# Interviews with female teenagers in Oda Dawata, Tiyo wereda, Arssi

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## Rich female teenager 13

### Personal

She is living with her parents who have servants for both domestic (female) and farm (a boy). Most of her siblings left from the house because of job and education. Parents have 9 children; four males and five females including her. She is the youngest daughter or the last child of the household. The oldest brother is a medical doctor in Addis Ababa, and the youngest one is a teller at Assela Oromia union bank. The oldest daughter is government employer at Huruta (adjacent wereda) she married there, and other older one is attending in Jima University as second year student. The rest two older sisters are attending in Assela secondary high school at grade 12 and 11, respectively.

Her father is a farmer engaging on crop production and animal rearing. Her mother is a housewife however she engages on poultry, producing vegetables (red-root, carrot, cabbage, and local *gomen* and *kosta*), and participating on agricultural activities like caring for dairy cows and animal breeding. The household has six hectares of farm land, five oxen, six other cattle, two donkeys and 12 sheep. They also have iron roof house at Asella where two daughters who are living in. she is reluctant to describe the household as rich or middle.

Youngest brother and she are attending their education at Mecro primary school in grade 6 and 8, respectively. She is doing well in her class; she comes 1-6 rank in her class from grade1-8. In addition to the normal schedule class time she has an access to get tutorial class for three subjects (English, Maths and Physics). She pays 75 birr per month, 25 birr for a subject. She anticipates that she will be an engineer to build the renascence dam and she hopes this will be.

In the last 12 months she engaged on few and simple activities like washing house equipment, often went to mill for grinding maize (chicken feed). These activities are never conflicting with her education. In some of her rest time, she helps the domestic servant washing clothes and taking messages. She relaxes with friends by playing football at school and around her home, and also she likes to watch movies and various TV programs at home.

She participates only Friday ‘Juma’ praying and bowing program because she has not have time to participate on other programs. She said that, except few older males most of the Muslim community participate only one day (Friday) in a week unlike “Amhara” (Orthodox Christian) who have more holidays including the two weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

The only opportunity for 13 years old girls is education. Other opportunities are labour works which help the poor to survive.

Constraints: some girls from low economical background family may not concentrate on their education rather they are involved in wage labour. This affects their educational performance. That takes their schooling time, even they come to school they couldn’t able to attend actively because they are tired.

### Combining work and education

She said that girls at her age are not as busier in labour work than they are in education. Out of schooling time they help their mothers in home. She knows only two girls at her age who are involved in paid work: one of them is involved in vegetable (tomatoes, onion, cabbage, green pepper, etc.) and fruit (banana) trading at the local market. The other one is involved in making Areki. She thinks Areki production is dangerous for health as the work is very hard.

She is not busy with household work. She has enough time for education. Sometimes she engages in domestic activities with own interest. She thinks there is no work in the community which would be liked by young females. Poor girls are involves in daily labour as they have no choice for survival. However some young females are involved either in making Areki or engaging on daily work (flour factory, Kulumsa research institute or Assela construction work or on other farm/harvesting and weeding). This doesn’t help for establishing independent livelihood rather it important as means of income to arrange future plan either they go out to gulf or to other town.

She knows five females who completed grade 10 and 12, and then they continue to live with parents. They work in the flour factory and help their mothers in domestic works. She heard that some of them have planned to go to Middle East country. She didn’t know college or university graduate in the community.

Work load is affecting poor girls’ education. That they don’t have time to study and do homework they are also psychologically affected. There is support for very poor girls in the school that they have educational materials provided.

There are no bad habits developed by young females in the community.

### Women’s issues

Female circumcision is not an issue in the community. No one talks about it and no one practices it.

There is girls’ club in the school through which they get education about adolescent reproductive health. The members contribute 1 birr a month for sanitary towels. Ministration has not yet started for her. She didn’t observe any problem relating with menstruation on her friends and other girls. No sexual harassment or violence including rape and abduction in the community. She said that I heard from grand-and-parents that these things were common in the past.

Nobody became pregnant at her age, but a neighbouring young female who completed grade 10 gave birth before marriage in last year. Then she continued to live with her parents with her child.

She never heard about someone having an abortion. She doesn’t think girls before marriage use contraceptive.

Age doesn’t matter on educational performance other than economic factors. Even very poor girls eager to get marriage after completed primary school education. Because they are not able to continue high school education, lack of finance for house rent, food and educational materials.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

No one amongst her friends of her age would like to be farmer’s wife and but would like a man who is involved in other kinds of work in the community. No body at her age would likely to marry an old man. There is no young female (either friends or sisters or she know) who is the second wife or wife of old man.

There are no sisters and friends who wanted to migrate; her father and older sister dislike out migration. Even they never like to talk about it.

She knows young women at twenties who established independent livelihood. They were involved in the flour factory, trading and shopping at Assela. It is not as harder for poor girls to get husband with an independent livelihood. Because poor are hard worker, what males like such kinds of wives.

### Getting married

Girls may get married at 17; this is about 20% of community girls. This may be for poor girls because some of them using marriage as copping strategy. The majority of young females get married above 20 years old. Girls stayed long without marriage because of education, they may start to worry about to getting good husband if they are over 30.

She didn’t observe government intervention in early marriage (under 18) and no permission from wereda is needed in relation to girls’ marriage. Girls have right to choose their marriage partner but in some cases parents influence the continuity of their relation. Anyhow the final decision rests with the couple. Parents are involved in the process of the wedding ceremony.

The advantage of being married is to help each other improve their livelihood and also to get children.

Disadvantage of being married: if the husband may develop bad habit (having multi-sexual partner) this can cause for conflict. The serious conflict leads to divorce which is serious for children.

### Setting up an independent household

That is impossible to set up an independent household for young females before marriage in the community. But there are some young females who live in Assela by renting house to engage on labour works.

Young couples move to a separate house immediately after marriage. This has not difference for all either poor or rich.

### Migrating

Out-migration (international migration) of young women is common in the area. The numbers of migrants become increased from time to time. It is possible to migrate to Middle East countries from 16/17 age to adults women. Few girls were going to at different towns for education or seeking job where they have relatives there.

She knows a woman who returned back from Middle East after she stayed about four years. She constructed house at Assela where she engages in shopping. However she suffered with illness. The respondent doesn’t know about the details of returnee story and experience what she faced in abroad. She knows also another returnee from Middle East who came back with a burnt hand. Now she is living in Addis as she didn’t feel comfortable living in the community.

She has no plan to migrate.

### Living in the community

She likes in the community: social cooperation and collaboration at time of good or crises. They help each other in labour, cash and or in kind. The Muslim community is a peaceful people don’t drink alcohol and never steal others’ property. Because the Muslim religion forbidden doing bad things (‘Haram’). A cooperativeness of young people in religion and education becomes strong that youths are going to mosque together. And also students organised 1-5 group for help each other in their education. In addition to educational issues they discuss about their life. If one of members faced a problem they help him/her.

She dislikes drinking and theft.

The community is changing in all conditions as the influence of urban people and government intervention. For example HEWs have great contribution for sanitation. She thinks for next five years the community will be in better situation than it is now.

There is no conflict in the community but sometimes a minor conflict among those drinkers. The problem resolved among them.

She knows well about the causes of HIV/ADIS as she learns in the school. It transmitted with unsafe sexual intercourse; sharing sharp materials with the victim, if there is blood contact with victim, etc. are causes of HIV/ADIS. It is not a problem in the community.

### The economy

Some people in the community become wealthy through their hard working and some others remain the same as before two or three years ago. There is no specific farming opportunity for women.

When she compares the life’s of very rich girls with poor ones; concerning education the rich girls are more successful than poor. Because they can get a tutor, enough time for educational work and family encouragement. Poor are over loaded on household and paid work to support themselves and parents. Rich girls didn’t establish independent livelihood when they are living with parents. Both didn’t form independent household before either married or getting job. Poor girls are more likely to marry early than rich girls in order to seek support.

### Religion

There are three religions in Mecro: Muslim, Orthodox and Protestant. No problem among them even though they differ in the ways of their belief. That place of praying, time and method of fasting and other religious practices make them different. But in all other social relations has no difference among them. There is no conflict between either among religious leaders or ordinary people in the community.

Not all young females are interested in religion, it depends. She heard two young male went to Harar for religious education and some other preachers came from Bale and Harar to provide religious services.

It is difficult for different household members to belong to different religions unless someone who converts leaves the house.

During feasts (Arefa and Id-alfatir) people contribute in cash or in kind to support the poor.

### Politics

She has not participated in politics as there is no mobilization by local government. There is no relation between government and young females. It doesn’t give attention to women just farmers (men).

She heard about a youth league, the leader who involves organizing the young for sport. As a result both males and females could able to enjoy with engaging in playing football and volleyball in their school.

### Inter-generational relations

There is a good relations and interaction among household members. There is a great love among siblings and parents that they respect and support each other. Parents are able to understand and keep the interests’ of their children.

There is also good relation between old and young generation within the community. The Muslim religion has great role on the behaviour of young in that it forces them to obey and respect elders.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 13

### Personal

She is living with her mother and siblings. She has two older brothers and a younger sister. Her father died six years ago in 2006 after suffering with illness for about a year. The oldest brother attends at Assela TVET and the youngest one who learns at Kulumsa high school in grade 10. The youngest sister is attending at grade 7 with her in same school at Begejo primary school.

The respondents said that the household wealth status has declined since father’s death. Because brothers were busy in schooling so the farm land was rented for others. A lot of cattle were sold for children clothes and educational materials, etc. Now the household owned 3 hectare of farm land, pair of ox, a cow and chicken. As a result she described the household as “not poor, closer to middle”.

She is attending in Begejo primary school at grade 8. She is doing well and came in 2nd rank from her class in last semester. She has not ever dropped out of school. Out of school time she helps her mother in all domestic works, except making injera as her mother didn’t allow her to do so. Domestic works are: cooking wat, cleaning house, washing clothes, collecting fire wood and dung cakes. She also serves the household if her mother gets ill.

Moreover her mother is involved in making and selling local drinking (Areke and Tela) which is the main income source for the household. She engages in the preparation of those alcoholic drinks. Sometimes she is making baskets for household use. In last summer she engaged at construction work at Assela, call it “Commissar Construction” of condominium house. She and other five friends were engaged there for about a month excluding weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

Some peoples who are involved in building activities but at different construction project in Asella told them (her and her friends) about the work there. When her mother was at Mojo for holy water he decided herself to engage there. Her brothers were happy as the payment was better compared to others for example 12 birr/day at kulumsa. Even they were eager to get that work while they participated at malt factory 25 birr/day.

First the contractor paid about 125 birr for five days and then he told them their wage will be paid within 15 days. But at the end of a month the contractor told them he has not had money as there is a disagreement between him and the project owner. So he promised them he will pay after the problem is solved. They waited for his call for few months. But he left the area and the construction stopped till now.

She also participated in bean harvest in December, she and one of her friends took 1/4hectar of bean for harvesting by 60 birr as contract base. They have finished within three days and share 30birr each.

She hasn’t time for entertainment and relaxing. She said during free time she is involved in collecting dung cake from the fields and washing clothes with my friend. She likes these activities because she gets time to play and talk more with her friends.

She likes listening to radio in home and watching TV on Sundays in a neighbouring house. She is active participants in her religious activities. Regularly she follows Sunday praying program at church and also she engages on studies of religious song on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

Except, education there is no good opportunities for teenagers in the community. Some females at this age suffer with domestic work load.

### Combining work and education

Combining work and education is very hard for some females. Those who are the only daughters for the household or whose mothers have a problem engaging more domestic work. Some of young girls a little bit older than her age are involved in paid work. Such as: working on other farm land weeding, digging, harvesting, involved in construction work. And some others engage on petty craft work (making *dantel,* basket and different house dwellers).

Making Areki and digging farm land are dangerous for health, so young females prefer to be involved in petty craft work.

Some parents believe that the work load on females is important to control and reduce early sexual initiation. Therefore they don’t give time for rest and their education work.

Young females dropped out of education with different reasons: Maybe parents’ illness or death, pre-marriage pregnancy, to go to an Arab country and so on. There is not a tendency to go back to later for education. She knows only one girl who completed grade after completing her high school education she is living with her parents. She is involved in household work. She didn’t know anyone who had completed grade 12 or who had graduated from college in the community.

### Women’s issues

Female circumcision is a burning issue that no one talks about it because there are no problems related to it. She has seen her first menstruation in the last four months. She never felt bad when it came for first time, because she was aware before through girls club in the school. No rape and abduction in the area.

Abortion is not common but there was a rumour that a girl who completed grade 10 education went to Addis Ababa in the case of migration. When she came back people say she went for abortion instead of migration. Because there has been seen a big change on her physical appearance that she becomes very thin and so on.

She knows two young females who have got pregnant before marriage from household farm servants. Both dropped out from grade 8 in the last two years because of pre-marital pregnancy. Both have got a child and are living with their families. One is living with her brother as her mother died and her father lives in other place.

She knows a girl who is using contraceptive through buying from private health service.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young females didn’t want marry land owner to be farmers’ wife. But some problems forced them to marry such kind of men. For instance a girl who has no choice for getting job after she completed grade 10 or who dropped out because of financial problem, that she forced to marry a farmer.

No one among friends or relatives is to be a second wife for an older man. She didn’t think among friends will marry an old men in the future. Except a migrant, no one has married an old man in the area. A young woman came from other wereda, in Arssi zone, with her boyfriend when she was pregnant. Her friend rented a house here (Begejo) and he visited and helped her till she gave birth by commuting from his place. After she gave birth her friend stopped coming and then she married an old man (school guard). He is also a migrant.

Two girls from her class went to Arab countries in this year. Some girls from her class have planned to go to Middle East countries and some others want to finish their education. Some young females could able to support own selves through being involved in various daily works and making petty crafts and trading. They participate in making and selling Areki, fattening shoat and vegetable trading.

### Getting married

The youngest age for marriage is 18; about 10% of girls have married with this age. She didn’t know whether government interfere on girl’s marriage in relation to give permission. She heard people say; government ban girl’s marriage under 18, but girls rarely married under this age.

Relatively poor girls have got married early, if they couldn’t stay in with education. The wealth status doesn’t matter in terms of a girls' educational performance rather it is the girl's own interest in education.

The advantage of marriage is to help each other, to have children, it is also important to live with your lover forever. Sometimes marriage is disturbed by different causes and it can lead to divorce. That is the negative side/disadvantage of marriage. Means of livelihood or wealth is determined by who you marry.

### Setting up an independent household

Young females couldn’t establish an independent household before marriage. After marriage females form an independent household. No difference for both (rich and poor) to form independent household after marriage.

### Migrating

The rate of out-migrant becomes increase that every young female are interesting to go to Middle East. Even the number of out-migrant students has increased through time. As mentioned about two of her classmate went out to the gulf. She knows three females who live in Middle East for 6 and 7 years. Some of them are successful and living well after they returned to the community. A few of them faced different problems and are living in trouble.

One of the migrant is suffering with illness of mental problem. She has nothing when she came after a year. She is talking alone and trying to beat people, particularly she hates her mother.

Females also migrate to urban places within the country where they have relatives or where other people know them. Towns that females commonly go to are: Assela, Dukem, Mojo, Debreziyt, Nazareth, and others.

Her friends and she have not planned to go to Middle East rather they have planned to join higher education to be a medical doctor.

### Living in the community

She likes all things in the community. There is a change in the community that people become hard workers. Most of the community people are involved on daily labour to get additional income to improve their life. Unlike before all the children in the community get education access. Farmers can get better production because of government intervention. Because of HEWs people’s health condition become improved. In the next five years the community will be in better condition as well.

Young people socialise in school with their friends and classmates and in religion at church or around their place with neighbours. No conflict among this or other groups in the community.

She knows well about causes of HIV/AIDS as she learns in the school. There are some topic talks about HIV/ADIS in some subjects like civic, sport, geography and biology. She knows two people who were affected by HIV/AIDS, one of them are mother’s relative. She comes frequently from Kulumsa to discuss about their life and takes tablets. The second one is a man who was cured of HIV/AID by holy water then he has got a child from second marriage.

She said that it is common for young females having boyfriend after they completed primary full cycle education, but she doesn’t know whether they having sexual intercourse or not.

### The economy

Certainly the community become richer than it was before two or three years ago. Because of government intervention for agriculture and the change of people’s work habit, the community is in better condition. The agricultural intervention affected both men and women, however no special support for women.

When comparing the life of girls’ of very rich household with life of poor household: with regards to education the wealth status has not bring a significant difference on their performance. Even in some cases rich girls become careless about their education.

Poor girls suffer a lot with work load both for household and paid work to establish an independent livelihood. Rich girls are dependent on their parents’ wealth until they marry or get job. Difficult to say poor or rich girls have got early marriage, it depends.

### Religion

People have not spent much time for religious practices, except a few people. These are old, young people and priests who are busy with religious works. Most orthodox people participate only half day (Sunday morning) in a week. Some others participate only for religious ceremony (*Nigis*); one or two times in a year.

In the area (Begejo) there are two religions (orthodox and protestant).There are no conflicts between these two religious leaders and other ordinary people. The differences among those religions are: fasting system, orthodox believe in many saints and using holy water for treatment. Some young females are interested in religious practices. Currently religious education is given widely in different programs.

Younger preachers and singers are coming from Addis Ababa and other big towns within the last three months for religious services.

The Orthodox Church has played an important role in developing a good behaviour for youths.

### Politics

She said that “I didn’t observe any intervention was done by government for young females. So it is difficult to say something about the interaction between young women and government.”

She didn’t know about youth association/league and federation. She is not a party member and also she thinks other young people may not be party members because there is no political mobilization within the youth environment.

### Inter-generational relations

In the household there is good relation between her siblings and mother and also among each other. They respect each other and all the household members participate on household issues through discussion. Her brothers love and respect their mothers.

The old people have not good perception for teenagers and youngsters; particularly they dislike young males when they have seen them in group everywhere. They considered them as theft, etc.

## Poor female teenager 13

### Personal

She is living with her grandmother (mother’s mother) in Mecro. In the house there are her grandmother, uncle, a herder, and the respondent. She joined the household in 2010 as mother’s moved to Nazareth for work. She described the household as belongs to middle wealth family because her grandmother has 2 hectares of land, 2 cows and pair of oxen and 3 calves.

She is the last child of her parents. She didn’t know her father as they divorced when she was a child. When she asked her mother and any family member, they weren’t willing to tell her about her father. One day her mother gave her a warning that she must never again ask about her father. However she heard some information from neighbours that her father is belongs to Gurage ethnic group and he returned to his birth place just after divorce.

She has two sisters and a brother. The oldest sister works in Addis Ababa for other household as domestic servant, and the second one is also involved in domestic work in uncle's house in Debre-zeyit. Her brother is involved in private work (*Garag*) in Nazareth and lives with their mother. Her mother engages in laying cobblestones in Nazareth since 2010.

She was given to her god-mother in Aseela to live there when mother left the area. But she couldn’t live any longer with her godmother because she was over loaded with domestic works and had no time to attend education. In addition to this she has was beaten and not allowed to sit in the living room. Therefore she dropped out of education when she moved there. She has now moved to join this household.

She is the only child among her siblings who could attend education. All the others dropped out of school. She is attending school in grade 4. She is an average student in her education performance; she stands 8th last semester.

Here also she is very busy in domestic works as her grandmother getting old and she is regularly involved in making Areki. She engaged in all domestic works, except making injera, and also serving the household members. And also she engages in agricultural works (digging and weeding maize, harvesting pulses and tomatoes). She has no free time to enjoy herself except on Sunday morning. Sometimes she is going to church with grandmother, if there is someone the in the house to keeps it.

She likes making coffee because different issues are raised by neighbours for discussion during a coffee ceremony. So from the discussion she could understand different things that might be unclear, and any other new things. She is also keen to hear about her father's story.

Sometimes her uncle, who works at Gonde health clinic, helps her in education he gives her tuition and encourages her. She has planned to join higher education to get formal job, if she will get support from uncle, while she is hopeless on her mother and would never expect from her. One of her uncle who lives around Nazareth is involved in fattening cattle. He has promised her to support for her education. Therefore she has planned to move to Nazareth in next year to learn there.

One of her uncle is a protestant preacher at Assela where often she went there for weekend. When he insisted she convert her religion from orthodox to protestant. As a result she hates him and doesn’t want to go to there.

Her future plan: she wants to live in Nazareth after finishing higher education and getting a formal job. She would like to marry a man who has a formal job whether government or NGO. She would like to have two children a girl and a boy.

She worries about if uncles will stop their support then her plan will become dreamless.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

No good things for adolescent girls, except education. Daily labour may support young females, although the flour factory didn’t invite females when they needed more labour.

### Combining work and education

Adolescent girls at her age do not participate in paid work rather they help with household work. They are involved in all domestic and agricultural activities during their rest time. Young females are commonly involved in making Areki which is hard and dangerous for health. Nobody likes any kinds of work at her age, but because of parental pressure they are involved in all kinds of work, unless it may cause for child-parents conflict.

Adolescent girls drop out of school for different reasons. . Last year one of her friend dropped out of school because of mother’s death, and the second one when she moved to another place as she needed to support her relatives.

She participated in paid work last summer, digging holes for a school fence. She was paid 2 birr a hole; in total she got 100 birr in a month. She got that work because of her relative who was a school committee who informed her. This was her first time that she engaged in paid work.

Areki is important for young women to establish an independent livelihood for poor. It is difficult for the poor to combine education and work. She knows a living example; one of a young female who is older than her, she couldn’t participate in extra class schedule (make up and tutor). Even she has not time for study and doing homework.

She knows a young female who gave birth before marriage after she completed grade 12. She didn’t know females who had completed grade 10 or those who had graduated from college personally. But she heard that there are many young females went to other places and to the Middle East after they completed grade 10 and few of them stayed in the community with their parents.

Young females are not accustomed to bad habits, while young males developed them, like drinking, chewing chat and smoking.

### Women’s issues

No female circumcision. The school has not yet provided sanitary towels for menstruation. The girls have started to contribute cash for this purpose. She has not ever seen menstruation. She heard a rumour that a young female (not at her age) aborted at Addis Ababa when she has got pregnancy. Then she went to Middle East. There is no rape and abduction in the community. She didn’t know whether girls use contraception before marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Friends didn’t want to marry a farmer rather males are eager to marry land owning girls. Even urban males who want to marry farmer’s daughter it is for the sake of farm land. She knows a case of a young male from an urban area who married a land owning girl in the kebele. Adolescent girls and friends at her age who have not yet married. She didn’t know anyone who married an old man and thinks no one in the future likely to marry old man.

Both of her older sisters migrated to Addis Ababa and Debre-zeyit to be house servants. They dropped out of school from grade 8 and 7, respectively. One of her friends at 14 has planned to go to an Arab country if she gets permission from parents.

She knows in person of young females who making a living through trading crops and vegetables and making Areki. She thought it would be difficult for the poor to marry husbands who have an independent livelihood. Because economically better off people want to marry those who have an equal amount of wealth. However nowadays young females don’t worry about marriage, while there is an alternative opportunity that is migration to a Middle East country.

### Getting married

She has not enough information to respond marriage related issues. But she expects that 20 years is youngest age of girl’s marriage. The advantage of marriage is to be wealthy and have children, while divorce is the disadvantage of marriage.

### Setting up an independent household

Young women didn’t set up independent household in the community unless they were divorced or returnees (urban or abroad). After marriage both rich and poor couples could establish independent household soon.

### Migrating

International migration is common for females from 15. Because of international migration, emigration (within the nation) becomes reduced, the reason why is that there is better payment there. If they pay money for the broker (agency), migrants (international) can change their place of destination if it was not conformable to live there. It is possible to move to a maximum of three places in same country.

One of her friends and both of her sisters have planned to go to Middle East country in the near future.

She knows a female whose arm was burnt when came from an Arab country. She didn’t know about the detail. The other one who returned back after six years ago with a lot of clothes and house equipment and then she bought a house at Assela where she is living there and is involved in hairdressing.

She has no plans to go to an Arab country rather than joining higher education to get a formal job.

### Living in the community

She likes the improvement of facilities (tape water and electricity) in the community where it compared to other communities in the kebele. She likes also the weather condition which is favourable for health that there is no disease in the community.

She dislikes; the employer didn’t want to invite adolescent girls for labour work. They said that “we don’t want children for labour work”. Also the electrical energy isn't enough to watch TV during the night.

Generally there are changes in the community in all direction. So she expects the community in the future will be better than the current situation.

There is no a big conflict in the community, except minor conflicts among neighbouring women. That may be on children or livestock eating grains (*siti*), even chicken damaging vegetable, etc.

She knows how HIV/ADIS is transmitted and knows a young male who lives with HIV/ADIS.

### The economy

The community have improved their wealth from time to time through hard work and new farming technologies. There have been daily work opportunities for young and adults. With regards to labour work poor girls are loaded with both domestic and paid work. That has an effect on their education. Poor girls can make independent livelihoods more than rich one.

### Religion

People have not spent much time for religious practices. If they have time they go to church if they are busy they may not go. The few people, who have responsibility for religion practices, spend much time on it. The Muslim community does the same.

There are three religions (Muslim, Orthodox and Protestant). All are engaged in their religion activities. Some people are strict on religious practices and some others not. This is similar for all young and old people. Generally people become strict on their religions, while traditional believes are reduced. All people who belongs to those religions but there have been good relationships among them. No conflict among religious leaders and ordinary people in the community.

The difference among those religions: place that at which religious activities practiced, duration and types of fasting, dressing style when they go either to mosque or church.

### Politics

She didn’t have awareness about political participation in the community. Government has not supported young females.

### Inter-generational relations

In the household she is the only teenager, the rest are adult (uncles). There are good relations within the household members. She likes her uncle’s support with her education he is paying her tutor. She heard many old people blame the young generation in all aspects. They hate dressing and hair style, their work habits, having a boyfriend before marriage and the like.

## Rich female teenager 16

### Personal

She is living with her family; the household members are parents, younger brother, a herder and herself. One of her older sisters is married and the second older one is a teacher in adjacent wereda. One of her older brothers is attending college in department of accounting in Assela. He will finish in this year and the younger one is attending school in Akiya primary school in grade 6.

The main livelihood of the household is agricultural activities. They are involved in crop production, including vegetables and animal breeding. Mother participates both in domestic works and agricultural activities during peak time, father is involved full time in agricultural activities.

She is learning at grade 7 in Akiya primary school who came in 2nd rank in her class in last semester. Out of schooling time she helps mother in domestic works and during summer she is involved in vegetable production for the household. She has never been involved in paid work. She has enough time to be involved in educational works. She uses the library about 1-2 hours every week day for studying and doing homework.

During her free time she plays football with friends as she was included in the girls’ football club in this year. She is also a 1-5 group leader in her class so she organises the members to study together and to discuss about their lives. This is happens three days in a week where they meet in school in against shift.

She participates at every Friday in the prayer program in the mosque with friends and villagers. She successfully socialises with friends and other people in the village.

She has not participation in politics similarly other teenagers haven’t participation on it. Because there no mobilisation about that.

She wants to finish education to be a teacher at Assela because she doesn’t want to be too far from the family. She has plans to marry after joining this job and she'd prefer that her husband could have a similar with her job. She would like to have four children, two of each. She hopes that this could be happen as she has confidence on education. She does not worry about the future.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

An opportunity for adolescent girls is education through which their lives can become successful. There is also affirmative action and female equality through which they can benefit, if they use their legal rights. They can choose their marriage partner and can refuse family arranged husbands.

Problems for those adolescent girls are: unknowingly they enter in to sexual practices early, have got early marriage, school dropout, involvement in paid labour which does not bring a change in their life, migrating crossing out of the national boundary.

### Combining work and education

In Akiya adolescent girls at her age are not involved in paid work rather they are engaged in household works. They are involved in all domestic works and agricultural activities. Commonly potatoes are produced in the area and other vegetables are important as a source of income, adolescent girls are involved in this. Generally young females are not overloaded with work unlike Mecro and Begejo areas.

Some young females who slightly older are involved in petty trading, such as making baskets, in addition to domestic and agricultural works. Here combining work and education is not hard even for poor.

She knows two people who have completed grade 10, a girl and a boy, they are living with their parents and are involved in household work.

### Women’s issues

She knows well about adolescent reproductive health including all women’s issues. Because she is in the school and she talks with her older sister about the issues. She didn’t face any problem links with menstruation and same for other adolescent girls in her class. There is no female circumcision, abduction and rape.

In last year, one of young female (her classmate) but not at her age gave birth before marriage. Consequently, she dropped out of education from grade 6. Abortion is not common on the area. Girls don’t use contraceptive before marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young females are not interested in marrying a man with access to his own farm land instead they want to marry traders, teachers and those with formal government work. The reverse is true for young males who are very interested in marrying a girl whose parents have farm land. Among her friends no one wants to be a farmer's wife rather they want to join a higher education and University. She didn’t know any who married an old man. She didn’t expect that a young female will marry an old man to be second wife.

She knows only one young female who is involved in vegetable producing as her main livelihood. She participates on this activity throughout the year and during market days she is involved in trading vegetables.

### Getting married

15 years old is the youngest age for girls’ marriage in the area; about 2% of girls might be married at this age. This is for rich girls because males are eager for their parents’ wealth and therefore request early marriage and some parents agree with that. She mentioned her sister’s case, who married at 15 her parents’ marriage choice. Even if girls know their legal right, they respect their parents so that they do what parents want them to do. Other than creating awareness, practically the government didn’t intervene in the age of girls’ marriage.

She didn’t think age matters for educational performance rather the objective and strength of the students. No one among her friends is married.

The advantage of marriage is to have children and to get someone’s love.

Unplanned marriage and having more children with limited resources are the disadvantages of marriage because there may not be love and success in those households.

### Setting up an independent household

Young females have not ever formed an independent household in Akiya even if they making an independent livelihood. New couples establish an independent household just after the marriage. This is common for poor and rich.

### Migrating

Few young females were migrating to Dukem, Debre-zeyit, Nazareth, Assela, Addis Ababa, Mojo and others where there is relative there. They go there for education, to seek jobs and to get involved in domestic work. International migration is common for the kebele females that can go to Middle East from 18 years old.

She didn’t know in person who returned from the Middle East countries. But she has information about them that people say; some returnees are living well in the area through constructing house and building assets. Some others faced health problem where they were abused physically and psychologically.

No friends or sisters/relatives who went there. She has not planned to go Middle East country and same to her friends who didn’t want to go there.

### Living in the community

She likes in the community: the social institutions; there are different iddir in which people help each other. Among these she appreciates cattle and house iddir. If somebody’s house burn or ox died, the iddir members contribute money and also help him in labour. Women are also able to refuse polygamy and inheritance marriage.

She dislikes cattle theft because her father spent more time out side home in the night to keep livestock. She worries and is scared at night when she heard dogs bark. She also dislikes migration to Middle East countries.

There is a change in the community in all aspects of life. For example there is an improvement in health services, school, and agricultural practices and so on. She expects these will show more improvement for the future than current situation.

She knows the causes of HIV/ADIS; thus as unsafe sexual intercourse, blood contact and sharing sharp materials with the victims. HIV/ADIS is not a problem for the area that she didn’t know anybody who is living with HIV/ADIS.

### The economy

Through hard work and government intervention, people are becoming richer than two or three years ago. There is no government intervention for women and young people. When comparing the rich girls with poor ones; rich girls get married early because of parents influence. With regards to education wealth is not an influencing factor on the performance. The poor are more engaged in work as they secure in their livelihood.

### Religion

In Akiya almost all people are Muslim and there is no church. All people are interested in religion when they participate in the Juma prayer program on Friday. But some people whose house is far from the mosque couldn’t participate regularly on religious activities, on every Friday in a week. So it is impossible to say that those people are not interested in religion. There is no religious conflict in the area.

Sheiks came from other place for religious services. She didn’t have information whether people have gone to other place for religious purpose.

### Politics

Government has not done any for young women in the area. There are no political activities which are participated in by the young.

### Inter-generational relations

There are good relations and interactions between the household members. Siblings including her respect and obey their parents and the reverse is true. There is also good relation and interaction between young people and older people in the community.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 16

### Personal

She is living with parents; she is the third child of the household. She has two older brothers and two younger sisters. Agricultural activity is the livelihood of the household. Her mother is engaged in grain trading during harvesting season and at other times of the year she makes Areki. Another source of income for household is her father’s pension, he is an ex-soldier. She described the household as middle wealth family.

She is attending at grade 9 in Kulumsa secondary high school. She came in 3rd in last semester in her class. She has not ever dropped out of school. She engages in all domestic and agricultural work out of schooling time. Domestic works that she engaged in are: cooking food, washing clothes, cleaning house and its surroundings, and livestock yards, fetching water, collecting harvested crops, harvesting bean and weeding. She has never been involved in paid work. However she has enough time for educational work she participates in this work during her free time, just to help the household.

She wants to finish education and to be a medical Doctor. She knows a medical Doctor woman, who is her role model. She plays football with friends in the school. This is initiated by the youth league leader, who is mobilising girls at their school to get involved in football and volleyball playing. Her parents are not happy with that but she is interested to do sport. Parents want her to be focused only on her education rather than sports and they gave warnings that she should not involve in it again. So when she wants to go to play football at school, she told them to get permission as she going to studying, or calling by teacher for make up or tutor, etc.

She is active participant in her religion that she goes to church for every Sunday and sometimes goes for night program as the church is near home. In school, church and in the village she socialises with friends. She is 1-5 group leader at school in her class. They have three days in a week to study, discuss all other issues in relating to their life together.

She wants to live in Nazareth where she has aunt. She likes the hot weather conditions and has plan to marry, after finding a job, a man who will have a job similar to her own. She would like have two children, a girl and a boy to care well for them.

She hopes that she will be successful in her education; has no worries.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

Good opportunities for young females are: education, could engage in small enterprises, sport club, organizing themselves to involve on off farm activities.

Problems that young female might face: unplanned marriage cause for divorce, pre-marital pregnancy, migrated to gulf, no job opportunity, etc.

### Combining work and education

Some of young females are involving both paid and unpaid works. Unpaid work is household works like all domestic and agricultural works, while paid works like daily work at other farm lands, construction works, flour factory, and other income generating activities like Areki, trading of grains, vegetables, and petty trading of drinking and food items.

Making Areki, digging and loading stone are hard work and dangerous for health. There is enough daily work linked to agricultural and construction work but those are not successfully support their life as the payment is very little. Or it is not compatible to their energy and time.

She knows about 30% of females who dropped their education because of different reasons: migration, marriage, financial constraint and death of mother. There is not a tendency to re-joined school rather they see other alternative ways of life.

She knows about 10 young females who completed grade 10 and 12, college completed or dismissed from higher education. Some of them go here and there for seeking a job and some others have starting to live with the household by involving on paid and unpaid works.

Combining work with education is hard for poor girls. Girls at lower grade and younger age are doing well on education. When some girls join high school, they become careless on their education as they give attention for other things.

### Women’s issues

All young females including her friends are aware about the harmfulness of female circumcision through education. Now the practice is stopped due government intervention. The school has not yet provide the sanitary towel for females in the school but there is initiation to do that. She has not had problems related to menstruation; she takes care as she knows about it.

No rape and abduction in the community. No one among friends as become pregnant before marriage. But one of her classmate gave birth before marriage in last year. She dropped out of schooling from grade 8 because of this reason. There is a rumour about abortion but she didn’t know certainly.

She didn’t think girls would use contraceptive before marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Some young females drop out of school if they are hopeless in education or, when they want to marry a man who has land and quality house. Her friends don’t want to be farmers wife rather they eager to leave the place through their education. All of her friends are wishing to have formal job after finishing education.

In her place (Begejo) polygamy is not the culture of the orthodox people where they live in. Thus no one among friends and sisters/relative married older man as being second wife. Personally, she knows young females who are making the living. They involve on petty trading in home (selling Areki, Tela, Biscuit and some roasted grains).

Actually it is difficult for poor females to marry a husband with independent livelihood. Because in most cases marriage is happen between equal much of wealth or among similar social class.

### Getting married

18 years old is the youngest age for girl’s marriage. This is the effect of government intervention. Some of young female could marry at this age. It is difficult to generally say young females are/not doing well at this or that age because it depends on the individual pressure or personality: they may interest to marry or be involved in daily work or to go to Arabian country or because of any other problems they may be weaker at education. Poor girls are vulnerable to such kinds of things and they are likely to marry earlier than rich girls for economic survival.

Girls do not choose their marriage partner directly rather they are chosen by the man and there is also parents influence to do so. No permission is needed from the wereda for girls’ marriage. Young women have started to worry about getting a good husband once they are 25 years old. None of her friends are married.

The advantages of marriage are: to live successfully, having happier life, having children, having someone’s support in her life.

The disadvantage of marriage is: disagreement and conflict among couple that may lead to divorce. Nowadays divorce rate is increasing as the new couple enter to marriage emotionally. In some cases husbands develop bad habits after marriage again this is cause for conflict and divorce.

### Setting up an independent household

She knows a young female who established independent household and engaged in petty trading at home. Just after marriage the new couples can form their independent house. But they can help each other with parents-in law in all aspects of life. This is similar for both rich and poor households.

### Migrating

Currently migration to Arabian countries is very common for young females from 20 years old. They work there as domestic servants. Most of them have been successful in that they send remittances for their families who construct quality houses either in their area or in the nearest urban place. Thus they improve their life as well as their families’ life.

A few of them face serious problems and are suffering with psychological or physical health problems when they get back. One migrant female returned back within five months as she got a mental health problem. She does not plan to go back to Middle East counties. Same as her friends she is not interested in going there.

### Living in the community

She likes things in the community such as the HTPs (Harmful Traditional Practices) are stopped by government intervention. As the result females are being made aware about their legal rights. Those female children have got education access equally with boys. Divorced women could be able to share their properties including land.

Things she dislikes in the community: bad habits like theft and drinkers; often there is cattle theft in the area. One of the passengers was robbed by someone in the area in last month, but now the robber is in prison.

She knows the causes of HIV/ADIS because the issue is included in most of academic subjects through which they learn. One of her neighbours whose wife died, people said this person was a victim of HIV/AIDS. No problem with young people in the community in relation to HIV/AIDS. Young females may have special boyfriends but she didn’t know whether they have sexual relation or not.

### The economy

She thinks people in the community become richer than two or three years before. By using new farming technologies and through hard work their lives are improving. People engage more in on off farm activities such as fattening ox and sheep, poultry, trading and involving on vegetable production. Women’s participation on vegetable production and involvement in petty trading has increased. This is a good start for improving household life.

With regard to education wealth status doesn’t matter on educational performance even if the poor are involved more in labour work. They might get weaker on their education because of different reason. Poor have got early marriage. Rich girls delay marriage as they see alternative way of life on the same reason.

Few young poor girls have a tendency to establish an independent households and livelihood.

### Religion

There are two religions (few protestant and orthodox) in the area (Begejo). People have not spent much time doing religious activities other than a few people who have responsibility for religious issues. Generally people are more interesting for their religious beliefs; even if they don’t spent much time at church they keep all religious practices. That they can pray in home in front of Saint pictures, fasting well, etc. There are only few people who are careless when it comes to their religion.

There are good relations among those religious leaders and ordinary people. If a household member is out of the house, he/she can be involved in other religious beliefs but in the same house, that is difficult for different household members to be involved in different religions.

### Politics

The government didn’t do anything for young females. The local politics is not active that there is no any activities have done by local government leaders.

### Inter-generational relations

There is a good relationship among the household members. Some old people suspect the male youngsters when something is stolen in the community.

## Poor female teenager 16

### Personal

She is living with her grandparents (mother’s parents). She doesn’t know her father and mother migrated to Bahirdar for work in last year. She has only a younger brother whose father died; he is attending at grade 6 in Begejo primary school. He engages in loading at Gonde town out of schooling time. He also is living with her in their grandparents’ house. The livelihood of the household is grandfather’s pension who was a tractor driver as government employer in Asella. Grandmother is not involved at any income generating activities as she is getting older. One of her aunts is involved in daily labour at Kulumsa agriculture research institute to save money for transportation to Middle East. She dropped her education in last year from grade 9 as she was failed twice in same grade because she was very busy in daily work. The oldest aunt re-joined the household because of divorce. She has two children and both of them are not living with her, they are also living separately; the one with their grandparents and the other one with aunts’ of their father. She the aunt couldn’t get involved in any economic activities as she got TB last year. She has got medical treatment however she didn’t recover well.

She described her household as poor because they have not properties (land and livestock, except two sheep). All food consumptions are bought and the only income of the household is her grandfather’s pension.

She is attending at Kulumsa high school in grade 9. The school is a little bit far from home it takes about 30 minute for single trip. She commutes there on foot. When she was at Begejo primary school she got support from some NGO. She is not sure the name of the NGO but call it “OSHO” which has started from grade 1-8 provided educational materials (pen, exercise book and uniform). In the last year she was provided with a female sheep with kid. But now she couldn’t get any support as she moved to other school.

She didn’t participate on income generating activities. Out of school time she is involved in domestic work like washing clothes, cleaning house, cooking wat and fetching water. During peak agricultural activities, she helps her friend in weeding, digging and collecting harvest in return her friend buys some educational materials and serving food, etc.

During her free time she plays football with friends and her brother. At home often her youngest aunt creates jokes and talks when they get rest. She likes listening to religious songs and she was religious singer at church before. But she stopped to participating as she is shifting her role to engage in playing football. Previously she was actively participating in religious activities that she went twice (morning and night) in a day for praying and singing. Now she hasn’t time to engage in both activities. She thinks being involved in playing football will be future livelihood for her. Even she gives priority to sport over education that she hopes on it. She has planned to work hard by using full of her energy to be successful with football. Certainly she hopes this could be.

She was not circumcised and does not want to be. Circumcision is not an issue in the community. She said that there is no circumcision at all and she never heard anybody talking about it, it stopped in the past.

There is females’ army “Raya Durba” in school through which one birr a month is contributed from in last two months. The objective of this contribution will provide sanitary towel for female students. No sexual harassment or problems with relation to opposite sex everybody goes freely where ever.

She wants to be a football player and will live in Addis Ababa where she has relatives but she didn’t know them. She thinks when she will get marriage; after she will get job (will be football player). She would like to have two children a boy and a girl. No one wants to be farmers’ wives among her friends and others who she knows.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

There are not many opportunities for teenagers, except education. Girls at this age engage in household work both domestic and agricultural work. Some of poor girls are given to parents relative to learn there by working for them.

There are good opportunities for older adolescent girls; working on different constructions at different places. There are good work opportunities for young people. The young can participate there in loading stone, sand and all other construction materials. For example in Kulumsa a preparatory school is under construction and youngsters participate there. She thinks this is a good source of income for younger people rather than teenagers (11-15). Other good opportunities for those younger are: wage labour in Kulumsa agricultural research institute, improved seed duplication farm and off farm activities like making and selling Areke were mentioned as good work opportunities for younger girls.

Main problems; they face financial constraints to finish education or to improve their life.

### Combining work and education

She said that some of young females are engaged in both paid and unpaid work at home and outside home. Those girls are involved in all domestic works like cooking and serving food to the household members. Outside home they engaged in all agricultural activities even few are participating on harvesting crops.

They are involved on vegetable trading at market, making Areki, involving at Kulumsa and seed duplication enterprise farm to get income. They also work for others to get assistance from them, etc. Some young females are obliged to do more if their participation is necessary for household livelihood. For instance if a girl is the only oldest child for the household or if her parents are older, she should be expected to do more work to make money or serve the household members.

School dropout is not common at this age. Younger females involved in daily work at Kulumsa agricultural research institution and some others are engaged making Areke which is hard and bad for health.

Generally, combining work and education is very difficult for young females. Their educational performance becomes reduced and they are physically or psychologically affected.

### Women’s issues

No female circumcision in the area. The school has not provided any facilities for girls in relation to menstruation. It has planned to do and girls have stated to participate in some contribution. In relation to menstruation she never faces any problem in the school. This is the same for others.

No abortion, abduction and rape. A girl who has got pre-marital pregnancy in last year, she was in grade 9. After she gave birth her boyfriend took her and started to live together. She didn’t think girls use contraceptive before marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She said that I didn’t know about others but I don’t want to marry land owner and never want to be a farmer wife.

As mentioned above poor girls can establish an independent livelihood through engaging in different works. Some works commonly young females get involved in: government or individual farm land, construction work and petty trading (vegetables, food and drinking items).

### Getting married

About half of the community females married at 18, this is the youngest age of girls for marriage. The rich girls have got marriage at their early age compared to poor as males seek their parents’ wealth. Girls should be able to choose their marriage partner then the partners send elders to her parents. So the parents agree and start to prepare for weeding ceremony. She didn’t observe government intervention linked with girls’ early marriage.

At lower grade most females struggle to do well but when they joined high school, the education become hard. The media of instruction changed so that all subjects are given with international language. Then they become hopeless and have starting to find other alternatives so they either to go to Middle East or seek to marriage.

The advantage of marriage: to get children, to live in happiness life, to help each other.

The disadvantage: if your husband is a drinker, lazy (not hard worker), and beats his wife, the household becomes poor or remain poor. This is causes of disagreement and leads to divorce.

### Setting up an independent household

There is a possibility that young women can establish their independent household. She knows one living example; a young woman who came back from urban area, she engages on trading of local alcoholic drinking from her independent house.

Voluntarily, young females contribute in labour support for their mothers-in-law. But they live in an independent house. Things are different for women who are poor and rich after marriage. Poor women have to work for other households/parents-in-law to get either financial support or support in kind.

### Migrating

Female migration is very common in the area. They go in different towns of the country and outside the country (Middle East). They go within the country for education, job (formal and informal) and seeking of relative support.

Age doesn’t matter to go to Middle East that it is possible above 15 years to adult women who has four children. Most of them are engaged in domestic work and few others are involved in prostitution to get more money than a domestic servant.

Some of the migrants face different problems; consequently their physical and psychological heath is affected. A female who has got mental health problem (disorder), she is mad when she came back here. She is parental divorced daughter; the step-mother didn’t want to live with her. When she was taken to her mother, she never wants to see her mother. So now her sister took her at other place within the kebele. She and her family are in trouble.

However young women are interested to go there but she didn’t want to go to Middle East countries.

### Living in the community

She likes he community: the collaboration and cooperation at time of good and crises. They assist and help each other. She dislikes cattle theft, those who takes others property. Sometime they steal all the cattle which is dangerous for the owner.

There is a change in the community that internal roads are improved, new farm technologies introduced and everybody knows his/her legal right, etc. In the next five years the all the community members can get electricity and pure water access.

Young people are socialising themselves in different social issues such in school, religion and work places, and in neighbourhood.

She was aware of about HIV/AIDS causes through education in the school. HIV/AIDS is not a problem for young rather than adults. She knows two women who use PMTC.

### The economy

The community has become richer than two or three years ago. Now people have become hard workers, a farmer uses new technologies to improve his/her product. In addition to this they are engaged in daily work during rest time. Women who have money can rent farm land. She knows a female who rents farm land by engaging in daily work. Women could able to engage on different off farm activities (trading in home and in market, etc.) and daily work.

The rich girls have more time for education so they are more successful than poor. Poor girls are busy in paid and unpaid work. Rich girls are more likely to establish independent livelihood and households. In most cases rich girls have got early marriage when compared with poor one.

### Religion

There are three religions (Muslim, orthodox and protestant); people within these religions have good relations and interaction. All people are interested in their religion, while a difference in frequent participation in religious activities. The difference between the religions are: Muslim don’t eat orthodox meat and vice versa, way of believing practices are different among those different religion.

There is regular religious conference within two/three months that preachers and singers come from Addis Ababa. There are mysterious holy waters at Mojo and Shinkuru Mikael people go there for health treatment.

### Politics

She said that the government didn’t do anything for young women. She didn’t have political participation as no mobilization by local government. She knew only the youth league leader who encouraged young girls and boys to participate in sport at their school.

### Inter-generational relations

There is a good relationship between household members and there is a good relationship among young and old generation in the community.

## Rich female teenager 19

### Personal

She is living with parents; they have seven children; four females and three males. The oldest sister is living in Dubai and oldest brother is a surveyor who is living around Addis Ababa for this work. Agriculture is the main livelihood of the household. All the family members are involved in agricultural works, both livestock rearing and crop production.

She describes the household as middle wealth family; it owns 3hactares of farm land, 3 pairs of oxen, 3 dairy cow, 14 sheep and other properties.

She is attending in grade 10 at Kulumsa secondary high school. She has never dropped out of education. She takes 11th rank in the last semester in her class. She participates in all domestic and agricultural works. These didn’t affect her education because she is involved out of schooling time. Sometimes helps her mother in making Areki. She has never been involved in paid work and same for all other household members have never been involved in daily work as they have not time for all the household works. Rather the household hired more than one farm servant during peak agricultural time.

During rest time, she likes to listening religious songs, watching movies and sometimes listening to music. She has her own reading room where she studies with friends or alone. She is active participants in religious activities that she involves on every Sunday praying program and fasting as well. She was interesting to be an athlete and she attempted to run, but parents’ were not happy and decided to stop it. They want her to be academically successful. Then she accepted their idea and is struggling to be.

She has not participated on political issues and there is no initiation by local government. There are no youth associations functional in the area.

She has planned to be a medical Doctor through hard working on education. She wants to live in Adama and has a plan to marry after joining this job. She would like a man, to be her husband, who has a job similar to hers so they can help and understand each other. She wants to have two children, a boy and a girl.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

Opportunities for those young female; if they fail in education, better to engage on: fattening sheep because there is available feed (grazing land, Atela, crop residue, etc.), vegetable production, daily work in flour factory, marketing activities and petty trading are suggested as good opportunities.

Problems: unavailability of credit access, lack of resource (land, money, awareness), school dropout, pre-marital pregnancy, etc.

### Combining work and education

Some of young females are involved in different household works and paid work. Trading is better for income source than other activities but they have not engaged more on it as lack of finance and awareness. A few young females dropped out of school for different reasons. She knows two females who dropped out of education; one of them is to be involved in daily work and the other one was hired by others as a domestic servant in Assela. None of them return to education.

In 2010 her older sister and her friend were completed grade 10. Then her sister went to Dubai, while sister’s friend is living with family in involving on household works. Similarly there is a girl who is living with her mother after completed grade 12 in last year.

It is difficult to combining work and education for poor girls that they need to spent much time for paid and unpaid work for household livelihood.

### Women’s issues

No female circumcision. She has not faced any problems related to menstruation as she has been aware before. The school has not yet provided any special facilities for girls. It is in the process to provide sanitary towel for girls. No rape and abduction. In this year one of the girls from her class dropped her education because of pre-marital pregnancy. She has not information about abortion. Girls didn’t use contraceptive officially but they may use it buying from private health service.

One of the poor girls, who is not her friend, married a widowed older man. She is school dropout from grade 6 because of lack of financial support. She never expected young females will marry an old man in the future.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Currently, all young males don't have their own land. They may have access through parental gift or renting or sharing of farm land. Anyhow land possession is not a criterion for selection of husband rather the strength and objective of him.

None of friends want to be farmers’ wife instead they want formal jobs.

### Getting married

About 30% of young female married at 17 years old which is the youngest age for girl’s marriage. Beyond 17 years old girls who have not basic knowledge with their education, they become hopeless on education and start to think of other alternatives. However age has not matter for education work rather their basic knowledge and interest.

Government has not been involved giving permission for girls’ marriage. But it creates awareness about women’s legal right through which girls have benefited. To some extent girls could choose their marriage partner even the final decision is set by their parents. None of her friends married but some other young females at her age are married.

The advantage of marriage: it is important to help each other, to be wealthy, to have children. If there might be a disagreement between couples that cause for disturbance and stress of household members and finally it may end up in divorce. This is the disadvantage of marriage.

There are few young females who are making a living she knows two of them who are involved in daily work to establishing an independent livelihood.

### Setting up an independent household

She didn’t know a young female who establish an independent household before marriage. But she thinks there may be a possibility to form an independent household if they left the area. Now a new couple doesn’t live with parents whether they are poor or rich, they separate their house just after marriage.

### Migrating

International migration (Middle East) is very common for young women. They can go there from 15 years old. In addition to this, a few of them are migrating within the country to different towns from the nearest (Gonde) to farthest (Bahir-dar and Gonder). They migrating for different reasons to seek jobs, to get support from relatives, etc. Those who migrate within the country are poor as they have not have money. So some of them who migrate within the country do so to make money for transportation to the Middle East.

One of a young woman who returned back from Arab in last summer within short period of time (six months) because of she has got health problem. There is no change in the household life and also she suffered a kidney infection.

She has two children who were cared by mother-in-law when she was there.

Her older sister went to Dubai in last year after she completed grade 10 education. She is living well and sending remittance to parents. Her parents plan to construct a house in Assela for her.

The respondent has no plans to go to Middle East, but one of her friends has plans to go to the Gulf in the near future. She is not well doing in her education and hopeless on it.

### Living in the community

She likes what is living in the community: there is strong relation among different religions even if they have different beliefs. They have good cooperation and collaboration at times of good or crises. People become active for new things, specifically for agricultural technologies. The weather condition is favourable for health, crop production and animal rearing. She dislikes nothing that exists in the community.

There is a change particularly links with agricultural activities, health services (both preventive and curative), infrastructures and so on. In the next five years the area will have urban style way of life. Because there will be more remittances from abroad. There will new technologies that will make labour easier both for domestic and agricultural work.

Her parents’ never worry about her rather they hope on her education.

She has awareness about the causes of HIV/AIDS as she learnt in the school the issue is included under different subjects. Commonly the causes of HIV/AIDS are unsafe sexual intercourse, sharing sharp materials, blood contact, during pregnancy, etc.

She knows two young males who are living with HIV/AIDS but they are not in the kebele. They are living at Kulumsa. They are completed grade 10 and are involved in daily work.

### The economy

Certainly she said that the people are becoming richer than two or three years before. Because of new agricultural technologies and hard work. Women are highly involved in vegetable producing and petty trading. Some of them could have credit access to involve on off farm activities. As a result they engage on fattening sheep, use for input price and even for renting land.

Poor girls are busy with domestic and agricultural works and some of them are also engaged in labour works. This has a significant effect on educational performance. Poor girls have a tendency to establish independent livelihoods and they have got married early compared to rich girls. Marriage is used as a coping strategy for some poor women.

### Religion

There may few people like religious leaders who spent much time for religious activities. Other people, even they are interesting in religion, they didn’t spent time more than one day in a week (Muslim use Friday and Orthodox and protestant only Sunday). Some young are interesting and some others not as such strict. However people are generally stricter for religion than before because religious teaching is given by various religious professionals. Preachers and singers are coming from big towns and Addis Ababa for religious services.

There are good relations and interactions among those people who are belong to different religions. The differences are: the ceremonies or practices run in the church or mosque protestant church are different. Muslim didn’t eat meat that is slaughtered by Amhara and vice versa, there is a difference in fasting. Protestants don’t participate at iddir with the rest two religions.

A priest came from Amhara region. The Orthodox Church has contribution for good manner or good behaviour for younger generation. It forbids all bad things, practices, through teaching and advising that people have to develop good things like interdependence, tolerance and to be hard worker for community development. In addition to this it keeps the natural resources like holy water and forests around church and holy waters.

### Politics

There is no as such relation between government and young women as there is no government intervention for young girls. Generally young women are excluded from political participation. There are no mass associations which enable youths to participate in politics.

### Inter-generational relations

There are good relationships among the household members. The young people obey and respect older people in the home and in the community. When she heard some oldest people blame the younger generations in relation to their behaviours.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 19

### Personal

She is formed own household through marriage in last three years. So she is living with husband and a daughter. She dropped education because of marriage from grade 9 in the last two years. When she was grade 8 student, she married with own choice. Because of mother’s death a lot of works were over loaded on her shoulders so to escape the work burden she preferred to marry. Unfortunately she couldn’t attend her education because of similar problem. When she joined in grade nine at Kulumsa secondary high school that she needed more time to commute from home to there or she needed to stay there. And she travelled long distances as it's about 12km away. But she couldn’t do either one of the two because her husband needs her all day to serve food at time of breakfast, lunch and she has to make coffee for socialization with parents-in law. She tried commuting to school for a few months but that was very difficult time for her because husband and his family were not happy with that. Moreover she was getting tired to involve on domestic works as she was pregnant. Therefore she was forced to drop out of education.

In the last 12 months she engaged in all domestic works and agricultural activities. Thus as livestock breeding, poultry, fattening sheep and she is also involved in petty trading in the home like buying and selling soap, cigarettes, salt, sugar, coffee, tea, candy, and some little things. She initiated to get involved at this activity as there was nobody else doing it. And so she couldn’t get those things when she wanted. She couldn’t guess how much she did the profit from this activity, because she uses it for the household consumption.

She does not have rest time when she has finished her work she gives time to her daughter. She has a friend who is her neighbour with whom shares coffee ceremonies. Her friend keeps her daughter when she goes to market, grain mill or for any social participation. When she has time she likes to play with her daughter or talk with her friend. She has a radio and she likes to listen about family planning and drama. She has not participation in any mass association in relation to politics, as there is none in the community.

The future plan: she plans to go to Riyad in the near future. She is waiting for a visa as she finished the whole process at Addis Ababa. Two of husband’s sister are living there (Riyad), the older one has sent 40,000 birr in a year and the younger who has not yet as she went in last month.

She has been told that she can stay there only 2 years and 45 days then she has to come back. She wants to construct house in Itiya and then wants to give birth to a boy after she returns from Riyad.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

Opportunities for young females are: migrating to Middle East, accessing credit through parents, trading and fattening sheep.

Problems: illiterate female, having more children, lack of land, conflict with husband as husband involved in multi-sexual intercourse, unplanned marriage and unwanted pregnancy, etc.

### Combining work and education

Combining work and education is very difficult for some young females, particularly for poor girls. Engaging in harvesting potatoes is better paid that is from 20-50 birr in a day. Young females prefer to work in the flour factory and planting or sowing seed at Kulumsa agricultural institute. About 10% of young females have not stay longer in education because of marriage or seeking other alternative ways of life. Her husband’s brother married a girl who had completed grade 10 and her neighbour completed grade 12 and then has married a farmer. She didn’t know college graduated young females other than males.

### Women’s issues

No female circumcision, rape and abduction in the kebele. The school didn’t provide any special facilities for girls when she was there. She never faced any problems related to menstruation in the school or out of school. None of friends had pre-marital pregnancies, even there is no female giving birth before marriage in the area (Chebote). She said about contraceptive “what does it do for girls before marriage”. She also has no information about abortion.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

About 40% of young females want to marry a man who has land. Three of her friends married farmers and two of them have now joined private colleges. None of friends and other young females married older man as a second wife. And she doesn’t expect young females will marry an older man in the future. One of younger sisters is joining a private college in Bale.

She is on the way to go to Middle East with one of her neighbors. Now young females in their twenties who don’t want to stay in the area doing daily work rather they look for alternative ways of life. They prefer to either to go to Middle East or get married, or go to other town.

Of course it is difficult for the poor to get married to a man who has an independent livelihood. Because marriage commonly happens between the wealthy. In some cases rich girls get married early as young men seek to marry land owning girls.

### Getting married

Girls can marry from 15 years old, if the marriage is arranged by the family. About 10% of girls have married at this age. No government intervention on this. She said that I know under 18 marriage is not allowed by legal law but in practice government don't intervene on this issue. Local government is not involved in giving permission for girl’s marriage. But currently, because of education girls’ marriage is delayed. Even if there is family’s interference, they could choose their marriage partner.

Young females have starting to worry about getting a good husband from 25 because they have already finished education at all levels or they looked all other alternatives.

The advantage of marriage is to support each other, to have children. The disadvantages, there may have a disagreement because of different reasons.

### Setting up an independent household

For young female it is difficult to establish independent household before marriage in the community. It may possible if young females engage on daily works in urban areas and they need to rent a house there. New couples are separate their home immediately after marriage. This is similar for all wealth status to form an independent household after marriage.

### Migrating

International migration is very common for the area with young females going to Middle East countries from age of 16. Previously young females were migrating to different towns within the country for various reasons. But now all are shifting to migrate to Middle East country because there is a better payment.

As mentioned above she is waiting for visa to go to Riyad with her neighbour. Both of husband’s sisters are living well there where they are involved in domestic work. She knows one of a young female who was returned back from Qauyet after two years because her employer’s baby was taken by their neighbour without the knowledge of his mother. Therefore she was been send back to Ethiopia by her employer. But after she arrived here, she asked to back again by phone as she knew that was not her mistake. But they refused that she returned.

She has two children and husband; her mother-in law cared her children when she was there. Her husband’s has constructed a good house and bought many cattle by the remittance. Now they live well.

### Living in the community

She likes in the community: there is a good soil fertility which enables people to get good production from small parcel of land. Weather conditions are also favourable for all (health and making a living). But there is no pure drinking water, electricity all over Chebote sub-kebele. She has to travel a long distance to fetch water from spring where there is a queue. During winter season the volume of spring water decreases and she has to go further to Kulumsa River to wash clothes and fetch water. The river is distant and sloppy. Even the road is constructed, there is not transport access. It also damaged by flood. There is also potatoes theft what she hates in the area. They steal it over the night.

However there is a change in the community through hard work. In the next five years there will better improvement.

Young people socialise with their friends in the school, village and at places of work and where religious activities are practiced. There is no any conflict among them.

She knows the causes of HIV/AIDS and it is not a problem for Chebote people.

### The economy

The community is richer than before because young people are very active in using new technologies to improve agricultural activities. They use natural fertiliser, improved seeds. As a result they production has increased as two or three fold than before. This is similar for young women but the government didn’t provide any special support to young females. Females have started being engaged more on poultry, fattening sheep, vegetable production and petty trading and they are also involved in cross-breeding cattle.

With regards to educational performance it depends on the objective and strength of the female. Some rich girls become carless even if though they have more time and get educational support. There also cases of rich girls who have to marry earlier than poor girls. Similarly some poor girls married earlier as they use marriage as a copping mechanism. Concerning work load, poor girls are overloaded with all domestic, agricultural and paid work. Few of them can establish an independent livelihood but it is difficult to form independent household before marriage.

### Religion

In Chebote there are only a few Amhara and Muslims. There is no church in the area. Muslims participate in religious activities at mosque for a day (Friday) each week. That mean people have not spent much time for religious activities. She thinks Amhara people might spend more time for religion purpose because they have many Saints and holidays that they have to engage in.

All people are interested in their religion but the difference is: that some have time to be involved in religious activities and others may not have time for that. She mentioned an example of herself - she is interested in her religion but because of lack of time and the mosque being far from home, she doesn’t participate in religious activities in the mosque.

There is no conflict among different religious leaders and ordinary people. She heard Imams who learnt in an Arab country who were coming to provide religious services but they did not stay long. Another sheik came from another place to teach the Quran.

### Politics

The government have strong attachment with farmers rather than women and young people. Young people in general, females in particular have not got any support from government. No mobilization for politics.

### Inter-generational relations

There are no teenagers in the household, however there are good relations and interaction between young and old generation. They respect each other.

## Poor female teenager 19

### Personal

She is living with grandparents (mother’s parent). There are grandparents, uncle and her younger sister in the household. She is the third child of her parents who have five, a son and four daughters including her. Because of divorce the household are dissolved and all household members are living separately.

The respondent didn’t feel comfortable to talk more about the situation of divorce in detail. She didn’t know about her father and older sister where they are live after the divorce. Only certainly she knows that they are not living together. One of the younger sisters is living in aunt’s house at another place. A brother works on a car as driver supporter *(Redat*). Her mother went to Middle East country in the last months.

She describes the household as middle wealth family as they own land, cattle and have an iron sheet house. Agriculture is the main livelihood of the household that they engage on mixed agricultural practices, producing vegetables (coffee, Gesho, chat and cabbages and onion). These are used for both consumption and as a source of income.

She is attending at grade 9 in Kulumsa secondary high school. In lower class (1-8) she came in 1-5 rank from her class. But in this year (first semester) she is 15th in class. The reason why, the subjects become difficult to understand as media of instruction has changed to the English language. She has never dropped out of school.

In the last year she participated in all domestic, agricultural and paid works. Concerning to domestic works she engaged on cooking and serving food to household members. In addition to this she helped grandmother in making Areki. Agricultural work that she involved in: digging and weeding vegetables, collecting harvest and cleaning livestock yards. She is also involved in paid work in the agricultural institute centre weeding and digging crops. She knows the research institute time schedule when they want to employ labourers, she can join the work if she is interested. Payment is depends on work performance - for weeding they pay according to the number of rows. Generally she has been paid 8-20 birr a day and in total she made 216 birr a month. She is involved only for two months in the summer. She used the money for her clothes and educational expenses. At other times she is busy doing household work and combining this with her education. Particularly, this year she is very busy as she attends school by commuting on foot a distance of 12 km.

Digging is hard work and may cause stomach-ache. Making Areki is dangerous you’re your health; it can cause eye pain, changes the colour of face (*Madyat*) and heart problems. But she isn’t affected by any one of them.

During free time she plays football as she is one of girls’ club football players for Mecro. In the last two weeks she participated in a meeting related to this sport about two days at the wereda. The wereda provided sport clothes (linen) and four balls, and gives moral support to improve this sport. She has been paid allowance for such meeting that is about 50 birr a day.

In addition to football playing, she likes listening music and going to church when there is special program. Most of the time, she spends with friends in and out of school.

She attempts to doing well in both sport and education. If she could be join higher education, she wants to be a medical doctor or a football player. She wants to live in Addis Ababa and she wants to marry after she will be successful with her plan. She would like to have two children, a girl and a boy.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

Opportunities for young female in the community: the area has a potential for agricultural activities. It has also has good weather conditions and animal feed to enable people to be involved in dairy cow breeding to improve the dairy product. On the other hand the weather condition is available for participating on bee keeping.

Problems: the government doesn’t encourage young women to get involved in different activities. No credit facilitation arranged by government for young females. There is no initiation to form cooperative associations among young female. That means no job opportunity. No good husband for young females, as a result they prefer to go to Arab countries rather than marry landless daily labourers.

### Combining work and education

All young females at her age are involved in making Areki, daily work on others farm land, including the household works both domestic and agricultural works. Making Areki has better profit than other activities but it is hard and more dangerous for health which affects the heart, face and eyes and can cause pneumonia. Particularly this is common if someone is frequently involved in it. Digging and making dung cakes are also not good for health.

As a whole, combining education with work is more difficult for females, particularly for poor. Because they need to make money for own and in some cases for support the household. About 10% of female students, who dropped their education to go to Middle East and for seeking any other job within the country. May be about 2% of them are return back to school. Really it is difficult to combine work with education for poor. Rich girls are attending school and living in town, while poor girls by commuting on foot with a long distance.

There is no good work in the community that helps the young female to establish independent livelihood in the long run. She knows two young female who completed grade 10 who are involved at the flour factory. She didn’t know college graduate females in the community.

No bad habit developed by young females.

### Women’s issues

No female circumcision, rape and abduction in the site. She has not had any problems related to menstruation as she well aware about it. The school has not provided any facilities for this. Abortion is not common and she didn’t think girls use contraceptive before marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

About 30% of young females want to marry a man who has farmed land and good house. But among friends no one wants to be farmer's wife, while they want to marry trader or government employer or a man who has a house in an urban area. None of her friends and sisters married older man as a second wife. But she knows a case that a young female (grade 10 completed) married an older widowed whose sons are a government employees. The man has land and good house both at the kebele and in the town.

All friends are interested to join higher education and want to get formal job. There are many young females who establish an independent livelihood. She knows, a young female who involve in flour factory so that she could construct iron sheet roof house. She lives independently.

### Getting married

17 years old is youngest age for girls’ marriage and she expects that about 5% of girls might marry at this age. Females beyond this age become weaker in their education because of multiple responsibility and sexual initiation. Those girls may lose their confidence in education, become hopeless, and then they seek marriage as copping mechanism.

The government legislation to stop under 18 girls’ marriage has been effective. Under age marriage has stopped. Now girls are free to choose their marriage partner but in some cases it may influenced by parents’ interference if the wealth status might not fit. Females worry to get good husband before they are 30 years old.

### Setting up an independent household

As mentioned above there is a young female who completed grade 10, she constructed iron sheet roof house through engaging in flour factory. The other one also living independently by renting house in town and she engaged on trading. That she sells vegetable, charcoal, Areki, coffee, tea and biscuit.

No difference for all to form independent household after marriage.

### Migrating

International migration is very common and it increases rapidly. It is possible to go from 15, most of the migrant involve on house maid and prostitution. Prostitution is more important to make large money. Within the country that few females migrated for searching of relative support for education either to involve in others’ house as domestic servant.

Both international and national migrants suffer from different problems. They do not have time to get rest and relax and some of them have been beaten by their employers. Consequently they are affected with psychological and physical health problems. She heard that one of the returnees suffered with mental health problems. She was been sent back here when she has got the problem. Even she couldn’t know how this could be.

There are also good things about international migration. One of the women has been able to construct house at Assela in a year by sending remittances. Others have supported their families and they could live well after returned back.

Her mother has not started to send remittances yet as she went recently.

### Living in the community

Things she likes living in the community: that currently the government seems to give attention to young female that linked to sport. Other than this government didn’t give attention for youth, particularly for females. Now most young females are in trouble because of out-migration, while there is no better work opportunity in the area. No support for poor.

Change for rich that the rich becomes richer, but poor remain the same. Hopefully there will more change for rich, if there will be a support and encouragement for poor, they participate on off farm activities. Unless poor and younger continue to migrate, this will have risk for the future that may be difficult to find young females, there may be only teenagers and old people in the next five years.

The kebele is peaceful place and having favourable climate to live in. No conflict among any groups in the area.

### The economy

As mentioned above changes have been seen most for rich people. Because there is no fair distribution of natural resources (land). Most youths become idle as land is in the hands of older people. So, young people are exploited by those land owners. Women are commonly involved in vegetable production and trading more than before however they haven’t had any government support.

Rich girls have more time for their education to participate in educational work and they have tutors. Therefore they have better educational performance than poor girls. Poor girls are over loaded with paid and unpaid works as they have more responsibility in the household. Rich girls are economically more dependent until they get married or get a job because they didn’t participate on paid work. Poor girls get married earlier than rich girls, as they use it for coping strategy.

### Religion

People have not spent much time for religion purpose. They may/not participate once a week. This is similar for both Muslim and Orthodox. She didn’t know in detail about Protestants just that they engage in religion practices in the town. There are three religions (Muslim, Orthodox and Protestant) in Mecro. People who belong to these religions have good relations and interactions. All people are interested in their religion, though due to different problems some of couldn’t able to participation in religious activities. The difference between the religions is that Muslims don’t eat orthodox slaughtered meat and vice versa, way of believing practices are different among different religions.

There is regular religious conference within two/three months that preachers and singers come from Addis Ababa. There are mysterious holy water at Mojo and Shinkuru Mikael where people go there for health treatment.

There is no any conflict between those religious leaders and other ordinary people in the community.

### Politics

There is no relationship between government and young women. There is no government support for young girls. There are no mass associations in which young female participate in. currently there is a good start in that the government seem to give attention to young females who are good at sport.

### Inter-generational relations

There is good relation between young and older people both in the household and in the community. Religions have great role to keep peace and develop good behaviour by young people.