus, the finding of this study was in line with the works of Ndagijimana, J.et al; [2].

Sex of the Youth (SXYUTH): Sex is one of the demographic variables that affect youth unemployment. As it was expected, sex of the youth had influenced the unemployment status of the youth negatively and significantly at 5% significance level. The odds ratio result revealed that, the probability of being unemployed decreases by factor of 0.563 for male respondents when compared to female respondents in the study area. This implies that females are more likely to be unemployed than male youth across all ages due to the fact that most of the time, females spend much time in doing domestic work than males. The findings of this study is consistent with the works of Berhanu et al, [16].

Youth Access to Market Information (ACTMINF): Access to information is the other explanatory variable which had a negative and significant influence on the unemployment status of the youth in the study area at 5% significance level. The logistic regression result has revealed that, there was negative relationship between access to market information and youth unemployment. Moreover, the odds ratio result revealed that the probability of being unemployed decreases by a factor of 0.532 for the youth who have an access to market information than their counterparts. On the other hand, this implies that youth who have an access to market information are 0.532 times more likely to be employed than their counterparts. This implies that, having an access to information about job opportunities can contribute to skill gain and reduces a skill mismatches thereby reducing the probability of being unemployed. "The finding of this study is in line with the works of" Ndagijimana, J.et al; [2].

Skills Match (SKLMTC): The skill that the youth acquired and it linkage with labour market demand has negative effect on unemployment in the study area. As it was expected skill match had negatively and significantly influenced youth unemployment at 10% significance level. The negative sign indicates that the probability of being unemployed decrease for youth with matched skill than their counterparts. Moreover, for matched skills the probability of being unemployed decreases by factor of 0.619, all other factors remaining constant. In other words, youths with matched skill are 0.619 times less likely to be unemployed than their counterparts. "This study result is in line with the findings of" Alemnew, [4]; Ndagijimana, J.et al; [2].

Education youth (EDCYOUTH): As it was hypothesized education level of the youth had negative and significant influence on their unemployment status at 5% significance level. The odds ratio of logistic regression result in table 3 indicates that keeping other variables constant, an increase in the level of education of youth leads to a decrease in the probability of being unemployed by factor of 0.77. In other words, educated youths are 0.77 times more likely to be employed than their counterparts. On the other hand, youth with higher education level had lower level of unemployment. "This study result is in line with the findings of" Msigwa and Kipesha[17]; Ndagijimana, J.et al; [2].

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The study analyzed the causes and consequences of urban youth unemployment in Kembata Tembaro zone, southern Ethiopia. In addition to this, it has also tried to identify the factors determining urban youth unemployment in the study area. A multistage sampling technique was used to collect primary data from 300 randomly selected sample respondents. The study used binary logistic regression model to analyze factors determining urban youth unemployment in the study area. Along with the econometric models, a descriptive statistical analysis has been used to analyze the demographic, socio-economic and institutional factors related to the sample respondents within the study area [18-24].

Accordingly, the descriptive statistics analysis output revealed that from the total respondents 56% of the respondents were unemployed, whereas the remaining 44% of the respondents were employed in the study area. In addition to this, the main cause of youth unemployment as reported by the respondents in the study area includes limited access to job opportunities, limited access to financial resources, low levels of education, corruption, misguided educational policy, lack of work experience and job preferences. On the other hand, the major consequences of youth unemployment in the study area as indicated by the respondents includes high rate of dependency, psychological impact, poor standard of living and crimes and drug addiction.

Moreover, the result from the binary logistic regression model revealed that, out of the ten explanatory variables six of them such job opportunity, sex of the youth, education of the youth, skill match, access to market information and education of the head were found significantly determining the unemployment status of the youth in the study area. This implies that, male respondents, an increase in the job opportunity, having an access to market information, increase in the youth educational level, matched skill and education of head results in decrease in the probability of being unemployed for the youth.

4.2 Recommendations

Depending on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made in order to solve the problem of urban youth unemployment in the study area. The study findings revealed that access to market information had negatively and significantly contributed to youth unemployment in the study area. This implies that, the probability of being unemployed is the lowest for those who had an access to market information than their counterparts in the study area. Therefore, both local and regional government bodies should undertake all the necessary policy intervention to facilitate market information in different Medias and magazines.

The study result revealed that, female respondents in the study area are more likely to be unemployed when compared to their male counterparts. This is due to the fact that, females spend much time in doing domestic work than males. Therefore, the capacity of females should be enhanced by offering them either formal or informal education and thereby raising their chance of getting jobs in either formal or informal sectors.

Based on the study findings, education of the youth and education of head were found to be negatively and significantly determining the youth unemployment status in the study area. This indicates that, as the youth climbs the educational ladder the probability of being unemployed falls when compared to uneducated youth. Thus, either formal education or vocational training should be facilitated for the youth by the local or regional government. In addition to this, household heads should be given a due attention by the government in terms providing them with opportunities for any form of education since if the household heads are educated the probability of the youth being unemployed declines. In addition to this, the local or regional government should revise its educational policy, expand different access for job opportunities, and facilitate an access to credit there by enhancing access to financial resources and creating officials who ignore corruption.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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