

**Socio- Economic Impact of Villagization, in Assosa Zone,  
Western Ethiopia**

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The main aim of this research is to investigate the socio economic impacts of villagization; in the western Ethiopia . In order to come up with intended aim of the study descriptive survey research design and mixed research approach was employed. The study used questionnaires, interviews, document reviewing and FGD for data collection. Around one hundred sixty eight sample respondents were selected and determined by using Yemane formula. The research intends to identify the socio-economic impacts of villagization on the host communities, environment and socio-economic aspects of the people who dwell around villagization site. Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis supported by statistical package for social science were used. The best thing about the life of villagers was agriculture since people had fertile lands. The result portrayed that program was came into ground voluntarily and based on the agreement of the villagers and host communities. The results also reveal that the villagized rural communities were highly affected by communicable and non-communicable diseases. Finally, the researcher recommended the government, health institution and villagers and host community should support the dislocated community as they will adapt to the new villagization site .

**Keywords:** Assosa, villagization,, infrastructure , farmland,

Countries of sub-Saharan African including Ethiopia are inhabited by significant group of pastoral people who employ old nomadic livestock herding. In our country, nomadists own three quarters of the goats, most of the available camels, one fourth of the sheep, and one fifth of the cattle (Kassa,2004). Most of the livestock that is used for domestic meat and export comes from pastoral areas, with the livestock sector second to coffee in generating foreign currency for Ethiopia (Kassa,2015).

Villagization and settlement in Ethiopia has been an issue from the late nineteenth century up to the present, due to the overcrowded population of the highlands. As the population of Ethiopia

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has increased in the twentieth century, the need to move inhabitants has only increased as available cropland per family declined to its current level of less than one hectare per farmer (Tsegaye, 2013).

In 1980s the government introduced a different rearrangement program known as villagization. The intentions of the program, which gathered dispersed agricultural societies all over the nation into minor settlement groups, were to endorse balanced land use; safeguard assets; deliver right to use to clean water and to health and schooling services; and reinforce safety. Administration procedures postulated that villages were to family 200 to 300 households, with one hundred square-meter amalgams for each household (Ayke,2005).

Antagonists of the program argued that the structure was disrupting to agrarian assembly for the reason that the administration encouraged numerous farmers throughout the implanting and gathering periods. There also was apprehension that the program could have an undesirable influence on insubstantial native properties, predominantly on water and browsing land; quicken the blowout of transmissible diseases; and upsurge difficulties with herb pests and diseases. In early 1980, the administration fundamentally uninhibited the program after it proclaimed new-fangled commercial plans that named for free-market restructurings and a lessening of consolidated scheduling (Cernea, 1999).

Following, social, environmental and political-economic changes, in the early 21 century the government of Ethiopia planned and practiced a new and revised phase of the programme, which was focused at the desert regions of the country and designed on the development of water resources , although villagization dates back to the 1970s in Ethiopia (Messay, 2009).

The compression on comprehensive national plantations was commenced by Western supporters, who routed their agronomic relief to the laborer subdivision. These supporters sustained that practices somewhere else in Africa and in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union had revealed that national farms were unproductive and a trough on rare assets (Shumete,2013).

According to the World Bank, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in the sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of about of 94, 1 million in 2013, and where almost 85 percent of the population is living in rural areas. It is also one of the poorest countries in the world, with almost 30 percent of the population living below the poverty line, even if poverty has decreased since 2000 due to agricultural growth. In addition to this, Ethiopia is a multicultural society, and there are more than 80 different recognized ethnic groups in the country.

The programs have been highly provocative due to putting into practice problems, state intimidation, and the out of sight agenda of the administrations (Maria, 2015). Totally programs have had a substantial influence on a huge amount of individuals, both straight and ramblingly. There is a lot of pragmatic investigation on the program in many disciplines concerning the real possessions of the programs.

The proposal of the program hosted in November 2010 underlines on countryside improvement while incentivizing calmer admittance to schooling and wellbeing amenities. Consequently, it is understood as a means to assist the provision of facilities to societies existing in dispersed farmsteads that had been solider to touch (Abbink,2016 ).

The furthestmost collective authorized aim for the operation of the programs is the delivery of, or enhancement of, essential financial and communal services, such as substructure, accommodation, healthiness care, admission to food and water, schooling, agricultural amenities, and so on (Fana, 2016).

The intentions of the program are to alter the existing situation of nomads and semi-nomads groups of these areas sustainably by enlightening their admission to socio-economic amenities on the ideologies of voluntarism (Bisrat, 2011). The region is contained dominantly of semi-nomad societies, whose living is principally reliant on on both arable and cattle farming, amid others. The bulk of farm families are existing on the most outmoded ways of living, a noticeable instance presence in the Gumuz and the Komo cultural clusters, which are still keen to hunting and gathering activities as well as ever-changing agriculture in the furthest area of Ethiopia (Bisrat,2011).

In our country, the necessity for these systems is ensuring the maintainable food safety through assuring the bearable stock of development vehicles (the socio-economic facilities and other infrastructures such as road, telephone, and electric power, (Benishangul Gumuz regional government, 2010).

There is a uncertainty that the execution of contemporary villagization is going in line with the ideologies of voluntary villagization program, predominantly in the study area. Empirical parings of suggestions point out that there is a discrepancy amid the guidelines of the voluntary villagization program and ways of execution at ordinary levels by home-grown experts (Guyu, 2012).

Nevertheless, there has not been a study on the program outlines both at countrywide and provincial in Ethiopia. This is the goal for captivating up the present investigation in western part of Ethiopia. As indicated in the overhead subsection, those contests had not been considered by the investigators, principally in the study area, to what amount they are upsetting the incomers in the site. Consequently, this study intended to examine socio economic impacts of the program in Benishangul gumuz regional state to recognize the responsiveness and assertiveness of inhabitants towards it, its improvement pointers, and finally its guiding principle inferences to recommend some promising remedies for the forthcoming.

### **Method**

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, mixed research approach was employed. The researcher used a mixed research approach that involves collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, integrating the two forms of data and using distinct designs that may involve philosophical assumptions and theoretical frameworks (Creswell, 2014). Therefore, the researcher preferred to use mixed research method to collect, triangulate and analyze data.

#### **Research design**

The study was descriptive in its design. The study describes Socio- Economic Impact of Villagization, In the western Ethiopia. Using descriptive research design, the study tried to describe what was happening in the villagization site and gather all the necessary information related with socio economic impact of the program in the study area.

#### **Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

In order to make the sample area and size measurable and representative, from the seven districts in the Assosa zone, only four districts were included in the sample purposively. According to

finance and economy bureau the BGR (2018), in the in the following selected districts there were around three thousand six hundred eighty male and one thousand eight hundred twenty total 5500 settlers.

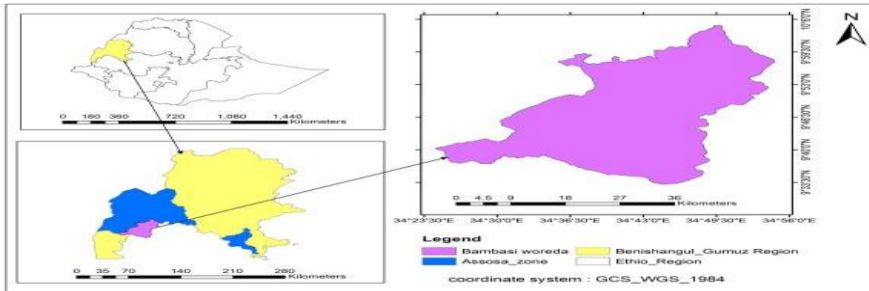


Figure 3.1 Administrative map of the study area

Respondents were selected systematically from a total population of 5500 villagers in the villagization site of selected kebele in the Woreda by using Yemane (1967) formula ( $n=N/(1+N(e)^2)$ ) sample size determination formula; A 95% confidence level, 5% non-response rate and  $P = 0.5$  was assumed. Where  $n$  is the sample size,  $N$  is the population size, and  $e$  (0.05) is the level of precision. Systematic random sampling method was employed for the reason that it decreases sampling bias, it is easy to apply it, and it extends the sample to all the population. Therefore, the total sample sizes of the survey participants were one hundred sixty eight respondents by using Yamane (1967) proportional formula.

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2) \rightarrow n = 5500 / (1 + 5500(0.076)^2) = 168$$

Whereas  $n$ ; sample size

$N$ ; is the population size

$e$ ; is the level of precision

In addition to this, a non-probability sampling technique: purposive sampling method was used to select participant chairperson for FGDs and interviewee from Woreda administrative bodies mainly agriculture office and representative from sampled site based on their participation at different issues and managers of each kebele.

## Results and Discussion

The data gathered from different sources was analyzed using both qualitative and calculable methods. For measurable data, frequency, mean and standard deviation were computed using Statistical package for social science version 20. The remaining data was analyzed qualitatively through narrative descriptions. Then descriptive statistics (e.g., %, mean, median, & standard deviation) were used. On the other hand, qualitative data obtained through in-depth-interview was transcribed and categorized into emerging themes and sub-themes. Moreover, data gathered through analysis of the existing documents was considered in the results and discussion section as found necessary. Triangulation of data from various sources was made concurrently to reveal the result of the research in line with objectives of the research.

**Demographic issues of participants**

**Sex of Respondents**

The aim of the study is on the socio economic of villagization, out of the total of hundred sixty eight participants, thirty four were women, whereas the rest one hundred thirty four were male respondents. Female respondents were incorporated to compare, and contrast the access to support services, and other factors which affect the livelihood of villagers among the households, which are run by de facto women heads of households and male- headed households.

**Age of study participants**

The mean age of the villagers in the study area was 45.1 (SD=12.4). The youngest respondent in the study was 20 years old, whereas the oldest respondent was 70 years old. The average age for female respondents were found out to be 42.06 years (SD=10.6), whereas that of men were found to be 48.25 years (SD=14.6).

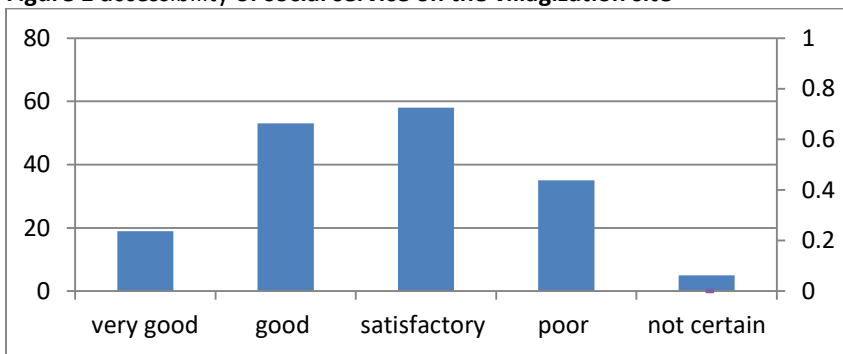
**Family number of respondent**

The mean family size for the participants households were found out to be 5.93 (SD=3.27), which is hardly higher than the regional average of 5.7 (CSA, 2014). The minimum family size in the sample households were found to be two, whereas the maximum was nine persons. The average family size for women head households were 5.52 (SD=3.01), whereas the average family size for male-headed house, were 6.55 (SD=2.26). The age dependency ratio was found to be 1.07 which is higher than the regional figure of 0.95 (Regional Statistic and Population Office 2007).

**The status of Basic Social Services**

As the respondents stated, social services were there before the emergence of the program. However, the challenge was that people lived far away from them and did not have good access to them. These social services were accessible only to those who inhabited near to the service and very hard to access by those who lived in fragmented settlement. Here the bar drawn below shows the variation in the response of participants in relation with the availability of basic social services.

**Figure 1 accessibility of social service on the villagization site**

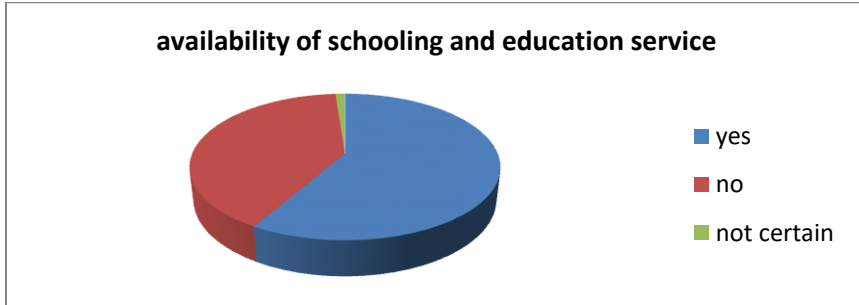


Computed from Survey data (2019)

As the bar shows, 20 (11.4%) said, the improvement in access to basic social service was very good and 53(31.5) said, the increase in access to basic social service was good. 36(21%) said, the growth in access to basic social service was poor. The remaining 58(33%) said the growth in access to basic social service was satisfactory.

### Access to schooling and education Service

As far as the issues of schooling is concerned, the research result portrays host communities who previously lacked better access to it began to access the service after their emergence in the villages. Currently, education is no longer a challenge like before, as schools are near to people and increase in number significantly. Settlers are also enjoyed, especially about the fact that children do not have waste their age and time until the age of ten to start school like as of before. As per the observation of researcher and discussion with focus group discussants, there are primary and secondary schools in almost all the villages with better qualified teachers employed by the government who regularly do their job.



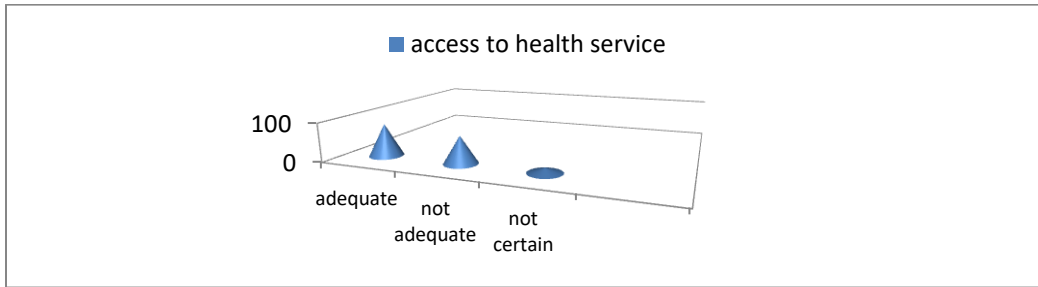
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**Aimed (one of discussant in kurmuk) expressed** his view concerning the accessibility of education service as follows:

"I am so pleased about the program essentially in situation where children are now able to go to school at the time when they want. Getting and going to school was something very challenging for children before the emergence of villagization program. However currently, because of the emergence the program and the inhabiting of people in site, schools became near to the society. Due this reason, we are now did not worry about the distance and schooling because they can now access what was inaccessible to them before the beginning of villagization.

### Access to health service and medication

As the below table indicate, 84(50%) stated the health service provided for them were not adequate as promised for them by Government. Remaining, 71(42.3) of respondent said the service that provided for them were appropriate and satisfied by what happens in their respective villagization site. The remaining 13(7.7%) were not certain about the progress of health services in the area.



Computed from Survey data (2019)

The research portrays the remaining most important issue that happened due to the program is that access to medication and infrastructure of health service has improved. Currently, the society can have medical treatment wherever sicknesses face for the reason that there are a health posts as well as health clinics and medical persons in almost all villages which access services to the dwelling society. The prevalence of death was decreased significantly due to decay of distance of health service like before emergence of villagization.

**As Kediri from bambasi villagization site stated** "The fact that the access to health service is currently near to us in the site has gave great advantage. We currently, have improved access to the health service and can get it whatever time I feel the need. I have faith in everyone is pleased about the improvement currently came into picture, as well."

By means of the examined file shown, there are prototypical families in the rural community that have acknowledged working out and have now underway to use chamber pot. In the subsequent community, a total of sixty five (65) families are current users of chamber pot. In Ura village, there are eighty (70) families with their restroom and fifty (50) in Agusha societies. Since the numeral of individuals using chamber pot in the villages has amplified, using the nearby area or open space for the restroom has been condensed.

**Table 1**

*Displays the accessibility of adequate water supply for domestic use and livestock*

Have you got sufficient water supply?		Frequency	Percent
1.	yes	78	46
2.	No	80	48
3.	Not certain	10	6.0
Total		168	100.0

Computed from Survey data (2019)

From participated model respondent people, 76(46%) indicated, the water stock delivered for them were not satisfactory as assured for them by Administration. Left over 80(48) of respondent supposed the provision that delivered for them were reasonable and pleased by what occurs in their corresponding villagization site.

**Participation of people in Villagization Program**

Furthermore, to substantiate the involvement of resident individuals in the course of package preparation, and putting into practice, inhabitants were cross-examined and the followings are the evidences of inhabitants about the level of involvement.

**Table 2**

*Displays the involvement of people in the villagization program.*

How did you participate in the program?	Frequency	Percent
1.voluntarily	167	99.4
2.involuntarily	1	.6
Total	168	100.0

Computed from Survey data (2019)

As one of the participant supposed, subsequently the administrators had completed the negotiations with the local people and do well in resounding them, individuals from dispersed area move toward and established in the villages. Individuals relocated to the towns without being forced by the administrators. Astonishingly, some individuals underway the movement on their account and settled in the societies without waiting for the programmed and endorsed date. They look after this for the reason that they were inspired by the potentials prepared by the Management. They even get the advantage by cutting trees for constructing houses. They were organized to work together with the administration to create the operation of the package valuable and effective.

**The main obstacles of villagization**

**Table 3**

*Displays the factors affecting villagization program*

No	Main factors	Frequency	Per cent
1	access to service	27	16.1
2	The pressure of host communities	20	11.9
3	commitment of implementers	27	16.1
4	lack of awareness	20	11.9
5	miscalculation of community	47	28
	Total	47	28.0
		168	100.0

Computed from Survey data (2019)

**Miscalculation of community**

Conferring to the investigation outcomes, forty seven percent of the family stated that the foremost contests for executing the villagization program is a confusion of the community concerning it. It is prone to various contests in relations to operation and also creates challenges to the welfare of the repositioned inhabitants.

According to Lorgen (1990), the difficulties ascending from the program can be alienated into those derivated from the approach the program realized and those ascending from the understanding of existing in the fresh communities. As the survey outcomes showed in the aforementioned table, forty seven percent of the family stated that there was a lesser amount of consciousness formation program apprehended, and even in some improvement midpoints, it was lacking. As the focus group discussant, regarding the know-hows of inhabitants, contests regularly



comprise the corporal site of the settlements, particularly their detachment from the fields, in terms of walking to them and shielding them from pests and robbery, and absence of aquatic and fuelwood.

### **Scarcity of Awareness**

Conferring to the investigation outcomes shown in the above table, forty seven percent of the family stated that there was less consciousness formation package apprehended. The bar chart below illustrates the main obstacles of the villagization program in the study area.

Likewise, the data produced from focus group discussion apprehended in kurmuk and Sherkole districts states that, the operation of the program confronted contests from the incomers. They had no adequate information related to the purpose and significance of the program.

### **Scanty Execution Performance**

Arena information and investigators' remark at several community midpoints shown that the building of dwellings, schools, and veterinary health center are on advancement. Nevertheless, the founding of water points, shops, electric power supply, delivery of farming inputs, and training centers are the left-back actions. There is gap in the scheduling and operation of the communal and financial organizations at dissimilar growth centers. The local Administration looks to have flourished less in given that the development cores with all the assured vital facilities.

### **Deficiency of Spotless Water supply**

Yet the package line up clean and adequate water supply, it determinedly met difficulties in recognizing possible water points, accomplishment of water schemes construction, and sanitization of surface water. The result designates that the operation performance of water projects was underprovided, and the postponement of these projects obstructs the fruitful implementation of the programs. Some respondents and group discussant indicated that the nonappearance of water for individuals and cattle in some communities caused in came back of settlers to their preceding farmstead. Investigators' arena remark also deep-rooted that there is a clean water source problem.

### **Suspension of Farmland Delivery**

The research establish out that farmland provision and deliveries for agricultural activity was lagged. Shared land proprietorship scheme was recognized as substantial subsidizing factor for attaining less in farmland provision and delivery struggle. Therefore, they face a very critical contest in fixing and allocating farmland to incomers in numerous site of inhabitants.

### **Conclusion**

The research tried to pinpoint the socio economic impacts that caused from the execution of the villagization program. This result indicated that the inhabitants in all communities had problematical lives and poor living conditions before the emergence of the program. Additionally, womenfolk underwent attacks in the hands of their spouses without getting sheltered. Inhabitants in the three resident recognized agriculture as the only optimistic thing about the preceding lifetime. The outcomes of this investigation indicated the program executed to make the lives of the individuals enhanced by delivering indispensable communal facilities to them. The program intended at getting dispersed people organized to subsidy from Administration services while existing collected in the settlements. The resident individuals were referred and well-versed of things they wanted to recognize. Furthermore, numerous communal amenities were assured to them, although not all the certain facilities happened. Present day, it is conceivable for teenagers can start schooling at school age for the reason that the remoteness is not at all extensive a factor. Walking an extended space to

the health midpoint, grinder firm, and to bring water is not expected and almost absent the villarization site for the reason that these services are available at a nearer variety. Female have predominantly advanced from the obtainability of these facilities due to their closeness to them they no extensive have to bring water from remote gone, grind corns with their hands or march a extensive warmth to the grinder firm.

As the survey result portrays, the program has enhanced communication and relations between the inhabitants due to their intimacy. Societies have become to be familiar with one another well than before and now recognize themselves as affiliates of the matching community.

If somebody is in misfortune and wants support, others can straightforwardly hear about it and come to help. There is logic of coordination and unanimity among the inhabitants as a outcome of the program.

The administration can also influence the individuals whenever it needs them for the reason that they are collected in the communities. Individuals can now work organized and resolve their difficulties.

### **Recommendations**

- The outcomes of this investigation supposed to function as a foundation for forthcoming policy making in the area of resettlement and villagization program
- The outcomes benefit figure decision making in scheming a plan involving inhabitant's undertaking and support policy planers fix strong principles for a effective and operative operation of the program.
- Hereafter, policy designers and makers need to reexamine the status of program and see it from the concerning inhabitants.
- Entirely the essential things such as houses, health centers, water pumps, mill houses and schools should be constructed first and prepared wisely for use.
- The land needed for farmers have to be cleared, and distributed to the people as well as they reached their residents.
- The relocating of individuals to the settlements ought to take place only after the whole thing indispensable and crucial has been made obtainable and prepared.
- It should be agreed that the program should not be implemented and individuals should not be relocated unless the basic principles intrinsic in it are prized.

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