

The Social Determinants and Impact of squatter settlement on the delivery of infrastructure among urban squatters. The cases of some select Woredas of Ilu Aba Bor Zone, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia.

ZelalemTekalign. M.A¹

Dr. A. Kirubakaran M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D²

1. Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Mettu University, Ethiopia

2. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Mettu University, Ethiopia

E-mail: zelalemtekalign55@gmail.com

akirubakaran76@gmail.com

Abstract

Squatter settlements are rapidly growing and have become an inevitable phenomena in 21st century in the developing countries. This paper has assessed the existing extent, identified the social determinants and the impact of squatter settlements on the provision of infrastructures among urban squatters, the cases of some identified woredas (districts), of Ilu Aba Bor Zone, Oromia Regional State. A blend of both qualitative and quantative methods were used in the design of this cross sectional descriptive research. A total of two hundred and sixty one respondents comprising of two hundred and forty one households, twenty experts and higher officials were part of the sample which involved probabilistic, stratified methods. Further, the non-probability part used purposive sampling technique to select stakeholders, experts and officials. 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, tedious processes in the 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

Depending on its location and legality in the country where it is existing, squatter settlements, are also known as shanty town or informal. In the context of this study, squatter settlements means residential buildings not having any formal planned approval. They could be present on a planned or unplanned areas. These by and large low-quality houses are marked by the lack of or absence of any basic social services or infrastructure. In several developing countries, this type of housing settlements are seen as a solution and a problem due to their rapid urbanization.. (Srivinas 2005, Todaro 1994).

In Ethiopia, squatter settlement brings social, economic and political problems. They exhibit similar characteristics as mentioned above. In Ethiopia they are also densely populated and occupied illegally. Though the structures are temporary in nature they are seen to be as a welcome alternative to shelter the urban poor who do not have any access to land or housing. Failure of the incumbent land administration and planning in solving the basic housing needs of the community as a whole gives rise to such settlements. Such settlements are born out of rapid, unplanned and unstructured developments (Gondo, 2009).

Ethiopia too, similar to the urban areas in many developing countries, is currently experiencing significant number of challenges like shortages in housing, poor waste management systems for both solid and liquid, inadequate road connectivity, hardly visible but clogged and smelly drainage systems, acute shortage of clean drinking water, lack of educational and health services, along with ever expanding poverty and unemployment.

Like in other parts of Ethiopia, the situation of squatter settlement in I/A/Bor zone is sharing similar vein with other area. Therefore, studies that project a clear picture about such settlements needs to be based on the local contours and conditions such as 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 or districts.

Statement of the Problem

When the land administration and planning authority fails to provide for the housing needs of the community as whole, squatter settlements are born. Unplanned, unstructured and rapid

developments are characteristics of such settlements. Most of the disadvantaged people live in third world countries and hence have become a serious issue in a really global scale (Daniel, 2011). Typically such squatter settlements are densely populated. They build temporary structures for shelter which are generally self-constructed under severe conditions of traditional or informal land tenure. Such settlements can be seen in many places in the developing countries and are the result of an immediate requirement for shelter among 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). Ethiopia's squatter settlement challenge is depicted in several research papers. One such paper by Firew Bekele (2010) titled "The Impact of Horizontal urban expansion on Sub-urban Agricultural Community Livelihood: The Case of Tabor Sub-city, Hawassa Town" and another by Tibebe Adamu (2011) entitled "The Causes and Impacts of Squatter Settlement in Harar". 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 requirement of land area for housing is increasing constantly which has resulted in squatter settlement. Hence, woredas meaning districts in I/A/Bor Zone, Oromia regional state areas are affected by growth of squatter settlement. Due to the ever-increasing housing demand, the town is unable to satisfy its people. The causes are inadequate provision of land, the significant migration of people from villages, and monetary limitations of the municipality. Hence, the problem has caused an uncontrolled horizontal urban expansion of the town. Hence, squatter colonies 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 focused on identifying the social determinants and the immediate effect of squatter settlement on the delivery of infrastructure among urban squatters.

Objective

General Objective

The common objective of the research was to investigate the social determinants and impact of squatter settlement on the delivery of infrastructures among urban squatters in some selected Woredas (districts) of I/A/ Bor Zone.

Specific objective

The research specifically attempted to assess the extent of squatter settlement in the area of the study. It focused on the social determinants for squatter settlements in the area of the study. Further, it examined the impact of squatter settlements on delivery of urban infrastructure on urban squatters.

Methodology

Research Approach

Both quantitative and qualitative research approaches was 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) application of a combined approach with quantitative and qualitative methods helps us to triangulate the data which was gathered via several research methods. Neuman (2006) also argued that, the logic of triangulation, which supported the view that observing something from different points of view would increase its 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 was 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

For this survey, questionnaires were adopted as it provided the respondents with full freedom to respond as they chose. It was found suitable even to the uneducated persons. Thus, in line with the objectives of this investigation, a questionnaire was developed with both open ended and closed ended questions.

Interviews

This study conducted structured, semi-structured and unstructured interview. The interviews were found most suitable to elicit data from officials in the town administration, district land development and management offices, the municipality and other professionals.

Field Observation

This involved the researcher listening to the study elements, observing them carefully and recording notes. Through this exercise it was possible for the researcher to watch the developments practically and the ground realities. 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 applied the following methods to arrive at a 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 area of the study, 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.

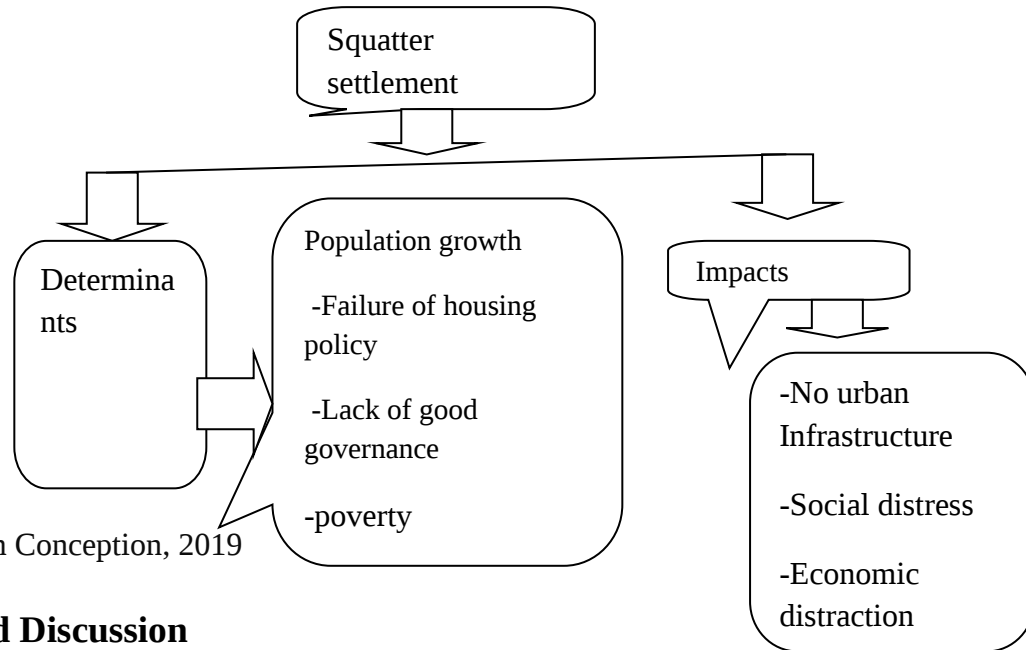
The Study Area

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

Table No. 1 Demographic characteristics of the respondents (N=120)

Category	Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
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
	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

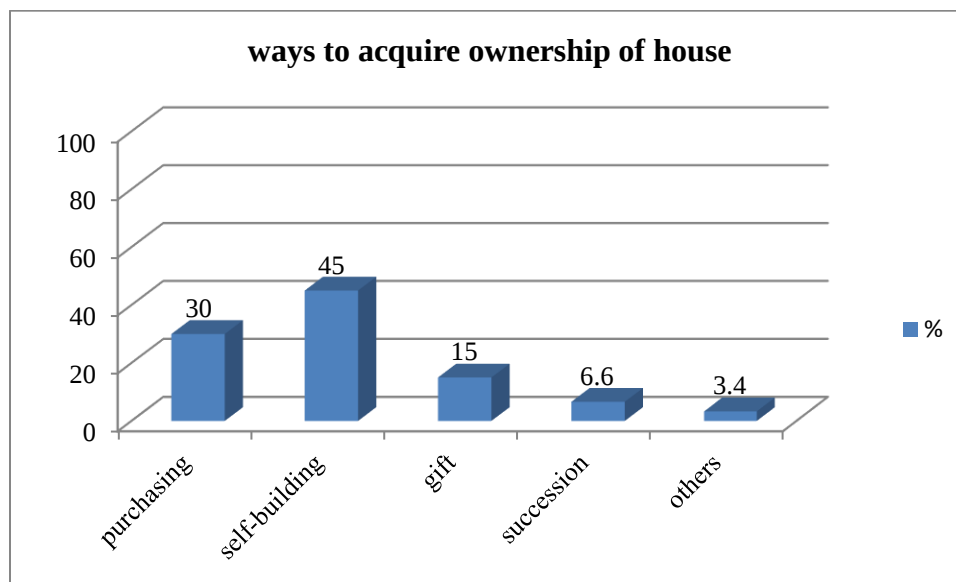
The response of the respondents depicts that, male respondents dominated the sample which constituted 74.6 percent and the rest, 24.6 percent, share is taken by females. This implies that, not only male groups but also females participated in squatting in the study area. The above table shows that, the 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 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.

Figure: 1 Ways to acquire ownership of house



Source: Households Survey, 2019

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 Betocho' (houses that are built over night) by themselves in the study area.

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 No. 2 Social determinants of squatter settlement

Social Determinants of squatter settlement	Frequency	Percent
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 No. 3 Positive Impacts of Squatter Settlements

Positive Impacts of squatter Settlements	Frequency	Percent (%)
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 data collected from the 241 respondents who were given the questionnaire showed 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 No.4 Negative Impacts of Squatter Settlements

Negative Impacts of squatter Settlements	Frequency	Percent (%)
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 data collected from 241 respondents with the help of the questionnaire showed 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

Based on the empirical literature and theoretical reviews along with the findings of the research the following conclusions were drawn. The major determinants of squatter settlement are socio-economic and institutional factors such as population explosion, decreased income, migration from rural to urban areas, minimal legal or policy support, poor housing delivery, the residents lacking an own plot of land with basic amenities due to the fact that the government had stopped allocation of new land for residential purposes. 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, instead of solving the issues, such measures have only compounded and complicated the problems. Absence of wholesome legal response in mitigating the problem of squatting due to the unequal demand and supply shortcomings, has only encouraged the emergence and growth of squatter settlements in the area of the study.

Suggestion

The following feasible suggestions supported by the literature, objectives and the findings, are forwarded for the information of the relevant authority and the municipality as an answer for the urban housing challenges in some selected Woredas (districts), of Ilu Aba Bor Zone.

- Training of government officers on management of land at the local level with emphasis on technical matters, the social dimension of land management and the mechanisms prevailing in the land markets.
- 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 empower the local authorities and make them proficient enough to control the emergence of new squatter settlements areas. The town administration however, should raise the land supply for urban dwellers to provide for the higher demand. The measures of the administrative officials should consider the low and middle income level of the settlements while providing services to them and plan appropriately for infrastructures development of the town.
- The Woredas (districts), administrative officials should provide enough land for housing at affordable cost. They should take into confidence various stakeholders before planning any infrastructure projects.
- The government should encourage the participation of communities in housing developments by offering loans and such other provisions. Projects such as integrated housing development program, public rent house, and cooperative houses should be encouraged widely. The involvement of different offices in land delivery system, controlling and follow up system of squatter settlers, building the institutional capacity both materially and manpower, 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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