# Interviews with teenage focus groups in Dinki, Hagere Selam wereda, North Shewa

*Topic – government development interventions*

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## Focus group of males aged 15-19

1. EE 15, Grade 5, Poor

2. UH 16, Grade 8, Middle-wealth

3. BC 15, Grade 6, Rich

4. IH 15, Grade 8, Rich

5. CH 16, Grade 3 dropout

6. HU 16 Grade 6

### Land

The people were taught how to use land properly and that they have to take care of forests as they are directly related to land. This will improve the weather in the future and prevent the drought.

Building terraces so that the soil is not eroded. Different things to preserve the natural resources are carried out by FFW.

Their parents are able to support them because they are involved in agriculture. They buy them the necessary things like clothing and stationery materials.

### Resettlement

None

### Government universities/colleges

They hear that a university is opened in Debre Berhan.

### Irrigation

New canals for irrigation were dug and hence some people have started to use irrigation anew. This is done via FFW and they are able to get grain.

Motor pump was introduced and some people are using it.

Different trees of fruits are grown like Avocado and mango.

Chat is being grown widely.

 Eucalyptus tree is grown in the nursery.

Things related to irrigation have improved the income of people who are using them. And the children are able to get sufficient food. They are also able to afford medical treatment by selling different things produced. They are able to get stationery materials.

However the children may be forced to do on the irrigation, which is labour intensive and tiresome. And they might be required to be absent from schools for sometimes. They are not also able to play as they want.

### Alternative Basic Education

Before the satellite school in Dinki was started children used to go to the ABE centre in Addis Alem ‘gott’. Though there were three students the quality of education was not that good.

### Water harvesting

Plastic sheet used for harvesting water was introduced, but it is not used in Dinki as there is no water shortage. In ‘gotts’ like Aygebir where there is severe water shortage the people are harvesting water. They use the water harvested for animals and for their own consumption.

### Government pre-school education

None

### Agricultural extension and packages

DAs provide them with fertiliser and improved seeds. They also avail pesticides. They also taught the people how to prepare and use compost.

The improved seeds gave improved harvest.

### Community-government interactions

The adults are called to different meetings. But they do not know anything about them.

### Livestock extension and packages

A veterinarian started to work in the Kebele in 2001. Medication for livestock is also available. The health of animals is now improved. If the health of livestock is kept, they do not fall sick and they do not die, which improves the income of the households.

### The use of models, champions, promoters – roles

There are people who mobilise different things when the Kebele tells them to do different things. There are also some strong farmers who do whatever they are told to do quickly. These farmers are able to improve their situation.

### Non-farm extension and packages

None.

### The use of extension workers – roles

They teach the people. If the people use the teachings they might be able to improve many things.

### Co-operatives

They provide fertiliser in the community. The co-operative is started in 2001 and it is giving good service to the people. Since the people are able to get fertiliser in the Kebele, they are spared from travelling to distant places and markets. The fertiliser is also able to improve productivity.

### Good governance

None

### Government Micro-credit

People who want the credit go to Ankober and they are given the service. When people are faced with immediate problems they pass the time by taking credit. It is good since parents are able to support their children for bad times.

### Interactions with woreda

Some people from the Wereda come to discuss different things at the Kebele. And the people are able to get different new things.

### Food aid

Sometimes food aid is available, grain and oil is given to the people. And sometimes different flour is given to children. This is especially supportive for female heads. They are able to support their children.

### Security, policing and justice

They take care of the community so that the peace of the community is kept.

### Nutrition

Sometimes nutrients are given to small children. But it is insignificant.

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

None

### Family planning

When parents have small number of children they do not have to worry much, as they are not forced to provide much. If they give birth with some years in between, elder children are able to take care of younger siblings. The parents do not get poorer, and the children will get good care. It has to continue like this, and the government has to teach the people to use family planning techniques.

### Government-sponsored Associations

The people at the Kebele were calling the youth for different things. Once they organised them and promised them to be engaged in silk work breeding; but nothing was done.

### Pregnancy and childbirth

Women give birth with their parents when they are giving birth for the first time. Then they can give birth in their own household.

### Presentation of government models of development

None

### Drinking water

None

### Exemptions for the poor

Nothing is done. Vaccination is given for free for all people.

### Sanitation

Starting from 2000 HEWs are teaching the people to dig latrines and dispose wastes properly. They also taught them to keep the sanitation of the environment and their compounds. This has improved the health of children.

Some people do not use the latrines even if they dug them. The teaching has to continue.

The people were taught to build a separate house for animals.

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation

It is said that women are equal with men. But this is not true for the Muslims. A lot needs to be done in order to teach the people about equality and rights.

### Preventive health services

Bed nets were distributed, and it was efficient as it killed every insect.

Wuha Agar (a chemical to purify water for drinking) was introduced. But since this chemical is dangerous the limit has to be known for the people.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

It is said that the youth will be engaged in different activities, but nothing is done up to now.

### Curative health services

The health post in Chibite is useful in that; it gives at least temporary relief for people until they seed better health service. It is near and it decreases the effort and time spent. People also go to Aliyu Amba.

It has to be improved in that medication need to be available.

### Community work including FFW and non-government work

The people are engaged in FFW and they are able to get grain to support their households.

### Primary education

Two satellite schools are built in Dinki, one in Dinki neighbourhood and one in Alela Ager. This is very good for children who cannot travel to the school in Chibite.

In 2000 classrooms were built in Gendawuha School. Students are able to learn in the neighbourhood. They were forced to go to Aliyu Amba and Haramba.

This will improve the education level of the community; as many students will be going to school now.

It was good if the satellite schools were upgraded to enrol students up to fourth grade and continue upgrading it. Materials for the classrooms need to be fulfilled, and textbooks are also needed. One textbook is given for three students. There are subjects that no textbooks are available.

### Transport

None

### Secondary education

Grades 9 and 10 are started in Aliyu Amba. The students are able to attend school in the nearby area, and it has reduced cost. Parents take them food and other things on market days. Previously students were supposed to go to Ankober and they were forced to quit because of many problems.

It was good if the school in Aliyu Amba was upgraded to enrol students up to grade 12.

### Electricity and communications

There is no electricity. Telephone is available in Chibite and Aliyu Amba, and people are able to connect with relatives. Mobile network is going to be released in Aliyu Amba.

### Government TVET

They do not know anything about TVET.

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

The government banned abduction, female circumcision, and early marriage. Because of this girls are able to live without any fear.

## Focus group of males aged 11 – 14

1. BA 14, Grade 2 dropout middle-wealth

2. BB 13, Grade 3 poor

3. CB Grade 6 middle

4. UA 13 Grade 1 dropout middle-wealth

5. NB 12 Grade 1 middle-wealth

6. VB 12 Not learning middle-wealth

### Land

Land certificate was given to parents. And this makes sure that the land is kept for them. Because they have land they are able to live by the produce of the land. If they do not have land children would die of hunger, and they would have no hope apart from becoming shepherds for other people.

### Resettlement

None

### Government universities/colleges

None

### Irrigation

New canals were dug for irrigation, which was implemented because it was worked via FFW. Individuals would not be able to work it if it were not for FFW.

People who have irrigable land benefited when there was rain shortage. They were able to grow different things to support their households.

Children might be expected to be absent from school to work on irrigable lands when there is a difficult task to undertake. They might be affected by working very difficult work that is beyond their capacity and strength.

### Alternative Basic Education

They attended the school in Addis Alem before the satellite school was opened. It was good because they were unable to go to Chibite when they were very small. Now the ABE School is not that important as two satellite schools are opened. The number of students is very small.

### Water harvesting

They do not have water harvesting in the community because Dinki has water access.

### Government pre-school education

None

### Agricultural extension and packages

Compost is introduced instead of buying fertiliser, which is very expensive. Using manure is also very difficult because the dung is collected in the house while the farms are in most cases are very far. But compost is prepared near the farmland.

They also got improved seed of maize. They also got chickpea; and this was especially helpful to farmers who do not have money to buy seeds.

An implement to spread pesticides was introduced and it is effective, it also reduces the amount of pesticide needed. Before this people were using animal tails to spread pesticides. The pesticides prevent the crops from pests damaging and causing great loss.

### Community-government interactions

The people go to Chibite once in a month. Because they discuss different things are done in the community.

 In the meetings good things are discussed and bad things are banned. For example, they have banned the preparation of charcoal, as it affects the community by clearing forests.

### Livestock extension and packages

Medication is available for livestock.

New fodders for animals were introduced.

### The use of models, champions, promoters – roles

Champions mobilise the people in the community. These people are those with some education.

There are also strong farmers in the community. Other farmers see these farmers as examples and follow them.

### Non-farm extension and packages

None

### The use of extension workers – roles

DAs work with strong farmers and champions. They also treat the livestock by providing different medications.

There are bad DAs they might sale the medication for their own purpose, the government has to control them very well.

### Co-operatives

The cooperative provides fertiliser and pesticides for the people. Before this people were forced to go to Aliyu Amba. And the shops in Aliyu Amba were unwilling to open only for an individual. But the cooperative in Chibite serves individuals. Even children can bring the fertiliser. The expense is also small.

### Good governance

None

### Government Micro-credit

Credit for those people who use it properly it is good; otherwise it is very bad. There are no many users in this community. There is a man who borrowed and built a house. But he was forced to sell his ox to repay the credit. Thus he lost his livelihood by unwise investment. This is bad for children as they are faced with many problems including hunger.

### Interactions with woreda

Everything that is worked in the community comes from the Wereda. The people from the Wereda come to the community at different times to discuss and give orders to the Kebele.

People might go to Ankober to take their cases to the court at the Wereda.

### Food aid

None

### Security, policing and justice

They keep the peace and security of the community. They give justice for people.

If the peace and security of the community was kept, the children might lose their parents by the act of criminals, which would be very bad for them. But because there is punishment and imprisonment people are afraid to commit crimes.

If there were bribe justice would be thwarted. The government has to take care to prevent bribes and hence the lack of justice.

### Nutrition

With FFW comes flour for small children.

 HEWs are teaching about balanced diet in this year.

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

It is good. Because if the government gets money it will be able to bring them different things. Otherwise the government cannot do anything. The benefit is to the community; but the people complain not to pay taxes.

NRM activities are being done by the contribution of labour that is covered by FFW.

### Family planning

Land is not available for the people. So limiting the number of children is very necessary. If the number of children is small, parents are not faced with pressure. Children are also able to get better care.

### Government-sponsored Associations

None

### Pregnancy and childbirth

Only those women with a relatively better awareness follow their pregnancy. Most pregnant women do not do anything. Women seek health service at birth only when it is complicated.

Mothers have to be safe if children are to be safe. And they have to give birth attended by health workers.

### Presentation of government models of development

DAs teach the people.

Different meetings are also held to discuss over new things.

### Drinking water

None

### Exemptions for the poor

Weak and old people might get support without doing anything.

### Sanitation

Latrines are introduced. HEWs are also teaching the people to dispose waste properly. This has improved the health condition of children. Because they are not affected while playing in the compound and in the neighbourhood.

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation

The rights of women and girls are observed. Because of this, men are afraid to touch women and girls.

Land is divided if divorce happens. But this is not good for children, as the stepmother might again take half of the land. And it is difficult to live with stepmothers.

The right of girls has to be observed and the government has to take measure for its enforcement. Parents who give their daughters before the age of 18 have to be questioned.

### Preventive health services

Bed nets were distributed and it was very effective when it was new. But now it is old.

Smokeless stove is good to prevent different diseases.

Vaccination is available for children.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

None

### Curative health services

Minor illnesses are treated in the health post in the Kebele, while severe ones are treated in Aliyu Amba. In the health post if the medication needed are found, the people are spared from travelling to Aliyu Amba.

Children are able to get services. But the health workers usually say that there were no problems with children.

If good medications and health workers were assigned to the health post in the Kebele they would not need to go to Aliyu Amba.

### Community work including FFW and non-government work

FFW is very important especially for those people who do not have land. The grain support that comes with FFW support households. The works that are done are also very important for the community.

### Primary education

A satellite school was opened and small children are able to learn, who would not be going to Chibite. This will give the children to learn and improve their future, by engaging in activities other than farming.

There are parents who do not send their children to school. The government has to make these parents send their children.

The compound of the satellite school is very small, and children are unable to play. All the children also learn in one classroom. It was good if two classrooms were built. It was also good if it was made to enrol students up to grade six.

### Transport

None

### Secondary education

The school in Aliyu Amba has started to enrol students in grade nine. Before this time students were forced to go to Ankober. The school in Aliyu Amba has reduced many things for the students and for parents. It was still good if secondary education were available in the Kebele.

It was good if the school is up graded to grade 12.

### Electricity and communications

None

### Government TVET

None

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

People prepare conspicuous feasts and they consume whatever is harvested. The government has to take serous measure on this.

The people do not have to believe in sorcery.

They were of opposing opinions concerning female circumcision. Some of them said that it was bad. While others say that it is impossible unless girls are circumcised.