



The Social Determinants and Impacts of Squatter Settlement on the Delivery of Infrastructure among Urban Squatters. In Case of Some Selected Woredas of Ilu Aba Bor Zone, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia

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Abstract: Squatter settlements are rapidly growing and inevitable phenomena in 21st century in the developing countries. This paper has assessed the existing extent, identified the social determinants and impacts of squatter settlements on the provision of infrastructures among urban squatters, in the case of some selected woredas (districts), of Ilu Aba Bor Zone, Oromia Regional State. The study applied cross sectional descriptive research design using mixed of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The total sample size are 261 respondents (241 households, 20 experts and higher officials) have been involved by using probabilistic sampling, stratified sampling technique and non-probability sampling, purposive sampling technique to select stakeholders, experts and officials from different offices. The study identified, the social determinants of squatter settlement as population growth, shortage of income, rural-urban migration, lack of access to the urban land, long process of municipality, deficits in housing supply, high land market and high house rent. In addition, the study identified the positive impacts of squatter settlements are, they act as a bridge in reducing the gap between housing demand and supply, It's a great role to alleviate housing problem and also created an access for those who did not have access to formal provision of land for housing. Moreover, negative impacts of squatter settlements, are, limited access to infrastructure and services, poor housing condition, no tenure security, social insecurity and instability, flooding problem, inappropriate location, and uneconomic use of land.

Keywords: Squatter settlement, Determinants, Impacts, Provision, urban infrastructures.

INTRODUCTION

Informal settlement (also referred to as a shanty town or squatter settlement) has been defined in various ways depending on the planning and legal framework of a country where it exists. For the purposes of this discussion, informal settlements are defined as residential buildings built on “planned” and “unplanned” areas which do not have formal planning approval. They are characterized mostly by the low-quality houses and the lack of, or

inadequate infrastructure and social services. Informal Settlement (IS) has been perceived both as a problem and solution to housing needs in speedily growing cities of many developing countries. (Srivinas 2005, Jaiswal, & Jaiswal, 2013; Todaro 1994).

In Ethiopia, squatter settlement brings social, economic and political problems. They are characterized mostly by the low-quality houses and the lack of or inadequate infrastructure and social services. Squatter settlements also referred to as squatter housing or shanty towns are dense settlements built and occupied illegally on lands. They are temporary, but good alternatives of shelter for the urban poor who are denied of access to housing. Squatter settlements occur when the current land administration and planning fails to address the needs of the whole community. These areas are characterized by rapid, unstructured and unplanned development (Gondo, 2009).

Thus like most urban centers of the developing countries, Ethiopian cities and towns are presently facing a plethora of problems including acute and ever Worsening housing shortage, insufficient solid and liquid waste management, poorly developed access roads, not obviously clogged and smelly drainage channels, serious shortages of potable water, Inadequate health, educational services, a growing problem of unemployment and poverty.

Like in other parts of Ethiopia, the situation of squatter settlement in I/A/Bor zone is sharing similar vein with other area. Thus, there is need for more place-based studies to show clear pictures about squatter settlement in I/A/Bor Zone. By taking this in to account this study was examine the social determinants and impacts of squatter settlements on the delivery of infrastructure among urban squatters in I/A/Bor Zone some selected woredas (districts).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Informal settlements occur when the current land administration and planning fails to address the needs of the whole community. The informal settlements are characterized by rapid, unstructured and unplanned development. On a global scale informal settlement are a significant problem especially in third world countries housing the world's disadvantaged. (Daniel, 2011; Jaiswal, 2013). Informal settlements are dense settlements comprising communities housed in self-constructed shelters under conditions of informal or traditional land tenure. They are common features of developing countries and are typically the product of an urgent need for shelter by the urban poor (UN Habitat, 2011)

Squatter settlements resulted in diminishing of developable urban land, invasion of lands allocated for social and economic activities in the plan, loss of green areas, reside around river banks and open spaces and misuse of urban lands (MoUDC, 2013).

Furthermore, people who are residing in the squatter settlement are suffering from insecurity of tenure and property right, deficiencies of basic urban services and infrastructures (Teshome, 2008; Jaiswal, 2012). Research papers show that squatter settlement is the problem of urban areas in Ethiopia. The Impact of Horizontal urban expansion on Sub-urban Agricultural Community Livelihood: The Case of Tabor Sub-city, Hawassa town by Firew Bekele (2010), The Causes and Impacts of Squatter Settlement in Harar by: Tibebe Adamu (2011). These studies have focused on the challenges and opportunities as well as prospects come up as a result of urban expansion over periphery. In Ethiopian urban areas, the demand of land for housing is increasing from time to time which resulted in squatter settlement. Hence, Woredas (districts) in I/A/Bor Zone, Oromia regional state areas are affected by growth of squatter settlement. The town is unable to satisfy the ever-increasing housing demand of the dwellers. This is due to inadequate provision of land, the large influx of people from rural areas, and financial limitations of the municipality. Hence, these issues led to the unlimited horizontal urban expansion of the town. As a result, squatter neighborhoods lack basic infrastructures which include narrow local and collector roads, water supply and electricity supply.

Thus, the aforementioned studies were relied up identifying the, opportunities, challenges, and impacts of squatter settlement on the delivery of infrastructure. However, the social determinants that pave the way for squatter settlements were overlooked by these studies. Consequently, the present study was focus on identifying the social determinants and the immediate impacts of squatter settlement on the delivery of infrastructure among urban squatters.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

General Objective

- ❖ The general objective of the study was to investigate the social determinants and impacts of squatter settlement on the delivery of infrastructures among urban squatters in some selected Woredas (districts) of I/A/ Bor Zone.

Specific objectives

- ❖ To assess the extent of squatter settlement in the study area.
- ❖ To identify the social determinants for squatter settlements in the study area.
- ❖ To examine the impacts of squatter settlements on delivery of urban infrastructure on urban squatters.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

Both quantitative and qualitative research approaches were used for the accomplishment of this study. Quantitative research approach deals with collecting and analyzing all numerical data whereas qualitative research approach serves to collect and analyze qualitative data. According to Creswell (2009) employing the combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches simultaneously helps us to triangulate the data which was gathered via several research methods. Neuman (2006) also argued that, the logic of triangulation is based on the idea that looking at something from multiple points of view for accuracy. Triangulation is very helpful in supplementing certain research methods with the others because all social research methods have their own advantages and drawbacks. Thus, using this approach, the researcher was supplementing the methods and check upon over the others.

Hence, data related to social determinants and impacts of squatter settlements on delivery of infrastructure among urban resident which can be quantified was collected and analyzed through quantitative research approach. Whereas, qualitative research method helps the researcher to collect and analyze data that exist in words.

Research design

This study was a kind of descriptive cross-sectional study design. But, when it is necessary the design would be supplemented with approximation of longitudinal survey to collect relevant retrospective data concerning the social determinants and immediate impacts of squatter settlements on delivery of infrastructure among urban squatters. This was having paramount significance to retrieve data about past and current experience of respondents during the data collection session (Babbie 2008).

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTIONS

Questionnaires

Questionnaires are preferred in the study because they give respondents complete freedom of response and are applicable even to the uneducated person. Thus, open ended and closed ended questionnaire were developed based on the objectives of the study.

Interviews

This study conducted structured, semi-structured and unstructured interview. The interviews were applied to obtain information from officials and professionals, town

administration, woreda (district) land development and management offices and municipality.

Field Observation:

It is more focused on the researcher watching (viewing) and listening study elements and taking notes. It also enabled the researcher to see the practical developments and the reality on the ground. In addition, digital camera was applied to take the photos on the availability and accessibility of infrastructure for squatter settlements.

Focused Group Discussion (FGD)

The researcher has made FGD with residents, kebele administration representatives, municipal workers, land development and management experts and municipal experts. The FGD is made 3 times, first with six squatter settlers households in one woreda, second with six agents of kebele workers at one woreda and kebele head moderated the discussion, and finally, with five workers from different sectors of one woreda and vice manager moderated the discussion.

Sample and sample size determination

This study was purposively conducted in the five selected site of Ilu Aba Bor's zone, by focusing on social determinants and impacts of squatter settlements on delivery of infrastructure among urban residents. From total number of households in the five selected Woredas (districts), the researcher was used the following ways to determine the sample size of survey respondents from the total population.

The total household of the whole selected Woredas (districts), (N) is 5,558. Thus; there are 14 Woredas (districts), in Ilu Aba Bor Zone and there are one thousand two hundred six (1206) squatter households in five selected Woredas (districts), of the zone, according to data that found from the Ilu Aba Bor Zone administration office. Accordingly, the total households of squatters of Mettu Town three selected kebele (N1) 571, Hurrumu Woreda (N2) =175. Darimu woreda (N3) = 208, Yayo Woreda (N4) = 142, Ale Woreda (N5) = 110. Hence, from the total number of squatter settlement in the study area, the researcher employed 20% of the squatter household. Therefore, taking the overall heterogeneity of the population into consideration, 241 sampled household from the five selected Woredas (districts), were selected by using stratified random sampling.

Moreover, qualitative data were generated from woredas town municipality offices, administrative office house management office experts; accordingly, 4 agents from each woreda or total of 20 agents were interviewed.

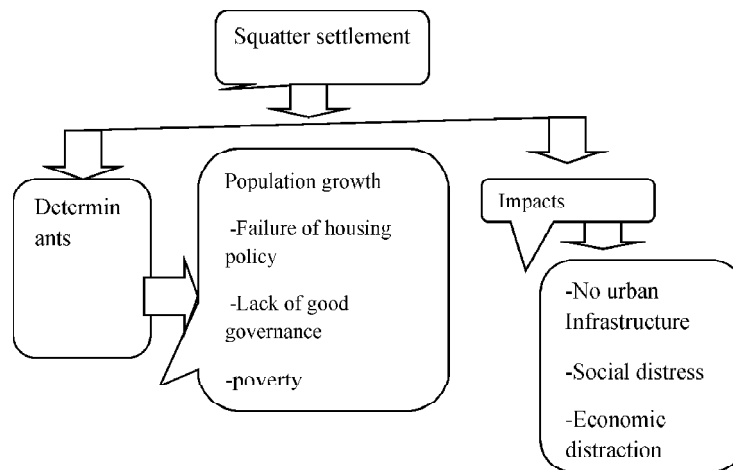
The Study Area

Ilu Abba Bora is one of the zones in Oromia regional states of Ethiopia which located at the southwestern part of the country. It is bordered on the south by the southern Nations, Nationalities and peoples region, on the south west by Gambella region and on the west by Buno Bedele zone. It comprises 14 Woredas (districts). In terms of its demographic characteristics, based on the 2007 census conducted by the CSA, the zone has a total population of 1,271,609 which certainly shows an increase of 50.12% over the 1994 census of whom 636,689 were men and 634,623 of them were women. Ilu Aba Bor Zone is positioned on the area of 15,135.33 square kilometers. It has a population density of 84.02

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Squatter settlement is affected by factors such as social, demographic, economic, political and technological growing problem.

Conceptual Framework within which the research was analyzed.



Source: Own Conception, 2019

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The response of the respondents depicts that, male respondents dominated the sample which constituted 74.6 percent and the rest, 24.6 percent, share is taken by females. This implies that, not only male groups but also females participated in squatting in the study area. The above table shows that, the majority of respondents were in the age range of 41-50 (27.3 percent), 31-40 (49.7percent), and 51-60 (17.4 percent) and above 60 (10.8percent). This implies that, the populations with age category from 45 to 50 years old are more

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents (N=120)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Sex	Male	180	74.6
	Female	61	25.4
Age	31-40	66	27.3
	41-50	120	49.7
	51-60	42	17.4
	>60	13	10.8
Educational level	Illiterate	38	15.7
	Grade 1-4	46	19.0
	Grade 5-8	58	24.0
	Grade 9-12	68	28.2
	Diploma	16	6.6
	Degree	10	4.1
	Masters and above	5	2
Marital status	Married	194	80.4
	Single	10	4.1
	Divorced	22	9.1
	Widowed	15	6.2
Birth places	Urban centers of the woredas(district),	36	14.9
	Surround the town	143	59.3
	Other places	62	25.7
Ethnic composition	Oromo	154	63.9
	Amhara	46	19.0
	Gurage	16	6.6
6.6	Tigre	8	3.3
	Others	15	6.2
Employment condition	Private Employee	56	23.2
	Government Employee	61	25.3
	Self-Employee	78	36.0
	Unemployed	46	19.0

Source: Households Survey, 2019

engaged in squatter settlement than the others. The educational level of selected interviewee in those some selected respondents shows that, illiterate (15.7 percent), grade 1-4 (19.0 percent), grade 5-8 (24.0 percent), grade 9-12 (28.2 percent), diploma (6.6 present), degree (4.1 percent) and masters and above (2 percent). The above table shows that, more proportion of the populations having educational background of second cycle grade 5-8 are participating

in squatter settlement in the study area. Married people are more engaged in squatting than the single ones. The majority proportion, 25.7 percent migrate to the town from other urban and rural areas of the zone and only 74.3 percent were born in woredas town.

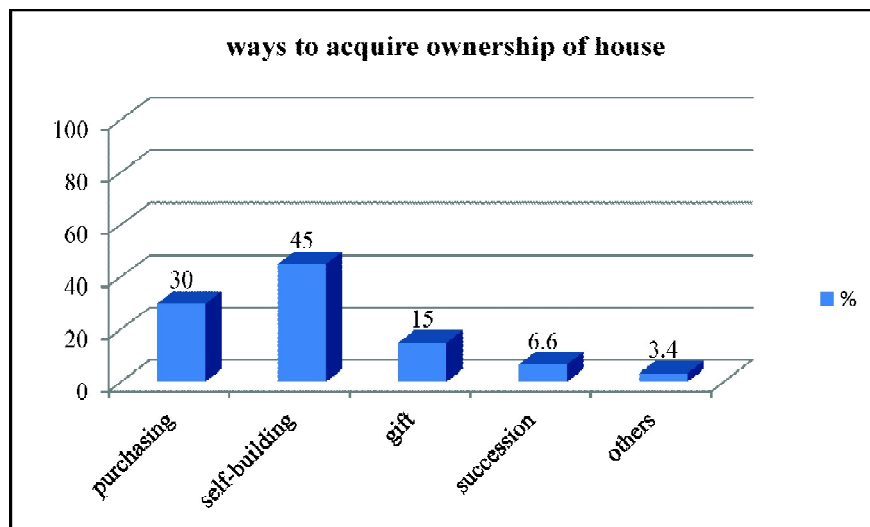
The ethnic compositions of the respondents implies that, Oromo constituted the largest proportion accounting for 63.9 percent, Amhara 19.0 percent, Gurage 6.6 percent, Tigre 3.3 percent and others 6.2 percent of the total population. The employment status of the respondents shows that, self-employer has the highest share (36.0 percent), the next, private employee (23.2 percent) and government employee (25.3 percent). There are also 19.0 percent respondents who have no job. This implies that, self-employed people are more participating in squatter settlement activities than the other employments in the study area.

Ways to Acquire Ownership of House of Respondents

The ways of acquiring ownership of house of the respondents are self-building, purchasing squatter houses, through gift and succession.

The above figure shows that, the majority of the respondents, 45 percent purchase land and construct house by themselves (Self-building), 30 percent by purchasing squatter houses, 15 percent through gift and 6.6 percent through succession and the others 3.4 percent. This implies that, most of the squatter settlers purchase the land and self-build the 'Chereka Betoch' (houses that are built over night) by themselves in the study area.

Figure: 1 Ways to Acquire Ownership of House



Source: Households Survey, 2019

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS

Social determinants of Squatter settlements are affordable option used by the majority inhabitants of many towns of developing countries.

Table 2: Social Determinants of Squatter Settlement

<i>Social Determinants of squatter settlement</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Poverty	128	53.1
Migration		56
23.2		
Legal/Policy	32	13.3
Population growth	25	10.4
Total	241	100

Source: Households Survey, 2019

The interviews made with Mettu town, kebele experts and heads, (2019) shows that,

“The major determinants of squatter settlement are socio-economic and institutional factors, which includes population growth, low income, large influx of people from rural to urban areas, rural-urban migration, increasing demand for housing, lease is the only means of land delivery system and unaffordable and marginalized the poor, and long process of municipality to access land”. (Interview with kebele experts of the Town, March 6/2019).

Table 3: Positive Impacts of Squatter Settlements

<i>Positive Impacts of squatter Settlements</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
Economical/ house as an asset	120	49.7
Satisfaction and happiness	60	24.9
Peace and security	36	15
No rent expense	25	10.4
Total	241	100

Source: Households Survey, 2019/20

The questionnaires distributed and collected from the 241 respondents shows that, the positive impacts of squatter settlements include house as an asset /economical has highest share, 120 responses (49.7 percent), satisfaction and happiness 60 responses (24.9 percent), peace and security 36 responses (15 percent) and it makes free from house rent or expense 25 responses (10.4 percent). This implies that, house is considered as a fixed asset, economically granting property and giving psychological satisfaction and happiness and for the well-being of the society.

According to Interviews made with experts of house management of Hurumu Woreda (district), Kebele heads specified that, “the positive impacts of squatter settlements are their socio-economical is better than before, and having chance of houses for low income people”

Table 4: Negative Impacts of Squatter Settlements

<i>Negative Impacts of squatter Settlements</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
Less Access to infrastructures	148	61.4
Substandard Houses	42	17.4
Social Insecurity	28	11.6
Poor Sanitation	23	9.6
Total	241	100

Source: Households Survey, 2019/20

The above table shows the negative impacts of squatter settlement as replied by respondents. The questionnaires distributed and collected from 241 respondent’s shows that, the negative impacts of squatter settlement are less access to infrastructures with the highest share, 61.4 percent, substandard houses 17.4 percent, social insecurity 11.6 percent and poor sanitation 9.6 percent.

The Interviews made with Darimu woreda (district), kebele experts shows that, “the negative impacts of squatter settlement are high budget needed for infrastructures facilities and services provision”.

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are made based on the theoretical and empirical literature reviews and the findings of the study. The major determinants of squatter settlement are socio-economic and institutional factors which include, population growth, low income, rural-urban migration, lack of legal or policy support, weak housing delivery, lack of providing serviced plot of land to the residents because the government stopped new land allocation system for the residential purpose. The positive impacts of squatter settlements includes, getting one of the basic needs, living in own shelter, house as an asset, psychological satisfaction and happiness and also their socio-economical is better than before. The negative impacts of squatter settlements resulted in multi-dimensional socio-economic challenges such as, unplanned and rapid horizontal expansion, less access to infrastructures, substandard house, no opportunity of infrastructures and services, less interaction with formal settlers; they are exposed to flooding, and obstacles for the future urban expansion. The measures taken by municipality to control squatting include, giving awareness creation for the dwellers

at different time periods, writing warning letters to all districts and periodic demolishing of squatter housing units. However, such attempts have so far aggravated the problem rather than alleviating it. In addition to the demand pressure and supply constraints, lack of comprehensive legal response towards the problem of squatting has also contributed to the emergence and development of squatter settlements in the town and in the study area.

SUGGESTION

The following feasible suggestions are forwarded based on the literatures, objectives and the findings of the survey, for the concerned bodies and the municipality as a solution for the prevailing problems in some selected Woredas (districts), of Ilu Aba Bor Zone.

- Training of government officials on land management at the local level focusing both on technical matters (new land management techniques, land information systems, on the social dimension of land management (social and economic function of urban land) and on the land markets mechanisms (Jaiswal, 2004).
- The Woredas (districts) should facilitate public awareness, through community participation and the discussion together within all stakeholders. It is better to maintain effective urban infrastructures and service delivery systems.
- The Woredas (districts) government should strengthen the local governments to gain ability to control the emergence of new squatter settlements. Hence, the town administration should increase the supply of land for urban dwellers to cope up with the increasing demand. Administrative decision measures towards squatter settlement should be applied by considering the low and middle income groups to use services and to fulfill infrastructures provision in the town.
- The Woredas(districts), administrative should provide adequate and affordable land for housing and urban infrastructures by participating different stakeholders, to meet the residents demand of the land.
- To encourage the participation of communities in housing construction, the government facilitates loan and ways of housing provision modality like provision of integrated housing development program, public rent house, and cooperative houses. The involvement of different actors in land delivery system, controlling and follow up system of squatter settlers, building the institutional capacity both materially and manpower (Jaiswal, 2012) making clear demarcation of urban boundary, infrastructure and service facility provision, good urban governance implementation, are solution for the reduction of urban squatting in Woredas (districts), of Ilu Aba Bor zone based on the investigation.

- The researcher recommended community participation, implementation of urban good governance, urban redevelopment programs such as upgrading and renewal should be done in order to improve the impacts of squatter settlements on the provision of urban infrastructures' in Woredas(districts), of Ilu Aba Bor zone.

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