# A Review of Factors Affecting Unemployment in Ethiopia

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# Abstract

Ethiopia has identified unemployment at the strategic and policy levels. They are viewed as a means of reducing unemployment through misguided educational approaches, providing entrepreneurship skills and extra training, and reducing the mismatch between work and talent in industries. Previous research has shown that the incremental unemployment rate in developing nations such as Ethiopia is higher than in industrialized countries due to a range of internal and external variables. As a result, the goal of this research was to identify the primary influences that typically impact unemployment in Ethiopia. To achieve the study's goal, previous researches (journal papers) from 2012 to 2023 were used. Higher population growth, rural-urban migration, poor educational quality, lack of entrepreneurship, lack of experience, corruption, age, gender, rapid technological change, access to electrical power, access to market information, and the economic status of their families are the major factors that commonly determine unemployment in Ethiopia. Finally, the report advised that the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and financial institutions take special care of Ethiopia's unemployment.

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# Introduction

Unemployment refers to persons who exist employable and enthusiastically seek work however are not capable toward treasure trove it. It happens while individual who is extremely diligent in their search for work is unable to negotiate a job. The situation remains commonly used as an indicator of economic health.

Unemployment is a major issue in practically all countries. It has been the most dependable and problematic, which is the inverse of all industrialized and underdeveloped countries. Unemployment is clearly stated not partaking a employment or else being unemployed, or else as the percentage of those who are capable of working and enthusiastically beholding for work but are anxious to find it (Buruk, 2015; Amanuel, 2016).

Unemployment has been a source of concern for the global economy since the Great Depression, and significant levels of unemployment still exist around the world-wide. A basic unemployment in Europe, job security in the United States, and constraining issues in the Soviet Union are all merely certainties in the global economic crisis of nervous unemployment (Romenet, 2009; Teklu, 2016). However, unemployment continues to exist on a global basis. The severity of the issue varies by country. It is, however, a source of concern in both industrialized and developing countries.

An increasing of population number, migration of population from rural-urban, and a low level of economic growth current a rising unemployment level. The view of unemployment in unindustrialized countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, has gotten worse since the population increased, economic growth was low, and other reasons (CSA, 2012).

External aspects such as indication limitations, scarcity of external exchange, equilibrium of payment problems, and uncomplimentary terms of trade were serious causes of unemployment (Tecle, 2002; Birhanu, 2020).

Ethiopia is one of these countries that is particularly vulnerable to multiple social, psychological, and economic difficulties such as unemployment. Its unemployment rate has been steadily rising. Ethiopia's formal unemployment rate has lately risen from 4.5% in 2013 (CSA, 2013) to 8% in 2021 (Alemayehu, 2022).

# Methodology

A number of researches have been undertaken in the past to examine variables influencing unemployment in Ethiopia, through the majority of the studies producing inconsistent results. As a result, the new study's goal is to conduct a systematic literature review to identify the key and common factors that influence unemployment in Ethiopia. Only previous empirical studies on the effects of unemployment in Ethiopia were evaluated. The study spans the years 2012 to 2023, and covers research results published in international publications. Finally, the findings of many empirical researches were synthesized and contrasted, and conclusions were reached about the most important factors influencing unemployment in Ethiopia.

#### Discussion

#### Theories related to unemployment

Unemployment is a phrase that refers to those who are employable as well as want to work but are unable to find work. Unemployment happens while a somebody enthusiastically looking for job is unable to treasure trove labor, and it is frequently used as a measure of the health of the economy (Adam, 2022; Meron, 2022).

Unemployment affects people emotionally; there is a relation among unemployment and a absence of selfconfidence and buoyancy, which indications to dejection. It also led to increased anxiety and tension. High unemployment commonly leads to higher marital interruption, separation, and prejudice in society, as well as increased suicide and crime rates, particularly among young people (Teklu, 2016; Birhanu, 2020).

Unemployment is also linked to dissatisfaction, both for people who are unemployed and for those who are working. Anxiety over unemployment in a time of severe job uncertainty is well established, and sorrow is well understood to be related to psychological and physical ill-health (Mesfin et al., 2021).

A vast body of evidence also links unemployment to criminality. Wrongdoing is expensive not only for the social order, but also for any community. Furthermore, any such possessions are probable to ought to long-standing effects; if a history of relegation and delinquency has been established; one's prospect forecasts (and expectations) are likely to be governed appropriately. As a result, unemployment is harmful to people and society as a whole; nevertheless, it is also crucial to note that the harmful effects of unemployment are mostly related with long-term unemployed rather than unemployment in general. Individuals have actually touched dangerous items from the collapse (Alemayehu, 2022; Endashaw et al., 2020).

# Human capital theory

According to this theory, education is a vital asset for economic growth as well as the preservation of garbed and creative jobs, shows a large besides important part in the nation's economy, and improves people's efficiency and effectiveness by raising the level of perceptive standard of carefully creative humanoid competence, which is a product of inborn aptitudes and an asset in humanoid lives (Schultz, 2012; Mesfin, 2021).

Additional demonstrated education upsurges the odds of service in the labor marketplace, lets the persons earn individuality and non-pseudo typical revenues, stretches their chances for occupation flexibility, and gives clues to greater production aimed at civilization and improved pays for the separate employee. Also specified is that advanced education delivers the ability desirable to achieve multifaceted occupations, creating the person's additional creativity, therefore behind economic development. Persons with the greatest humanoid wealth are hypothetically considered to be the most creative and, therefore, to have the finest occupations and the highest incomes. This training acting a significant character happening influential the service rank of an separable (Schultz, 2012; Mesfin, 2021; Belay, 2021).

# Social capital theory

This method absorbed the forte of the community draw secondhand through a being in the procedure of discovering an occupation and robust draws or community system between persons every day, emotionally penetrating ties with networks, consultants, and co-workers. The evidence influenced by some memberships of this ring is rapidly common with other memberships. Likewise, it is well known that feeble ties are uncommon,

not expressive examples, and limited towards single thin form of correlation. Persons through frail ties will be disadvantaged of evidence from unfriendly shares of the community schemes, and their determination is limited to the regional newscast and the opinions of their nearby networks. Consequently, persons with feeble draws might miss job chances obtainable through finished community networks (Granovertter, 2012; Fitsum, 2014; Mesfin et al., 2021).

#### **Theory of Job Search**

According to Stephen and Jack (2012), the concept of an unemployed individual viewing aimed at labor is predictable enough to allow three steps: First steps: Individual gathers evidence regarding business openings. Opportunities arisen through various pre-assigned salary and circumstances. In second steps, individual's agrees to relate aimed at the available positions. The decision to apply is influenced by the projected value of acquiring a job. Finally individual's receives the suggestion of some jobs for which individual's has useful. The achievement of an person's request is determined by his or her personal traits.

#### The classical school theory of unemployment

The theory's central element is that the job marketplace services of supply and demand react to fluctuations in actual pays. As a result, unemployment is a result of actual pays .Existence residual is also vital to agree to the job fair to deer, government pay control, and particularly influential employment amalgamations are classed as critical fundamental issues. As a result, unemployment under the traditional scheme either suspends or does not generate jobs. The strategy implication graceful safe conventional assessment of unemployment is that in order to reduce unemployment, it is necessary to reduce government regulation, trade union control, and brand the work (Smith, 1989).

# Keynesian school theory of unemployment

According to this theory purported emphases on economic strategy principles is similarly censored by the link between management spending and unemployment. Keynes asserted "The tax was intended to arouse spending on consumption and investment, leading to increased profits as well as work." (mankiw, 2002). The reasons for the levy remained cast in the shadow of financial prosperity, which has resulted in a decrease in the unemployment degree. Rendering to supply spiders, whose labors are allowable to save advanced portions of their pays, they supply considerably additional work (Mankiw, 2002).

# The New Keynesians theory of unemployment

This theory was similarly contended that utmost occasionally do not strong smooth after separately and observing available for their individual notice. Since together evidence is problematic and prices of altering values are principally due to certain value inflexibilities and consequences, there is an opportunity for variations in service. For instance, in the work marketplace, companies that censor salaries not only decrease the price of work but also wind up deprived of excellence in work power. Therefore, they motivation remain unwilling to cut incomes. If this one is price aimed at companies toward alter the values they alter then the salary they compensation the alteration motivation remain uncommon, then uncertainty altogether companies regulate values then salaries rarely, the bargain widespread equal grosses then values might not remain elastic sufficient toward evade infrequent eras of smooth great unemployment (Darbash; 2012).

#### The new classical school theory of unemployment

It is contends that constructed on the theory of marketplace clearance. "Here is no aim why companies or labors would not regulate salaries or values doubt that would type them improved rotten." Therefore, values and salaries regulate the instruction to associate supply and demand in extra arguments, making the marketplace vibrant. The suggestion of this theory is that there is no option for instinctive unemployment. Some unemployed people actually need work determination proposals from certain bosses. Supple alteration of salaries and charge greeneries altogether, persons on effort at the successful salary and companies can yield and trade for instance ample as they need to the successful value (New classical theory).

#### Kinds of unemployment

Smith takes acknowledged four kinds of unemployment.

(a) Structural Unemployment: Is likewise recognized as Marxian being without a job or established unemployment. Also in line with the relaxed development of wealth in the nation. The whole employment power cannot be engaged in useful employment since there are not adequate tools to engagement them.

(b) Seasonal Unemployment: Seasonal unemployment rises for the reason that of the periodic charm of a specific dynamic movement, as a result individuals develop joblessness through the loose period. Works concerning agricultural science, sugar mills, rice mills, ice factories, and the leisure industry are periodic.

(c) Frictional Unemployment: It rises when labor power is provisionally available of effort because of pictureperfect flexibility on the part of the labor. Certain elements of frictional unemployment are guaranteed to occur in a rising and active economy in which some enterprises are declining while others are expanding, and in which people are free to work wherever they want. This is because it takes time for the unemployed to find new jobs or relocate to new areas where there is a demand for labor. Thus, frictional unemployment occurs whenever there is an unsatisfied demand for labor, but the unemployed laborers are either not suited for the work in issue or not in the

(d) Cyclical Unemployment: Is commonly referred to as Keynesian unemployment. It's owing to a lack of cumulative genuine request. An occurs of an industry experiences a period of decline. Throughout the downturns, industry action has slowed and unemployment has risen. Certain people are scared of working in general, while others are unemployed or underemployed. Such kind of joblessness results from the fact that the total actual demand of the public is insufficient to engross the whole creative of properties to be made through the accessible standard of wealth. Once businesswomen are unable to sell their assets and facilities, their revenue prospects are not met. So the business people's yield and unique influences cause them to be unwaged.

(e) Disguised Unemployment: In developing countries, the utmost common kind of unemployment is disguised unemployment. The standard of prosperity does not produce debauched in developing countries. The wealth standard has not continued to rise to a level sufficient to keep up with people's development, and the country's ability to suggest creative services to original labor market applicants has remained severely incomplete. This usually expresses in two techniques.

(i) Incidence of significant joblessness in urban areas; and

(ii) A procedure rising statistics betrothed farming, subsequent in 'disguised

# **Conceptual framework**

Following a literature analysis and contextualization of Ethiopia, the enumerated variables necessitate an argumentative conclusion about the state of employability. Higher population growth and rural-urban migration reimbursements for the increased measure of unemployment. Poor quality educational policy challenges the concrete essentials of the country's economy by indulgencing qualified humanoid wealth donated for the occurrence of unemployment in Ethiopia. For example, the impartiality of job formation instruction acknowledged in new years has been bothersome to develop career prospects for those fresh graduates; it is not as well arranged as planned in their strategy papers; therefore, work design needs the occurrence of original industrial businesses and the business capability of the ex-students that arise since the greater organizations.



Fig. 1. Conceptual framework. Source: Own development (2024)

# Factors that affect unemployment in Ethiopia: empirical evidence in Ethiopia

# Rapid population growth

People's access to agriculture is dwindling. The rural household agonizes over the weight of dependent relatives and the scarcity of fertile land for grain production to retain household memberships. The great pastoral people's expanding degree has led the fast development of rural labor power, which is far outshining the source of rural vocations. The effects of quicker human development on Ethiopia's unemployment are multifaceted. It shifts the supply side over, resulting in a significant and rapid increase in work power compared to the pastoral area's absorptive capacity (Haile, 2012; Meron, 2022; Amanual, 2016; Teklu,2016; Birhanu,2020; Alemayehu,2022).

# **Rural-urban migration**

People's access to agriculture is dwindling. The rural household agonizes over the weight of dependent relatives and the scarcity of fertile land for grain production to retain household memberships. The great pastoral people's expanding degree has led the fast development of rural labor power, which is far outshining the source of rural vocations. The effects of quicker human development in the Ethiopian, more job loss peoples are complicated. It shifts the supply side over, resulting in a significant then quick growth in work power compared to the pastoral area's absorptive capacity (Haile, 2012; Meron,2022; Amanual,2016; Teklu,2016; Birhanu,2020; Alemayehu,2022)

# Low standard of education

It is pragmatic that the mediocre Ethiopian ex-student lacks employable skills. He or she does not have the skills required by organizations in the appropriate segment. It is pricey for managers to incorporate new grads that will not assist their company in harvesting successfully. The purpose of any invention is to mark a return. The absence of relevant abilities required to managers is linked to the instructional framework (Haile, 2012; Mesfin et al., 2022; Meron, 2022).

# Lack of entrepreneurship

Maximum tertiary teaching absences in business courses would allow improvements to create job creators slightly more than job seekers. Businesspersons need to be hindered through the nonexistence of access to wealth to find their individual original enterprises after graduation. Early graduates' limited work opportunities lead to

behavioral and community issues. They have a habit of being fierce because they lack the capacity to play a fitting character in others (Dendir, 2013; Birhanu, 2020; Belay, 2020).

**Lack of Experience**: In the context of work that requires a profession, the majority of extra ex-students after TVT and campuses remain unemployed for more than a year; as a result, most occupations demand labor skills (Birhanu, 2020; Teklu, 2016).

**Corruption:** To obtain work in government organizations, generous currencies and additional benefits for individuals in administration bureau conditions are appropriate and common exercises. It is impossible to work in any community organization, whether it is one that lacks philanthropic currency or a traditional assembly or the families of the employing generals or containers in an organization (Birhanu, 2020).

#### Rapid technological change

International rapid technological revolution, which contributes significantly to the exacerbated unemployment crisis. Various works impacted by arrows are still in existence today, along with updated machinery and technology. The original progressive knowledge was exchanged for low-skilled or unskilled labor in modified factories. When personal computers replaced typewriters, typewriters went out of work (ILO, 2013).

#### **Others factors**

Age, gender, geographical differences, availability to electricity, access to market knowledge, economic status of their families, price increases ratio, external uninterrupted security, and outside liability and agriculture's non-work status are the whole thing factors to consider (Amanuel, 2016; Teklu, 2016; Birhanu, 2020; Meron, 2022; Mesfin et al., 2021; Alemayehu, 2022; Endasew et al., Belay, 2020; Fitsum, 2014)

#### The effect of unemployment

#### The psychological effect of unemployment

Unemployment make vulnerable psychological well-being; utmost unwaged individuals capability a steady descent in general life expectancy fulfillment, over-all good fortune, and self-assurance, also marks of misery, mainly if they are out of work for an lengthy age of time. Additional mental impacts such as worry, low confidence, suspicion, pessimism, drunkenness, and madness, also stress-related diseases like migraines, bronchitis, and heart disease(Dendir, 2013; Meron, 2020; Birhanu, 2020; Zelalem, 2014).

#### **Economic effect of unemployment**

It influence on the economy as entire of country. If a people are unemployed, individuals invest less amount of money on goods and services (to buy or purchase), finally the economy one country decreased due to low amount of production produced also amount of goods and service supplied to market to decrease. Jobless individuals consume substantially a smaller amount than working individuals, therefore a greater joblessness level can authorization the economy undersized on belongings obtainable (WB, 2021; CSA, 2021; Dendir, 2013).

# The social effect of unemployment

Unemployment is a factor affecting individuals' country in which their standard of living of Jobless society and community was poor. A society through great being without a job proportions are extra probable to require regulated labor opportunities, lowly housing, less leisure chances, inadequate access to community transport and communal facility part, and underfunded graduate school. The worst part is that unemployment demoralizes people, and they lose respect. Life becomes scornful of society, leading the unemployed to engage in evil acts such as dacoit robbery, pickpocketing, and so on. Mass unemployment may jeopardize political stability (MOE, 2023; Zelalem, 2014; WB, 2021).

Mental health: Mental health issues include low self-esteem, feelings of unworthiness, depression, and hopelessness. Through decreasing of pay and the related displeasure, the unexpectedly out of work

might grow unfavorable opinions concerning commonplace belongings in existence then might believe that wholly common sense of determination has been lost. Recurrent feelings might exist truncated selfrespect, inadequacy and emotion depressed.

Health diseases: It related stress significantly growth people's over-all well-being problems.

**Tension at home**: domestic squabbles and fights, which might principal to stress and an increase in the number of separations, etc.

**Political issues**: Damage of belief in management and administration might main to party-political volatility.

**Tension over taxes rises.** Unemployed individuals 'unhappiness besides offence between tax-paying people. Towards encounter the burdens of the jobless account, the administration frequently ought to increase levies, affecting dissatisfaction between taxpayers.

**Insecurity amongst employees**: The current job loss and the hardship of jobless individuals and their relatives might cause dread and uneasiness even among the at this time working.

Crime and violence: an rise in the crime level.

Suicide cases: a rise in both attempted and real madness.

**Social outing**: Unemployment might cause a decline in community getaways and communications with others, especially families.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

#### Conclusions

Ethiopia faces a wide range of social and economic challenges, including unemployment. Ethiopia has a high unemployment rate due to rapid population growth, increased rural-urban mobility, and sluggish economic growth (Teklu, 2016; Mesfin et al., 2021).

This study will be used as a resource for policymakers and development programs to help the country's economic growth by identifying the primary elements that influence unemployment. It will also serve as a source of data for similar future investigations. A rigorous empirical literature evaluation identifies both internal and external factors that influence unemployment in Ethiopia.

As a result, Ethiopia's rapid population increase is a result of limited cropland. The rural home agonizes over the weight of dependent relatives and the shortage of fertile land for food production in orders to maintain household membership. The expanding number of pastoral people has caused in the fast rise of rural labor power, which significantly outweighs the supply of rural occupations. The burden of more work in rural areas is one of the push-pull elements influencing this. This is remarkable for the reality of deliberate underemployment rising after the cyclical context of rural actions. Similarly, the lack of infrastructure amenities makes rural life unpleasant. This encourages unemployed adolescents to travel to town centers in the hope of finding work in manufacturing. The pull influences include the attentiveness of community services in the urban middles that interest rural adolescence. The low standard of education is pragmatic because the normal Ethiopian ex-student does not have employable ability. He or she does not possess the abilities wanted by the companies in harvesting successfully, and the lack of entrepreneurship, which results in maximum tertiary teaching absences in business subjects that would need to allow advances to develop work inventors slightly more than work searchers. Businesspersons need to be inhibited through the nonexistence of access to wealth to find their individual original companies after graduation. Low employment chances for early graduates generate dogmatic and community problems.

Unemployment also has psychological, social, and economic effects. Once somebody mislaid his or her work, it can transport a convinced disgrace as well as approaches of disgrace and unimportance. This loss of social status might be imitated in the individual's awareness of a subordinate community position. There are numerous community harms like deceit, immorality, drinking, gambling, robbery, etc. that are the consequence of unemployment; it causes psychological, social, and economic disruption for the unemployed.

#### Recommendations

This review identified factors affecting unemployment in Ethiopia; therefore, there are recommendations based on the review.

- ✓ To reduce unemployment, the school structure would be altered, and the government would take control of the teaching technique.
- ✓ To address unemployment, the government or other parties should offer entrepreneurship training.
- ✓ To combat unemployment, sectors and enterprises should investigate ways to lessen the mismatch between work and abilities.
- ✓ The government, or concerned part, is in charge of Ethiopia's national employment strategy and approach.
- ✓ The Ethiopian government is hoping that people will create small companies to help reduce unemployment.
- ✓ To create works that include increasing the incentive for firms to hire people and providing methodological exercises to aid them in gaining appropriate jobs in appropriate educational frameworks.

Finally, although most of the previous studies findings concern the factors affecting unemployment in Ethiopia, the problems are not yet addressed, so the investigator suggested that the old and out-of-date information on unemployment in a country, the country's policy and strategy would be reviewed, enchanting in light of the recent dynamic business environment.

# Limitation of the study and future research directions

The new study's conclusion is only a synthesis of the outcomes of similar previous research projects that did not reveal the statistical effect of the identified elements on the factors impacting unemployment in Ethiopia. So, future researchers can conduct behavior-related research by including the statistical consequence conclusion of altered features.

# Abbreviations

CSA- Central Statistics Agency

ILO -International Labor Organization

MoE-Ministry of Education

NGOs -Non-Governmental Organizations

WB- World Bank

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