# Interviews with female teenage focus groups in Geblen, Saesiatsaeda Emba wereda, East Tigray

*Topic – government development interventions*

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## Focus group of females aged 15-19

1. MXI; 13; 5th grade; Middle class;

2. GTII; 13; 5th grade; Poor

3. NBI; 12; 5th grade; Middle Class

4. GEI; 15; 6th grade; Middle Class

5. BCG; 12; 5th grade; Normal wealth

6. GBN; 13; 6th grade; Very rich

### Land

As the group discussed, “since 1997 there are some people who have been given land. The elders have their own land so they are not given land but those youths who are getting married are given land”. One girl from the respondent said “I have my sister who has given land in the centre of Geblen (Mishig). She has built a house there and opened a tearoom. She is very lucky because she is living near to the school so as she can send her children to school.” “Though there are some youths who have been given land, most of the youths are not taking land. They are just living with their parents even with their wife and children because they have no chance to take land and built their own dwelling.”

### Resettlement

In Derg regime, we heard that our family had been resettled to different area because of the 1977 drought. But now there are migration to Humera and Afar especially the male youth’s go to perform daily laborer. Similarly, girls migrate to Arabian’s country and they send money for the family.

### Government universities/colleges

They explained “there are some women who go to university but all they are graduating successfully"

### Irrigation

Some have their own irrigation and some use from government irrigation. Irrigation is very necessary to this area because there is no natural water through the year. And this has a negative effect to the farmer. There is no good product though maximum efforts from the farmer.

### Alternative Basic Education

Not relevant to the site

### Water harvesting

Government enforces different works on food for work programme. Thus, water harvesting is one of these programmes. But in the private level, because of economic problem only some has their own water harvesting.

### Government pre-school education

There is no pre-school education in our site. But it is very necessary if it is opened because there are many children whose age is enough to school but are not going to school. Therefore, if there is pre-school parents may send their children to school.

### Agricultural extension and packages

There are agricultural extension packages and it is serving the farmers by distributing hybrid seeds and fertiliser.

### Community-government interactions

In the first place any programme goes to Wereda and the Wereda is responsible to enforce the community for the programme. So, this is the way how the community and government interact. Generally, there is a better interaction since 2005 because of government intervention.

### Livestock extension and packages

The livestock extension and packages are …

### The use of models, champions, promoters

Since 2005 farmers are promoted by government but there is discrimination on the choice. That means the measurements are not clear to the farmers. We don’t think the farmers know what qualification is taken into consideration because almost all of the farmers are hard worker. So, if it is the reason to promote them all should be promoted. Secondly, the promotion bases only on certificate. There is no gift to them.

### Non-farm extension and packages

None

### The use of extension workers

There are so many roles that the extension workers lay to the community. For example, the health extension worker gives door to door lesson on sanitation, family planning and preventive health.

### Co-operatives

There are co-operatives

### Good governance

We can’t say there is good governance as long as there is discrimination on PSNP programme, restriction of hill land which is the only means of the farmer to grazing their livestock on and restriction of wood collecting for fuel use but the administrator use for themselves. They are not understood their community states. They are not selective in providing or in enforcing Medeb (programme to the society).

### Government Micro-credit

None

### Interactions with woreda

Every programme which comes to the community is instructed by the Wereda administrator. The Wereda administrator let the programme to the tabia (Keble) administrator that is how the interaction takes place.

### Food aid

Our families got food aid from PSNP or emergency food aid for drought. PSNP began working in this area since 2005. But emergency food aid has been giving since 2008.

### Security, policing and justice

They safeguard the community. In our community the teenagers have bad habit that is the habit of stealing from relatives and neighbors but after the security institution formed the situation has become lower and lower. So, they are protecting the community.

### Nutrition

There is no rich food in most households. There are some kinds of food that we use in our daily life. We just eat *fokekita* (injera made up of corn) and *qita* (made up of wheat, barley and corn)and sometimes we may not eat, or sometimes we may eat only twice a day.

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

Yes, our families pays tax for land. The tax depends on the hectare. Some may pay more but some may pay less just accordingly their land size.

### Family planning

The community is given a lesson on family planning by the health extension worker and that has brought a big change. They are not willing to give birth because of the economic problem of the country.

### Government-sponsored Associations

None

### Pregnancy and childbirth

None

### Presentation of government models of development

None

### Drinking water

We have no drinking water.

### Exemptions for the poor

There are people who are exempted from work but we don’t think it is working for every individual. There are some poor and aged people who are not exempted from food for work programme

### Sanitation

Government is doing great on sanitation. There are latrine, dry and liquid west garbage and livestock home. This is very good trend for our health. We wash our hands before and after we eat, wash our hand to do anything. We wash our clothes and we take bath every week.

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation

As we heard from our family in the previous time women have no right as the male has. But we think our time is better than before though the culture is not totally ignored. In fact, it is we who are supposed to cover every domestics work. While we are doing the domestics work boys play. But some change which is hope for the future. For example, when we do the domestic work the boys going to collect wood and fetch water. This is one change from the previous trend.

### Preventive health services

The health worker gives a lesson on Preventive of health. Therefore, the society is campaigning to prevent health by cleaning the environment but what we recommend is the site need drinking water to prevent water borne diseases.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

None

### Curative health services

We have no the habit of visiting health centre because it is our family who supposed to do that for us. Bu we think they are not able economically to take us there for every sickness. But if it is beyond their control, they decide even by borrowing many to take us to hospital. Otherwise they use their indigenous knowledge and apply herbal to cure us from any disease.

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

There is PSNP who let the community for food for work.

### Primary education

The primary school gives us a good service but there is shortage of professional teachers.

### Transport

There is a transport service. Our families go to Edaga Hamus and Adigrat to buy our consumption.

### Secondary education

There is secondary school and there are students who joined secondary school. But the problem is, the school is very far from our place. They should go to Adigrat, Edaga Hamus and Adiqelebs. So, we would prefer if it is opened here in Geblen.

### Electricity and communications

We have no electric power and communication network. But in the centre of the tabia (Mishig) there is electricity. This is a much more necessary to us. We are very concerned about this problem because it directly touches our life. We need to study overnight because we have no time in day because of school and domestics work. So, what we have is only the night. To use our night we need light because our family couldn’t afford fuel and plus it is not effective as electricity. Secondly, electric power is very important to school because television and radio gives lesson for all students.

### Government TVET

Not relevant to our Kebele

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

We are not circumcised. There is no a tradition to circumcise girls but there might have different harmful tradition that exist in the society.

## Focus group of females aged 11 – 14

1. BHN; 18; 8th grade; poor

2. GHH; 16; 8th grade; Middle class

3. TIB; 16; 8th ; grade Middle class

4. NIC; 16; 7th grade ; rich

5. NCO; 16th; 7th grade; Rich

6. UJB; 15; 8th grade; Rich

### Land

There is no land distribution among the Adults in this time except for some youths to construct home on the same area. It was distributed in 1983. After that, there is no any policy which is revised for us to own a land. Recently, both grass land and cactus land had been used by the community but has taken away by the government for the purpose of conservation. That time, the lands were distributed among the Adults living in the Keble but now we cannot even access grass and cactus land. Let alone us, the community itself have no chance to feed their animals and have no area to harvest cactus and cactus fruit. It is not legal to take it away from the community control and conserve it for the government use because it is the communities own property. And this has resulted in decreasing the number of animals. In addition to this, the cactus fruit in had been covering the households food consumption for at least 7 months. The steam of the cactus had been used for animal.

### Resettlement

We would like to go if it is possible.

### Government universities/colleges

There are some friend who joined university and they got that chance by their own effort.

### Irrigation

There is some irrigation system which is owned by the farmers. Otherwise it is for the site that the community construct irrigation in the programme of food for work.

### Alternative Basic Education: none

### Water harvesting

Some might have water investing but it is more common to construct water harvesting for the tabia.

### Government pre-school education: none

### Agricultural extension and packages

Anyone who joined the package would get fertiliser and hybrid seeds. This helps to increase the production. In the year 2000 and 2001, the rain was not good and there were not good harvest but now the farmers are striving to make it better by contacting the extension.

### Community-government interactions

It is good.

### Livestock extension and packages

The farmers can get a loan for the purpose of buying a livestock which is very helpful to the community. Despite the fact, there is some problem conducting with the extension that is the enforcement of taking beehives. The farmers cannot do anything with the beehives because it is not a suitable season for honey product but the extension forces them without considering this fact.

### The use of models, champions, promoters

None

### Non-farm extension and packages

None

### The use of extension workers

They educate the community but some of the household might not exercise it.

### Co-operatives

None

### Good governance

In the Kebele officials administered the food for work programme the by informing them on time. This is their quality but there is corruption that means they discriminate one from the other. In addition to this they don’t strictly follow the distribution of food for this reason provision of food payment for the PSNP is late. They are reluctant in forwarding the question of the community for the concerned parties.

### Government Micro-credit

There is government micro finance credit system nearby Keble. So, anyone who is interested to use the credit service can get from government micro-credit.

### Interactions with woreda

It is good. But we are not quite sure the delivery of the food to be given to the community is on time. So, this might cause a gap between the interactions with the Woreda.

### Food aid

Since 1997, food aid is given to the people of the Kebele both as part of the PSNP and emergent aid for drought that has been occurred in 2008. Beside this the food aid is very helpful to the community.

### Security, policing and justice

Good in protecting the community.

### Nutrition

There are selected groups who are given nutrient food and cooking oil.

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

Labour contribution in the soil and water conservation programme is good. And the community engaged itself by interest because they know that it is for their benefit. Land tax is common.

### Family planning

It is the programme lay by the health extension and the community is practicing actively so as the result is mothers are putting the lesson in practice.

### Government-sponsored Associations

None

### Pregnancy and childbirth

None

### Presentation of government models of development

None

### Drinking water

No pure water.

### Exemptions for the poor

There are a lot of aged people in our Keble. They are exempted from working in the food for work programme as well as other labour contributions. It is good. They do not have the strength to engage in such works.

### Sanitation

The community have built a latrine; dig a well for dry west. In 2001, the Programme proposal comes dawn from the Keble administration to plaster the wall of the latrine. After using the latrine the households are using mud to wash their hands. We were thought about the uses of washing their hands before and after each mill.

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation

There are some changes since 1998. But the change is not considerable for the burden is not reduced.

### Preventive health services

Children received vaccination in the health post to protect their health. The community is doing his best.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

We don’t see any programme that works on the youth’s before but there is a trial now.

### Curative health services

We go to Adiqelebs and Adigrat hospital if we faced any sever problem.

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

The community is participating in the water and soil conservation programme that take place for 40 days willingly and without no payment. It is done for 40 days in a year. The activities include building terracing, soil and water conservation.

### Primary education

We are getting good services.

### Transport

Everybody is using transport. There are cars that started getting to the community.

### Secondary education

Geblen has no secondary school yet.

### Electricity and communications

Most of the society is not benefited from the electricity supply and the telephone services. But the nearer place to the other kushet is beneficiary.

### Government TVET

None

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

The government officials are always telling to the community to abandon practicing harmful tradition. such as teskar and weeding.