# Personal stories of male transitions to adulthood in Gara Godo, Bolosso Sore, Wolayitta

[Rich young man 30s 2](#_Toc433912845)

[Your household 2](#_Toc433912846)

[Youth in the community 2](#_Toc433912847)

[Your life story 3](#_Toc433912848)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 4](#_Toc433912849)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 4](#_Toc433912850)

[Middle wealth young man 30s 4](#_Toc433912851)

[Your household 4](#_Toc433912852)

[Youth in the community 5](#_Toc433912853)

[Your life story 5](#_Toc433912854)

[Government interventions which have affected your life 6](#_Toc433912855)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 6](#_Toc433912856)

[Poor young man 30s 6](#_Toc433912857)

[Your household 6](#_Toc433912858)

[Youth in the community 7](#_Toc433912859)

[Your life story 7](#_Toc433912860)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 8](#_Toc433912861)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 8](#_Toc433912862)

[Rich young man mid-20s 8](#_Toc433912863)

[Your household 8](#_Toc433912864)

[Youth in the community 9](#_Toc433912865)

[Your life story 9](#_Toc433912866)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 10](#_Toc433912867)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 10](#_Toc433912868)

[Middle wealth young man mid-20s 10](#_Toc433912869)

[Your household 10](#_Toc433912870)

[Youth in the community 10](#_Toc433912871)

[Your life story 11](#_Toc433912872)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 11](#_Toc433912873)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 12](#_Toc433912874)

[Poor young man mid-20s 12](#_Toc433912875)

[Your household 12](#_Toc433912876)

[Youth in the community 12](#_Toc433912877)

[Your life story 13](#_Toc433912878)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 13](#_Toc433912879)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 13](#_Toc433912880)

[Rich young man in late teens 14](#_Toc433912881)

[Your household 14](#_Toc433912882)

[Youth in the community 14](#_Toc433912883)

[Your life story 14](#_Toc433912884)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 15](#_Toc433912885)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 15](#_Toc433912886)

[Middle wealth young man in late teens 15](#_Toc433912887)

[Your household 15](#_Toc433912888)

[Youth in the community 15](#_Toc433912889)

[Your life story 16](#_Toc433912890)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 16](#_Toc433912891)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 16](#_Toc433912892)

[Poor young man in late teens 16](#_Toc433912893)

[Your household 16](#_Toc433912894)

[Youth in the community 17](#_Toc433912895)

[Your life story 17](#_Toc433912896)

[Government interventions which have played a role in your life 18](#_Toc433912897)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 18](#_Toc433912898)

## Rich young man 30s

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| Him | M |  |
| FHH | F | 50 |
| Daughter | F | 36 |
| Daughter | F | 30 |
| Daughter | F | 23 |
| Daughter | F | 16 |

### Youth in the community

**Education**: there was no school or college in the vicinity in the earlier periods, but at present everything has become easier to access. People used to go to Areka, Boditi and Sodo for high school studies, but these days a primary school is in every part of the community, secondary school is available, one in at least nearby five kebeles, and college distance study is available in Areka town. These were not available during the earlier time, ten years ago. Now family influence on schooling is very strong when compared to the earlier period.

**Land Access**: Boys are less interested to marry at the earliest age and not eager to own land, except those who are soon getting married. However, the family are forced to allot a portion of land to a boy if he is forming a new family. There are better land rights for boys.

In the earlier period, the boys used to form a new family and request their family to give land for home construction.

**Work: In** the earlier period, the boys mostly supported their family, but these days there is freedom to be much involved in personal business. There is strong interest for their family to support boys’ study, besides boys’ personal interest to be involved in schooling. There is positive peer pressure to study or to engage in personal business.

**Finding wife and getting married:** In the present day,the young begin searching and matching forfriendship personally, but during earlier time (his age) there was family as well as elders’ engagement to mediate between the boy’s and girl’s families. There was rape during earlier periods. Forced marriage was very common in the earlier period.

**Independent Household:** It is very usual to form their own family and life for the present boys. It is a matter of income or livelihood the boy can own that matters. His family has less power on a boy’s life if he is independent to run his life.Boys now are much freer to decide than the boys in the earlier periods.

**Having Children:** Well informed about family planning, boys now are better than earlier ones in having children. Traditional marriages/polygamous approaches have totally disappeared from the present day’s way of thinking. There was very weaker perception about family planning, which was aggravated by early marriages, unplanned bearing of children, and being economically poorer to manage.

**Community Participation:** There is an emerging perception in relation to youth. The involvement of youth/boys in social and political affairs were not there in the earlier periods. Today, involvement of youth/boys is becoming accepted in public. There is at least a voice for boys in public affairs.

**Religious Participation:** Participation is still there, but boys now have a firm right to follow their own religion, which was not the case earlier. In the earlier period, involvement in family religion was common, but at present there may be a distinct religious fellowship for every family member. There is better participation of boys, which is partly influenced by education.

In general, boys now have better opportunities in terms of education, participation in resource decisions, personal enterprise development, and also consideration by many institutions. The challenges are also there: many are influenced by modernisation, which results for them in obsession with chat and alcohol.There is a high concentration of boys in the area and many of them search for readymade job options rather than creating their own. Lack of seed money is much aggravated by their weakness to create their own enterprises though many have completed college education.

The respondent greatly appreciates the present day as favourable for adolescent girls when compared to the past. Girls in the earlier period were facing many rapes when they returned from school, market place or even from their family home; finding a husband and getting married was mostly not initiated by a girl; preferring to live elsewhere with her relatives was not allowed; it was not her preference to bear a child if married; extra income earning activities, for instance like daily labour in construction places, were not usual; girls stayed at home rather than taking part in community affairs, they took part in family religion and were not independent to make their choice.

Girls at present are very fortunate with respect to their legal rights. There is little chance to rape a girl when she is coming from school, market place or her neighbourhood. There is a two way communication between girls and boys for friendship and getting married, she can live and get rented accommodation somewhere in town areas if she is involved in trade. Family support is not the major duty for girls at the present day; still there is no strong community participation for girls when compared to boys; they are stronger in religious participation compared to boys;

In general, the girls have better voice than boys, which is legally heard and acknowledged. The challenges are also there. There is strong competition to get a husband and get married in at an early age. Many strong girls are busy with their education and the rest are doing business.

### Your life story

He was born in Gara Godo in the year 1979. The family took much care in the first 12 years of his life. He was the second child in the family and the first male child for them. Since there was no larger family size in those days, the family care was very pleasant during the earlier ages. He has passed his whole life in Gara Godo with his family except a few months’ stay in Awassa town with relatives. Except his father, all the family members were living in the household.

His father’s death was the first shock he faced, in the year 1983. The other shocks were the sickness of his wife with malaria and the burning of his mother’s house. Many household assets were lost during this shock.

Three of the family members were living together before he formed his own family. It was the right time to leave his father’s home and form his own family after some reasonable years. Thus, the respondent decided and formed his family. There was very severe malaria sickness which harmed his health. He suspended his 8th grade education during that year. He also stopped his work (bicycle maintenance) due to this disease.

He started his education in 1988 and completed grade 10. He could not pursue his education during the time and inclined to the work he engaged in. He still wishes to pursue education and achieve college study. His education was interrupted due to lack of sufficient income to help his family after the death of his father.

The work he began in the earlier time of his life was very important to earn income, which was also another challenge that pushed him to prefer earning income to school education. No more training was taken after stopping education.

He has been involved in business activities like renting bicycles and maintaining them, retail trade and carpentry. At present, he is busy with retail trade of maize, coffee, boloke, teff and any other profitable grain that can be bought from farmers and sold in the retail market nearby or outside the community.

He reported that education made him literate, wise, and able to follow better trading approaches. There is better understanding about how to make profit and reinvest the gains in further businesses. There is also better awareness about saving.

In 1999, he was engaged in friendship with his present wife. He began sex with her during that time, no problem until they got married. His family as well as he were very happy with his marriage, which was the first event in his family. It took place in 1999. The first task before marriage was selection of a girl and approaching her for friendship and engagement for future marriage. He did the same thing as what others do in the community. He formed his independent home and began living in Gara Godo town with his four children and wife. He had the first child in the year 2003 and there is no problem with his family. The first child is aged 7, the second is 5, the third is 3 and the recent one is 1.

He is a MULUWONGEL church follower and actively involved in it. He has many peer groups engaged in similar business, they all support each other, for instance, in lending money if one needs additional capital to buy profitable items.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

The respondent appreciates the present day social sector developments. There was poor school access during his study time, but the present day school access is very pleasant. There was no better electric power access even in Areka town, but the present day Gara Goda town has sufficient access to electricity. Transportation was traditional a few years ago, but today all rural people want to go to Areka with car transport. All the community members including youth have some kind of awareness about politics, but some years ago there was no such perception. People have better awareness about HTPs. It is becoming illegal to circumcise females, extravagance is not acceptable during funerals or other ceremonies, and rape and assault of girls and women’s rape has become a crime.

There is an emerging idea that young people can get credit access and launch personal/ associate enterprises, which was new for older people. He told of many important interventions of the government and they are in the order listed.

He has a house in Gara town and pays tax (42 birr) for this ownership. There is a regular contribution for school improvement. The kebele yearly collects contributions for Red Cross Society, Wolayita Development Association and sometimes for special support. He is an active participant in social issues. He mentioned that he has been engaged in one of the best iddirs in the kebele. There is also a kind of equb, contributed by the retail trade group. Party membership contribution is compulsory, he has engaged in it. There is access to credit from OMO microfinance institution, which is important for people engaged in trading. He is part of the youth association, whose establishment is under way.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He wishes to pursue education and be involved in government office work. He has keen interest to support his family for their better life. He has currently a house which is not well constructed, so he wishes to build it and provide it for business activities. He wants to support his children’s education up to university.

## Middle wealth young man 30s

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| HHH | M | 55 |
| HHHf | F | 40 |
| **Son** | **M** | **30** |
| Son | F | 26 |
| Son | M | 23 |
| Son | M | 19 |
| Son | M | 17 |
| Son | M | 13 |

### Youth in the community

**Education:** Access to education is currently better and indoor service. During the earlier time, students used to go to Bodit or Areka or Sodo town for high school education. Primary education was also not easily accessed. Family send their children to school not in the right period of schooling. The present access to education is highly attractive.

**Access to land:** The youth had no clear awareness about the right to resources. The present young people are very conscious about the rights and responsibilities of the citizen.

**Independent Household:** The family of every household was not flexible for the interests of youth. This forceful situation in the family caused young people to behave badly to the family. At present, there is freedom and youth have the right to decide upon their personal life choices.

**Having children:** There was very keen interest to form their own family and have children, but the young people at present are not sensitive. They need friendship rather than to form a family and have children.

**Working conditions:** There is strong working commitment from every part of the young people in order to run their private life.

**Community participation:** there is a concern from the government urging youth participation in development or other social affairs, which did not exist in the earlier periods.

**Religious participation:** at the present time, many young people are engaging in religious leadership, which was less practiced in the earlier period. There is better freedom regarding religion.

The same improvement also exists with regards to females.

They are able to move freely from schools and market places and in their neighbourhood without any risk of rape, which was very challenging some years ago where rape was a means to forced marriage.

Girls were less likely to ask boys for marriage, but the present situation is better for females. There is direct communication of girls with boys for friendship and then for marriage.

**Independent household:** It is not customary to form independent household unless otherwise she has married or living other places. They run their personal business, which was very weaker in the earlier periods.

**Community participation:** Girls are not active community participants when compared to boys. There is better attention though their participation insignificant.

**Religious participation:** Girls are more active in religious participation compared to boys. The participation rate was stronger even in the earlier periods.

### Your life story

He was born in Gara Godo in the year 1985. He was living in Gara Godo for the first 18 years with his family and went to NURER for daily labour work. Eight family members were available when he went to daily labour work. It was not attractive to live without a job and the situation strongly pushed him to depart to look for daily work. He had faced no shocks. However, he was very sick with TB and suspended his education, which was started in the year 1980.

He completed 10th grade in the year 2008, but his score in the national examination was not sufficient to join further college study.

The respondent has a plan to pursue further study even with distance learning colleges, but it has been closed.

He reported that he used to work on his father’s farm in the morning and go to school in the afternoon and do the same in every shift during his school life.

The respondent is the first child in his family. He supported the family in many aspects, because there was no other senior child helping his family. He had no chance to visit the market in his earlier age rather than serving the family at home after resting from school.

After a few years while he was at school he began small trade and earned 2000 birr. This helped him to launch is personal retail trade in a good manner. He faced, indeed, some challenges during this time. He bought a donkey for the transportation of his tradable items for 450 birr, but it was stolen and he lost 600 birr on another market day, when he was also a victim of theft.

Currently, he is in a good position with his retail trade. He could return to mention his friendship with a girlfriend: so far no one has been asked for marriage. He wishes to marry in the near future. The respondent is a Protestant church fellow and a very active participant. Many young people who are working in the same kind of business are similarly challenged with many lifelong events, therefore they are cooperative in sharing individual risks. He shares with his friends about any kind of life challenges related to business.

### Government interventions which have affected your life

He listed school, health centres, emerging credit access, and road, electricity, mobile telephone network and water access as highly important interventions in the community. Farming system improvement is directly important for retail traders like him, because the increase in farm production opens a great opportunity for supply in the market at better prices. He reported that the retail trade is directly linked to farm productivity.

There is better attention from the government to develop young people in the community. Many institutions are advocating for young people, which was less the case in the earlier period.

The respondent is a member of the party and mentioned that the young have a chance to speak their voice and vote for their life choice, which was missing in the earlier period.

There was no option to get seed capital to launch a business, but at present one can form an association and be eligible to take credit from microfinance institutions.

In general, he reported that the young have better life options when compared to the earlier time when education was not easier to access and farming of one’s own land was not taken for granted.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He said that he wishes for a better life for his family and himself. He has a plan to strengthen his retail trade with sufficient capital and launching another business in Gara town, besides pursuing college education in a distance learning programme.

With respect to the community, he said that many young people have not engaged in their own job and many are still seeking jobs. Many have completed at least 10th grade and a few have college diplomas. He wishes them all a better livelihood solution in terms of job.

He said also that farmers are mainly producing with limited access to resources including land, thus, they better look for many other income earning options, besides faming.

## Poor young man 30s

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| FHH | F | 42 |
| **Son** | **M** | **31** |
| Son | M | 12 |
| Son | M | 20 |
| Daughter | F | 18 |
| Daughter | F | 16 |
| Son | M | 13 |

### Youth in the community

The respondent reported that the youth were not conscious about the importance of education, but these days all the family members clearly know its benefit. There was high rate of dropout from schools, but the present day follow up on the dropouts is very surprising. Teachers themselves worry about the school dropouts, which was not the case in the earlier time.

There was weaker perception about education; there was no attention to how far study was important even to pass classes.

Time was much wasted with other affairs than education.

There is strong follow up from every part: the family, the teachers and also the kebele officials for any dropouts or mismanagement of schools.

In the earlier time, young people intentionally married in order to own land from their family. These days it becomes very weak perception to stay with the family or inherit a piece of land resource.

Young people are very active in doing business; this was not the case in the earlier periods.

Many of young people now want to pursue education or run a business. There is an intention to engage in a kind of friendship rather than marriage.

Many young people went to other places for work, but at present they stay in their neighbouring town and do business.

Child bearing is not the primary agenda for the younger people these days. They stay a few years without child after marriage until they ensure their livelihood. There was a very poor perception about family planning.

There is better involvement in social affairs. Young people are so busy with education or business activities. Wasting time with idleness is somewhat improved. They have better interaction with the community people in many aspects. One of their active involvements in community affairs is active participation in political/party affairs.

The same is true with religion. The young people now are active enough even in religious leadership apart from their major duties - education or trade.

Changes pertaining to girls are almost the same as for boys in the present context.

Girl’s education is very associated with overall development of the family. Marriage is not top of the agenda for girls who are involved in education. They prefer to marry only if they return from education without sufficient grades to pursue further studies.

Except marriage, the girls are still less allowed to live independently than boys. They can leave home only if they are engaged in business or education.

Once they get married, girls are not powerful about not bearing children, which is strongly determined by the husband. Indeed, there is better awareness for males not to have many children without planning. However, the earlier time was very difficult to manage a family size with girl’s consent.

There is better perception that girls can take part in any kind of income earning activities. Their participation in community as well as in the religious affairs has been much improved compared to the earlier time.

### Your life story

He was born in Gara Godo and has been living with his family for his whole life to date. His father died in the year 1992. There was very severe hunger in the family after the death of his father.

The respondent faced very severe eye disease and interrupted his education from 5th grade. He started his first grade of schooling in the year 1995 and completed 10th grade in the year 2011. He earned 2.14 national examination grade in 10th grade, but the result was not sufficient to pursue college study. He has not continued private college study with personal resources. However, he had keen interest to continue studying with any options of support or scholarship from NGOs.

He had not married so far, because he could not even finance his personal life. Currently, the respondent has no personal home. He feels that he will be suffering if he gets married. Therefore, he wishes to marry after pursuing education and improving his personal livelihood. Currently, the respondent has no work. He used to do family farming for a long time, besides his education. At present, he a is very strong religious follower and leading the church as a teacher. The church was helping the respondent during his school education by giving him stationery.

The church also provides him with some cash for serving the church. The respondent reported that he has no experience of feelings for marrying a girl for many reasons. He was a very strong church leader as well as poor and unable to approach a girl to stay with her for friendship.

He has a plan to marry after 3 years if possible to pursue his study. The respondent is a MULUWONGEL church teacher and a very active participant. For any issue, he has strong social links with the church members to share and communicate about any personal or religious affairs.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

It was difficult to attend school if was a long distance away, like the earlier periods. At present, there is free education at school level.

There is PSNP intervention for the respondent’s family, which is also part of government support.

Health centres are nearer to every part of the community, which is another recent advantage for the community, which was not previously available even in near towns.

People are now very conscious about the rights of individuals, which is due to involvement of every citizen in politics. There has been clear understanding about the harms of HTPs, which were traditional and less perceived as damaging.

All the above-mentioned and many others like mobile networks, road access, transportation facilities, water points and credit access are part of the government efforts the whole community is able to use.

He pays tax as well as contributions to the government. He has no kebele responsibility; he is a member of 1-5 groups. He could not be youth association member due to lack of time with his religious activities. He is a member of a church iddir, but he has no equb. He mentioned that school education was possible for him due to its vicinity except that he was so busy with his religious job.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

* Personal: pursuing college education; continuing religious job, and establishing a shop in Gara Godo town;
* Community: many in the community are vulnerable to poverty; they all need support. He wishes for their lives to be changed through better job opportunities and livelihood improvements.

## Rich young man mid-20s

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| HHH | M | 50 |
| HHHf | F | 45 |
| Son | M | 25 |
| **Son** | **M** | **20** |
| Son | M | 17 |
| Daughter | F | 12 |

### Youth in the community

Attention to education was very good even when we were 13. The importance of education was well known, because the family used to make the teens follow their education. There was family support, besides the education.

There was also peer play time during school time. The same is still there. The number of teens in study is very many when compared to the earlier time of the respondent’s experience.

Access to land: he reported that access to land was not given much attention, but teens at present teens stronger in accessing land. They ask their family for their own land and do their own income earning activities.

Work: The earlier teens were used to work as per their family’s orders; however, teens at present are self-administering.

Wife: There was less attention to friendship; but the present teens are making friendship with school girls and school boys as part of their life.

Independent Life: The present teens are highly dependent on their families, because they are busy with education and they cannot engage in income earning activities. The earlier teens were involved in both income earning and education activities, which made them somewhat independent.

Community Participation: The present teens are better in community participation. There is a kind of freedom to express their interests and the teens have awareness about their legal rights. There is better information about the external environment, because they have a chance to follow TV and other information sources.

Religious participation: the present teens give much less attention to religion, because they are more independent thinkers than their families. In the earlier periods, the family ordered their teens to go to church, but at the present time it is very difficult to do so. No one hears the family give any kind of forceful order. However, there is better awareness about religion at present.

There is no difference between teenage boys and girls. Both past and present adolescent girls and teenage boys have less interest in forming their own families and having children.

Those teens/adolescent girls lacking family support both in the past and at present engage in business activities. He mentioned many of the teens working micro businesses in Gara Godo town: shoeshine boys, motor bicycle renting and JOTONE /Table Tennis renting.

### Your life story

He was born in Gara Godo. Life was not difficult in early childhood when one lives with all family members. He reported no severe family shock he has come across since his childhood. All those listed were there in the household when he left the family home.

He reported no illness except malaria frequently emerging in the area, which is malaria prone, and everybody faces the same challenge in this respect.

When he was 7, he began schooling and continued up to high school level. He achieved 10th grade and is willing to attend further college studies in near future.

He began trading while he was a grade 8 school student with a little retail trade in the market place. Now he is a shopkeeper.

These days interest in girls begins at an early age, but he could not do the same as others. He reported that he is shy about talking to girls for friendship matters.

He said, it is too early to get into marriage in terms of self-help.

He follows the Protestant religion and takes part in any kind of contributions required for church development. He has many peer groups helping with ideas. There is also a smaller equb group helping each other.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

He reported that there is no direct intervention affected his life; however as a member of the general public, there are many important events in Gara Godo. School provisions, electricity access, roads and transportation, mobile networks and health centres are recent interventions. Farming is greatly improved, for example, there is improved seed and fertiliser for our farmers. Many model farmers have been created.

Through his personal life, he has observed many changes with regard to area development with in infrastructure. These changes did not exist a very few years ago.

Young people in the community are among the political decision makers and their development agenda is included in all government affairs. There is a kind of attention from every part of the community to young people’s development through education or business.

There is no risk of rape for girls due to better awareness among young males about the penalties and its harm to the lives of girls. He has not yet accessed any kind of credit from the kebele, but he appreciates his peer groups currently receive the support and have established their own enterprise in Gara Godo town.

He is a member of the youth league and pays some contributions. There is a licence payment and income tax payment to the kebele tax office. He is a member of the youth equb in the area.

Government interventions such as extending public resources to the area are important. The young generation still need specific interventions for the young people who are lacking jobs.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He wants the business he is currently involved in to be upgraded with better supply. He reported that shortage of capital is the reason for not expanding it.

He has a plan to pursue college education through a distance programme.

He said that no one hates the improvement of his parents, thus, the development of the general public livelihood will be better in return to business activities. He said that he wishes the improvement of the community in terms of income.

## Middle wealth young man mid-20s

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| HHH | M | 50 |
| HHHf | F | 45 |
| Son | M | 20 |
| Son | M | 25 |
| Daughter | F | 14 |

### Youth in the community

He reported that there is a very visible difference between teens at present and teens 5-7 years ago.

Education access is better for present teens and attitudes to education of all parents have improved.

Access to land was almost the same in the past as at present. Teens are too early to claim land ownership. It is known in the community that every male when he attains to form his own family can claim land access. Teens are focusing more on education.

Many teens who have less support from their family engage jointly in business activities, besides their schooling. This was the case in the past.

It is a matter of friendship rather than looking for husbands or marriage that teens have been engaged in in past as well as in the present. Child bearing is still too early to associate with teens.

With respect to community participation, both past and present teens are similar. There is still a tradition to exclude teens from community decisions, considering them as too young to involve in public matters.

There is privacy with respect to following religion. Apart from family support, teens can participate in any kind of church programme concerning them. This has been accepted for the last decade or so. Families prefer teens’ involvement in religious affairs to other recreation for better behaviour, therefore, teens’ involvement in religious activity is accepted.

With regards to adolescent girls, there is almost a similar trend. However, one important remark the respondent made was that present-day adolescent girls are exposed to friendship and early sexual practice and faster to engage in marriage if they fail to attain better grades in schooling.

The second option adolescent girls prefer if they miss getting better results in education is to get a husband and get married. Many of them do business, besides education if their family are weak in supporting their purchases.

However, there is some improvement among the present teens as well as adolescent girls with respect to education or income earning activities. They have know-how about the importance of schooling, which is perceived from older brothers and sisters who joined the college or university with better results.

### Your life story

The respondent was born in BASA GOFARA kebele, adjacent to Gara Godo kebele. He lived for six years with his parent until both of them were separated from him by death in the year 1997. He lived with his brother for a few years, but he could not continue living with him due to regular disputes about resource sharing issues. The elder brother would not allocate inherited resources from his family, which was a very frequent source of conflict between the two brothers. The respondent then left for HOSEANA for daily labour work for four years.

He reported that the death of both parents within a week was very severe shock which seldom happens in anyone’s life.

Life was very difficult after their death, which was further aggravated by his cruel brother. This pushed the respondent to leave home and move to another town for daily labour work.

He dropped out from school in the year of his parents’ death, from grade 2. There was no relative when the respondent went to HOSEANA for work and to sustain his life.

Then, the respondent came back and began schooling; however, he has not gone beyond grade 7 until 2003.

He wants to begin high school study.

Currently, he has a barber’s shop/ male beauty salon/ in Gara Godo town. He used to work outside the town, but at present time he has shifted to the town where there is electric light/power to use electronic materials. He was using manual machines for the work, but has upgraded the business with better materials.

So far, the respondent has not engaged in any kind of girl friendship.

He is a Muluwongel church follower and an active member. He reported that no one supports him, except church members in some cases.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

The respondent pays income tax of 200 birr to the kebele tax revenue office. For annual licence renewal, he pays 300 birr per year. He takes part in the church Iddir. He has also land tax payment, for land which was inherited from his parents after a negotiation with his brother through elders in the community.

Gara Godo town was very small and not appropriate for doing any kind of business. However, the present government activities to upgrade the town through road access, electricity and the mobile network are opportunities for smaller businesses that demand electric light. People pay for mobile network calls, which was not available in previous time.

There is a start of credit access organisations in the area, which would help us in the near future. There is school access in the area. The health centre has also been better built up very recently. These are important resources that in one way or the other affect the livelihood of every member of the community.

There is a concern of the government to develop youth organisations at the kebele level. This was not available to the older brothers; the present young people may be part of this benefit if any.

He mentioned an enterprise organised by a few young people. The project was supported by the kebele OMO saving and credit association. He has also a plan to form a group of people and apply for credit service.

Access to education is a very important part of government interventions. There is indoor education service for those who are interested to learn. His livelihood is dependent on the barber’s shop, which uses electric light/power for machines. Therefore, the respondent greatly appreciates this intervention much more than others.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He wants to strengthen church fellowship and religious service. Currently, he services the church in singing, which will be prepared on a cassette for sale. He also wishes begin education, besides the current business.

## Poor young man mid-20s

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| HHH | M | 50 |
| HHHf | F | 35 |
| DAUGHTER | F | 25 |
| DAUGHTER | F | 23 |
| SON | M | 21 |
| DAUGHTER | F | 18 |
| SON | M | 15 |
| SON | F | 12 |
| SON | M | 9 |
| SON | M | 7 |
| SON | M | 5 |

### Youth in the community

He has shared the problems and opportunities facing teens in the community as pen pictured below:

Education: access to education is better at present situation when compared to the past. The problem in the present situation is that the teens who are from poorer families participate in other business in order to support their livelihood. Due to better access to education, there is tight competition among students, but the ones engaged in more than one activity will not be able to compete with others who are solely involved in education.

Access to land: this is not relevant to teenagers even in the past time.

Work: this is very common these days. Many teens are involved in both work and education, which was a common trend in the community in the past time too.

Husband and marriage agenda was not a common trend in the earlier period nor at the present time.

It is not usual to run an independent household as teenagers in both past and present, except for teenagers who have no parents and own the whole resources.

Community participation is better in the present time, because teens are playing a significant role in youth politics, which was silent in the past.

Religious participation: there is better awareness among teens about religious belief and its privacy. At the present time, no one in the family has the right to force teens to follow the parental religion.

With respect to adolescent girls: Education for females is becoming a serious agenda item when compared to the earlier periods. They have an intention to get married at least in their 20s, because they feel that there would be an age barrier for getting a husband. Having an independent life for girls is not comparable with males, because it is traditional that a girl should live at least in a disciplined way with her parents until she gets married. Having children is still a matter of marriage. If she has married, it is up to her husband to decide when to have a child. Except for small kinds of business, it is not traditional for adolescent girls to work on the farm. Girls have really not been taking part in community affairs past and present when compared to teenage boys. However, girls are very active and stronger participants in religious activities.

### Your life story

He was born in Gara Godo and is aged 21. He has been living with his parent all his life. All household members have been with the respondent for the years he lived with them. Lacks of sufficient means of livelihood have been common for the respondent’s family.

The area is malaria prone, which has been a frequent challenge requiring health service. But this was not easy to finance because of lack of sufficient income for the family. He has not suspended schooling. Currently, the respondent is 9th grade student. He has a plan to pursue all possible college studies in order to change his life.

He reported that he has no work experience. He has not started any kind of relationship of interest with girls. He is a Protestant church follower and takes part in all church affairs. He approaches his family for every support.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

He reported that government has provided better education access for rural people who were going to Areka town or outside the community for high school as well as junior education. The health centre is better service, and is where all his family members go in case of sickness.

There is no usual practice of female circumcision in his family. Therefore, sisters are free from the HTPs.

He said that water supply in the community is an important intervention and the whole community are benefiting from it.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He has his personal life plan, which is all about lifting up his life with education. He wants to support his family after securing his personal life through education. For him, doing business is a secondary choice.

He has also a positive thinking for the community: changing the lives of all community members facing severe food shortage.

## Rich young man in late teens

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| Household head | M | 35 |
| wife | F | 33 |
| Daughter | F | 14 |
| Daughter | F | 13 |
| Daughter | F | 11 |
| Son | M | 9 |
| Daughter | F | 7 |
| Son | M | 5 |
| Brother’s Son (Orphan) | M | 16 |
| Brother’s Son (Orphan) | M | 12 |
| Wife’s brother Son | M | 5 |
| Daughter | F | 20 |
| **Son** | **M** | **18** |

### Youth in the community

The teen is relatively better-off than others of his age. He is a renting motor bicycle from Gara Godo to Areka. He owned this from relatives as a gift.

There is active concern for education among both boys and girls, because parents have better awareness about the benefit of it.

Access to land is very rare for boys. They can inherit family resources if the parents are dead; otherwise, it is not usual to ask for land ownership.

It is education that teens prioritise rather than searching for a formal wife and getting married. It is also not the immediate concern of teens to live independently or to have children, otherwise, they are alone and owning the family resources. There is better participation in community affairs, which is sometimes introduced during youth association meetings.

The teens participate in religious affairs though a few are not complying with the family religion.

Girls are also actively involved in education like boys. Searching for a husband and getting married is becoming the next important thing after completing education. But those who are not strong in education are not willing to stay with their family if they is not doing business activities to earn some income.

Those who prefer marriage also prefer to have children. At present, there are better conditions for females to engage in jobs.

Girls are weaker in community participation and better in religious participation when compared to boys.

In general, there are problems related to both boys and girls in the present day. The effect of peer pressure regarding addiction is becoming common in town areas and schools. There is also earlier sex with many of the boys in school life, which was not regular in earlier years.

### Your life story

The respondent was born in Gara Godo. He has been living with his family for all his life since his birth. He reported that there was no exceptional case of shocks happened.

The respondent has experienced malaria in some malaria active seasons. However, the disease was managed with health treatment in the health centre.

It was the year 1995 when the respondent began schooling. Currently, he has reached 9th grade and his future educational plan is for college study.

He had sexual experience with a girl three years ago. She was his neighbour and studying in the same school. He reported that she has an interest to get married after completing study in the long future.

He has no work experience outside education, because it is not allowed for him to run any other activities except education.

He is a Protestant church follower and takes part in youth religious programmes weekly.

He is dependent on his family for any kind support.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

He reported that access to school is the best thing among any other issues. The second important thing is access to electric light, which is important for studying at night. Many students residing in the remotest rural areas lack this access even at present. The third important thing is road access to Areka town. He appreciates that there is regular car transport and motorcycles to go from Gara Godo to Areka within a shorter time.

He has no social or political commitments and is mainly involved in education. He feels school access is the major intervention, because he reported that many poorer sections of young people who could not attend school were now attending in better conditions.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He has a plan to study up to college. He wishes for the community a secure environment with better access to food, shelter and clothing. He recalled that many of the community members lack at least one of the three important aspects of basic life.

## Middle wealth young man in late teens

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| HHH | M | 40 |
| FHH | F | 36 |
| **Son** | **M** | **19** |
| son | M | 26 |
| son | M | 22 |

### Youth in the community

Education: there are more opportunities than problems in the community. Better access to education is accommodating many youth in the community. There is a problem for a few of the young people who lack support for pursing education.

Access to land: there is land access for young people only when they engage in new family formation. But families are not willing to send young people to other businesses than education.

Work: there is good habit of working that the younger people are showing.

The issue of looking for a wife and matching for marriage is less important for younger people, but there is active interaction in friendship with girls.

Families do not allow young people to live outside the home.

Having a child is a matter of forming a new family, but it is not easy to marry if the teens are not earning personal income or have household assets.

Community participation is now better accepted for young people, because there is a political aspect demanding young people to form their own association, league or federation.

Religious aspects are also better accepted by young people. They participate in religious service in the church. He mentioned that many young people serve the church followers in singing religious songs.

Girls are also active participants in education, because it is highly appreciated and supported by government to strengthen girls’ education. There are a few dropouts of girls from formal education due to lack of sufficient support. Those girls not active in education and business activities take part in searching for a husband and having a child as early as possible. Families do not allow girls to live outside the home independently if they have not married. The good thing about girls is their active participation in income earning activities like boys. In community participation aspects, there are fewer girls who are participants than boys. Girls are more active in religious affairs than boys.

However, the general problems of the boys as well as girls in the community are lack of better access to fresh information, recreational centres, and income earning activities as well as lack of active involvement in creative activities.

### Your life story

The teen has been living in the community since his childhood with his all family members. There has been no experience of family shocks in the family. There has been no serious illness he experienced. He began schooling in the year 1997 and currently he has achieved 7th grade. His educational goal is to go to university. education. He is still attending school. He has no income earning work experience outside education. He began love of a girl near his family home a year ago, but still he has not mentioned for her . He has a plan to marry her after completing college study.

The respondent is a Protestant religion follower and contributes to the church both in cash and in kind. He is supported by his family and no one is asked for additional support.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

He feels that education access in every part of the community is an attractive part of the government interventions. Access to schools, health centres in nearer areas, inclusive political activities for all young people, participation of younger people in business and social activities are important interventions one can observe.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

It is a better level of education that will help an individual to improve livelihood. He has a plan to take part in college study. He reported that better life is important to improve the situation of those people who have not even been eating three times a day.

## Poor young man in late teens

### Your household

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relation to HHH | Sex | Age |
| HHH | M | 40 |
| HHHf | F | 35 |
| Son | M | 25 |
| **Son** | **M** | **17** |
| Daughter | F | 15 |
| Daughter | F | 11 |
| Daughter | F | 9 |
| Daughter | F | 7 |

### 

### Youth in the community

He is a teen living in Gara Godo town. He is currently working in a DSTV rental shop for 200 birr as additional income that is intended to help with schooling expenses.

Education: There is better opportunity for teens interested in education. There are many schools in the vicinity which encourages an individual to run both business as well as education. There is shortage of support for some teens that have lost their parents through death. They need support for both education and personal life expenses. The major dropouts of many teens are emanating from lack of support.

Access to land is not an urgent need of teens. It will be provided when a teen grows up to form their private family.

He told me that the work environment in the area is very stagnant and not accessible. He shared his personal experience that he found his job through relatives.

Finding a wife and getting married is not a big deal at this time for teens that have busy engaged with education. He said that it is not a challenge to marry if there is a better livelihood.

Depending on the status of the family, a teen can live an independent life. At present he is living in his work place, because he is financing all his expenses from the wage he earns from the DSTV rental shop.

The teen, indeed, laughed at the idea of having a child at his age. He reported that having a child is not practical for teenagers in the community.

Community participation is also a matter of the responsibility a teen has in a family. For instance, he said, if a teen is a senior male with his mother and lost his father through death, he should take part in social affairs in supporting his mother. But community participation is not known for teenagers.

Teens are active enough in religious affairs, because they serve the church in singing. Families are also happy with religious activity, considering the fact that those who follow the religious rule will not miss the right ways of life.

Of his experience related to adolescent girls in the community, the teen shared nothing, but one. Teenage boys are more active than adolescent girls in education, leading their life even in lack of family support and being involved in any kind of daily labour. But adolescent girls are better in religious affairs, they are conservative about the religion when compared to the teenage boys. Child bearing or getting married is earlier in girls than in boys.

### Your life story

The respondent was born in Gara Godo and he is still living with his family. He reported no shocks other than his father’s death. He had an experience of leaving his family in the year 2011. He went to Addis Ababa with his friends for daily labour work, but he felt sick. During that time, his friends could contribute for transportation to return to home. This was a challenge this teen faced for one month in that year.

He is now a 6th grade student; indeed, he intentionally repeated the same grade to improve his academic performance. The teen has a plan to join University. He restarted the job he engaged in early in the present year.

He disclosed his active involvement in equb business. He contributes 10 birr for equb per week.

Regarding interest in girls, he said that having a friend is very important at this time for both sexual and health requirements. However, he has no one. He plans to marry the present girlfriend after some years when he attains a better livelihood.

The teen is a Muluwongel religion follower and contributes weekly requirements.

He is intimate with the kebele chairman for every kind of advice as well as the business he is engaged in at this time.

### Government interventions which have played a role in your life

It is school provision in the community for which we appreciate the government intervention. The primary thing is the provision of electricity in the community, which supported us to launch the DSTV business in the town.

Many people in the town use mobile networks as a means to earn income by renting mobiles to people from rural areas. The rural people who want to talk to relatives in other areas pay for calling through mobile networks.

He has no other visible intervention of the government. He could list health service provision, young political participation opportunities even in schools, lessons regarding HTPs as very significant interventions of which the general public get the advantage.

It is school access nearer by. Learning as well as work is moving side by side at present. Electric power access is a day to day resource important for the DSTV rental business, without it the business has no option.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

He aspires for education, trading, house construction; self-help and family support are his life directions.

In the community, there are many teens suffering from lack of sufficient livelihood means. They all need life changes through jobs. He wishes them all best opportunities. Any person should move out of poverty, he mentioned.