

**WOLKITE UNIVERSTY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**



**FACTORS INFLUENCING RURAL TO URBAN CHILD MIGRATION AND RISK  
FACTORS FOR ABUSIVE LABOR TASKS IN WOLKITE TOWN**

**A SENIOR ESSAY SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY IN  
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Wolkite, Ethiopia

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## ACRONYM

UNICEF.....United Nations International Children' s Emergency Fund

ILO.....International Labor Organization

SNNPR..... South Nation Nationalities People Region

CLS.....Child Labor Statistics

UN..... United Nations

FGD.....Focus Group Discussion

KIs..... Key Informants

## Abstract

*The general objective of this research was to identify factors influencing migration and the risks of abusive labor for the children's labor force in Welkite Town in 2015. And the specific objectives of the study were to identify the push and pull factors in child migration, explore the possible areas of the working force to be engaged, and assess the impact of engaging in abusive labor on their social wellbeing (education, health, and social interaction with their peer group). The research was conducted using qualitative research methodology, and the study employed a phenomenological research design and used purposive sampling techniques to get the informants. The researchers employed in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions as data collection tools to gather information to attain research objectives. Data from the informant was analyzed using thematic qualitative analytical research methods. The result of this research is that there are many factors influencing rural-to-urban child migration. One of the reasons for the finding was poverty; the others were: disintegration of families or loss of parents; poor social service; poor child care culture; family's low value for education; domestic violence; seasonal factors; and displacement due to war. and children after migrating engaged in small work like domestic servants in the private sector and selling items on the streets. And finally, for children who engage in labor, their social well-being (education, health, and social interaction with their peer group) is affected, and their labor has negative consequences for their social wellbeing. And the research recommends government and NGOs intervention, family planning for large families, poverty alleviation, and economic support for poor households and children. Finally, children should be engaged in school at an early age.*

**Key words:** *Migration, child labour, abusive tasks, social wellbeing and rural-to-urban child migration.*

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Rural-to-urban child migration and child labor abuse are two interconnected issues since migration is main factor for child labor abuse. As researchers preliminary information many children migrate from rural to urban for many reasons and on other hand they will be exposed to abusive child labor (researchers). Most Children who migrate from rural to urban are an extremely vulnerable population. And it is important to be precise about what we mean by child migration (UNICEF, 2015). A child in this context is an individual below the age of 18 according to ILO Conventions, “children” means all persons under 18 (ILO, 2018). Child migrant is someone who has changed the locality of the place they take rest over some period. A common definition of a migrant is someone living away from their community of birth who has moved to their current residence within the last five years (Edmonds, 2009).

Numerous UN publications highlight the high rate of child migration. According to a 2016 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) research, between 2015 and 2020, there were an estimated 50 million child migrants or internal migrants in the world. According to the 2020 UN Migration Report, there were over 258 million migrants worldwide, 14% of whom were under 20 years old (UNICEF, 2015).

Many developing countries in the world are currently experiencing an unprecedented rate of urbanization. It is also clear that, unlike the experience of currently developed countries, the process of urbanization presently taking place in developing countries is not in consonance with rapid industrialization. Rather, it is the consequence of growing population pressure on land in the rural areas (Kasahun, 2000). In line with this, Todaro (1976) reported that the major sources of the growth of urban population in developing countries will not only be natural population increase but also the continuing migration of rural people to the urban centers.

As far as rural-urban migration is concerned, problems related with it are the rate, concentration and composition of the migrants (Beylee, 2006). With regard to the rate, in the year 1999 to 2012 in Ethiopia, the average annual increase in the rate of rural-urban migration was 5.68% whereas

for the same period, the migration increase rate for Southern Nations Nationalities People Regional (SNNPR) state was equal to 7.28% which is higher than the national average.

Search for Better jobs, Poverty, interest of Join relatives, Education, Urban services, Start business, Culture are some reason of child migration (Hashim et al, 2011). Remittances from migrants have supplanted agriculture as the primary source of income in several parts of emerging nations. In the modern world, held labor is still a considerable issue since so many people move from rural to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities (Akrem, 2015). Children in Ethiopia are working both productively and inefficiently, beyond their capacity, in both urban and rural areas, according to the 2014 national child labor survey report (CSA, 2014).

Child labor is the practice of using children for any job that robs them of their youth, hinders their ability to learn, and is unsafe from a social, mental, physical, or moral standpoint (Majhoshev, 2016). Based on this, what defines child labor abuse is mainly the child's age, type of work, number of hours involved in work, and the work conditions and environment. The minimum age for entering the labor market is specified at 15 years old (13 years for light work). In international law, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the ILO Conventions, "children" means all persons under 18 (ILO, 2018). In addition to being harmful to children's entire social and cognitive development, dignity and self-esteem of children are undermined by low salary, heavy responsibilities, and lack of access to education, among other factors.

According to the ILO worldwide estimates report from 2017, there were 152 million youngsters working in dangerous conditions, or about 73 million of them are children who are rural to urban migrant children. Risks exist in all occupations, but they are heightened for youngsters whose bodies and minds are still growing. The danger is increased further when youngsters are exposed to hazardous substances, do hazardous occupations, or work in hazardous environments. ( ILO, 2020). According to UNICEF's 2015 State of the World's Children Report (UNICEF, 2015), "Children's work needs to be viewed as occurring along a continuum, with beneficial work fostering or strengthening children's development without interfering with their schoolwork, recreation, and rest at one end and damaging or exploitative labor at the other.

According to a child labor study (2019), Ethiopia has a high prevalence of child labor abuse that is increasing over time. As per ILO global estimates, 218 million children were involved in child labor globally in 2016, with 75 million working in dangerous jobs. In the 2015 CLS (child labor statistics), 8.7 million children in Ethiopia were engaged in hazardous work (CLS, 2014).

The researchers conducted some preliminary research on child migration in the study areas before assessing the problems, and discovered that many children engaged in harsh and exploitative conditions. Additionally, the majority of the children come from adjacent small towns and rural areas rather than Wolkite Town. According to Labour Proclamation 1156/2019's articles 4.1, 89.1, 89.2, and 89.3, the minimum age to work is 18. Those under the age of 18 are considered children for the purposes of this study. The ILO's definition of child labour, which includes children up to the age of 17 who are economically active, with the exception of those under the age of five and those above the age of 17, complements this research. As a result of the preliminary assessment information, the study was examined the push and pull factors for child migration and identify the areas of worker where the majority of children are employed. In addition, the researchers conducted the impact of engaging in abusive labour on their social well-being.

## **1.2. Statement of the problem**

The extent and nature of child migration and child labor abuse are one of the most serious social problems in urban areas of the developing world (Abebe, 2019). Despite the existence of the problem that child migration and child labor abuse in several countries, its size, nature and causes varies from country to country depending on the level of economic development, cultural and traditional settings, institutional intervention and the level of harmony (Abebe, 2019).

In wolkite city there is no enough study concerning the pull and push factor of child migration and the impact of engaging in abusive labor on their social well-being, this lack of concern may lead to many challenges that have strong effects on children. Even though there is no comprehensive research doe in the town.

There were several articles or studies conducted concerning the issues of child labour abuse and migration. The study conducted by Aden and Shanta (2021) revealed that economic poverty can be a factor for child migration in Ethiopia but is not the only push factor because child migration is very complicated and caused by different multi-directional factors like culture, belief, child

care culture, limited social services, gender inequality (gender-based violence), relationships with others inside the community, and instability (Eden et al, 2021)

In the same vein, the findings by Wondimu (2022) revealed that sex, age, household size, child relationship with the family, family employment status, marital status, and educational level of the household were significant predictors of child labour abuse in the research areas(Wendmu, 2022).

Related to research conducted by Williams E. (2021), which asserted that child labor is highly correlated with stunting, malnutrition, and wasting. Willis E. also claimed that the labor slowed children's genital development and made them shorter in stature. The study also discovered a link between the number of working hours children put in and the likelihood of illness or physical injury. Furthermore, children were more likely to suffer from back pain and other health issues such as burns and lung disease (Willis, 2021).

The study done by (Shimels, 2019) found out that the causal factors of child migration were the situation of living in poverty was found to be one of the factors to push children to move from their home. Parental problem was another factor for a child's decision to leave home to move to urban area. Children's rational choice to live in urbanized area and pressure from the culture on children to move to the city to work as early as they were able to work (Shimels, 2019).

The preceding study focuses on the causes and consequences of child labor abuse, but it falls short of addressing child labor abuse behavior related to rural-to-urban child migration. This research focused on child labor abuse related to rural-to-urban child migration. The aforementioned studies and others in the same field have focused on data from governmental and non-governmental sources, but there are many children who are not ever documented as either migrant or labor children. As a result, we were included both labor-force children who live in their parents' homes and those who live outside of them or on the streets.

We understand that there is a connection between child labor and migration. Due to a study on child labor in the neighborhood of Wolkite, this is mostly made up of migrants from a nearby small town. The goal of this research was to determine the pull and push factors of child migration connected to child labor, which is another difference between this research and recently done research. Child labor and migration are related. The majority of child laborers in

the region, as planetary investigation was done, Wolkite immigrants were from nearby small rural areas. Additionally, there is a knowledge gap in the area of the Wolkite people. Although there has been some research in this area in Ethiopia, it has not received enough attention overall. Since social phenomena become dynamic over time, the research's finally was try to fill the gap of study period this research was conducted in the year 2015, which is the current period.

Because children are the generation that will continue the future growth and development of a country, they should be raised well and shielded from any troubles during their youth. Today's youth, however, are frequently exposed to physically, psychologically, and socially hazardous professions. Additionally, a large number of migrants now leave rural and small communities to work in cities. Therefore, the study based on the preliminary information was assess the pull and push determinants of migration, the possible areas of working force engagement, and the impacts of engaging in abusive labor on their social well-being, with a focus on children between the ages of 5 and 17. Those children under the age of 18 are considered children for the purposes of this study. The ILO's definition of child labor, which includes children up to the age of 17 who are economically active, with the exception of those under the age of five and those above the age of 17, complements this research.

### **1.3. Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1. General objective**

The general objective of this research was: To identify factors influencing migration and risks of an abusive labor on children labor force in welkite town, at 2015.

#### **1.3.2. Specific objective**

The specific objectives of the study were as follows;

- To identify the push and pull factor of child migration.
- To explore the possible areas of working force to be engaged.
- To assess the impact of engaging in abusive labor on their social wellbeing/ the access of primary and secondary education/.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

After investigation done this study answered the following research questions;

1. What are the pull and push factors of child migration?
2. What are the possible areas of working force to be engaged?
3. What are the impacts of engaging in abusive labor on their social wellbeing/ the access of primary and secondary education?

### **1.5. Significance and justification of the Study**

This section is critical for demonstrating how the study will benefit researchers, academics, and the general public and the reason behind the selection of the title. The study adds new information on the phenomena based on the period and geographical scope. This research tried to address the pull and push factors in child migration, the possible areas of working force to be engaged in, and the impacts of engaging in abusive labor on their social well-being. Wolkite receives less attention than it deserves because it is a destination for migrants from surrounding small towns and rural areas. Furthermore, the research can be used as a significant finding that can greatly contribute to solving the problems of child migration and child labor abuse. The solution and recommendations after conducting this research can also be implemented to solve the problem. In addition to these, it can also serve as a resource for those who want to pursue further study in the area. And the reason behind why we conduct research in this area is because rural-to-urban migration and child labor abuse are increasing from time to time for many reasons, including low job opportunity in rural areas, poverty, etc. Since the problem is serious and increasing, we chose to conduct research in this area. Additionally, in our study, there is no sufficient research on rural to urban child migration and child labor abuse. And also, we had a personal connection with someone who had experienced rural to urban migration and child labor abuse.

### **1.6. Scope/ delimitation of the study**

The study's scope includes what it was cover in terms of time frame, theme, and geographic coverage. This study was conducted in 2015. The lives of child labor migrants aged 5 to 17 who work will be the focus of this research. Moreover, this study was limited to the town of Wolkite. Aside from Wolkite Town, the findings of this study were not include any other cities in Ethiopia.

### **1.7 Limitations and problems of the Study**

This research limits itself only to such as:

- Study on children's who migrated from rural area; limit itself by concerning on rural to urban child migration, to welkite.
- Include children labour under eighteen aged and above five years old.

Problems encountered during the study;

- Absence of written material or document
- Financial constraint.
- Reluctance of some respondents to provide information.

## 1.8. Definition of terms

**Child:** means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, a majority is attained earlier. (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1). "... Shall apply to all persons under the age of 18 (international labor organization, 2019). Article 89(2) of the Ethiopia Labor Proclamation No.377/2003 prohibits the employment of persons less than 14 years of age. Sub-article (3) of the same Article prohibits the employment of young workers (persons between 14 and 18 years of age according to Article 89(1) of the Labor Proclamation) to perform work which, on account of its nature or the circumstances under which it is carried out, is harmful to the life or health of the young worker..

**Child labor:** is a narrower concept than "economically active children", excluding all those children aged 12 years and older who are working only a few hours a week in permitted light work and those aged 15 years and above whose work is not classified as "hazardous"

**Child labor abuse:** means work of children under the legal age. We must mention that child labor is not just physical work, but also commercial and sexual exploitation (child pornography and prostitution and), child trafficking and child warriors. According to the ILO's Convention no. 29 about forced labor. And the parameters are Violates a nation's law for minimum age, Threatens children's mental, physical, or emotional well-being, Involves intolerable abuse, such as child trafficking, child slavery, forced labor, debt bondage, or illicit activities, Prevents children from education, Uses children to break labor standards. A person under 15 years of age can't be employed. Minors and mothers have the right to special protection at work. Minors may not be employed in jobs that are detrimental to their health or morality (Labor Law, art. 173). According to the ILO, Child Labor refers to work that deprives children (any person under 18) of

their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and/or mental development. The ILO's definition of child labor, which includes children up to the age of 17 who are economically active, with the exception of those under the age of five and those above the age of 17, complements this research.

The followings are the parameters that depict the hideous child labor abuse:

- **Long hours** - Work that can last from 12 to 16 hours a day, sometimes for 7 days a week. Children frequently suffer from physical and mental exhaustion.
- **Violence and abuse** - Beatings, physical punishment and verbal abuse. Employers may take advantage of children's docile nature and vulnerability with devastating effects on their physical and mental well-being.

**Child migration:** or "children in migration or mobility" (sometimes more generally "children on the move") is the movement of people ages 3–18 within or across political borders, with or without their parents or a legal guardian, to another country or region. They may travel with or without legal travel documents.

**Social well-being:** is an end state in which basic human needs are met and people are able to coexist peacefully in communities with opportunities for advancement. This end state is characterized by equal access to and delivery of basic needs services (water, food, shelter, and health services), the provision of primary and secondary education. The research concern is the provision of primary and secondary education, health and children's social interaction with their peer groups.

## 1.9. Conceptual frameworks

This figure shows the push and pulls factors of rural to urban child migration, possible areas of working force to be engaged, and the impact of engaging in abusive labor on children. and it shows the dependent and independent variables of this study.

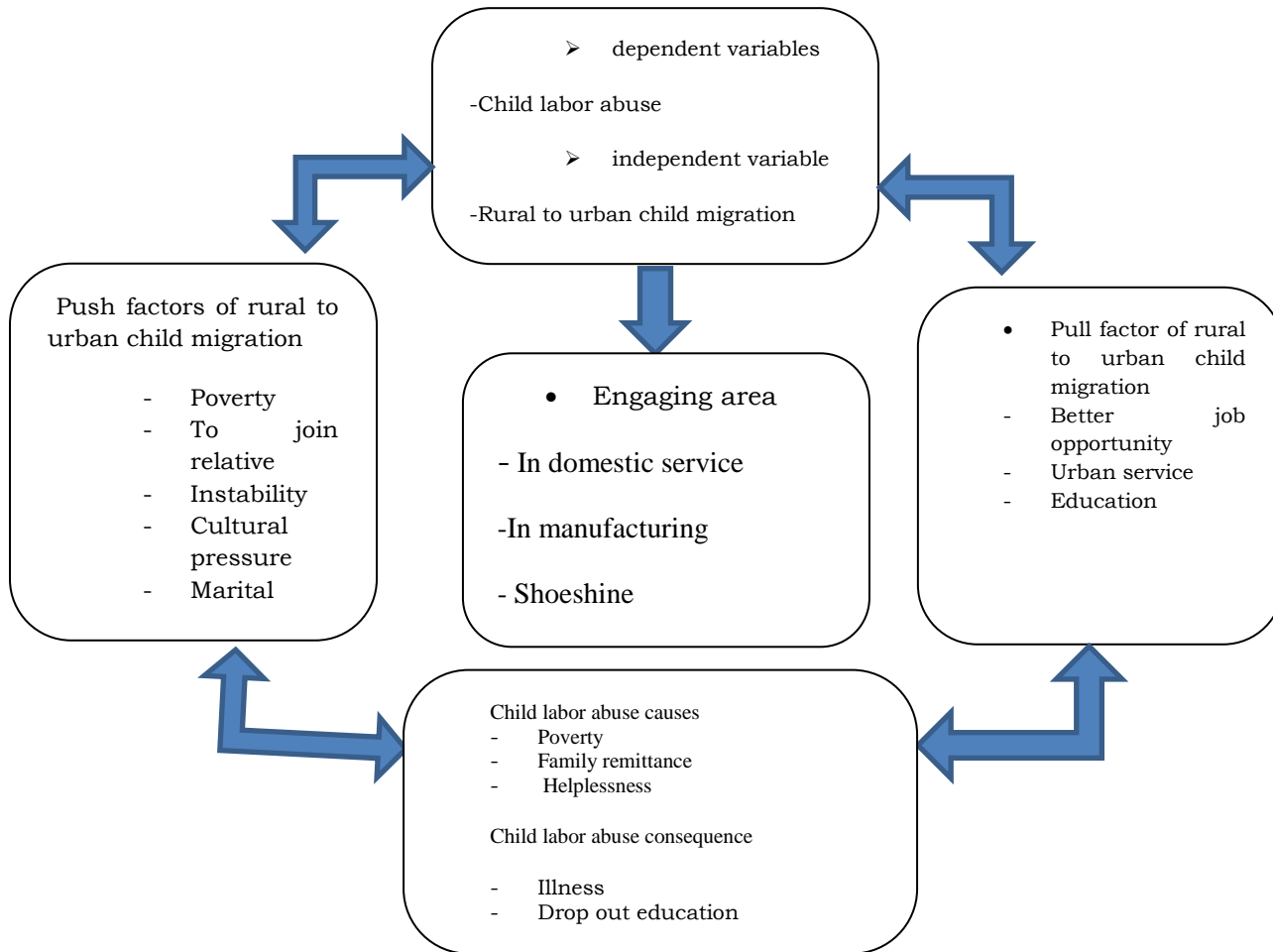


Figure 1. This Conceptual framework is developed by researchers. Source: Self structured, 2023

## 1.10. Organization of the study

The study contains five chapters. The first chapter will examine the study background, statement of the problem, general and specific objectives including the research questions the study addressed. The second chapter focuses on the literature review both theoretical and empirical with the key finding of the study area including key variable theoretical review and definitions. The third chapter entirely focuses on the methodology of the study and the fourth chapter talks about the data analysis and interpretation, and last chapter focus on the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1. Introduction**

The aim of this chapter is to assess the related literature review that provided findings and conclusion. The reviewed studies will provide the research motivation that will justify a good progress toward the good of implementing the study. In this study the researcher will use variable approach to present the review literature and studies are categorized by their variable and conceptual frame work also stated under this chapter.

#### **2.2 Conceptual Framework**

##### **2.2.1 Human Migration**

According to (Abebe 2019) Migration is the act of people moving from one location to another with the aim of living there either permanently or temporarily. Internal migration is a possibility, but it often occurs over great distances and from one country to another. Migration may involve single people, families, or big group (Abebe, 2019).

##### **2.2.2 Rural to urban migration**

In Ethiopia, internal migration of every kind is frequent. In both the 1999 and 2007 national household surveys, rural-rural mobility accounts for the lion's share of internal movement. The migration from rural areas to urban areas comes in second, making up 24.8 and 32.5% of all migrants in 1999 and 2007, respectively. Rural-urban migration poses the greatest threat to the economies of less developed nations among the various types of internal movement because it occurs from areas where employment development is easy (agricultural) to others where job creation is challenging (industry and service sectors). Furthermore, because migration rates exceed the rate of employment creation in cities, the burden of rural-urban mobility is greater in less developing nations (Shamdin, 2005).

##### **2.2.3 Child migration**

Children in migration or mobility, or more broadly "children on the move," refers to the movement of individuals between the ages of 3 and 18 inside or across national boundaries, with

or without their parents or legal guardians. They are free to move about with or without valid travel documents. They could enter the country of destination as asylum seekers, economic migrants, or refugees (Hashim et al, 2011).

#### **2.2.4 Factors to child migration**

As diverse as the people who move are the reasons why children migrate. In addition to calamities, natural disasters, persecution, and humanitarian crises, they also include economic objectives, educational goals, motivations based on gender or culture, and personal interests. While some kids flee for better chances, others do so to avoid abuse, exploitation, or other types of conflict. Numerous factors frequently coincide. Children may travel to a different location or nation with one or both parents when parents move or separate, or they may be left behind by their parents and are therefore indirectly impacted by migration (Eden et al., 2021).

#### **2.3 General Strain Theory**

The theory of parenting and poverty is based on the idea that children have a duty to provide for their families and travel as an anchor to create a path and a destination for their family. States from which children migrate for socioeconomic reasons should work to put in place social and economic policies and practices that allow children to develop fully without having to leave their local communities. Parenting involves giving attention to children's physical, emotional, and social needs, while poverty is defined as a situation in which income is insufficient to meet all of one's fundamental necessities. Children in poor households have better long-term outcomes than children from wealthy homes. (Agniwi, 1992).

#### **2.4 THEORY OF “CULTURE OF POVERTY”**

The "culture of poverty" theory downplays the importance of psychological characteristics of the parents in shaping results for disadvantaged children. Lewis asserted that there was a "culture of poverty" (Rank, 1994, p: 27) According to proponents of the "culture of poverty" theory, the experience of living in poverty has directly led to the development of a set of values that are particular to the poor. These attitudes and ideals include a sense of oppressed, alienation from the prevailing culture, and oration of the present. The issue was that there was a sense of oppression as well as a present-focused mindset and way of life. The issue is that there is a sense of oppression as well as a present-oriented mindset and way of life. The issue is that "there is a

present-oriented view and way of life that places no importance on labor sacrifice, self-improvement, or contribution to one's family, friends, or community." (Rank, 1994).

## **2.5 The push-pull theory of migration**

The push-pull hypothesis of migration holds that factors that push people to leave their home countries and ones that pull them to certain receiving nations are what really generate migration. The common economic push factors highlighted by informants in all case studies included poverty, poor agricultural production, landlessness, and high rates of unemployment (Adugna, 2011).

According to Agnew (1992), people's unpleasant emotions are brought on by a variety of unfavorable interactions with others around them, which promotes the employment of coping mechanisms. Delinquency may be influenced by children and their relationships with other family members. Children become more susceptible to social issues as a result of the unfavorable interaction. Delinquency primarily happens when parents are distant from their kids. Additionally, inadequate school facilities, parents' or guardians' inability to regulate their children's behavior and ineffective sanctions all contribute to child delinquency (Agniw, 1992). Teenagers lack the ability to negotiate or communicate effectively with their parents, guardians, and teachers since they don't typically express their emotions (Myers et al, 2016).

## **2.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.6.1 WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR**

Children are encouraged to work at a young age as a gateway to adult employment and income, but this can lead to jobs that hinder growth and development. (Basu, 2009).

Working children are compelled to work long hours without rest, in small areas with inadequate illumination, and with tools too large for them. They are more vulnerable to exploitation and sexual abuse as they get younger. (Basu, 2009).

Child labor deprives children of their right to education and harms their physical, moral and mental development, violating international law and national legislation. (Basu, 2009).

## **2.7 WHERE CHILDREN WORK**

### **2.7.1 Work in the informal sector**

The informal economy is a major source of child labor in poor nations, as it lacks employment security, compensation, and recourse for protection. It covers a wide range of jobs such as farming, domestic work, artisanal manufacturing operations, mining, and street vending( Pierce et al., 2014).

### **2.7.2 Work in urban environments**

Due to a larger availability of children who need to work when people relocate from rural regions to towns and cities, child labor is a problem in practically all large cities and towns in the developing world. Urban poverty is often the outcome, and many of these working youngsters reside in unsanitary slum areas and work in substandard conditions. Children who work fall within this broad category. Some of these kids live on the streets while the majority live at home with their family. Children typically do not keep their earnings for themselves unless they are living independently, and the money they bring home might be crucial to their family's livelihood (Fields, 2015).

### **2.7.4 Children in manufacturing**

Many thousands of kids work in manufacturing facilities, particularly in developing nations, creating a variety of commodities like clothing, toys, matches, brassware, soccer balls, etc. These production facilities can be relatively large, but they tend to be quite tiny and labor-intensive, therefore most tasks are carried out by hand rather than by machines. The kids typically perform their work inside while being closely watched. The creation of minor things or even complete carpets that have been farmed out to them on a piecework basis can also take place within families, including the entire family (Pierce et al, 2014).

## **2.8 Causal Factors for engaging Child Lab our abuse**

### **2.8.1 The Social**

168 million kids worldwide are employed (due to poverty); they make a few cents per hour, and they simply do not have the time to attend school and enhance their prospects. These kids are made to labor in domestic settings, factories, mines, plantations, and often as sex workers. Like

other nations in Sub-Saharan Africa, many people in Ethiopia enter the workforce before the age of 15 and with little to no formal schooling. Additionally, the majority of Ethiopian kids who took part in these activities work to support their families and their way of life (Abebe, 2019). Due to these circumstances, the majority of youngsters (88.6%) struggle academically; of these, 12–14% were in primary school (KUMAR, 2017). There are other important probable social linked elements that have direct and indirect linkages to trafficking and are not solely responsible for the problem in Ethiopia. These include a variety of social factors, such as the low status of women, which contributes to low self-esteem, structural vulnerability, marginalization due to illiteracy, and the isolation of rural areas in relation to the process of social development or lack thereof. Unfortunately, in a country like Ethiopia, children are growing without proper parenting and children are servants due to the cultural ideologies of rural areas (Howard, 2015).

### **2.8.2 The Economic Factor**

According to (Akor, 2017), the major risk factors that contribute to and encourage kids to leave their home country and look for a new place to live are their parents' financial hardship, their parents' lack of employment, the state of the social infrastructure, the minimum wage, inflation, social unrest, breakup of the family, abuse, gangs, and homelessness. Also concurred that a number of reasons, such as escalating family poverty, ongoing family unemployment, worsening living conditions, conflicts, street children, shattered families, human plight, and hopelessness, contributed to child trafficking in the area (Akor, 2017).

The ILO has put up a convention to draw attention to extreme types of child labor, but successful implementation is dependent on political will, funding, criteria for recognizing abusive conditions, and effective action. Governments must also work together to combat poverty, provide education, and protect children from abuse. (Akor, 2017).

### **2.8.3 Marital Problem**

Parents' marital issues have frequently been blamed for putting their kids in these difficult situations. Numerous changes are occurring in the family institution, and fewer and fewer kids are growing up in secure and loving homes. Many families have disintegrated, leaving the youngsters on their own. Increasingly, missing parents, poor parent-child communication, alcoholism, and domestic violence are also characteristics of many households. To avoid violence and abuse in the home, many kids flee to the migration (Lipton, 2018).

#### **2.8.4 Poverty**

The most common explanations for why the majority of youngsters are working in exploitative jobs are economic ones. One of the main causes of child labor in Ethiopia is poverty and the issues that surround it. According to a 2010 poll done in Ethiopia, almost 90% of the youth engaged in productive labor indicated that their motivation was to either increase or supplement the family's income (23.8%). (66.0 present).

#### **2.8.5 Cultural Pressure**

Another aspect that draws kids to the labor market is culture. Many societies have a culture that forces kids to start working at an early age due to customs and other cultural aspects. Families with children typically believe that youngsters should learn skills that will be beneficial to them in the future. Parents in rural Guatemala prefer their kids to work because they think it will help them develop work skills (Abebe, 2019).

### **2.9 Impact of child labor abuse**

#### **2.9.1 Work-related illness and injury**

Child labor abuse translates into greater incidence of work-related illness and injury in most countries. The ILO had estimated that the worldwide incidence of work-related injuries among children as 4.3 percent, or 10 million injured children, with 22,000 deaths every year (Raqib, 2018). In the United States, a child dies and 135 get injured every three days because of agriculture-related work. In Bangladesh, 2.3 percent of working children had work-related injuries. Another study in a brick manufacturing industry in Nepal found working children were eight times more likely to have musculoskeletal issues compared to non-working group (Joshi, 2013).

### 2.9.2 Education impacts of children's work

Teenagers who work in hazardous occupations sometimes drop out of school earlier than other employed teens, which may affect their chances of making it big in life and landing respectable jobs down the road. Even while these fundamental connections do not allow for an assessment of the causative relationship between hazardous work and schooling, less schooling undoubtedly restricts the job options for teenagers and makes them more receptive to those jobs that are dangerous (Kumar, 2017).

### 2.9.3 The Physical Impacts Of Children's Work

The majority of health and safety research has focused on occupations and working conditions that are already known to pose serious risks to children. Risky activities include, for example, handling toxic chemicals, molten metals, or glass, lifting extremely heavy items, using dangerous equipment, or coming into contact with lethal illnesses. As might be expected, the majority of these studies show a connection between labor and negative health effects, but it's fascinating to note that some of the specific problems were previously unknown. The health, nutrition, or overall physical development of some young people who work under physically demanding employment conditions has been observed to be unexpectedly normal, or even better than that of peers who do not work or who work in different jobs. Making no assumptions, gathering field data, and keeping an eye out for both short- and long-term good and negative consequences are all part of the lesson (Kumar, 2017).

### 2.9.4 The Psychosocial Impact Of Children's Work

More often than not, labor has a more significant negative impact on children's mental and social development than on their physical growth. Children's labor might have profoundly detrimental psychosocial impacts, but they can also have generally uplifting ones (Kumar, 2017).

Generally, child laborers can suffer from long-term health problems due to malnutrition, exposure to chemicals, abuse, injuries, exhaustion and psychological harm.

- **In agriculture**, children may be exposed to toxic pesticides or fertilizers. They work with dangerous blades and tools and carry heavy loads.
- **In mining**, children may use poisonous chemicals, face the risk of mine collapse, and sometimes work with explosives.

- **In construction**, children may carry heavy loads, work at heights without safety equipment, and risk injury from dangerous machinery.
- **In manufacturing**, children may use toxic solvents, perform repetitive tasks in painful positions, and risk injury from sharp tools.
- **In domestic work**, children risk abuse, work long hours, and often live in isolation from their families and friends.

It is also true that children who work often don't get a proper education. Long, strenuous work days can leave kids exhausted and unable to attend classes or do their homework. For parents who are struggling to keep their families afloat, sending kids to school is a luxury they cannot afford.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Introduction

This section illustrates an overview of the method of research that was employed in this study. Under this section, research design, sampling technique, method of data collection, types of data, instruments of data collection, observation, and ethical consideration are discussed.

#### 3.2 Study area description

Welkite (also transliterated Wolkite is a town and separate woreda in south-western Ethiopia. The administrative center of the GURAGE of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), this town has a latitude and longitude of 8°17'N 37°47'E and an elevation between 1910 and 1935 meters above sea level. It is surrounded by cheha woreda.

Welkite is located in the northern part of the south- Nations- nationalities and peoples region (northern SNNPR) many ethnic groups live together. Our study area Wolkite is a town and separate woreda in southwestern Ethiopia. Based on the 2007 census conducted by the central statistical agency, wolkite town has a total population of 28, 866, of whom 15,074 are men and 13, 792 women. The plurality of the inhabitants practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, with 48.17% of the population reporting that belief, while 42.31% were Muslim, 7.86% were Protestants, and 1.34% were catholic ( [https:// en.m Wikipedia. Org/ wiki/ wolkite –Ethiopia](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/wolkite-Ethiopia)). The 1994 national census reported this town had a total population of 15,329 of whom 7,580 were men and 7,749 were women. In the villages around Welkite there are believed to be about 1,000 speakers of Gumuz, who are a Nilo-Saharan people whose homeland straddles the border between Ethiopia and Sudan

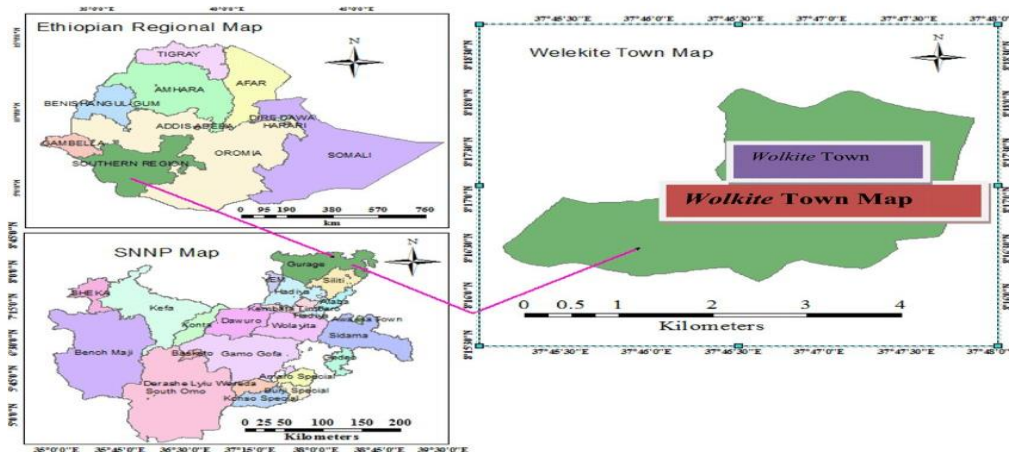


Figure 2. the administrative map of Wolkite town. Source. Google Map, 2023 .

### 3.3 Target Population

The target population of the study implies the unit of analysis that was included in the study area. For this study, a Child is defined as a person below the age of 18 years (ILO, 2019). Those under the age of 18 are considered children for the purposes of this study. The units of analysis in this study were child laborers, social affairs, community elders, and parents. This study included children with an age range of 5–17. The children were selected based on the parameters outlined by ILO (2019). Accordingly, the International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour and children as children up to the age of 17 who are economically active, with the exception of those under the age of five and those over the age of 17. While selecting these individuals, the researchers protected the confidentiality of informants by clarifying the objectives of the research and by explaining about their data were employed only for research purposes.

### 3.4 The Research Approach

The research approach employed to this study was qualitative research approach; the qualitative approach is a type of research approach which is defining the collected data by statement (Amir, 2004). The reasons to used qualitative approach was to achieve the objective of this research via advantage features, for instant qualitative research approach enable us to deal with large-scale investigations, qualitative Research has a more real feel as it deals with human experiences and observations, qualitative Research allows the researchers to provide a more generalized data and focus group discussion, interview and observation which are non-numerical analysis are more appropriate to collect data from informant (Creswell, 2019).

### **3.5 Research design**

This study employed phenomenological research design. Since it is appropriate to investigate and discover answer for these research objectives. It was able to have a deep investigation into the livelihood challenges and to know the impacts of Child Labour Abuse through there life experience. The major goals of this study were to investigate the pull and push factors of rural to urban child migration, the possible areas of working force to be engaged and the impacts of engaging in abusive labor on their social wellbeing (Simmon et at., 2016).

### **3.6 Sources of Data**

To conduct this study the researchers employed both primary data, which the researchers gather from the field, and secondary data. The reason why the researchers employed primary data was because of its effectiveness to obtain necessary information. And whereas secondary data for this study were gathered from different document review, relevant published and unpublished materials about child urban to rural migration and child labour abuse.

### **3.7 Methods of data collection**

#### **3.7.1 In-depth interview**

The researchers employed semi-structured interviews. Researchers used specific types of conversation or speech events to investigate informants' experiences and interpretations. Because it is appropriate to generate in-depth information from respondents, it is flexible to know the researcher's respondent`s response more deeply. The researcher gathered detailed information about the subjective experiences of children from a purposefully selected group of 15, 5-17-year-old, children who migrated from rural to urban, as well as 5 parents. The interview questions take maximum 30 minutes with each child and parent. The criteria to select those informants was the children's age, as the World Health Organization defines children as "under 18" and from the ILO definition of child labor (children who engaged in economic activity aged 5-17), children engaged in abusive work, and children who migrated from rural to urban. The researchers conducted in-depth interviews with children who have worked or migrated from rural to urban areas for at least one year in Wolkite Town, as inclusion criteria. Children who have not lived for one year, non-workers, and those who have mental disorders that have been identified by medical checkups were excluded. And the parent participant inclusion criteria were if their children are engaged in labor and have lived in Wolkite town at least for one year.

### **3.7.2 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

In addition, focus group discussion (FGD) was used as part of a data collection method. In FGD, the participant's multidimensional discussion within the group was collected. Individuals who are familiar with this issue were making the discussion more valid and reliable (Twycross, 2014). The selection of discussant for FGD was made through purposive sampling, and one focus group discussions were conducted with six participants. The children who have not lived for one year, the non-workers, and those who have mental disorders that have been identified by medical checkups were excluded. This technique was used to extract information in a participatory manner so that the perception and view of the children can be captured and interpreted.

### **3.7.3 Key informant interview**

Key informant interviews are qualitative interviews with people who know what is going on in the community (Tremblay, 2017). The key informants that were involved in this interview were two community elders and four personnel who work on women's and children's affairs. Six informants were taken to the key informant interview.

### **3.8 Sampling procedure**

To complete this research, the researchers were employed a non-probability sampling technique in which respondents were selected through purposive sampling techniques. Purposive sampling refers to a group of non-probability sampling techniques in which units are selected because they have characteristics that you need in your sample. In other words, units are selected "on purpose" in purposive sampling (Nikolopoulou, 2022). This sampling technique is best suited when it is difficult to determine the probability of any given element being selected in a sample. The purposive sampling method was used in this research for key informants, in-depth interviews, and focus-group discussions.

### **3.9 Method of data analysis and data presentation**

The study were employed a thematic qualitative method of data analysis to present the data. Focus group discussion (FGD), in-depth interview, and key informant interview data were analyzed using the thematic qualitative method of data analysis. Thematic analysis helps to identify, analyze, and interpret patterns in qualitative data. Data was recorded by taking detailed notes and cassette recordings, and it was easy to draw important information from the raw data. At the end of each fieldwork session, researchers were discuss the findings, describe

respondents in terms of key variables, order the data, reduce them, classify or code them, display and summarize them, and finally, interpret and draw conclusions about the data.

### **3.10 Data quality Assurance/control mechanism**

To enhance the reliability and validity of the data, the researchers were performing data quality assurance. The researchers were use silent voice recording based on duration by branching, skipping, filtering, looping, and piling of questions and responses for consistency checks. The researchers as well as cross-checked the collected data from FGDS, key informant interviews and in-depth interview. And to some extent the researchers crosschecked their findings with previous studs. And the validity of the method was improved by knowing the actual behavior of the respondents while the data is being collected. This means that respondents were requested and conducted interviews while they were in good health.

### **3.11 Ethical considerations**

Research needs ethics for any type of human activity. Therefore, the researchers were apply the following ethics to this research: First, the researcher were received letters from the department about the legality of the investigation by applying institutional law, which gives consent for the research; second, the researcher were give information to the informants about the confidentiality of their information. The informants were participating voluntarily, and they were not used force to answer questions they did not want to answer. For children under the age of 18, their parent or guardian were take responsibility, so the researcher ask permission from their parent or guardian by informing them about the objective and purposes of the study and having a one-on-one discussion with the child.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the analysis and discussion interpretation using thematic qualitative data analysis methods of primary data that has been collected through qualitative in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussion accounts, as in the section examining what makes the children migrate from rural to urban, the engaging area of children, and the impact of being laborers on their social well-being.

#### 4.2 Demographic Analysis

**Table 1; demographic Distribution of children respondent**

Item	Frequency
<b>Age of children</b>	
15-17	9
10-14	4
5-9	2
<b>Gender of respondent</b>	
Female	6
Mal	9
<b>Educational status of children</b>	
1-4/primary education	5
5-8/junior education	8
9-12/high school	2
<b>Marital status of respondent</b>	
Unmarried	13
Marred	2
<b>Job status of children's family</b>	
Farmer	8

<b>Small scale merchant</b>	2
<b>Daily labour</b>	3
<b>Pensioned</b>	1
<b>No job</b>	1
<b>No of family members</b>	
<b>1-4</b>	5
<b>5-7</b>	10
<b>Length of period in labour</b>	
<b>1 year</b>	8
<b>2 year</b>	7

Source; developed by researchers

As shown in the above table, a total of fifteen migrant child laborers and five parents participated in the interview and focus group discussion. Six community elders and personnel participated in the key informant interview. Children in the age range of 5–17 years were used for the study. More than half of the respondents (nine children) were in the age group of 15–17 years. About four children were in the age group of 10–14 years, and only two children were in the youngest age group (5–9 years old). As revealed in the study, eight rural-urban child migrants attained their junior education level (5-8), while five children attended primary education (1–4) and two children attended high school (9–12), respectively. And also, the majority of the migrant children (therein) in the study areas were unmarried, and a list of them were married (one respondent who lives with a partner) and one child separated from their partners as of the time of their migration, respectively. Out of the total sample of rural-urban labor migrants, six were female migrants, while the remaining nine were male migrants. Furthermore, eight of the child laborers were from farming families. Other occupations of the respondents' families were: two children from a small-scale merchant family; three children from a daily labor family; one child from a pensioned family; and one respondent's family had no jobs at the time of the study. Household heads employment status affects child labor negatively. This means that children from better-employed household heads were more likely to be engaged in school, but children from non-better-employed families were more likely to be engaged in labor than children from better-employed household heads. This result was also confirmed by Tharmapornphilas (2009). Five children had four family members, and the list of ten mentions that they had five or more family members. Household size was found to be negatively associated with the incidence of child

labor. Children from households of size 6 or above were less likely to be engaged in child labor. This finding is consistent with that of Laurent and Sebastian (2010). From fifteen children, eight children were engaged in labor for one year's length, and seven children had been on work for two years.

**Table 2; demographic information of parents and key informants**

<b>Parent or care giver respondents demography</b>	
<b>Gender of respondent</b>	
<b>Female</b>	3
<b>Mal</b>	2
<b>Job statues of the respondents</b>	
<b>Small scale merchant</b>	3
<b>No job</b>	2
<b>No of family member of the respondent</b>	
<b>1-4</b>	2
<b>5-7</b>	3
<b>Key informants demography</b>	
<b>Status of respondents</b>	
<b>Community elder</b>	2
<b>Women's and children's affair personnel</b>	4
<b>Gender of respondent</b>	
<b>Female</b>	2
<b>Mal</b>	4

Source; developed by researchers

As shown in the above table, about the parents or car giver, there are three females with four and three family members working on a small-scale merchant or guilt and two men with four and six family members. Finally, for the key informant interview participants' social status in the community, four were community elders, one female and two men, and two personnel, one man and a woman, related to the women's and children's affairs office.

### 4.3 The push and pull factor of rural to urban child migration

Children at an early age are expected to be in school and engage in other constructive activities like playing with their peer groups, but in developing countries like Ethiopia, they are forced to take up responsibilities at an early age, either because of pressure from their parents, their relatives, other individuals, or their own respective living situations (Admassie, 2018). As a result, many children voluntarily or involuntarily migrated from rural to urban areas and entered the labor market either to meet their personal needs or family subsistence. At the time of data collection, rural-to-urban migrants who engaged in labor were provided with open-ended questions that contained statements on the reasons why they left their place of origin. In response to this question, rural-to-urban migrants who engaged in labor identified some push and pull factors that they assumed were responsible for rural-to-urban migration in the study areas. There are many things, natural or man-made, in the rural parts of Ethiopia that push children to urban areas.

#### 4.3.1 Push factors for rural to urban child migration

In the context of welkite Town, there are different factors that contribute to the involvement of children in rural-to-urban migration.

##### 4.3.1.1 Poverty

According to the findings of the study's KIs, FGD, and in-depth interviews, the majority of participants indicated that poverty were a driving force behind children's relocation. Additionally, it was rated as a strong motivator.

One of the 16-year-old respondents in the in-depth interview worked at a PlayStation and shared information about how poverty forced her to leave her place.

*“I really wanted to go to school, but I can't since I have so many siblings. I felt sorry for my father since if I persisted in my studies, I would only make things worse for him. I have numerous brothers and sisters, which is why. They must be sent to school by him. What would happen if I persisted on carrying on with my studies? Eighth grade was now complete. I therefore believed that my siblings should get an education now. I'd simply go to work. I could aid both my father and my siblings in that way. There's no need for my father to be the sole one in need of money. Being poor is challenging.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

Similar to the in-depth interview participants (#F1 and F2), from FGD claim to be from Jimma as well Ages 16 and 17 respectively, According to them, poverty is the main driver of migration from rural to urban areas. And if the children were not born in poor family they wouldn't have been migrated to urban for work.

As a result, the findings state that the respondent moved from rural to urban areas as a result of their own and their family's poverty. Their inability to live comfortably and the size of their family make it difficult for them to get an education. Thus, they favor moving outside in order to earn money and support their family, which includes themselves and their siblings. Children occasionally relocate from rural to urban areas in an effort to ease the financial strain on their families. As we can deduce from the informant's response, children are compelled by poverty to take on significant home duties.

#### *4.3.1.2 Disintegration of family/loss of parents*

The breakdown of families or the death of parents is the other driving force. Children who were asked about the reason for their move cited the death of a family member and the breakdown of their family as the factor. From in-depth interview, informant #I2, say that;

*“Since dad was the only one in our family who worked in agriculture and paid for our needs, his death drastically altered our way of life. My mother then delivers me to my uncle. I was working as a housemaid in his home even though he took me in and took care of me. I then made the decision to leave the house and return to my mother. Without my father, living with my mother was extremely challenging, so a few months later I arrived here.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

In-depth interviews with two boys aged 14 and 10 reveal that their family's separation had a big impact on their migration.

*“When our mother and father got divorced, our family began pressuring her to reconcile with our father, so she brought us to Wekite”(from #I3 and I4, In-depth interview, 2023).*

The other respondent asserted that they relocated to Welkite Town as a result of financial difficulties brought on by their family's dissolution. In-depth interviews with the other two participants revealed that they cited family separation as a reason for their migration.

*“My name is #15, I am 14 years old. I live with my mother. We come from Qulit. My mother and father divorced then As a result, we fell into poverty. Then we come to welkite then I started work then I was unable to study so I dropout. Now my daily income is 150-200.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

*“My name is #16; I am from Dauro, now I live in Wolkite. In my opinion, the main reason why a child migrated from a rural to urban is because of family loss, or if a child lost his family due to divorce.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

*17 years old from in-depth interview “Lack of family makes the pressure of one going from place to place lack of foster parents is very difficult if you lose your family you will be dispersed and you will drop out of school. I would not have come here if my mother was alive.” (#17, In-depth interview, 2023)*

As a consequence, respondents said that an unstable living environment, such as one brought on by a family separation that affects the family unit in general and the children in particular, is the main motivation behind rural to urban child migration. As we can infer from the research, the children may choose to go away with or without their parents because they will be confused and struggling due to family issues.

#### **4.3.1.3 Poor social service**

Social services are a range of public services including to provide support and assistance towards particular society and they may provide by individuals, private and independent organization, or administrated by a government agency (Nicoli, 2015). As the result of this study lack of school, in addition to this, unsuitable road to reach the school are the factor behind children's migration.

*“I pass many complicated ways to reach my school when I learn 1-10,” said #16, a 17-year-old boy. “But when I completed 10th grade, there was no preparatory school, so I decided to come here and live with my father's relatives, and I started working to finance my education fee.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

In accordance with above respondent, informant #I8 says;

*"The school was so far from my home; I was so tired to go through that all-long way to learn, so I missed class without knowledge of my parents, and then I dropped out and came here to work."(In-depth interview, 2023)*

Lack of access to education appears to decrease children's attendance at school and may raise the likelihood of intermigration and child labour. It seems that having low accessibility to better public services, especially education, is the main factor.

#### ***4.3.1.4 Poor child care culture***

According to data from KIs, #K1, community elders that inadequate child care are the main cause of children moving from rural to urban areas.

*"When a family disregards the wants and needs of the kids, fails to protect the kids, and refuses to pay the kids' school fees, the kids will choose migration over staying put to meet their needs."(Key informant interview 2023)*

From the outcome of Children participate in the rural-to-urban migration and work to pay for shoes, clothes, stationary, etc In addition to their need for food. However, because of their extreme poverty, parents pay little attention to these needs and primarily worry about their children's nutritional needs. This gradually encourages kids to go from the countryside to cities and participate in productive occupations without realizing how it affects their development.

The most productive children are those who are handled normally by their parents. On the other hand, when parents are unable to accommodate their children's interests, the circumstances may force youngsters to migrate to other locations in order to meet their demands.

#### ***4.3.1.5 Children's families' low value for education***

Respondents mention that their parents did not believe that educating their children was best for them. Children complained that they had to work instead of going to school. Participants in in-depth interviews claim that his family's lack of willingness to provide for his needs for school supplies and other necessities is what drives him out of town. Respondent #I9 say, about the factor that make him migrate, that

*"My parents were quite reluctant and uncomfortable to spend money on school supplies, which is why I came to Welkite. I would frequently argue over whether to buy a pen or an exercise book. I was suggested by a friend to come and work with him here to start making money. In agreement, I informed my loved ones. My mother and father were aware of my desire to work in Wolkite, but they didn't object. I had personally found the employment at the time. I needed to ask my father to buy stuff for me back home, and he wasn't able to afford all I wanted for school, so I wanted to make some money." (In-depth interview, 2023)*

*In addition, they note that information from key informants, community elder #K2, indicates that children's migratory decisions are significantly influenced by rural society's priority for education.*

*"Children's migration is most affected by the value of education because if they are not in school due to their families' and society's value for education, they start looking for better ways to generate money and decide to migrate." (Key informant interview 2023)*

According to research findings, because society sets such a low value on education, it sends kids to work. Lack of schools and educational resources may result from the legal emphasis placed on education. Children are more likely to drop out of school because of the unfavourable learning environment, and fathers who engage in work will start looking for better ways to grow their businesses. As a result, they may choose to move.

#### ***4.3.1.6 Domestic violence***

Also, domestic violence is the main trigger factor for rural-to-urban child migration. Child migrants face different forms of domestic/physical violence such as beating at their home of origin. Therefore, when children faced domestic or physical violence they prefer to migrate to make economically independent or to make sure about their freedom and this result is in line with the study conducted by Menjivar(2013). the 16-year-old respondent from in-depth interview says that;

*"I was a regular student, although I occasionally got in trouble for not turning in my schoolwork on time. But math was a hard problem to solve. My father was quite critical of my academic performance. He thrashed me and advised me to raise my grade, but I*

*began to completely lose interest in school and in my eighth grade, I failed my most dreaded subject. My parents urged me to avoid the exam, but I refused since it would be embarrassing to be seated among less-prepared kids while my peers and friends would be studying to a higher degree. After my father mercilessly beat me, I made the decision to live in the house and take responsibility for my own life. This made me want to flee. (From informant #I10, 2023)*

Because of abuse, violence, or neglect at home or at school, children may abandon their homes. As a result, it's possible that rural to urban child migration can occur. Children relied on their family for financial support. Money can provide children independence since it enables them to buy things for themselves, receive assistance, and eventually support themselves.

#### **4.3.1.7 Sessional factors**

The data from key informants, #K3, women's and children affair says that most of the families that engage in child labour largely depend on agriculture as a major source of their income.

*“We all know that the bulk of rural residents depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Additionally, a lot of rural families employ their kids as a labour force and help on the farm, so when farming seasons end, the kids will be idle. In addition, if the kids aren't in school, they have a good chance of getting a job.”(Key informant interview 2023)*

Therefore, during harvest seasons, one would be working in agriculture in communities that are agricultural. But after the harvest season was through, the children would start seeking for other sources of cash, which eventually led them to go to a small nearby town to look for work. For kids who don't go to regular school, this sessional child labour is important. Additionally, a male participant who is 17 years old mentioned that he usually migrates during the off-farming season.

#### **4.3.1.8 Displacement due to war**

Conflict is a factor in children moving from rural to urban areas, according to critical information interviews with women and children's issues and in-depth interviews with children. A 13-year-old child, #I11, said;

*“I was smart in class, but I stopped going to school and moved to Welkite due of political disputes in my community. When a fight started in the neighbourhood, my father sent me here (to the city). He sent me to enable me to attend school. I was given to a distant relative who promised to send me to school, but when they were unable to enrol me, I stopped attending and began working to support myself.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

Intermigration may result from forced displacement brought on by war or other conflict, according to data from key informants. The conversation with important witnesses from the gender and child office scandal, #K3, says;

*“Many children come to Wolkite with their families, and some of the children start working to support their parents and to overcome the economic struggle caused by their loss of a resident place and job.”(Key informants interview, 2023)*

Therefore, as the study demonstrates, migration may be a result of conflicts and insecurity. Along with research finding of Morrissey (2011), instability pushes a person to make decision of migration. So when exposed to violence and turmoil, youngsters will decide whether to move to surrounding towns with their families or on their own. Therefore, the security issue would result in population displacement.

#### **4.3.2 Pull factors of rural to urban child migration**

The engagement of children in rural-to-urban migration is influenced by a variety of circumstances in the setting of Welkite Town.

##### **4.3.2.1 Expectation**

In addition to receiving false information about town life from their peers, many kids are drawn to the fashion trends and technological advancements of their peers. One of respondents, #I12, was mentioned expectation of great city life as result of false or exaggerated history of his friend as a factor.

*"The incident was that a young boy who travelled to Welkite returned to my village with new clothes and a mobile phone," a 15-year-old child claims. My pals and I spoke about it and asked this man how he managed to do it. He then told us that there was a*

*job possibility in Welkite if we went there. We made this decision quickly. (In-depth interview, 2023)*

In accordance with finding of Dolfin (2020), expose the power of network and information as a factor of migration, so expectation is one of the primary drivers of child migration is the anticipation of greater chances in the receiving region, higher predicted incomes in urban centres, and more employment options in cities. A few kids decide to migrate after hearing about other people's successes.

#### **4.3.2.2 Beater job opportunity/family remittance**

One of the primary causes of child migration is, according to key informants and child workers, a lack of employment options and lower salaries in their home countries. A 17-year-old boy, #I13, cites the need for better employment as the primary driver of his rural eviction.

*“When I realized that I could move to the city and change my work and increase my income, I made the decision to come here. I started working as a taxi assistant, and the income exceeded my previous income. I was earning an income by horseback riding; it was so difficult for me to change jobs because of the luck of job opportunities.” (In-depth interview, 2023)*

Attractive stories of city life from peers misinformation or the attraction of city life might factor into people’s decision to migrate or send their children towards urban centres with hopes of finding a better job

#### **4.4 The possible areas of the working force to be engaged**

According to the findings of the study, migrant children would, in one way or another, participate in labour because, after they migrated, they were at risk of becoming child labourers. There are many areas of engagement to work in, but based on the respondent’s responses, the labour that is frequently mentioned is the following;

#### 4.4.1 Domestic worker

A child domestic servant is a child under 18 who performs domestic chores in his or her employer's household with or without remuneration. Domestic workers often live in their employer's house and work within the premises of the house. A 14-year-old child, #I14, says

*"In a family of six kids, I'm the oldest. My father abruptly lost some money that our wealthy neighbourhood owed him. He quickly became unable to support us, which resulted in huge economic losses for the home. My mother couldn't take care of the family by herself. My mother sent me to Wolkite when I was ten years old, along with a woman. I am aware that I am performing domestic work and supporting my mother since this woman's business involved removing women and children from the village and placing them in Wolkite households as domestic help."* (In-depth interview, 2023)

14 years old child, #I8, from in-depth interview say;

*I have done household chores such as cleaning the house and washing dishes. (In-depth interview, 2023)*

From in-depth interview with parents they mention house hold chores as a destination for child migrants. So that children after migrating to urban area there probability of engage in house hold chore is, it might be paid or unpaid, common.

#### 4.4.2 Working on the Street

Many young people support themselves by labouring on the streets. In-depth interviews and information from key informants indicate that there is a substantial likelihood that kids would engage in street jobs like selling goods and carrying large objects. From in-depth interview two participants say;

*"My name is #I5, I come from Dauro, now I live in Wolkite and I work listro, I earn 150-200 birr and I spent 11 hour on work daily."*

*"My name is #I7. I come from Wolita Sodo. I live in Gubre. I am 17 years old. I sell lottery. I work 1-12 hours a day and earn 70-100 birr."* (In-depth interview, 2023)

Children who work on the streets often do petty jobs available on the streets. Children responded that they were street labourers and were employed to sell small items on the streets; carry household goods or items near or around market places and to and from grinding mills; and carry passenger bags and other goods around bus stations. Coffee vending, shoe shining, daily labourer and lottery selling are the possible area of children on street after migration.

#### **4.4.3 Employment in the private sector**

Many respondents worked in private organizations like cafes, bars, and restaurants. Respondents working in private organizations mentioned that they served as waiters, providing coffee, tea, or meal service in restaurants and bars.

From FGD child participant, #F3 was engaged in private sector and say;

*“I work in cafe bay wittering people, by washing dishes and cleaning the cafe.”(FGD, 2023)*

Therefore children may engage in private sector like café, bar, restaurant as waiters and cleaner. Therefore, it seems that the rural-urban migrants are engaging mostly in service sectors in the study areas and the finding is in agreement with the study conducted by Holden (2104).

#### **4.5 Abusive labour tasks impact on children**

The effects of child work on children's social well-being (on their education, health, and social connection with their peer group) were clarified by informants and discussants from various communities in this theme. Children's education, social interactions with their peers, health, and social well-being are all significantly impacted by child work.

##### **4.5.1 Education**

Two-thirds of them worked longer than ten hours a day. Moreover, the results of the FGD indicated that they were forced to work on weekends and holidays. Some of the domestic workers did all types of household and private sector work without discrimination. FGD discussant #IF4, F1 and F2 mentioned that;

*"As I finish one type of work, I have to continue another one, and so on until all is complete"(FGD, 2023)*

*"I am sixteen years old and I have dropped out of seventh grade and I am working. the length of my working hours is from two o'clock in the morning to three o'clock in the evening." (FGD, 2023)*

*"Am fourteen years old and I was in seventh grade and now I have dropped out and am working." (FGD, 2023)*

Alike the research finding from, labour has significant impact on children's schooling, Kusumawardhani (2022). Therefore this study also identified that child labour has negative impact on children's education. Because of lack of the draw and interest after a long work day, it is perceived that child labour migration reduces educational opportunities and attainment. But migration can have a positive impact on education as well. The majority of children in the study area have attended primary school; most of them were not at school during the study. According to the results of the FGD, the major reasons mentioned for not attending school are "not being able to afford to pay for tuition, absence of time (working for long periods of time), being too tired to go to school in the evening, and a few of them mentioned lack of permission from employers."

#### **4.5.2 Social interaction with their peers**

Children's Social interaction is necessary with their peer group while they are on developing stage. Because every child should pass through minimal interaction to their full development so as concern of this research the researcher's investigated labourer children social interaction with their peer group to identify how their work is affecting their development. Social interaction of children in the study area were less because of their crowded full time work.

From FGD most of children work for long time daily starting from morning till the end of the night. #F4, 15 years old child says that;

*"I spent my time on work all day." (FGD, 2023)*

Most of them did not interact with their peers for long periods of time because of their labour responsibilities. According to Hall (2017), for a child to develop in a healthy and normal way, it is necessary to meet not only the basic needs of protection, food, and health but also the basic needs of affection, interaction, stimulation, and learning through exploration and discovery. Therefore, the loss of affection, full time work and long-term separation of child labourers from the family environment observed in the present study are not healthy for children's social development.

### 4.5.3. Health Problems

Most of them reported previously encountering one or more health problems (from in-depth interview). Respiratory tract illnesses and skin diseases were the major health problems mentioned. They were experiencing one or more health problems, like According to the respondents, malaria-like illnesses had signs and symptoms such as headache, fever, sweating, and shivering. And also, respiratory tract illnesses are more common and are characterized by chest pain, cough, fever, and purulent sputum. Shortage of time and lack of washing facilities (particularly in the case of street labourers) seem to be the reasons for not washing frequently. In accordance with finding of (Joshi, 2013) Most children wash once every two weeks, and children once within a month. From the results about health and Hagen, clothing, shoe wearing, personal hygiene, etc. revealed that street labourers had dirty, old, and torn clothing, and most of them were without shoes, which exposed them to skin disease. However, it is believed that the major factor in poor personal hygiene seems to be a lack of time and knowledge about the effect of personal hygiene and sanitation on their health. Participant from in-depth interview, #I8, say that;

*“14 years old child say that I work listro to help my mom and some time I encounter aye problems.”(In-depth interview, 2023)*

16 years old child from in-depth interview, #I1, say;

*“I was working inside household chores such as washing a lot of people's clothes, cleaning the house and washing dishes. During this time I also suffered some injuries because of overworking.”(In-depth interview, 2023)*

Community elder from key informant, #K4, interviews say;

*“Children migrate from rural areas to cities due to problems, such as loss of parent, poverty, and lack of awareness. I think that these children come to the city to do heavy work that is beyond their capacity like listro holding have things and house in individual house. The effect of being labour is enormous on their health because they usually married to different types of addictions, abused and when a child work, they may lose their body and they will also expose to mental problems. (Key informant interview, 2023)*

In accordance with finding of Feleke (2015), wellbeing of children who migretede and engaged in labour are vulnerable, also in this in this investigation finding children’s educational status is evident for their vulnerability. The most of the children were attained their primary and junior school before migration but after migration they dropped out because of lack of time, loss of energy and low income that even not enough for schooling materials and fees.

In conclusion, the present study indicated that child labourers could not get the benefit of education as most of the participants are out of school; their health, growth, and development are threatened; they have lost the love, affection, care, and protection of family because they do not visit their families; and they cannot enjoy rest and recreation because they work on weekends and holidays. Information on the number of hours spent at work is of great importance to understanding the extent of child labour. A majority of the respondents were engaged full-time. Concerning average daily working hours, the majority (nine) of respondents worked for more than 10 hours per day, while ten worked for 8–10 hours. Half (six) of the respondents have stayed in the job for more than two years. The child labourers are exploited by working restlessly for long hours and performing the jobs for a very low amount of payment.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. SUMMERY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter include the overall outcomes of the analysed qualitative data, which pass a series of investigations and interpretations, thus resulting in conclusions on the answers in response to the general and specific problems and providing recommendations based on the salient findings of the study.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

Based on the obtained and interpreted data from the informant, the researchers determined the pull and push factors of rural-to-urban child migration, the possible engaging area for work, and the impact of their labour on their social wellbeing. The short summary of this research finding presented as follow.

For objective one, the most important cause of rural to urban child migration is poverty. One of the main causes of rural-to-urban child migration is poverty. But of course, there are other reasons too, such as the following: Disintegrating family or loss of parents; poor social service; poor child care culture; family's low value for education; domestic violence; Sessional factors, such as displacement due to war, are considered push factors that might have contributed to child rural-urban migration and, consequently, to being child labourers. And expectation, better job opportunity, and family remittance as pull factors of rural to urban child migration.

For objective tow, domestic servant is a child who performs domestic chores in his or her employer's household with or without remuneration. Sell items on the streets; carry household goods or items near or around market places and to and from grinding mills; carry passenger bags and other goods around bus stations Coffee vending, shoe shining, daily labourers, lottery selling in private organizations like cafes, bars, and restaurants. Respondents working in private organizations mentioned that they served as waiters, providing coffee, tea, or meal service in restaurants and bars.

For objective three, the present study indicated that child labourers could not get the benefit of education as most of the participants are out of school; their health (the study identified respiratory disease, skin disease, and malaria-like disease); growth and development are threatened; they have lost the love and affection, care, and protection of family because they do not visit their family; they have not had enough time to interact with their peer group; and they cannot enjoy rest and recreation because they work on weekends and holidays.

Many scholarly published research on this area, Akram (2015), WFP (2015), Berhanu(2012), Gray and Mueller (2012) etc. this research goes in accordance with others. But it also has new findings as presented in above.

### 5.3 Conclusions

The main objectives of this study were to identify the push and pull factors of child migration, explore the possible areas of the working force to be engaged, and assess the impact of engaging in abusive labour on their social wellbeing. The researchers focus on child migrants between the ages of 5 and 17, community elders, and personnel in Wolkite Town to attain research questions.

Like other developing countries, the rapid growth of rural-urban migration has been a common phenomenon in Ethiopia, and rural-urban migration is the most crucial component of internal migration. Children leave their homes and homelands for a number of different reasons and in a variety of circumstances. According to the results of this study, rural-urban migration in the study areas was influenced by age. Some groups of children are viewed as more vulnerable to child labour, such as those entering the country as migrants. The research has shown that most of the labourers are from rural areas. As the study shows, there are several factors that pushed these children to work. Results from qualitative studies in-depth interviews, KI interviews, and FGD revealed that conditions such as poverty, disintegration of families or loss of parents, poor social service, poor child care culture, family's low value for education, domestic violence, seasonal factors, and displacement due to war are considered to be push factors that might have contributed to child rural-urban migration and consequently to being child labourers. And expectation, better job opportunity, and family remittance as pull factors of rural to urban child migration. Rural and urban migrant labour children are unprotected working children who are highly vulnerable to exploitation by the work itself and by others. Their lives in labour leave them few opportunities to access basic needs like social interaction with their peers, education,

and basic health services. The study indicated that child labourers are denied the liberating benefit of education; their health, social interaction, and development are threatened; they have lost the love and affection, care, and protection of their families; and they could not enjoy the rest and recreation that are the rights of every child.

## **5.4 Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, we forward the following recommendations that will help to decrease the incidence of rural-to-urban migration and child labour in the study area:

### **Government Authorities**

- The government wants to enhance the skill level of the workers by preparing trainings (such as: the language of destination countries, local customs of destination countries, rights and responsibilities of employees and ways how to respond in cases of cheating and exploitation) and should encourage NGOs involvement in providing information to the migrants. This would avoid exploitations full benefits of migration.
- For many consequences, poverty can be mentioned as a cause. So in order to solve specific problems, government have to elevate poverty and promote sustainable growth and development as a whole.
- That governments and the international community work to establish conditions where children can be safe and secure in their home communities, thereby reducing pressure on children to migrate.
- Regains from which children migrate for economic reasons seek to implement social and economic policies and practices that allow children to develop fully without the need to leave their home communities.
- Rural to urban child migrants and labourers are unprotected workers as well as highly vulnerable to exploitation by the work itself and by others; hence, it is recommended that the concerned government and non-governmental organizations support them in an organized manner and should protect them from abuse verbally, physically, and sexually.
- Family planning and family support programs should be reinforced to create enabling environments for rural families to provide adequate care and support for their children.

- Moreover, their problem is not well understood and is not protected by the community or government. Therefore, intervention areas that should be stressed include providing family support to alleviate poverty.

### **The Households**

- The households should pay any sacrifice to sure their children's welling and needs and could be advised to children's to make their focus on their education.
- The dependency of households on children little room for savings and to keep their education. However, by avoiding this, households should save some amount of money that left from consumption and use for children's education.

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- Labor Law, art. 173 paragraph 1.

# APPENDIX

## WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

### COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

#### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

These questionnaires were provided to gather data about the pull and push factors of rural to urban child migration, the possible areas of the working force to be engaged, and the impacts of engaging in abusive labor on working children's social wellbeing.

- General rules and instructions will be shared with the participants;  
Everyone should participate.  
There is no right or wrong answer, and everyone should share their own thoughts and opinions freely.  
Information provided in the interviews must be kept confidential.
- Demographic information

1 Age of the respondent

2 Gender of respondent

3 Educational statuses

4 Marital Status of the Respondent

5 Job status of the child's family

6 Number of family members

7 Length of period in labor

- In-depth interview for children, respondent aged 14–17

1 In your opinion, do you think that poverty is a push factor to migrate from rural to urban, and if so, how?

2 In your opinion, do you think that disintegration of family or the loss of a parent is a push factor for migration from rural to urban?

3 In your opinion, do you think that poor social service is a push factor for migration from rural to urban?

4 Depending on your experience, do you think that poor child care culture and low value for education are push factors in your rural to urban migration, and how? Explain

5 Depending on your experience, do you think that domestic violence is a push factor in your rural to urban migration, and how? Explain

6 Depending on your experience, do you think that seasonal factors are a push factor in your rural to urban migration, and how? Explain

7 Depending on your experience, do you think that displacement due to war is a push factor in your rural to urban migration, and how? Explain

8 Do you think that expectation is a pull factor for rural to urban migration, and how?

9 Do you think that better job opportunities and family remittances are pull factors for your rural to urban migration, and how?

10 Do you ever have experience working on the street, like coffee vending, shoe shining, daily labourers, or lottery selling?

11 Do you ever participate in the private sector, and what types of work do you participate in?

12 Do you ever have experience working as a domestic worker?

13 Tell me if you are attending formal school; if not, why? Explain

14 Do you think that being lobar has an effect on your social interaction with your peers, and if so, what kind of effect?

15 Do you ever face health problems after you engage in labor? If you do, what kind of diseases have you encountered after you start working?

16 How long have you been in labor?

17 How much do you spend on work?

- Parent/care giver

Demographic information

1 Gender of the respondent

2 job statuses

3 Number of family members

In-depth interview

1 What kinds of activities are your children engaged in?

Tell me if you have any experience with migration and what the reason is.

3 In your view, what are the dangers and risks associated with child labor on their social wellbeing (education, health, and relationship with their peer group)? What are the risks the children face while working? Please mention examples.

- Focus Group Discussion Guide: Children (14–17)

1 Discuss your daily payment, how long your work day is, how long they have been engaged in labor, and what kind of labor they do.

2 Discuss the consequences of your work on their social well-being (education, health, and relationship with their peer group).

3 Discuss how they first migrated and started working. Discuss with the children their motivation for migration.

- Key informant

1 Status of the respondent in the community

## 2 Gender of respondent

### Personnel

- 1 In your experience, what is the pull and push factor of rural to urban child migration?
- 2 From your experience, could you please mention the possible engagement area of children for labor?
- 3 How would you describe the social wellbeing of children who engaged in abusive child labor?
- 4 What should be done for those children who participate in abusive child labor?
- 5 Is there anything else you would like to add before we conclude the interview?

### Community elders

- 1 What are the visible consequences of child labor on their social wellbeing in your community?
- 2 In your view, what are the underlying causes behind children being sent to work?
- 3 From your observation, could you please mention the possible engagement area of children for labor?

**Table 1; demographic Distribution of children respondents**

Item	Frequency
Age of children	
15-17	9
10-14	4
5-9	2
Gender of respondent	
Female	6
Mal	9
Educational status of children	
1-4/primary education	5

5-8/junior education	8
9-12/high school	2
Marital status of respondent	
Unmarried	13
Married	2
Job status of children's family	
Farmer	8
Small scale merchant	2
Daily labour	3
Pensioned	1
No job	1
No of family members	
1-4	5
5-7	10
Length of period in labour	
1 year	8
2 year	7

**Table 2; demographic information of parents and key informants**

Parent or care giver respondents demography	
Gender of respondent	
Female	3
Mal	2
Job statues of the respondents	
Small scale merchant	3
No job	2
No of family member of the respondent	
1-4	2
5-7	3
Key informants demography	
Status of respondents	
Community elder	2

Women's and children's affair personnel	4
Gender of respondent	
Female	2
Mal	4