

Exploring Youth Involvement in Peace Building: The Case of Mandi Town, West Wallaga Zone, Oromia National Regional State

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore youth involvement in peace building in selected districts of Mandi town in Oromia National Regional state. Simple descriptive research design was used for the study. Accordingly 79 respondents, 21 interviewees and 12 discussants were selected from 105 study population. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected through the questionnaire, interview and FGD. The collected data were analyzed by using descriptive statistical and thematic analysis. The results of the study naked that the youths in Mandi town pinpointed as they have the capability to build peace in their areas. The findings signpost that the youth in the study area play countless roles in peace building. They are open-minded, vigorous, prominent, decision maker, and involved in peace building practices regardless of age, gender, and religion. Therefore, numerous arguments were suggested based on the major findings of the study.

Keywords: - Youth, Peace building, Challenges, prospects, violence, Mandi town

1. INTRODUCTION

Deprived of restraining time and space, conflict exists ubiquitously in the sphere. Peace building is a process that simplifies the establishment of long-lasting peace, and tries to avert the reappearance of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict through understanding, institution building, and political as well as economic alteration. Peace building refers to a vital and discrete phase in a conflict when both violence prevention and social rebuilding challenges co-exist and overlap, and conflict management, conflict resolution and conflict transformation measures are required in an effort to create a sustainable peace.¹

In conflict circumstances social implications connected with childhood or adulthood transformation, and children might be mandatory to grow up faster and might make young adults stay within the definition of youth, because wakes of way have been troubled.² Nevertheless, if youth can be such an influential force that can abolish a whole nation, why do people overlook their resources when working for peace? Youth as a theme is vigorously

discussed and debated in manifold settings, both as a security threat and as an unused resource or prospective. Therefore, youth opinions should be included in current peace-related matters in broad-spectrum and peace building in specific.

Though, home-grown peace building practices have the prospective to lay the groundwork for appeasement and peace building in the absence of formal political institutions and a functional judicial system to guide negotiations and address conflicts, detractors of such methods assert that these could not address the changes in the nature and extent of local conflicts, making it less reasonable to advance post-conflict reconstruction. Moreover, while recognizing the restrictions of current indigenous approaches and the need for enhancement,³ highlights the significance of youth involvement keen on the peace building measures. The connotation of undercover how youth minds about and around issues of conflict, post-conflict and the peace building.⁴ In spite of the significant lack of suitable research on the roles of youth in peace building, there are an extensive variety of studies

concerning youth in conflict, and the relationship between youth and conflict causation.⁵

In Ethiopian perspective, although various indigenous researches were steered on various peace building mechanisms performed by elders, there are little or no researches conducted concerning youth involvement on peace building. However, there is local status quo in Ethiopia such as in West Wollega Administrative Zone, Mandi town which necessities the youth participates in various peace building progressions. Grounded on the researcher preliminary study, Mandi town is a place where conflict and peace building are frequently practiced. Though the youth in the town have parts in conflicts, they also have great roles in the peace building process. Ruined, the involvement of these youth in peace building in Mandi town is not studied yet. Therefore, this study is largely envisioned to fill this research gap converging on exploring youth involvement in peace building with orientation to Mandi town.

The dominant image on youth is negative, meaning that they are often seen as actors for violence. Much research has tended to focus on the role of youth in violence advancement. Youth are often abandoned in peace building events. However, later youth are understood as active and open, they have potential to have a role both in violence advertising and in peace building. If they are provided with opportunities to socio-economic development, they can convert their violent roles and become players in peace building.⁶ In the last few years, there has been a mounting body of literature on the roles of youth in confrontation to-peace alterations, although, it still remains restricted. Denoting to children as victims and youth as threats have been the predominant pictures. Research has been conducted on young men and violence.⁷ The numerous theories and conceptualizations on young men and violence validate this, such as the youth swelling theory, the youth crisis, the greed model and the grievance model.

In spite of the richness of literature available on the roles of youth in conflict, the effects of a large youth population throughout the post-conflict reconstruction period has been largely understudied. In other words, there are substantial gaps to comprehend how the post-conflict reconstruction process disturbs young people, and the role of youth play in shaping the

success of the peace building. Most of the research on youth in conflict emphasizes on young men, suggesting that a large amount of male youth were increase the likelihood of instability, but does not contemplate the youth population's role in peace building.

Despite that, in exploring the youth roles in modern conflicts, categorizing youth as a destabilizing population complicates the evidence: while young people do contribute in and help to incite conflict, there are a number of instances where young men and women became leaders in peace building engagements and made significant assistances to the post-conflict reconstruction environment. As such, youth are not only important to examine as potentially dangerous, but the management of the youth transition from war to peace is essential to breaking the cycle of violence that leads to civil war and insecurity. Young people can include in transforming conflict, refuting violence and building peace. Yet, their efforts endure largely invisible, unrecognized, and even undermined due to lack of satisfactory participatory and inclusive mechanisms and chances to partner with decision-making bodies.⁸ In support of this view, there are some recent researches that look at young people's potential as actors for peace considering the youths' qualities to be advantageous for peace building. Various studies revealed that youth are open, vibrant and creative to peace building.⁹ The study discloses that economic banishment and lack of awareness are the main challenges to youth participation in peace building. It also displays that the youth expounded their opportunities for participation as local and accessible, like awareness conception on peace building related issues through drama and dialogues. More specifically, this study was attempted to:-

- To describe the perceptions of youth on peace building in Mandi town;
- To explore the actual practices of youth in peace building in the study area and
- To investigate the opportunities of youth involvement in peace building process in study area.

2. METHODOLOGY

The researchers employed both mixed quantitative and qualitative research method for this study. Employing both qualitative and quantitative methods in a single study enables

the researchers to see the research issue in multidimensional directions. Mixed approach is the incorporation of various qualitative and quantitative strategies within a single study.¹⁰ The choice of mixed approach helps the researchers to explore the nature of youth involvement in peace building encountering or meet via collecting diverse types of data.

In this study, a descriptive research design was employed for describing the existing situation in study area. Survey study is the most commonly used simple descriptive research design when the investigator uses questionnaires, interviews and FGD for data collection. Therefore, the researcher in this study used mixed methods to assess youth involvement in peace building.

The qualitative method used for conceptual development at the early stage and for interpretation, clarification and illustration of the findings as well as the collection and analysis of subjective opinions, attitudes and views of people during interview and focus group discussion (FGD). The qualitative information extracted from interview and FGD has been grouped into thematic categories and analyzed qualitatively. This could support quantitative data which has been collected

using questioner and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. This together will support the line of arguments and strength the data sets from various sources by cross checking evidence. The reason for using this method is to maximize the strength of each method by enabling the researchers to gather dependable information.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section of the study presents the analysis and discussion of the data gathered through the participants' questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion. Accordingly, it discusses the participants' background information, perception of youth on peace building, actual practice of youth in peace building, challenges of youth involvement in peace building process, and opportunities of youth involvement in peace building process.

Participants' Background Information

This sub-section mainly focuses to discuss the research participants' background information including their gender, level of education, and their respective kebele in Mandi town. The total participants of the study were 105 individuals who were selected from two different kebeles

Variables	Characteristics	Frequency	%	
Gender	Male	61	58.0%	
	Female	44	41.9%	
	total	105	100%	
Grade	9th	33	31.4%	
	10th	26	24.7%	
	11th	27	25.7%	
	12th	19	18.0%	
	Total	105		

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The Perception of Youth towards Peace Building Involvement

This section of the study presents and interprets the data that focuses on the view of youth

towards peace building involvement which were collected through questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion.

Table 1: The perception of youth towards peace building involvement

No	Opportunities of Youth Engagement in Peace building Process	Strongly dis agree		Dis agree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly agree	
		no	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%

1	can come up with new ideas to address conflicts	9	11.3%	7	8.8%	6	7.5%	27	34.1%	30	37.9%
2	can play a vital role in peace building process	5	6.3%	6	7.5%	5	6.3%	28	35.4%	33	41.7%
3	Youth can transfer their war capacities to peace promotion	4	5.0%	5	6.3%	7	8.8%	26	32.9%	34	43.0%
4	Youth are important actors in the peace building process	3	3.7%	2	2.5%	9	11.3%	23	29.1%	42	53.1%
5	Youth are creative, open-minded and dynamic in peace building	6	7.5%	3	3.7%	8	10.1%	23	29.1%	39	49.3%

The table 1 shows us, the large number of youths (37.9%) responded that they can come up with new ideas to address conflicts to be involved in peace building practices, 34.1% of the respondent replied that they agree with that they can come up with new ideas to address conflicts to be involved in peace building practices but 7.5% were undecided. 7 respondents (8.8%) were disagree with that they can come up with new ideas to address conflicts to be involved in peace building practices, However, the remaining 11.3% of the respondents reported that they did not come up with new ideas to address conflicts to be involved in peace building.

The following information which is gained from Interviewee – A Chomo Dabus kebele strengthens this fact. Her idea was generalized as follows: In Chomo Dabus Kebele, the opinion of youth towards youth peace building involvement is positive and constructive because most of the youths believe that they are the tool for peace building and peace development. As a result, most of the people in this kebele support youths in advice and finance for peace development.

The finding of this study is consistent with the finding Visser (2015) which states youths are the generation that can either heal the world or destroy society and everything in a nation. So that youth perception towards peace building is highly influential to the existence of sustainable peace in developing countries, like Ethiopia.

The above table 1 also shows that, the large number of the youths (41.7%) responded that youth can play a vital role in peace building process, 35.4% of the respondent replied that they agree with that of youths can play a vital role in peace building process. but 6.3% were undecided. 6 respondents (7.5%) were disagree with youths can play a vital role in peace building process, However, the remaining 6.3% of the respondents reported that the youths can play a vital role in peace building process. In the same way, the data gained from the participants' interview indicates that the youths are positive thinker for peace building involvement.

For instance, Interviewee – C from Chomo Dabus Kebele stated the following information: In some years back, some youths were considered as the source of conflict. Youths consider them self as here when they make conflict. But, now a day, they have changed their minds and believe as youth are peacemakers. As a result, the people of the kebele and youth help each other to resolve conflict in their area. Similarly, interviewee - M who was interviewed from Meti Kebele responded as follows:

Previously, the youth in my kebele was seen as the cause of conflict rather than peacemaker and the society do not respect them, however, since the people knows and accepts that youth are actors of peace and development, the society provides ideological and financial supports to the youths of the kebele.

Regarding to peace promotion, table 1 shows that, large number of the respondents (43.0%) strongly agreed that Youth can transfer their war capacities to peace promotion. 32.9%, 8.8%, 6.3% of the respondents were agreed, undecided and dis agreed about youth can transfer their war capacities to peace promotion respectively. However, 5.0% of the respondents did not think that youth cannot transfer their war capacities to peace promotion. In line with the above findings Interviewee – H from Hombosha Kebele also strengthened as follows: The establishment of the right of people to speak by the government is a very good chance for youth peacemakers as well as peace promotion and gives a chance to competitive from different types of jobs.

The above table also indicates that 53.1% of the participants believe that youth are important actors in the peace building process while 29.1% of the respondent were agreed to youth are important actors in the peace building process and 11.3% were undecided. 2 individuals (2.5%) were dis agreed about youth are important actors in the peace building process. But the other 3.7% of the respondent reported that youth are not important actors in the peace building process.

Likewise, interviewee – C from Chomo Dabus kebele also underlined that there were possibilities to be peace builders in the kebele since youth are important actors in the peace building process. It was organized as follows: The youths were important actors of Chomo Dabus Kebele to build peace. The interviewee says that he believes that if youth are encouraged and promoted by different activities they are involved to keep and promote peace in their area. And also most of the people believe that youth are chapter one actors of peace, conflict management and they have the ability to manage conflicts.

The focus group discussion participants found in Chomo Dabus Kebele also mentioned that as long as the community policing office and the local elders supports the youths, most youths have the possibilities to strong peace builders. The finding is consistent with a study done by¹², which states that a neglect of adolescents and older young people is shortsighted and counterproductive in terms of peace building, particularly in the crucial post-accord phase with its twin challenges of violence prevention/accord maintenance and societal reconciliation and reconstruction .So, youth's

accomplishment towards assure peace building and fight challenges are uncountable participants consider to their perception but the main hindrance is societal misconception that is fussing to understand the value of youth participation in peace building. However, youth's perception towards create peace building is very constructive.

The final question regarding to perception of youth was youth's creativity, open-minded and dynamic in peace building. Table 1 shows that, among the respondents 49.3% of youths strongly agreed that they were are creative, open-minded and dynamic in peace building but large number of respondents (29.1%) were agreed they were creative, open-minded and dynamic in peace building process while 10.1% were respond undecided. 3.7% of the respondents disagreed on the youths' creativity, open-minded and dynamic in peace building process and 7.5% of the respondents disagreed on the youths' creativity, open-minded and dynamic in peace building process. Besides this questionnaire data, the focus group discussion participants and the interviewees further explained that youth have various perceptions in analyzing conflicts. The following information taken from Interviewee – L can be seen as an example: In Meti Kebele, people clash due to marketing competition, tax payment, and village border. Thus, I have involved in analyzing and resolving such types of conflicts based on the rules and regulations of each cases. In addition to this, since youth in this kebele are creative, and open minded most of the conflicts occurred in Meti kebele were solved by youth participation.

The focus group discussion participants found in Meti Kebele also mentioned that youths were creative, open-minded and dynamic in peace building process. The finding is similar with the study of ¹³, defines the creativity and open-mindedness of youth to "transcend" structures and attitudes, which promote conflict as their greatest strength in peace building. On his study he explores that the relationship between youth and peace building, examining how youth approach peace building differently than other age demographics. The result is also consistent with the finding of¹⁴, which states that young people are openness, energetic, creativity, and they are especially well-positioned to come up with new ideas to address community problems. They can play a vital role in the peace building process by modeling alternatives to

violence and showing that change can be made peacefully.

Based on these results, therefore, we can interpret as follows in Mandi woreda most of the youths can come up with new ideas to address conflicts and they perceive that they play a vital role in peace building process, transfer their war capacities to peace promotion and they also perceive that they are important actors in the peace building process. Youth in the woreda are creative, open-minded and

dynamic in peace building that the youth in Mandi Woreda have the abilities in analyzing and resolving various conflicts.

3.3. Challenges of Youth Involvement in Peace Building Process

The challenges of youth engagement in peace building were presented in this part of the study. It is thematically discussed the data gained through questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion as follows.

Table 2: Challenges of Youth involvement in Peace building Process

No	Challenges of Youth Engagement in Peace building Process	Strongly dis agree		Dis agree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly agree	
		no	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Unemployment hinders youth from peace building Involvement	8	10.1%	10	12.6%	6	7.5%	20	25.3%	35	44.3%
2	Inferiority feeling is a challenge to youth peace building involvement	7	8.8%	4	5.0%	6	7.5%	25	31.6%	37	46.8%
3	Excessive alcohol consumer youths lack peace building mechanisms	41	51.8%	2	2.5%	12	15.1%	14	17.7%	10	12.6%
4	In adequate youth communication platform challenges peace building	26	32.9%	37	46.8%	5	6.3%	7	8.8%	4	5.0%
5	Inadequate awareness creation challenges peace building	38	48.1%	20	25.3%	6	7.5%	10	12.6%	5	6.3%

The above table 2. Shows that, most of the questionnaire respondents (44.3%) or 35 youths reported that unemployment hinders youth from peace building involvement. 20 (25.3%) of the respondent were replied that they agreed unemployment hinders youth from peace building involvement. However, 7.5% of youths were undecided to unemployment hinders youth from peace building

involvement. 12.6% of respondents were dis agreed that unemployment hinders youth from peace building involvement whereas, 10.1% of respondents replied that unemployment did not hinder youth from peace building involvement. Thus, based on this data it can be inferred that the majority of the participants believe as unemployment hinders youth from peace building involvement. In a similar ways the

above tables shows that, large number of the respondents 37 (46.8%) were claim that inferiority feeling is a challenge to youth peace building engagement while 31.6% of the respondents were agreed that inferiority feeling is a challenge to youth peace building engagement. Nevertheless, the other small number of the participants (7.5%) or 6 youth claim that they were undecided that inferiority feeling is a challenge to youth peace building engagement. 8.8% of youths were replied that inferiority feeling is not a challenge to youth peace building involvement. Therefore, it implies that inferiority feeling is a challenge to most of the youth to involvement in peace building practices.

In the above table, 41 respondents (51.8%) agreed on excessive alcohol consumer youths lack peace building mechanisms, the other 17.7%, 15.1%, and 2.5% respondents were agreed, undecided and dis agreed on excessive alcohol consumer youths lack peace building mechanisms. however 10 respondents (12.6%) strongly agreed as excessive alcohol consumer youths lack peace building mechanisms. From this, we can understand that excessive alcohol consumer youths lack peace building mechanisms.

In the same manner table 2 states that, most of the participants (46.8%) or 37 youth dis-agreed that inadequate youth communication platform challenges peace building. 8.8% youths were agreed that inadequate youth communication platform challenges peace building and 6.3% of were replied undecided about inadequate youth communication platform challenges peace building. However, in contrast to this view, some of the participants (32.9%) and 5.0% youths believe that inadequate youth communication platform do not challenges peace building or they are strongly dis-agree and strongly agree respectively. Accordingly, it can be concluded that inadequate youth communication is a challenge for most of the youth to involve in peace building activities.

Finally, as it can be seen in the table shown above, more of the respondents (48.1%) or 38 youth strongly dis-agreed that inadequate awareness creation challenges peace building. 12.6% of the respondents were agreed about inadequate awareness creation challenges peace building. Nonetheless, a small number of the respondents (7.5%) or 6 youth, were undecided about whether inadequate awareness creation challenges peace building or not.

25.3% and 6.3% of youths were dis agree and strongly agree about inadequate awareness creation challenges peace building respectively. As a result, the above result shows that inadequate awareness creation challenges peace building in the study area. In addition to the questionnaire data, the interviewees and focus group discussion respondents also reported that there are various challenges in peace building practices. The participants replied that there are many challenges for peace building practice like lack of strong and non-corrupted leaders, lack of quality awareness creation, and excessive number of unemployment of youth in the kebele are the prominent challenges.

One of the interviewees from Meti Kebele has spoken that: In Meti Kebele the common challenges of peace building were Lack of quality education, inferiority, lack of effective peace building training manual, drinking too much alcohol, and unemployment.

The interviewees more explained that, unemployment, lack of budget to the youth for job creation and drinking much amount of alcohol are the prominent challenges. And also another challenge is that rather than solving conflicts by youth sometimes some conflicting parties believe as conflicts should be solved only through court.

In addition to this, the other interviewee said that: In my kebele peace building experience, I faced different challenges. When conflicts occur many people want to report or applicants their easy conflicts to police and court rather than solving it with the local youths. Beside to this, some of the people in the kebele did not want to accept their problems due to different kind of reasons for instance some of them did not listen to our elders due to inferiority complex. Moreover, lack of knowledge and budget from the concerned bodies were also the major challenges.

Similarly, one of the participants replied that the challenges that she faced in her peace building experience are while some people who got into conflict did not believe with youths' peace building ability, the others are difficult to be convinced with youth. In addition, there are some people who want to aggravate conflicts for their personal consumption. Lastly, she rose that lack of budget is their problem. In the same way, another respondent forwarded that "there is lack of job opportunity in the kebele and many youths are job less. In addition, some

people who got into conflict lack willingness to make peace. Apart from these, I do not have deep knowledge and skills of conflict resolution”.

The following speech was reported from one of the interviewee from Hombosha kebele:

Some conflicting parties considered me as a kid who is not capable to peacemaking. Apart from this, still some others do not want to be negotiated by youth peacemakers, rather than elder religious leaders. The other conflicting parties neither understand the youth peace makers' ideas, nor accept the negotiating mechanisms.

Regarding to challenges of peace building the following points were mentioned by one female interview participant, she states as follows when she tried to negotiate some conflicting parties, they considered her as a kid who is not able to make peace, and voiced her “grow slowly still you become an elder”. The conflicting parties thought that only elders make peace excluding the youths’ role of peace making. Some conflicting parties denied negotiations unless their ideas are accepted. Apart from this, still some others leave the role of peace for their future life. Finally, the interviewees stressed that youths’ emotionality and unemployment are the most challenging problems in Hombosha, Meti and Chomo Dabus Kebeles.

The focus group discussion participants also mentioned that there are many challenges faced by youths while involving in peace building activities. Accordingly, some government officials believe that some conflicting parties need to be negotiated by only religious fathers excluding youth peace builders. In addition, they replied that some peace maker youths become hopeless when the conflicting parties oppose each other during reconciliation.

As one of the government employed participant speak out:

In my opinion, in Meti kebele lack of knowledge and experience in peace building are the challenges of youth peace builders. The kebele and woreda level leaders are unable to provide adequate budget and trainings on peace and security. Some individuals demoralize the youths during the negotiation process. Lack of rule of law and lack of budget are the other challenges. In other terms, some people did not respect the rules and regulations of the Youth Association. Some conflicting parties are unable to come to the negotiation place due to

lack of willingness. The above finding of the study was discussed as follows with different scholars, in line with this point,¹⁵ revealed that youth have various challenges which hinder them from full engagement of peace building activities, and essential factors that promote them to participate in various peace building activities. The biggest challenges for promoting youth participation in peace building are poverty and unemployment.

¹⁶ also revealed that there is a great deal of youth who are unemployed in Uganda and therefore it makes them unable to construct living and engage in peace building initiatives. In line with unemployment related obstacles, education may contribute to community peace and enhance youth to be part of the economic development, as it may lead to further social and political participation.

In the same vein, ¹⁷ found out that youth need to get quality education and other vocational trainings so that they get required skills, and get into jobs. If youth are brought together like in a vocational school, that would promote peace because this would bring youth together and this would create avenue for supporting one another and building longer relationship, apart from skilling them. The demanded possibility of technical and vocational schooling is understandable since such training aims to link education to employability and can lead to poverty reduction. Lastly, ¹⁸ investigated that the other issue which keeps youths’ perpetrating conflict instead of contributing to peace building is so much of poverty. Since economic empowerment is a key element for social and political engagement, engaging youth in income generating activities is essential. The feeling of inferiority is the other challenge for youth peace building engagements. For this reason, youth needs to be empowered in order to embrace peace building approaches and gain self-esteem.

The main challenges for greater youth participation in peace building are related with unemployment, poverty, alcohol abuse, and inferiority feelings. Moreover, alcoholism which often results in violence is a hindering factor to unable to participate in peace building. Excessive consume of alcohol among youth is one of the main conflict-drivers, as well as it hinders youth involvement in peace building. Such youths did not think of various peace building activities as important like for instance instead of meeting fellow colleagues to discuss

good things, a youth would choose to go and take alcohol so that it enables them to forget the problems.

Generally, based on the above result the researcher conclude that unemployed youths are exposed to make conflict, youths feeling inferiority were not participated in peace building activities. Intake of excessive alcohol has direct influence on youth's involvement of peace building. In addition, insufficient youth communication platform and inadequate

awareness creation about the necessary of peace to the community are the main challenges of youth involvement in peace building.

Opportunities of Youth involvement in Peace building Process

The data gathered through questionnaire, interview, and focus group discussion on the opportunities of youth involvement in peace building process have been presented respectively in this sub section of the study.

Table 3: Opportunities of Youth Engagement in Peace building Process

No	Opportunities of Youth Engagement in Peace building Process	Strongly dis agree		Dis agree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly agree	
		no	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Youth have access to education which empower them to practice peace building	4	5.0%	6	7.5%	3	3.7%	28	35.4%	38	48.1%
2	Youth are empowered to gain self-esteem and embrace peace building approaches	31	39.2%	19	24.0%	8	10.1%	14	17.7%	7	8.8%
3	There are job opportunities which promotes youth peace building involvement	43	54.4%	30	37.9%	0	0%	4	5.0%	2	2.5%
4	There are unities of youth which promote peace building involvement	8	10.1%	9	11.3%	3	3.7%	24	30.3%	35	44.3%

Table 3. shows that most of the respondents (48.1%) or 38 youth reported that youth have access to education which empower them to practice peace building. 7.5% of the respondents replied that they were dis agreed about access to education empower them to practice on peace building. 3.7% or 3 youth were undecided whether they have access to education which empowers them to practice

peace building or not while 35.4% of them were agreed. However, the remaining respondents (5.0%) or 4 youth reported that youth have no access to education which empower them to practice peace building. Therefore, it can be understood that most of youths have access to education which empowers them to practice peace building.

The above table also indicates that, most of the questionnaire respondents (39.2%) or 31 youths strongly dis agreed that youth are empowered to gain self-esteem and embrace peace building approaches. 24.0% of the respondents replied that they were dis agreed about youth are empowered to gain self-esteem and embrace peace building approaches. 10.1% or 8 youth were undecided whether youth are empowered to gain self-esteem and embrace peace building approaches or not and 17.7% of them were agreed. However, small number of questionnaire respondents (8.8%) or 7 youth reported that they agreed that youth are empowered to gain self-esteem and embrace peace building approaches. Based on the above information, we can understand that most youths were not empowered to gain self-esteem and embrace peace building approaches.

Regarding to job opportunities the result on table 3 shows that, most of the participants (54.4%) or 43 questionnaire respondents strongly dis agreed that there are job opportunities which promotes youth for peace building involvement, and (37.9%) or 30 respondents dis agreed about that there are job opportunities which promotes youth peace building involvement. 0.0% respondents were not sure as there are job opportunities which promote youth for peace building involvement or not. However the small number of respondents (2.5%) were strongly agreed that, there are job opportunities which promotes youth for peace building involvement and the remaining 5.0% were agreed about there are job opportunities which promotes youth for peace building involvement. Thus, it can be concluded that there are no adequate job opportunities that promote youth peace building involvement in Mandi woreda.

Finally, large number respondents (44.3%) or 35 youth strongly agreed that there are unities of youth which promote peace building involvement. 11.3% of the respondents were dis agreed about that there are unities of youth which promote peace building involvement while 3.7% of youths were undecided whether there are unities of youth which promote peace building involvement or not. However, the remaining 30.3% and 10.1% of the respondents were agreed and strongly dis-agreed about there are unities of youth which promote peace building involvement respectively. Therefore, considering this result we can conclude that

there are unities of youth which promote peace building engagement in the study area.

Generally, access to education, job opportunity, self-esteem empowerment, and unities of youth were not given for youths to involvement in peace building process. Regarding the opportunities of youths in involving on peace building practices, the youth interviewees reported that even though there are various peace building opportunities in Hombosha kebele including the availability of peace committee, community policing, and peace advisors they are not work properly. As they reported, most importantly, since the police officers work with the community, it helps us to work on peace building efficiently. The interviewee from Hombosha Kebele stated that: Even though, adult education, training and the availability of youth leaders in the kebele are the good things for youths' peace building involvement. Most of the youths in Hombosha Kebele do not get these opportunities. In addition, some youths are organized in various developmental teams which can be taken as opportunities. Apart from these, there are still inadequacies, the kebele and woreda leaders provide trainings on peace building, the police officers work with youth, and the society share farming land to some youth.

Similarly, the interview participants further explained that the access for various communication technologies like cell phone, radio and Television are good opportunities. But there is no additional availability of various educational institutions in the kebele. The existence of elderly fathers and mothers who regularly provide advices is also an opportunity to work on peace building. One of the respondents from Meti Kebele reported that: The good opportunity for youth involvement in peace building practice that I found is the society's good acceptance to the youths' peace building engagement. Most people of Meti Kebele have accesses to mass media like Newspaper, Television, and radio. The access to these mass media can be taken as opportunities to our peace building practice in the kebele.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings extended, the following conclusions were made. The youth in Mandi Woreda perceive as they have the skill to build peace in their areas. They perceive that they have peace building skills. The youths have

positive views towards peace building involvement. Accordingly, they provides with socio-economic opportunities to be engaged in peace building; The challenges which were faced by Mandi Woreda youth in their peace building practices were unemployment, inferiority feeling, intake of more alcohol, inadequate youth communication platform and inadequate awareness creation are the challenges of youth involvement in peace building. However, the youth in Mandi Woreda has no the opportunities of having access to education, self-esteem empowerment, and unities of youth are the opportunities of youth involvement in peace building process.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this empirical study, the researcher forward the following recommendations for the concerned bodies, institution, individuals and for the society at large; the major constructing factor, policy makers at all stages of the society should design supportive polices, strategies and allocate appropriate resources.

- The government should reform the policy towards peace building process considering the role of youth in the country for sustainable stability
- Societies need to support the role in which youth are playing for peace building process,
- All stake holders including private and governmental organizations should pay more attention to youth peace building involvement apart from the elders" of indigenous conflict resolution mechanism; they have to support them in terms of idea, experience sharing and logistics.
- Various opportunities like workshops and trainings towards peace buildings should be provided for youth.
- The youth need to strengthen their platforms with the help of kebele and woreda officials, by giving different responsibilities, encourage them to participate in the community services and working with youths.
- It would be better if the youths share their experiences to other youths who live in various kebeles and woredas, sharing experience like peace building process, community participation, how to take

responsibilities, how to live with another and how the youth help each other.

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