Factors Affecting Youth Economic Empowerment: The Case of Offa Woreda, Wolaita Zone, Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract

Nation-building exists as a mandatory approach which relies on youth development exclusively because the strength of forthcoming national development depends completely on youth attunement. Every country bases its future potential on the productive capability of its youth during the current time. Reports from World Bank indicate that youths make up 50 percent of developing world population counting 1.2 billion people within the 15 to twenty-four years age range. Respectively developing countries face both development possibilities and challenges as demonstrated by these statistical data about youth populations. A research investigation of youth economic empowerment took place within Offa Woreda. The study utilized multi-stage sampling to reach 146 participants while applying a semi-structured questionnaire and focus Group Discussion for gathering cross-sectional data. The analysis included descriptive and inferential statistics together with economic empowerment index and binary logit model interpretation. According to the index results not-empowered youths made up 67% of the total sample while the empowered youths comprised 33% which demonstrated a low economic empowerment rate in the study area. The main variables affecting youth economic empowerment within Offa Woreda revealed through the binary logit model consisted of Family size, saving amount, household income, dependency ratio, educational status, business plot, decision making, access to credit, and access to the market which contributed positively to youths economic empowerment. This study confirmed that Family size, saving amount, household income, dependency ratio, educational status, business plot, decision making, access to credit and access to market strongly influence youth economic empowerment yet the youth face considerable disadvantage based on these factors. Among the surveyed youth population 67% lacked empowerment status while empowered youth made up 33% of the total. The levels ⏷conomic empowerment within the study area proved to be considerably low according to the investigation results. It became essential to give special attention to the entire study area. The expansion of income streams including petty trade and dairy sales together with vegetable production should be pursued as recommendations. A regular adult education program should be strengthened throughout the woreda to serve all the youth who did not attend formal education. The organization should invest in programs that enhance abilities of youth who depend on others for financial help.

Keywords: Youth Involvement, Economic Empowerment, Mixed Method Research Approach

Introduction

Nation development requires unconditional youth development which determines the future power of state growth. The present youth productive force of any country determines the future shape of the nation. A community with an unproductive youth population that fails to take responsibility will rapidly approach an unavoidable downfall of great damage (Shefiu).

For instance the World Bank, indicated that youths account for about 50 percent of the developing world population which is about 1.2 billion of the age of about 15 to 24 years old. Therefore, these statistics show that youth are a serious development opportunity and a target that has potential as a challenge, more especially in developing countries. If the youths cannot be properly incorporated into the MDGs programmes, (Angba et al.) opine that it would be difficult to meet the Millennium Development Goal targets, especially that on extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1), child and maternal mortality (MDG 4 and MDG 5), and environmental sustainability (MDG 7).

With the youth playing an active part in the development of community projects, which they would help in their development of skills like working in a group, public speaking, confidence in speaking and communicating with diverse stakeholders among others. Empowerment process of participation is not simply any given actions in the prescribed by others. It rather creates conducive environments for youth to develop skills and competencies within a climate of mutual understanding and a respect to their rights.

Most of the youth in the developing world have almost no chance of getting a job with the formal sector, and self employment is the only option in their sight. If such help is provided to young people to earn a living through entrepreneurship, it can do a great job toward poverty reduction (Shefiu). Available evidence reveals that during periods when jobs are few, youth are, in general, more likely to be unemployed. Among the targets of economic crisis crippling the job market, young people are the first to be laid off. Thousands of the laid off workers have returned to the rural areas where the likelihood of finding alternative work is slim. The youth of today are almost three times more likely to be unemployed and across the globe nearly one out of five working youth lives on 1 US$ per day. As a result, many youths are forced to become self employed and 'become entrepreneurs by necessity' rather than 'entrepreneurs by choice'.

Statement of the Problem

According to (Kanji), life chances circumscribe youth's abilities to contribute to the possibilities of their countries and also the possibilities of the African continent at large, the most circumscribed being the lack of job opportunities. An ample witness to the little job opportunities that the youth of the continent is the unlimited number of the youth who are loitering about and selling the streets of major African cities. However, their development of the continent lies on them. Through them, Africa can actually be made to progress towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, most especially, halving extreme poverty by 2015.

The evidence from empirical sources indicate that the youth are in the forefront of unemployment and marginalization problems. In Ethiopia and Africa in general, the youth and adult unemployment rates are on a ratio of three (International Labor Organization), clearly indicating high abequity for participation of youth on the labour market in Ethiopia.

The majority of Ethiopian youth, after completing their secondary, and tertiary education are looking for the jobs, and there are very few job opportunities for them, making them more non empowered youth. The extremely constricted is due to the narrow base of the country, which lacks a strong national economic system, long years of drought, environmental degradation, absence of coordinated vocational training, poor infrastructures and poor governance.

Objectives

The specific study objective is to find out the factors that affect youth economic empowerment in Offa Woreda, Southern Ethiopia. The study is to determine the current status of youth economic empowerment and also factors affecting youth economic empowerment for the study area.

Literature Review
Economic Empowerment

The right of individuals, groups, and the whole society to have an equal ability and opportunity to all the economic resource key so that they may be employed in the generation of income, having the right to save and accumulate money and all properties, having an equal right to the employment without distinctions or discriminations, have full right to make a decision regarding all economic issues, personal assets and common resources and to own properties. To empower youth economically is to enhance the ability of young people to engage in, take part in and enjoy from growth processes that recognize the value of their contributions, appreciate their dignity and enable them to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of the growth (Tesfay and Tadele).

Youth Empowerment in Africa

Research on youth empowerment in sub-Saharan Africa, or even in Africa as a whole, is lacking, which by itself makes the contributions this study can make the more important. Research to date has primarily focused on community development models, development models for Africa or analyzing what the various strategies could (or should) be implemented, in order to empower the youth for effect. Empowerment in Kenya has been investigated mainly with regard to the development of youth and the community. Some faculty in education, including researchers, have focused on empowerment (Parpart et al.) because of the high prevalence of poverty among low income youth and the dangerous alternatives they think of as a means for survival.
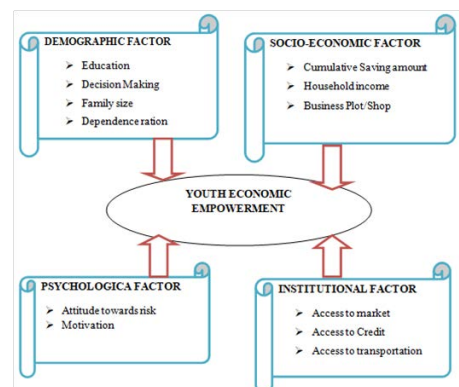
Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment

Evidence suggests that a lot of young entrepreneurs are better open minded, as compared to their adult counterparts that they can successfully start their own enterprises. Despite the lack of resources and life and work experience, reality impedes them more than their age cohorts in older cohorts (Schoof). Africa has also contributed greatly in endorsing the sustainability of the youth Entrepreneurship. It is also included that by pursuing the MDGs, Target 16 of Millennium Goal 8 (promote development through a global partnership for development): "In partnership with developing countries, initiate and implement measures related to productive work for youth to become decent and productive." In addition, the African Union Commission held a youth forum and African Union Conference of Ministers on youth issues in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 29 May, 2006, and the World Bank's 2007 World Development report was devoted to youth concerns ("Development and the Next Generation").

Conceptual Framework of the Study

The variables in this conceptual framework are defined and explained in the relationship of dependent and independent variables. The lack of changes are presumed to be attributed to the former, whereas the latter influences the former (Kothari). The figure below depicts how the independent variable factors affect to youth economic empowerment. The research problem and relevant literature served as the theme of the conceptual framework of this study. The diagram of conceptual framework of this study is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Conceptual Framework of the Study

Source: Developed by the Researcher based on the available literature
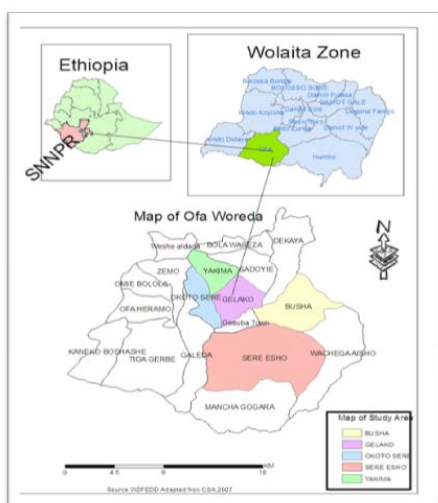
Research Methodology
Description of the Study Area

The study was carried out in Offa Woreda, one of the 15 rural Woreda of Wolaita Zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS) of the Ethiopia. As a woreda, Gesuba is the administrative centre of the wolaita and is 29 km from Wolait; zonal city Wolaita Soddo on the

way to Gofa Sewula road, 183 km from regional city Hawassa and 412 km from the capital city of the country, Addis Ababa. Offa Woreda is roughly 370.71'E latitude and 60.83'N located geographically with an elevation of 1,200 and 2,800 meters above sea level.

The OWFFDD projected the total population of the woreda to be 127,387, of which males constitute 58.4% (74,455) and 41.6% (52,932) female population in Offa woreda and the majority of the population lives in rural areas. High population density in the district is one of the causes of farmland fragmentation because the area is very prone to farmland fragmentation. The reported zonal socio economic profile as stated by the Wolaita Zone Finance and Economic Development Department shows that the average population density of the woreda is about 342 persons per square km. The woreda has been divided into 16 sub administrative units of which 16 are Kebeles.

Figure 2 Map of the Study Area

Source: Wolaita Zone Finance and Economic Development Department

Research Design

The study in a cross sectional design accommodated both quantitative and qualitative methods. Unlike qualitative method that gives narrative or textural descriptions of the phenomena under study, the quantitative method measures quantity or amount; hence it is an example of the measurement of quantity or amount that can be expressed in terms of quantity.

Hence, in this study, the researcher employed the quantitative and qualitative approaches in computing and interpreting the numerical information as well as narrating and detailed explaining information gathered from qualitative data. The quantitative data was triangulated to check validity of the research by means of a checklist for Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews.

Sampling Procedure

The required primary data was generated by this study using a multistage sampling technique. Specifically, Offa woreda was selected purposely in the first stage for this particular study. In the Second stage, simple random sampling technique was used to select the five kebeles that would collect the data (Yakima, Okoto sere, Gelako, Busha and Sereesho kebeles) from all the kebeles of Offa woreda. In the Third stage, a Probability Proportionate Sample (PPS) was done for each kebele, so 42, 28, 21, 25 and 25 Youths from Yakima, Okoto sere, Gelako, Busha and Sereesho kebeles, respectively were selected systematic random way.

Sample Size Determination

With regard to population, the population is 2,187 consisting of Yakima, Okotosere, Gelako, Busha and Sereesho kebeles, according to Offa Woreda Youth Affairs Office (OWYAO) the populations are 621, 4,018, 323, 448 and 377 respectively. This is because of the fact; it delivers the Sample Size for Study, and therefore the sample size for collecting quantitative data for this research is determined using the Yamane formula, which is applicable and suitable for the time and financial constraints. As an indication to show the way the sample size was solved through the listed formula.

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

Where

n = The total sample size is taken from five Kebeles

N = Total number of Youth

e = Precision level in this research it is 8% (0.08).

The target population from five kebeles by using the Yamane formula is

$$n = N / \{1+N(e)^2\} = 2187 / \{1+2187(0.08)^2\}$$
$$= 2187 / \{1+2187(0.0064)\}$$
$$= 2187 / (14.9968) = 146$$

Table 1 Selected Kebeles with Sampled Respondents

S. No	Selected Kebeles	Total Youth Population in the Kebeles			The Proportional Sample Size of Youth
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Yakima	450	171	621	42
2	Okoto Sere	313	105	418	28
3	Geliko	245	78	323	21
4	Sereesho	279	169	448	30
5	Busha	258	119	377	25
	Total	1545	642	2187	146

Source: Offa Woreda Youth Affairs Office Report
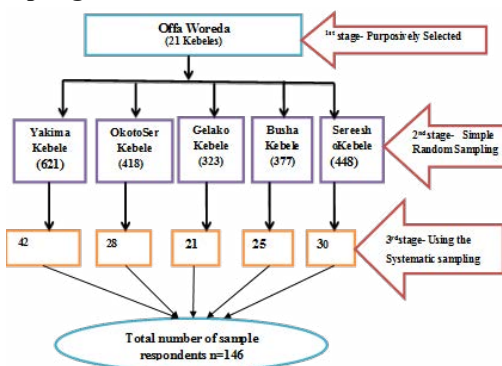
Sampling Procedure

Figure 3 Sampling Procedure

Data Types and Source

This study applied the qualitative and quantitative research methods. The data source of this study is divided into primary and secondary. The sample respondents of youth are the primary sources in the study area. The purpose of triangulation was to use youth affair office experts, youth federations, health extension workers, women affair office experts, agricultural office experts and Kebele administrations. Filed, pamphlets, office manuals, circulars and policy papers were the secondary sources giving appropriate additional information. In addition, I reviewed a number of books, published and unpublished government documents, web and reported and newsletters.

Techniques of Data Analysis

One of the most important steps in the process of study was method of data processing and analysis. This particular research study has used the qualitative and quantitative research method and (triangulation) for data analysis. The researcher then used descriptive statistical tools such as percentage, mean, standard deviation, t test and chi square so as to summarize the collected data and to analyze on the mean difference and association respectively. With that, qualitative analysis in the form of elaboration on qualitative data and document reviews are applied to the analysis of the data collected from interview open ended questions. As a result, the researcher depended on both qualitative and quantitative methods in data analysis methods for study purposes.

Specification of the Binary Logit Model

Since it represents a good approximation of the cumulative normal distribution and is easier to work with, the logistic function is used. Additionally, as the logistic distribution (Logit) is highly flexible and is the basis of an understander and inexpensive to estimate model, this distribution has got advantage on the others in the analysis of the dichotomous outcome variable. Furthermore, it was used on a Logit model in a binary choice (The economy is Empowered or not Empowered). In the model, factors are chosen as exogenous i.e they are currently considered given by the households. It also provides empirical estimates of the effect of change in these exogenous variables on the probability of empowerment and was used to evaluate the state of empowerment.

Logarithm of the told odds was derived using a logistic function that included odds ratios as coefficients of explanatory variables which did not likely influence the youth's attitudes on the economic empowerment. In this study, 14 selected variables are taken as the independent variables and the dependent variable is status of youth economic empowerment.

Given that the dependent variable of this study, that is youth economic empowerment was dichotomous, value of 0 was given to Non-empowered and value of 1 was allocated to Empowered in econometric model.

Following Gujarati, the functional form of logitmodel is specified as follows:

$$P_i = E(y_i / x_i) = 1/\{1+e\text{-}z_i\} \qquad (1)$$

Where, P_i is a probability that youths are

empowered; Z_i is a functional form and an explanatory variable (x_i) which is expressed as

$$Z_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \cdots + \beta_n x_n + U_i \qquad (2)$$

In the model, β_0 is intercept and β_i are slope parameters. It describes how the log odds are in favor of youth empowerment change with respect to independent variables. The probability that rural youth economic empowerment is influenced by explanatory variable is pi, so $1-p_i$ gives us the probability of youth economic empowerment does not change when independent variable changes.

$$P_i = E(y_i/x_i) = 1/(1+e) - (\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \cdots + \beta_n x_n) \qquad (3)$$

Therefore, taking the ratio of the probability of participating to non-participation can be written as:-

Dividing equation (1) by equation (4) and simplifying gives

$$p_i / (1-p_i) = (1+e^z) / (1+e^{-z}) = e^z \qquad (4)$$
$$p_i / (1-p_i) \qquad (5)$$

However, equation (5) is just the odd ratio in the terms of how many economic are being non empowered of youth than being empowered of youth.

This term is the chance that the youth will be empowered in economic activity in comparison with the probability of not being in economic activity. Take natural log of equation 5 then given by:

$$L_i = p_i/(1-p_i) = Z_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \cdots + \beta_n x_n + U_i \qquad (6)$$

Where, L_i is log of the odds ratio, which is linear not only in X, but also in the parameters. Thus, if the stochastic disturbance term (U_i) is introduced, the logit model becomes:

$$Z_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \cdots + \beta_n x_n + U_i \qquad (7)$$

The above econometric model was used in this study to analyze the data. The iterative maximum likelihood estimation procedure was used on the estimation of the model. By this means biased, efficient and consistent parameter estimates are obtained.

Detecting Multi-co Linearity and Degree of Association

Before running the analysis, the existence of multi-co linearity for continuous variables and the measure of association between discrete variables had to be checked. That is because, the existence of

multicollinearity may affect the parameter estimation badly. In this context, multicollinearity problem for continuous explanatory variables, was therefore assessed, using a technique of Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) and Tolerance Level, as in the process each continuous explanatory variable is regressed on all the other continuous explanatory variables, and coefficient of determination is computed. This gives the definition of a measure of multicollinearity induced by variance of inflation factor.

$$R^2 = 1 / (1-R^2) \qquad (1)$$
$$VIF (X_i) = (1- R^2) \qquad (2)$$

As the variable as R^2 gets close to 1, the VIF goes to infinity. In particular, as the amount of collinearity increases, the variance of the estimator grows as infinity and the case exists if the existence of collinearity. If regressors are not colinear, then VIF is 1. In general, values of VIF more than 10 is taken as a signal for problem of multi collinearity in the model (Gujarati).

Likewise, there could be interaction between two qualitative variables, which may cause the problem of multi colinearity or association. Coefficients of contingency were computed from the survey data for purposes of detecting this problem. A chi square based measure of association, contingency coefficient is also called association coefficient. Stronger relationship is indicated by a value 0.75 or more. The contingency coefficient is computed as:

$$C = \sqrt{x^2} / (n+x^2) \qquad (3)$$

Definitions of Variables and Hypothesis of the Study

The project was intended to assess the stage of economic empowerment of the youth in that study area. The Indicators were used by them to measure the Dependent variables. Five Domains, i.e. Education, Household Assets, Decision Making, Leadership, and Time Management, were used for the Index Analysis of Domains for Youth Economic Empowerment Study. Indicators (10 in totality) divide the domains. Those are: (1) Youth educational availability and level achieved, (2) Possession of household assets (3) Sale, purchases or transfer of assets, (4) Participation in market, (5) Control and access to resources at household level, (6) Decision making at household level, (7) Opacity in decision making at

household level, (8) Leadership at allow management group members, (9) Youth involvement in the community and (10) Managing time (workload). The model's dependent dichotomous variable is youth economic empowerment and takes value 1 if youth was economically empowered and 0 otherwise.

Differentiation of the empowerment was done by the empowerment index that stratified sample youth into 2 categories of empowerment. For this reason, a composite index, based on a combination of these ten items, are calculated concerning youth empowerment at household and community level. We gave each item a value of 1 if the respondent checked yes and 0 otherwise and each domain had the same weighings. In the disclosures studies we found to calculate the score, two methods namely, the Simple method and the Weighting method. The former would be summing the points of each item, whereas the second is the sum of points obtained over total items in Composite Index. However, other researchers also propose that the youth empowerment level is best captured by considering counts of multiple economic and social empowerments and their determinants simultaneously. The index mentioned below was used to calculate the score of these dimensions:

Empowerment Index $(G) = \sum_{j}^{12} G_{ij} / N$

Where, Empowerment index (G_{ij}) is that empowerment decision is calculated for each household i with j activities. Gi is a dummy variable which is equal to 1 if the item is checked by respondent household and 0 otherwise. The total number of items used to measure the respondent house hold's empowerment participation decision is denoted by N. This means that the dependent variable of the Logit model is dichotomous nature that reflects the observed decision made regarding participation in youth in economic and social empowerment. The Respondents were categorized into two groups, i.e., Empowered and Not-Empowered, based on their index result of each respondent. The respondents that scored the higher than 0.5 values were classified as empowered and those who scored less than 0.5 values were termed as Not-Empowered. In the variable specifying Economic Empowerment of Youth in empowerment it is specified as dummy variable that takes a value equal to Economic Empowerment or 0.

Y=0, if the Youth Not Empowered

Y=1, if the Youth Empowered

Independent Variables

Table 2 Summary of Hypothesized Explanatory Variables

S. No.	Variables	Definition	Variable Type	Value	Hypothesis
1	EDU	Education level of the respondent	Categorical	Education level	+ve
2	ACESTRA	Accesses to transportation	Dummy	Assign score value	+ve
3	FASIZE	Family size	Continuous	Number	-ve
4	BUSPL	Business Plot	Continuous	Number of contact	+ve
5	ACCTCR	Access to Credit	Dummy	Assign score value	+ve
6	DEMP	Decision making Participation	Dummy	Participation	+ve
7	ACESMA	Access to Market	Dummy	Kilometers	+ve
8	SAVE	Cumulative Saving Amount	Continuous	Amount in Birr	+ve
9	ATTR	Attitude towards risk	Dummy	Assign score value	+ve
10	DRATIO	Dependency ratio	Continuous	Ratio	-ve
11	HHI	Household income	Continuous	Amount in birr	-ve
12	MOT	Motivation	Dummy	Amount in birr	-ve

Results and Discussion
Measurement of Dependent Variables
Youth Economic Empowerment Status

Ten domains of youth Economic Empowerment were used to measure the status of the Youth's Economic empowerment. The table was put on the table for calculation of data regarding the Economic empowerment status of each Youth household. The Economic Empowerment status was determined then. As a result, the under discussion of youth economic

empowerment is compared from the viewpoint of the household level, from youth at Yakim, Okotosere, Gelcko, Busha and Sereesho kebeles.

Table 3 Youth Economic Empowerment Status

S. No.	Empowered Youth		Not Empowered		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	48	33	98	67	146	100

Source: Own Survey

The result also indicates that there were 33 percent Economically Empowered Youth households and 67 percent non-Empowered Youth households. The Youths in the study area were not empowered according to the study. The result of ten domain of Youth Economic Empowerment.

Table 4 Result of Ten Youth Economic Empowerment

S. No.	Types of Indicators	Weighted	Score Value
1	Educational level by youth	1/10	75
2	Ownership of house hold asset	1/10	107
3	Purchase sale and control over the resource	1/10	75
4	Access to and control over the resource	1/10	48
5	Market participation	1/10	65
6	Decision making at house hold level	1/10	108
7	Decision making at community level	1/10	56
8	Leadership at kebele management	1/10	32
9	Youth role in community	1/10	65
10	Time management/work load	1/10	37
Minimum Score=32; Maximum Score=108			

Source: Own Survey

On the bases of indicators, the domain of youth economic empowerment was measured. Educational level by youth, Ownership of house hold asset, Purchase, sale and control over the resource, Access to and control over the resources, Market participation, Decision making at house hold level, Decision making at community level, Leadership at

kebele management, Youth role in community and Time management/work load are the indicators. Table 4 above clearly shows as the maximum and minimum scores were 108 and 32 respectively.

Measurement of Independent Variables
Education Status

The sampled youths were categorized in six intervals based on their educational level, can read and write, from grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and diploma and above. It showed that of the non empowered youths, 10.3% and 6.1% of the empowered and 16.4% of all respondents were in the read and write interval. Empowered 4.7% were empowered and 2.7% of non empowered households were diploma and above. Empowered HH's educational level was 6.2% from Grade (1-4) and 3.4% from non empowered households. In addition, the p value of 0.014, which is less than 5% level of significance. For that reason, there are positive correlation between the education level and the youths economic empowered.

Table 5 Education Status of the Respondents

	Variable	Not Empowered %	Empowered %	Total
Educational Status	Can read and write	15 (10.3%)	9 (6.1%)	24 (16.4%)
	Grade 1-4	5 (3.4%)	9 (6.2%)	14 (9.6%)
	Grade 5-8	46 (31.5%)	10 (6.9%)	56 (38.36%)
	Grade 9-10	12 (8.2%)	5 (3.4%)	17 (11.64%)
	Grade 11-12	16 (10.9%)	8 (5.5%)	24 (16.4%)
	Diploma and above	4 (2.7%)	7 (4.7%)	11 (7.6%)
	Total	98 (67.1%)	48 (32.9%)	146 (100%)
	X^2 = 14.338; p-value = 0.014			

** Significant at less than 5% probability level
Source: Own Survey

Dependency Ratio of the Respondent Youth

Table 6 as indicated showed that for the Empowered and Non empowered youth households

below the average dependency ratio of both was 1 and 1.61 respectively and std deviation was also reported at 0.699 and 0.81 respectively. Additionally, the average dependency ratio for all households was found to be 1.32 and standard deviation of 0.75. For this, the p-value of 0.08 is less than 10% level of significance. Therefore, the dependency ratios is statistically associated with the economic empowerment of youths.

The results of the Focus Group Discussion and Key Informants Interview suggest that the number of dependent members in the household is the most important factor to the youth economic empowerment. The show that this information has supported the idea of a higher number of dependent family members in the household and the more likely will be the household Non-empowered.

Table 6 Dependency Ratio of the Respondent Youth

Variable	Not Empowered		Empowered		Total		t Value	P-Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Dependency ratio	1.61	0.81	1	0.699	1.32	0.75	27.843	0.08

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 10% probability level

Family Size

The economically empowered and non-empowered households had average family size of 5.2 and 6.3 respectively with normal deviate of 2.8 and 3.4. Additionally, the mean family size for all total youth households was 5.8 and standard deviation of 3.2. It is given as a p value of 0.009, which is a less than 1 percent level of significance. Accordingly, there is a statistical relationship between the family size and youths' economic empowerment.

The study result from Focus Groups Discussion and Key Informants Interview shows that family sizes have the largest contribution on economic empowerment of youth. Additionally, it suggests that the family size has a direct relationship of economic empowerment to youth since a big sized family reduces the economistic potential of the household.

Table 7 Family Size

Variable	Not Empowered		Empowered		Total		t Value	P-Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Family Size	6.3	3.4	5.2	2.8	5.8	3.2	35.6	0.009

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 1% probability level

Youth Participation in Decision Making

According to the Table 8, 127 (87%) respondents sampled participated in making decisions but just 19(13%) do not. Furthermore, 31(65%) of the economically empowered youth households as well as 96(98%) of the non economic empowered households do participate in the decision making. The p value of 0.005 which is less than 1 percent level

of significance. The decision making is statistically related to youth's economic empowerment. The collected data from Key Informant Interview and Focus Group discussion explained that the experienced youth are independent in the decision making than the others. As an active person in the life of business or personal they are those peculiar characteristics of the youth.

Table 8 Youth Participation in Decision Making

Variable		Not Empowered %	Empowered %	Total
Decision making	Yes	96 (98%)	31 (65%)	127 (87.0%)
	No	2 (2%)	17 (35%)	19 (13.0%)
	Total	98 (100%)	48 (100%)	146 (100%)
X^2 = 46.82; p value=0.005				

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 1% probability level

Cumulative Saving Amount

From the Table 9 below the mean cumulative saving of Empowered Youth and Non empowered Youth household has come to be 7145.22 having a standard deviation of 3968.43 and 6230.81 having a standard deviation of 3461.56. Additionally the average saving amount in total Youth households amounted to 6678,15 with standard deviation of the 3697. Thus, p value of 0.039 which is less than 5% significance level. The cumulative saving amount was therefore related to youth's economic empowerment statistically.

A total saving amount might be used as an extra energy for the youth to pole up economically empowered, based on the qualitative data information. Now a day in the society, the youth saving behavior is very rare.

Table 9 Cumulative Saving Amount

Variable	Not Empowered		Empowered		Total		t value	P-Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Cumulative Saving	6230.81	3461.56	7145.22	3968.43	6678.15	3697	13.7	0.039

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 5% probability level

Household Income

Empowered and Non empowered Youth households' average income was determined as 550 & 700 with standard deviation 231//305 respectively. The Meaning income for total Youth Households is observed to be 645 with a standard deviation of 273. 0.047 is less than the 5% level of significance and so is p value. In this regard, there is a statistical relationship among the household income and economic empowerment of the youth.

The data obtained from Focus Group Discussion and Key Informants Interviews gives an implication that household income could be one of the economic supported for the youth to come up in the life. The qualitative data was supported and meaningful by the quantitative data.

Table 10 Household Income

Variable	Empowered		Not Empowered		Total		t value	P-Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Household income	700	305	550	231	645	273	39.56	0.047

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 5% probability level

Access to Credit

It was expected to affect the economic empowerment of the youth because there is high initial cost of investment which households may not easily afford, and also reliable input and output market which can be attained through institutions like OMO Micro-Finance, Cooperative unions, etc. Furthermore, credit institutions can ameliorate some of the financial problems of the household to be able to invest in various business activities and supply information, as well inputs. According to this, the respondents were asked to respond whether or not they have the access to credit. It is also indicated at Table 11 that 76.7% of the respondent households do have the access for credit and 23.3% don't have it. A large number of the empowered households (51.36%) reported to have access to credit while the number of Youth (0%) responding that they do not have access. In fact, p value is less than 1% level of significance which is equal to 0.003. Consequently, youth's economic empowerment is statistically related to the Access to credit.

Take out the there be maybe highly accepted that the respondents of the Focus Group Discussion and Key Informants Interview have supported the services rendered by OMO Micro finance in requiring youth credit and creating a new venture.

Table 11 Access to Credit

Variable	Categories of Response	Not Empowered		Empowered		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No	%
Access credit	Yes	37	25.34%	75	51.36%	112	76.7%
	No	34	23.3%	0	0%	34	23.3%
	Total	98	100%	48	100%	146	100%
$X^2 = 36.82$; p-Value = 0.003							

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 1% probability level

Access to Transportation

As a dual role variable in the community where it has a means of transportation allowing speed up household activities and economic role, this variable is expected to heavily influence the youth economic empowerment. Table 12 hence clearly indicates that 97.9% of the respondent households have the access for transportation and the rest 2.1% do not have such access. Also, 95.8% of empowered households and 93.8 % of non empowered respondents answered that they have access for transportation. Finally, The value of the p value is 0.003, a value less than 1 % of significance level. Thus, access to transportation and youth's economic empowerment are statistically related.

On the other hand, such an issue of transportation difficulty has been criticized by the sampled youth respondents and the non sample respondents in the Focus Group Discussion and the Key Informants Interviews, since some Kebeles of Offa Woreda are not well connected to the main asphalt rode. There is a still prevalent problem present in the Kebeles.

Table 12 Access to Transportation

Variable		Not Empowered		Empowered		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Access transport	Yes	92	93.8%	46	95.8%	143	97.9%
	No	6	6.2%	2	4.2%	3	2.1%
	Total	98	100%	48	100%	146	100%
$X^2 = 1.58$; p-Value = 0.001							

Source: Own Survey; Significant at less than 1% probability level

Access to Market

This variable was expected to affect the Youth Economic Empowerment as the favorable market access is needed for the economic empowerment. In addition, the transportation activities can easily be carried out with good access to the market.

According to this, respondents were asked as to whether having or not they have access for the market. According to Table 13 below, 83.6% of the homes in the respondent area had inadequate access to the market while the remaining 16.4 percent had adequate access to the market. This also, 100% of non-empowered youth household reached that they lack appropriate entry for commerce, whereas (68%) of the empowered youth household respondents said they lack an appropriate access. Out of all the respondents, 5.6 percent of Non Empowered Youth and 42.7 percent of Empowered Youth households did not have a demand. 36 percent of the respondents answered that there was none demand, whereas 75 percent answered that they did not receive information. So, p-value is less than 5% level of significance i.e the p value is 0.014. As a result, the Access to market and youth's economic formation are significantly related.

Table 13 Access to Market

Categories of Market Situation		Not Empowered		Empowered		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No	%
Inadequate Market	Yes	0		24	32.0%	24	16.4%
	No	71	100%	51	68.0%	122	83.6%
	Total	71	100%	75	100%	146	100%
Lack of demand	Yes	4	5.6%	32	42.7%	32	42.7%
	No	67	94.4%	43	57.3%	110	75.3%
	Total	71	100%	75	100%	146	100%
Lack of market information	Yes	12	16.9%	12	16.9%	38	26.0%
	No	59	83.1%	49	65.3%	108	74%
	Total	71	100%	75	100%	146	100%
Poor consumer relation	Yes	4	5.6%	35	46.7%	39	26.7%
	No	67	94.4%	40	53.3%	107	73.3%
	Total	71	100%	75	100%	146	100%
X^2 value: 27.2; p-value: 0.014							

Source: Own Survey; ** Significant at less than 5% probability level

Business Plot

Table 14 below indicates that the average value of business plot owned by the powered and unpowered youth households was 1.41 and 1.87 with standard deviation of 0.81 and 0.92 respectively. It was also found that the average dependency ratio for all households was 1.56 with a standard deviation of 0.81. This p value is less than 10% of level of significance, i.e. it is 0.087. For this reason, there exists a constructive relationship between the Business plot and youth's economic empowerment. Additionally, the Key Informants Interview and Focus Group Discussion validate that the role of the business plot is to empower the youth. With this information analyzed from these sources, the youth without the business plot were mostly adding toward strengthening the existing business, thus becoming better economically empowered.

Table 14 Business Plot

Variable	Empowered		Not Empowered		Total		t value	P value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Business plot	1.87	0.92	1.41	0.74	1.56	0.81	24.63	0.087

Source: Own Survey; **Significant at less than 10% probability level

Attitude towards Risk

It was found out of total respondents, 48 (49%) Non empowered Youth and 29 (61%) Empowered Youth were seen to have the positive attitude towards Risk in the process of youth empowerment through different entrepreneurship activities. Additionally, approximately 50 (51%) of the non empowered households and 19 (general) 39% of empowered youth households have a negative attitude. The non significant figure of the chi-square value of 1.69 and p value of 0.157 was also. Therefore, it means that Attitude towards Risk was not a significant factor of youth economic empowerment.

The respondents of Focus Group Discussion and Key Informants Interviews presumed that the respondents elaborated on the altitude towards risk related psychological characteristics of the youth while they would experience the problem during the course of their business venture activity. Moreover, they were advanced that state of the mind of the youth should either have been empowered or not.

Table 15 Attitude towards Risk

Variable		Not Empowered		Empowered		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No	%
Access transport	Yes	48	49%	29	61%	77	53%
	No	50	51%	19	39%	69	47%
	Total	98	100%	48	100%	146	100%
X^2: 1.58; p value: 0.001							

Source: Own Survey

Motivation

48 (50.7%) of Non empowered Youth households and 25 (51.7%) of Empowered households out of total respondents do show the positive and hopeful motivational symptoms. Furthermore, in the case of non empowered youth households, 50 (49.3%) and for the case of empowered households 23 (48.3%) exhibited negative motivation. Additionally, chi-square value of 0.93 and p-value=0.512 were figured out to be non-significant figures. Thus, the Motivation was not a significant factor of the youth economic empowerment.

Thus, it can be concluded that the respondents of Focus Group Discussion and Key Informants Interviews have expressed the immature youth have negativist motivation rather than motivational youth to tell youth. Both the quantitative and the qualitative data were triangulating to the same result.

Table 16 Motivation

Variables		Not Empowered		Empowered		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No	%
Motivation	Yes	48	50.7%	25	51.7%	73	50%
	No	50	49.3%	23	48.3%	73	50%
	Total	98	100%	48	100%	146	100%
X^2 = 0.93; p-Value = 0.512							

Source: Own Survey

Table 17 Summary of Descriptive Statistic for Continuous Variables

S. No	Continuous Variables	t-value	p-value
1	Family size	35.6	0.009***
2	Dependency ratio	27.84	0.08***
3	Cumulative saving	13.87	0.039**
4	House hold income	39.56	0.047**
5	Business plot	24.63	0.087*

***Significant at 1% probability levels
**Significant at 5% probability levels
Source: Own Survey

Table 18 Summary of Descriptive Statistics for Dummy Categorical Variables

S. No	Continuous Variables	X^2- value	p- value
1	Educational status	14.338	0.014**
2	Decision Making	46.82	0.005***
3	Access to credit	36.82	0.003***
4	Access to Transportation	1.58	0.001
5	Access to Market	27.2	0.014**
6.	Altitude towards Risk	1.69	0.517
7	Motivation	0.93	0.512

***Significant at 1% probability levels
**Significant at 5% probability levels
Source: Own Survey

Factors Affecting the Youth Economic Empowerment

Before inserting into the model, multicollinearity problems were checked in terms of variance inflation factor (VIF) for continuous and contingency coefficients for both discrete and dummy variables

respectively. That is to say, when the VIF values of the variables (X) is less than the cut-off value (10), generally those have no multicollinearity problems and those with VIF higher than 10 are believed to have this multicollinearity problem. Thus, it is reasonable in this study to include VIF the computational results of the VIF for continuous variables that confirmed non existence of the associations among the variables in the model.

Besides, it is generally accepted that contingency coefficients greater than 0.75 can be used for dummy and discrete variables. Below 0.75 these values indicate the existence of weak association of variables and above 0.75 represents strong association of variables. However, the results obtained in this study regarding results using Dummy and Discrete variables were less than 0.75. This therefore meant that there was no multicollinearity problem detected.

S. No.	Continuous Variables	Tolerance	Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)
1.	Family size	0.82	1.22
2.	Dependency ratio	0.79	1.26
3.	Cumulative saving	1	1
4.	House hold income	0.91	1.1
5.	Business plot	1	1

S. No.	Contingencies of Dummy Variables	Marital status	Attitude towards risk	Motivation	Transportation	Access credit	Market	Decision making	Educational status
1	Marital status	1	0.43	0.18	0.34	0.12	0.093	.07	0.23
2	Attitude towards risk		1	0.17	0.21	0.32	0.097	0.135	0.26
3	Motivation			1	0.14	0.08	0.52	0.3	0.29
4	Transportation				1	0.18	0.078	0.23	0.31
5	Access credit					1	0.092	0.27	0.16
6	Access market						1	0.37	0.079
7	Decision making							1	0.178
8	Educational status								1

In addition, goodness of model fit was measured with count while count works on the philosophy that the event will occur (given predicted probability is greater than 0.50) and not occur (if the predicted probability is less than 0.50). The percent of sample household predicted by the model result is greater than 0.50 and is 91.7% % which is correct.

Furthermore, according to the estimated sensitivities and specificities, which predicted correctly the empowered and non empowered to be 0.94 and 0.8523 respectively, the model was able to correctly estimate empowered and non empowered.

Result of Binary Logistic Regression Model

Based on the binary logistic regression, out of 12 independent variables, which were assumed to be significantly associated with the estimation revealed, ten variables were statistically significant (Table 19).

Table 19 Parameters Estimates of the Binary Logistic Regression Model

S. No.	Variable	B	S.E	wald	Odds Ratio (Exp(B))	P-Value
1	Family size	-5.3	1.912	6.81	3.321	0.009***
2	Saving amount	1.537	0.103	9.1	0.95	0.039**
3	Household Income	1.532	0.276	4.12	4.627	0.047**
4	Dependency ratio	-1.54	0.418	5.6	3.192	0.08***
5	Educational status	3.17	1.28	4.85	4.818	0.014**
6	Business plot	1.75	0.91	4.35	5.75	0.087*

7	Decision making	-0.304	0.152	6.27	0.046	0.005***
8	Access to credit	1.249	0.173	5.87	3.486	0.003***
9	Access to transport	0.417	0.263	0.85	1.518	0.001
10	Access to market	0.318	0.385	3.722	2.74	0.014**
11	Attitude towards risk	2.83	2.11	1.25	16.3	0.157
12	Motivation	-3.12	1.87	0.45	0.205	0.512

***Significant at less than 1% probability level; **Significant at less than 5% probability Level
*Significant at less than 10% probability level
Observations: N=146; - 2 Log likelihood = 101.07; Pearson Chi-squared (X^2) = 98.72***
Correct prediction of all sample (Count R^2) (%) = 91.18
Sensitivity/ Correct prediction of empowered (%) = 94.0
Specificity/ Correct prediction of non-empowered (%) = 85.3

Source: Model Output

Significant Explanatory variable in the Binary logit Mode

Family Size

The youth empowerment has been significantly explained by family size, with less than 1% probability level. In addition, it also displays a negative relationship with youth empowerment. This shows that, with the increase in the quantity of members in the family regarding the youth households, there is a negative effect on their empowerment. Consequently, a unit increase in other things equal reduces the possibility that the household will be empowered by a factor of 3.321. This implies that the demand of households is higher existent as the number of the family member increases hence affecting the household empowerment capacity.

Saving Amount

The act of deposit cash money in the account to identify and make use of for wise and accountable basis is referred to as saving in Microfinance and other kind of formal institutions. Therefore, it is an important part of the capacity building of the poor. It was hypothesized that this variable would have positive influence on the youth economic empowerment through microfinance. The household head at less than 5% probability level saved the amount so significant so as to explain the youth economic empowerment status in a positive relationship. That is, the likelihood of households being empowered increases by 0.95 times when the saving amount of the youth increases by 1 birr holding other factors constant. Support from this finding has been found in the assumption that when HHs head saving amount increase, they were expected to have stable economy and thus more economically empowered than non empowered heads.

Household Income

In fact, input from different sources, for example petty trade, sale of dairy product and vegetable production provides income to youth households in rural areas. But, getting an income of the most significant amount is from the production and selling of the agricultural products. Another important source of income is from the home produced agricultural products, either directly from the sale of the surplus agricultural production on the market, which saved family income by eating food from the farm or garden; the odds ratio for this variable was 4.63. As a result, the probability of being economically empowered by the youth household increases by 4.63 times upon the increase of 1 birr in income of the households.

Dependency Ratio

At less than 10% probability level, economic empowerment was significant in explaining the youth households based on dependency ratio. It found a negative relationship with the youth's economic empowerment status. The results in this paper show that the negative effect of the larger number of dependent household members of the economy empowerment status of the youth households. Hence, if other variables remain constant, an increase of a single dependent member of the household will decrease the household's economic empowerment

by a factor of 3.192. It means that the higher the number of the dependent family member, the greater is the demand for household's economic capacity, which in turn demands on the youth economic empowerment.

Education level: A high of indicates that the probability of youth household to be empowered increases with the education level of household head by a factor of 4.818, for each grade increase in education level. More importantly, the coefficient of educational level of youth is statistically significant at less than 5% probability level and significant at more than 5% probability level. This means that the economically empowered are youth household that was more educated as compared to those less educated.

Access to credit: The model result had shown the positive relationship between youths household economic empowerment and credit and this relationship had a significance at 5% level. This positive relationship implies that youth economic empowerment through the medium of credit service is more accessible for the youth to be economic empowered as compared to youth not having access to the medium of credit. This was perfectly in accordance with the pre-expectation. The truth is, credit enables the youth to participate in the income generating activities and that essentially contribute to the revenue and purchasing power of the youth to enable them get out of economic dependency. Answer to this qualitative result is that the model result followed this, because of focus groups revealing ground realities; youth did not have enough access to credit in the community and in the time they faced unexpected losses and sometimes it was very difficult to queue for the credit. As one unit increases in youths' access to credit, keeping other things equal, the probability of youths' economic empowerment increases by a factor of 3.486 in odds in favor of.

Access to market: Most youth engaged in growth oriented economic activities had one of the main problems they were facing. However, the youth do not have this expertises, contact and knowledge that can help them tap into new markets (Sefinew). Particularly, rural youth economic empowerment is positively related with market accesses. And the model tested that, among other things, there is a negative relationship between access to market and youth household economic empowerment that is significant at 10% probability level. The relationship is negative, that is to say youth economic empowerment with access to market have fewer chances of being economic empowered compared to significant other youth without access to market. The outcome was just the opposite of what was anticipated beforehand. The reason for this is that the availability of market access gives the youth greater chance to participate in various transactions and income generating activities which in turn are in a prospect of generating revenue and the purchasing power of the youth increase and escape the economic powerlessness. By focus groups and ground reality, youth do not have enough access for transaction activities in the market community, and they will not be empowered.

Business Plot

Explanatory role of business plot in the economic empowerment was observed at less than 10% probability level in terms of youth households. The relationship between it and youth economic empowerment status, was positive. This shows that the number of business plot positively influenced the economic status of the youth households. Therefore, holding other things constant, a unit rise in business would increase the probability of a household being being economically empowered by the factor of 5.75. It implies that there is greater demand for business plot to empower the households economically.

Decision making: Explanation of the youth household is economic empowerment was significant at less than 5% probability level in terms of decision making. It was found to have a negative relationship with youth economic empowerment status. Thus, this evidences that the tone of the decision making participation of the households negatively affects economic empowerment status of the households of the youth. Consequently, for other factors held constant, an increase of a unit of decision making participation frequency decreases the household's likelihood of being economically empowered by a coefficient of 0.046. This implies economic empowerment of the households from the

value lessness of higher amount of participation in decision making improvement.

Conclusion

The aim of this study was to evaluate the current state of youth economic empowerment and also find the determinants of youth economic empowerment in Offa woreda. About 67% of the youths are economically non empowered while only 33% of youth households are economically empowered in the study area. The size of the family of the youths is one of the determinant factors for this result where the family of the youths of large number of households was found to be significant. This implies that there was a higher amount of economic non empowerment in the household group characterized by larger families of the households relative to the youth headed families with fewer numbers of field members in the household. Thus, one of the reasons for this could be that the increasing need for more resources and the higher costs of the survival expenses can take place with the increasing household members time to time. Also, economically empowered youth household heads whose saving is large were observed as more than those whose savings are small. That is because the youth households that saved better cash/money had the tendency of making investments in majority of the economic activities.

Recommendations

There are different ways through which the youth households economic empowerment could be improved and also encouraged. The study also found that concluding that the following recommendations are made to motivate the economic empowerment of the youth households.

The study was determinant of the saving in Microfinance as well as other formal institutions. Strengthening the institutions of saving for the benefit of the youth is in the responsibility of the Woreda Government. Every public meeting of youth must be thought of the agenda of saving according to any source of money the youth has got income from, saving the youth from every source of money that the youth received income from. The office of OMO microfinance and the Woreda Cooperative Office have to employ enough experts so as to get

through to as many people, and especially young people households.

One of the determinant factors of the Youth Economic Empowerment was family size. In collaboration with the Office of Youth and Entrepreneurship promotion the Government of the Woreda should prepared such training programme known as a planed way of being looked upon by youth. Additionally, a means was provided to extend credit for the people who were large family in a way to run a business.

It was established that household income favours the youth's economic empowerment. The Woreda Government and Office of Youth and Entrepreneurship should uplift income from different source including petty trade, the sale of dairy products as well as vegetable production. This can also be improved by eliminating the hassle in the offer of the credit services and making them easier.

Those households who were more educated, as youth households, were more economically empowered as compared to the households that were less educated. Adult Education Program should be facilitated and strengthened through the Woreda Government in collaboration with the office of education to reach all youth households in all areas of the Woreda, regularly in a manner that will reach the household with the formal education who missed the education.

This makes dependency ratio a source of discouragement to the empowerment of the youth households in the study area. For instance the Woreda Government in collaboration with some non Governmental organizations should provide the capacity building activities which the Woreda possesses the highest dependency ratio among the youth households. Finally, youth households become part of some of the development activities which allow them earn some income.

Improvement of the credit of youth working in Kebele high level can empower youth households. Therefore, various credit accesses that could be funded through Woreda OMO-Micro finance and Woreda Office of Cooperatives Development were required by youth to borrow and participate in various transactions.

Ethiopia Technical Terms

Kebele means Village, Woreda means District
Dega means Highland, Woynedega means Mid Highland, Kolla means Lowland

Conflict of Interest

Authors have declared that they have no conflict of Interest.

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