ERITREAN 'MEN MIGRATE WOMEN WAIT' - ITS UGLIEST FACE THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPACT ON LEFTBEHIND

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Abstract - Since immemorial Africa has been labeled as people on the move[1]. And specifically, since the last decade Eritrea, among the youngest and of least population in Africa accounted lion's share of the migration. Despite its far fewer population 4.5million[2], the state has been rated in between second and third country of origin of the migrants landing on Europe, paralleling Syria and Afghanistan[3,4]. Rough estimate from the UN data and Migration Policy Institute reveals that monthly about 5,000 Eritreans cross the border [5]. The Wall Street Journal has denoted Eritrea as "the world's fastest emptying nations"[5]. The unprecedented Eritrean exodus that challenged the traditional migration[6], is attributed to political and economic reasons, crystalizing to the indefinite national services and conscriptions that is condoned for the 'no war - no peace' situation of the border conflict with Ethiopia[7] .

Most of the migrants fleeing the state taking perilous route through Mediterranean Sea all the way to Europe are men, unaccompanied by their minors[8] and the situation doesn't seem to cease its magnitude considering the overall regional status quo[8]. No doubt women left behind survive myriad psychosocial and emotional and sometimes economic problems[9]. Little has been studied on the Eritrean migration that challenged its traditional precedence, yet this research focuses on the maiden outlook on psycho-social and [the temporary]economic impact of the left behind women and minors and specifically the disruptive challenges children face in their educational performance during this desertion time under woman-headed family. The research employed primary data from Eritrean subjects of the study and adopted instrumental paradigms and theories to bring into light the harsh realities victims facing. The researcher being a Masters student at the Korean Development Institute of policy studies, tries to influence the policy makers at home and the global stakeholders on handling issues of left behind in this turbulent world.