

Enrolment No: ID1403706
Date of Submission: June 1st 2018
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Title of the project: **The Relevance Of Social Group Work Method In Youth Group Livelihood Interventions: The Case Of Gedeo Zone, Dilla Zuriya Wereda Youth Group Livelihood**

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RELEVANCE OF SOCIAL GROUP WORK METHOD FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUTH LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS: THE CASE OF GEDEO ZONE, DILLA ZURIYA WEREDA

Research Proposal Submitted to Indira Gandhi National Open University,
School of Social Work for Partial Fulfillment of Master of Arts in Social Work

Neway Mangistu

June, 2018
Ethiopia

ACRONYMS

WHO	World Health Organization
AU	African Union
SNNPRS	Southern Nation Nationalities Peoples Regional State
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
FY	Fiscal Year
USD	Unites States Dollar
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
IGA	Income Generation Activities
BDS	Business Development Service
BCFCO	Balaya Children’s And Family Charitable Organization
SGWA	Social Group Work Approach
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
FGD	Focus Group Discussion

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Pages
ACRONYMS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
1. Introduction	1
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	3
2. Objectives of the Study	4
3. Research Questions	5
4. Significance of the Study	5
5. Scope and Limitation of the Study	6
6. Organization of the Study	7
7. Description of the study Area	7
8. Research Design	7
9. Universe of the research	8
10. Sapling	8
11. sampling Method	8
12. Tools for Data Collections	9
13. Sorce of Data	10
14. Data Analysis and Interpretation	11
15. Ethical Consideration	11
16. Chapter plan	12
References	12

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Youth definitions are contextual, depending on the social, cultural, political and economic environment. According to Durham, Deborah (2000), the concept “youth” is a “social shifter”, it is a relational concept situated in a dynamic context, a social landscape of power, knowledge, rights, and cultural notions of agency and personhood. The United Nations defines youth as persons between 15 and 24 years. The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies three categories of youth adolescents (10-19), youth (15-24 years), and young people (10-24 years). African Union (AU) considers youth as persons between 15 and 34 years.

Ethiopian government defines youth as those between the ages of 15-29. In accordance with the Ethiopian government the study also uses the 29 year old cut-off for youth. This definition is universally accepted and applied by international agencies involved in youth programmes and activities in Ethiopia. (Ministry Of Youth, Sport and Culture of Ethiopia (MYSC), page 3, [www. Chilot.me](http://www.Chilot.me)).

Youth Unemployment

The persistent character of unemployment over the last decade in world has become great concern for academicians and policymakers. The underutilization of human capital or unemployment is very important issue that negatively affects the development of one’s country. Economic theories states that unemployment occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work, includes only those people who are willing to work, and are either employed or looking for jobs. Youths are among the most important resources countries need to have in order to bring about prosperity. (Msigwa and Kipesha, 2013).

However, unemployment among young people has becoming a major policy challenge for all nations in the world. It is not only a statistical concept, but also a multidimensional social phenomenon. It results substantial crises in psychological, social and economic perspectives, some of them are: increasing crime rates and violence, dependence on family, low self esteem, poor social adaptation, depression and loss of confidence (Kabaklarli et al 2011). Nazir et al

(2009) in the same manner showed that unemployment affects the socio-economic status of the family, leads to poor mental health, dependency and increases the magnitude of corruption, drug addiction, crimes and suicide in a society.

In Africa, in the same way, unemployment continues to be serious social problems despite some improvements in recent years. In the Sub-Saharan Africa youth unemployment rate is significantly higher than the adult unemployment rate. It is as twice as adult unemployment rate (ILO, 2013).

In Ethiopian context, there are limited studies on the analysis of determinants of youth unemployment. Asmare and Mulatie (2014) stated the major factors supposed to be affecting youth unemployment, particularly graduates from higher institutions. These were: lack of good governance (nepotism, corruption, bias and discrimination), lack of social networks, divergence between skills and the labor market and low quality educational policy and system. As of Gebeyaw (2011) women and the youth are the primary victims of unemployment. Ejigu (2011) found that the prime age male unemployment rate to be a positive significant predictor of youth unemployment rates.

According to Nganwa et al (2015), between 2006 and 2011, the prevalence of youth unemployment was high as compared to the total unemployment rate in Ethiopia. The study showed that place of residence (regions), gender, age, and marital status significantly affect the youth unemployment. Yet despite economic growth and a significant increase in educational attainment, Ethiopia had not been revealing any significant impact on youth employment (i.e., ages 15-24). As estimated by the Ethiopian Government, since 2013, more than 50 percent of the Ethiopian youth with primary, secondary, and higher education have been actively looking for jobs (Andualem Sisay, 2013).

In Gedeo zone, specifically at Dilla Zuriya Woreda (District), where the research is planned to be conducted, 85% of the total population of the community lives in the rural area and 95% of this community participated in agricultural system. The average young population dependency ratio in the woreda is 87.2% which is slightly larger than the national average 83.5%. Unemployment rate increase dramatically from 18.7% in 2009 to 24.5% in 2014

,female unemployed 29.4% are more larger than male 19.5% (Gedeo Zone Finance & Economy Annual Report, 2014).

Considering this high level of youth unemployment and resulting youth related problems in the zone, different concerning bodies including government, private sectors and civil societies are implementing different employment and livelihood interventions to reduce the resulting problems of youth unemployment. Unlike these all interventions, the problem is still persisting and much of the interventions are not as successful as expected in reducing the problem. Different researchers have conducted to learn the reason for the factors that hinders the success of these youth livelihood interventions. Most of the findings identified the challenges as lack of different resource, capital inputs, skills and knowledge and appropriate and effective implementation methods due to miss much between the need and the implementation. Through time, different efforts are being implementing to resolve these problems in different strategies.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

As admitted by the Ethiopian Government, the massive rate of youth unemployment has sprouted social unrest in some of the regions of the country. Thereby, to challenge the outlandish social unrest, the federal government has attempted to target urban and rural safety nets and tentatively allocated financial support to unemployed youth to empower youth job opportunity. A study by the Institute of studies (2016) revealed that in the zone, only 28% of the group businesses are expanding while 58% have not added workers. According to the survey, more enterprises are likely to close in their first year of their establishment. The report on 2016 from Gedeo Zone Youth and Sport Office revealed that, 47% of group small businesses are in stagnation with only 15% of them showing some level of growth.

According to the Market assessment report conducted at Dilla Zuriya on youth livelihood by Balaya Children's and Family Charity Organization in collaboration with Jnun consultant, in 2016, the possible factors for this problem are; lack of startup and business running capitals including financial, working place and kits, Lack of competent marketable technical skill for sustaining their IGA, weak effort has been done in value/supply chain for existing micro enterprises, lack of entrepreneurship skill to manage their business for long time and lack of teamwork skills while operating their business.

At the study area, even though there is high youth unemployment and also plenty of youth livelihood interventions, Gedeo Zone Finance & Economy Annual Report, 2017 revealed that all most all (72%) of the group interventions are not effective and sustainable. None of the previous researches/studies have examined the relevance of professional group work intervention or social group work method has on the effectiveness of youth livelihood intervention in the study area.

Thus, unless some professional measures are taken on the appropriateness of group youth livelihood intervention methodologies, the intended impacts cannot be achieved on the mitigation of youth un-employment problem through group livelihood approaches. In response to this problem, this study will be conducted to understand the application of social group work method in the group livelihood activities and to understand its relevance to solve the factors that have negative impact on group youth livelihood intervention effectiveness and sustainability.

After conducting the research, application of social group method in group livelihood and the relevance of social group work method for the effectiveness and sustainability of group youth livelihood intervention will explained and appropriate procedures and solution for the problems will be proposed from social group work professional perspectives. Youth livelihood interventions, for this research are thus, microenterprise (group petty trades, youth self-help and saving groups, small income generation groups) and macro enterprises (youth unions and cooperatives) implemented with more than five youths in one group.

2. Objectives of the Study

2.1. General Objective

To assess the relevance of social group work method in youth livelihood interventions and the factors affecting the effectiveness and sustainability of youth group livelihood interventions in Gedeo Zone, Dilla Zuriya Woreda.

2.2. Specific Objectives

- ❖ To examine to what extent the social group work method is employed in youth group livelihood interventions at the selected study area.

- ❖ To assess the knowledge and skills on social group work method application of the groups workers in group youth livelihood interventions.
- ❖ To identify the opportunities and challenges in promoting /application of social group work method in youth group livelihood interventions.
- ❖ To draw sound solution for the challenges on the effectiveness of youth livelihood interventions from social groups work method perspective.
- ❖ To explore sound methods for application and integration of social group work method's principles with youth livelihood interventions procedures.

3. Research Questions

The overall aim of this study is to assess the relevance and application of social group work methods principles in youth group livelihood and the role of social group method for the effectiveness and success of group livelihood interventions at Gedeo Zone, Dilla Zuriya woreda. In addition, this research is intended to identify more determinant factors for the application of social group work principle in youth group livelihood interventions at the study areas. More specifically, the study sought to answer the following key questions:

- ❖ To what extent the social group work method is employed in youth group livelihood interventions at the selected study area?
- ❖ What is the knowledge and skills gap of the groups workers have on social group work method application in group youth livelihood interventions?
- ❖ What are the opportunities and challenges in promoting/applying social group work method in youth group livelihood interventions?
- ❖ What are the sound solution for the challenges on the effectiveness and success of youth livelihood intervention from social groups work method principles?
- ❖ What is the sound methods for application and integration of social group work method's principles in to youth livelihood interventions procedures?

4. Significance of the Study

The finding of this study will explain the application of the social group work method and suggests possible locally appropriate, acceptable and feasible strategies to minimize the challenges of group youth livelihood interventions through social group work methods and also helps to provide the relevance of the method for group youth livelihood intervention

sustainability and effectiveness. In this regard, the study will contribute in filling the gap in knowledge of rural youth group livelihood strategies.

In addition, it is also believed that this study could be a plus to the existing literatures which focus in the area of relationship between social group work approach and group youth livelihood intervention. The research is expected to benefit policy makers and implementers in the study area by considering the benefit associated with application of social group work approach in youth livelihood interventions sustainability and effectiveness.

5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

5.1. Scope of the Study

Physically the research is planned to be conducted at Dilla Zuriya Woredea of Gedeo zone of Southern Nation Nationalities Representatives' Regional State in Ethiopia. Due to time and budget limitations the research will be limited to only five Kebeles namely Chichu, Gola, Andida, Sisota and Tumticha kebeles at which there is high group youth livelihood interventions have implemented and also being implemented by the different concerned bodies. Intervention by the government and through support of any civil societies will be included under the study as a reference/comparison.

Youth livelihood activities that are being implemented by youth in a group are the direct target of the research. For the sake of quality data management, this study will take in to consider the interventions in the past five (2013 – 2018) years. While data collections, both youths those have engaged in youth livelihood and those youth who have engaged in youth group livelihood but not currently running group business will be considered.

5.2. Limitations of the Study

Because one of the objectives of the research is to assess the knowledge and the skills of the social workers and most of social workers are from government sectors, they may not fully willing to express their weakness related to their knowledge in the area. There may be subjective response for the sake of political benefit by the government official. As a solution, the data will be cross checked by interviewing more workers in different positions and the questionnaire will be an open ended question that let them to clearly show their understanding and knowledge and the researcher will practically collected the data from the officials.

6. Organization of the Study

This study will be organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope and limitations of the study. The second chapter will focus on literature review in which it sights outcomes related to the study. Chapter three will present the research design and the methodology used to conduct the research. The fourth chapter will discuss the data analysis and interpretations. The final chapter of the study will elaborate conclusions and recommendations derived based on the research findings of the study.

7. Description of Study Area

This research will be conducted in Dilla Zuria Woreda, which is one of the six woreda of Gedeo Zone in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region of Ethiopia. As part of Gedeo Zone, Dilla Zuria is bordered on the southwest by Wenago, on the west by Oromia Region, on the north by Sidama Zone, and on the southeast by Bule. Dilla town is surrounded by Dilla Zuria. Dilla Zuria was part of Wenago woreda. Based on the 2007 Census conducted by the CSA, this woreda has a total population of 98,439, of whom 49,413 are men and 49,026 women. None of its populations are urban dwellers.

The majority of the inhabitants are Protestants, with 83.13% of the population reporting that belief, 7.81% observed traditional religions, 5.31% practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, 1.16% were Catholic, and 1.02% were Muslim. Chichu, capital of Dilla Zuria woreda is semi-urban. The total area of the districts is 122Km². (Source: Gedeo Zone Finance and Economy Development Administration). The districts fall within three major agro-climatic zones namely, Dega (High land) that accounts for 39.5%, Woyina Dega (Mid-land) covering 54.5 and Kolla (low land) accounts for 6% while the operational kebeles fall in moist Woyina Dega (mid land) agro-ecological zone.

8. Research Design

The research design will be an exploratory research design type. An exploratory research design is conducted for a more precise investigation. The focus is on gaining insights and familiarity for later investigation or undertaken when research problems are in a preliminary stage of investigation. Thus, the goals of this exploratory type of research is to familiarize with basic details, settings, and concerns in social group work method in youth group work

interventions and to develop well-grounded picture of the application of social group work in youth group livelihood interventions at the study area.

9. Universe of the Study

This study will be based on the assessment of the relevance and application of social group work method in youth group livelihood interventions. The target population of this research will be rural youth from 18-30 years old those who have engaged in group livelihood and the government workers those who have directly concerned in implementation of the interventions with these youths. The population of the study will be 420 youths those who have currently operating in group business in the past five years that have recoded and clearly documented in group business at woreda in five kebeles and 475 youths from those who have engaged in unsuccessful group business supported with office clear record and document and there will be 84 social group workers from zonal and woreda government sector offices which planned to be included in the research. Thus, the entire population of the study will be 979.

10. Sampling

The sampling determination of this study will be based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table in which no calculations are needed to determine the size of the sample. Accordingly, the sample size for this research will be derived from the entire universe of the study 979 that consisted of 420 successful youth in their business, 475 unsuccessful youth in their business and 84 social workers. The researcher will use 269 respondents out of 895 group youth livelihood members and 66 respondents for 84 social workers that are 335 respondents through Krejcie Morgan (1970) table of sample determination.

11. Sampling Methods

The data will be collected from youth group livelihood interventions through purposive sampling method. The sectors those who have direct contact with youth group livelihood intervention will be selected purposefully and included in the study. The sampling was equal given weight to youth groups those who are still in business and out of the business in the study. Due to the difficulty to locate the groups those who are out of the business, snowball sampling method will be used to identify the group members. Snowball sampling is externally

helpful in studying some special sampling situation like getting a sample of population with no defined location, circumstance and conditions.

The study respondents those who agreed to participate in the study will be included. In contrast, respondents those who were not willing to participate on the data collection will be excluded from data collection. The technical staffs of government concerned sectors those who have direct contact with youth group interventions in establishing, monitoring and evaluating the group will be included while the rest, upper management and support staffs who have indirect contact will be excluded from the data collection process.

12. Tools for Data Collection

Likert scale questionnaires will be developed and used for collecting data from youth livelihood interventions of the study. More of the questions will be of closed ended questions types. Open ended questionnaires will be used for collecting data from group workers to let the respondents have freedom of expression. The following tools of data collection were used in this study.

12.1. Interview Schedule

The opened questionnaire will be used to collect the data from youth respondents of the study. The interview schedule will be prepared keeping in mind the objectives of the study. Specific questions will be pre-coded and adequate number of questions will be included in the questionnaire to address the objectives of the study.

12.2. Focus Group Discussion

The focus group discussion will be conducted with different group youth livelihood concerned government sectors and youth livelihood groups members. The first focus group session will be organized with six (from each level) zonal and woreda level youth livelihood intervention government sectors representatives. The six zone and woreda level government sectors targeted for this focus group discussion are; Youth and Sport, OMO Micro Finance, Administrative, Trade and Industry, Cooperative and Finance and Economic Development. The third and fourth focus group discussions will be conducted with youth livelihood members those actively operating and the unsuccessful business group members organized independently.

12.3. Interview Guide

Interview guide will be used to gather additional information from key informants. Key informants for the research are both woreda and zone level youth livelihood intervention related to six sectors' those who are in charge of planning, implementing and evaluating youth livelihood intervention and the group leaders of both effective and non-effective group businesses.

12.4. Observation Guide

Observation will be used as an additional way of data collection for this study. The researcher will practically observe group intervention at their business areas. A total of seven group businesses implementing their business activity on different business types will be visited and practically observed.

12.5. Document Analysis

Relevant documents found at the group business intervention area will be taken as good source and used for obtaining relevant data. The researcher will also review different documents that are available at woreda level youth group livelihood intervention concerned sectors to have better data about youth group livelihood intervention in the woreda.

13. Source of Data

Both primary and secondary data will be used for the study. The source of primary data will be rural youths who are directly engaging and also engaged in both effective and non-effective group youth livelihood interventions. The other source of primary source of data for the research is different sectors of government offices at woreda and zone level that have implemented and also been implementing youth livelihood interventions at Dilla Zuriya woreda for the past five years. The secondary data source of the study will be different documents at sectors of government offices at woreda and zone level that have implemented and also been implementing youth livelihood interventions at Dilla Zuriya woreda for the past five years. Different records at the groups implementing and implemented group livelihood will be used as source of secondary data for the study.

14. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

In the study, both the quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis will be used. Descriptive analytical tools such as frequency distribution and percentages will be employed to analyse the collected data. Accordingly, frequency distribution tables will be used to summarize data from both the group workers and youth group members.

In order to control the quality of data under the study, the researcher will give an ultimate emphasis to the quality of the questions while preparing the questions. Data collections will be carried out by data collectors who have knowledge and experience of working with rural community. The researcher will provide two days training for data collectors on data collection methods and discussion will be made on questionnaires to collect reliable data and questionnaire will be properly designed and pre-tested, reviewed the completed questionnaire and to ensure its completeness. The questionnaire will be properly coded by the researcher. Prior to actual survey, pre-test will be conducted by the researcher to take necessary modifications and adjustment.

15. Ethical Considerations of the study

The researcher will not tolerate choices and actions that violate the rules and norms of a both the studied population and institutions. Similarly, the researcher will give a great respect for study participants, consider the issue of beneficence (psychological and social risk minimization) through keeping of participants' confidentiality, obtain the informed consent of both research participants and responsible institutions, and encouraged the equal participation of the subjects under the study.

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