

# **MEKELLE UNIVERSITY**



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LANGUAGES  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**A THESIS ON ASSESSEMENT OF URBAN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT  
AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN KOREM TOWN, TIGRAY,  
ETHIOPIA**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Geography and  
Environmental Studies**

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**August, 2017 E.C.  
Mekelle, Ethiopia**

## **Declaration**

The researcher declare that this thesis entitled “*Assessing the driving factors of urban youths unemployment and its socioeconomic effect in Korem town, Tigray regional state of Ethiopia.*”, is my original work and has not been presented for any other award, and that the sources of materials used in this thesis are duly acknowledged. This thesis was carried out under the close supervision of my principal advisor, Berhanu Getahun (PhD) and my co-advisor G/Tsadkan G/mikael. (PhD) in the department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Mekelle University.

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## Statement of Certification

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Mulubrhan Gebremedhin Kassa entitled: “*Assessing the driving factors of urban youths unemployment and its socioeconomic effect in Korem town, Tigray regional state of Ethiopia*” to be submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MA Degree in Geography & Environmental Studies complies with the rules and regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality, department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Mekelle University.

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Internal

examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Acknowledgment**

First and for most, I thank God for bearing me into a being and for giving me not what I need but what is needed to me. Thanks so much again the Almighty God for providing me the unique singular identity in the world no matter how I lost the so many of my chances and opportunities.

I would like to express my deepest heartfelt gratitude to my advisors Berhanu Getahun (Dr.) and G/Tsadkan G/Mikael (Dr.) for their valuable advices and constructive comments and the time they dedicated until the finalization of this research paper.

I thank you, Admasu Mengesha, the computer and software specialist for your unreserved effort you made for me at the expensive expense of your time.

I am so glad for the commitment and devotion of my colleague Berhe Zenebe for his unreserved effort he made to bring the official transcript from Addis Ababa University and for morally he build me.

I am very grateful for those respondents and officials who played greater role in the study by filling the questionnaires and responding interviews.

The last, but not least, I thank you all my families and friends for all possible efforts they do to achieve this research paper.

## Table of Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Declaration .....	I
Statement of Certification .....	II
Acknowledgment .....	III
Table of Contents .....	IV
List of Tables .....	VIII
List of Figures .....	IX
List of Acronyms .....	X
<i>Abstract</i> .....	XI
CHAPTER - ONE .....	1
1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .....	3
1.3 Objective of the study .....	4
1.3.1 General objective .....	4
1.3.2 Specific objectives .....	4
1.4 Research questions .....	5
1.5 The Scope of the Study .....	5
1.6 Significance of the study .....	5
CHAPTER - TWO .....	7
2. Review of Related Literature .....	7
2.1 Operational definition of important terms .....	7
2.1.1. The Concept of youth .....	7

2.1.2 Unemployment .....	7
2.1.3 Socio-economic effects of youth unemployment .....	8
2.2. Unemployment and youth unemployment.....	8
2.3. Theories of unemployment .....	10
2.3.1. Human Capital Theory .....	10
2.3.2. Marxist Theory of Unemployment .....	11
2.3.3. Classical theory.....	11
2.3.4. Keynesian employment theory .....	12
2.3.5. Market Liberal Theory.....	12
2.3.6. Monetarism Theory .....	12
2.4 Types of Unemployment.....	13
2.4.1 Cyclical unemployment.....	13
2.4.2 Structural unemployment .....	13
2.4.3 Frictional unemployment.....	14
2.5. Youth unemployment in Ethiopia context .....	15
2.5.1 Historical background of Youth policies and institutions in Ethiopia.....	15
2.6. Characteristics & causal consequence of rural to urban youths unemployment and migration around the study area .....	16
2.7. Causality of Rural to Urban migration & youths unemployment.....	18
2.8 Youth unemployment and economic development.....	19
2.9. Youth unemployment and public policy.....	20
2.10. Effect of Unemployment.....	21
2.11. Driving Factors of Youth Unemployment .....	22
2.11.1 Lack of awareness among youths and the community .....	22

2.11.2 Lack of formal and informal sectors .....	23
2.11.3 Lack of entrepreneurship training and skills.....	23
2.11.4. Less Quality of Education & Educational level.....	24
2.11.5. Lack of finance / capital.....	24
2.11.6 Lack of social & infrastructural facilities .....	24
2.12. Conceptual frameworks .....	25
2.12.1. Conceptual frame works of unemployment.....	26
2.12.2. Components of the conceptual framework .....	27
CHAPTER – THREE .....	28
3. Research Materials and Methods .....	28
3.1 Description of the study area .....	28
3.1.1 Location of the study area.....	28
3.2 Population size of the study area .....	30
3.3 Research design .....	30
3.4 Sample size and sampling techniques.....	30
3.5. Data sources and Method of data collection .....	33
3.5.1. Key informant interview.....	33
3.5.2. Focus group discussion.....	33
3.5.3. Questionnaire.....	34
3.6. Method of data processing .....	34
3.7. Method of data analysis .....	34
3.7.1 Qualitative data analysis.....	34
3.7.2 Quantitative data analysis.....	34

CHAPTER –FOUR.....	36
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS .....	36
4.2. Population composition .....	37
4.1.2. Sex structure and employment status of Respondents.....	37
4.1.3 Age structure and employment status of the respondents .....	37
4.1.4 Marital and employment status of respondents .....	39
4.1.5 Educational and employment status of the respondents .....	41
4.3 The Most Driving Factors of the urban youth unemployment .....	42
4.3.1 Logistic Regression model of Association between Youth Employment Status and the Affecting Variables.....	42
4.3.2 Interpretation and discussion for the Results of the chi-square test .....	44
4.4 The consequences of the urban youth unemployment.....	49
4.6 The possible solutions forwarded by respondents to solve the urban youth unemployment..	51
CHAPTER - FIVE .....	60
5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....	60
5.1 Conclusion .....	60
5.2 Recommendations.....	61
References / Bibliography.....	63
Appendices.....	68

<b>List of Tables .....</b>	<b>page</b>
Table 1. Population size of of Korem wereda.....	30
Table 2. Targeted Population size & sample size.....	32
Table 3. Sex and employment status of respondents .....	37
Table 4. the age structure of respondents in (N <sup>o</sup> & percentage) .....	38
Table 5. Educational & employment level of respondents .....	41
Table 8 result of logistic regression model of association.....	43
Table 7. Unemployment - causes of social & security problems .....	51
Table 8. Youths need of special training program.....	53
Table 9. Assessing any special skill of respondents .....	54
Table 10. The job opportunity created by the government.....	55
Table 11 preference / means/ of livelihood of respondents .....	55
Table 12. Criteria's of an employment .....	56
Table 13 self-employment opportunities .....	57
Table 14 the government's effort to reduce youths unemployment .....	57
Table 15. Appropriate solutions to solve the problem of unemployment in Korem town .....	58
Table 16. Local resource to create employment .....	59

## List of Figure

page

Figure 1- Conceptual framework of youth unemployment.....	26
Figure 2- map of the study area .....	29
Figure 3-the employment status of the youths .....	36
Figure 4. Age wise employment status in (percentage).....	38
Figure 5. Marital status of the youths in percentage.....	40

## **List of Acronyms**

CSA - Central Statistical Agency

EEA - Ethiopian Economic Agency

ERA - Economic Report of Africa

FAO – Food and Agricultural Organization

FDRE - Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

GTP- Growth and Transformation Plan

ILO - International labor organization

IOM – International Organization of Migration

MYSC- Minister of Youths, Sport and Culture

REST - Relief Society of Tigray

SPSS – Statistical Package for Social Science

SSA – Sub-Saharan Africa

TYA - Tigray Youths Association

UN - United Nations

UNDESA - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDP - United Nations Development program

UNECOSOC - United Nation Economic, Cultural and Social Council

UNEFA - United Nations Economic Forum for Africa MOYSC

UNESC - United Nation Economic and Social Council

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural organization

USA - United States of America

$X^2$  - chi square

YLTPA - Young Leaders Think Thank for Policy Alternatives

% --- percentage

## ***Abstract***

*Ethiopia is one of the most populous country in Africa and in the world with the highest number of its young population as a result of the high fertility rate with the lowest human development index (HDI). The issue of unemployment in general and the youth unemployment in particular is then the most cross cutting issue at national level especially in urban areas which claims a collaborative, integrated and systematic alliance to rationalize it. The research study was conducted with an objective of assessing the driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effects in the case of Korem town, southern Tigray, Ethiopia. Youth unemployment in Ethiopia, particularly in urban areas like Korem, has become a serious challenge due to rapid population growth, limited job opportunities, poor education quality and weak formal and informal sectors. This situation creates sever socio-economic and political impacts, making it an urgent issue that require effective solutions.*

*The research employed a mixed-method approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and data were collected through questionnaire, interviewing and focusing group discussion methods. The primary data were collected from 283 simple randomly selected youth respondents. As far as the data analysis is concerned, the descriptive statistical analysis like simple frequencies, cross tabulation and inferential statistical analysis like chi-square and p-value tests were used to analyze the data. The logistic regression model revealed that corruption and maladministration, youth population pressure, lack of quality of education, lack of entrepreneurship and life skill training programs as well as lack of formal and informal sectors were found to be the most significant factors of unemployment. As the socio-economic effects of youths unemployment is concerned, socio-economic effects like loss of human capital, increase dependency ratio, rising migration, social evils, and psychological problems like inferiority complex, stress, depression, stigma and discrimination as well as political impacts like political unrest, uprising, and instability are the most common ones.*

*Based on the findings of the study promoting youth enterprises development and self-employment, attracting domestic and foreign investors that can encourage and initiate job opportunities, collaborative hard working on the quality of education, building infrastructural and social facilities etc. were recommended as some of the best solutions to resolve the youths unemployment.*

***Key words:*** *urban unemployment, youth unemployment, the driving factors, socio-economic effects, logistic regression analysis, educational quality, migration etc.*

# CHAPTER - ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Youth unemployment is a major challenge facing many developing countries around the world (Geda, 2022). The global youth unemployment rate is estimated to be 5.8% in 2023, compared with 5.9% in 2019 (Ernst et al., 2023). Despite a minor increase in youth unemployment since the Covid-19 pandemic's inception, population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to push the labor force in which youths are being particularly at risk, while effectively addressing of this challenge is directly connected with decent employment and dignified livelihood as reflected in SDGs (ILO 2022; UN, 2022). Ethiopia with no exception, with its rapidly growing young population facing limited employment opportunities (Bezu & Holden, 2014)

Youths are the future hopes of any country (Muhdin, 2016). Unemployment in general and youth unemployment in particular has become the main concern in the economy, social and politics of both in developed and developing countries (FAO, 2014). However, youth unemployment is more challenge full to the developing countries than developed countries in the world (Geda, 2022). Unemployment especially youth unemployment represent growing concerns worldwide. It is also one of the causes for several socio-economic problems spreading in almost all countries of the world (Daniel, 2016). Youth unemployment means loss of an important component of human capital and forgone output that the youth could have produced (Zelalem, 2014).

Global population is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050. The number of young people (aged 15 to 24) is also expected to increase to 1.3 billion by 2050, accounting for almost 14 percent of the projected global population. Most will be born in developing countries in Africa and Asia, where more than half of the population still live in rural area and creates high an urban unemployment pressure (UNDESA, 2011)

Youths have a great potential in order to exploit both the human and natural resources in an optimum manner. They can bring energy, talent and creativity to socio-economic and political atmospheres of any country. Around the world, young women and men are making important contributions as productive workers, entrepreneurs, consumers –as members of civil society and

agents of change. What our young people do today will create the foundations for what our economies will do tomorrow (man power group, 2012).

The effect of youth unemployment on the economy is withholding of the productive power who could contribute for economic growth of their country and since, unemployed population is dependent on the employed population, it has direct cost to the government in the form of any unemployment benefits paid to the unemployed and in lost tax earnings. (Daniel, 2016).

Ethiopia has a predominantly agricultural economy, being the second-most populous country in sub-Saharan Africa, with a population approaching 123 million people with a youth population (15-29 age group) approximately to be 30,772,234 (29%) of the total population (UNDP, 2022) and over 63.66% of the population employed in farming (World Bank, 2021). The country is experiencing rapid population growth rate, which is outpacing the ability to create sufficient jobs (Getahun & Fetene, 2020). As the 2021 Ethiopian labor force survey revealed that the employment to population ratio of youth (ages 15–29) showed that of the total youth population were 26 million but with a very less job opportunity.

Different countries have different categorizations of the young segment of their society. However, Ethiopia regards youth for those ranging from 15-29 age group as youths (MYSC, 2004).

The other indication as to what type of unemployment was prevalent in the country is the data on steps taken to seek work and type of work sought it can safely be concluded that long term unemployment of mainly the younger section of the population, which could be the combination of structural and demand deficient unemployment has been the dominant type of unemployment in Ethiopia, pleasing policy intervention.(EEA, 2005)

According to the Ethiopian Jobs Creation Commission (2019), the number of new jobs and opportunities created is far small. However, about two to three million young people enter the workforce each year, where they face high unemployment in cities and towns and already high underemployment in rural areas (UNDP, 2022)

During the imperial regime the Ethiopian educated youth have actively participated in the political and economic activities of the country (Guluma, 2006). With the advent of a new government in 1991 an important development in the promotion of youth issues is the establishment of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture in 2001 as well as in 2004, Ethiopia for the first time designed a national policy that specifically deals with youth issues (FDRE, 1993).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

At the international level, youth unemployment is recognized as an urgent issue, because it has a multi-dimensional effects on diversified issues. This urgency is evidenced by the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Target 16, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth (UNECA, 2005).

Youth unemployment has become a major global concern following the global economic crisis of 2009, an event that triggered a sharp rise in youth unemployment (Sosina & stein, 2014). The youth unemployment in global contexts has raised to 71 million in 2016 an increase of 0.5 million from 2015 (ILO, 2016). According to the World Bank about 70% of the African youth population is still in rural areas which has high impact on the urban population and there is likely no other place in the world where poverty is more evident than in SSA (World Bank, 2009).

Ethiopia is one of the sub-Saharan African countries with its predominantly young population with uncompromised population growth and weakly performing economy (Nayak, 2014). He also stated that the problem of youth unemployment is gaining attention in Ethiopia as the country is home to one of the largest youth populations in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

In Ethiopia, according the EFDRE constitution, Article 41(6) demonstrates a clear provision for the states responsibility to safeguard policies which promote more employment opportunities. It states, "the State shall pursue policies which aim to expand job opportunities for the unemployed and the poor and shall accordingly undertake programs and public works projects" (FDRE, 1993). In addition to that, the then government of Ethiopia was giving due emphasis to employment creation and different policies and strategies had been introduced and implemented by the government for employment generations. (Marta, 2012).

The policy serves to promote equal access to socio-economic and employment opportunities that appropriate with ability, potential and needs of youths, as such as the principle that exists on the paper, some of the programs and partnerships that the government proposes to set up were mainly accessible to the urban youth and not the rural youth and there have been few studies that have focused on youth unemployment in rural areas. (Birhanu, Abraham, and Hannah, 2005)

While youth unemployment has been well researched, the majority of studies have focused on those living in urban areas. As the work of many researchers show us have studied and reported related with urban unemployment, the reason for their study is, in Ethiopian it is common for

young people to move to urban areas from rural areas for searching of jobs. This makes unemployment in Ethiopia the urban phenomena. ( Muhidin, 2016) and (UNDESA, 2011)

According to the Ethiopian Statistical Agency population and housing census (2007 census year), rural unemployment was not likely to be of policy concern as it was very low, in fact a decline in rural unemployment will not necessarily be as a result of job creation in the rural parts of the country but it could also be as a result of rural-urban migration of those unemployed youths (EEA, 2015).

Ethiopia is one of the least urbanized African countries, above 80% of its population are found in rural areas dependent on agriculture and the employment opportunities in both formal and informal sectors are relatively concentrated in the major urban areas and this situation creates more unemployment stress in the urban areas if employment opportunities are rare in the rural areas (CSA, 2015).

When many people speak of youth unemployment, it is mostly the case of the urban dwelling youth that is the focus of commentaries (Hiruy, 2012). Although many of the problems associated with unemployment that are faced by urban youth also apply to those living in rural areas because rural youths face an additional set of barriers which are linked to their spatial isolation and to the narrow range of opportunities which are available, then migrate to the urban areas for the sake of job opportunities (EEA, 2015).

## **1.3 Objective of the study**

### **1.3.1 General objective**

To assess the major driving factors and its socio economic effects of urban youth unemployment, as well as to examine the role of government, NGOs and the community in addressing the problem in Korem town, Tigray, Ethiopia.

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

1. To identify the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment in Korem town through survey and interviews.

2. To analyze the strategies and interventions of the government, non-governmental institutions and the local community aimed at reducing youth unemployment in Korem town within the research timeframe.
3. To assess the key socio-economic effects of urban youth unemployment on individual, household and community level in Korem town .

## **1.4 Research questions**

1. What are the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment?
2. What are the reactions of the governmental, non-governmental institutions and the local people to reduce unemployed youths in the study area?
3. What are the socio-economic effects of urban youth unemployment in the study area?

## **1.5 The Scope of the Study**

The study focused on the driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effect at Korem town, Tigray region. And the study took place within the three (3) Kebeles/Tabias/ or the Korem district administration. The study again focuses on the youth age group from 15-29 ages category and the time line that the study will accomplish is starting from September, 2024 up to June 2025 G.C.

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

The findings of this study would be so important in understanding the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effect for academicians and researchers. And it would give suggestions to the policy makers and strategy designers, implementers and other management experts at federal, regional and local levels, for the sake of giving attention to the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment. In addition, it would fill the knowledge gaps existed on the issue under study as well as it would provide a base for other researchers and scholars in order to investigate further study in the study area.

## **1.7 Limitation of the study**

- Lack of data, information and internet accessibility
- The formal and informal sectors have not been well functioning
- Budget (finance) and materials constraints
- Lack of peace and stability during the Tigray war and post war
- and other related factors affected the quality of the thesis in terms of research dependability and time line reliability.

## **CHAPTER - TWO**

### **2. Review of Related Literature**

The review of related literatures would try to assess significant conceptual issues and definitions associated with the major driving factors of urban youth's unemployment and its socioeconomic effect.

#### **2.1 Operational definition of important terms**

##### **2.1.1. The Concept of youth**

In practice, the operational definition of youth varies widely from country to country depending on the socio-economic, political, cultural, psychological and institutional factors. However according to the standard UN definition, the age of youth comprises between fifteen and twenty-four inclusive (15-24) age group (UN, 20017). However, the range between 15-29 age group is selected to refer to as the age group of youth in Ethiopia. The selection of this range is based on ground objective reality. In order to mobilize and utilize the potential capacities and competence for developmental and democratic causes are the major reasons observed to regard the above specific age group as the country's youth (MYSC, 2004). It is relevant to use in this study, the term youth as defined in Ethiopian Youth Policy document representing the youth between the range of 15 and 29 age group. Because, this age group is categorized under the youth with high school to university levels of education (Muhidin, 2014) and in urban and rural areas youths start to merry and live alone falls in this age group according the Ethiopian context.

##### **2.1.2 Unemployment**

According to the ILO definition, unemployment is people who wish to work but are not actively seeking a job since they see no possibility of obtaining gainful employment. There for this study will use this concept - Unemployment is a situation in which workers are jobless because there is no work for them to do even they are already ready to do so and would accept lower wages. The unemployed are the total number of economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including those people who have lost their jobs voluntarily. While unemployment measures joblessness, underemployment provides a complete picture of the under use of labor resources or hiring with incompatible wage as compared to the amount of efforts,

skills and experiences of the professionalism as noted in the recent article published in the monthly Labor Review (dey et al.2022). The International Labor Organization illustrated that the distinction between unemployment and underemployment. In the 2022 report, the ILO researched that the global unemployment rate in 2022 was at 207 million, while stating that ‘many more workers have inadequate access to employment opportunities that are productive and deliver a decent living’ (ILO, 2022).

This highlights that underemployment, which means a job below capacity or a worker is paid less amount of wage below his/her qualification. Studying underemployment provides a broader lens than studying unemployment alone to understand the comprehensive labor underutilization or the labor extravagance worldwide. Besides, underemployment is not only paying less amount of salary incompatible with the qualification one who has but also refers to workers who are employed but working less hours than desired, such as part-time workers seeking full-time work which is time extravagance (Kapsos & Bourmpoula, 2013).

### **2.1.3 Socio-economic effects of youth unemployment**

According to the study of (Misigwa and Kipasha, 2013) when they explain about the potential of youths, youths are among the most important resources countries need to have in order to bring about prosperity. Energetic, courageous and qualified youth can make changes to the social economic development if they are well utilized and managed. Unemployment is disproportionately high among the youths, adult women, less educated workers and population in rural and urban areas. The socio-economic, individual, and institutional capacities of society becomes to be weakened, in the prevalence of unemployment.

## **2.2. Unemployment and youth unemployment**

Youth unemployment is a major challenge facing many developing countries around the world (Geda, 2022). The global youth unemployment rate is estimated to be 5.8% in 2023, compared with 5.9% in 2019 (Ernst et al..., 2023)

Global population is estimated to reach 9 billion by 2050. The number of young people (aged 15 to 24) is also expected to increase to 1.3 billion by 2050, accounting for almost 14% of the projected global population. Most will be born in developing countries in Africa and Asia, where more than half of the population still live in rural areas (UNDESA, 2011).

Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and youth, is a target of Millennium Development Goal, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. (Banerji, Saksonovs, Lin, & Blavy, 2014).

Despite a minor increases in the youth unemployment since the pandemic's inception, population growth in SSA continues to push the labor force in which youths are being particularly at risk, while effectively addressing this challenge is directly connected with decent employment and signified livelihood as reflected in SDGs (ILO,2022 & UN, 2022). Ethiopia is no exception, with it's rapidly growth youth population facing limited employment opportunities (Bezu & Holden, 2014)

According to the World Bank (2009), Africa as the world's poorest continent and rural Africa is home to some of the most disadvantaged and marginalized youth in the world. There is likely no other place in the world where poverty is more evident than in SSA. Even though about 70% of the African youth population is living in rural areas, the highest pressure is still laid down on urban population due to rural to urban migration seeking job opportunities in urban centers .(Public Policy Forum, 2013)

Rural youth in developing countries have to struggle to become productive members of their communities and rural youth constituted 16 percent of the population in East Africa and reported that most of these non-farm employment opportunities are situated in urban areas that rural youths can only access these opportunities by migrating to urban centers and that urban areas have been very slow to create job opportunities for most new job seekers, for those who migrate from rural to the urban areas. Therefore there is a need for an integrated, coherent approach in which policies appropriate for the youth in urban areas are closely connected with policies appropriate for the youth in rural areas. (Crowley, Jones, Cominetti, & Gulliford, 2013)

Ethiopia has a predominantly agricultural economy, as being the second most populous country in SSA, with a population estimating to be 123 million ( UNDP, 2022) and over 63.66% of the population employed in farming ( world Bank, 2021). However, the country is experiencing rapid population growth, which is outpacing the ability to create sufficient jobs (Getahun & Fetene, 2020). As the 2021 Ethiopian labor force survey revealed, the employment to population ratio of youth ages (15-29) showed that of the total youth population of 26 million, about 73.62% are from rural areas while the rest are from urban centers. Meanwhile, about 57.4% of the total youth population were employed in different occupational groups 47.7% from the urban areas and 61.2%

from rural areas (CSA, 2021). According the Ethiopian jobs creation commission (2019), the number of new jobs and opportunities created is far small. However, about two to three million people enter the work force in each year, where they face high unemployment in cities and towns and already high underemployment in the rural areas (UNDP, 2022)

In 2010 Economic Report of Africa entitled, promoting high level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa, the United Nations Economic Forum for Africa/UNEFA/ noted that African countries can pursue several short-term and long-term policies to achieve the needed structural transformation that generates high growth with increased employment creation opportunities. These policies should be based on a comprehensive development planning framework that embodies well designed and implemented macro-economic strategies.

### **2.3. Theories of unemployment**

Economists and development thinker have long been concerned with the unemployment problem in the world, particularly in developed nations, since the Great Depression (1930s) even before that and hence have formulated different theories to explain the problem and thereby draw policy implications for it. (Fitsum, 2014)

There are so many unemployment theories which are widely used by different scholars as a reference. The most widely used unemployment theories in different literatures are: Human capital theory, Monetarism theory, Market liberal theory, Classical theory, Keynesian employment theory and Marxist theory of unemployment (Daniel, 2016).

#### **2.3.1. Human Capital Theory**

From the perspectives of human capital theory, the perceived employability of individual can either be determined by the conditions of the labor market that offer different opportunities to the individual and the resource possession of employee. Of these two alternatives of the employability determinants, the human capital theory deals with the individual resources option particularly the individual's efforts to invest in education and trainings (Berntson et al. 2006 cited in Daniel 2006). Becker (1993) argues that for individual's human capital development, training and education are the most important investment to be made. Because the return to training investment can be visualized in the form of higher income, effective performance and improved health and acquiring better career positions. The human capital developed from work experiences and competency development may contribute to higher earnings, better chance of promotions and

acquiring better position (Judge et al. 1995 cited in Berntson et al. 2006). In his earlier work on investment in human capital analysis Becker found out that among other things individuals wage is positively related to the level of skills they possessed, and the probability of unemployment for individual is tend to be negatively correlated to the level of skills acquired (Becker, 1962).

The return to training investment in developing countries is poor due to primarily the slow growth of the skilled labor demand in poor economy. Other factors such as poor administration, the level of training capacity, the quantity and quality of training, and the economic policies that do not favor incentives to firms have contributed to reduce the returns to training investment (Middleton et al. 1993).

### **2.3.2. Marxist Theory of Unemployment**

According to Marx, unemployment exists as a result of the capitalist system itself and gradually worsen. He did not believe that in the long-term capitalist economies could be managed to eliminate unemployment, nor did he think that market forces would reduce unemployment their own consensus (Tesfay, 2015 cited in Daniel, 2016).

However, he believes that capitalist economy always had and would have high level of unemployment. He believed that such economies are going through cycles. Periods of expansion in which there was full employment were followed by periods of crisis during which unemployment rose. Each successive crisis would be worse than the previous one until eventually the capitalist system was destroyed. To Marx, this situation cannot continue indeterminately. Workers would eventually realize they are being exploited, develop class consciousness, and overthrow the capitalist system. Clearly, Marx's predictions that capitalism would collapse have not come true. Indeed the economic system of some communist countries seems closer to collapse than that of most advanced capitalist countries.

However, capitalist economies have not proved as manageable as economists like Keynes believed. "Governments have not been able to manipulate economies in such a way that mass unemployment has become a thing of the past" (Tesfay, 2015).

### **2.3.3. Classical theory**

The classical theory is essentially the laissez faire belief of pure capitalism. In this view, business cycles are natural processes of adjustment which do not require any action on the part of the government. Likewise, unemployment is caused by a deviation from the equilibrium prices and

wages which would establish them with a free market. The theory proposes that all markets equilibrate because of adjustments in prices and wages which are flexible. If, for instance, many people are unemployed, unemployment will then cause higher real wage to decline and thus firms can hire more workers, although at lower wage, and precisely reduces unemployment. This prediction is reasoned by the classical argument that idle workers will bid down wage rate until cost of employment is such that employers will hire more workers to the point where the equilibrium state is reached and full employment is satisfied. Full employment, however, does not mean that there is no unemployment. Still frictional unemployment and more of voluntarily type of unemployment can exist at the ongoing real wage rate (Berntson et al. 2006 cited in Daniel 2006).

#### **2.3.4. Keynesian employment theory**

This theory is built on a critique of the classical theory and it argues that prices and wages are not flexible as the classical theory asserts. Equilibrium may not exist in the product and labor markets and wages tend to be rigid on the down side because workers will not accept wages which do not permit them to live adequately and that periods of severe unemployment will still occur.

#### **2.3.5. Market Liberal Theory**

During much of the period since 1945 it was accepted by Labor and Conservative governments alike that the government could and should maintain low levels of unemployment. It was consequently the duty of the government to manage demand in the economy, an increase in government spending could cut unemployment. Successive governments were committed to a mixed economy. Government control over key industries would allow the government to manipulate the economy so that mass unemployment could be avoided (Deribe et al. 2015)

In the 1970s the consensus about broad economic policy was eroded. Governments faced the problem of rising inflation as well as rising unemployment. Measures designed to reduce unemployment could lead to increased inflation (Deribe et al. 2015)

#### **2.3.6. Monetarism Theory**

Governments could reduce or even eliminate the problem of unemployment by reducing the money supply i.e., allowing less money to circulate in the economy. This necessitated cutting back on government spending and not expanding it as Keynes advocated. The government could not reduce

unemployment below the natural rate without causing excessive inflation unless there were other fundamental economic changes (Deribe et al. 2015).

The natural rate of unemployment was affected by such factors as the level of unemployment benefit and the flexibility of wage rates. The unemployed would be prepared to work for lower wages in order to get a job and at lower wage rates it would be profitable for employers to get workers on. The demand for and supply of labor would come into balance and unemployment would disappear. Economist pointed out that there was not, in reality, a totally free market in labor. Unions could use their power to drive up wages artificially high, and unemployment benefits would discourage people from working for low wages. Other important factors would be the mobility of the labor force and the availability and cost of information about job vacancies (Tesfaye, 2015).

## **2.4 Types of Unemployment**

Unemployment can take several forms according to recent labor market studies. There are three major kinds of unemployment: cyclical, structural, and frictional. Each type of unemployment has different causes and consequences (Stephen, 2014)

### **2.4.1 Cyclical unemployment**

Cyclical unemployment refers to the recurrent unemployment occurring at particular phases of the business cycle, starting with the depression from a boom. This unemployment is caused by a deficiency of aggregate demand and is associated with a fall in the number of job vacancies. (ILO, 2011). Unemployment due to recession or poor economic performance (zelalem, 2014). Sometimes the government can use monetary or fiscal policies to increase spending by businesses and households, for instance by cutting taxes, or the government can increase its own spending's to fight this kind of unemployment.

### **2.4.2 Structural unemployment**

Structural unemployment occurs when there is a change in the structure of an industry or the economic activities of a country. As an economy develops over time the type of industries may well change. This may be because people's perceptions have changed or it may be because technology has moved on and the product or service is no longer in demand. (Paulina Mary Godwin Philip, 2020)

This is type of unemployment caused by a difference between the structure of employment vacancies and the structure of unemployment, usually brought about by technological change. Unemployed persons have different skills from those being demanded by employers or are located in a different place from a potential employer. Individuals those are unemployed because their skills are no longer in demand where they live. This kind typically leads to longer spells and may require the unemployed to acquire training or to more. (ILO, 2011 cited in Stephen, zelalem, 2014). Generally the situation of structural unemployment is created due to the mismatch b/n the job seekers /employees and the skills required in the labor market by the employers.

Technological unemployment is another structural form that roots from technological changes like increased automation, robotics or artificial intelligence that replace human power jobs over time (Frey & Osborne, 2017)

### **2.4.3 Frictional unemployment**

Frictional unemployment, sometimes called searching time for an employment, occurs due to normal turnover in jobs as workers shift between occupations or locations. This type of unemployment is temporarily waiting as the job seekers or employees transition between jobs. (Cazes & Verick, 2021).

Individuals that are temporarily unemployed while transiting between jobs or just entering the labor market. This kind is typically short in duration but always present in a market economy Short-period of unemployment brought about by workers changing jobs. This minimum level of unemployment, which coexists with job vacancies, occurs even when an economy is at full employment level and is a feature of all types of national economy. Labor market policies can reduce this type of unemployment by making job information more available and accurate and by subsidizing search costs, (ILO, 2011). Labor mobility is, in general, a good thing for workers and the economy overall. It allows workers to look for the best available job for which they are qualified and lets employers find the best-qualified people for their job openings. Because this searching and matching by employees and employers takes time, on any given day in a market economy there will be some workers who are looking for a new job, or waiting to begin a job. Even when economists describe the economy as being at full employment there will be some frictional unemployment (as much as 5 to 6 percent of the labor force in some years). This kind of unemployment is generally not a major economic problem(Stephen, 2014).

## **2.5. Youth unemployment in Ethiopia context**

Developing countries are more victimized by unemployment than others and Ethiopia has its own long history of unemployment than any other countries (Nayak, 2014). He also states the problem of youth unemployment is gaining attention in Ethiopia as the country is home to one of the largest youth populations in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Different countries have different categorizations of the young segment of their society. However, Ethiopia regards youth for those ranging from 15-29 (MYSC, 2004).

During the first Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia (GTP) from (2011-2015) more emphasis was given to youth development such as empowering women and youth to ensure their social, economic and political participation than directly focusing on issue of unemployment (Marta, 2012).

One of the principles underlying the National Youth policy is the promotion of the principle of equity in opportunities and in distribution of programs, services and resources. The policy serves to promote equal access to socio-economic and employment opportunities commensurate with ability, potential and needs of youth. In as much as such a principle exists on paper, some of the programs and partnerships that the Government proposes to set up are mainly accessible to the urban youth and not the rural youth and there have been few studies that have focused on youth unemployment in rural areas. This will ultimately worsen the problem of rural-urban migration which is one of the major causes of youth unemployment in the country (Birhanu, Abraham & Hannah, 2005).

### **2.5.1 Historical background of Youth policies and institutions in Ethiopia**

During the imperial regime the Ethiopian educated youth have actively participated in the political and economic activities of the country. Especially young students were radical idealists. They hoped to bring about progress, democracy, and faster economic development. But after the overthrow of the monarchy, they became captives of the Marxist political ideology that they used to attack the feudal autocracy and Western cultural domination. (Guluma G, 2003)

During the military regime between 1974-1991, a strong mass organization of youth was established - Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association (REYA). The Association ran several programs, including a literacy campaign, military service as well as the provision of social services such as first aid; the Association was highly politicized and was often manipulated for political

purposes by the government. The association was therefore unable to play an advocacy role in order to promote the interest of youth, particularly with regard to employment opportunities.

With the advent of a new government in 1991 the uncertainties created by political change were not conducive to youth organization. Gradually, youth have organized themselves under various umbrellas and most of the Regional States have Regional Youth Associations. Recently, these Regional Associations have come together to discuss ways of establishing a National Youth Association.

An important development in the promotion of youth issues is the establishment of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture in 2001. A similar bureau was established in all the Regional and City States. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture is entrusted with the powers and duties to initiate policy and laws relating to youth and upon approval, follow up their implementation; create an environment conducive to the emergence of healthy and responsible youth.

The MOYSC formulated Ethiopia's first National Youth Policy in March 2004 with the broad objective of encouraging the active participation of youth in the economic, social, and cultural life of the country and to support democratization and good governance. The policy sets out to facilitate the participation of youth in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of existing national development policies, strategies, and programs. It also promises to facilitate growth of self-employment and formal and informal employment opportunities and to create conditions conducive for urban and rural youths to acquire sources of business income on the basis of the existing laws (Marta, 2012).

## **2.6. Characteristics & causal consequence of rural to urban youths unemployment and migration around the study area**

The study will be centered in the one of the Tigray urban district called korem, in which challenges of urban youth unemployment and its effects on the socio-economic development that may not being studied in depth yet.

Tigray region is found in the northern part of Ethiopia. There is an organization in Tigray called Relief Society of Tigray (REST). According to (Charlotte, 2009), the organization has been some objectives to empower unemployed youth: to support landless youths in income generating activities through seedling plantation and beekeeping; to contribute to ending soil and land degradation through environmental conservation and natural resource management and to decrease

the migration pressure to the urban areas by creating job opportunities in the rural areas. The results of this project were encouraging. Despite these encouraging benefits, the project faced a number of challenges, such as an increasing demand for limited amounts of land, a growing number of landless youths, and severe droughts. This project, however, remains an inspiration and model for others. There is also another association called Tigray Youth Association's (TYA). It was established in 1990 its main objectives of the association is to protect and promote the socio - economic and political rights of the youth through participatory youth development programs by playing a forefront role for up-keeping the economic and social wellbeing of the youth community. ([www.tigrayyouth.org](http://www.tigrayyouth.org)).

Korem wereda has a total population of 61,054 of whom, 28,641 are males and 32,613 are females. (Social affairs of korem wereda, 2017 E.C).

Most rural employments are dependent on the small-scale agriculture activities and the agricultural sector has been seen as crucial to addressing the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment, underemployment and poverty. (FAO, 2014). The same is true in the rural peripheries of korem surrounding district, almost all their economy is depend on agricultural activities that is traditional and seasonal rain fad /dependent/ agriculture and many youths have not their own land but they depend on their families income. Of course the Ethiopian FDRE constitution has made land and natural resources out of the private ownership (Article, 40:3). One among the reason behind, why private ownership of land is constitutionally predestined, is to create job opportunities to the landless youths by providing land in the way of land redistribution (Rural land use proclamation N<sup>o</sup>, 456/2005, cited in Hiruy, 2012). However, land redistribution has not been done in many parts of Ethiopia. This means that the new generation does not have firsthand access to the land to earn its livelihood which is the most significant means of employment. The same condition is happening in Korem surrounding rural district namely Offla wereda. Of course, land has been given to the youths in the form of redistribution taken away from those who are dead people and from those people who has been migrated to other destinations and countries. But the majority of the rural youth have to access land only from their family either in the form of donation or inheritance from their family members and this leads to fragmentation of the land among the family members and finally they produces less or no enough amount of production that can only feeds the family members from hand to mouth. As a result of this push factor, the unemployed and

underemployed rural youths necessarily need to migrate to the nearby urban areas and this condition aggravates the urban youth's unemployment agglomeration in the urban centers.

## **2.7. Causality of Rural to Urban migration & youths unemployment**

Although many of the problems associated with unemployment that are faced by urban youth also apply to those living in rural areas, because rural youth face an additional set of barriers which are linked to their spatial isolation and to the narrow range of opportunities which are available. (EEA, 2005). Some researchers have also shown an interest in the dynamics of rural labor markets and in the problems faced by young people. However, compared to the vast research literature on urban youth, rural youth research is in its infancy. (Fred & Andy, 2000). When the Ethiopian economic agency states about the characteristics of unemployed rural youths by considering their age.

Age is an important characteristics that affects the status of employment and their lack of employment. This pattern of unemployment distribution by age group in the rural areas was consistent with the hypothesis that younger rural population largely constituted that segment of the population who could be characterized as landless. This age group mainly constitutes young school age population (EEA, 2005).

Unemployment in Ethiopia is more of a problem for urban youth than rural youth (aged as 15–29). According to the Ethiopian Labour force survey report, the unemployment rate of urban youth at country level was 22.9%, while it was only 8.1% in rural areas (LFS, 2013 cited at Essay, 2020), while lower than urban areas, urban youth unemployment rate of 23.1% remains to be a substantial issue. Unemployment disproportionately impacts rural females at 11.6% compared to 5.1% for rural males in Ethiopia (CSA & IOM, 2021)

According the ILO reports the characteristics of unemployed youths by comparing with adults, the most obvious general labor market characteristic of youth unemployment is that its rate is higher than that of adults, (Higgins, 1997) and at the same time it states, one fairly obvious but important aspect of youth unemployment is the relationship between unemployment and labor force participation, a higher labor force participation rate will indicate a higher unemployment rate. In addition to that (Paul, 20017) believed that, age and location are the two key defining characteristics of rural youth areas where large proportions of the population rely on agricultural activities to meet their livelihood needs. Rural youths are increasingly disinterested in smallholder

farming, which is viewed as dirty work. Thus, rural youth tend to be relatively mobile, both nationally and increasingly across international borders to urban centers to find job opportunity. (Charlotte, 2009) in his study confirmed the role of youths, he wrote, young people are integral to reducing extreme poverty and hunger in developing areas, they can act as ambassadors of both in urban and rural development and provide innovative ideas when drafting development policies. In addition young people are looking forward to the opportunity to be actively involved in the efforts to lift their communities out of poverty by creating the foundations for economic growth and productivity.

Youths experienced higher levels of unemployment and underemployment due to fewer opportunities for labor productivity and incomes. Most rural employment is in small-scale agriculture, the agricultural sector is seen as crucial to addressing the disproportionately high levels of youth unemployment, underemployment and poverty. (FAO, 2014). The other characteristics of unemployed youths (the feeling of being unemployed) is clarified by (Daniel G, 2016) he clarified that, those who unemployed youths are dependent on their family's and on their relatives to cover their different expenses. They believed that they do not equally participating in the families and community affairs, and they consider they are not important as long as they have nothing to contribute to their families and communities. Therefore, their next fate will be migration to urban areas to hire job opportunity. This condition creates another unemployment headache and pressure in the urban centers and such a vicious circle problem may continue unless an appropriate solution is taken in both the rural and urban areas prospectively.

Generally, with limited job opportunities in the countryside, many Ethiopian youths may have no choice but to relocate to cities in hopes of finding employment, intensifying urban unemployment and underemployment challenges. Addressing youth land access and rural job growth is important to stem this potential flow in migration and prevent worsening economic pressures in both rural and urban regions of Ethiopia (Abshoko, 2016)

## **2.8 Youth unemployment and economic development**

Youths are the future hopes of any country, (Muhidin, 2016). Zelalem (2014), identified the effect of youth unemployment on economic development. He stated that, youth unemployment means loss of an important component of human capital and forgone output that the youth could have produced. Unemployment represents loss of potential output. The more the number of unemployed

in a society, the higher will such a loss be. Thus, youth unemployment not only results in loss of income to the unemployed youth and the immediate family, but it is also a loss to the society that fails to utilize its scarce resources. (Carbian development bank, 2015)

In addition to the investigation of Zelalem, (Alfredo Sanchez Castaneda, 2012), has investigated the relationship between rising youth unemployment and economic growth in the context of Okun law by using a new generation panel data analysis methods and the results of analysis concluded that an economic growth rate of above-average will reduce youth unemployment. In the same manner (Daniel, 2016) clearly states the main impact of youth unemployment on the economy is withholding of the productive power who could contribute for economic growth of their country and since, unemployed population is dependent on the employed population which has direct cost to the government in the form of any unemployment benefits paid to the unemployed and in lost tax earnings. Covering these unemployed benefits through increased taxes or borrowing creates a serious problem on the economy of the country.

(Birhanu, Abraham & Hannah, 2005) when they assess the background economic system of Ethiopia regarding with development, Ethiopia's experienced diverse economic systems over the last half a century. The economic system shifted from being market-oriented during the imperial (pre-1974) period to a socialist system during the military Derg regime (1974–1991) and then back to a market oriented under the EPRDF government. The new market-oriented government formally adopted a stabilization and structural adjustment programmed support by the IMF and the World Bank in 1991/92 strategies of the EPRDF government to cope up with the problem of unemployment including the deepening of the market-oriented economic reforms, improving the productivity of the agricultural sector, and promoting the private sector as a means of achieving off-farm employment and as an engine for economic growth in the country.

## **2.9. Youth unemployment and public policy**

One of the primary goals of the public policies is to reduce the youth unemployment as a solution for social problems. The MOYSC formulated Ethiopia's first National Youth Policy in March 2004 with the broad objective of encouraging the active participation of youth in the economic, social, and cultural life of the country and to support democratization and good governance.

(Alfredo, Sanchez & Castaneda, 2012) together, when they state about the challenges of unemployment for policy, unemployment among young people has become a major policy

challenge for governments and employers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the fact that during this period countries have to deal with sluggish growth and economic activities has pressured Public policy into creating opportunities for economic growth and employment. And they said, there is no shortage of ideas and policy initiatives for addressing the daunting challenge of youth employment, but the need for a comprehensive policy approach which combines dedicated strategy for youth employment must also include measures addressing systemic and institutional impediments to the sustainability of policies for the employment of young people.

The 20017 World development report as cited by (Paul, 20017) on youth and policy concludes that youth policies often fail. Youth policies in developing countries have frequently been criticized for being biased towards non-poor, males living in urban area and rural youth have limited social and political power and this situation again inversely affects the urban employment conditions. Adult people, and especially adult males, tend to dominate decision making at all levels in traditional societies, in the contrast of this, (Charlotte, 2012) said, the youngsters should be accepted as a priority group to put into the programs for both unemployment and poverty reduction. In this context, policymakers, as development specialists, must promote an earnest paradigm shift in the way they shape poverty reduction efforts and fully engage and empower young people to diminish the cycle of poverty in the socioeconomic livelihoods and when (Paul, 2007) stated about the role of youths for the society. Youth is the primary client group for education and training programs as well as health and health prevention activities. Even so, participatory assessments often show that every communities want more youth-focused activities(Azeng & John, 2013)

## **2.10. Effect of Unemployment**

Unemployment is one of the dominant social and economic problems facing our world, and studying in depth the phenomenon of unemployment and its social consequences could be quite beneficial for designing the most suitable policy against unemployment. The effect of unemployment is not only for the individually unemployed person, but it has socio-economic as well as political consequences for the society as a whole(Alfredo Sanchez Castaneda, 2012).

According to the study of, (Msigwa and Kipesha, 2013), when they explain about the potential of youths, youths are among the most important resources countries need to have in order to bring about prosperity. More energetic, courageous and qualified youth can make changes to the socio-economic development if they are well utilized and managed, and they denoted that unemployment

among young people has becoming a major policy challenge for all nations in the world. It is not only a statistical concept, but also a multidimensional social phenomenon. It results substantial crises in psychological, social and economic perspectives,(Maya, 2014)

(Muhidin, 2016), in the same manner showed that unemployment affects the socio-economic status of the family, leads to poor mental health, dependency and increases the magnitude of corruption, drug trafficking and addiction, crimes and suicide in a society. In addition to that, (ACEVO, 2011), States, unemployment perhaps one of the most serious social problems, in most cases the social, economic, emotional and health of the young and unemployed becomes at stake. A range of academic studies have found that unemployment increases susceptibility to illness, mental stress, and helplessness, and loss of self-esteem leading to depression. Youth unemployment not only results in loss of income to the unemployed youth him/herself and the immediate family, but it also losses to the society that fails to utilize its potential and scarce resources properly (Zelalem, 2014).

## **2.11. Driving Factors of Youth Unemployment**

Many researchers identified several driving factors of youth unemployment in their findings. (Tamirat, 2023), (Yitateku & Beneberu, 2020), (Nayak, 2014), (FAO, CTA and IFAD, 2014), (Marta, 2012), (Daniel, 2016), (Paul, 2007), (Muhidin, 2016) etc. By concluding the different literatures, the main driving factors of youth unemployment for this study are listed as follows.

### **2.11.1 Lack of awareness among youths and the community**

When (Paul, 2007) illustrates in his study about youth perceptions of employment: Youths, most of the time, prefer to be employed in the formal sector rather than engage in self-employment. Public sector and formal private sector employments are considered to be as shortcut method of job opportunity rather than creating self-employment whereas self-employment, casual and cooperative employments are considered to be tiresome jobs as they claim high effort and capital. And state again about the challenge of this, the lack of control of loans by youth borrowers is a major issues, screening mechanisms are weak, and intensive training is needed on how to make best use of the money. Besides, youths and especially the very poor, are also frequently reluctant to borrow money from government financial sectors as they fear of the interest rate.

### **2.11.2 Lack of formal and informal sectors**

(Nayak, 2014), states among the many contributing factors, that challenged the unemployed youths are the low absorption capacity of the formal sectors, the low rate of employment creation, and the shortage of skills as well as the lack of entrepreneurship of the youth. In addition to this (Martha k, 2012) in her study says, the Labor market institutions that govern employment relations in Ethiopia are generally found to be weak. This weakness is characterized by limitation of legal framework and lack of social dialogue among institutions. The other challenges were also again rose by (FAO & IFAD, 2014) according to them, the main challenges identified for youth is, youth's limited access to land, insufficient access to knowledge, information and education, inadequate access to financial services, youth's limited involvement in policy dialogue and limited access to markets.

The role of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in providing employment opportunities and boosting entrepreneurship and innovation has attracted attention of policymakers and other stakeholders. MSEs serve as important sources for job opportunities not only for developing countries but also for developed economies (Alfredo, Sanchez& Castaneda, 2012)

### **2.11.3 Lack of entrepreneurship training and skills**

(Alfredo, Castaneda, Lavonia & Francesca, 2012). When they state about the challenges of this for youths, there is broad consensus that inadequate training or the lack of training more generally is one of the reasons why young people fight in their search for employment. In the same manner, (the NDPSA, 1994-2014) reports, training is a key intervention area. Strengthen youth service programs and introduce new, community-based programs to offer young people life-skills training, entrepreneurship training and opportunities to participate in community development programs can initiate the youths (Tadese, 2010).

(Daniel, 2016) has confirmed that, good entrepreneurship skill training is useful for all youths for creating their own business and to be self-employed rather than waiting a job from the government. In addition to that, (NDPSA, 1994-2014) states, training is a key intervention area. Strengthen youth service programs and introduce new, community-based programs to offer young people life-skills training, entrepreneurship training and opportunities to participate in community development programs can be initiated the youths.

When there is a supportive environment, youth are able to find innovative ways to create a future for themselves, and also contribute to the societies and communities in which they live, the world's

youth cohort is expected to grow, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth particularly those living in developing countries' economically stagnant areas. (FAO, CTA and IFAD, 2014).

#### **2.11.4. Less Quality of Education & Educational level**

According to the study by (Yitateku & Beneberu, 2020): lack of access to quality education and vocational trainings makes it difficult for the youngsters to find out employment opportunities.

One of the challenges for educated youth unemployment is the failure of educational system to prepare people for work and unemployment has also been disproportionately concentrated among the less educated segments of the population. At the same time FAO (2014) states, the quality of education is often low. Behind this, a good, motivated teachers willing to teach well in small urban and remote rural areas are hard to find and this situation has an adverse effect on socio-economic and political affairs of states. Youth's access to education, knowledge and information was crucial for addressing the main challenges they face in employment, but due to lack of quality of education they have, youths fail in education and lead to them to be unemployed hopeless youths.

#### **2.11.5. Lack of finance / capital**

As regard to constraints to self-employment, shortage of finance and lack of work place are the major challenges (Muhidin, 2016) and (Paul, 2007) identified that, poor economic performance of countries is also the main cause for youth unemployment.

(Marta, 2012) in her study states, many governments would like to establish extensive networks of training institutions, but do not have the necessary resources to do this. In many countries, particularly in the developing countries like Ethiopia, major challenges for the Public Employment Service to deliver on effectively targeted interventions include their lack or low levels of technical and financial capacity, and insufficient infrastructure and utilities needed to operate the employment offices.(UNESCO, 2003)

Lack of access to finance and shortage of capital were identified as key driving factors for youth unemployment. (Wolday & Tassew, 2016).

#### **2.11.6 Lack of social & infrastructural facilities**

Rapid population growth has outpaced more than job creation, resulting in a large youth bulge entering the labor market each year (Tamirat, 2023).

Transportation systems and facilities are the most essential factors for labor mobility, which is especially important for jobseekers. Youths are relatively likely to be migrants, or to travel for work on the daily basis. (Klugman, 2005)

In general, in many types of urban and rural areas, unemployment and under-employment among young people has been seen as a particular cause for concern and a key issue in rural communities is the lack of employment opportunities and career choices for young people, lack of access to further education and training. (Fred & Andy, 2000). The National Youth policy, 2004 recognizes that the major driving factors of youth unemployment rate are lack of employable skills, lack of access to resources like land and capital, lack of workshops, lack of focus by the existing programs on the informal sector and agriculture, overemphasis on experience, lack of apprenticeship schemes, negative attitudes by the youth towards work especially in agriculture, poor economic performance, low level of education, high population growth, lack of entrepreneurship, and according to the report of (FAO, 2014), the urban and especially the rural youth repeatedly reported lack of training in areas such as leadership and business management as well as the need for apprenticeship opportunities are the main challenges of unemployment.

Lack of access to credit constrains some youths from pursuing entrepreneurship or further skills training (Yitateku & Beneberu, 2020). Addressing these interconnected challenges through targeted policy interventions is critical to realizing Ethiopia's demographic dividend from its large youth population (Tamirat, 2023)

## **2.12. Conceptual frameworks**

As it denoted in the literature review, the driving factors of youth unemployment is related with various factors. The main responsible bodies of urban youth unemployment for this study are mainly provoked from the three angles i.e. from:

1. The community /family/,
2. The unemployed youths themselves and
3. The government and non-governmental organizations

The main deriving factors of unemployment are: lack of awareness, lack of finance (money), lack of facilities, low educational levels, absence of developmental investors and investments, lack of saving and credit financial sectors, lack of formal and informal sectors of job opportunities as well

as lack of entrepreneurship and life skill trainings. The following conceptual frame work consists the major driving factors and effects of urban youth unemployment etc.

### 2.12.1. Conceptual frame works of unemployment

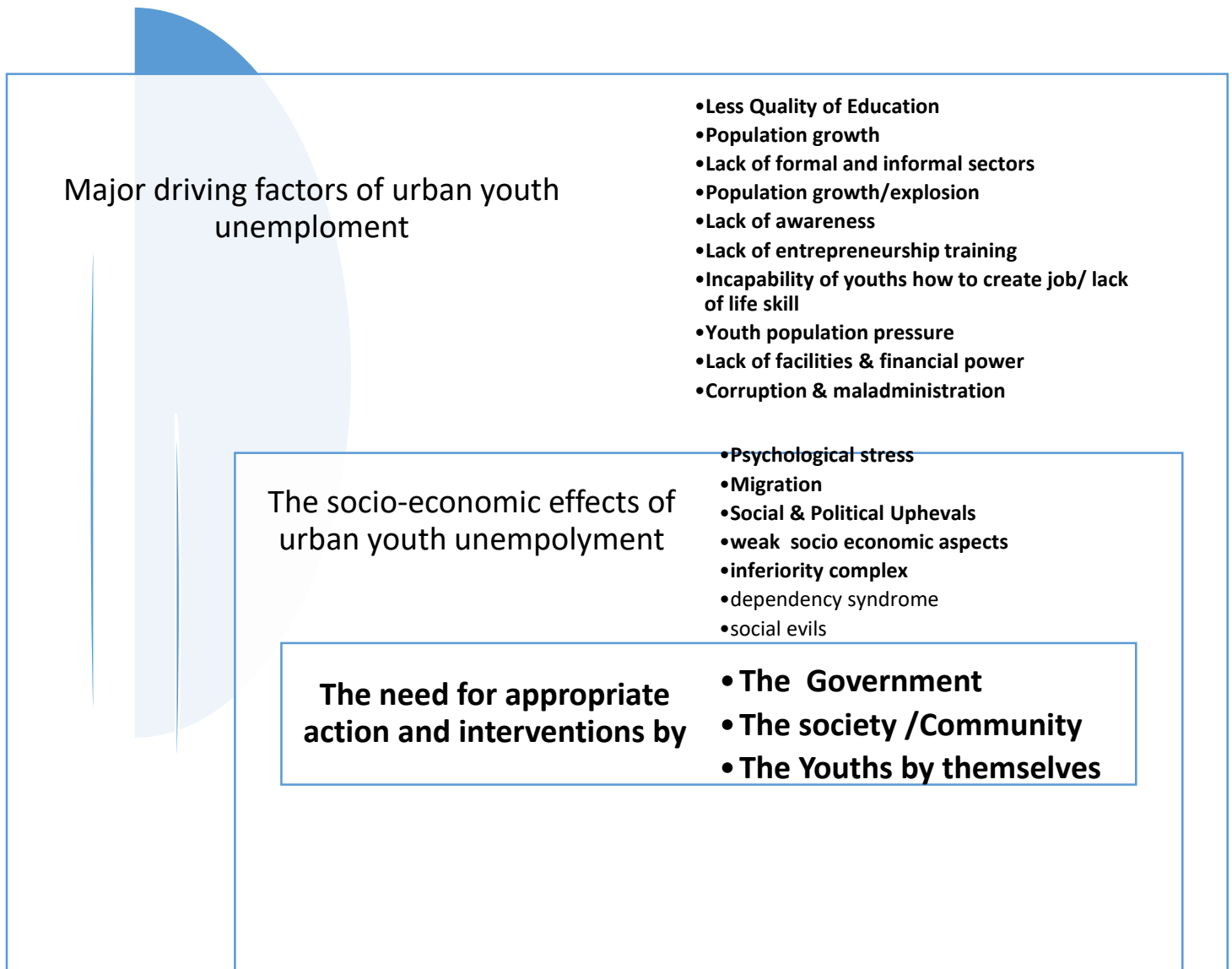


Figure 1 Conceptual framework of youth unemployment

Source: Researcher’s own Conceptual framework

### **2.12.2. Components of the conceptual framework**

The study has three specific main objectives with their dependent and independent variables. As indicated in figure 1, frame work:

1. The first objective of the study is to find out the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment. The main causes may be among the following factors: lack of awareness, lack of finance (money), lack of facilities, high population growth rate or population explosion, corruption & mal- admiration, inability of youths to create new job /lack of creativity/, less quality of education, absence of investors and investments, and lack of formal and informal sectors in the study area as well as lack of entrepreneurship training, lack of life skill training programs etc. Those factors are the most dominant causes that affect the youths either to be employed or unemployed.
2. The second objective of the study is to identify the socio economic consequences of unemployment that is explained in the above framework of the figure. These socio economic consequences are: inferiority complex and feelings, psychological stresses, migration /relocation/, political uprisings and unrests, violations, lawlessness, lack of socio-economic integrity and instability. Besides these effects, there will prevail so many criminal activities and social evils such as drinking alcohols and narcotic drugs, drug trafficking, robbery, banditry, hanging, theft, corruption, prostitution, gambling and betting etc.
3. The third objective of the study is to examine the reactions of the government, non-government organizations and the people to reduce youth's unemployment in the study area. These are: attracting domestic and foreign investors and investment, creating adequate jobs in both formal and informal sectors in collaboration with the government and non-governmental sectors, training youths life skills, scale up the entrepreneurship skills of the unemployed youths and develops different facilities like transport systems, electric power /energy/, credit and saving financial sectors, workshops etc.

## **CHAPTER – THREE**

### **3. Research Materials and Methods**

#### **3.1 Description of the study area**

##### **3.1.1 Location of the study area**

Korem wereda is located in southern zone of Tigray regional state of Ethiopia, 160 kms far away from Mekkle which is the capital city of Tigray and 619 kms far away from Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia. The absolute /astronomical/ location of Korem werda town is 12°28'- 12°32' latitude and 39°29'- 39°31' longitude.

Korem wereda is a medium administrative town which is cofound or surrounded by the Offla wereda in all directions. Offla wereda is a rural district in the southern Tigray. The Offla wereda / rural district/ by itself is surrounded by: the south – Alamata & Raya Alamata, the east - Raya Azebo, the north - Endamehoni and the west – Zata werda & wag kimra Sekota special zone. Korem town is a medium administrative town in southern Tigray which is used as a Central Business District /CBD/ to its neighboring rural districts.

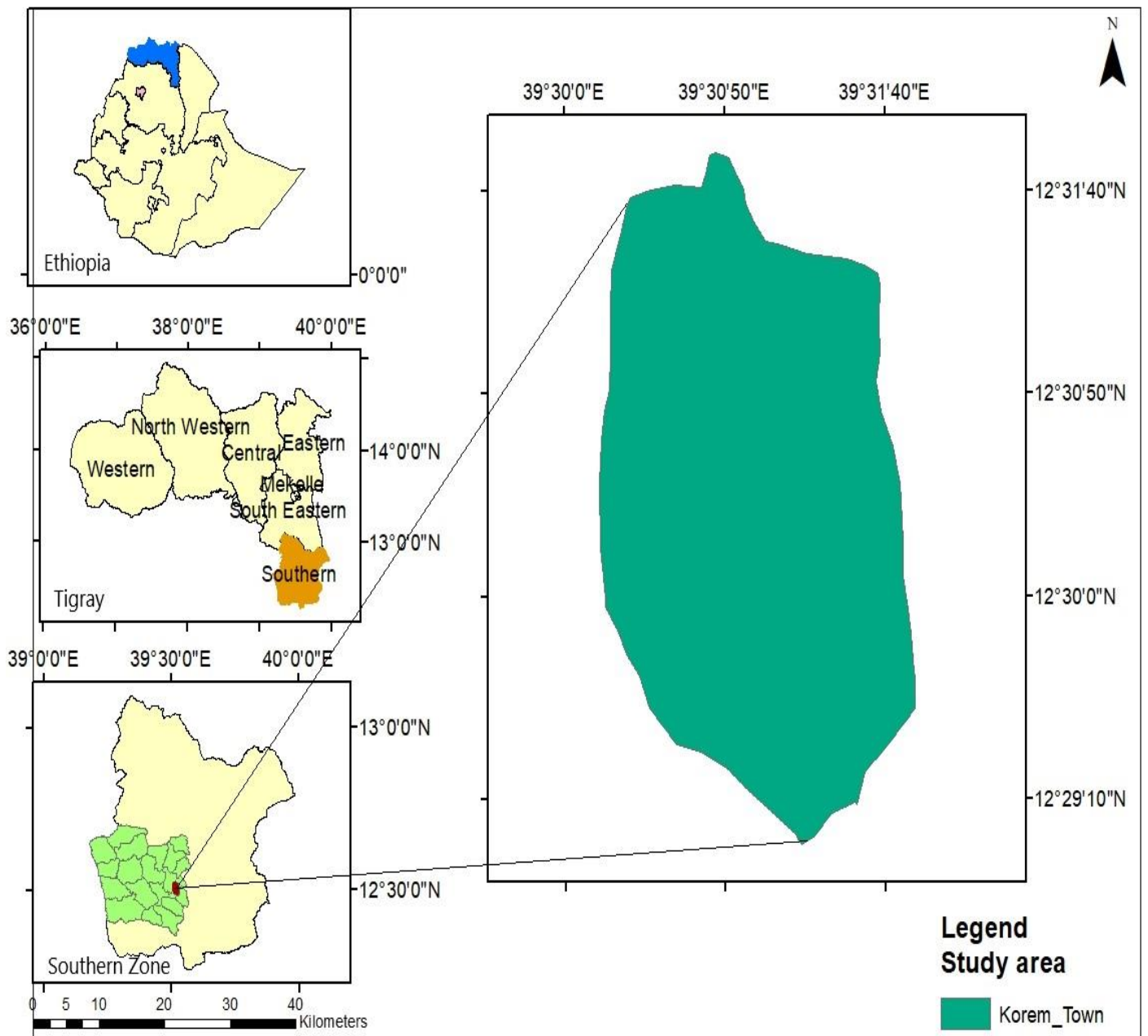


Figure 2- map of the study area

Source: professional cartographer- Arc map project

### 3.2 Population size of the study area

Korem town is a small sized topographic urban area with moderate size of population and population density in northern Ethiopia, southern Tigray region.

Tabiya / District	Sex		Total population
	Male	Female	
01	10,274	11,351	21,625
02	8,986	9,978	18,964
03	9,381	11,084	20,465
<b>Total population</b>	28,641	32,613	61,054

Table 1. Population size of population of Korem

Source: Finance and economic development, and social affairs offices of Korem wereda (2025)

Korem wereda has a total population of 61,054 of whom 28,641 are male population whereas 32,613 are female population. According to the Social Affairs office of the korem town, there are 5076 total youths in the age group between 15-29 and out of these total youths, the 4000 of them are students in different schools starting from junior- secondary schools as well as in TVET and colleges, whereas the rest 1076 youths are non-students in the specified age group b/n 15-29 ages.

### 3.3 Research design

The study was based on a cross-sectional study that has been conducted at a single point in short period of time. Then, necessary data have been collected at once and can grasp relevant data necessary to address the objective of the study.

### 3.4 Sample size and sampling techniques

In this study both probability sampling (for the targeted youth respondents) and non-probability sampling (for the FGD & the key informant interviews) techniques have been used. The study has been conducted in Korem district southern part of Tigray region purposely in order to study the employment status of the youths. In Korem district there are three sub-districts /kebeles, where the researcher selects the study area. The researcher uses both probability and non-probability type of sampling techniques.

Briefly explaining, this is to say that;

- When the researcher select the respondents for key informant interview and focus group discussion, the researcher uses from a non-probability type of sampling purposively, the key informants had been from the responsive persons (officials) of the selected kebeles. The researcher will select one key informant from the social affairs of the district and three key informants from the three selected kebeles for the study. The rationale behind the selection from social affairs of the district and from the officials (responsive persons) of the kebeles is to get more consolidated and accurate information about the study & study area.
- When the researcher select the respondents for focus group discussion, he has been used from a non-probability type of sampling purposely, because they had been selected by considering their age and based on their willingness and ability to express themselves. For this study 6-8 participants or respondents has been selected /invited/.
- When the researcher select the respondents for questionnaire a probability type of sampling technique called simple random sampling has been used based on proportional size of the selected area for the study. The number of the sample for the respondents of the questionnaire has been selected from both sexes of may be the employed and unemployed youths of the study area.

The non-student youths were taken into consideration who are not expected to do a work or they are not necessarily being responsible to have a job and out of these total youths population the rest 1076 youths are not students no matter how whether they are employed or unemployed but who are expected to do a work or responsible to have a means of livelihood in different economic activities as much as possible.

The researcher's sample size is taken from the non-student youths of the age group between 15-29 and the total number of non-students young population are 1076 and the sample size from the universe is calculated using the sample size determination of Yemane, Sharma & Agrwal formula as cited in (Te'ame, 2013).

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} = \frac{1076}{1+1076(0.05)^2} = 291, \text{ where;}$$

$N = 1076$  = the total youths population in the age b/n (15-29) but who are non-students

$e = 0.05$  = an expected error, at 95% confidence level /precision level /

$1 =$  the probability of an evenness occurring,  $n =$  Sample size = **291**

Once the total sample size was determined, the sub-samples sizes from each Tabiya were selected by using proportional systematic random sampling method based on the sampling framework.

District Name ( Tabiya)	Total Targeted youths (N) per unit district in the age b/n(15-29)			Youths sampling size (n) per unit District		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>01</b>	246	148	394	66	40	106
<b>02</b>	234	115	349	63	32	95
<b>03</b>	148	185	333	40	50	90
<b>Total</b>	628	448	1076	169	122	291

Table 2. Targeted Population size & sample size

Source: 1. for the targeted youth's population - korem social Affairs office

2. For the sample size – determined by the sampling technique formula

To draw proportional samples size from each Kebele, proportional systematic sampling technique

has been used:  $p_x = \frac{n}{N} * n_i$ , where,  $P_x =$  proportional sample size for each kebele,  $n =$  sample

size,  $N =$  total  $N^\circ$  of targeted youths of the Wereda,  $n_i = N^\circ$  of targeted youths from each Kebele

$$p_{01} = \frac{n}{N} * n_i = \frac{291}{1076} * 394 = 106$$

$$p_{02} = \frac{n}{N} * n_i = \frac{291}{1076} * 349 = 95$$

$$p_{03} = \frac{n}{N} * n_i = \frac{291}{1076} * 333 = 90$$

### **3.5. Data sources and Method of data collection**

To achieve the objective of this study, both primary and secondary data sources were utilized, applying a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. The primary data were collected through structured questionnaires which administered to collect numerical data from each respondents as well as in-depth interview and FGDs were conducted in order to gather the detailed insights, opinions, and experiences related to youth unemployment. Relevant information of secondary data were obtained from the review of the published and unpublished materials, including books, journal articles, reports and online resources.

#### **3.5.1. Key informant interview**

Guiding questions prepared in line with the research objective for finding out the driving factors of youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effects in Korem district has been forwarded in the interview process. A qualitative and investigative study like this one often makes use of a semi structured interview with open ended questions. Comprehensive interviews are ideal for collecting data on individuals' personal histories, perspectives, and experiences; particularly when sensitive topics are being explored. This study uses a semi-structured interviews in order to gather a deeper understanding from the respondent's perspective. The researcher selected one key informant from the social affairs of Korem wereda and another three key informants from each Tabiyas of the wereda. The rationale of the selection from social affairs of the district and from the officials (responsive persons) of the kebeles is to get more and accurate information about the study and the study area.

#### **3.5.2. Focus group discussion**

Another qualitative approach is the use of focus groups discussion to obtain information from a group of persons on a particular topic. Focus groups are often used to conduct needs assessments or to engage in brainstorming and creative problem solving.

Focus groups are effective in eliciting data on the socio-economic, political and cultural norms of a group and in generating broad overviews of issues of concern to the socio-cultural groups or subgroups represented and the selection of respondents from the expected youths has been invited to participate in an open discussion guided by the researcher. For this study, four FGDS

participants were invited in the selected tabiyas purposely. The respondents had been selected based on their willingness and ability to express by themselves.

### **3.5.3. Questionnaire**

In order to get a reliable data from respondent a semi-structured questionnaires has been administrated to the targeted respondents. The respondents has been selected by simple random sampling proportional to the targeted population sizes of the three selected areas for the study. First, the questionnaire had been prepared in English language. Then, to make easily understandable by the respondents, the questionnaires was translated into Tigrigna language since the people are speakers of Tigrigna as first language

### **3.6. Method of data processing**

For this research, data processing activities contain vital components. The researcher was edited and check the responses before analyzed the data, and this helped to correct problems such as respondent errors of commissions and omissions. Before analysis, the data was organized, and categorized in accordance with their similarities as well as differences and finally the researcher uses the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Software version 27 for statistical analysis.

### **3.7. Method of data analysis**

The research study have already been selected in order to understand the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effect. Based on the research questions as well as the research objectives, the researcher applies the descriptive, inferential & narrative analysis. Generally the study used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis.

#### **3.7.1 Qualitative data analysis**

The qualitative data that were obtained from key informant interview and FGDs, was analyzed using narrative / qualitative/ methods of data analysis.

#### **3.7.2 Quantitative data analysis**

Those data that was collected such quantitative method of data collection through questionnaires has been analyzed by descriptive and inferential method of data analysis using SPSS software data analysis.

**Generally, the method of data analysis for each objective was organized as:**

**Research objective 1:** To assess the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment in the study area. This descriptive questions were analyzed using binomial logistic regression analysis of chi- square and the p-values. The objective of this analysis is to make a prediction about the dependent variable based on the effects of the independent variables. In this case, the dependent variables are the employment status respondents i.e. ( employed or unemployed) status whereas the independent variables were corruption and maladministration, Lack of formal and informal sectors, Lack of entrepreneurship training, Quality of Educational, Lack of financial power, Lack of awareness how to create job, Lack of facilities, Population growth, workshop land size and holding , Youth population pressure, Poor economy, dependency on the government job, incapability of youths to create new job opportunities.

**Research objective 2:** To examine the reactions of the government, NGOs and the local community people to reduce the youth unemployment in the study area, data were analyzed by narrative analysis /qualitative data analysis/.

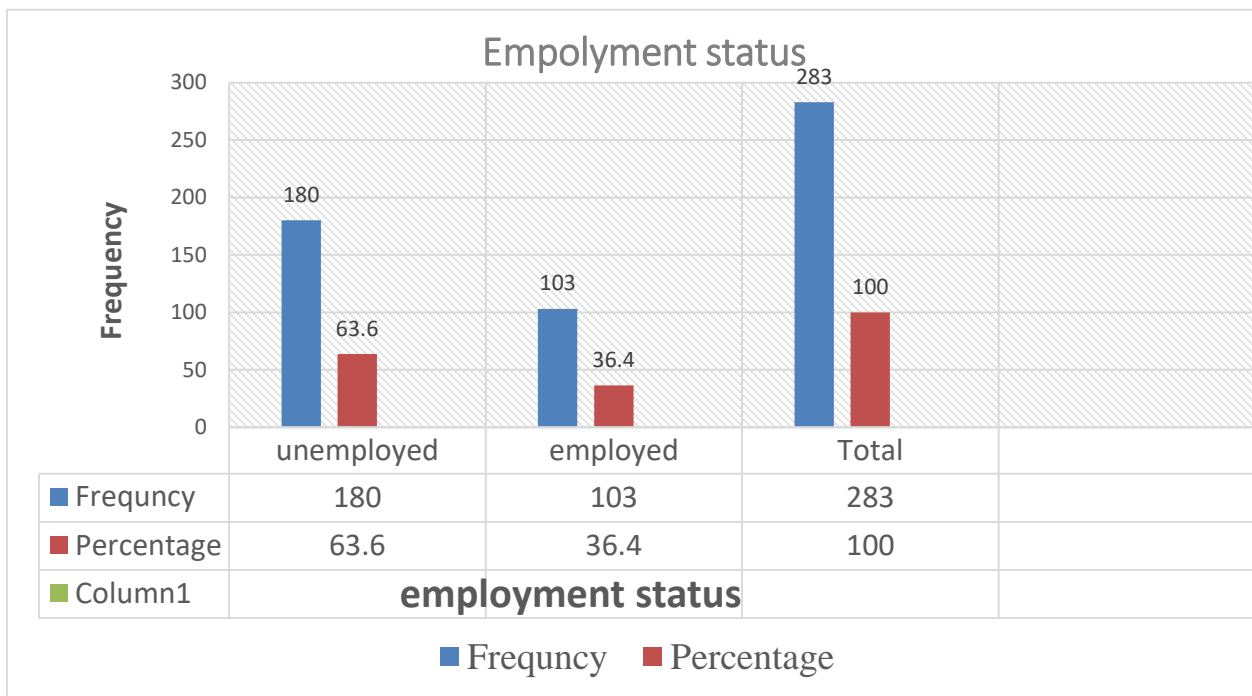
**Research objective 3:** To identify the socio-economic effect of youth unemployment in the study area. This descriptive question was also analyzed by Simple descriptive statistics like simple frequency distribution, tabulation, percentage etc. according ( Kothari, 2004)

## CHAPTER –FOUR

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1 Employment status of the youths

The major driving factors of the urban youth unemployment and its socio economic effects in the study area were discussed and analyzed carefully from the data that has been collected through different data collection methods. As the researcher indicated in the research methodology in the previous chapters, primarily the questionnaires were prepared and distributed for 291 sampled respondents who were selected from sub-districts 1, 2, and 3 administrative units. However, out of 291 questionnaires, 283 (97.25%) questionnaires were returned and administrated as well properly, whereas the rest 8(3.75%) questionnaires were disqualified and rejected.



*Figure 3-the employment status of the youths*

Source: survey data 2025

The bar graph shows that most of the respondents in the study area were unemployed. Out of the total respondents 180 (63.6%) were unemployed and 103 (36.4%) were employed. This result indicates in the district there are more unemployed youths than the employed once.

## 4.2. Population composition

### 4.1.2. Sex structure and employment status of Respondents

The sex structure and employment status show how job opportunities differ between males and females; in most cases, male youths are relatively more employed, while female youths face higher unemployment burden due to socio-economic, cultural and political barriers.

employment status						
Sex structure	Employed		Unemployed		Total	
Sex	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	41	14.5%	90	31.8%	131	46.3%
Female	62	21.9%	90	31.8%	152	53.7%
Total	103	36.4%	180	63.6%	283	100%

Table 3. Sex and employment status of respondents

Source: survey data 2025

As far as the gender issue, table 4, is concerned, among the total respondents of 283, of 152 (53.7 %) were females, of which 62 (21%) were employed and 90 (31.8%) were unemployed. Whereas the total number of males respondents 131 (46.3%), out of them 41 (14.5%) were employed but 90 (31.8%) were unemployed. There were more female respondents in this study area than male respondents and the sex ratio was calculated as:

$$SR = M/F * 100 = 131/152 * 100 = 86/100 = 86\%$$

Where, SR=sex ratio, M= number of males, F= number of females, 100 = number of females vs. males.

Therefore, according to this data view there are 86 male population for every 100 female population. In this study area, even if the number of females is a little bit out weight than the number of males, the number of females are not equally employed with the males.

### 4.1.3 Age structure and employment status of the respondents

Age structure strongly, influences the employment status of the youths; younger youths often face higher unemployment because they lack more experience and skill, while older youths are relatively more employed than the younger once as they gain age and mental maturity, training opportunities, work experience and readiness.

Employment status (N& %)						
Age interval	Employed		unemployed		total	
Age	N <sup>o</sup>	%	N <sup>o</sup>	%	N	%
15-19	13	4.6%	23	8.1%	36	12.7%
20-24	71	25.1%	126	44.5%	197	69.6%
25-29	19	6.7%	31	11%	50	17.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>63.6%</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4. The age structure of respondents in (N<sup>o</sup> & percentage)

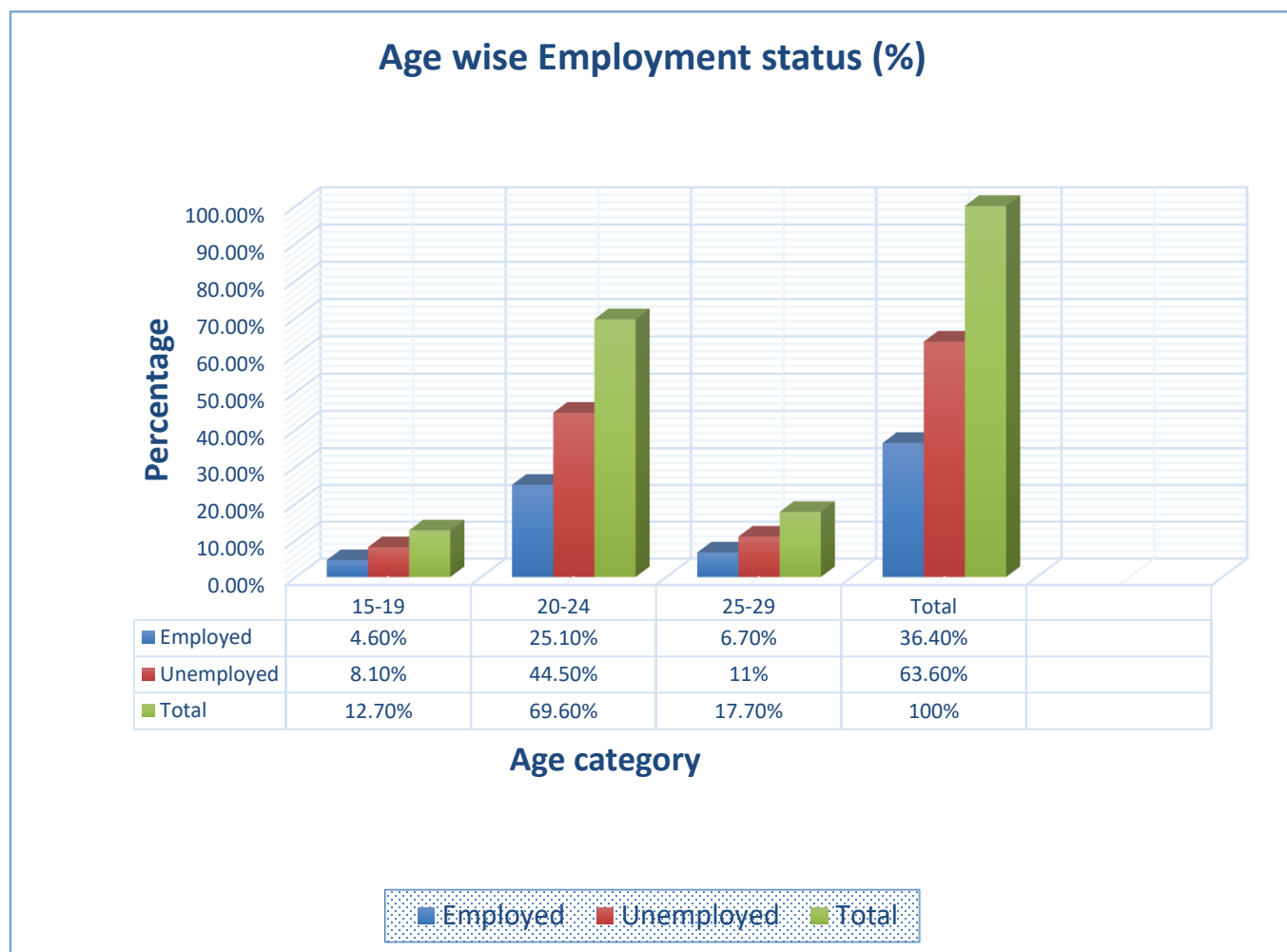


Figure 4. Age wise employment status in (percentage)

Source: survey data - 2025

According to the table and associated bar graph, the age structure of the age distribution of respondents was revealed as the survey result in the study area. The highest proportion of respondents were found in the age group 20-24 years, 197 (69.6%) out of them 71 (25.1%) were employed and 126 (44.5%) were unemployed. The age group between 25-29 years had a response of 50 (17.7%) out of them 19 (6.7%) were employed and 31 (11%) were unemployed, whereas the age group between 15-19 years had a response of 36 (12.7%) out of them 13 (4.6%) were employed and 23 (8.1%) were unemployed. The age group from 20-24 years had the majority response because most of the youths completed their education and they are responsible to work and help family in the range of this age group as well as the age group is the age of active market labor force. So thus, as a job seeker they were easily available during the gathering of information.

#### **4.1.4 Marital and employment status of respondents**

Marital status and employment are often linked to each other; because the married youths are more likely to be responsible and engaged in work to support their families, while the unmarried youths may experience a higher unemployment burden as they are still in schools, less responsible for dependents, or they may have unstable income sources.

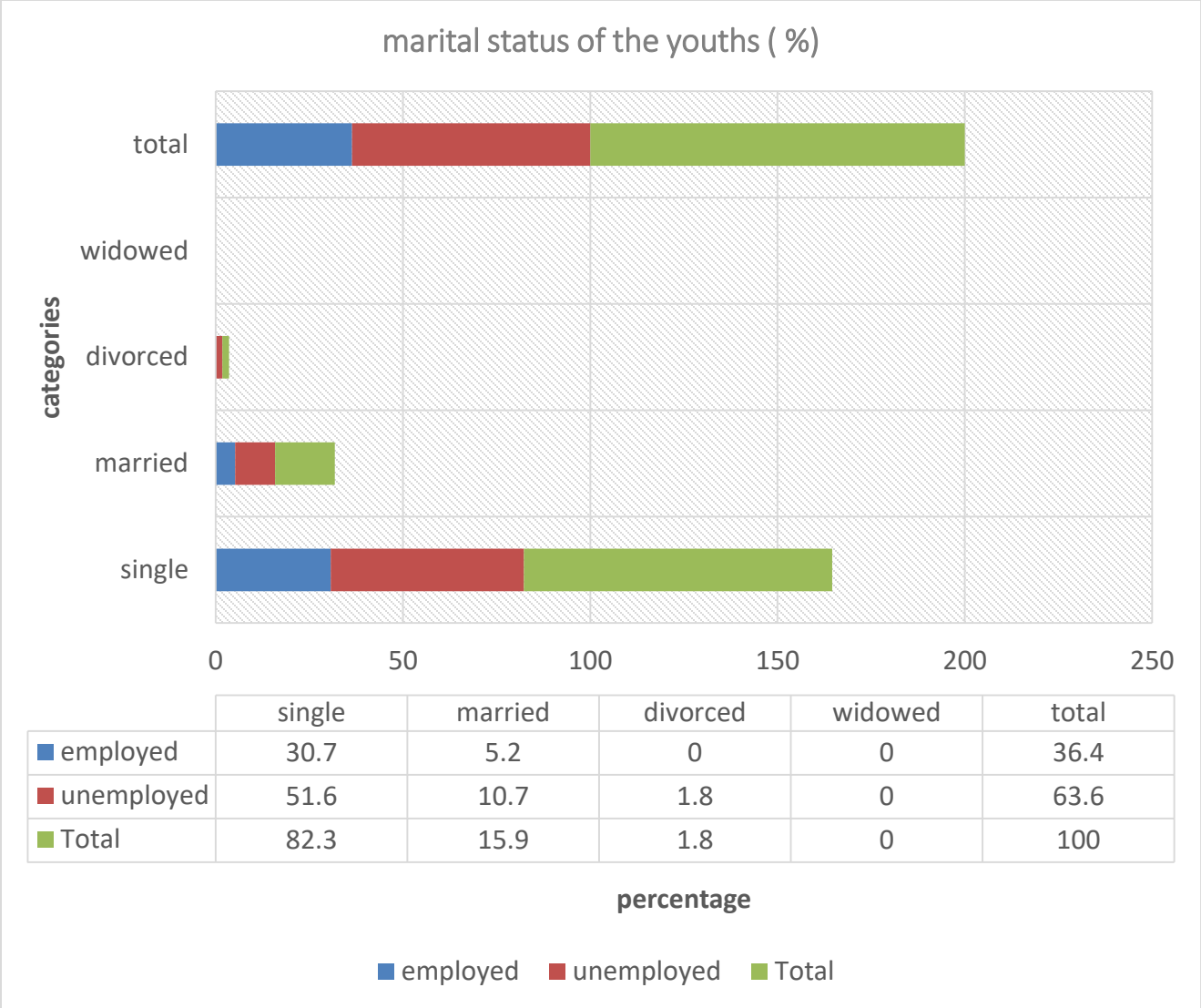


Figure 5. Marital status of the youths in percentage

Source: survey data 2025

The horizontal bar graph with the associated table below it, shows the marital status of respondents, Out of the total respondents, 236 (82.3%) were found to be single or unmarried, Out of them 148 (51.6%) were unemployed and 88 (30.7%). 46 (15.9 %) were married out of them 31 (10.7%) were unemployed and 15 (5.2%) were employed. 1 (1.8%) of the respondents was divorced and that is unemployed. There is no widowed respondent.

The majority of the respondents found in this study were single 236 (82.3%), and most of them 148(51.6%) were unemployed and this indicates that most of the youths in the area are at a single marital status and they are dependent on their families for their livelihood.

#### 4.1.5 Educational and employment status of the respondents

Education and employment are two of the most important pillars of personal and societal development. They are closely linked as education provides the skill, knowledge, and opportunity needed to find and maintain meaningful employment opportunities.

Level of education	employment status					
	Employed		Unemployed		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Illiterate	18	6.4%	22	7.8%	40	14.1%
Primary	13	4.6%	21	7.4%	34	12%
Secondary	54	19.1%	109	38.5%	163	57.6%
TVET (certificate )	17	6%	26	9.2%	43	15.2%
Above	1	0.4%	2	0.7%	3	1.1%
Total	103	36.4%	180	63.6%	283	100%

Table 5. Educational & employment level of respondents

Source: survey data 2025

According to the data shown on Table 5 , the highest proportion which is 163 (57.6 % ) of the total respondents are completed their secondary education and out of them 54 (19.1%) were employed and 109 (38.5%) were unemployed, whereas 43 (15.2% ) of respondent have TVET certificate out of them 17 (6%) were employed and 26 (9.25) were unemployed. 34 (12 %) of the respondents were completed their primary education out of them13 (4.6%) were employed and 21 (7.4%) were unemployed. 40 (14.1%) were illiterate out of them 18 (6.4%) were employed and 22 (7.8%) were unemployed. From the total respondents only 3 (1.1%) were university degree holders from them one respondent was employed and the two were unemployed. From the above table the researcher conclude that most youths became unemployed and they are searching any job after completed their secondary school education.

### 4.3 The Most Driving Factors of the urban youth unemployment

#### 4.3.1 Logistic Regression model of Association between Youth Employment Status and the Affecting Variables

Logistic regression is a statistical model used to predict the probability of a binary outcome or employability status in order to predict whether an individual is likely to be employed or not based on the predictor variables.

Predictor Variables that affect the employment status	Employment status				Colum Total	%	(X <sup>2</sup> test)	(P-value)
	Employed (F)	%	Unemployed (F)	%				
Corruption & maladministration							0.004	0.049
<b>Yes</b>	85	(30%)	148	(52.3%)	233	(82.3%)		
<b>No</b>	18	(6.4%)	32	(11.3%)	50	(17.7%)		
<b>Row Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.4%)	283	(100%)		
Incapability of youth to create new job							0.101	0.868
<b>Yes</b>	58	(20%)	119	(42%)	177	(62.5%)		
<b>No</b>	45	15.9%	61	(21.6%)	106	(37.5%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.3%)	283	(100%)		
Dependency on government job							0.032	0.858
<b>Yes</b>	78	(27.6%)	138	(42%)	216	76.3%		
<b>No</b>	25		42	(14.8%)	67	23.7%		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180		283	(100%)		
Poor economic status							0.328	0.567
<b>Yes</b>	49	(17.3%)	92	(32.5%)	141	(49.8%)		
<b>No</b>	54	(19.1%)	88	(31.5%)	142	(50.2%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Youth population pressure							1.531	0.006
<b>Yes</b>	70	(24.7%)	148	(52.3%)	180	(63.6%)		
<b>No</b>	33	(11.7%)	32	(11.3%)	103	(36.4%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Land of (workshop & selling shop)							1.582	0.282
<b>Yes</b>	86	(30.4%)	139	(49.1%)	225	(79.5%)		
<b>No</b>	17	(6%)	41	(14.5%)	58	(20.5%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Population growth (explosion)							0.019	0.891
<b>Yes</b>	78	(27.6%)	135	(47.7%)	213	(75.3%)		
<b>No</b>	25	(8.8%)	45	(15.9%)	70	(24.7%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		

Lack of facilities							1.407	0.236
<b>Yes</b>	68	(24%)	106	(37.5%)	174	(61.5%)		
<b>No</b>	35	(12.4%)	74	(26.1%)	109	(38.5%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Lack of awareness							0.682	0.409
<b>Yes</b>	69	(24.4%)	129	(45.6%)	198	(70%)		
<b>No</b>	34	(12%)	51	(18%)	85	(30%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Lack of finance							0.167	0.683
<b>Yes</b>	85	(30%)	145	(51.2%)	230	(81.3%)		
<b>No</b>	18	(6.4%)	35	(12.4%)	53	(18.7%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Low level Quality of education							1.908	0.015
<b>Yes</b>	92	(32.5%)	140	(49.5%)	232	(82%)		
<b>No</b>	11	(3.9%)	40	(14.1%)	51	(18%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Lack of entrepreneurship training							1.517	0.019
<b>Yes</b>	63	(22.3%)	84	(29.7%)	147	(51.9%)		
<b>No</b>	40	(14.1%)	96	(33.9%)	136	(48.1%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		
Lack of formal and informal sectors							1.437	0.018
<b>Yes</b>	45	(15.9%)	96	(33.9%)	141	(49.8%)		
<b>No</b>	58	(20.5%)	84	(29.7%)	142	(50.2%)		
<b>Total</b>	103	(36.4%)	180	(63.6%)	283	(100%)		

Table 6 result of logistic regression model of association

Source: survey data 2025

The Expected frequencies can be calculated from the observed frequencies as  $(E) = \text{row total} * \text{column total} / \text{overall sum total or grand total of the sample}$ .

$X^2 = \sum (O - E)^2 / E$  Where,  $X^2 = \text{chi-Square}$ ,  $O = \text{Observed Frequency}$ ,  $E = \text{Expected Frequency}$ ,

The processes of hypothesis testing of the  $X^2$  (chi-square test)

### 1. Formulating of the hypothesis testing

1.1  $H_0$  = there is no relationship b/n the employment status and the expected factors of unemployment at all.

1.2  $H_a$  = there is a relationship b/n the employment status and the expected factors of unemployment

2. Appropriate statistical test =  $\chi^2$  - Chi-square test

3. Determine level of significance = 0.05

4. Calculate the test statistics  $\chi^2 = \frac{\sum(O-E)^2}{E}$

5. Calculate the degree of freedom  $DF = (C-1)(R-1) = (2-2)*(2-1) = 1$

6. Decision rule; hypothesis acceptance and rejection area, compare and contrast the calculated and the tabulated chi-square test results.

Then, accept  $H_0$  if the calculated  $\chi^2 >$  the tabulated (critical) chi-square, otherwise reject it and accept  $H_a$

Accept  $H_1$  if the calculated  $\chi^2 <$  the tabulated (critical) chi-square, otherwise reject it and accept  $H_0$

7. Making a decision to each point according to the decision rule of Pearson chi square statistical test

#### **4.3.2 Interpretation and discussion for the Results of the chi-square test**

Based on the Pearson chi-square test the variables that were found to be significant in the study were corruption and maladministration, youth population pressure, less quality of education and lack entrepreneurship and life skill training as well as lack of the formal and informal sectors were found to be the major driving factors of the youth unemployment status.

The significance level, or alpha ( $\alpha$ ), is a value that the researcher sets in advance as the threshold for statistical significance. It is the maximum risk of making a false positive conclusion (Type I error) that we are willing to accept it.

In a hypothesis test, the p value is compared to the significance level to decide whether to reject or fail to reject the null hypothesis.

If the p value is higher than the significance level i.e. 0.05, the null hypothesis is not refuted, and the results are not statistically significant.

If the p value is lower than the significance level 0.05, the results are interpreted as refuting the null hypothesis and reported as statistically significant.

## **Corruption, & maladministration:**

Corruption, & maladministration are some of the driving factors of urban youth unemployment that were found to be related to the employment status. The relationships between corruption and youth employment status illustrates that among 283 respondents, 233 (82.3%) were said yes while 50 (17.7%) of were said no. This shows that the majority of the respondents were said corruption as a major driving factor for urban youth unemployment. According to the Pearson's chi-square test, the data indicates statistically significant at the already predetermined significance level or probability of error  $\alpha = 0.05$ , ( $\chi^2 = 0.004$ ,  $P = 0.049$ ). This means according the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically significant in compare to the significant level of 0.05 at ( $X^2=0.004$ ,  $P=0.049$ ).

According to (James, 2015), corruption is one of the major factor that causes unemployment. Therefore, all the people, the government and other who concerned bodies should fight against corruption, and maladministration in order to check an equal opportunity and access of employment for everyone in the same manner and in an equal bases (James, 2015).

In addition to that, the findings in the FGD shows on the responsibility of youth, society and government in reducing of youth unemployment, corruption and other social evils are the main factors for highest unemployment level in the society. Therefore, in order to bring change and to make employed the unemployed, the youths, communities and the government all together should fight against corruption, maladministration, lack of good governance and other social evils and risks at all levels.

**Incapability of youth to create new job:** The chi square result shows that incapability of youths to create new job as a major driving factor was insignificant at 5% level of significance or probability of error at ( $\chi^2 = 0.101$ ,  $p = .868$ ). According the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically insignificant in compare to the significant level of 0.05 at ( $X^2=0.104$ ,  $P=0.868$ ).

The FGD point of view about the inability of youths to create new job was stated. The culture of working habit in the local area is very weak, because those who are unemployed youths who live in the area work with their family instead of creating their own job by themselves and they see their friends who came from other areas they have been migrated before for a better work and compare their income with them, then after they prefer to migrate to abroad instead of working hard in their home town.

Whereas the supporting idea of key informant interview was stated as, even though, there are so many opportunities of work for the unemployed youths but the youths prefer to migrate because they want to be rich in short period of time instead of developing step by step. Selection or choice of work, shortage of workshops, lack of space/land for urban small scale agriculture , low economic status and lack of financial power and unable to return back the money credited for the youths on its time table are the bottle necks of the district so that the unemployment rate aggravates at an alarming rate

**Dependency on the government to have a job/ Dependency syndrome of job seekers:** According to the statistical values of chi-square test and probability value, the data is statistically insignificant in compare to the predetermined significance level at  $\alpha = 0.05$  ( $\chi^2 = 0.032$ ,  $P = 0.858$ ).

**Poor economic status / background:** out of the total respondents 141 (49.8%) were said poor economy is a driving factor for youth unemployment. Whereas 142 (50.2%) of them were said it is not a driving factor for youth unemployment. According to the statistical values of chi-square test and probability value, the data is statistically not significant in compare to the predetermined significance level at  $\alpha = 0.05$  ( $\chi^2 = 0.328$ ,  $P = 0.567$ ).

**Youth's High population pressure:** according the logistic regression model indicated above of the total respondents 180 (63.6%) were said youth population pressure is a driving factor for youth unemployment. Whereas 103 (36.4%) of them were said it is not a driving factor for urban youth unemployment. According to the statistical values of chi-square test and probability value, the data is statistically significant in compare to the predetermined significance level at  $\alpha = 0.05$  ( $\chi^2 = 1.531$ ,  $P = 0.006$ ). Therefore, the alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) was accepted at the expense of the null hypothesis ( $H_o$ ), that there is a strong consequential effect relationship between the dependent (population pressure) and the independent (employment status) variables.

**Ownership of land [workshop and selling shops]:** According to the statistical values of chi-square test and probability value, the data was found statistically less significant in compare to the predetermined significance level at  $\alpha = 0.05$  at ( $\chi^2 = 1.582$ ,  $P = 0.282$ ).

According to the Amanual's research study, it supports that the country faces growing youth landlessness in rural areas and workshop ownership in urban areas and insignificant rural job creation, potentially leading to an increasing migration to urban areas (Amanual, 2016). Then, the researcher found a different result in compare with the Amanual's literature and research findings.

**High Population growth rate (population explosion):** According to the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically insignificant in compare to the significant level  $\alpha = 0.05$  at ( $X^2 = 0.019$ ,  $P=0.891$ ).

**Lack of facilities (social and infrastructural facilities):** According to the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically less significant in compare to the significant level  $\alpha = 0.05$  at ( $X^2 = 1.407$ ,  $P=0.236$ ).

According to (James, 2015) in his study found that provision of appropriate support to rural youth livelihood activities and the strengthening of access of young men and women to technical and financial services as well as access to market information is vital for expanding urban employment opportunities and improvements of youths livelihoods.

**Lack of awareness:** According to the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically less significant in compare to the significant level  $\alpha = 0.05$  at ( $X^2 = 0.682$ ,  $P=0.409$ ).

Paul in his finding explains about youth perceptions of employment: Youths, most of the time, prefer to be employed in the formal sectors of governmental and nongovernmental organizations rather than engaging in self- employment opportunities. Public sectors and formal private sector employment were considered as good jobs due to low risks of business depression, while self-employment and cooperative employments are considered to be bad as they have high risks of business depressions (Paul, 20017).

**Lack of financial power:** According to the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data was found be statistically insignificant in compare to the significant level  $\alpha = 0.05$  at ( $X^2 = 0.167$ ,  $P=0.683$ ).

The research findings of Wolday & Tassew do not support this research findings that the lack of access to financial power and shortage of capital was identified as key driving factors for youth unemployment (Wolday & Tassew, 2016).

**Less Quality of education:** According to the statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically significant at the significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ , ( $X^2 = 1.908$ ,  $P=0.015$ ).

This has been supported and approved by the world food and agricultural organization, FAO (2014) stated that the quality of education is often very low, as well as motivated teachers willing to stay in the profession has been so hard to find out, but Youth's access to knowledge and information was crucial for addressing the main challenges they face in the employment opportunities, but due to lack of quality of education that they have and if youths are unsuccessful in education then they are forced to be unemployed and migrate to other localities as they are attracted by the pull factors of the destination areas .

**Lack of entrepreneurship and life skill trainings:** According to the Pearson chi square test statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically significant at the significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ , ( $X^2 = 1.517$ ,  $P=0.019$ ).

This research study was supported by the findings of Tadese; he has been stated that Lack of entrepreneurship and life skill trainings were the key intervention areas. Entrepreneurship training strengthens youth service programs and introduce new community-based programs to provide the young people life-skills training, entrepreneurship training and opportunities to participate in community development programs can initiate the youths to any type of job found in the employment market (as Tadese, 2015) stated in his research findings.

**Lack of formal and informal sectors in the Area.** According to the Pearson chi square test statistical values of  $X^2$  and the probability value of the data (p- value), the data is statistically significant at the significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ , ( $X^2 = 1.437$ ,  $P=0.018$ ).

(Amanuel, 2016), in his research findings about the use of formal and informal sectors to reduce unemployment said that the government should facilitate, restart, institutionalization, and formalization of formal and informal employment sectors in order to motivate and engage more

youths in different activities. This will help to reduce the problem of youth unemployment especially on the skilled and educated youths in both urban and rural areas

Generally, according to the Pearson's chi-square test and associated p-value results, the most statistically significant predictor variables were corruption and maladministration, youth population pressure, less quality of education, lack of entrepreneurship and life skill development programs, lack of the formal and the informal sectors and institutions and the like were found to be the most driving factors of youth unemployment and the rest other predictor variables were found to be insignificant at the already predetermined significance level ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

#### **4.4 The consequences of the urban youth unemployment**

Unemployment has multiple socio-economic, political, psychological, and environmental consequences. The effects of unemployment can be classified broadly as private (individual), family, social (community) and national levels. (Daniel, 2016). In addition to this the effect of unemployment obtained from FGD participants was discussed:

Inferiority complex and Psychological stress: if one is unemployed he/she may feel as inferior, and will consider oneself as a useless and loses the sense of belongingness to the family and the community at all. The society also does not consider the unemployed individual as the member of the community, they do not let them involve in social life in the society. Unemployment has also a psychological effect up on the life of individuality because if he/she stay a long time without job. Unemployed youths were forced to migrate to other area if they have no other alternative to work at the then time and the youths may face with different obstacles and those elders as well as children will left out without supporter. Rising up the social evils like theft, hanging, drug addiction, prostitution, and other crimes against social values, humanity and ethical moralities. According Asalfew's research study, if the number of unemployed population increases up in one area by the same reason, the social evils, up settings, uprisings and activities like theftings, robbing, hanging, murdering and crimes against the civic virtue and social values will increase in the area. (Asalfew, 2011). In his research findings, he supported that the unemployed passes in a stressful life event that makes people unhappy. Increasing in the unemployment rate always lowers the happiness of everyone, particularly the unemployed youths.

#### **4.5 The major effects of unemployment**

The major concepts that were investigated by the researcher to know the effect of unemployment:

#### **4.5.1 The consequences of being unemployed at individual and household level.**

The data obtained from interview and the FGD confirmed that, the effect of youth unemployment on socio economic development are beyond the expression of words that there is a proverb of saying “We have seen a lot but no one saw us and no need of telling the pain of a headache for a person who knows the pain of headache by him/ herself. We over come across a lot of obstacles, until we have got divorced due to poverty and unemployment.”

#### **4.5.2 The attitude of the society towards the unemployed youths.**

The data obtained from interview and FGD “if the youths are already unemployed they became to be isolated by all people as they have nothing and they are nothing. Most people underestimate them and they are considered as theft-hers, gamblers, hangers, drug traffickers and adductors, alcohol drunker. This is also supported from the findings of (Daniel G, 2016) he said, those unemployed youths are dependent on their families and on their relatives to cover their different expenses. They are believed to be that they are not equally participant in the families and community affairs, and they consider themselves as they are not important as long as they have nothing to contribute to their families and communities. Stigma and discrimination against unemployed youths to be stereotyped as being lazy, unmotivated, and irresponsible as well as lacks experience, skills and these attitudes lead to social exclusion and discrimination in education, employment, socio-economic and political affairs.

#### **4.5.3 The social and security problems of unemployed youths**

Unemployment creates serious social and security problems. Socially, it leads to poverty, stress, low self-esteem, and weakened family and community ties. It can also cause social exclusion and limit access to essential services. From the security perspective, high unemployment essentially among the youths can increase crime, civil unrest, and political instability, as idle individuals may turn into illegal and criminal activities. Generally, Unemployment threatens both social and public security.

<b>unemployment causes social and security problem in a society</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	219	77.4
<b>No</b>	64	22.6
<b>Total</b>	283	100

*Table 7. Unemployment - causes of social & security problems*

Source: survey data, 2025

Table 7 indicates that out of the total respondents 219 (77.4%) of the respondents were said yes. Whereas 64 (22.6%) of the respondents responded no. Therefore, we can conclude from the idea of the majority that unemployment can be a cause for the rising of social and security problems such as hefting and other social crimes in the society.

This finding was also supported by the findings of Zelalem .Youth unemployment is not only results in loss of income to the unemployed youths themselves and the immediate family, but it is also a loss to the society that fails to utilize its scarce resources and this economic problem may lead to social and security problems to find out the livelihood of the unemployed youths (Zelalem, 2014).

This is also supported from the findings of FGD. Those unemployed youths are passing their time in doing of bad activities like theft and they are affected by different drug addictions and drug trafficking like chewing chat, smoking cigarette and other narcotic drugs.

#### **4.6 The possible solutions forwarded by respondents to solve the urban youth unemployment**

The data obtained from key informant (government representative) and from FGD suggested that, the society in general and the young people in particular should believe in hard working at their home land instead of migrating to other unsafe areas.

According to the key informants, in korem district there are a lot of youths who are without job but when we compare and contrast the past and the present situations of youth unemployment, it is surprisingly increasing the rate of urban youth unemployment due lack of peace and stability in the area in addition to the already existed socio-economic problems even before the Tigray war.

The government is not doing as much as possible with the alarming rate of unemployment of youths in the community.

According to the FGD participants, among many causes raised in the following can be a solution to solve the problem of unemployment in the study area.

**Attracting domestic and foreign investments:** the district has a lot of human and natural resources but there are no domestic and foreign investors that uses the resources and creates job opportunity for the unemployed youths of the district. Therefore, if the government able to attract domestic and foreign investment and investors in the study area, the problem of youth unemployment can be solved.

**Establishing and re-establishing both formal and informal sectors:** due to the war event that has been taken place in Tigray and continuing political complex of the expansionist invaders and forces in the specific region, most of the formal and informal administrative offices and sectors are not functioning well still now. The administrative offices and public services of Tigray in the sub region are not offering proper services as the prevailing of the so called command post administration in the area including the rural districts. In the study area, there are a few formal and informal governmental as well as non-governmental sectors but they have no enough capacity to create job opportunity for the whole unemployed youths in the district and they are unable to function fully but they are made to be paralyzed knowingly. Therefore, if the administrations of the district develops the capacity to do so as much as possible, they can create more jobs opportunities and solve the problem of unemployed youth using the human and local resources.

**Scaling up of the entrepreneurs skills of the unemployed youths:** the unemployed youths of the district have lack of awareness how to create new job by themselves, instead they prefer to migrate to other areas for searching of job. Therefore, if the government provides training and scales up the entrepreneurship skills of the unemployed youths, the problem of unemployment will be solved.

**Develops socio-economic and infrastructural facilities:** like schools, water supply, health centers, tourism and transport networks, power supply, telecommunication networks, medium and small scale business enterprises etc.: as it is known that the study area lacks the social and infrastructural facilities like water, road and electricity within and in the surrounding rural

areas that hinders socio-economic integration and development. This can be obstacle for the youths because they need to do a lot of things by the help of those facilities, for instance to move from one place to another place for the purpose of marketing and trading, but if there is no transport accessibility they cannot exchange their products. So if the government develops facilities like road and electricity the problem of urban and rural youth unemployment can easily be solved as they are basic infrastructural facilities.

Besides the idea of key informants and FGD, the following concepts were investigated from the respondents, by believing that they can provide a solution for the youth unemployment

#### **4.6.1 Need of special training to enhance skill**

Special training is essential to enhance skills. Skills development requires structured learning and practices. Through training, individuals gain knowledge, improve their technical skills and adapt to new challenges.

<b>assessing need of special training program</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 8. Youths need of special training program*

Source: survey data, 2025

The question whether they need or not, an entrepreneurship and life skill training programs to enhance their skills and efficiency as revealed in Table 8, among those total respondents 215 (76 %) were said yes, we need and 68 (24%) said we do not need training. Therefore, this indicates that the majority of the respondents need an entrepreneurship and life skill training programs to enhance their skills and work experience.

This is also supported from the finding of FGD that the government should initiate and help the unemployed youths by all means that should initiated to create associations and cooperation's, with providing training of life skills and entrepreneurship skills and rewarding for those who are role model youths.

#### 4.6.2 Respondents - availability of special skill

The availability of special skill for the youths refers to the extent to which the young people possess practical, technical, or professional abilities that make them employable or capable of starting their own businesses.

Assessing special skill of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	73	25.8
No	210	74.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 9. Assessing any special skill of respondents

Source: survey data, 2025

The Table 9 research finding shows that out of the total respondents 210 (74.2%) of respondents have not special skill whereas 73 (25.8%) of respondents have special skills. In addition to the open ended questions, the researcher was also deployed a close ended questions that is whether the respondents have special skill or not, and let them explain their skill that they have? Many of the respondents where explained the skill they have. For instance, sport (athletics), art (drawing) and others.

Charlotte in his study confirmed that the skill and capacity of youths, he said, Young people are integral part of society whom they contribute to reduce extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries. They can act as ambassadors of change, development and provide innovative ideas when drafting development policies and strategies. Besides, the young people are looking forward to the opportunity to be actively involved in the efforts to lift up their communities out of poverty by creating the foundations for economic growth and productivity (Charlotte, 2009)

#### 4.6.3 The government's creating job opportunity to those unemployed youths

Government creates job opportunities through policies that supports industries, investments, infrastructures, and promote entrepreneurship. By fostering economic growth, it provides employment opportunities which contributes to socio-economic stability and national development.

<b>The job opportunity created by the government</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	128	45.2%
<b>No</b>	155	54.8%
<b>Total</b>	283	100%

Table 10. The job opportunity created by the government

Source: survey data, 2025

Table 10 shown us the highest proportion of respondents 155 (54.8%) were said no, the government does not create more job opportunities. and 128 (45.2%) of the respondents were said yes and the researcher was not stop here but prepared another closed ended questions behind an open ended questions, that is “If their answer is no, it does not create”, why? When the respondent explain their reason because in the wereda (district) even though there is huge amount of resource, there are a lot of unemployed peoples and still there is no sufficient job opportunity created by the government. Of course there is an association of youths in the wereda but this association is only for those educated youths at least they have TVET certificate but for illiterate respondent there is nothing to do with from the government. But, in contrast to this findings of interview the key informants were said, government is playing a greater role for the unemployed youths even if not enough as much as possible as claimed by the youths.

#### **4.6.4 Temporal livelihood option/ preference/ of respondents.**

The study revealed that unemployed youths in Korem town pursue that different temporal livelihood strategies were adapted as coping mechanisms.

<b>Respondents preference to do</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Migration to other states</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>39.9</b>
<b>Stay at home and hard working</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>60.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 11 preference / means/ of livelihood of respondents

Source: survey data, 2025

As table 11 shown 170 (60.1%) of the respondent said creating a job at home land can be a relief measure of being unemployment. whereas 113 (39.9%) were said migration as a best optional measure of employment. From this data information, it is possible to see that the majority of the respondents need to create their own job and work at their home land in different fields of works such as small and medium entrepreneurs, private and small business enterprises, business

cooperation and associations and the like. But from the sample study, those who are seeking migration approximately 40% of youths are not undermined as small number of human resources as a valuable human capital resource is concerned. And this data simulation shows that socio-economic, political and psychological failures significantly at all levels of intergovernmental system at the Tigray post war.

#### 4.6.5 Criteria for employment opportunity

Employment opportunities are often determined by a set of basic criteria that shape the chance of youths such as educational qualification, high level of training, work experience and skills, personal initiatives, socio- infrastructural facilities and expansion of investments.

<b>criteria for an employment opportunity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Quality of education</b>	171	60.4
<b>Entrepreneurship skills</b>	40	14.1
<b>Work experience</b>	63	22.3
<b>Economical background of parents</b>	9	3.2
<b>Total</b>	283	100

Table 12. Criteria's of an employment

Source: survey data, 2025

As table 12 indicates that 171 (60.4%) of the respondents said quality of education is necessary before you are employed or employ yourself. 63 (22.3%) of the respondents said work experience is necessary and 40 (14.1%) said entrepreneurship skill is necessary before one is employed or employ one self. Whereas 9 (3.2%) of the respondent said influential or economically powerful parents is necessary before you are employed or employ yourself. Majority of the respondents were said quality of education is necessary. This indicates for the youths to escape from the problem of unemployment first and foremost quality of education must be improved.

( Beshir, 2014) in his study when he identifies about the solution of youth unemployment, in addressing youth unemployment, it is necessary to focused on education and training, particularly improving quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), providing skill training for unemployed youths, enhancing job creation through private sector participations, and Micro and Small financial enterprises.

#### 4.6.6 Creating self-employment

Creating self-employment refers to the effort of individuals to generate income by establishing their own work opportunities rather than relying on formal wage employment opportunities.

Creating self-employment opportunities	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Yes</b>	98	34.6
<b>No</b>	185	65.4
<b>Total</b>	283	100.0

*Table 13 self-employment opportunities*

Source: survey data, 2025

As table 13 indicates that out of the total respondent 185 (65.4%) were said no whereas 98 (34.6%) of the respondents were said yes. This indicates the youths themselves cannot create job by themselves. That is because of lack of awareness they prefer governmental or other job instead of creating job by themselves. This is supported by interview, before they start to do anything the youths should change their attitude towards the work habit and industriousness, then after they can bring change by creating job in their homeland, to bring change but migration is not an option but working hard as much as possible. This data shows that how much the dependency syndrome and psychological depression is intensified among the youths and the society at all, especially during the post war of Tigray.

#### 4.6.7 The government's effort in solving the youth's unemployment

The government should tackle the youth unemployment by creating job opportunities, expanding life skill and entrepreneurship trainings programs, improving access to quality education, finance, social and infrastructural facilities.

The government efforts to reduce unemployment	Frequency	Percentage
<b>High effort is being undertaken</b>	66	23.3
<b>Moderate effort is being undertaken</b>	62	21.9
<b>low/little effort is being undertaken</b>	123	43.5
<b>No effort at all</b>	32	11.3
<b>Total</b>	283	100.0

*Table 14 the government's effort to reduce youths unemployment*

Source: survey data -2025

As table 14 shows, 123 (43.5%) of the respondents were said to curb youth unemployment in the district, the effort of the government is low/less effort is being under taken whereas 66 (23.3%) said high effort is being under taking, 62 (21.9%) said moderate effort is being under taking and 32 (11.3% of the respondents were said no effort at all is under taking to curb youth unemployment by the government in the district. Generally this indicates government should create different job opportunities for those unemployed youths.

The data obtained through interview was simultaneous to this idea that administrators of the district were said, government is under taking less effort to enroll the unemployed youths.

#### **4.6.8 Appropriate measures to fight against unemployment in Korem town**

Encouraging investment and investors, improving the quality of education, promoting good governance and transparency, developing social and infrastructural facilities, controlling rapid population growth, life skills and entrepreneurship training, re-establishing and expansion of the formal and informal sectors are some of the appropriate measures to taken to fight against youth unemployment.

<b>Measures to be taken to avert the rate of unemployment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Encouraging investors and investments</b>	191	67.5
<b>Improving infrastructural &amp; social facilities</b>	20	7.1
<b>Credit provision</b>	6	2.1
<b>Controlling population pressure</b>	3	1.1
<b>Check the quality of education</b>	51	18.0
<b>Good governance /administration</b>	12	4.2
<b>Total</b>	283	100.0

*Table 15. Appropriate solutions to solve the problem of unemployment in Korem town*

As table 15 indicates the most appropriate approach or measure to be taken to fight unemployment in the study area were encouraging foreign investment and investors 191 (67.5%), quality education 51 (18%), good governance 12(4.2%), credit provision 6 (2.1%), population explosion control 3 (1.1%). From the point view of the respondents, the researcher concludes that, in the study area the most appropriate way to fight unemployment was encouraging foreign investment to the study area. This is also supported by the research data obtained from FGD, in the district that there are attractive enormous amount of resource but due to the attitude of the people and lack

of encouraging foreign investors by the administrator of the government, there is no investor that help and encourage for the unemployed youths.

#### **4.6.9 Availability of local resources to create employment opportunities in the study area**

The availability of local resources can play a vital role in creating employment when they are effectively identified, managed, and utilized. The natural resources such as fertile land. Water, forests, minerals, animal husbandry and the like can support urban agriculture, agro-processing, eco-tourism, small and medium scale industries and the human resource skills, knowledge, as well as experiences can drive entrepreneurship and innovation.

<b>Available local resources to create employment opportunities</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
<b>Yes</b>	145	51.2%
<b>No</b>	138	48.8%
<b>Total</b>	283	100%

*Table 16. Local resource to create employment*

#### **Source: survey data -2025**

As table 16 shows 145 (51.2%) were said yes and 138 (48.8%) were said no. Besides to the close ended questions, the researcher prepared an open ended questions i.e. if your answer is yes for question number 4.5.10; please, explain the resource found in the area? According to the respondent's idea, the district has a lot of resources of water, Lake Hashenge, a green forest area of Higumbrda and Girat Kahisu and the water falls of Hola as well as broad agricultural land with its fertile soil that can produce different types of crops. From the respondents' point of view, it is clearly understood that the study area has a lot of resources and if the government and the people use wisely and properly the resource of the district it can create more job opportunity to the unemployed youths of the district.

## **CHAPTER - FIVE**

### **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

Research as a major tool for indicating appropriate action, policy development and program execution or intervention has to be given priority. It is with this objective that this study is conducted to assess the major driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effect in Korem wereda, Southern regional state of Tigray, Ethiopia.

In this study binary logistic regression model was used to identify the major driving factors of youth unemployment. According to the model the most major driving factors of urban youth unemployment are youth population pressure, lack of quality of education, lack entrepreneurship, life skill development and capacity building training programs, lack of the formal and the informal governmental and non-governmental sectors and institutions and the like are found to be the major driving factors of youth unemployment status in Korem town. Structured interview and FGD was also undertaken and the idea of these concerned bodies and groups in general was, the key factor behind the high rate unemployment of the youths in Korem district were lacks of entrepreneurship, lack of investors and investment expansions, lack of commitment and self-initiatives, weak business and trading environment, misunderstanding towards the culture of cooperative - entrepreneurial ship that would encourage the youth to open and run their own businesses.

To some extent, this study also assessed the effect and pressure of rural youth unemployment and migration as an effect on the urban youth unemployment because the rural and urban unemployment have a direct or indirect causal relationships to each other.

Inferiority complexes, psychological stresses and depressions, socio-economic crisis and upheavals were some of the major effect on the unemployed youth. Families (elders and children) left out without supporter and care givers because of the youth's migration to other localities as a result of unemployment. In addition to the polarizing and rising social evils and crimes against stable and good sociocultural behaviors, the district has also become be weak again by socio-economic, administrative and political affairs due to the political and administrative instability during the war and post war of Tigray. As a result of the youths unemployment triggered to its

alarming state which accompanied by a mass of youths migration to abroad and this problem of vicious circle may continue as far as the main root causes of the problem are not solved yet.

An attempt has been also made to assess the views of urban unemployed youths on the possible strategies to solve this problem. As a result, attracting investors and investment, creating adequate jobs opportunities, re-establishing and re-operating all the formal and informal governmental and non-governmental institutions and sectors that has been shut down during the war and post war in the study area should be restructured and reopened because they have a lot of human and material resources that can mobilize the unemployed youths in to high employment level. Besides, the scaling up of the life and entrepreneurs skills of the youths generally and the unemployed youths particularly, can be the best advocacy to decrease the unemployment rate. Developing and restructuring the socio-infrastructure facilities like schools, health centers, and hospitals, small and medium scale manufacturing industries, transport facilities, electricity as well as telecommunications and the like are stated as a best solutions in order to reduce the rate of high unemployment level.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

Based on the finding of the research study, the following recommendations have been given.

- Policies and programs must recognize youth and decision-makers need to engage youth in poverty reduction strategies. With this framework, youth can improve their livelihoods through self-sustaining employment prospects, education, health care, and social life.
- Government, families, societies and all concerned bodies should have to create awareness towards the consequences of migration out of the country as well as the negative attitudes of youths towards the some selected types of jobs.
- To alleviate social, economic, psychological and political problem, the government must create jobs for the unemployed youths government should fight against corruption, lack of transparency, lack of good governance, maladministration and the so on, so that the government would do unreserved efforts to widen various job opportunities, socio-economic developments and developmental activities for the whole people in general and the an unemployed youths in particular.

- The research study area has a numerous natural resources and potential tourism opportunities, let alone for the local youths but also that can be more than enough for others, however, it lacks quality of leadership and efficient administration system.
- Peace and stability has not been checked out even in the post war, but relativity to the time of war. Then, concerned bodies should do their maximum effort to sustain peace and security as a ground rule so as to expand the employment opportunities with the socio-economic expansion.

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# Appendices

## Questionnaire

MEKELLE UNIVERSITY

College of Social Science and Languages (CSSL)

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Dear respondents, my name is Mulubrhan Gebremedhin kassa. I am a student in Mekelle University, College of social science and languages, department of **Geography and Environmental studies**. I am doing a study on the **driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effect** in korem wereda, Tigray region. I am doing this study by myself as a fulfillment of Master of MA program. This survey intends to explore the driving factors of urban youth unemployment and its socioeconomic effects as well as the possible solution that forwarded to address the unemployment challenges. Your response to the survey items highly contributes to the success of this study. You are kindly requested to fill this questionnaire exhaustively and as honestly as possible because it enables me to achieve the objectives of this study. After I collected the data, I will keep all information responsibly, secretly and the information provided is strictly used for academic purpose only and will kept with maximum confidentiality.

Thank you in advance for you are going to be Responsible!!!

### Part 1

#### ❖ Background information of the respondents

1. Employment status 1. Employed 2. Unemployed
2. Sex: 1. Male 2. Female
3. Kebele: 1. Kebele I 2. Kebele II 3. Kebele III
4. Age: 1. 15-19 2. 20-24 3. 25-29
6. Level of education: 1. Illiterate 2. Primary education 3. Secondary education 4. TVET Certificate 5. Above
7. Marital status: 1. Married 2. Single 3. Divorced 4. Widowed

**Part 2**

**❖ Questions on the effect of urban youth unemployment**

8. Do you feel/ suffer from unemployment?

1. Yes 2. No

9. If your answer for question No. 8 is yes specify the effect that you have got because of unemployment? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Would you blame unemployment for the rising cases of social problem such as theft and other crimes in this area?

1. Yes 2. No

11. If “Yes”, Please explain?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you think the society looks you differently due to your unemployment situation?

1. Yes 2. No

13. If you say ‘yes’ how? Please explain it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3 Questions for the solution of urban youth unemployment**

14. Are there any local resources to be used to create more employment in this area?

1. Yes 2. No

15. If your answer for question No 14 is yes, explain the resource found in the area

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you have a special skill to be used?

1. Yes 2. No

17. If your answer for question no 16 is yes I have, explain the skill that you have \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you think that the government does create another job opportunities to the unemployed youth?

A. Yes B. No

19. Do you think you need special training to enhance your situation?

1. Yes 2. No

20. Do you think that the youths by themselves have to create their own business?

A. Yes B. No

21. If your answer for question No. 20 is yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. What do you consider to be necessary before you are employed or employ yourself?

1. Quality education

2. Entrepreneurial skill

3. Work experience

4. Influential parents

23. How do you rate the government's effort to curb youth unemployment in this district?

1. High effort is being undertaken

2. Moderate effort is being undertaken

3. Low /little effort is being undertaken

4. No effort at all

24. Which of these is the most appropriate solution to fight unemployment in Korem wereda?

1. Controlling population pressure

2. Credit provision

3. Self-job creation

4. Encouraging investment & investors

5. Check Quality of education

**Part 3: The Major driving factors of urban youth unemployment**

**Please tick for the most appropriate answer**

Is a driving factors of urban youth unemployment?	Yes	No
<b>Lack of formal and informal sectors</b>		
<b>Lack of entrepreneurship training</b>		
<b>Quality of Educational</b>		
<b>Lack of finance</b>		
<b>Lack of awareness how to create job</b>		
<b>Lack of facilities like road and electricity</b>		
<b>Population growth</b>		
<b>Land size</b>		
<b>Youth population pressure</b>		
<b>Poor economy</b>		
<b>Waiting for government job</b>		
<b>Incapability of youths to create new job opportunities</b>		
<b>Massive corruption</b>		
<b>Others specify.....</b>		

**Questionnaire 3:**

**Interview Guiding Questions for Government Representatives (key informants)**

1. Is youth unemployment common in Korem district? How youth unemployment understood by the government? Would you brief the trends of youth unemployment by educational attainment as well as by age and sex since the last ten years? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are the common efforts made to change the problem of youth unemployment?

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3. Are there any area specific or localized approaches to tackle the problem of youth unemployment?

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4. Any particular challenges faced in an effort to solve the problem by the government?

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5. How do you describe the motivation, courage as well as skill requirements of the young unemployed section of the community?

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#### **Questionnaire 4: Checklist for FGD**

1. What are the major driving factors of youth unemployment in this area?\_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the effect of youth unemployment on the local socioeconomic developments?\_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is the responsibility of families, societies, government and the youths in reducing of youth unemployment?

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