

INVESTIGATING THE IMPACTS OF REFUGEES ON HOSTING COMMUNITIES: A CASE OF SHERKOLE REFUGEE CAMP IN ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

This research has investigated the positive and negative impacts of forced migration on the hosting communities of Sherkole refugee camp area. The influx of huge number of refugees may put pressure on local people where both communities were competing with scarce resources. This study therefore aimed at investigating the socio-economic and the socio-cultural impacts of refugees on both communities of the study area. This study employed the qualitative research approach and used a purposive sampling technique for collecting data from participants. Hence, sources were gathered by interviews key informants and focus group discussions from the host communities were analyzed qualitatively. In addition to the primary sources, secondary sources were used to consolidate information that has been gathered through interviews, and focus group discussions. The findings indicated that the presence of refugees has both positive and negative impacts. The major positive findings were the socio-economic impacts like new job opportunities, small business activity, and

availability of markets for local farmers around the refugee camp. Besides, along with refugees some professional persons arrived and provided social services for both receiving and refugee communities. On the other hand, as findings revealed that the socio-cultural impacts were regarded as negative impacts of refugees such as, conflict, insecurity, expansion of prostitution, rapping local girls, fighting each other to mention a few. Generally, as the results revealed both negative and positive impacts are witnessed. Finally, based on the findings, the researcher recommended: host community development, launching awareness creation project, positive intervention and improve social interaction.

INTRODUCTION

Even though there is no common consent among scholars on the beginning of refugee problem in the world, it is assumed that provision of protection and assistance to people who are in search of asylum dates back to the time of antiquity. (Jaeger, 2001). Historically, refuge and asylum have been provided by city states and religious groups (Loescher, 2006). Nowadays, refugees are the people whose migration is often not of free will, but they are forced to move due to their life in danger, ethnic conflict, wars and poverty. They were forced to leave their home land without having a clear information about what would be in their future, good or bad in hosting communities. They do not migrate to secure themselves or their families a better future but they migrate on purpose to secure a future lives (Girma, 2016). According to Article 1 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and its 1967 Protocol, a refugee is a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country (Grindheim, 2013).

In contemporary world, every year, thousands of people have been forced to leave their original homeland to find a safe shelter from threats posed by violent conflicts (Maystadt and Verwimp, 2009). The immense refugee influx in contemporary African countries has generated concern throughout the international community. Widely perceived as an unprecedented crisis, these flows have produced a mixture of humanitarian concern for the millions of people forced into exile and fear for the

potential threat to the social, economic, and political stability on hosting communities (Atim 2013).

Competitions and Conflicts between refugees and hosting communities often take place within refugee camps because services and resources are available there. However, situations of violence and conflict between refugees and hosts are also present outside the camps when the refugees failed to receive enough provisions from donor organizations and then, they were forced to go to search for livelihood resources in the host community (Crisp, 2003). The region of Horn Africa is characterized by protracted conflict and civil war that caused a huge number of forced migrants from their original homeland to neighboring countries. Among the long protracted civil war in the Horn of Africa is the Sudanese civil war which resulted a huge influx to neighboring countries especially, to the study area, Shekole refugee camp in Ethiopia.

The prolonged violent conflicts in the Horn of African region have resulted in refugee crisis and influx to the neighboring countries. Among the violent and protracted conflicts that caused a massive influx of refugees in the region; the intra-state conflict in Sudan, the inter-state conflict between the Sudan and South Sudan in the 'contested areas' as well as the intra-state conflict in newly independent state of South Sudan are significant because the most refugees for this study came from both Sudan and South Sudan (Kidane, 2014). Conflict in Sudan was further escalated and became protracted with the establishment of Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in early 1980's (Jones and Hsiao, 2011). Starting from 1983 until the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 again Sudan has been in brutal intra-state conflict between the armed groups of the South and Khartoum government (Deng, 2006). In addition to those two commonly known prolonged wars in Sudan, even after the secession of South Sudan, intra-state conflict has resumed in Sudanese 'New south' in 2011 (Heidelberg Institute, 2011). The third intra-state conflict between the Sudanese People Liberation Movement Northern faction (SPLM-N) and the Khartoum government in Sudanese 'new south' put a pressure for huge forced migration to its neighboring states.

On the other hand, nevertheless South Sudan has celebrated its birth by separating itself from main Sudan on July 9, 2011 (McKay, 2012), where many people waived the new country's flag with glimmering sense of hope and expectation, the optimism and the honeymoon was quite short and brief. This is because immediately after its emergence as an independent state, the country has engaged in different conflicts. First South Sudan has engaged in inter-state conflict with the Republic of Sudan and then indulged in internal political crisis which erupted in Juba in December, 2013 (The Sudd Institute, 2014). All those violent conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan have resulted in forcing thousands to flee their home in search of asylum in Ethiopia. In the last two decades, relatively as a peaceful state in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia has been hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees. Currently the country is hosting more around a

million refugees from different countries. Out of this huge number, significant numbers of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees have fled to Benishangul Gumuz Regional State in Ethiopia (Girma, 2016).

As literatures revealed that the refugees hosting communities are accompanied by many challenges especially in the initial influx phase as well as in long-term presence. Changes and impacts on the lives of the host community can be varying both positive and negative depending on many factors. What is often experienced is that the impacts of new realities of hosting refugees are creating tensions and conflicts between the host community and refugee population (Grindheim, 2013). Such conflicts may take place for several reasons such as competition over natural resources or services accompanied by humanitarian agencies and others (Crisp 2003).

Based on the above mentioned information, this study has investigated how the influx of refugees from Sudan and South Sudan impacted the hosting communities of the Sherkole Refugees camp and its surroundings in western Ethiopia.

LITERATURE

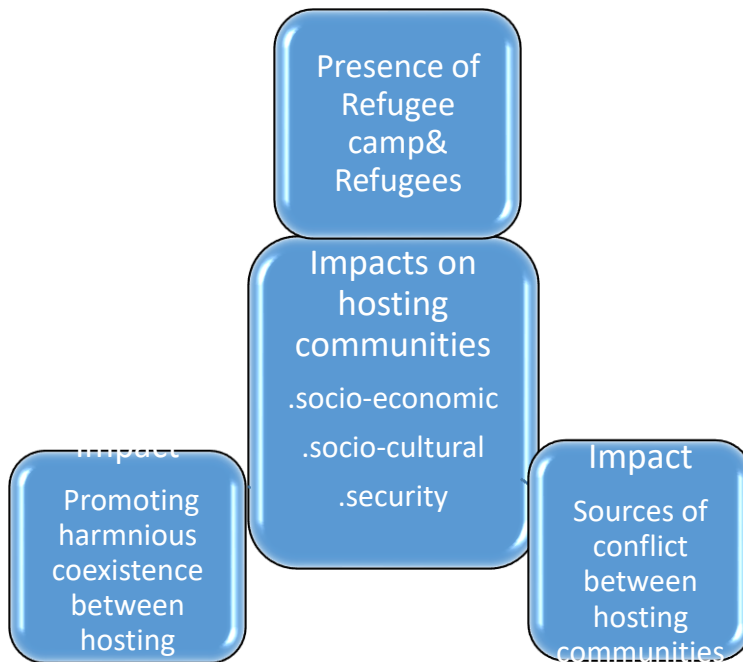
Literatures revealed that the presence of refugee camp on receiving communities has had a significant impacts either positively or negatively putting pressure on scarce natural resources. This was well explained by Grindheim (2013). How host communities were impacted by refugee camp presence. He argued that in areas where access to natural resources are limited, there would be a high competition between hosting and refugees communities over these scarce natural resources. He further claimed that overexploitation of common property resources in hosting communities are highly associated by the establishment of refugee camp in the area where local communities are living. Hence, the Sherkole refugee camp context in the western Ethiopia fits Chambers (1986) explanation of an area where common property resources are limited, and according to his theory would locals in Sherkole refugee camp be losing out to these vital resources. The limitation in vital resources, in the study area in turn could bring high cooperation and competition between hosting and refugees communities and has had a positive or negative impacts (Girma, 2016).

Alix-Garcia and Saah (2009) confirms Chambers (1986) views that increasing competition for resources in addition to population growth and migration may negatively impact the host community and their household viability. They do also present a theory that new market opportunities for locals to sell, buy and trade products with refugees may have a positive impact for the host community. Maystad and Verwimps (2009) on their part supports this theory as they argued that a significant amount of food rations distributed to refugees by aid agencies are often sold or exchanged at new markets between refugees and local hosts. This theory is supported by Grindheim (2013), by asserting that the presence of refugees has positive impacts in refugee camp area where local communities got job

and market opportunities. Here in refugee camp areas new market established and goods and vital items were exchanged between both communities.

The literatures presented here used as a conceptual frame work for this research to investigate the impacts of refugees on hosting communities. The above theories illustrated that how the hosting communities were impacted in terms of scarce natural resources that in turn lead to conflict and insecurity. On the other hand the presence of refugee camp in the study area created a new market opportunities that gave a chance to exchange both communities their products.

Figure 1: Conceptual framework



Source: Sketched by Author (2023)

The figure indicates that the presence of refugees has both positive and negative impacts which would be reflected in various provisions.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The neighboring countries that hosting many forced refugees/externally displaced persons for protracted periods experience long-term economic, socio-cultural and security impacts. The problems associated with refugees may not be restricted to a particular border area but may have spillover effects on the internal security situation of the hosting country. Refugee migration imposes a significant economic burden on receiving countries which provided territory refugee camp building (Martin, 2005). The Sherkole refugee's camp was established in 1997 in Benshangul Gumuz Region of western Ethiopia and began to host huge refugees from neighboring countries namely, Sudan and South Sudan and the presence of these refugees have adversely affected the life host communities. Here, the most forced migrants arrived from its neighboring countries particularly from South Sudan and Sudan, where both refugees and receiving communities shared, often similar cultural and ethnic background. In countries where ethnic cleavages are deeply deep-rooted, large unexpected migrant inflows may incline the delicate ethnic balance in the host society and sparks intergroup conflict.

Moreover, the inflow of refugees may affect the security and stability of the receiving country by contributing to organized armed conflict on the residing territory. Moreover, along with the refugees themselves, foreign fighters, arms, and ideologies that contribute to violence may also stream across the border. Hence, this study has investigated the impacts of the presence of mass refugees on the hosting communities where the refugee camp was located. Review of the available scholar works on the topic under study revealed that the existence of plenty of literature in different parts of the world. In majority of literature, however, it is only the refugee community who are assumed to be in crisis and receive attention which means the available literatures do not give emphasis for hosting communities. To mention a few scholarly works on the issue (Loscher, 2010; Crisp, 2003; Jamal, 2003) have focused on refugees issues giving less emphasis for hosting communities.

Some empirical works conducted by various scholars related in the study area could not provide proper attention for hosting communities and address how the presences of refugees affect them. To mention a few empirical works done in relation to this study are listed below. Such as, "Developing and Implementing a refugee program in the right way" by Save the Children Sweden" 2006, "Regional Refugee Response Plan" by UNHCR, 2016 and the others had given more attention and care for refugees with giving less emphasis to the real situation of host communities. To address this research gap, this study has been conducted and investigated the impacts of refugees on hosting communities. Besides, this study tried to investigate how the presnce of large number of refugees further affects the relationship between host and refugee communities.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general purpose of this study would be to investigate the socio-economic, Socio-cultural as well as security impacts of refugees on the host communities in and around refugee camp.

The specific objectives

- ✓ To analyze the socio-economic impacts of refugees on hosting communities
- ✓ To investigate the socio-cultural impacts of refugees on the hosting communities

THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The author of this article posed the following questions to address the stated research objectives

- ✚ What are the socio-economic impacts of refugees on hosting communities?
- ✚ How would be the socio-cultural interaction between hosting communities and refugees?

METHODOLOGY

The Sherkole refugee camp is located in remote western periphery of Ethiopia, in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, and 720 Kms away from Addis Ababa, capital City of Ethiopia 47 Kms away from the administrative capital of Benshangul Gumuz Regional State (Assosa) and 40 kms east from the border of Sudan. It was established in 1997 aimed to host Sudanese refugees who were fleeing their home as a result of violent intra-state conflict that continued for prolonged period since 1983. The camp has been hosting huge refugees for protracted period of time from Sudan and South Sudan (Save the Children Sweden, 2011).

Figure 2: Map illustrating the gateway of refuges from Sudan and South Sudan.



Source, (International Organization for Migration, 2015)

The figure showed the main directions where the huge forced migrants arrived to hosting country.

To investigate the impacts of refugees on the hosting communities, this study has employed a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research is often conducive to the exploration of people's lives and history (Silverman, 2001). As Dawson stated that "*the qualitative research design is used to explore attitudes, experiences and an in-depth opinion from participants, and emphasis on the interpretation of observations by subjects understandings*" (Dawson,2007). More importantly, Golafshani notes that this kind of research is conducted in dynamic social environments where the subjects of study are human beings and then it would be a more appropriate strategy to answer research inquiry (Golafshani, 2006). Hence, this study has focused on human interaction and tried to investigate the impacts of refugees, it is appropriate to design qualitative approach.

Both in-depth interview and Focus Group Discussion are used for this study as data collection tools. The focus group discussion (here in after FGD) was used to validate data that has been gathered by face to face interview. Thus, a number of people would be asked to come together in group to discuss how the presence of refugees impacted on the hosting communities. The author of this article employed eight individuals from each three local village (Sherkole, Jima and Kubri Ariba) for FGD randomly. The total number of participants in FGD were 24 and posed similar questions that has been prepared for interview. The time for each group FGD would be allocated 1:00-1:20 minutes. The researcher assisted the discussion and strived to investigate the views and ideas of each discussants. The discussion would be guided by a facilitator who introduced the topic, asks specific questions and stops break-away conversations. Advantages of FGD possible to receive a wide range of responses during one meeting, participants can ask questions each other (Dawson, 2007).

Sampling method

The sample method used for the host community can be described as a combination between purposive and random sampling. The goal of a purposive sampling is according to Bryman (2008) to "sample participants in a strategic way, so that those sampled are relevant to the research questions that are being posed". The other is, the researcher used random sampling for selecting data gathering kebles/ villages based on their proximity for refugee camp. Accordingly, participants for interview and FGD were selected from three kebles/ villages in the study area. Such as Sherkole village, Jima village and Kubri Ariba village.

The total participants who were interviewed from hosting communities were 27 individuals which means 10 participants from Sherkole Kebele/ village, 10 from Jima Kebele/ village and 7 from Kubri Ariba based on population size. The selection was made based on purposive sampling design as it was mentioned.

Data analysis

The primary sources of data that gathered by in-depth interviews and focus group discussion were analyzed. To begin with, the researcher Organized and prepared the data for analysis. This involves transcribing interviews and sorting and arranging the data into different types depending on the sources of information. In line with this transcribing field notes has been done continuously during the research, mainly during the same day as interviews were conducted. Dividing data into topics and further into categories has also been done continuously while collecting data. Then the transcribed data had been interpreted. The primary data collected from interviews had been analyzed qualitatively through critical discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis is a type of discourse analytical research that focuses on social issues and its interaction (Bryman, 2008)

Ethical Considerations

The researcher has tried to communicate the research participants first by requesting their willingness to participate in the research. Then, the researcher introduced his name and where he is from and the informants would be assured that the objective of the research is only for academic purpose and they have been assured that the protection of their identities and the guarantee of their safety of whatever information received in the course of data collections either during interview of focus group discussion.

FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS AND ANALYSIS

This section of the article presents the findings, discussions and analysis depending on each research objectives. Accordingly, the data collected from the host community of Sherkole refugee camp would be presented based on gathered information from respondents. This part of the study has been focusing on discussing and analyzing the data that have been gathered using different mechanisms and presenting the main findings of the research as follows:

Discussions on socio-economic impacts of refugees on hosting communities

As the author of this article has tried to indicate conceptual framework to investigate the positive and negative impacts of refugees on hosting communities, the first objective would start by presenting and analyzing the impacts of refugees on hosting communities. Accordingly, the author would present the socio-economic impacts of refugees in hosting communities. In this regard the major data used to address the research objectives were interview and focus group discussions that obtained from three village/ kebele respondents and discussants.

As information gathered from respondents revealed that, the presence of refugee camp in the study area has had a positive impacts that created a good opportunities for both communities. Many respondents during the

interview explained the situations between hosting communities and refugees were harmonious because they have been sharing the same market opportunities. In this regard, twenty respondents from three villages discussed that the presence of refugee camp near their village has created a great market opportunities where they could exchange their products with refugee communities. About twelve respondents in interview responded that “the establishment of refugee camp in the study areas has created business opportunities for local communities where new business market opened and make a great chance to exchange their products with refugee communities”. Therefore, the socio-economic relationship between both communities hosting and refugee communities is relatively harmonized as they got new market place for common benefits.

Similarly, during interview and FGD with hosting communities, the majority of the respondents have argued that the new market opportunities in Sherkole refugee camp have had a positive impact on both hosting and refugees communities. According to some respondents in newly established market, local people could go and sell or trade their products like firewood, charcoal, mango, Sorghum, Maize, goats, hens and other items with refugees in exchange for money or rations that have been provided Aid agencies. Most of the respondents explained this as the big change in terms of their livelihood style as they got a larger market opportunity to sell and trade different items. Job and business opportunities were also mentioned as a positive impact by majority respondents and almost all focus group discussants from three villages namely, Sherkole village, Jima village and Kubri Ariba village.

Business opportunities are linked to the new markets in the camp where both local and refugee communities exchange their items. Working small jobs for refugees have become a main source of income for many people in the host community according to the respondents. Consequently, local people engaged in varies jobs like washing clothes, building fences, shelter construction, carrying food rations and other household jobs. Food rations were provided by food aids organizations and distributed for refugees in camp center. As respondents, the amount of food distributed to refugees is calculated based on their family size. According to informants and focus group discussants, it is a common activities to see many locals lined up outside the food distribution centers. These situations are featured by lots of competition between locals for carrying these rations in exchange for some of the food or money. Thus, the refugee camp in this regard has served as a business center for hosting communities where many local residents got job opportunities to help their livelihood.

Another positive impacts of the presence of refugees on hosting communities is the provision of medical services to local people. In this regard during interview, ten respondents responded the situations as follow: the local communities in the refugee camp areas were beneficiaries equally with refugees from international aids organizations. This was added in similar way during focus group discussion with local discussants.

Most of the focus group discussants informed to the researcher that the medical clinics in the camp are free of charge also for the host community. The hospital in town is not free of charge and therefore the camp clinics are used by the host community, and this was accepted as good contribution by host community.

Access to food, water, education and humanitarian assistance are also considered as positive impacts of refugees on receiving communities. According to some respondents during interview, aid organizations has built schools for local communities near to the refugee camp and tried to provide a standard education, recruiting teachers, providing with teaching aids and the like. Thus, the establishment of refugee camp has had a positive impact on hosting communities and this made in turn a positive interaction between both communities. In short regarding to socio-economic impacts there were harmonized situations existed between hosting and refugees.

As a summary, the presence of refugee camp has brought relatively positive consequences to the local communities. For instance, the presence of refugee camps has positive economic impacts, some experts have arrived to host communities with their various professional knowledge and skills that has been considered as a good opportunity for local communities. Hence, the host communities are beneficiaries of those refugees, who have arrived with their professional skills like teachers, doctors, health professionals, business men and they shared their experiences with local communities. Besides, the refugee camp area has become the center of business where local communities exchange their products with refugees. Consequently, the refugee camp has a contribution to the development of the local communities by providing different services such as involvement in small business which is exchanged by both refugees and host communities, and social services like education, medical services, water supply, and access to food, humanitarian assistances provided by Aids agencies provided extra services for hosting communities.

Discussions on Socio-cultural Impacts of Refugees on Hosting Communities

The second objective of this article is socio-cultural impacts of refugees on hosting communities. According to the information gathered through face to face interview and FGD, the relationship between both communities were tough and sometimes conflicting due to various reasons. As the findings showed that the socio-cultural impacts in the study area witnessed as negative. In line this, the significant number of respondents and focus group discussants from hosting communities responded that conflict and insecurity are the major negative impacts that threaten the smooth relationship of both communities. During interview, nine respondents responded that conflict is frequently occurred between both communities for various reasons. Hence, the respondents have identified the types of conflict in the study area such as fighting, attack, robberies, rapping and to

some extent killings between refugees and the host communities. Almost all Respondents and focus group discussants from three villages (Sherkole, Jima and Kubri Ariba) argued that increased conflict situations between both communities witnessed as a negative impact of refugee camp. Another negative impact of refugees on hosting communities is developing the sense of insecurity due to regular competition for scarce resources, and the fear of being attacked, harassed or subjected to violence between both communities.

Unusual sexual experience in the hosting communities villages are another reported negative impacts of refugees on hosting communities. Regarding to sexual experiences, more than four respondents and focus group discussants argued that the expansion of prostitution or engaging for commercial sex is new culture for hosting communities that have brought with refugees. The respondents argued that girls from the host community go to the camp and get involved in prostitution/ in commercial sex in seeking cash or money to lead better livelihood.

Concerning to socio-cultural relationship, almost all focus group discussants critically argued that the refugees communities were not respecting local culture, way of life, norms, customs, that were highly respected and maintained by local communities for a long period of time. Besides this, about three respondents added similar argument to those focus group discussants. They argued that refugees harass and disrespect the local people when they go to the camp to sell firewood or other items for refugees. Further the respondents have argued that they received no respect or gratitude from the refugees even if they are living in refugee camp and are hosted by them. To sum-up, the socio-cultural impacts of refugees on hosting communities has been summarized as follow:

In the case of the Sherkole refugees' camp and its surrounding, the security issues are mainly caused by competing for scarce resources. As information gathered from respondents and focus group discussants, the security problems are caused by competition over natural resources. The local people who are living near to the refugee camp area felt insecurity due to threats came from refugees in various ways. The respondents stress that *"refugees entered into hosting communities villages and engaged in illegal activities such as stealing properties of local people like cattle, hens, goats, sheep, grains, mango and whatever they found around a village"*. Similar issues were discussed during focus group discussion. They explained the situation as *"the provision that has been given by aid agencies was not sufficient to sustain their lives and to feed their children. This is the reason why refugees were forced to engage in illegal activities"*.

Besides this, the source of conflict between both communities were related to sexual harassment that committed by refugees on local girls. According to respondents *"Men refugees were engaging in sexual harassment just rape local girls when they return to home from school or fetching water or collecting firewood"*. This unwanted conduct by refugees has led to conflict between hosting and refugee communities.

Moreover, Alcoholism is another sources of conflict when both communities shared the same market day. Therefore, the respondents and focus group discussants concluded that conflict and insecurity had witnessed as a negative impact of refugees on hosting communities.

Another negative socio-cultural impact on hosting communities is disrespecting of local culture by refugees, which associated to engaging in illegal sexual activities and marriage linked issues. In the refugee camp area. some women refugees were highly eagered to get married and given birth as they separated from their formal husbands due to forced migration. Thus, the refugee women/girls come out from camp to local community and engaged in illegal sexual activities with local men. This was explained by respondents as follow:

The refugees are highly in need to have many children as they lost their husbands while they were forced to migrate from their homeland. Even some refugee women do not voluntarily use a family planning methods such as condoms, pills, or treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Girls are also become bold enough to say no to using family planning; this exposed the refugees to different sexually transmitted diseases among the refugees themselves and the host communities. Such illegal sexual activities directly or indirectly affect the socio-cultural life of the host communities at large.

During the interview and focus group discussion, reported that local women complaining the presence of refugee camp near to their village because their husband made strong relationship with refugee women/girls. According to information gathered from local women, their husbands would disappear from home to small town where refugees are located for several days without clear reason. This was more explained by a local interviewee, who said: some men went to Sherkole refugee camp where small town is located and did not return to their home villages for several days. The town has experienced or associated with social problems such as selling and drinking alchol, prostitution, commercial sexual activities, and mischief. Hence, the local women complained the refugees' illegal activities in the town and they fear it for losing theirbeloved husbands who disappeared for many days, which created a serious family problems among the host communities.

The situations more explained by respondents and focus group discussants as follows: *"the means of earning income for the refugee girls or women for survival is engaging in sexual relationships, engaging in commercial sex as prostitution or through forms of receiving goods and gifts from a regular sexual partner"*. In short, the above mentioned negative socio-cultural experiences are not familiar culture with hosting communities and the local people look this in suspicion as new experience to deteriorate the existing normal culture.

Another bad socio-cultural impact of the presence of refugees around the host community is introducing a new eating/ consuming experience against local culture. Hence local people have seen the refugees as poisoners of their culture that they maintained for generations. In this

regard during the focus group discussion, discussants seriously criticized the issues as follow:

The refugees have been eating dead animal bodies like hyenas, monkeys; donkeys...such culture has never been carried out by local communities. They added in the discussion the refugees have taught our children, to steal others' property, harass girls, and elders, and sometimes killed each other. These experiences are not our original values, our original culture is crediting our indigenous values, we support each other, and we do not habit of eating or consuming dead bodies. They argued all these foreign cultures are polluting or deteriorating their culture. The local people were strongly blaming such activities as foreign for damaging their culture and feared for their next generations.

Thus, the cultural impacts of the presence of refugees on hosting communities has a negative effects and it has a deteriorating potential a normal relationship between both communities.

CONCLUSION

The presence of refugee camp in the study area has had a considerable impacts on the receiving communities. As a huge number forced migrant inflow from their original homeland in search for safe shelter in neighboring countries, could impact in various ways on hosting communities. Accordingly the hosting communities has experienced both positive and negative impacts from the influx of refugees. As the research findings revealed that the major positive impacts of refugees on hosting communities is the socio-economic effects such as creating a good opportunities for establishment of new market access. In this newly emerged markets both refugees and hosting communities were able to exchange their products either in cash or in kind. Another positive experience in the refugees' camp area is it created for hosting communities the job/ business opportunities that helped them to generate income to lead their livelihood. Education access, medical treatment, water access and food supply are also mentioned as positive impacts of presence of refugees for hosting communities.

On the contrary to positive impacts, the socio-cultural impacts of refugees on hosting communities witnessed as negative outcomes. The presence of a large number of refugees in study area has had negative impacts by complicating the normal life of hosting communities. As the study finding showed that the most witnessed negative outcomes of were conflicts, insecurity, expansion of prostitution, rapping local girls, stealing local property etc. These experiences has created distrust between both communities and deteriorated the normal interaction. Informants confirmed that most of the time the problems which bring conflict between the refugee and the host community are due to the gender insult, sexual harassment, and drinking alcohol are the main causes of the outbreak of conflict between the refugee and the host communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Host community development: The concerned bodies in this regard need to design policy that help to bring host community development. The international aid agencies need to equally consider the hosting communities problems while treating refugees

Improve the social relationship between hosts and refugees: Social tensions between hosts and refugees are a reality in Sherkole for several reasons discussed in this research. Continuing initiatives that are reported to bring the communities and promote coexistence is important. Continuing with mixed schools are creating good relationships and interactions between hosts and refugees. Marketplaces and hosts working for refugees are reported to be an area where both conflicts start and where mutual benefits are experienced. Improving this area could benefit both groups.

Launching Awareness Creation Project: This project has to focus on training local people on how they would accept refugees as part their fellow partners because they were forced to leave their livelihood for the existential threats.

Positive Intervention: there is a need for intervention from concerned bodies to balance the relationship between both host communities and refugees. If the situation has been managed properly the establishment of a refugee camp would be a good opportunity for both communities.

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