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 SELP Journal of Social Science - A Blind Review & Refereed Quarterly Journal
 ISSN: 0975-9999 (P) 2349-1655 (O)
 Impact Factor: 3.655(CIF), 2.78(IRJIF), 2.77(NAAS)
 Volume XIII, Issue 52
 April – June 2022
 Formerly UGC Approved Journal (46622), © Author

EFFECT OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY ON COMMUNITY SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELLBEING IN ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF BOJIDIRMEJI DISTRICT

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Abstract

The study aims at assessment of the effect of political instability on community socio economic wellbeing at BojiDirmaji District . Survey data collection was used to describe the effect of political instability on community socio economic wellbeing. Besides explanatory research design was used to test the relationship political instability and socio economic related variables. Data was collected both from primary and secondary sources. Out of a total target population of 1442 households,313 samples were taken in probability sampling. Data was analyzed, summarized and presented by using both quantitative and qualitative method of data analysis. To analyze the data obtained SPSS version 23 was used. The findings from the analyses showed that lack of Peace and security, an outbreak of conflict, violence and social unrest, youth unemployment, death of people, lack of transportation, burned of infrastructure, interruption of the construction projects, decreasing in crop and farm production and market inflation have negative relationships with socio-economic growth in the BojiDirmeji District . Therefore, the government is expected to design policies and strategies to solve the effect of political instability on the socio-economic wellbeing of the community. Encouraging crop and farm production, increase access to education and health could reduce unemployment and improve the quality of life of the community.

Keywords: *Political instability, Socio- economic, community wellbeing, infrastructure, living conditions.*

INTRODUCTION

Political Instability, implying risk, limits investments and hence growth.

Moreover, since physical capital is becoming increasingly mobile across countries and regions, the role of political

instability in economic decision making is likely to increase as foreign investment and capital flight respond ever more sensitively to changes in countries' political environments (*J Overland, 2005*).

Nowadays political instability has been a cause of concern for many countries around the world and a headache for government irrespective of the state of development or their political regime. (*Shonchoy and Tsubota, 2014*). In most Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan political conflicts can turn economy into disastrous. Weak economic performance may lead to government fall down and political instability. People will react when they don't have any jobs to do. Many people in our country are at lower level. They hardly care about who is in the government authority, because they need works to do, they need food for their family (*Chawdhury, 2016*).

The Economic growth of Ethiopia has shown various changes in different political regimes. These changes in government structure created a problem of inconsistency in implementing the policies by previous regimes as well as natural disaster like famine, drought, political instability and war (*Alemayehu and Befekadu, 2005*) the country has experienced strong economic growth in the current time. Real GDP growth averaged 11.2% per annum during 2003/04 and 2008/09 period, placing Ethiopia among the top performing economies in sub-Saharan Africa (*NBE, 2013/14*)

In BodjiDirmaji District there are many problem which is not solved because of the effect of Political instability, in this case peace and security is one of the best example. In BodjiDirmaji District is not under stable conditions to perform their daily activity as the result of instability in the District.

Statement of the Problem

Instability disrupted the provision of public services, such as hospitals, pharmacies and schools, as well as

infrastructure for the distribution of water, roads, education, transportation and electricity. Pervasive looting of financial service providers and cereal storehouses by armed groups reduced the capacity to provide credit and mitigate food security in the region. Tourism and foreign aid were also highly affected (*Simon Levine, Mary Allen, et al, 2021*)

The problem of political instability generates more serious for a society which is multi ethnic, having people of diverse cultural attributes. In a politically stable state all sections of society get their due shares and are satisfied being a part of a multi ethnic society which ultimately leads towards the nation-building. In stable conditions people are empowered and exert their energies for the development of nation (*Memon and Shaikh, 2011*)

The African political instability and other related problems is basically a consequence of its leadership problem. At domestic level, African governments are run in ways that have been regarded as far from the modern western state systems, (*Osei Tutu, 2004*) many people are on the move as asylum seekers or refugees in a number of countries. They are escaping from civil wars, and oppressive regimes working in cohort with external special interests, especially in countries endowed with natural resources. The end result is migration, both forced and willful and the final destination is the north. Instead of addressing the roots cause of less beneficial forms of migration for instance, forced migration and so on, countries in the north develop responses to manage migration (*Adepoju, 2008*)

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world with a population of more than 115 Million with subsistence agricultural sector (*Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data, 2021*). According to *Alemayehu and Befekadu (2005)*, Ethiopia's history is full of conflict, drastic policy change and reversals.

The gap that the researchers saw in West Wollega particularly BojiDirmeji District by political instability indicators like diminishing of basic state functions that serve the community, including failure to protect citizens from poverty and violence to provide essential services, such as health, education, sanitation, road, and public transportation, political instability indicators like ethnic Conflict, lack of peace and security is one of the most effect of Political instability on socio economy in BodjiDirmeji District.

Objective of the study

The objective of this study was to assess the effect of Political instability on Community socio economic wellbeing in BodjiDirmeji District. *The specific objectives of the study were to:*

1. Identify the major factors for absence of political stability on community;
2. Investigate the effects of the existing political instability on farm and crop production; and,
3. Examine the effect of political instability on social life of community.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The study used explanatory research design to explain, understand and predict the cause and effect relationship between variables that is political instability (independent variables) and socio economic of community (dependent variable). It was used to identify effect of political instability on community socio economic wellbeing in BojiDirmaji Wareda suggested possible solution based on the study.

Research Approach

For this study both qualitative and quantitative research approach are used. Quantitative research answers questions through a controlled logical process, allowing for the collection of numerical data, the prediction, and the measurement

of Variables. And qualitative approach used to analyze open-ended questions and triangulate in explaining and interpreting the finding of quantitative study. According to Creswell (2003), mixed method approach is a relatively new approach which makes use of different forms of data that enable researchers’ to create understandable design out of complex data and analysis.

Population, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Population

In research methods, population is the entire aggregation of items from which samples can be drawn (Yahiya, 2011). The population of the present study would be consisted of all urban and rural household. The researchers’ used simple random sampling method to draw the sample from the population.

Table 1

Sample size of the study area

S.N	Name of Kebele	Number of Total Households
1	Bila 02 (Urban kebele)	647
2	DidibeTuli (Rural kebele)	396
3	Burka Boji (Rural kebele)	399
	Total	1442

Source: Report from Bila Municipality Office (2021)

Sample size determination

According to Yamane (1967) formula, the researchers would be selected 313 sample households from the total household of 1442. The sample size are determined by using equation 1 with a 95% level of confidence, N (total population) =1442, 0.05 degree of variability and margin of error (e) =0.05,

- n- The sample size
- N- The population size
- e- The acceptable sampling error
- 95%-confidence level and $P=0.05$ are assumed $n = \frac{1442}{\sqrt{1442}} = \frac{1442}{38.1} = 37.8$

A formal sample survey used to be collected primary data for the study. Therefore, a structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data from urban and rural households.

Therefore, the sample sizes for this study were 313 respondents. In order to select respondents among 1 kebeles of the Bila town, the sample kebeles were selected using purposive sampling technique based on population density, commercial activity and location. As a result, Bila 02 kebeles (heavily populated) and (commercial center) and Didibe Tuli and Burka Bojiis rural kebeles which is harmed/ attacking with the absence of peace and security in BojiDirmaji District was selected.

Sampling Technique

For this study the researchers used probability sampling (simple random sampling, stratifying sampling) and non-probability (purposive or judgment sampling) techniques. The researchers also used stratifying sampling technique to distribute the questionnaires for respondents. The rationale behind using simple random sampling technique for this study is to give each member of the study population equal chance of being selected.

Three Kebeles with socio economic of community affected by political instability selected for the study. Accordingly, Burka Boji, DidibeTuli, Bila 01Keble's was selected on the basis of the author's judgment. Because they are kebeles which are socio economic affected by political instability.

Methods of data collection

Sources of Data

The study conducted by collecting data from both primary and secondary sources. The primary and secondary data sources would be used to carry out the study.

Primary data source

Primary data was collected from the urban and rural households, government employees, and business man and based on a structurally designed questionnaire.

Secondary data Sources

The secondary sources of data were gathered from records and reports of the office, the most important use of this secondary data source would be to corroborate and augment evidence from other sources (Yin, 1989; pp. 86). Thus, the document examination helps to substantiate the patterns that evolved from the data going to collected via questionnaires and interview, so that the validity of the findings would be enhanced through secondary sources. Data was got by reviewing relevant text books, journals, documents, magazines, newspapers, reports, the web and other published materials about the research topic.

Data Collection Instruments

The data collection instruments utilized in this study was questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion. In order to collect sufficient data so as to answer the research questions, researchers would going to use questionnaire to get quantifying result and survey will interviews aimed to collect data from household. In addition to questionnaire, interview and secondary data source will also use. On top, open ended questions were used for respondents to gather in depth information about effect of political instability on socio economic wellbeing of

community in BojiDirmaji District through focus group discussion.

Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis is a process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information, informing conclusions and supporting decision-making. Data analysis has multiple facets and approaches, encompassing diverse techniques under a variety of names, and is used in different business, science, and social science domains.

The study focused on the effect of political instability (independent variable) and on socio economic wellbeing (dependent variable) different statistical analysis that could show the effect between the two has been used. Data was analyzed, summarized and presented by using both quantitative and qualitative method of data analysis. The collected data was processed and organized using different methods such as Descriptive and inferential statistics, correlation and regression model, Later the data was organized, analyzed, and presented by using tables, graphs, figures are used to describe the profile of respondents and further discussion was made to interpret the result used to analyze by SPSS version 20 for data analysis. Pearson correlation and Regression test was used to determine the relationship between Political instability and Socio economic wellbeing. Finally the findings were discussed with relevant literature and conclusion.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic information of respondent gathered for these studies were gender, age, marital status, education level,

and experience and occupation work of households. The result of the factors 284(90.7%) of respondents are says Yes this implies there are absence of peace and security or political instability in your area and 29(9.3%) of respondents say No. The majority of the respondents we can conclude that, there are absences of peace and stability in the BojiDirmaji District . The mean score of the question “Is there absence of peace and stability in your area” is relatively (M=1.9, SD=0.290) which shows Peace and stability in the community is very low.

Effect of Political Instability on Infrastructure Development

As it can be seen from the analyses political instability is a very high risk of instability on different infrastructure development. The transportation/ the movement of humans, animals, and goods from one place to another are very low which counts 68(21.7%).The distribution of Electric power is the next count which are 67(21.4%), The distribution of Pure water service supply is count 55(17.6%) these means the communities of BojiDirmaji are using poor quality of water. The Communication network service counts 46(14.7%). Communication service such as Mobile network, and internets are infrastructure which is blocked because of political instability. The other one is the maintenance of health via the recantation diagnosis, treatment, recovery, injury and other physical and mental impairments of people is low action in case of absence of peace and security in the BodjiDirmaji Kebeles which is 30(9.6%). The interruption process of facilitating learning of knowledge, skills, Values morals, beliefs and habits in more kebeles are decreased which counts 47(15.0%) because of political instability.

Table 2
Correlation analysis the independent and dependent variables

Correlations					
		Political Instability	Socio economic wellbeing	Infrastructure development	Production / labor force
Political Instability	Pearson Correlation	1	.270**	.231**	-.035**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.531
	N	313	313	313	313
Socio economic wellbeing:	Pearson Correlation	.270**	1	.615	-.091
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.105
	N	313	313	313	313
Infrastructure development	Pearson Correlation	.231**	.615**	1	-.161
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.004
	N	313	313	313	313
Production/ labor force	Pearson Correlation	-.035**	-.091	-.161	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.531	.105	.004	
	N	313	313	313	313

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01level (2-tailed)

Source: Own survey, July 2021

For most of the relationships, the inter correlations among variables were found to be in the expected direction. Significant correlations were observed between Socio economic wellbeing and Political instability ($r=.270$, $p<.01$). Similarly the correlation between Infrastructure development and Political instability was ($r=.231$, $p<.01$), followed by Production force ($r=-.035$, $p>.01$) which shows that Socio-economic wellbeing and Infrastructure development dimensions of Political instability are positively and significantly correlated to Political Instability. Similarly, significant correlation exists between Infrastructure

development and Socio economic wellbeing ($r=.615$, $p<.01$). in this case Infrastructure development has also significant correlation with Socio economic wellbeing. The correlation Infrastructure development and production force had with Socio economic wellbeing was not significant at $p\geq.01$. Correlation is used to answer the question if there is a relationship between two variables and to quantify the strength of linear relationship between the variables.

From the above table it can see that the most correlated variable to the production /labor force is infrastructure development. The correlation, $r = -0.161$,

indicates that labor or production force towards the infrastructure development has a perfectly negatively correlation with Production or labor force. That is when infrastructure development increases their labor/ Production force decreases. The Socio Economic wellbeing, with $r = -0.091$, is the 2nd perfectly negatively correlated variable to labor or production force. This indicates that Socio economic wellbeing of community will have a

relatively with Production or labor force. The next perfectly correlated variable to Labor or production force is Political instability, with $r=-0.035$.

Regression analysis of Political instability on socio economic wellbeing

The regression model presents how much of the variance in Socio economic wellbeing is explained by the Political instability. As shown in the table below.

Table 3
Regression analysis ANOVA results

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	112.40	1	56.454	369.033	.000 ^b
	Residual	27.250	311	.133		
	Total	139.65	312			
<i>a. Dependent Variable: Socio economic wellbeing</i>						
<i>b. Predictors: (Constant), Political instability</i>						

Source: Own survey, 2021

The ANOVA output table describes the overall variance accounted for in the model. The F value (.369.033) and the small significance value level (.000) indicate that the predictor variables are not contributing equally to the overall socio economic wellbeing. Moreover, the significance level (0.000) is less than $p < 0.05$, implies the model is significant. Thus the stated variable Political instability has an effect on socio economic wellbeing, as is indicated by the F statistics.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the result and discussions, the researchers has recommended on the study like increasing of socio economic of the community according to the following targets.

- It is true that the socio economic wellbeing of Political instability cannot be solved in one way and by government only. The problem is multi-dimensional. Therefore, integrated and collective measure has to be taken by concerned government sectors of all levels.

- The governments authorities will eradicating at least reduces political instability in the District. This requires more targeted measures. To expansion or establishment of democratic institutions with the aim of improving the living conditions of populations; reducing conflict and violence in the community, spreading of public transportation, expansion of infrastructure, promote good governance in the District.

- Government working with community to developing the crop and farm production, improving their quality of life through clean environment, access to education, health and reduce unemployment.

- Public awareness should be raised on the methods of controlling the effect of political instability on the community and developing of socio economic wellbeing (producing the cereal, and crop production of community)

- Government is expected to do more on the designing policies and strategies to solve the effect of political instability on socio economic wellbeing of Community.

- Government and non-governmental bodies need to design awareness creation programs about the positive benefits of Peace and stability in the community. This will initiate more community to get involved in the job and production work.

- Local government bodies such as the District Administration, District Peace and security, District Political Party and kebele administration to discussing with community on decreasing political in stability

- Government bodies' emphasis upper to lower on avoiding Political instability and developing the socio economic wellbeing of community and solving the effect of macro and a micro economy of community.

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