# Interviews with female teenagers in Oda Haro, Bako Tibe, West Shewa

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## Rich female teenager 13

### Personal

A girl, 13 years old is grade 8 student. She lives in extended family including her parents. She has four sisters and five brothers. Except two of her sisters who are living in the USA the rest are living in the same house. There are also two relatives who live in their house. The total size of the household is twelve. The household's livelihood is based on agriculture and large trade. Her father is among the few large traders in the community. She described the household as very rich.

She is among the ten top students in her class. She has never dropped out from school. Her family support her very much to succeed with her school She supports some of the domestic work when she get idle. In the last 12 months, she covered household work like cleaning the house, washing dishes and supporting her mother when she orders something. She said, “I don’t have a work load in the domestic sphere as my there are relatives who support the family in covering the entire domestic work. As she said she never participates in farming work but she has been supporting her brother by keeping his shop during her idle time in the last 12 months. She regularly attends her class except some of a few days in the last semester because of sickness. She said she usually goes to school on time as it is near to her village. She said she is not responsible to look after the domestic work so she has a lot of time to study.

She said it is not easy to combine work and school together as school needs concentration. She said that she likes the current shift system because it gives good opportunity for people to study during the day time as there is no electric access in the community. She also said it helped those people who work half day and attend half day. As she said she plays with her friend in school like volley ball and chatting about their education. She said that she is interested in sport like athletics and music. She is Muslim follower and she goes to mosque for Quran study on Friday.

She does not have any interest or knowledge of political activities. She said she never participated in any of political meetings and community meetings. She likes sport and she actively participates in athletic races during the sports period in school. She does not belong to any youth organizations including association, league and federation. The only time she spends in socializing with friends is while she is at school. She said she never plans to allocate time for socializing. She just meets her friends and play with them during idle time. She said that she has only female friends at school. She doesn’t have a boyfriend either at school or in her village.

She said that she was circumcised while she was 7 years old. She said “I just remember a flash; it was scary but for a moment only”. She supports circumcision as it is their tradition. She said, “the girl will get respect in the community if she is circumcised.”

She said that she did not start to see menstruation yet. She has never been harassed or assaulted by a man in her life time. She is not married and never been in relationship. As she explained she doesn’t want to marry young as she has a plan to continue her education until university and get her own job. She wants to leave the community and live in urban area. She said she doesn’t have a preference what kind of man to marry but she expects what Allah gives her. She plans to continue her education by working hard and she wants to be a doctor. She has no plans when to marry but she might get married after she got her permanent job. She said that whatever the number of children she has she just wants to do it with Allah's permission. She never thought of her role model before but she said she likes doctors. She hopes that her future will be better than today. She aspires to be a doctor and live in an urban area.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

She said that it is very difficult to figure out different opportunities that young female in the community could expect. Primary school which promotes the education for all or the other opportunity is just to get married and migrate to Arab or urban city searching for a better living standard. The less development of the community is the major reason that limits the opportunity for young girls.

### Combining work and education

She says that most of young women in her age are attending school. There are some who are students and at the same time they are engaged on small scale trading like selling vegetables, bananas and onions. There are some who participate in farm work during harvesting season to support their family. She said there are some young women who drop out of education because of marriage. In addition to this there are some young females who drop out of school and stayed for a while and returned later. She believes that education is a good opportunity for women as she expects education will help many young women to establish their own independent income source in the future. She said that there are many women who graduated at grade 10 and TVET College and living in the community. These people are not working as there is lack of jobs in the community. There are also some who left the community in order to find work. She thinks that it is very difficult to combine education and work for young women from poor families as it hinders them from concentrating on their study. She doesn’t know any young women involved in bad habits.

### Women’s issues

Though there is intervention, the community is still practicing female circumcision. She said she never heard any punishment for female circumcision practice in the community. She also said she never heard any special facilities for girls who are menstruating in school. She said she has heard about abduction and rape but she has no information whether it happened in last year. She said there are some females who become pregnant before marriage and there are even some who left leaving their children to their family but she doesn’t know them personally. She said that she heard about abortion in the community but she doesn’t have any knowledge where they do it. She said that she did not know a girl who used contraceptive. She said females whose age is above 15 years old could get married in the community. She does not have any information about the legal age of marriage and government intervention to examine age of marriage with the legal age of marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

As she said she doesn’t know young girls at her age who marry men who own a farmland through gift or inheritance. She said that most of her friends want to leave and go to an Arab country to be a domestic. Most of the young females she knows are not interested in becoming a farmer's wife. She said, “most of my friends do not want to marry a man living in the community.” She has no friends or sisters married older men or who have become second wives. She thinks that her friends will not marry to older men in the future since they could find many young men their age. She said there are many people who migrate for work but she doesn’t have any friends who migrate for work. All of her friends want to go to college and get a formal job if they get the opportunity. Most of them want to be a doctor. She mentioned that the young women in their twenties make a living in many ways including trading and other non-farming business. She thinks that people use wealth status as an important criterion to establish marriage. In this regard, it could be very challenging particularly for young people from a poor household.

### Getting married

She said marriage has disadvantage for any young women. She believes marriage is an obstacle for young women in many respects but the major problem of marriage is that it excludes women from school opportunity. However, she said, men are still beneficiaries as they could get support in their living like cooking their meals and so on. Setting up an independent household

### Setting up an independent household

She said it is very difficult to set up an independent household especially for young people from poor households. There are no resources and money to involve in income generating activates. As she said it is not easy to establish independent livelihood in the community. As she said, “the main reason that hinder to establish independent livelihood in this community is poverty. There are scarce resources in the community which discourage young people from establishing an independent life.” she said young people are not lucky to get land either from their family or government because of the limited resource and number of population.

### Migrating

She said she has about 7 relatives who migrated to the USA before 12 years. Among these, two of them are her sisters. She said, she was almost one year old when they went out from the family. They have regular communication with the family members through the phone. She also said one her sister had come to visit the family in last year. They send remittances to the family regularly. Beside this, she said there are many people who migrate to Arab country and urban towns in the community. She said, her sisters promised her to take her to America in order to help her to get a better education access. And she said she'd like to go to America as it is a better place to live.

### Living in the community

She said that she wants to go out from the community in the future but she wants to have regular visiting. She said, “I am happily living in the community because I am much secured to live in this community. I live with my parents and have a lot of friends around me. However, I want to go out in the future, to get a better access to improve my life.” She thinks that there are a lot of changes in the community. People have shown changes in their living such as many have built a good house; many people diversified their income source like using irrigation farming, trading and so on. Women began creating their own business which is a good start for household development. She aspires to a better change in the community in long run. She said that she has learned about HIV/AIDS in school and she is well informed about the virus but she never heard about people who live with HIV/AIDS in the community.

### The economy

As she said there is a slight change in the community regarding economic status of the community. As she said, people are working hard compared to the previous time. However, few members of the community are getting richer and the majority of the community remain poor as most of the community members depend on traditional agricultural products. She assumed that the young females from rich household live better than the girls in the poor households. For instance, she said, they eat variety of foods, and wear better dress, wear shoes, have less work load in the house and can be focused on their education. However, the young people from the poor household eat less and have a poor diet, some may not wear shoes and some cannot change what they wear throughout the year. She said, the major problems young girls’ face from poor households is overwork load both domestic and on the farm and non-farm work which hinders them from focusing on their education. However she said, “most of the time young female from the poor households score a better grades than the girls who lives in the rich household. She also said, girls from rich household have better opportunity to establish independent livelihood than girls from the poor household. This is because girls from rich household get a better support from their parents.

### Religion

She said everyone in her household is very active in their religion. As she said, “my parents are very strict in their religion; especially my father is very strict with his religion and he also wants us to be as strict as he is. This is his principle. In addition to this, one of my brothers is always encourage us to follow the religious rule like wearing veil and dress. He teaches me about Quran. I am very happy being a Muslim as it is the true ways of life. Moreover, she explained that, everyone in the community tends to be very active in each religion they follow. She never heard any disagreement among the religious leaders in the community. Nevertheless, she heard from her father there is a tension between Muslims.

### Politics

As she said, she never participates in political activity and she has never observed any political activity that mobilize young female at her age.

### Inter-generational relations

As she said the live in a peaceful way but if the mother or fathers are not together the children may suffer with step family. The household relationship is good. Elders complain the young people don’t follow and accept the elder's advice. Or the adult people start to accept ideas and advices from other people but there is no tension between them.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 13

### Personal

She was born in Odaa Haroo in 2000 as the only girl among 5 brothers. The household depends on agriculture including farming and livestock product. In addition to this, her mother has been involved in trading vegetables since the last two years. She involved in income generating business in last 12 months. She said she has participated in maize harvesting in last year paid 2 birr per hour and she earned total amount of 50 birr. She said she covers most the entire domestic work on behalf of her mother as she is the only girl in the house. She said she allocates time to do her homework’s and study. She often stays from 10:00pm to 1:00 am in doing her study. She likes to sing and she is Sunday school singer in the orthodox Christian church. In the last 12 months, she did not get involved in any independent income-generating work for herself. She says she don’t want to be engaged in independent income generating work as it clashes with her school work. She mentioned that she has no health problems she has never dropped out of school. As she described, it is not easy to combine work and school especially for one who takes much responsibility in the domestic sphere like her. She can’t manage the domestic work alone but she is the only person who could manage it in the household. She feels tired every day and she stay late for her study because the circumstances forced her. She said she likes her school very much and she has a dream to succeed in her educational life. As she mentioned she is paying all the costs today in order to make a better tomorrow. She likes the shift programme that the school is applying as it helps her to manage both the domestic and the school activity. She said “if it were full time she couldn’t manage her workload as she does it now” she said she is interested to continue her education. She said she will avoid any obstacle that comes towards her education. She said she ranked 12 among 96 students when she got promoted from grade six. She said no one influences her education except the burden she has in the household. Her father and mother encouraged her to succeed with her education by financing school materials. She is not active in politics or in any sport activities. She doesn’t belong to any youth organizations. She spends time socializing with her friends during break time in school. Moreover, she said she enjoys going to fetch water and going to the grain mill as it is the only opportunity to meet with her friends. She has no idle time for socialization in her village. She always stays at home unless and otherwise she has to go to fetch water and go to grinding mill.

She only talks to the boys in her class if she has a concern in relation to her educational assignment. She doesn’t have boyfriends but she has few special girlfriends that she plays and studies with. They discuss during their break time in school. She was circumcised when she was little. As she said she doesn’t feel any problem or pain in relation to her circumcision. She heard that circumcision is crime as it leads to pain during delivery period. However, she never comes across with any women who got pain during delivery including her mother. However, she said she has learned that biologically there is proof that it damages the women health especially during delivery. Whatever is she doesn’t want to let even her daughter in the future uncircumcised as she believes it would disgrace her in front of her friends. She said the practice still exists in community. No punishment and or action has been taken over the practitioner. She didn’t start menstruation yet. She says she has learned about menstruation cycle in her reproductive course. She believes it is not a problem rather a natural process. She says she prepares herself for it. She said she has friends that have already started menstruation and no one has been affected from school because of it. She has never been sexually harassed.

She said that she doesn’t expose herself for such threats. She always keeps herself away from any violation of her rights. She spends most of her time in the house; school which is the safest place to secure her. She said it takes her 3 minutes to walk to school from her house which doesn’t expose her to any harassment.

She isn’t married and she has no boyfriend. She wants to marry after she has secured her school and job in the near future. She said she wants to get married when she is 25 years old. She wants to live in Ambo when she secured her independent household as she said “Ambo is a beautiful town with green environment and clean water. It is urbanized town. But she said she don’t mind if she lives in the community too. However, she wishes to access electric power, clean water, job access, good school for her children in the community. She believes that it is a better place to live if things are accessible in the community. She would like to be a doctor and marry a doctor. She would like to choose her partner though her parents want to be involved in it. She said her father is very conservative and he may get involved in her decision. She would like to have two children. She said she don’t have any worry about her future rather she expects a better life. She said Melse Zenawi is her role model. She heard about him during his death. She hears some people talking about his quality, potential and brilliant mind as a leader. She said that the hope she has in the community is the potential for irrigation access. She expects every community member to harvest twice a year. The other potential is livestock fattening especially for young people. She said women could get involved in milk, butter and cheese processing business.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

According to her response, young people both girls and boys have a good access to education in the current time. However, employment opportunities are very low unless they are engaged in farming labour or non-farming activity like selling charcoal and vegetables. On the other hand, as she explained, the problem that young females face is her responsibility in the community. It is a big burden for women at her age taking roles in domestic sphere as it limits her full participation in the school. She thinks women at her age would perform better result if they had time to cover their school activities. Early marriage, abduction and pregnancy are other challenges that women at her age face in their life.

### Combining work and education

She mentioned that there are no regular paid job opportunities for young women of her age in the community. As she said most of her friends engage in different commitments that benefit their parents. Young females from the age of 6 and 7 could start sharing a role in the family.

As a result of this when young females reaches her age they begin to be involved in income generating work like selling wood, charcoal, farming labour and so on. They are also expected to support their mother if she is engaged in any business activities like production of tela, areke and so on. However, most common activity available in the community is harvesting, weeding and selling crops irregularly.

She said they dislikes grinding maize crop to make injera. She said it is a very dangerous and difficult job every young female at her age does. She likes cleaning the environment and washing clothes. She said most of the young women of her age are attending school. There are some people who drop out for different reason like marriage, workload, economic problem that drive young women to drop out from school. The school has been mobilizing students to attend school regularly. There are some who drop out school for a while and return back again because of the teacher’s mobilization in the community. There are about 10 young women who completed grade 10 and remain dependent on their parents. She said some students did not get the chance to continue their education because of minimum point they scored. She said combining work and education is a bit harder for girls from poor households because they cannot perform well in school. She said she never heard about young woman involved in ‘had habits’.

### Women’s issues

There is training and advice provided to the community to create awareness on harmful traditional practice but there is no change particularly on female circumcision practice. There is no punishment under taken by the government to prevent the practice.

She said she never heard the provision of any special facilities in the school for girls who start menstruating. The frequency of rape and abduction has been declining in the community. However, the frequency of voluntary abduction is increasing since the recent time. As she said those girls who start relationship early end up with voluntary abduction. However, she didn’t know girls who end up their relationship with voluntary abduction in her village so far.

She said there is pre-marital pregnancy in the Keble. As she said it is not that exactly at her age but a girl around 17 in her village become pregnant before being married. She has no any income source. She is living with her parents. She dropped out from grade 6 because of her pregnancy. She said the girl feels shameful about it. Her boyfriend is working on his parent’s farm. She said that she doesn’t know any case related to abortion. Similarly, she mentioned that she didn’t know girls who start utilizing contraceptive method. As to her perception, 14 and 15 years old young female are considered to get married in the community. Most of the young female who end up getting married due to voluntary abduction are around 15 to 16 years old. They decide to get married by dropping their school. Most of them decide because of economic problems and some because they are frustrated with the responsibility they handle in the household.

As she mentioned, girls who scored good grades do not rush to get married. She thinks that most of them keep on continuing their education. However, there might be very few who get married even before high school. There are also young girls who migrate to Arab and urban places in search of better access to improve their life.

She said girls from poor household get married earlier than girls in rich households. This is mostly because they want to take the advantage for a better life than they had before. However, she also mentioned that, there could be young girls from rich households who could get married earlier. She said it is difficult to estimate the number of girls who got married last year. She said, she didn’t observe any intervention from the government to prevent marriage of girls under 18 she is not sure whether there is age examination in the community or not. She never heard about the permission issues to get marry in the community. Marriage is disadvantage for the young women. She will be expected to control the whole world around her if she gets married. However, it is a good opportunity for the young male as he gets every support and treatment from his wife.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She said that the probability to get married to older men who owned their own farmland is not common for young females at her age. She said, unlike in previous times, young females at her age prefer to marry those who have government jobs like teachers and so on. Young females at her age cannot access paid work except daily labour during harvesting season. She doesn’t have friends or sisters who married old men or become second wives.

She said she doesn’t think young females at her age could marry older men in the future. She thinks most young female at her age will leave out of the community for looking a better access. And she thinks the rest will join university and get permanent job. Those who join university most likely marry a man they found in the university. There are few who don’t really know what will be their future. She said some young women in their twenties are doing different kinds of work for their living. She knows two girls in her village who sell tela and some who are traders. She said she doesn’t know the portion of women in their twenties involved for making a living. She said it is harder for young women from poor households to marry husbands with an independent livelihood as young males prefer to marry a young women from rich household to own land or other resources.

### Getting married

She said the only advantage of marriage is to have family and independent household. However, generally, she said, marriage is a disadvantage for young women because the young women carry all responsibilities in the household. She said “I just feel that a married woman obviously lose her personality, she doesn’t get time to keep her personal hygiene, she will become old before her age, stress will increase as her commitments increase over time whereas the man will be more handsome and younger, he take less responsibility and no pressure at all, he will have less commitment in the domestic sphere, his only one dimensional is as a bread winner”.

### Setting up an independent household

She said that the possibility of young woman particularly at her age to set up an independent household is very difficult. This is because the limited opportunity to generate income in the community. As she said there are limited opportunities and resources are the main reason that make difficult to establish an independent household for young women. As she said, traditionally women were not considered to own land unless they got married. However, now young men also become landless because of the shortage of land in the community. So it is very difficult for women to set up independent household even in marriage unless she got married to an old man with farmland.

She explained that migration to Arab countries and urban areas are the best alternatives for young women to set up independent household in the current situation. The barrier to set up independent households is an economic problem including house and farmland. She said women become dependent on their husband’s parents just for a few months after marriage or they might own house in the same compound with her family in laws. The difference could be parents accept the young girl from rich household better than the young girls from the poor household.

### Migrating

She said that she knows about 4 young women a bit older than her age like 18 and 19 who went out from the community looking for a job. Two of them are working in Ambo and Addis Ababa but two of them are in Dubai. She said those who migrate to the urban area went a bit earlier than the Arab migrants. The young girls who went to Arab countries have started supporting their household. The households are changing in terms of their house condition, young siblings wear good clothes and shoes, and they eat good food and so on. However, the household who send their children to urban town did not show any change in their living. She said there are some who returned back without money. She said most girls above 15 years old tend to migrate. She said the urban migrants go to Addis Ababa, Ambo, Nekemt, Jaji, Nazareth and Gedo whereas the international migrant to Dubai and Kuwait.

### Living in the community

She said that she'd like to live in Ambo in the future. She said Ambo is a good town in terms of environmental hygiene and infrastructure. From the way she perceives it things in the community are changing. She said the awareness in the community on how to live a better life is increasing. Every community member is struggling to make a better life. As she said, women are involved in income generating work more than in the past. In the past, women always remain in the home. However, now women start supporting the household economy by involving themselves in income generating activity. She said she observed this change particularly since the last five years. As she said living in her community is very peaceful. She said that young people do not tend socialize in special groups so far but she said there is a potential for young people to socialize with special groups mostly in religion in the near future. There is no conflict in the community as far as she knows. She said that her parents especially her father worries about her education. He is very ambitious and wants to send her to university if she got the chance. She said her parents also worry about the pre-marriage pregnancy, abduction and rape when they hear some young women faced this in the community.

She said that she heard about HIV/AIDs in the school but people are not that open to talk about it with children in the community. She hears rumours around coffee partys people talk about people who live with HIV/AIDS. She believes there are some living in the community but not officially. She said having sexual relation at younger age was not common but there are such kinds of relationship in the school. As she said they do it with their girlfriends or boyfriends. She perceives that young people are not that careful to use protective method while they doing sex but some could use condoms.

### The economy

She said there are some changes in the community's economic status. She said, in general, the community is becoming richer than it was in two or three years ago. She said she has noticed farming opportunity for women. As she said women start involving in farming activity as a result of that there are women model farmer in the community. There are also off farm work opportunity even for young women. Young women make money in the harvesting season by doing weeding, harvesting and sowing. She said there is no significant migration into the community. She said inequalities are increasing between those families who depend on rain fed agriculture and irrigation farming. The later one are showing a significant difference in their living. Girls in the rich households eat very good meals, wear good clothes and shoes, they have better personal hygiene, they are more relaxed, they have less household responsibility. Whereas girls from poor household have poor personal hygiene, more responsibility in the house, eat the leftovers of young siblings or sleep without food if not available in the house, poor diet, may not wear shoes, combine work and education. Most women buy school materials by collecting money from off farm activity. There are few households who start farming using modern irrigation system. These households have changed and improved their economic status including their way of living. She said they start sending their children to private school including private college and small children to pre-school. However, the erratic situation of the rain in the area is affecting the majority of the community. Nevertheless, the inequality among the community is increasing. The other thing, young females from poor households’ loose opportunities in all spheres including education, work, livelihood, marriage and setting up independent household. As she said young girls from rich family are better off as they have many advantages.

### Religion

She observed that religious participation has increased in the community. The community spends much time on religious activities. There might be some people who are not interested in religious activity. There are three main religions in the community including protestant, orthodox and Muslim. She said Muslims go to mosque every Friday and Christians including protestant and orthodox every Sunday. She said young people are participating more in religious activity. Though she didn’t know of any disagreement among different religions institutions she said she observed competitions to divert members. She said there is no tension among religious groups as they live peacefully and cooperate in social events. Sometimes people come from different town to preach in the community.

### Politics

She said there is no a relationship between young women and government officials. There is no message that government has delivered to young women in the Kebele. There is no resource training, advice and resources provided to organize livelihood activities for young women in the community. There is no leisure or recreation place for women in the community. She doesn’t know if there are women as members of political parties particularly in the ruling parties of the Kebele. She doesn’t have any information about whether there is a youth association, league and federation in the Kebele. She said young girls at her age are not interested in political activities and they don’t even have awareness.

### Inter-generational relations

She said that there is no difference in the relationship between teenagers and parents. As she explained the good things are that young people support their parents both in domestic as well as on farm work. Similarly, parents help their children to go to school. However, in terms of problems, she said parents reject teenager’s new ideas and young people do not accept old people’s ideas. There is a problem of understanding. Generally, she said the relationship between adult generation and teenager generation is minor. She recommends common panel or training on issues like community development in order to motivate them to work together. She doesn’t have any view on potential tension points.

## Poor female teenager 13

### Personal

She is 12 and a half studying in class five. She lives with her four siblings and her mother. Her father lives in Dembidolo with his second wife. She said, “my father got married for his second wife because my mother insisted him to marry. My father lives a different life. He depends on trading livestock after he steals it from people’s house or communal grazing land. My father believes it is the best way for him to earn money. There are a group of people who work for my father. They bring him cattle by stealing from different kebeles. He pays them some amount of money based on their deal. He feels like a hero with his deeds. He never feels afraid of any accusation. But the majority of the community did not accept my father. He is always rejected by many except my mother and her relatives. Many people have been trying to kill him. I always pray for my father if he gets the heart to get out from his bad practice. I always ask Allah to drives him to move away from his deeds very soon. I have a dream to see him free of his bad behaviour. I know he respects his wife and he respects us very much. He cares and loves us very much but he never planned to stop his practice. This is the major reason for my mother to insist my father to move from our Kebele to Dembidlo and get married to another woman. She loves him very much even though she feels shameful on his deeds. She wanted him to marry another woman in order to ensure his protection.” She said her family depends on agriculture. The family does not have farmland but they use sharecropping system to produce the household consumption. Her mother is a trader. She collects her inputs from farmers. She said that she never engages in farm work because she is not old enough to do that. However, she said she had once worked on farm activity and was paid 10 birr for that day. She sowed maize seed. As Momina explained, she doesn’t want to be involved in independent income-generating works, at least at this level. She said “I don’t want to do income generating activities for two reasons; one it is inappropriate with school; I want to concentrate on my education and succeed my dreams and the other thing is that the work that I could find in the community is poorly paid. It doesn’t even cover the daily household consumption.” She said “everyone encourages me to keep up my schooling. However, if situation around her household drives her she may take some role in business activities such as selling in the market and so on. She said “until today things are not that much worsening so as to push me to involve in income generating activity.” She said there are many teenagers a bit older than her who are forced to combine school and work. Most of them are from the poor households. She said boys at her age take roles in selling charcoal and girls some petty trade. From the way she sees it combining school and work has a negative impact on their future. It affects their learning activity. She said, “for instance, they may not get a chance to do their homework’s and their study regularly.” She never has any health problem so far.

She doesn’t belong in politics or in any of the youth organizations in her school. She said there is youth club in the school but not teenagers club or parliament in the school. So she couldn’t get a chance to take part in any of these roles. She likes music and drawing pictures. She is an active follower of her religion. She said, “I attentively attend religious activity including studying Quran, attending regular solat/prayers and I also respect all the principles of my religion.” Beside this, she said she wear Veil and abaya/the common dress for Muslim women/ outside school especially when she goes to the mosque. As she said she strictly respects the rules and she is happy in doing it. She said “it is graceful to women to cover herself with dress and veil. As she said she has girl friends in school and they mostly discuss on their education and they play different games like running. She said they have sport subject period and they play different sports including volley ball and running.

She was circumcised when she was 9 years old. She was grade 3 students. As she said she strictly oppose the community position towards female circumcision. She said it is very wrong idea. She stated that “in the first place the idea itself is against nature. I always wonder how people are courageous to distort nature. The other worry I always has minded is that the biological impact. I learnt about it in the school. Biologically it affects the natural organs of our body. It is painful as both from my experience and imagination especially during delivery time. It is a natural rights violence”. She said government should give a special attention to eliminate female circumcision. She said “I don’t really appreciate the logic behind the tradition. Most people in the community believe that it protects girls from social rejection and insult. It builds the confidence of the women in her life time. I always wonder with all these sayings. I don’t expect anything to change this attitude except sustainable education and enforcement from government.

She didn’t start menstruating so far. However, she said, there are many girls she knows who have already started menstruating. As she said, “when they start menstruating for the first time, they get puzzled and afraid to tell to their mothers or anybody else. Some feel as it is shameful and they may get ostracized instead of receiving support.” In her opinion, there is nothing that surprises her as it is natural to all. She feels that it is the implication of healthiness to woman. She said, “I will not be that surprised when I start menstruating because I know what it is since I learned it in school; some say it has pain and some feel nothing special except they consider it disgusting. I am already a big girl so I will expect it to come soon. I will protect myself during that time as it needs more sanitation and care”. She thinks that there is special provision of pads but no one is willing to enquire which she explains it as “foolishness”. She has never received sexual harassment in her life time. She explained it “I have never been sexually harassed because I am the smallest girl in our village. However, there are girls a bit older than me who faced a lot of challenges in relation to sexual harassment there are some who even got raped. Nobody protects women here unless they avoid every single opportunity for harassment.”

She said she is not that ambitious to live outside the community. As she explained “there is no land, job opportunities and access to empower young people. But I hope things will be changed through time. Other different options could be available in the near future. However, i have an interest to live in the big town like Bako where there is a lot of access. I went to Bako town to visit relatives once. I just went with my mother. I perceived that it is a good place to live as it has a better access than my community place but I don’t still want to abandon my community.” However, she is against Arab country migration. She said “I don’t like to go to Arab courtiers. I like to live in my country with my family. I hear young girls are facing many difficulties when they go to Arab country though some send remittance to their family.” She explained that she doesn’t want to marry before she has finished school. She said she is too early to think about it. She said “I don’t want to marry rich husband but I want to marry a very nice man who respects his job, who respect me and loves me very much”. She said if she is not lucky to go out of the community she will be model farmer or businessperson in the community.

She said “I have a role model, he is 13. He lives in my neighbourhood. He is very strong as he has a lot of work to do at this age. He supports his family by selling charcoal. He is also a clever student. I always wonder when he got the time to do his school stuff as he always run to collect money after school. I expect him in a better place in the future may be good country leader like Melese Zenawi.”

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

As she explained, young females at her age face different challenges in the community. They take a lot of responsibility in the house. She said “a woman is always a mother as she leads the family from her early age even in her parents’ home”. The other problem most women face is early marriage. She said teenagers get married and become more responsible in life. This hinders young females from school and her future career. She said that the other problem is migration to different places to work as domestic worker. Most of these girls who went out for jobs obviously face different challenges from the new environment but the main problem is harassment and unwanted pregnancy. She said female circumcision is also a big problem that women at her age face in the community. The good opportunity is the intervention to stop violence against women. A girl could refuse and raise her voice against circumcision and early marriage by disclosing her case to government officials. Education is another good opportunity for girls. She said, “I am very proud I am a student; had it been in my mother’s time, I would be forced to marry and have children already. My mother is very intelligent and smart but because of lack of education she remains home. She would be a doctor or something else if she had got the chance for schooling”

### Combining work and education

 As she said there are no job opportunities for young women her age in the community. However, it is very common for young girls at her age to be engaged in income generating works like selling onions and vegetables, they may also be involved in weeding and harvesting and so on. Most of them are young people from poor household; they provide the money for the household. She said there is no access to paid job in the community except paid labour. She thinks that most women prefer or aspire to be employed in governmental office. In her perception government workers are highly paid people who live better life in the community. She said that the majority of the young female at her age are attending school except some who willingly abandoned school for marriage and migration.

She reported that it is common for young females to drop out of education for marriage and migration purposes. She mentioned that fattening of sheep would help young females to establish independent livelihood in the community in the long-run. She said there are many young females who completed grade 10 and TVET College but became dependent on the family because of lack of job access. She doesn’t know any females who joined university and graduated from university. She said, though there is the opportunity to attend school the opportunity for higher education is very limited. Actually, she said that she doesn’t know a female college graduate in the community.

She hates to grind Maize crops for injera using traditional grinding stone. She said “I hate *Buko lenqeta* /grinding maize crop to make injera/ as it harms the heart.” She said the stone grinding mill is a very difficult and dangerous responsibility that young people at her age do. It harms the heart very much. She prefers to make coffee than any other job she is involved in the house. However, unlike her, she said most of her friends like to go to the market and fetching water.

She said that combining work and education is very common for young females from the poor family. This is because they support their parents and buy school material including pens. As a result of this, girls from poor household don't have the opportunity to give their full attention to their education. They feel hungry when they come to school which makes them lose their attention. She said she nearer heard of a young woman involved in ‘bad habits’.

### Women’s issues

As she mentioned government is motivating the community to abolish harmful traditional practices particularly related to women issues. However, people in the community are not cooperative to motivate the implementation of government policy. For instance, female circumcision is taking place in the community. She said she is upset by the community's attitude particularly the circumcision issues. She also said that many of young people also stick with the tradition. As she said “people did not understand the practice is crime. It is a crime to cut the body of other people; it is crime to make bleed other people; moreover, I just feel it is to violate the natural rights of children without their knowledge.”

Regarding abduction issues, she said there are abduction, rape and early marriage problems in the community. As she said voluntary abduction is becoming common in the community. There is also forced abduction in the community. She said “we girls are very bad sometimes; we spend a lot of time with guys in relationship and we dump them after we secured a better option for ourselves. This is what I observe from many young females. They give their promise at first and then later may change. The situation upsets guys very much which encourage them to do forceful abduction.” However, this is still a crime and government is involving to abolish the [practice. The problem is even though family may report the case; the women mostly agree to marry him and solve the family case at community elders’ level. She mentioned that she didn’t hear about young females of her age that got pregnant especially in the last year. But as she said there are many young females a bit older than her who becomes pregnant in the community in last year. She knew at least two girls in the community. She also heard that there are young dependent women who gave birth and then left the baby immediately after birth.

She said that she hears about abortion in the community. As she said, most of the young females do it in a traditional way. They get financial support from their boyfriends. She mentioned two kind of abortion that one is in early age and the other one after the pregnancy become known. She said the first one is somehow easy as it did not let pain continues but the second option is very dangerous even to the girls life. However, she said “I heard there are some cases of abortion in the community but I am not quite sure about it. It is just a gossip of mothers I heard.” she mentioned that she didn’t come across with any service of contraceptive method for young girls. She said, “I only know the HEWs are providing contraceptive method to married women. Boys buy condoms from the shops as they afraid to expose themselves publicly. In my opinion, it is very important to provide contraceptive methods even in the school as it protects young girls from different problems. As she said, the traditional age of marriage is not fixed for both sexes. But most of the times they start to marry off their daughter in early age like 14 and 15. However, she said, the legal age of marriage for both sexes is 18 years old. As she said, young females who are not successful at their education get married in their early age like 14 and 15. As she mentioned, girls who are successful in their educational get married late, at least after college graduation. In addition to this, she mentioned that young female from the poor household get married earlier than the girls from the rich families. She explained as it is a copping strategy particularly for economic purpose for young girls from the poor family. Whereas, she said, the young girls from rich family look at different options like going to college or urban areas to look for a better opportunity. As she said, she heard that early age marriage is a crime but she doesn’t know whether the Kebele is working on examination of age of marriage.

As she said marriage has a huge negative consequence for girls especially before acquiring their own independent income. As she said, “marriage is advantageous in that it helps to build a family which is the natural gift for human being. Beside this I believe marriage has a disadvantage for girls like me who lives in the same community. I say this because marriage is a kind of diverting every responsibility towards women in our case. It pushes the entire social burden to drop up on women in general. Women have to take every role in the domestic wise and she should look after her children as she is the best fit person to bring up children. So, this set aside young girls from achieving their dream when they are in school.” She thinks the situation in marriage doesn’t allow young girls to finish their education and help them to get a permanent and paid job.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

According to her opinion, unlike before, it could be difficult for girls at her age to marry a male who owned their own farmland unless she was a second or additional wife. She thinks that those men who own farmland have already married and even most of them could have children at her age and above. However, she mentioned that there are young males who could inherit land from their family and may get married to young girls a bit older than me. As she said most of young women prefer to marry urban people and those who have permanent jobs. As she said, someone with Government employment is like an ideal husband for most of young girls at her age and above her age. Most girls at her age do not prefer to marry farmers as it possibly makes them remain in the community.

As she thinks that no one in her age will marry older men in the future. Most of them will marry a husband at their age and their status. She said most of young people want to migrate to urban area looking for a better life. She said that many of her friends want to go to university and become professional. Most of her friends want to be doctors, engineers and teachers.

She believes that it is difficult for young women from poor households to marry husbands with an independent livelihood because those males who have an independent livelihood wish to marry a girl from better rich family to add to their assets. As she mentioned there are some a bit older young females than her age who become a second wife. They live in the same compound with the senior wife. She believes that most of them live peacefully as they accept it as their tradition. But unlike before, this tradition has become declining. She is against this practice as she said “marriage shouldn’t be communal living”

### Getting married

She said she will get married after she ensured her independent income. As she said “I will marry after she I achieved my dreams true; I have to go to university and set my goal in terms of my future career. I will marry a professional man like me.”

### Setting up an independent household

As she explained that it is very difficult for young woman to set up an independent household especially in her community. She said it is only marriage and migration that young female could access in order to set up and independent. She said parents are not able to support the new couples as it was before. In the previous time, the new couples get support from their parents but now life is difficult even for the parents to support their own household. So the major barrier to set up an independent household is economic problems. She said brides and grooms spend their honeymoon in the husband’s parent’s house. After a while they start to lead their family independently even though their house is in the same compound.

### Migrating

She said, unlike the previous time, migration is become common for young woman. Young girls migrate to different places for better life. She said “there are two kinds of migration one is domestic and the other Arab country migration. Those domestic places most young women are going is like Ambo, Nekemet, Bako, Seyo, Jaji, Addis Ababa and Ambo. Most of them employed as s household maid and some as a cafeteria janitor and waitress; whereas those women who migrate to Arab country are house servants; Dubai and Kuwait is the common place most young girls are going” She knows that young women are migrating to different countries both locally and internationally. She said those women who migrate to Arab country are sending remittances and brought a change in their family. She knows a woman returned from Arab because she was pregnant. She returned home to give deliver and she is still living in the community. She said she has changed her household as she built tin roof in the community. She said the woman has children and independent household even before she moved to Arab. She said she is now making her living by involving herself in butter trading. The numbers of people migrating are increasing.

### Living in the community

She said she is happy living in the community. She said “living in the community is very important; it is peaceful. My community could provide me food when I get starved, water when I get thirsty. They are very generous. So she likes living with generous people. As she explained there are big changes in the community. As she said, poor people become rich and those who were servants of the rich established independent household. She mentioned that there is no one who lives without eating food in the community. She said has a good awareness about HIV/AIDS. She believes that the community has a better awareness on HIV/AIDs. She said, she only heard about a woman who lives with HIV/AIDS who lost her husband in last year. She said, she never heard about people who disclosed themselves to the public but there is a rumour about some people in the community.

### The economy

She said, the economy of the community is becoming rich and richer. People are working hard to improve their life. For instance, there are women and youth associations who participate in different activities. However, she said as rainfall becomes irregular farming production is decreasing but irrigation is helping a lot of people in improving diverse production type. There is less livestock production. There is a difference between rich and poor girls in terms of education including having material support and them allocation for school work, no different access in terms of work but more work load for the girl from the poor household. She said rich women have better opportunities to establish livelihoods and set up households and have better opportunity in getting married.

### Religion

She said the community spend much more time on religious activity than the past. There could be some people who are not interested in religion but majority of the community are concerned with religious activity. Islam, Qalu, orthodox and protestant are the different religions that exist in the community. As she said, there is religious difference even among the same religious institution like Muslims different sects. There are Sufi and Wuhabiya sects two different sects though same institutions. There is also protestant and orthodox Christian. The diversity is increasing.

### Politics

According to her explanation there is no relationship between young women and the government at all. As she said, the political situation in the community is very passive. There is no woman and young female participation in political activities. Women do not participate in community work. She said she never heard about youth organizations; associations, league and federation in the community. She said women are very reluctant to actively participate in political activity in the community. She said she didn’t hear there are no youth association, federation and league in the Kebele.

### Inter-generational relations

According to her explanation old people do not realize how much children particularly young women at her age contribute in the community. She said “old people in the community don’t give us any space to understand our perspective. But in my opinion, children at my age and young women are part of the community who could provide a lot of contribution to the community. However, Older people in this community, neglect young people especially young women in many respects. When children try to make opinion and talk on family or community participation, most adults do not give space rather they disrespect them. They don’t understand we are the expected generation to lead the country. Above all, teenagers don’t have the right to make decision in the family and even in their own right.”

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### Personal

She was born in Odaa Haroo in 1998. She went to Tibe town, Tibe primary school when she was 6 years old. She has 9 siblings, 8 of them are from the same mother and father but two of them are from a former marriage. She said both of her parents had another marriage before they come together. She said “my mother got divorced with her former husband after she felt in love with my father. She had one daughter from her former husband. She told me that she was not happy on her former marriage since it was a marriage arranged by her parents while she was 14. However, she found my father when he came to the Kebele for coffee trading. He is originally around Jimma. He used to travel to different Kebele in trading coffee. Then he settled in this community after he married his senior wife and gave birth of his first son. Then he married my mother as the second wife. After some years, he just left his senior wife and start living with my mother. There was no formal divorce between my father and his senior wife. However, she died before two years.” She said her family depends on agriculture such as farming and livestock production. She said her mother is involved in farming and livestock trading. But her father is a large crop trader to different towns including Addis Ababa, Ambo, Nazareth, Deberezieyt, Harare, and Nekemt and so on. She said her parents are very strong and successful farmers. As she said her mother is very active in doing the agriculture work and my father in trade as he is among the top traders in the Keble. He collects different types of crop from the farmers. The chief crop type is maize but there is nug in addition to maize. As she said her father transports the crops by employing a big truck. He could send crops twice a week to the different place at least 200 quintals in two weeks. She described her household as very rich household. She said her older brother who did not succeed to continue his preparatory school because of the minimal score, is running a shopping business. He accommodates different consumption goods in his shop.

She told a story of two of her sisters live in America since the last 13 years. They went to America when they were 11 and 13 years old. She said her uncle who went to America after winning the DV lottery (Diverse Visa Lottery) attracted them. As she said her sisters have finished their study recently and start working from last summer. She said her older sister, her mother’s daughter only, is a protestant and the other sister from both parents is Muslim. She said her mother was protestant followers and in the choir in the church. Moreover, her father was a very know leader and elder of Mekane’eyesus church. However, her mother converted into Islam when she met her father. Her father is originally Muslim and a son of sheik; respected Muslim leader. As she said her mother converted because he was in love with her r. However, she received different reactions and rejection from her family especially from her siblings including those who are living in USA. Among her siblings one of her brothers is a pastor in the USA, he is the one who took the girls to America. The girl who remains Muslim even after she went to America has been resisting her uncles’ pressure on her religion. She said her father always reminds her not to try to change her religion and he is very happy when he hears she is strong Muslim.

She said she is in her early 16 and she is a ranking student throughout her school life. She is preparing herself to take the grade 10 ECLCS exam in May 2013. She has been competing on school question and answering competitions at the Woreda level. She has been taking different award in every class. She said she always ranks first or second in the class. She never drops out from school. She has no commitment in the household except contributing in some of domestic works in the household. She invests much of her time on her education. She sometimes helps her father by collecting crops when farmers came to their store to sell. She said nothing as income generating work in the last 12 months. She never works to earn cash for herself and as well for her family except helping them when she gets idle time. She doesn’t like to absent from class unless and other wise she is forced sick. She goes to the library every other day in the opposite shift. She covers her homework’s and school assignments regularly without any interruption. She likes the shifting program of the school as she spends much time on her study. She said the high school have selected her to give tutor class for those who get poor points in their score. So she has been giving tutor services especially for girls in the opposite shift. She said next year she plans to go to preparatory school. She doesn’t have a plan to combine work and school as she always gives priority for her education. She said she uses the holidays as the study and preparing time for the next school day. She likes drawing, sport and music. She said she is strong in her religion as she read Quran one day in every week, on Fridays. She said she do her prayers regularly except she is in a time of prohibiting; during menstruation time. She said it is prohibited for girls to do solat and read Quran while she is in her menstruation period. She thinks it is because it is a cursed season for women. She isn’t involved in any political or Kebele activities. She says she has been competing for school athletics race and stand first most of the time. She doesn’t belong in any of youth association, league and federation of the Kebele. She doesn’t even hear whether they exist. She spends some time socializing with friends. She said she plays and studies with friends. She has one special friend. She always studies and share every issues in life with her.

At home she helps with the cooking, cleaning the house, environment, eating utensils, washing clothes when she is at home and free. She was circumcised when she was 7 years old. She doesn’t feel any problem in relation to circumcision. She said she never faced any problem in relation to her menstruation. She starts menstruation when she was in grade 6. She said even though she had awareness about it from her reproductive course, she feels some discomfort when it first started. She never discussed about it with anyone and she never gets support or facility in relation to it. But she said she keeps her hygiene by preparing pieces of fabric with her underwear and she washes it every day. She feels some pain every first day but she feels it as normal. She said she drinks a lot of hot drinks and milk to recover during that time. She never takes any medicine in relation to the pain. She never missed class because of it. She said she sometimes face an attempt harassment towards her. There are many guys who send her letters and some followed up her while she walked to her home out school. However, she reported this to her older brother and he threatened them. She said every guy has stopped following her back after they received a pressure from her father.

She is not married and never thought to marry early. She doesn’t have boyfriend and she don’t want to have boyfriend unless and other wise she graduated from university. She doesn’t think she is going to settle in the community. She said she is planning to go to university after two years. As she said she could spend 6 and 7 years on her study in the university and will think about work, marriage and place to live during that time. Her ideal man she is thinks to marry is a man she is going to meet while she is in the university. She said “I am sure I will never have a boyfriend before finishing university but if it happens it will probably happen while I am a graduating class in the university and one thing for sure my ideal man is a successful man in his academic life. Moreover, he should be a man who truly loves me, kind, nice, wise, a man who teaches me, shares my burden, advises me and cultivates me”. She said her parents will not be involved in her choice. She doesn’t have an agreement with a man so far and she said “how on earth could I have an agreement with a man to marry in the future; I have so many things to do before to think about it”. She doesn’t know where she is going to live as she said it depends on her type of work she will have. But most probably she will live in Addis Ababa. She has her aunt in Addis Ababa. Her priority is to be engineer. She likes children but she wants to have two children.

She said she doesn’t have specific models but she is happy and tries to learn when she meets strong and successful people in her life. She said people are like a university where life teaches through other people. She said “I love people very much; everyone has something to teach you and every life experience is just a book in-depth.” She hopes a lot of change in people’s life in the future. She said she expects good changes everywhere. The worry she has especially regarding the majority of the community is the weather condition. She said unless people give a lot of efforts to protect their environment like planting trees; the weather condition will get worse which definitely affect the economy condition of the community. She said agriculture alone cannot be a means of living in the community. Some other opportunities must be available in the community. She doesn’t have any worries in relation to herself. She hopes she will have a successful life in the future.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

As she said, the only opportunity for young women in the community is access to education. In terms prospects, there is a lack of work, economic problems and poverty are the major obstacles that the majority of young women could suffer as they are growing. These situations could lead to unhappy and unhealthy life. However, if government intervention and community participation in changing the situation in the community growing, the problem that females in her age are facing is going to be solved.

### Combining work and education

 She says that young women of her age are students and engaged in domestic work as well as money making activities like farming labour including weeding, harvesting and pity trade. She said there is no a kind of work that pays well in the community. The farming work is 2 or 3 birr per hour. There are no health problems in relation to kinds of works available in the community. However, among the domestic works Buko lenqecha (grinding flour for injeera) is dangerous for all women in the community. She said it cause health problem. She doesn’t do it in their household. She said in her household they mostly use teff for injera and they send it to the grinding mill. She said there is no different sort of work that girls do. She said young girls don’t have the chance to prefer different work as there is very limited works opportunity in the community. She said she doesn’t know the proportion of females at her age who are no longer in education. It is not common for young females to drop out of education for a while and return later. She said there is no work opportunities that help young females to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the long-run except. There are some people who finished grade 10 and 10+3 who did not find work. They spend their time in the family supporting with the domestic work and some do some business like crop trading. Some of them migrated to other countries looking for work. It is very common for girls from poor family to come work and education in the Kebele. As she said it is because they are expected to support their family and finance their school materials. She said there are no women she knows involved in ‘bad habits’ like drinking, chewing and smoking.

### Women’s issues

She said female circumcision is common in the community. As she said traditionally it is believed that it is good for girls while they grow up. The community believe it protects the emotional condition of girls. However, government is trying to stop the practice though people are still doing it. She said, theoretically she has learned that the practice damages the natural body and it causes risk during delivery time. She said she wants to promote the government idea but she doesn’t think she could break the culture. She said she will be forced to do it even for her daughter in the future if she lives in the community. She said there is no special facility in the school provided to girl students who are menstruating.

She said there is abduction and rape in the community. She said that there is voluntary and forceful abduction. She also said there are about four females in her age who got pregnant and all of them gave birth recently. Pre-marital pregnancy happens in different condition; there are cases become pregnant after they got raped and some while they were in relationship. She said the community are very upset in such kinds of condition. They just accept them because they can’t avoid them. She said that the girls at her age start taking contraceptive method.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She said that the probability of young female in her age to get married to those males who owned their own farmland is no more in practice unless it is family arrangement. She said there is no young female who want to be farmers’ wives. But there could be some who want to marry a man in the community involved in the other work. She said she doesn’t have any friends or sisters married older men or who have become second wives. She said she doesn’t have friends who want to marry older man in the future. She said that there is no other kind of work in the community. It is only agriculture and trade activities that young girls could be involved in in the community. The majority of her friends including her sisters want to migrate to urban areas looking for a better life. All of her sisters and her closest friends want to go to college and get formal job. As she said there is no one among young people in the community who don’t really know about their future. She said young women in early twenties make a living from trade or they make a living by moving to urban towns, Arab migration. Some will get married and give birth.

### Getting married

As she said the most common and traditional age of marriage for girls to get married in the community is around 14 and 15. There are many girls at this age get married in the community. On average at 14 girls who are not doing well at education get married. As she said girls who are getting good grades in their education do not get married rather they keep learning. She said the probabilities of getting married earlier is high for Poor girls than the rich girls’ one. She said it is because poor take marriage as an option to change their livelihood. She said government set that girls must be above 18 to get married but she never see any enforcement taken in the Kebele. She said there is no rules that require legal permission to get marry in the community. She said there in no any prosecution related to early age of marriage in the community though government prohibited the action.

### Setting up an independent household

She said that the possibility of young woman setting up an independent household is difficult in the community. There is no opportunity for generating income unless they engaged in pity trade which doesn’t have significant profit that could help young woman to set an independent household. Marriage is another alternative that young woman prefer to set up an independent household. Migration is another option but they will stay many years since they accumulate enough money to start business to set up an independent household. So she said the possibility of setting up an independent household in early young age is very poor because of the above mentioned reason. However, she mentioned that the economic problem is the major problem that limits the possibility of setting up an independent household among young people.

### Migrating

She said, her friend, 18 years old migrated to Riyadh after she failed national ministry exam at grade 8 in the last two years. As she said she was a ranking student while they were elementary students. She is from rich household. She calls every month to her family and send remittance. Moreover, the girl has started building big tin roof house for her parents. Similarly, she said her friend from the poor household dropped out from grade 10 and moved to Saudi Arabia. The girl communicates with her family but she did not send money. She once sent once about 5000 birr. She said the girl is not doing good as she has bad household/employers. She also mentioned about her two sisters and relatives in America. It has been about 13 years since they went to USA. However, they were receiving money from US government while they were students. They were sending remittances and in the last year they bought land in Suliulita, Addis Ababa. Moreover, recently they send about 10000 birr to build a house in Addis Ababa. She said they live a very good life and they are planning to go to college soon. They have bought car for themselves. One of her sister came before two years to visit the family and spent only two weeks in her school break. They have changed much. They send pictures. They call and communicate with every members of the family. She also said she has about 7 relatives in USA who send remittance to their family.

### Living in the community

She said that living in the community is very good as it is peaceful. But there is a big problem in relation to different infrastructure access. She said there are no electric city, no high school, no health centre and other private health facilities in the community. Because of this, she said, many people especially young people want to leave the community. However, she said, generally the community is becoming richer than the past. There are many households who are changed in their livelihood income source and living status. She said, previously houses condition were very poor but now people have changed their house to better house style and condition. Modern cooking utensils, furniture and bed are some of the different stuffs found in many households’ which were not known before. She said the major changes that are observed in the community are mostly on households who work on trading, irrigation farming and those who have children or relatives migrated internationally.

She said that young people do not tend to socialize in special groups. There is no ethnicity difference but religious difference though people did not starts socializing in special groups. As she said her parents do not worry about what might happen to her rather they aspire a very good future.

She said that she has learned about HIV/AIDs from school, there is club campaign against HIV/AIDS in Tibe High school. There are no officially disclosed people living with HIV/AIDs in the community.

She said thinks that young men have sexual relation with young people. She doesn’t know where most people have sexual relations but she said she sometimes observe couples going for walk to forests areas and to the nearest town. She doesn’t think most of the young people use condoms to protect themselves. She said except some women who make their living by selling alcohol young women do not have sex with many men. However, she thinks young male could have sexual relations with many women.

### The economy

As she said there is a big change in the economy of the community. The community is richer than the past two or three years. There is equal farming opportunity for women. There is also equal opportunity for other business like trading. Previously people were depending only on agriculture but no no-agriculture activities like trading, opening shops are some type of business the community start involving. However, the agricultural economy is reducing time to time because of the condition of rain. She said people are losing productivity of farming and livestock because of the shortage of rain. The variety of crops are declining because of diseases and water shortage. Fertilizer is increasing highly which affect the community economy as a whole. People still depend cultivating once in a year. Less opportunity to the introduction of modern farming technology has been affecting the community from goring fast. However, irrigation scheme and trading is another potential option that has been started recently in the community. The other important changes are women involvement in the agriculture and non-farming activity. As she said it has a big impact in increasing the economy of the community as it helps each household. She explained that girls from poor houses have more work burden in the domestic as well as outside domestic sphere. Those girls from rich house have better opportunity to establish independent livelihood than girls from the poor households can't get asset like land, money and livestock from their families. Moreover, females from rich household get married earlier or go to college and then have a better possibility to establish rich independent household.

### Religion

She mentioned that community participation in religion has increased. All people in the community are very interested in religious activity. There are three main religions in the community including protestant, orthodox and Muslim. She said Muslims go to mosque every Friday and Christians including protestant and orthodox every Sunday. Protestants have house to hose praying program every Wednesday. She also said orthodox followers celebrate different Saint days and mahaber. She said young people are participating more in religious activity more than the past. She said sometimes disagreement among different religious institutions but customary leaders and religious leaders resolve it immediately. Though there was simple tendency for conflict, the community in different religions lives peacefully and cooperates in social events. As she said, Missioners come to visit and teach the community sometime.

### Politics

She said there is no a relation between young women and government officials in the Kebele. There is no any massage that government has been giving to young women recently in the Kebele. There is no training and advice that has been provided from the Woreda to young women in the community. There is no resource provided to facilitate livelihood activities to young women in the community. There is no any benefit young women have been receiving from the government. There is no leisure or recreation place to women in the community. She mentioned the majority of the women and young female do not have any relationship with political parties including ruling parties of the Kebele. She doesn’t have any information weather there is youth association, league and federation in the Kebele. She said young girls at her age are not interested in political activities and there is no any support from the Woreda and Keble to make women involved in political or government activities.

### Inter-generational relations

She said the relationship between teenagers and her parents as well as other leading adults is very good. However, she said there are no open discussions about different issues in her household even with her older brothers. The good thing is parents support their children by providing advice and school equipment. Young people or teenagers help their family in domestic sphere mostly for girls and on farm sphere mostly common for boys. As she said, education and discussion is the only way that brings parents and children together. There are no tension points in her household as they receive every order from their parents.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 16

### Personal

She nearly 15 and is living with her parents. She described the total number in the household as 5. The major source of the family livelihood is agriculture and trade. She said her father is a model farmer. He produces twice a year since he has irrigable land. As she said tomato, onion, oilseed/nug/, crop, teff are the major cash crop for the household. She has never has been engaged in income generating work but she supports her mother in domestic work. Her mother is engaged in trading such as vegetable and livestock product. As she mentioned the family are considered in the community as middle class but she believes her parents are rich. She said it is very hard to combine work and education but the major source of income for young people from the poor household. She said they sell charcoal, work as a daily farming labourers and herders. She doesn’t have a plan to engage in any of income generating activity since she is a student. She said, she focuses on her education as long as her parents are earning good livelihood income. She said she support her mother in the household by making coffee, cleaning house and fetching water. She like sport and spiritual song/menzuma/. She is Muslim followers and she respects all the rules in her religion. She said she support poor people during holidays, she does her solat regularly and study Quran.

In the last year, she comes out at the 2nd place from 60 students in her class. As she said she has been receiving award from school since 2nd grade. She likes to study mathematics. She likes to play valley-ball.

She has never dropped out from school since she started learning. She has never participated in politics. She didn’t hear about youth organization, federation and affairs so far. She has friends both in school and village. She said they play and do class works and assignments together. She tutors her friends during break time. She has one special friend whom she shares her secrets. She gets circumcised when she was 8 years old. She believes everyone at her age has been circumcised in the community. She said she regretted every time when she thinks about it. She knows it is harmful traditional practice as she said, “government do everything in favour of community but our people are reluctant to understand it; they stick always with the tradition”. She said my family do not like to keep girls uncircumcised. So they want to keep practicing. She said she got puzzled when she first start experiencing menstruation. There is no special facilitation in the school. She told her mother and she bought her under wear to keep clean her personal hygiene. Now she uses old cloths during her menstruation season. She never faced sexual harassment but there are many boys at her age that required her for relationship. However, she said, she responds every question that it is not time for her. She said she don’t want to accept before she finishes school and is married. However, she said, there is one clever guy in her school; he is grade 8 student. She said she feels happy when she sees him around school. But she said they never talk each other. She said he is very handsome and cool guy. She said “I just feel that he has the same impression for me too; however, we never exchanged even words each other; I am very happy that he is often ranks number one from the school”

She likes to live in Adama/ Nazareth town. She never been there but she hears people talking it is a big and beautiful town. It is her dream to visit Adama. She wishes to marry someone who is educated and employed by a government organization may be the guy she likes in the school. But she fears he might love another girl as she said “love is all about the chance not about plan; I wish if we could live together after we succeed our dream”. Whatsoever, she said she want to marry the man who secured his education and permanent job. She dreams to be a doctor in her life. She would like to have two children. People who are doctors are her model though she never thought of her specific model in her life. She said there is nothing that makes her to worry about her future as she said she work hard and she succeed what she dreams.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

She argues that the community does not give equal opportunity to both sexes. She said though there is a better opportunity of school than the previous time; it is not yet equal with young male at her age. As she said, young male are extremely free whatever they want and they get enough time to focus on their education. They do their homework and study properly. However, young women at her age are more focused in the domestic work. Everyone expects her to cover all the household work before she gets to her study and doing homework. She said most women combine domestic work, income generating activity and schooling. They get tired when they do their homework and study for the exams. As she said “it feels amazing to me why many young men fail to pass to higher education while they have all the opportunity to explore”. However, she said access to education is a significant change in the community particularly for young females. She said “we could have been children of professional mothers including doctors, teachers and engineers if the same chances were given to our mothers”

### Combining work and education

She mentioned that most of the young women of her age are attending school. However, it is common for girls to take much responsibility in the community. they are engaged in domestic work including making injera, making coffee, cooking wot, cleaning the house, fetching water, washing clothes, looking after younger children in the household etc. There are also those who participate in income generating activity particularly girls from poor household like weeding and harvesting activity during farming season. She said grinding maize for injera using stone grinder (Buko Lanqicha) is the hardest, dangerous, bad type of work for health. The other heavy task girls cover is fetching water since it is heavy. But she said, most of young girls at her age like to go to fetching water from the river and collect fire wood. She said that they like it because they could have a lot of fun with friends and looking at boys when they have swimming and so on.

There are some young females who are forced to drop out school because of loads of responsibility. She knows two girls who drop out in last year. She doesn’t know anybody who get return back to school. There are many young female who graduated 10th grade and few who went for college. She doesn’t know anyone who stayed home after they graduate from college but she said there are stayed home after they finished grade 10.

### Women’s issues

She said abduction and rape is undertaking in the community but she doesn’t know young people who face this problem in person. She said there are many stories she hears in the community about early marriage pregnancy. She heard of a girl returned from Ambo having pregnancy from her employer. She was a domestic servant in Ambo town and she gets pregnant from the household head that has three children and his wife live together. She said female circumcision is practicing in the community. No one got punished for practicing female circumcision. She hasn’t heard government set the legal age of marriage but she thinks above 19 years old for both sexes is proper to get married in the community. She thinks most young people at this age set many options to accommodate their living. She said poor children get married early to solve their economic problem. She doesn’t think poor students in grade/school performance get married early rather they repeat classes. Most of the time marriage is arranged based on family choice. Young girls who are above 25 years old rush to get married as they think their age of marriage will pass them over. She doesn’t know the advantage of marriage but she thinks that less education access, high responsibilities are major challenges marriage offer for girls.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

As far as she understands the possibility for younger woman to set up an independent household is very limited. The possible different ways could be mentioned as land inheritance from the family, marriage, migration, education and permanent job are some different ways that could help for young woman to set up an independent household. However, she said, marriage has been the only and very common way to help young girls to set their own household. Young girls could marry a man who own farmland and have other economic source like trading in livestock. But since the last five years, land shortage becomes a problem in the community so as young men are not receiving gifts or inheritance from their family. The main problem is extended families which motivate high number of population. The new strategies that woman become motivated to set up an independent household is through migration to Arab countries. As she said most of migrants have a plan to set up an independent family after they accumulate some amount of money to start business in the community. As she said the major barrier is lack of recourses and economic opportunity in the community. She said young women are much dependent on their husband’s parents. Most of them live in the same compound provided a house by family in law. In return, she said young women are commonly responsible to support their family in laws within domestic work including her own household domestic. But there are also new household who live separately from their family after they stayed the honeymoon season in the parent in laws house.

### Getting married

Most of young people at her age prefer to marry older people than her age. Those young men of the same age as the girls are not able to establish a household unless and they received land and livestock from their family. However, adult people from the late 20s could own farmland so girls of her age prefer to marry them. She said this is more applicable to young girls at her age from the poor households. Beside this, she said majority of her friends give first priority to marry a young man who is employed in government organization. She knows a bit older girl than her age who married a husband as a second wife. She lives in the same compound with the senior wife and her children. They always quarrel on every single issue.

### Setting up an independent household

It is hard for young women to set up independent household. She said for young male it could be easier to establish independent household as receive a plot of land from their fathers or they could work in sharecropping with the family. She said that the short run way of establishing independent household for girls is to marry a man who owns farming land. She also mentioned education as means of household setting in the long run.

### Migrating

She said migration has become a fashion in the community. Majority of her friend want to migrate to Arab country in order to get a better life. Most people influenced by those who live in town and those who migrated earlier. She said majority of Arab migrants are becoming successful within a few years. They have changed their parents living standards. There are some who built a house in Tibe town. However, those who have migrated to urban cities didn’t bring any change both in their parent’s life and in their own life. There are many girls who went to Ambo, Nekemt, and Addis Ababa looking a better life but most of them did not successful.

### Living in the community

The community is changing. She believes there is a better change since the last five years. Rich people are becoming richer, the poor become better off. The house condition in the community has improved as many changed their house from thatched roof to tin sheet roof, better furniture and kitchen utensils. Environmental and personal hygiene is getting better in the community. The health condition of the community is getting better since the last five years. She said whatever is the including religious difference people still cooperate during crisis and happy time. There is no serious tension between different religions in the community. She said people in the community are aware about the way of HIV/AIDS transmission but people do not discuss on it. There is no official information on people who lives with HIV. However, she knows a person who was living in her village. He died in last year and his death is suspected to be from HIV/AIDS. He left his two wives and one son who are suspected to be victims of the virus.

### The economy

She believes there is a change in distributing access of farm and non-farm activity as there are many women who start to be involved in farm and non-farm activities. However, there is a wide gap between different households’ wealth states in the community. She said very few households become very rich though the majority become better off. However, there is a better potential to improve the women's economic situation in the community than the past. When she compares the young girls from poor and rich household, girls from rich household have advantages in terms of education as they take time to cover their school work, they can establish a better livelihood, getting married and setting better opportunity to the household. She said young women from rich household is always at an advantage compared to girls from poor household.

### Religion

Religious activity becomes stricter than the past as many people start spending a lot of times in taking part in the religious activity. There are three main different religion including orthodox, protestant and Muslim in the community. She believes rules of different religion become strict than the past. She said young people and women are more active in religious activity.

### Politics

There is no youth organization, federation and association in the community. No women political activity. There is no cloth relationship between Kebele administrator including community elders and teenagers.

### Inter-generational relations

There is no different attitude in parents and teenagers’ relationship. Teenagers have been given less position in the community and they don’t have the right to make decisions in the household. She said this situation is more applicable for young female. Young female are not involved in the family decision making. However, young men could get a better position than the girls.

## Poor female teenager 16

### Personal

She is 15 years old living with her family. She described the total number of the household members as 12, 8 siblings and 2 nephews. As she said her family livelihood depends on farming and livestock trading. Her father usually buys cattle from neighbourhood Kebele and sells somewhere else with a better price. Her mother is working as trader. She sells onion, tomato, potato and pepper in the near market mostly in Tibe and Shebeko. She gets the products from farmers. Except her brother who is working as a trader and her sister who has migrated to Arab, all her siblings are attending school. As she mentioned the family are considered as middle class household in the community and she said, “We have enough food throughout the year and all children in our family are attending school.”

In the last year, she ranked 3rd place from 100 students. As she said she did receive award when she was grade 1 students and grade two as she comes out at the 3rd and 2nd place from her class. Science is her favourite subject but English and mathematics is her difficult subject. However, she said, she is working hard to improve her performance.

She has dropped out in 2011 when she moved to another rural Kebele with her sister who was a new bride at that time. Having stayed 2 years helping her sister, she returned back and joined her school again. She often combines work and education. She works as a daily labourer during the harvesting season and as petty trader during her opposite shift and school holidays. She did not participate in doing independent income-generating work in the last 12 months. As she believes, trading is better than daily farming labourer. The farming work is seasonal but trading could be every day. She started the daily farming labourer work when she sees young women of her age involved in daily labour in her village and she took her own initiative to begin trading. She decides on what she would like to work without consulting anybody. As she explained, she roughly earned about 300 birr in last 12 months. She has bought school stuff and her cloth.

She said that combining work and education is very difficult as it affects her learning process highly. She spends her time working in the market and helping her household work which is very difficult for her to follow up on her education and study seriously. It affects her school results. She would like to focus on her education in the coming years but she does have another plan too. As she said her sister is planning to take her to Saudi Arabia in the coming two years. So, probably she fears that she could be dropping out from school when she promoted 6th grade.

She said she never gets rest time at all. She usually has something to employ in her daily activity. She is interested in drawing picture and hearing spiritual music/neshida. She used to study Qur’an but she doesn’t anymore because of time shortage. However, she often goes to mosque and does her prayers/solat every day. She has been never participated in politics and never heard about associations in school. She said they do have sport subject in school and we do some races during sport period. She doesn’t belong to any of Kebele or school associations. She has friends both in school and village we play and do class works and assignments together. She has one intimate friend whom she shares everything with. She studies and discuss about life together. She usually helps her family when she is at home and does her homework when she gets extra time.

She got circumcised when she was very little girl. She said she never feel any problem in relation to her circumcision. And she doesn’t believe it is harmful tradition, rather it is old tradition and need to continue as it was. She didn’t start experiencing menstruation period yet. There are some guys both in school and her village who asked her for relationship but she refused as she feels it is not appropriate time at her age. She doesn’t want to have a boyfriend in her early age or before university graduation and independent income for her living. She has never faced sexual harassment. She is not married yet and she wants to marry after her school success. She likes to live in Addis Ababa because Addis Ababa is the head of the country where every access is there. She has her aunt who is living in Addis Ababa and working there. She wishes to marry someone who is educated and employed for government organization. However, if there are no options to get out of this community, she would like to lead her life in the community by being a good trader. She doesn’t have any plan to return back to this Kebele except in favour of visiting her family. She doesn’t like to combine work with education but it is her condition forced her to involve both in trading and farming daily labour. It helps her to continue her education because she covers all her school expenses in doing this business. Family highly involve in choosing marriage partner and it is working still. It has disadvantage since it affects her regular school attendance. She sometimes too tired to do her homework and gets behind in class. She also gets absent sometime. It is discouraging her from working hard in school. In next year, she is planning to migrate to an Arab country. She has her older sister who is living in Dubai and she has a plan to take her to Arab for work. So may be in next year or after next year, she will leave this community. Her sister is working as household servant and she is not that complaining about her living. One thing which she will be feeling is that she will quit her education which is very bad for her future career. She has decided to migrate because her father is forcing her to go. She combines education with work to support her family. She sells onion in the market. She likes to draw picture. She actively participates in her religion. She doesn’t participate in any of political organization. She doesn’t exercise sport but there is sport subject in school. Students do exercise running during the sport class.

She has friends both in school and in her village. She does have good relationship with her friends. She has one best friend and they discuss about education.

She wishes if she continues her education and graduate from university. She wants to marry when secured her independent income and permanent job. She wants to have two children soon after she got married. She never thought of her model before but she admires her English teacher.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

She argued that the Kebele has no any opportunity for young girls at her age. As she said, lack of access to higher education and work is general for young people in the Kebele but she argued that the influence is more affect the young female population. As she said, under age marriage, abduction and rape has been an obstacle since a long time for young people to look for a better opportunity. The other problem is that most of young women Students do not focus on their education because of the domestic work responsibility. As she said education is the only good opportunity in this Kebele she believes. Most of the young people same at her age are attending school which was very hard to the women who lived the same age before 10 years.

### Combining work and education

 She mentioned that most of the young women of her age are attending school. It is not common to find young girls at her age to find earning regular income for herself. There is weeding activity during farming season which pays 2 and 3 birr per hour and trading on small vegetable and crop in winter. She believes that here is no comparable work regarding to the payment in this Kebele but relatively trading is good. It is common to attend school and cover domestic household here. The hardest, dangerous, bad type of work for health is grinding maize for injera using stone grinder (Buko Lanqicha). From the household work, young females prefer to make coffee and cook wot. Weeding in summer and trading in winter. There is no enough work generally available in the Kebele or young women would like to do. There might be few who no longer attend school. There are many students who drop out school because of abduction, marriage, economic problem and so on. Few may get return back if they agree with their husbands and if they didn’t have child. The main problem is economic problem and marriage. It is not common for young women to establish an independent livelihood but in the long run, this problem might be solved if women succeed in their education and access for professional employment. There are numbers of young female she knows who graduated 10th grade. There are some young women who graduated college + level 3 and become unemployed. From her point of view the number of young female both graduated from high school and college could range more than 20 individuals. They spend their time helping their household by covering the domestic work or some get married to those who have land. It is harder to combine work with education in poor households because they don’t give emphasis on their education which mostly limits them to go further in their education. It is not known in our community for young women to develop bad habit.

### Women’s issues

There is government intervention to stop female circumcision since it is believed to be harmful traditional practice by the government. However, she never agrees with the intervention. She said she didn’t suffer from any pain because of her experience of circumcision. She believes that it is the Oromo tradition and she believes it should be protected especially for girls as she said “It is shame for us not to get circumcised.” She said don’t let her daughter to feel ashamed for not circumcised so she need to practice it in the future. She said the community is against government policy towards this practice and it is the major reason that led the government to fail not to bring practice to an end in the community. People are practicing it in the present day and there is nobody that cares to disclose the one with the practice in the community. There is education concerning harmful traditional practices including female circumcision. The HEWs provided education but it is not that influential. She also said she never heard that the Keble is taking legal action on those who are found practicing it. There is no facilitation provided in school for those who start menstruation. She didn’t start menstruation but she knows about menstruation since there are my friends who already start menstruation. She observed that some miss class because they feel pain during their menstruation season. She said she is not going to tell to her family or her teachers because it feels so shameful.

There is still a practice of abduction in the Kebele. She said her friend the same age with her got abducted in this year. As she said most of her friends agree to get married after the abduction and there might some who wants to go to court but she prefer to solve it peacefully with the customary leader. She said, it should be solved based on the woman being willing. There are some young females who get pregnant before marriage. She believes that this mostly occurs in relationship. Some could decide to give birth but some terminate the foetus. Those who terminate foetus are pressurized by people such us by their boyfriends and family influence. Most of them seek to traditional services because of less awareness and less money. The second option is very dangerous as there are many people who died during the process. Traditionally young female from the age of 13 are supposed to marry and set up family life but now it is decreasing. There is no official age of marriage as far as she knows and the Woreda is not deciding on the age of marriage for girls. Regarding the partner choice, there is a family involvement but there is also couples agreement.

The Kebele provide Contraceptive for married family not for young women who are unmarried.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

There might be a number of young women who are interested to marry a man with access to his own farmland. She doesn’t have friends who wish to be farmer’s wife. Young women are very interested to migrate or marry government employments because they could not find young rich men farmers who own land. There are some who also tend to marry old rich men. It is difficult to set up the proportion but there are many young women to marry man in the community who involved in other kind of work except daily labour. She doesn’t think there are young women who are really interested to be the second wife in this community but she expects it could happen for economic reason. She said she knows a girl who is in the mid of twenties in her neighbourhood who married as a second wife just for economic purpose. The problem she is facing is that the husband respect what his senior wife say and he keeps to do more favour to his senior wife after some time. She doesn’t expect many young friends to marry old men in the future. Young people were more interested in education but now they are not that much interested especially to go to private college and TVET College because of the limitation in job opportunity. So, there are many young people who don’t really know their education future.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl can get married in the community is age 15. She said she doesn’t know the proportion of girls who get married at age. As she said young girls who are not doing well at education get married in earlier age like 15. They get married earlier than girls who do well at their education. She said she doesn’t know if there is any government legislation to stop marriage below 18 in the community. She said parent’s involvement in choosing partners is becoming less than the past. She said she didn’t hear any permission girls received to get married in order to prevent early marriage. She didn’t think there is such service at the Woreda level. She said it is 25 year old that girls could start worry that they are too to marry a good husband.

### Setting up an independent household

Most of the young women at her age are interested to establish independent livelihood but the situation is not easy to do this because of economic problem in the community. There is no land access and job opportunity which could solve the problem. Especially it is very hard for young females to find job and establish independent livelihood in early age. It is possible only for some people who migrate to abroad countries if they could really do well. There is no access to land and there is financial and potential limitation to set up independent household.

### Migrating

Now migration is becoming common for young people. Young women migrate mainly to Arab countries and there are also who migrate to big towns. Young people migrate to Addis Ababa, Ambo, Nekemt, and Nazareth. Mostly it is from 16th age young women tend to migrate and they look for household servant and Hotel waitress and janitor. The number of migrants is increasing very much especially in these two years. Some change their place and some may not. She said she has her sister who migrated to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. She moved to Saudi Arabia because she didn’t speak their language and the employer got better housemaid from other countries who speak their language. In her first place, she suffered a lot because they refused to pay her salary. She went to the agency in order to get legal action and get paid of her salary but she got paid only the half her agreement. She is sending money to her family and also she has an account in Addis Ababa Commercial Bank. She thinks that her sister could have saved about 9000 birr since last year.

### Living in the community

She explained that there is nothing that makes her happy in the community because of poor opportunities to improve life. There is very little change regarding women's status in the community. The main and significant change is access to education for young women. The community is changed because of internal and external road. The living style is changing time to time. Houses are improved from thatched roof to tin sheet roof in the community. Most of the time the community live peacefully but sometime could be occur conflicts because of women and farm land boundary. A religious conflict is not common but it had occurred once. It was between Muslim and protestant based on church construction near to the mosque place. Muslims refused to let the Protestants to build church near to the Mosque. The orthodox followers supported the Muslims’ but finally the case was resolved by customary elders.

There is social network in the community. People communicate during crisis and happiness events in the community. She didn’t observe anything whether her family is worrying about her future or about their hopes for her. She said her family control her very much. For example, they insist she has to be a strict Muslim. She said she has no choice to be other than Muslim in her life. HIV AIDS transmit from one person to another through sexual intercourse and sharp materials. There are some people infected with the virus but she never come across with such people. She also said it is very difficult to identify which sex is affected most since there is no any person HIV infected who disclosed him/herself to public and teaches the community. It is becoming common to have sexual relationship before marriage in the community. It was prohibited both in tradition and religion in the previous time but now it is becoming very normal. However, mostly young female forced to start sexual relationship by their boyfriends before marriage. She argues that young people more conscious to protect themselves from HIV/ADIS by using condoms.

### The economy

As she said there is improvement of economy in the community. The rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming better since the last 10 years. There is equal farming opportunity for women but most of the women population is participating on non-farm activity. However, she said the community is sticking with the rain fed activity which contributes to poor agricultural activity. She said above 90% of the community is living on the agricultural economy but it is becoming poor since the rain become irregular in the community. But, in the last ten years people become using irrigation technology and start earning good agricultural products. She expects a better access of irrigation in the community in the near future. There is a difference between young from rich and poor household in terms of education, work, marriage, establishing livelihood and setting the new households as it need time, potential and financial support. However, young girls from the poor household cannot get time to do school homework’s, have a large work load domestically and out of the domestic work and so on.

### Religion

The community spends much time in religious activity since recent times. There are three types of religion including orthodox, protestant and Muslim, People are becoming more religious than the previous time and religious rule is getting very strict now. There is no tension between different religion followers.

### Politics

There is no relationship between government and young people in the community. Political activity is not that much significant in the community. She never heard any women and young association, federation and league in this Keble. There is no motivation to attract members and empower women. The Woreda never been supported the Keble in this regard.

### Inter-generational relations

She said there are differences between children and parents in many respects. She said the difference can be seen as a result of time gap. Young people are more active and open to accept new ideas than old people. Young people who have access to visit urban areas bring different way of wearing, speaking, and hair dressing style and so on. This is mostly rejected by the old people. She believes that there is no open discussion between young women and old people as old people remain conservative. The two generation faces a problem to get understand each other. She wishes if there was awareness creation program in the community to break the gaps and tie them together to work for development. She said, old people have their own knowledge to contribute to the community and young people as well.

## Rich female teenager 19

### Personal

She was born in Odaa Haroo Kebele in 1994 from the rich family, has graduated from Ambo TVET College in last year. Her mother’s died some years ago and she is living with her father, step mother and siblings. She was living in Ambo town in last year but she moved to her parents’ house since she graduated her college study since the last seven months. She said her old father is very strong and he is a model farmer in the community. The family depend on agriculture activity including farming and livestock product. She went to school because of her father and older brother motivation. Her older brother is working as the head of Woreda education bureau. Her father covered her educational fee until she finished her school. She didn’t face any serious illness and visited health centre. The total size of the household is ten excluding three of her brothers who set up their own household.

She covers every household work including making injera, washing clothes, fetching water, cleaning the house and the livestock yard by sharing with her sisters in the house. She also trades crops not regularly but sometimes to cover the household consumption. She sometimes sells banana, mango and to cover some of her personal demand like shoes, clothes and hair oil.

She thinks that it is very common to combine work and school especially for young female from poor house. She said there are many strong young girls in her village who strive to win life and make a better tomorrow. These people mostly combine work and education. They expect a better future depend on their education. However, she said, many young females are becoming discouraged when they see senior students like her. She said “I was an excellent student both at elementary and high school level but I couldn’t get the chance to join preparatory school”. Most students are not able to continue their education even in the private college because of financial limitations in the community. On the other hand, she said students like her who got the chance to attend her education at college level did not get a chance to work with their educational back ground in the community because of poor job opportunity. She said her father sends two of his daughters including her younger daughter to TVET College but they couldn’t access work so far. She said her sisters drop out from TVET College planning to go an Arab country. She said that she thinks the school current shift system is good for those students who combine work and education as they could allocate their time for both activities. She said it is also good for other students as it let them to study by setting study schedule. She said that she is interested in art and music. She is a follower of orthodox Christian church and she goes to church regularly. She said she doesn’t have any special activity in the church.

She never attends in any of political activities in the Kebele and she said she has poor knowledge of political issues. She used to play volley ball and athletics while she was in school. She does not belong to any of youth organization, association, league and federation. But there is a recent plan to establish a youth association in the community and she is selected among the facilitators in the community. She said “we had a meeting with the Kebele administration just one day to talk about the situation of young people in the community. The officials had promised to organize youth groups and support them to be involved in different activities to encourage economic empowerment of young people. But we couldn’t see any progress yet.” She spends time socializing with friends and neighbours in her village. She had many friends while she was in college. Most of her friends are female young people from school and from her village. She had a special boyfriend at school. She said she spends her time by covering the household domestic works. She was circumcised while she was six. She did not remember about it well. As she explained, she supports circumcision as it is girl’s dignity. She said” it is just old tradition; it protects girls from disrespect in the community”

She said that she has started her menstruation. She said she cannot call it harassment but she has been receiving a lot of requests for relationship since high school. She did not get married but she has a boyfriend. He has graduated from TVET College and he is looking for a job. Now he has returned back in the community and is supporting his family in agriculture work. She plans to marry him as soon as they find job or a better option to sustain their livelihood to set a household. She does not have a plan to live in the community. She wants to marry and live outside the community where she could build a better access for their life. As she said, she is processing to go to an Arab country and work for some years before marriage.

She doesn’t have any plans to continue her education. She plans to marry after two years stay in Arab country. She thinks that her father might get involved in her decision of with whom to get married because her father is very conservative. However, she has a hope to convince her father and get married to the husband she wants in the future. She said two children are enough to have if god blessed their livings. She said successful people in the community are her role models. She has a dream to have a better life in the near future.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

She said that, girls at her age have access to education. The early age girls can learn in the Kebele primary school up to grade 8, however; for secondary school they have to walk to Tibe town which is 5kms from the centre of the Keble. As she said, even though there is a good access of education for young girls at her age It will be challenging to continue up to the higher level. So, young people who stayed at school for about 10 and 12 years become dependent without having any benefit from their pervious educational background. She never heard anyone who joined university after earning the required score at high school level. She said, “Young people at my age are mostly dependent on their family unless and otherwise they forced to get married by the family or they decided to migrate to other places.” She said it is difficult for young girls to secure jobs and economic resources except those some women in who already engaged in non-farming activities and some agricultural labour during harvesting season.

### Combining work and education

 She says that young women in her age are engaged in domestic, school and money making activities like farming labour including weeding, harvesting and pity trade. She said there is no kind of work that pays well in the community. The farming work is 2 or 3 birr per hour. There is no danger in causing health problem to women involved in the activity. There are no alternatives or different kinds of work that young people could sort out and select. She said she doesn’t know the proportion of females at her age who are no longer in education. It is not common for young females to drop out of education for a while and return later. She said there is no work opportunity that helps young females to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the long-run unless young women formed a cooperative and engaged in some types of business activity. There are some people who have finished grade 10 but she doesn’t know 12 graduates who did not find work. However there are about 10 young female at her age who gradated form TVET college and did not access a job. They spend most of the time in domestic work. It is very common for girls from poor family to come work and education in the Kebele. As she said it is because they are expected to support their family and finance their school materials. She said there are no women she knows involved in ‘bad habits’ like drinking, chewing and smoking.

### Women’s issues

She said that government is not that much enforcing to stop female circumcision but it is prohibited officially. As she said most of the community members are doing the practice including important figures in the community are against government idea in relation to female circumcision.

She has no information whether the school provides any special facilities for girls who are menstruating. She said there is rape and abduction practice but it is has been decreasing through government intervention. She heard some cases of abduction recently happened in the Kebele but she doesn’t know any personally. There is a practice of abortion. Young girls go to Nekemt, Ambo to get the modern medical service for abortion but she thinks it has decreased as girls become beneficiary of contraceptive methods even before marriage in the community.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She argued that the time is very difficult to set up an independent household for young girls at her age. Young people cannot get land and work opportunity which is crucial to make a living. However, there are young girls at her age who have set up an independent household though things are difficult to lead the household. She mentioned that young people who set up a household have been engaged in sharecropping farming, on farm labour and non-farm activities in the Kebele to support their household. They get less paid and they support their family with the money. However, girls are more responsible in their household. For instance, they need to look after their new born children and so on.

### Getting married

As she said those young girls with the age of 16 and 17 can get married in the community. As she said the traditional age of marriage is not fixed but most people in the past married at 14. However, government has been set the legal age of marriage to be above 18 years old for both sexes. She said though it has changed a lot, parents are still involved in choosing marriage partners. She never heard there is a permission request of age of marriage to marry off girls. As she said parents influence in choosing their partners has been declining but still most old people are not happy to accept the change as they think it is just to disrespect them. There is no significant difference between girls from the poor and rich households in relation to marriage. However, a girl from poor household tends to marry earlier to solve her economic problem. Marriage is always disadvantage for women and advantage for male. She said the only advantage women get from marriage is children. She said marriage for young women is full of responsibilities and burden.

### Setting up an independent household

She said it is possible to set up an independent household only if they get job outside of the community or marry a man who owns farmland. However, these options are becoming very limited in the community. Girls need to be well educated at the university level to get job or have influential relatives who support the work opportunity to be available. Otherwise girls need to migrate especially to Arab country to get well paid in working as a domestic servant.

### Migrating

She said that she knows two young girls at her age that went to Arab countries dropping grade 10 schools looking a better life. Arab migration is become very important to set up a better life particularly for young people at her age. She said her neighbour, who is 22 years old, went to Kuwait before 2 years and she has already started sending remittances to her parents last year. Moreover, she has started saving some amount money by sending to her younger sister. She has a plan to return back to the community and establish some business. She has a vision to set up independent household after she returns back. She didn’t return back since she went. She has a regular connection with her family through the phone. She has changed her family a lot. They are living a better life in the community since she started sending them money. On the other hand, there is an also a girl who returned back from Arab migration in her village. As she said, the girl stayed in Dubai for about 10 months. She went their leaving her children to her parents in law including her husband. However, she gets returned back in order to give another birth. She said she migrated while she was pregnant. She said, she brought some money and she is now involved in trading butter, vegetables and egg. On the other hand, there are some girls; she knows who migrate to urban towns looking for a better life. As she said most of them are employed as a domestic servant and some in the cafeteria and restaurant but most of them are not successful as they don’t send money to relatives and some of them even bring back children after they give birth before marriage. These are very disadvantageous in the community as they loss their pervious status both at the family and community level. She said “domestic workers in the country are less respected in the community; they don’t send money and they don’t even change the clothes they had been worn while they were living in the community.”

### Living in the community

She explained that young girls at her age in this community face challenges in all aspects of their lives, including their health, education, and environment. These difficulties have often been made worse by the growing impact of lack of opportunity for higher education and work; these circumstances make them vulnerable to many economic and social pressures. The government hasn’t developed any strategies to provide services to assist these young people and the family could not have the capacity to send their children for private college and create job opportunity. As a result, most of the young women seek out to migrate to Arab countries otherwise to big towns as a house servant where they face different challenges. The government should provide a huge training on skilled activity that helps to establish independent life with young people as a whole.

### The economy

There is an overall change in the community. The community is becoming richer than the past two and three years ago. She said that, the agriculture product has been affected by the weather conditions and natural diseases since the last five years. However, people are changing in their living standards compared to the past. As she said, “I can say there is a promising change in attitude change in the community; everyone is striving and working for the better tomorrow even though natural recourses has been decreasing.” She said, may people have been changed just because of their effort. The other thing she mentioned was, opportunities like irrigation scheme and trading activates have brought a significant change in the community.

### Religion

There is a big difference in religious participation than the past. Young female at her age are more influenced by different religion. She is an orthodox Christian and she goes to church regularly. She said she is more attending church programs in the last three years. She said she is a choir in the church.

### Politics

There is no discussion, special training, advice with government officials ate the Kebele level. As she said women are not participating in political actives. There is no significant movement of political activity in the Kebele in general.

### Inter-generational relations

She explained that young people in her age and older people are living peacefully except some difficulties young female could face to convince her idea to her parents. As she said, old women are not willing to accept new changes including wearing style, speaking style and so on. However, there is no tension that could be considered as a problem in the community so far.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 19

### Personal

She is mid 19 years old lives with her parents including 7 siblings. All live in the household except one daughter who left the household because of marriage. Her older brother has graduated in cooperatives management with BA degree. He graduated from Nekemt University in the last three years. But he couldn’t find professional work. However, he is involved in the youth cooperatives on irrigation farming currently. She has a younger sister who has graduated grade 10 in last year. She said, her sister did not succeed to continue her education because of lower point she scored in her ECSLC exam. She also said her sister was not able to attend TVT College because of economic reason. Her father cannot afford to send her to private college or TVET. On the other hand, her father become upset after he saw two of his children become jobless while they have graduate from university or college. She said that the household economy has been declining since rain has become unpredictable. Now she is processing to go to Arab countries for domestic work.

The household's main livelihood is agriculture including farming and livestock production. She said that the family depend on traditional farming and livestock production. Compared to the last 5 years, she said, agriculture production has been decreasing due to the irregularity of rain in the area. She described the household as poor since the last five years. She has graduated in cooperatives management from Ambo micro college. She trained for the last two years paying 150 birr per month. It was her father who covered the school fee. But she couldn’t find work in the area and or other places.

As she said, she supports her family in doing domestic works such as making injera and wot, going to grain mill, fetching water, cleaning house and kitchen utensils, washing cloths and shopping household consumption. She never engages in farm work because she is responsible to manage the domestic work.

She has never been involved in income-generating works so far. As she explained, she has no health problem. In her opinion it is very difficult to combine work and school as it affects students to perform all school activities. However, there are many girls at her age who combine school; domestic work and income generating work by allocating time for each activity they are involved in. Most of the girls’ in the community are involved in trading onions and in daily labour during harvesting season. But young males are involved in selling fire wood and charcoal as well as being involved in daily labour activity. She appreciates the school shift program. She said it is important to many students as it help them to support their family both in domestic and income generating activities.

She is planning to go to an Arab country in order to get job. She applied for a passport before 3 months of this field work. She said she decided to leave the community as soon as she succeeds with the process. She said, it is very hard to establish independent household unless she was employed in government office. She said she doesn't have time to play with her friends as she covers every burden in the household. She explained she enjoys spiritual music. She is a member of choirs in protestant church. She goes to church every Sunday and she attend prayers group in some of the weekdays. She is not active in politics and in any sport activities. She doesn’t belong to any youth organization as there is no any youth organization in the Kebele. Though she is very busy to meet with friends, she spends time socializing with her friends while she goes to church and prayers group. Most of the time, they discuss with friends around church about different social issues particularly on spiritual issues.

As she mentioned, she has boyfriends. He is a high school teacher in kemise town, south shewa Amhara region. She was circumcised when she was seven years old. All of her sisters have been circumcised. As she said she appreciates circumcision as she thinks it is a beautiful culture for Oromo society. She mentioned that though there is government intervention, everyone in the community is practicing circumcision. She believes that it is shameful for girls to be uncircumcised.

She didn’t face any problem with menstruation. She says, “when I start to see my first menstruation I was six grade students. I was in school during my first experience. I just felt something new when it happens as it was my first time but had no pain. She never uses pads but she wears extra underwear and handmade prepared cotton cloths during her menstruation time. She said it has never affected her schooling. She has never been sexually harassed in her life. She is always answered men’s attitude and she tries to protect herself from any attack. She has a plan to marry her boyfriend after she returns from Arab country. She said she cannot marry without having her independent income source. Because of this, she wants to work at least for two years as a domestic worker in Arab country. Then she would like to be involved in some kind of business activity after she earns enough money.

She says even when she gets back from the Arab country, she doesn’t want to stay in the community. She wants to live in urban town as she has a plan to get involved in trading. If not she wants to go to kemise to live with her husband. As she said she wishes to get married in the next five years but her boyfriend wants to marry her in the next two years. She said no one knows about her relationship in the family. It’s been four years since she started the relationship. They have grown up in the same village and went to the same school. Moreover, they were the same choir members before he left for work. She said parent’s involvement in marriage arrangement has declined since recent time. Many girls start relationships either from elementary school or from high school. She said she want to give birth immediately after she got married. She wants to have 4 children two boys and two girls.

Though she never tough about her role model before, she feels her mother is a model in her life. She is very strong person as she was the one who takes every responsibility to bring up her children even with the hardest circumstances. She aspire changes in the community. She expects changes in agriculture activity. As there is a potential for irrigation scheme, the community could change the traditional farming system. She expects many people to use irrigation, high breed livestock production and modern agricultural technology in the near future. She also expects many women to be involved in trading and large scale business. As the Kebele is located near to the towns, she also expects many sops, tea rooms and local cafeterias. Besides this, she worries about the weather change. She said the rain situation may be the main reason that affects her dreams but she expects more intervention from government and NGOs.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

She mostly admires the education opportunity in the community. However, there is no work opportunity other than petty trade and daily labour during harvesting time for poor young girls. The rich family has the opportunity to send their children to private college or Arab country for domestic work. Early marriage and parents arranged marriage has become declining. These expand the opportunity for young girls to go to school. However, many young people left the community looking for a job either through the international migration or internal migration.

### Combining work and education

As she mentioned earlier, there is no job opportunity for young women her age in the community. As she said many young people have been involved in petty trade activities and seasonal farming labour. However, they support their family with the money they earn but some save the money for themselves. Above all, girls at her age take the main responsibility in domestic work. Young female collect money from pity trade. She said there are no young girls who got paid job in the community. In terms of job opportunity, she said that, most of them would like to have a professional job in government organization. Young girls at her age aspire either to go to Arab migration or get permanent job after school.

### Women’s issues

She mentioned that she doesn’t appreciate government intervention against female circumcision and this is true for majority of the people in the community including her friends at her age. She never heard anything about school provision in special facilities during menstruation. Abduction is still in practice but it is more on voluntary way than the forcing one as it was before. However, family become compliant about voluntary abduction as many daughters left the household dropping out from school. Parents prefer to send their children to migration than to marry off them in the community. She thinks that, although there are still rape incidents it is has been declining since the last five years. There are also pre-marital pregnancy and birth in the community. She mentioned there are girls who returned back from internal migration after they fell pregnant. Most of them tend to drop their children with their family back home. There are also abortion cases but most of them do it in modern and safeway. She dosen't know anyone but she hears people talking about it. She said there are girls at her age who did not marry but contraceptive method from health post. Young girls can get married from 15 to 20 through voluntary abduction. The legal age of marriage is 18 for both sexes.

She covers every domestic work in the house including making injera, cooking wot, cleaning, house, livestock yard and so on but the most activity she hates is using stone grinding to grained maize for injera/ Buko lenqeta.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

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### Getting married

According to her opinion, 14 and 15 is the youngest age of marriage that most young girls can get married in the community. She said the proportion of girls who get married at age has been decreasing since young girls start attending school. As she said young girls who are not doing well at education get married in earlier age between 15 -17 mostly when they fail ministry or grade 10. As far as she knows the young girls that perform poorly in their education get married earlier than girls who do well at their education. She said she there is government legislation to stop marriage below 18 in the community. People have been trained about the consequence of early mirage before few years ago, however, there is no enforcement from the Kebele. She said parent’s involvement in choosing partners is becoming insignificant than the past. She said there is no permission from the Woreda needed for girls get to get married. She said it is from 25 year old that most girls could start worry that they are too old to marry a good husband. Except much responsibility there is no disadvantage for women in marriage.

### Setting up an independent household

She said, some young women could be interested to marry a man with access to his own farmland. She doesn’t have friends who wish to be farmer’s wife. Young women are very interested to migrate or marry government employments. As she said many young females may want to marry old rich men. It is difficult to set up the proportion but there are many young women who want to marry men in the community who involved in other kinds of work. As she said there are no young women who are really interested in becoming the second wife in this community.

### Migrating

As she said, young people's demand on migration both at international and local level has been increasing. She knows two friends from her village who have migrated to Addis Ababa and Ambo in last two years. As she said, the girl who went to Addis Ababa returned back without any change and now she continued living in the community depending on trading as her livelihood income. The second girl, who went to Ambo was a waitress in the restaurant but she returned after she become pregnant during her stay in Ambo. She is now expecting to give birth in her family house. She also said she knows some girls who went to Arab countries and are sending remittances to their family.

### Living in the community

There is a change in the community. As she said the rich are becoming richer and the poor getting better. She said there is a change in terms of livelihoods. For instance, agriculture productivity is getting less and inputs price increasing. She said most of the community are still dependent on rain fed farming but a few have changed their life using irrigation farming. She thinks that there are no women who own farm land. She said “traditionally, women did not have access for land except it is a gift” she said the man has a full control over production in the household as women still ask permission to sell some crop in order to buy some household consumption. She said the difference she has observed between girls from poor and rich household are that the former one go in search of work to support her family and the second go to school up to college level. She said the rich access good food, clothes, full school materials and so on but this is not true for the girls from the poor household. She said girls from rich family could move everywhere to find better opportunities but this is not true for girls from the poor families since they cannot afford to finance their transport, mobile network and so on to communicate with people outside of the community concerning job access. The rich have a better access to establish an independent household than the poor. Girls from poor household may get married in their early age for economic purpose. She said young people are not interested to live in the community rather they want to go out from the community either for education or for search of work. She doesn’t know educated women at her age living as the second wife.

### The economy

The community is richer than the past two or three years. There are equal farming opportunities for women but major farming work is still covered by men. Involvement of women in other businesses have been increasing. There are no changes in migration into the community. There is a big difference among households and inequality is increasing with family who have irrigation land and those who receive remittance. There is a good change in education and women are more participating in primary education. There is no significant difference concerning education access but girls from the richer households get better support and time freedom to cover her school activates. Regarding to work differences, girls from poor household cover a lot of responsibilities both in the household and outside the domestic role i.e. necessarily involve in income generating activates. The young girls from the rich household has better opportunity an independent livelihood, better in getting married and setting up an independent household.

### Religion

There is significant difference in terms of religious participation in the community. As she said, there has been a wide conversion of one religion to another. As she said, in the past orthodox Christian has been dominate religion but now it has overtaken by protestant Christians. As she said most of the young people in the Kebele have become active followers of Protestantism. She said young people attentively participate every Sunday; house to house prayers group and choirs.

### Politics

She explained that political actives are not taking at Keble level especially that mobilizes women at her age. There is no government intervention to mobilize young people in the Kebele for development work. She said, she never heard of any training, advice and support to young people from the government. There is no recreation centre in the Kebele and young people especially boys are developing bad habits like chewing chat and drinking alcohol.

### Inter-generational relations

She said that there is no significant problem in relation between adolescent people and parents as well as elders. They live in cooperation one another. Parents support by sending their children to school in order to improve their future life depending on education and young people support their parents in domestic and off farm activates. However, she said, children and parents never discuss about personal and family issues.

## Poor female teenager 19

### Personal

She is in her late 19, lives with her father and her step mother. As she described her household she has 10 siblings. The family depend on agriculture activities both farming and livestock production. She mentioned that it was very hard to continue her education when she lost her biological mother. However, she said her father married another woman to support the household. It was because of her step mother she continued her school. As she said the family wealth status had been declining since her mother death. She mentioned weather conditions and labour loss is the major problems. As she said the household had owned 30 cattle in the last 12 years but they lost their cattle because of cattle disease and the remaining have been sold. She said farming production has been also decreasing time to time because of this the household farming product including red-pepper is declined in the community. Red-pepper had been the major income source for the family in the last few years. However, now their livelihood only depends on poor quality of maize crop production. She said the family have faced labour shortage which has brought a big impact on the household economy as her father started suffering from TB diseases in the last two years. As she said her older brothers are involved in the household farming labour in order to cope with the labour loss. She describes the current household wealth status as poor. The household cultivates maize and teff and sell maize to larger traders or in the market to buy household consumption. She has graduated from Ambo micro TVET College in cooperative management in last year. She said she was medium ranking student in her school life. She has been supporting the household in doing the domestic work including making injera, wot, washing clothes, cleaning house and kitchen utensil, cleaning the environment and so on in the last 12 months. She hasn't done any independent income generating work in the last 12 months. She said using the stone grinding mill to grind maize is very dangerous and a difficult task for her health. She suffers from heart attacks, kidney and headache from her early age. Her health problem disallows her from taking meals and drinks like water as she likes. She had gone to Addis Ababa to get medical treatment twice but she is not cured yet. She is taking medicine and it is helping her to improve her health. She said she never dropout from school but she had taken sick leave while she went to see doctor. She went to Ambo private college because she was not able to score good grade that help her to continue preparatory school. She studied her college education for two years. She paid school fee 150 per month for two years and it was covered by her father. She said her father was selling charcoal to send her to college. She never engaged in farming work as she doesn’t feel healthy. She couldn’t get job since she graduated.

She said she knows many young girls at her age including her friends who combine work and education. As she said most of them work during harvesting season on a daily farming labour. There are also some who are engaged in petty trading like selling onion and pepper. It is very hard for them as they don’t get time to study on their education. Beside this they are expected to help with the domestic work. She likes visiting her friends during her rest of her time but she doesn’t have rest of time. In addition to her household work, she helps her aunt’s household domestic work. She was good in athletics before she find the heart case. She won school competition when she was a grade 6 student at the Woreda level. She likes spiritual song and she is a choir member in the protestant church. She is active in her religion. She never participated in political activity, youth association, federation and league in the community. She spends time in socializing when she goes to church and visiting her friends in her rest of time. She said they just chat and have fun when they get together. She has one special friend since her earlier age. They went together to school and grown up in the same village. She just helps her step mother with the domestic work. She said her step mother is a very good person but sometimes she makes her feel bad. She said there is no major reason in between them but sometimes they quarrel for simple reasons. She said that she started menstruation when she was 14. She didn’t face any problem with her menstruation. She keeps her personal hygiene using pieces of fabric. She said never face sexual harassment. She did not get married but she has a boyfriend. He has graduated from TVET College. He is not working as he failed COC exam twice. They are in the same choir. She said nobody knows in her household about it. They went to Bako to have time together. She said she will marry him after two years back from Arab migration. She is planning to go to Arab country at the end of 2013. She already started processing the visa. She said she refused to have sexual relationship several times. However, he always insists her to have sexual relationship. She believes that their religion prohibits pre-marital sex and she needs to be protected until get married. She likes to have two children. She likes to have her own business like restaurant and cafeteria in the community. She wants to live in the community after she gets returned back.

She doesn’t have any plans to continue her education. She said likes Tirunesh Dibaba and she was her model while she was school girl. Her worry in the future is how to solve her economic problems. She said she has been worrying about her father and she would have taken him to get better health facility service if she got money. She said she want to solve the economic problem of her household; that is her hope.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

As she said primary and high school education are the good opportunity for young people but poverty is the major challenge that everybody faces in the community particularly young women.

### Combining work and education

As she mentioned poverty is the major problem that the majority of the community members suffer from in the Kebele. She said most of all women particularly young women are the ones exposed to carry the household burden. She said it is the young women who play a great role in covering the domestic activities; because of poverty she is also expected to make money for the house. Because of this young females especially from poor households are forced to combine education, domestic and income generating work. As she said many young people have been involved in trading onion and red-pepper as well as they participating in seasonal farming labour. She said weeding is the very difficult job for women as she spends the whole without food while they doing it. There is no sort of works that help the young women to generate independent income in the community. She said there are around 20 girls who become dependent on their household after they finished grade 10 and some like her TVET college. She said they just help the family domestic work, nothing else. She said there is no women she knows who involved in ‘bad habits”.

### Women’s issues

She said that she is against government intervention against female circumcision and this is true for majority of the people in the community including her friends at her age. She never heard anything about school provision in special facilities during menstruation. Rape and abduction has declined very much. She said abduction is still in practice but it is more voluntary way than the forcing one as it was before. However, families become compliant about voluntary abduction as many daughters left the household dropping out from school. She didn’t hear any recent cases in relation to rape. There are also pre-marital pregnancies and births in the community. As she said there are many girls who demand abortion by going Nekemt and Bako. However, it is in modern way as traditional practitioner decreased. She doesn’t know friends who got pre-marital pregnancy or abortion. She said there are girls at her age who are not married but utilize contraceptive method. They afraid to take from health post so as they buy from private pharmacies in Tibe or Bako. She doesn’t know the limited age of marriage but it is most common for young girls whose age is 15.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

As she said the possibility of a young woman setting up an independent household is difficult in the community. There is no opportunity for generating income source. The only work opportunity available in the community is farming daily labour during harvesting season and petty trade. People cannot make enough money to set up a household unless they have permanent income sources. So, women in the community cannot access opportunities to generate permanent income. On the other hand, she said, marriage and migration are other alternatives that young woman prefer to set up an independent household in the community. In general, she said, unless economic problems of the community become less, young people including young male and women are in trouble to setting up an independent household. So, she mentioned economic problems as a major barrier in the community.

### Getting married

She said 15 years old is the youngest age of marriage that most young girls can get married in the community. She said the proportion of girls who get married at this age has been decreasing in the last five years. As she said young girls who are not doing well at education get married in earlier age such as 14 and 15. Government legislation to stop marriage below 18 in the community is not that effective in the community as there is no continued campaign made by the Keble. She said parent’s involvement in choosing partners has decreased. She said there is no permission needed from the Woreda for girls get to get married so far; no age examination service in the community. As she said, parents are now more interested to send their daughter to school or to an Arab country than forcing them to get married. She said it is from 27 years old that most girls could start worry that they are too old to marry a good husband. There is no disadvantage in marriage; family is important.

### Setting up an independent household

As she said the possibility for young women to set up independent household is very rare. The major problem is the economic problem that makes rare the possibility of setting up an independent household. However, many young women get married even though the problem is still there. The new strategy young women moved as copping mechanism is migration to Arab country. There are many women in the community who already went out of the country to create the possibility of setting up an independent household. Bride and grooms depend on the husband’s family just for a while after marriage. Immediately after their honeymoon, couples start to live their house.

### Migrating

She has three uncles and two cousins who live in America. She said they migrated before fifty years. The first migrant won DV lottery. She said the first migrant attracted all the rest. Only one had returned in the community for visiting before 8 years. They send remittances for her father just for fertilizer and improved seed expense. Beside this, she said there are many Arab migrants in the community. Arab migration started in the last two years. There are around 25 young females who went to Arab country looking a better life. They have changing their households very much. Some have built a big tin roofed house in the community and one in Tibe town. She also said there are some who returned back and remain in the community. Among them one returned because of pregnancy and the other because she was not successful during her stay in the as she faced bad households.

### Living in the community

She said that that living in the community could be very difficult as there is no work. There is no opportunity for educated, graduated young women at all. There is no permanent or well-paid work. However, the community is very peaceful. She also said the community is becoming richer than the past. There are many households who are changing their livelihood income source and living status because of remittances and irrigation based farming.

She said that young people do not tend socialize in special groups. There is no religious based conflict. She knows about HIV/AIDs but she doesn’t know whether people are living with HIV/AIDs in the community. She said young people have sexual relation but not that much common. She said most of the young people could have sexual relationship with their girlfriends

### The economy

The community is becoming richer than in the past. There is better farming and non-farming opportunities for women than the past as they already start involving themselves and improving the household condition in the community. There is difference between girls from the poor and rich households in relation to marriage but girls from rich household have better chances to marry rich/farm owner husbands; opportunity in setting up an independent household is better for them. She said young girls from the poor household combine work and education which is very difficult job; they also cover majority of the domestic work.

Religion

She said community spends much time on religious activities. She doesn’t think there are people who are not interested in religious activity. There are three main religions in the community including protestant, orthodox and Muslim. She said there was a tension between Muslim and Protestant over the conversion of three young Muslims to Protestantism. However, it is resolved over a discussion.

### Politics

She said there is no a relationship between young women and government officials in the Kebele. There is no any massage that government has been giving to young women recently in the Kebele. There is no training and advice that has been provided from the Woreda to young women in the community. Generally, there is no any movement that the Kebele is working to empower women’s involvement in politics. There are no young women members of ruling party.

### Inter-generational relations

She said there is a big change in teenagers and parent’s relationship in their household. As she said in her households, Parents motivate the involvement of teenagers in decision making of the house. They give advice and plan about the teenager future together. Teenagers support their family in farming and household work. The good thing is the way of working together for a better life is which an important change in the community is. Her Younger sisters help their family in domestic sphere. There are no tension points in her household.