

ABSTRACT

Ethnic Conflicts and Their Impacts on Livelihood System: Focus on frequent ethnic conflicts occurring in the border areas of Amhara and Afar regions

By: Techan Tefera

The general objective of this study is to investigate Ethnic conflicts occurring in the border areas of Amhara and Afar regions and their impacts on livelihood system. Data pertaining to this problem was obtained from purposefully selected 6 Woredas and 12 adjacent kebeles; in which 174 target primary respondents are selected randomly as sample size. Data was collected by using a questionnaire and both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were employed. The findings of this study reveal that the sever and frequent disastrous ethnic conflicts along the bordering areas of the Amhara and Afar regions have been getting their peak stages basically since 1991 through resulting in loss of human life, destruction of physical assets and properties, damage of infrastructures, erosion of psychological capabilities, imprinted memories which are difficult to erase; and degradation of socio- economic networks of vulnerable people in the study areas. Therefore, the study confirmed that the real practice of ethnic based federalism political system of the country at its grass root level is not in a position to mitigate ethnic conflicts and settle peace and securities among different ethnic groups as per its presumed goals, objectives and roles since its adoption of 1991; due to the newly created and articulated high prevalence of desires to have wide area of administration boundaries, motives to consolidate strong power over the neighboring other ethnic groups among local administrators, political leaders and other elites of the conflicting ethnic groups; which resulted in multi dimensional losses. The policy implication of this study is that unless these disastrous ethnic conflicts are treated and addressed properly from disaster risk science and sustainable development point of view, the formulation and implementation processes of every project, plan and programs in the areas may be critical and fruitless due to the fact that sustainable peace, security and stability are the primacy for all persistent and sustainable development issues; which in turn can be the pillar justification for the motives and vitality of research's recommendations.

Key words: *Multi ethnic groups, Ethnicity, Diversity, Conflicts, Losses, livelihood system, Ethnic based Federalism, Political system, good governance, Victims, Root causes of conflict, vulnerability, Copping mechanisms and Strategies, Regimes, Stake holders*