



**Full Length Research Paper**

**Determinants of Urban Youth Unemployment in Borena Zone: The Case of Yabalo Town**

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**Abstract**

Youth unemployment in Ethiopia presents a significant challenge to national development, with urban areas experiencing higher rates of unemployment than rural ones. This study examines the determinants of urban youth unemployment in Yabalo, employing both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Researchers used descriptive and binary logistic econometric models to analyze the data. During the survey, the maximum number of respondents remained unemployed; of the total sample of 396 respondents, 224 (56.57 percent) were unemployed, and 172 (43.43 percent) were employed. Binary logistic model estimation results revealed that age, gender, marital status, migration status, social network, and access to credit positively affected unemployment, whereas education and work experience negatively affected unemployment. The study also confirmed that unemployment leads youth to dependency, stress, indebtedness, and crime. Although the government prioritizes youth in its programs, its efforts have a limited impact on changing the urban youth unemployment status. To lower youth unemployment, the government and city administration should encourage the private sector, expand micro and small enterprises (MSEs), encourage female participation and empowerment, and facilitate drought response strategies.

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**1. Introduction**

Unemployment is a situation where an individual is without work, available for work, or seeking work (ILO, 1998). However, this definition varies across developed and developing countries. In developing countries such as Ethiopia, unemployment is defined as an individual who is without work and available for work, under a relaxed definition that allows for labor market information and labor absorption to be low (CSA, 2020).

The definition of youth varies by country, influenced by demographic, economic, and cultural

factors. Youth is defined by the International Labor Organization (ILO, 2020) as a group of people between the ages of 15 and 24, and between the ages of 15 and 29 as defined by the Ethiopian official definition of youth (Geda, 2022). Youth unemployment is the active labor force that is actively seeking a job but has not yet gotten one, excluding children and the elderly. Youth unemployment is a serious worldwide problem that every continent currently faces, from the most prosperous to the least developed countries. The rate of youth unemployment is higher than the total unemployment rate for many countries, as many overviews indicate.

According to the International Labor Organization (2020), the global youth unemployment rate was 13.6% of the youth labor force in 2019 and is likely to increase by 0.1% by 2020 and 0.1% by 2021. The highest youth unemployment rate was 30.2% in North Africa, followed by the Arab States at 22.9% in 2019. The lowest youth unemployment rate was 8.7% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 8.8% in North America. Like most countries on the continent, Ethiopia has a large youth population, of which 72% of the population is under 30 years old. At first glance, the official unemployment rate, which was just 8% in 2021 (and was only 4.5% in 2013), provides the false impression that unemployment is not a significant problem in the nation, particularly in 2013. While the unemployment rate in urban areas is 18% in 2021 (16.5% in 2013), it is only 5.2% in rural areas in 2021 (negligible at 2% in 2013). Youth unemployment was also higher than the general unemployment. Using the Ethiopian official definition of youth aged 15–29, the national “reduced definition” based on youth unemployment in 2021 was found to be 14 percentage points above the general unemployment rate. In 2021, the urban areas had a very high youth unemployment rate (23.1%), and rural youth unemployment (12%) was relatively better (Geda, 2022).

The statistical report on 2018 suggested that the urban unemployment rate in Dire Dawa Administration is 25.3 percent (36,520 persons), Tigray Region 21.5 percent (148,758 persons), Addis Ababa City Administration 20.2 percent (406,628 persons), and Amhara Region 19.7 percent (373,059 persons) in that order, all reported above the national average. Benishangul Gumuz Region's 7.2 percent (8,971 persons) is the lowest unemployment rate. The rest of the urban areas of the other regions fell between 10% and 19% of the unemployment rate in 2018. The Oromia Region contributed the largest share of the unemployed population to the total urban area of the country, by 456,147 persons, and an 18 percent unemployment rate. This implies that the share of unemployment in the country correlates with the population size of urban areas in each region (Kamal, 2020). In the study area municipal job creation and vocational bureau report, 11 percent

of registered youth were unemployed. In the town since 2020, many people have migrated from rural to urban areas because of severe drought, which has affected the zone over five consecutive rainy seasons, and the migrants now overpopulate the town. This study aims to examine determinants of urban youth unemployment in Yabelo town.

## 2. Literature review

Various theoretical explanations have been proposed to explain the causes and effects of unemployment. Economic systems are held accountable for some reasons, while others hold other factors like population growth and foreign debt accountable. Still, other ideas blame the issue on outside forces, shocks, or unpredictable events, while others contend that labor market institutions and technology are the cause for unemployment. In addition, other theories mentioned that a lack of innovation and aggregate spending are important factors in explaining the issue of unemployment. As per the human capital theory, education is mentioned as a valuable resource for both economic growth and obtaining a secure, decent, and productive job. Youth unemployment is frequently associated with low educational attainment. According to job matching theory, the major cause of structural unemployment is a mismatch between the skill sets of the unemployed and the needs of employers. The mismatch arises because unemployed people are unable or unwilling to relocate to an area where their abilities are in demand or to modify their skill set. As a result, matching workers with jobs becomes extremely expensive, and unemployment is frequently prolonged. The social capital theory of unemployment also emphasizes that social relationships, networks, and community ties play a significant role in determining a person's ability to find and maintain employment. The job search theory of unemployment suggests that unemployment arises because job seekers need time to find a suitable job match even when jobs are available (Ketema et al., 2021; Duguma and Tolcha, 2019).

Despite the theoretical justification for the determinants of urban unemployment and its impacts

on socio-economic development, some studies were conducted in urban towns in Ethiopia. Shita and Dereje (2018) identified and examined the factors that determine urban youth unemployment in the East Gojjam zone in Ethiopia and found that age, work experience, skill match, social network, family prosperity, and migration status were significant determinants of urban youth unemployment in the area. Duguma and Tolcha (2019) studied determinants of urban youth unemployment in the case of Guder town, western Shoa zone. The finding shows that sex, educational level, marital status, skill match, and access to credit use were found to be significant determinants of urban youth unemployment. Other studies (Gebretsadik, 2020; Kemal, 2020; Loha and Tekle, 2020; Ketema et al., 2021; and Mahmud and Abdela, 2021) were conducted on determinants of urban youth unemployment in different areas. However, these studies focused on identifying the determinants of unemployment in different areas, and their findings contradict each other, which requires further study based on the specific socioeconomic situation of the study area.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Description of the study area

Yaballo town is the administrative center of West

Borena Zone, and the name of the town comes from the name of a nearby mountain, located northwest of Moyale in the Borena Zone of Oromia. This town has a latitude and longitude of 4°53'N 38°5'E / 4.883°N 38.083°E. Coordinates: 4°53'N 38°5'E / 4.883°N 38.083°E and an elevation of 1857 meters above sea level. The elevation of the city is 1857 meters above sea level. It has been the administrative center of the West Borena Zone since its division from the Guji Zone in September 2002 E.C., as well as the Yabelo woreda. According to the Yaballo town administration's population projection (2023), the total population of Yaballo town is 120,274, of which 66,299 are male, and 53,975 are female. According to the municipal job creation and vocational bureau, the registered youth numbered 44,003, among whom 21,255 were males, and 22,748 were females; out of those youths, 3,770 were unemployed. They were 11 percent of the total registered youth. However, starting from 2020, many people have migrated from rural to urban areas because of severe drought, which hit the zone over five consecutive rainy seasons. The migrants now overpopulate the town; most of them are youth, and the number of unemployed youth has increased. This fact displays that youth are the most affected segment of the population due to this problem (Town Annual Report 2020).



Figure 1: Map of the study area

### 3.3. Sample Size Determination

In order to determine a representative sample size from the selected towns, the study used the formula given by Yamane (1967). The relation is given as follows:  $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$

Where 'n' is the representative sample size, 'N' is the total urban youth population, and 'e' is the desired level of precision. For a 95% confidence level, the researchers have selected the representative sample of youth. According to the Yaballo town bureau of labor and social affairs report of 2018, the total number of the youth population in the selected three kebeles was 33,245.

Using the above formula, n (sample size) is determined as follows;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{33,245}{1 + 33,245(0.05)^2} = 396$$

Therefore, the actual sample size for this study is 396. Table 1 below shows the proportional sample size from the three kebeles.

**Table 1: Sample size determination**

Name of the Kebeles	Total number of the kebeles' youth	Sample Youth
Qilta Dokisu	14,423	172
Arda Yaa'a	9,937	118
Garbi yaballo	8,885	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,245</b>	<b>396</b>

Source: own computation

### 3.4 Source and Type of Data

Primary and secondary data were used in this study. The primary data was collected from the respondents using structured questions. Government reports, journals, articles, and archival materials concerned with investigation issues and areas were sources of secondary data.

### 3.5 Method of data collection

For this study, both primary and secondary sources are used. Semi-structured questionnaires that were administered by trained data collectors were used to collect the primary data from 396 randomly selected respondents. To translate the questionnaire into the local language (i.e., Afan Oromo) for the respondents, enumerators who could speak both English and Afan Oromo were hired. To get clear information, before actual use, a pre-test was carried out, and some modifications were made based on the pre-test feedback.

Secondary data were collected from relevant sources such as published and unpublished documents from the town administrative office and other relevant institutions to support the study.

### 3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation

In order to achieve the stated objectives of this study, the survey data were sorted out, edited, coded, organized, summarized, and analyzed using descriptive, statistical inferential, and econometric models using STATA version 14. Narration and conceptual explanation were employed to analyze data having a qualitative nature. Both descriptive statistical and a binary logistic model were used to identify the determinants of urban youth unemployment. To choose binary logistic over probit regression models, necessary comparisons were made. Given the two models, the one with the smaller Akaike information criterion (AIC) and the Bayesian information criterion (BIC) fits the data better than the one with the

larger AIC and BIC.

**Table 2: Definition of variables used in the model**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Variable type and Coding</b>	<b>Expected sign</b>
Employment status	Employment status of the respondent	Dummy variable, 1 if unemployed, and 0 otherwise.	
Age	Age of respondents	Continuous, amount in number	+
Gender	Gender of the respondents	Dummy variable, 1 for female and 0 for male	+/-
Marital status	marital status of the respondents	Categorical variable, 1 if single, 2) if married, 3) if Divorced and 4) if Widowed	+/-
Educational	Education attained by the respondent.	Continuous variable, expressed in number	+/-
Migration	Migration status of the respondents	Dummy variable, 1 if migrant, 0 otherwise.	+/-
Work experiences	The work experience they acquired at work	Continuous variable, expressed in number	-
Job preference	Job preference of the youth	Categorical 1= any available jobs 2=paid employment 3=self-employed	+/-
Social network	Respondent's access to information	Dummy variable, 1 if the respondent has no social networks and 0 if has social networks.	+/-
Access to credit	Availability of credit from formal sources of financing.	Dummy variable, 1 if the respondent has no access to credit, and 0 otherwise	+/-
Income	The youth earn their income on a yearly basis.	Continuous, amount in number	-
Drought	Effects of drought on youth job opportunity	Dummy variable, 1 if Drought affects job opportunities of youth, 0 otherwise.	+/-

Source: Own computation, 2025

## 4. Result and Discussion

### 4.1 Descriptive Analysis

During the survey time, the maximum number of

### 4.2 Bivariate Analysis for Dummy Variables

Gender is one of the demographic factors that was included in the econometric model. According to the relationship between sex and youth employment status, 42 percent of the 187 males in the sample were unemployed, compared to 69 percent of the sample's 209 female members (see Table 3). This demonstrates that the unemployment rate for women is higher than that of men.

respondents was unemployed. From the total sample size of 396 interviewed respondents, 224 (56.57 percent) were unemployed, and 172 (43.43 percent) of the respondents were employed at the time of the data collection period.

A statistically significant link between sex and employment status was found by the chi-square test ( $\chi^2 = 29.5713$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ).

Regarding marital and youth employment status, the percentage of unemployment was higher for single youths (44 percent) than for married youths (66 percent), and widowed youths were also exposed to the unemployment problem, as the surveyed data reveals (89 percent), but di-

vorced youths had a comparatively lower unemployment rate (39 percent), as Table 3 shows. The statistical test of association was significant ( $x^2 = 22.4584$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ).

As Table 3 below shows, migrant youths exhibited a higher percentage of unemployment in the town compared to non-migrant youths (73 percent versus 47 percent, respectively). The difference was statistically significant ( $x^2 = 27.1889$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ). Table 3, given below, explains briefly that the percentage of unemployment was higher (77 percent) among those respondents who had no social networks when compared with those who had strong social relations (31 percent) during the survey. The dummy analysis indicated that there was the existence of a relationship between social network and youth employment status ( $x^2 = 84.6551$ ,  $P = .000$ ).

**Table 3: Descriptive statistics of dummy variables**

As Table 3 below shows, youths who have no access to credit exhibited a higher percentage of unemployment in the town compared to those who have access to credit (73 percent versus 40 percent, respectively). The difference was statistically significant ( $x^2 = 33.0613$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ).

Drought harms job opportunities mainly by upsetting agricultural production, and it increases unemployment for laborers. As Table 3 below shows, youths for whom drought has an effect on job opportunity exhibited a higher percentage of unemployment in the town compared to those for whom drought does not affect job opportunity (67 percent versus 33 percent, respectively). The difference was statistically significant ( $x^2 = 41.9868$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ).

Variables	Employment status				Total		X <sup>2</sup> -test	p-value
	Unemployed		Employed					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
<b>Gender</b>							29.5713	0.000
Male	79	42%	108	58%	187	100%		
Female	145	69%	64	31%	209	100%		
<b>marital status</b>							22.4584	0.000
Single	68	44%	85	56%	153	100%		
Married	141	66%	72	33%	213	100%		
Divorced	9	39%	14	61%	23	100%		
Widowed	6	86%	1	14%	7	100%		
<b>Migration status</b>							27.1889	0.000
Migrant	108	73%	39	27%	147	100%		
Not migrant	116	47%	133	53%	249	100%		
<b>Job preference</b>							3.7411	0.154
Any available	81	63%	47	37%	128	100%		
paid employment	63	52%	59	48%	122	100%		
self-employed	80	55%	66	45%	146	100%		
<b>Social-network</b>							84.6551	0.000
has social-network	55	31%	122	69%	177	100%		
has no social network	169	77%	50	23%	219			
<b>Access to credit</b>							33.0613	0.000
Has access to credit	67	40%	101	60%	168	100%		
Has no access to cred	157	69%	71	31%	228	100%		
<b>Effect of drought</b>							41.9868	0.000
does not affect job opportunity	40	33%	83	67%	123	100%		

affects job opp	184	67%	89	33%	273	100%		
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Source: Own Computation, 2025

### 4.3 Bivariate analysis for continuous variables

Educational attainment leads to better employment outcomes, including increased wages, better job quality, and lower rates of inactivity. Table 4 shows that the average educational level of youths was 8.45 years. The mean educational level of unemployed youths was 6.96, while that of employed respondents was 10.41. The t-test shows that as educational level increases, the probability of getting a job (being employed) increases significantly at the 1% level of significance. Education and education status have a positive association.

Regarding work experience, the average work experience of the youths was found to be 1.92.

Besides this, the mean work experience of unemployed youths was 0.67, while for employed respondents it was 3.54. The t-test shows that as the years of experience increase, the probability of getting a job (being employed) increases significantly at the 1% level of significance.

In Table 4 below, the average income of youth was found to be 3.05. The mean income of unemployed youths was 2.07, while that of employed respondents was 4.32. The t-test shows that as the monthly income of youth increases, the probability of getting a job (being employed) increases significantly at the 1% level of significance. This shows a positive association between income and income.

**Table 4: Descriptive Statistics of Continuous Variables**

Variables	Total sample.		Unemployed		Employed		t-test	p-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Educational level	8.454545	5.275254	6.955357	5.32005	10.40698	4.538021	6.8150	0.0000
Work experience	1.919192	2.846901	0.674107	1.864478	3.540698	3.084308	11.4518	0.0000
Income of youth	3.047023	3.545283	2.071647	2.137095	4.317279	4.495386	6.5731	0.0000

### 4.4 Econometric Analysis

#### 4.4.1 Test of model fit and Post-Estimation Diagnostic Test

Before estimating the chance of the event using the binary logistic regression model, the goodness of fit of the model and major diagnostic tests were applied. To choose binary logistic over probit regression models, necessary comparisons Table 5: Results of model goodness of fit

were made. Given the two models, the one with the smaller Akaike information criterion (AIC) and Bayesian information criterion (BIC) fits the data better than the one with the larger AIC and BIC. As can be seen from the Table 5 below, the logit model has a low AIC and BIC is chosen over the probit model.

Model	Obs	ll(null)	ll(model)	Df	AIC	BIC
Logit regression model	396	-271.0623	-165.4018	12	354.8036	402.5806

Probit regression model	396	-271.0623	-166.0808	12	356.1615	403.9385
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Source: own computation, 2025

#### 4.4.2 Model Fitness and Diagnostic Test Losmer-Lemeshow Test

In the binary logistic model, one of the techniques used to assess the goodness of fit of a model is the Hosmer and Lemeshow test. In the case of this study, the significance level of the test was found to be 0.2447, which is larger than 5%; the model is adequate to describe the data, and we conclude that the model is a good fit (Hosmer and Lemeshow, 2009).

#### Diagnostic test of the model

In cross-sectional data, the problem of multicollinearity is a serious issue to be checked. In this study, the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) was applied for continuous variables. Based on this, the VIF result shows that the data have no serious problem of multicollinearity because the VIF of the independent variables is less than 10. Contingency coefficients were also used to check for the degree of association among the variables. The contingency coefficients are also less than 0.75. Accordingly, the results of the computation reveal that there was no serious problem of association among the discrete explanatory variables (Gujarati, 2004).

#### Heteroscedasticity

In this particular study, according to the Breusch-Pagan test for heteroscedasticity, the data used have a problem of heteroscedasticity. Therefore, to avoid the effect of heteroscedasticity, robust logistic regression was employed.

#### 4.4.3 Binary Logistic Regression Estimation result

As to Table 6, variables such as age, gender, marital status, migration status, social network, access to credit, and drought affect unemployment positively, whereas education and work experi-

ence of urban youths affect unemployment negatively.

The result indicated that holding other variables constant, a one-year increase in age, on average, leads to the probability of unemployment of youth increasing by 1.5%. The likely reasons for older people being unemployed may be due to old age, productivity of human capital over time, and starting to depend on family. This result contradicts the findings by Shita and Dereje (2018), which show that given the age boundary, as age increases, the probability of being unemployed reduces.

The marginal effect result for the female category is found to be 0.12, which can be interpreted as other things being constant, being female results in the probability of unemployment increasing by 12% relative to the male youth in urban areas. This may be due to discrimination, and women are more likely to prioritize family responsibilities than men are.

According to the results, married respondents were 7.5% more likely than single respondents to be unemployed when all other characteristics were held constant. Married people usually have greater financial responsibilities, such as mortgage payments, child care costs, and household expenses.

One significant aspect influencing young people's job situation in the community is their level of education. The marginal coefficient's numerical value showed that, when all other factors are held constant, education reduces the likelihood of unemployment by 13%. People who are well educated or have a high level of education are typically more opportunistic, productive, and paid more overall. Rather, the likelihood of unemployment was higher for young people who lacked the necessary knowledge and abilities (Schultz, 1961). This study is in line with the findings of Zewdie (2022)

**Table 6: Robust Logistic Regression Results**

Variables	Coefficient	Robust Std. Error	Z	P>Z	Marginal effect(dy/dx)
Age	.1112934	.047272	2.35	0.019**	.0148471
Gender	.8674172	.291866	2.97	0.003*	.1157181
Marital status	.5643873	.218705	2.58	0.010*	.0752923
Educational level	-.0960349	.0322644	-2.98	0.003*	-.0128116
Migration status	.8575789	.3310847	2.59	0.010*	.1144056
Work experience	-.2947293	.0503258	-4.13	0.000*	-.0393185
Job preference	-.1324967	.071446	-0.79	0.430	-.0176758
Social network	1.234045	.278815	4.43	0.000*	.1646281
Access to credit	1.029771	.3194626	3.22	0.001*	.1373769
Income	-.056011	.0535076	-1.05	0.295	-.0074722
Drought	.8534542	.308326	2.77	0.006*	.1138553
Constant	-3.879299	1.417366	-2.74	0.006*	
logistic regression	Number of obs = 396				
	Wald chi2(11) = 105.15				
	Prob > chi2 = 0.0000				
	Pseudo R2 = 0.3898				
Log pseudolikelihood	-165.40181				

\* and \*\* indicates at 1%, 5 % significance level respectively

Source: Own computation, 2025

Individuals' unemployment is negatively affected by their migration status at a rate of 1%. The result verified that there is a 1.1% increase in the likelihood of unemployment when one migrates. It appears that non-migrants might have greater access to education and other benefits, whereas migrants, especially those from rural areas who have low educational attainment and weak social networks, may be more likely to experience unemployment. This result supports Todaro (1994) and WB (2007).

The result indicated that work experience affects unemployment negatively at a 1 percent significance level. The numerical value for this marginal coefficient illustrates that being experienced decreases the probability of being unemployed by 3.9%. This result is similar to Ketema et al. (2021), which confirms that lacking work experience increases the probability of being unemployed.

Social networking is essential to get relevant information regarding different job opportunities. Marginal effect shows that the probability of being unemployed increased by 16 at a 1% significance level if individuals had no social network relative to the reference category of those who have a social network. This study has similarities with the findings of Fikadu (2012). The reason behind this is that lacking a social network makes one unable to get information related to jobs.

The youth's lack of access to formal credit is another significant factor for unemployment. The coefficient of marginal effect result for the lack of access category is found to be 0.14, which can be interpreted as keeping other things constant, having no access to formal credit results in the probability of unemployment increasing by 14% relative to those urban youths who have access to credit. This finding is consistent with the finding of Loha and Tekle (2020).

The effect of drought on job opportunities is also

positive and significantly affects unemployment at the 1% level of significance. Drought has an effect on job opportunities; it decreases the opportunity of a youth to engage in different jobs and decreases his or her productivity, so that youths cannot be motivated to run their own business.

#### 4.5 Consequences of Youth Unemployment

One consequence of unemployment is an increase in resource waste and the ratio of reliance.

**Table 7: Consequences of Unemployment**

Consequences of unemployment	Freq.	Percent
Increases stress level	71	17.93
Increases indebtedness	76	19.19
Increases crime	69	17.42
Increases dependency	82	20.71
All	98	24.75
Total	396	100.00

Source: Own computation

Respondents were questioned about the consequences of urban unemployment in the research area. The result revealed that, from the total respondents' majority (20.71%), youth suggest that the main effect of unemployment is increased dependence, followed by increases of Indebtedness (19.19%), stress (17.93%), and criminality (17.42%), in that order.

### 5. Conclusion and recommendations

This study investigated the factors that determine urban youth unemployment in Yabalo town. Researchers used quantitative research designs in their execution. Primary data was collected from the town's youth, while secondary data was obtained from journals, yearly reports, and other published and unpublished sources. From the total sample size of 396 interviewed respondents, 224 (56.57 percent) were unemployed, and 172 (43.43 percent) of the respondents were employed. To achieve the objective of the study, descriptive, inferential statistics, and the binary logistic regression model were used. The result of the model revealed that age, gender, marital status, migration status, social network, access to credit, and drought positively affect unemployment, whereas education and work experience of urban youths negatively affect unemployment.

#### Policy Recommendation

In light of the study's findings, the following

actions are suggested to lower youth unemployment in the study area:

- The municipality has to better expand and support its Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by implementing a training program, financing, and creating market linkages.
- The government and city administration should push and motivate the private sector to invest more in sectors that have a high potential for creating jobs, like manufacturing and construction.
- Women are more likely than men to be unemployed; thus, government and other groups should work harder to empower them and encourage their participation.
- The findings show that migrants are more vulnerable to community unemployment. Adopting innovative agricultural technology is essential for improving rural lives and lowering youth migration from rural to urban areas.

- Encourage youth to increase their social network to learn about new job opportunities in residential areas and elsewhere.
- The area has been experiencing a five-year drought, which has made it difficult for the young people to find work. When creating drought response plans, young people should be included, and the pastoralist region's specific irrigation office should assist young people starting other businesses.
- Lastly, the consequences of youth unemployment are quite dangerous. Intervention is therefore required to boost employment prospects and save many young people from becoming addicted or committing theft and other crimes.

## 6. Limitations and future research direction

Using cross-sectional data analysis, this empirical study examined the factors that contribute to youth unemployment in Yabelo town. The study's focus on a single town may make it difficult to conclude the whole spectrum of issues surrounding youth unemployment on a national and regional level. Getting full information regarding the variables included in the model was the main problem encountered over the course of this investigation. This triggered the researchers not to capture important information on the variables. The other difficulty we faced was a lack of willingness to cooperate during data collection as a result of the frequent interviews conducted by several researchers. So, it is crucial to do additional research on the factors that contribute to youth unemployment by broadening the scope of the study and employing in-depth data analysis in order to generalize the entire issues surrounding youth unemployment at the national and regional levels. Given the severity of youth unemployment at all levels, we are only looking at urban youth unemployment; however, more research is required to include rural youth unemployment to get better results.

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### Disclosure statement

The authors disclosed no possible conflicts of interest.

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