

IR-PERPUSTAKAAN UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA

THESIS
DIASPORA FOR DEVELOPMENT; FOCUS ON ETHIOPIAN
DIASPORA IN THE USA, ENGAGEMENT POLICY APPROACH AND
REFORMS



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ORIGINALITY STATEMENT

Thesis titled:

“Diaspora for Development; focus on Ethiopian diaspora in the USA, Engagement Policy Approach and Reforms”

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Surabaya, 19 May 2020



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my late Mother Mrs. Aberesh Dobocho, who had high regards for me... I will try hard to fulfil your dream....I always love you Mama.

This thesis is also especially dedicated to beloved and intimate family, Mr. Bubamo Welde, Peter Dinka, Sina Peter, Mr. Dinka Gurmu, Mrs. Fikire Dureessaa, and Solomon Bubamo who have always encouraging me and praying for me always.

With all my heart, I would like to express my deepest love and respect for my family.

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“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you: I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”

Isaiah 41:10

“Humble yourselves before the lord, and he will exalt you”

James 4:10

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever”

Mahatma Gandhi

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Tadelech Bubamo Welde

Summary

This thesis is motivated by the author's interest in the area of migration nexus development. The main emphasis has been given to understand home countries' policy approach (*Governmentality, Penetrating and tapping*) and reforms made to engage the diaspora as well as the role of host countries and IOs in this regard. Human migration has been taking place since immemorial time. The author claims that migration is a 'boon, of a curse'. In fact, migration can be a curse to migrant-sending countries if they fail to benefit from their population abroad. Nowadays the world is becoming more interconnected and interdependent as a result of globalization that eases the cost of transportation, and communication in a way that facilitates people mobility across the world. As the topic indicates 'diaspora for development', the author sees migration as a boon that enables migrants to be potential capital for the development of home and host countries. Even though most of the academic discourses on migration have been overwhelmed by brain drain and refugee crises aspects, there are very few studies indicating migration nexus development and state role in changing brain drain into brain gain. For example, the previous research conducted on Ethiopian diaspora and engagement policies are very few and most of them have given priority to the aspect of brain drain, institutional development and also remittances flow in form of money transfer, yet remittances include various forms of assets and value that diaspora contributes to their communities back home. Furthermore, the author claims that the potential impacts of Ethiopian diaspora are underestimated by both researchers and the Government of Ethiopia for over decades. Although it is difficult to find documented data about the academic attainment of the Ethiopian diaspora population abroad, there are a lot of scientists and medical professionals living in western countries, especially in the USA.

Ethiopian diaspora is well-known in maintaining their culture, identities and value, though most of these potential populations are not yet effectively mobilized by the government of Ethiopia due to political interest conflict between regimes and diaspora. In spite of having interesting diaspora engagement policies and institutions, the Ethiopian government seems to prioritize its material (tapping) political interests rather than engaging diaspora in community (networking) building process.

Due to lack of experience, seeing diaspora through optics of globalization and to connect migration with development and as well as to draw a new road map to the diaspora engagement policies approach and understand state role, the author has been challenged. The concept of diaspora and remittances are very vast, however, studying the role of both host and home countries in engaging diaspora and significance of diaspora in building communities back home could be very fascinating. After several discussions with Ibu Baiq Wardhani., Dra., MA., PhD and other lecturers the idea of this research has been developed. This study has discussed the role of the state in engaging the diaspora on poverty reduction, with a focus on Ethiopian diaspora in the USA. The author sees the positivity of this thesis beyond its limitations. The author anticipates that all analysis and points raised in this thesis to be considered as an academic input for future research. I hope this thesis contributes to the evolving field of studies in International Relations, in particular, globalization and strategies theme.

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