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## Rich male teenager 13

### Personal

He lives with his parents (his two brothers, one sister and his father and mother) and they are engaged in farming activities. He described his household as middle. He is twelve years old and currently he is a grade four student and ranked 15th in first semester result of grade four. He dropped out of school in 2002 because his family wanted him to repeat in grade three believing that he could improve his result. In the last twelve months he helped his family by providing fodder for cattle, during farm time he also farms with his family, herds cattle and fetches water. Until today he never engaged in independent income-generating work. In the rest of his time after school if there is some work he would help them and if there are no work he spends his time playing football with his friends and sometimes reads and does homework. He is interested in music or other arts. He is Orthodox religion follower and not active as such he only attends church during holidays. He is not active in politics and he likes playing football with his friends. He does not belong to the Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation. He spends time socializing with friends they read and play football together. His friends do not include girls and he does not have a girlfriend. He doesn’t do anything when he is at home except reading, watching television and so on. Looking to the future he plans to go outside of the community to look for work. If he stays in the community he wants to engage in fattening cattle and also farming activities. He wants to live in Makiro (where he lives currently) and if he wants to be a farmer he could get half a hectare from his family. If he leaves the community he will go to Assela town because, his grandmother and his mother's sister live there and he wants to live there. He wants to continue his education currently he has no other work than assisting his family. He plans to marry when he has his own job and wealth. He doesn’t think that his parents will be involved in the decision of who he marries. He does not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. He never thought before when and how many children he is going to have. His mother's brother is his model because he is a successful trader and lives comfortably that is why he wants to be like him. He has no worries and his hope is that he will have his own job and help his family.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

The young males of his age have the opportunity to become successful in their education and also different activities like fattening livestock, if they work hard. They will face the problem of landlessness and jobless after completing their education.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age are engaged in different wage labour like harvesting and sowing potatoes. Harvesting potatoes pays best in the community. There are no kinds of work that are hard, dangerous, and bad for his health. Most of the young males prefer to engage in trade. But most of them are involved in harvesting potato and onion during harvest time and helping their family in different farm activities. There is not enough work in the community and if work is available they want to do more. There are no males of his age who are no longer in education all of them are attending school. It is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return and most of them drop out because of work pressure on them especially those from poor families and also to improve their results they drop out and return after a while. The kind of work which helps young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run is that of farming activities and trading. There are a lot of recent Grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want and most of them are helping their family. He does not know whether there any unemployed college graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want. It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because it affects their education especially by creating lack of time for doing homework, reading and sometimes they miss class which results in failure in their academic achievements. No young people of his age get involved in drinking, chat, theft and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young males of his age are likely eventually to get access to their own farmland only if their families have some land, accordingly some 50% of them may get a land from their families. None of his friends want to be farmer. Some 20% of his friends want to stay in the community but do other kinds of work like trading, poultry and fattening livestock but are likely to end up doing different agricultural activities. Some 20% of friends want to migrate for work. Some 40 % of his friends want to go to college and get a formal job. He thinks that all of his friend have objective about what they really want to do or be. Young men in their twenties that he knows personally make a living by engaging in farm activities. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because quiet often they engage in waged labour which couldn’t change their life or it is hand to mouth work.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married in the community is at the age of 18 and only few of them marry at this age. The normal age for young men in the community to marry is from 20 to 25 years old. None of his friends are married and he said that he does not know anything about the advantages, disadvantages and challenges of being married. Parents are not involved in their sons’ choice of marriage partner which is similar to all households irrespective of their wealth or status. The government regulations have not affected the age at which young men get married in the community.

### Setting up an independent household

It is not easy for a young man from poor family to set up an independent household but for one from a rich family it will be easier because he will be given some land, cattle and also other property. This can be done by farming and trading and landlessness becomes the major barrier. It is common for those who are from poor families to depend on their parents after marriage because they may not get land or get given enough land to lead their life so they are dependent on their family until they manage to get out of their situation but this is not the case for these who are from middle and rich families.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate for work above 16 years old mainly to Addis Ababa, Adama, Bale. This has been increasing due to joblessness and landlessness. There are no changes in the places that they are going to. He knows a person who has returned after migrating to Bale, before he migrated he was poor but now he has come back with some money and contracted land and is farming now. He does not know anyone who has had a problem with migrating either whilst travelling or in the place they migrated to. If he plans to migrate he will go to Addis Ababa, because he expects that work is available there and he wants to go with his friends.

### Living in the community

What he like about living in the community that people are becoming successful in farming activities and there is nothing he don’t like in the community. The community has changed in so many ways for example, farming with inputs like DAP, UREA, and the use of different pesticides and improved seed and community is using combiners by rent, so there are more technological advancements than before. The kebele is a peaceful place to live. Young people do not tend to socialize in special groups rather it is based on relationship irrespective of religion and ethnicity. He doesn’t think that his parents worry about what might happen to him because they have enough land and cattle for him in the future to make his life. His family control him, they check that he is attending school and doing homework and achieving good results. He does not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat/smoking. He said I didn’t know much about HIV/AIDS it said that it is transmitted by blade and needle and I have asked him that, do you know that HIV/AIDS is transmitted by unsafe sex and he said he didn’t know. He does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. He does not know how common it is for young men to have sexual relations and take precautions against contracting HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago. The community has been increasing income generation by farming potatoes which is the main cash crop and also other crops and pulses using improved seeds and agricultural inputs. The crop productivity has been increasing because of using improved seeds, fertilizers and farming technologies. These days most farmers are providing fodder for their cattle at home which increases their milk production they are also engaged in fattening. For shoats and chickens there is no change as such and bees are improving because some people are using modern beehives which increase the production of honey. He has not noticed any changes in opportunities to work off the farm. Migration out of the community has been increasing mainly that of young woman to Arab countries. People migrating into the community during harvest time have been increasing. Inequality among households has grown the rich are becoming richer but for the poor only few have seen change and the rest are becoming poorer and poorer. A young man from a poor family has work pressure, dresses in dirty clothes, lack cleanliness and one from rich family dresses well and has relatively no work pressure on him and is also clean. Poor families young may eat once or twice a day but rich families eat regularly on time. On education most of the young from poor family are low achievers because they don’t have time to study, do homework and don’t take care of their texts and exercise books because they don’t have bag. As a result their books are exposed to rain and so on, thus their text books are unclean, whereas the one from rich family can keep his texts & exercise books neat and clean because they have bag and also academically they are good achiever since there are no other work pressures on them they have time to do their homework and study. There are work pressures on youth from poor family for example they have to engage in labour work in order to cover their educational expenses for buying pen, texts and other provisions but this is not the case for those from rich families. A young man from a rich family can easily establish himself in independent livelihood because of getting land and also other necessary things for getting independent but it is difficult for young from poor family because they may not have land and other property given to them, which makes it difficult for young from poor household to establish independent livelihood. A young from rich family marry on time but one from poor family may not marry at the right time in order to arrange things necessary for his marriage.

### Religion

People in the community spend much time on religious activities and there many people who are not very interested in all religions. There are three religions in the community which include Orthodox, Islam and Protestant which differ in their religions scriptures and the way of practicing & worshipping. Young people are not as interested as elders because they want to spend their time on work and education. In his religion or Islam are there missionaries who come from outside to teach mainly from Assela and Addis Ababa, they teach the people to be strong in their religion. Young people do not go outside the community to learn about religion. Religious rules become stricter over time. There has been no disagreement among leaders of the religions or between different sects and also ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is not easy for different household members to belong to different religions because it may lead them to conflict and to develop hatred about each other's religion. In addition to spiritual activities his religious organisation is not involved in any other business.

### Politics

He does not know what the relations between youth and the government are like and also the messages the government been giving to young men recently. His answer for this section is that he is not familiar with the issue which probably related to his age or the questions are beyond his capacity to respond since he is twelve years old.

### Inter-generational relations

In his household the relations between the teenage members and their parents or other leading adults are good, they work, eat and live together the relationships are based on mutual respect. The good thing in his family is that, living in consensus and working together. There is no problem in his household. He describes relations between the adult generation and the teenage generation as good because of working together and respects for each other and there is no tension among them.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 13

### Personal

He lives with his parents (three sisters, father and mother) one of his sister (fourth) lives with his grandmother. His household is mainly engaged in faming activities, in addition to this his father is the only expert on artificial insemination of improved breeds of cattle in the kebele for which he is paid by clients. It means that when he gives the injection of artificial insemination the owners of cattle is expected to pay him twelve birr, according to his agreement with the FAO who provides everything for insemination, he is expected to pay six birr per cattle for the organisation which means they share the twelve birr. But because of being satisfied with his services all clients pay him more but he only gives six birr for the organization. He describes his household as middle class. He is 14 years old and currently a grade seven student and ranked 4th in the first semester of grade nine. He never dropped out of school so far. He has been helping his family in all farm activities, providing fodder for cattle and fetching water. In the last 12 months independent income-generating work he was engaged in is that of labouring on school fence only for ten days and he was paid 100 birr, he worked after school and at weekends. He was involved in this business after consulting with his family with the 100 birr he earned he bought a pair of trousers for himself. This work has not affected his education or his health, it was one time work and he doesn’t engage in such work since then. There was nothing that he likes about the work since it was labour work, tiresome and not rewarding. In the rest of his time he fetches water & provides fodder for cattle. He is interested in music, other arts and not active in his religion (orthodox) and politics. He is involved in sport like playing football in school and also outside school in the break time. He does not belong to the Youth Association, Youth League, and Youth Federation. He spends time socializing with friend like playing football. His friends do not include girls and he has no girlfriend. When he is at home he reads, does homework and watches television. Looking to the future he plans to settle in the community, he want to engage in modern farming and cattle rearing. If he wants to stay in the community living at his current resident place (Makiro) and he will get some two or three timad or 0.75 of hectare from his family. If he leaves the community he will go to Boru town, in Hetosa wereda because his father sister lives there and he want to return after a while. He wants to continue his education and plans to marry when he has established an independent livelihood. He does not think that his parents will be involved in the decision of who he marries. He does not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. He has never thought about when and how many children he is going to have. He doesn’t have role model. His hope is on his education or to go further in his education and he has no worries.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

The young people of his age as growing up may face problem of lack of land or landlessness and unemployment, but he does not know the opportunities they have.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age are working with family and harvesting onion and potato pays best in the community - up to 30 birr a day for young people like him. There are no kinds of work that are hard, dangerous, and bad for his health. Young men prefer farming activities and also that is what most of them are involved in. There is not enough work in the community but if available the youth want to do more work. All of the young people of his age are in education only few of them have dropped out because of quarrelling with their teachers or with the school guard. It is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return due to work pressure and the above mentioned factors. The kind of work that helps young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run is by engaging in farm activities. There are a lot of recent Grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want and they are helping their families (in farm activities). There are some unemployed college graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want and are involved in helping their family in different activities. It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because it reduces their academic success. None of young people of his age get involved in drinking, chat, theft, and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

More than 50% young males of his age are likely eventually to get access to their own farmland from their parents. 60 % of his friends want to be farmers, 30% of his friends want to stay in the community but do other kinds of work like trading (shop, livestock, and retailer). They are likely to end up doing farm activities. Some 10% of his friends want to migrate for work and some 10% of his friends want to go to college and get a formal job. Some 5% of them do not really know what they want to be. Young men in their twenties that he knows personally make a living by engaging in farm activities. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because no one is in charge of helping them and they probably suffer from lack of land or landlessness.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married in the community is at the age of 18 and only some 10% of them marry at this age. These days the normal age for young men in the community to marry is from 20-25 years old. None of his friends get married. The advantages of being married are that it helps to be independent and he doesn’t think that it has disadvantage. He does not know the challenges of being married. parents get involved in their son choice of whom he marry, if their son marry outside their ethnic and also if they think that she is not good girl they intervene and stop him from marrying her and it similar with other. The government regulations has not affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is not difficult for a young man from rich family to set up an independent household, since he is provided with what is necessary to establish independent household from his family and relatives. But it is difficult for a young man from poor family because they can’t provide what is necessary for him. Almost all young men in this kebele establish independent households by engaging in farming activities. Lack of land is the major barrier for the young to establish independent households. Young men from poor families depend on their parents after marriage until they become financially independent but this is not the case for rich families.

### Migrating

Some young men migrate for work but it is not significant as such and they migrate above age of 18 to Bale and mostly they are employed in farm activities by rich farmers as servants some also engaged in labour work. The numbers of migrants has been declining because farming activities are improving from time to time which created vacancy for most young. There are no changes in the places that they are going to. He told me the story of one returnee from Bale as follows, He is his neighbour he quarrelled with his family and went to Bale, he was employed as a servant for one rich farmer in farm activities but he was did not benefit from anything by being there, so he quit his work and back to his family reconciling himself to them and now he is working for his family. He does not know anyone who has had a problem with migrating either whilst travelling or in the place they migrated to. If he plans to migrate he will go to Adama, because he expects that there are better jobs there and he will migrate with his friends.

### Living in the community

What he like about living in the community is that the cooperation they have in work and also when someone faces a problem like if his house get burned they contribute some money and build a house for him. What he does not like is that there are some sort of discrimination in the society on the basis of religion and ethnicity. The community is changing because of hard work and also welcoming different farm technologies and inputs and in the coming five years there will be more improvement than today. The kebele is a peaceful place to live. Young people do not tend to socialise in special groups but based on neighbourhood, school and work place. He doesn’t think that his parent have worries about him or what might happen to him, expect that they want his success in education. His parents control him, sometimes they check his presence in school asking his friends and also check him whether he is doing homework or studying. He does not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat/smoking. HIV/AIDS is transmitted by blood contact using sharp metal and unsafe sex and it is incurable disease. He does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. It is not common for young men to have sexual relations and he thinks that young males use condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago and they are currently using improved farming inputs like improved seed fertilizers, pesticides and so on which increase productivity. Previously farmers only grew wheat and pulses but now they are also engaged in farming potatoes and onions which are a good source of cash crop. There are also changes in livestock for example in cattle reproduction there are more improved breeds because of natural and artificial insemination and also they are provided with fodder and shelter which was not common before and this has increased productivity. In addition to this there are vaccinations for cattle more than before. Now people mostly uses combiners for harvesting which increased production some also use tractors for farming, most people also hire labour for farming activities to use farming seasons efficiently. There are no change on Shoats and chickens. There is change in bees because of using modern beehives which has increased honey production. There are also some changes in transport because of the expansion of rural road construction. Migration out of the community has been increased mainly female migration to Arab countries and migration into the community has also been increasing during farming seasons (for farming and harvesting). Inequality among households has been declining because the poor are changing improving their life and becoming transformed to middle class which reduces the inequality between rich & poor. He compared the life of a youth of his age in a very rich house with the life of one in a poor house as follows: both don’t dress equally one from a poor family is always under work pressure and also has poor food (does not regularly eat) unlike one from rich family. The young from poor families are academically low achievers because he doesn’t has time to study, does not have learning materials. By contrast one from a rich family is better in their education because their family provide them with learning materials including dictionaries and also have no work pressure. One from rich family uses modern technologies for farming which makes them easily successful and also reduced manual work pressure but the one from poor family labours a lot but brings no change due to failure to use modern technologies. One from rich family can easily establish independent livelihood and household because he is provided with livestock, land and other necessary materials but the one from poor family doesn’t get anything from his family so that he has to work hard to establish an independent livelihood and household. The young from rich families get married earlier than a youth from a poor family because he will be provided everything needed to get married and opposite is true for one from a poor family.

### Religion

People in the community do not spend much time on religious activities and there are many people who are not very interested in religion. There are three religions in the community which includes Orthodox, Islam and Protestant. They differ in the place where they worship, the way they worship and so on. Young people are getting more interested in religion because other religions are trying to attract them for example Protestants, so that all religions are strictly teaching than before their followers to be strong in their religion and not to be assimilated. There are missionaries who come from outside to teach in his religion (Orthodox) from Addis Ababa, Adama and monasteries they teach about the origin of orthodox religion. Young people do not go outside the community to learn about religion. Religious rules become stricter over time in order to prevent different problems for example, some people come from other places to be employed as priest in churches who are not actually a priest (deception). There has been no disagreement among leaders of the religions or between different sects and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is not difficult for different household members to belong to different religions. In addition to spiritual activity when there are development activities which are called by government the church encourages the followers to actively engage in the work.

### Politics

Relations between youth and the government are good because government is creating vacancies for them by grouping them into different cooperatives. The messages that the government has been giving to young men recently is to establish different (service) cooperatives and work for development of their country. This message has been passed by chairman, cabinets and development team leaders. There is no advice, resources and training that the wereda provided for young people recently. The kebele has not provided any land for young men recently. There are no resources that the wereda has provided for leisure. The wereda and the kebele should actively work on expansion of cooperatives like giving land for those who want to involve in farm or landless young people. The young people contribute to the development of the community if they actively work on different activities they are engaged in. he does not think that there is pressure on young people to join the ruling party. Party membership bring benefits, they are given priority on different services and also employment. The Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation are not active. He does not know the general attitude of most young people to these organizations. The general attitude of most young people to government politics is good and he does not think that they have interest in opposition politics.

### Inter-generational relations

In his household the teenage members and their parents or other leading adults have good relationship. The good things in his household are that they work cooperatively and also solve problems by discussion and also respect each other, and there is no problem. He describes relations between the adult generation and the teenage generation as good relationship in the community and what brings them together is respecting each other, tolerance and there is no tension point.

## Poor male teenager 13

### Personal

He does not lives with his parents rather he lives with his grandmother (his father's mother), because his father died and his mother disappeared eight years to Alemtena. She remarried there that is why he and his elder brother lives with their grandmother and his uncle (father), so the household is composed of four people I have mentioned above. They are landless they only have small garden around their home where they plant vegetation like onions, redroot and cabbage which is insignificant. Their uncle is engaged in wage labour that is how they managed to live. During sowing and harvest time of potato he also engages in labour work. He describes his household as poor. He is 13 years old and currently a grade five student ranked 15 in first semester of grade five. So far he has never dropped out of school. He has been involved in fetching water, collecting wood, cooking and also in labour work to bring money to his home. In the last 12 months he has been engaged in labouring doing different farm activities like harvesting and sowing of potato, transporting wheat with donkey and threshing. He decides to engage in such business with his family because all of them are engaged on it except his grandmother and he is involved in this work because that is the only work available around them. From this work he totally earned around two hundred birr which he used for covering his educational expenses and also financed house hold expenses. This work affected his education, even though he worked after school budgeting his time, he gets tired when he come from the work and so he may not read or do his homework. Also due to work pressure it results to less achievement in his education. His work has affected his health while he was carrying 20 litres of water home from the spring he has fell on the floor due to the heavy weight and become the victim of heart failure. Since then he can’t manage to carry heavy things. Whenever he carries heavy things his heart fails. There is nothing that he likes about his work but he has to do it in order to live and he hates all wage labour because it is tiresome or beyond what he can do. It is difficult to combine work and school because when you combine both it affects your education in different ways as he has mentioned earlier. You lose concentration on education or think about your work place while you are in the classroom. The school shift is suitable for work because they only learn half days, currently the shift is from 2pm-6:15pm and other time from 6:30am-11am, local time this shift is changed monthly. His plans for education and work next year is similar with what he is doing now combining both together because he can’t live without working even though it has impact on his education. He doesn’t have free time because after school he either spend his time labouring in farm activities or working at home fetching water, doing homework or reading. He is interested in music and other arts. He is active orthodox religion follower and he fasts, attends church every Sunday. He is not active in politics. He does physical exercise at sport period in the school and plays football. He does not belong to the Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation. He spends time socialising with friends, he goes to school with them and leaves to walk home with them. When he is at home he cooks, read and does homework. Looking to the future he plans to go outside of the community to look for work. If he stays in the community he wants to engage in farming activities by taking share crop from old people.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

Lack of land and unemployment become the major problem facing young males of his age and doesn’t think there are opportunities especially for the young from poor families.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age work - harvesting potato pays best in the community and they are paid up to 30birr per day. The kinds of work that are hard, dangerous, bad for his health is fetching water because the water point is far from their village which takes one hour travel by foot and also all water containers are big which are beyond his carrying capacity (20 litres and above).Work that young males prefer to do is farming activities and that is also what most of them involved in doing. There is no enough work but if available they are interested to work more. All of the young male of his age are in education and it is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return, which is common for poor family members for example Last year one of his relatives dropped out school due to a lack of three birr to pay for exam sheet. Work pressure is the other factor. The kind of work that helps young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run is by engaging in farm activities. There are no recent grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want in his zone and he does not know the others and also there are no unemployed college graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want. It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele due to the above mentioned factors. None of the young people of his age get involved in drinking, chat, theft and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

More than half of young males of his age are likely eventually to get access to their own farmland from their parents. None of his friends want to be farmers. 30% of his friends want to stay in the community but do other kinds of work like trading (potato, wheat, shop, cereal) but most of them are likely to end up doing farm activities. 50% of his friends want to migrate for work. 40% of his friends want to go to college and get a formal job. 20% of them do not really know what they want to be. Young men in their twenties that he knows them personally make a living by engaging in farming activities. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood, because of lack of land they engage in labouring which is not sufficient to establish independent livelihood, it is only for subsistence.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married is aged of 18 and only 10% of them get married at this age. The normal age for young men to get marry is from 20-28 years old in the community. None of his friends have got married. He does not know the advantages, disadvantages and challenges of being married. He does not think that his parents will be involved in their sons’ choice of marriage partner and this is similar to all household regardless of their wealth.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for a young man to set up an independent household mainly for a poor person like him who does not have land or wealth. But for rich it is easy because they will be given land, cattle, shoats, horse enough for him to establish independent household and it can be done mainly by engaging in farm activities. Lack of land or landlessness is the major barrier, he said how one can marry without having land it is very difficult. It is common for young from poor families to depend on his family after marriage, because they don’t have enough to feed their family until he get independent this is opposite for the one from rich family.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate for work above 18 years old and they migrate to Debrezeit, Debre Birhan, Bale, Adama and Asella some work at garage, car assistant and wage labour. The numbers of migrants has been increasing due to lack of land. There are changes in the place they are going, in the past they mostly migrated to Bale but now most to them migrate to Adama. He told me the story of one of the returned migrant from Adama as follows, when he went to Adama he was poor but knows he has changed after return, he bought four oxen, some cattle and also contracted land and farming largely. When he was at Adama he heard the he was the guard of Ethiopian Telecommunication there and paid 1000 birr in a month, knows he stopped his work there and engaged in farming.

### Living in the community

What he like about living in the community that they help poor people for example, when his family have nothing to eat some people help them by giving maize in summer, Zengada, some also buy pens and exercise book for him and what he does not like is that there are some rich people who don’t want to help the poor very selfish people. There are some changes in the community and he hopes that there will be some improvement in the coming five years. The kebele is a peaceful place to live. Young people do not tend to socialize in special groups mostly they get friends from school & neighbour. His family worries very much about him thinking of his destiny because of their landlessness, they always worry about his future, saying that what will happen to him if he is not succeeded in his education. They try to control him whether he is attending school or not. He said that HIV/AIDS is transmitted by sugar cane for example if one who is eating gets blood on the sugar cane or ( blood from the teeth as it sometime occur while eating due to its hardness)and gives to other it transmits, it is transmitted by sharp metals, sexual intercourse, it is non-curable disease. He doesn’t know anything about condoms when I asked him is HIV/AIDS transmitted if one has sex using condom, he said he doesn’t know. He does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community and how common it is for young men to have sexual relations.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago, because more people are using modern farming inputs which have increased productivity. There is change in livestock especially in cattle due to introduction of improved breeds by artificial insemination which has increased the quality of cattle and their products. People began to provide fodder for cattle unlike before in order to be more productive and due to the lack of grazing land. Some people are using combiners and tractors and also hire labour for their farm activities. There is no change in shoat, but there are some changes in chickens keeping them in a small hut built for them and also giving them balanced fodder unlike before. Bees are improving due to the introduction of modern beehives which has increased honey production. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. Migration into and out of the community has been increasing. Inequality amongst households has been growing fast. He compared the life of a youth of his age in a very rich house with the life of one in a poor house as follows, if the son of poor family does not work he doesn’t get anything but the son of rich man can live without working, there is more pressure on the poor because he has to always work to live but one from a rich family has no work pressure because his family employs servants. A boy from a rich family eats regularly and one from a poor family eats once or twice a day, the rich dress well but not the poor A boy from a poor family has work pressure and achieves less but one from rich family has no work pressure and becomes successful, they have extra books bought by their family to supplement their education. One from rich family can easily establish independent livelihood and household because he is provided everything from his family but one from poor family has to work hard to become independent which is very difficult especially for someone who doesn’t possess land. Those from rich families marry early whilst the poor marry late because of above mentioned reasons. Even the wedding ceremony is difficult for a boy from poor family unlike one from rich family.

### Religion

People in the community spend much time on religious activities; but there are also many people who are not very interested in their religion. There are three religions in the community which include Orthodox, Muslim & Protestant and he does not know the differences among them. Young people are getting more interested in their religion because their family wants them to follow their religion. In his religion (orthodox) there are no missionaries who come from outside to teach and no young people have gone outside the community to learn about religion. He does not know whether religious rules have become stricter over time or not. There have been no disagreements among leaders of the religions or between different sects and ordinary people from different religions all live peaceably together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions. In addition to spiritual activities there is no business that his religious organisation is involved in.

### Politics

He has no idea about issues raised under this topic.

### Inter-generational relations

The relations between the teenage members and their parents or other leading adults are good they live by love, respect and cooperation. The good thing about his family is that everybody finances household consumption if they get money from waged labour including him and there are no problems. He describes relations between the adult generation and the teenage generation as good due to the respect they have for each other and there is no tension point among them.

## Rich male teenager 16

### Personal

He lives with his parent (one brother, one sister and father and mother) and his father works in Assela malt factory and also engaged in farming activities. He described his household as middle. He is 15 years old and currently a grade eight student and he ranked first in first semester of grade eight and he has never dropped out of school so far. In the last 12 months he has been involved in fetching water, shepherding cattle and cleaning home he did not do any independent income-generating work. After school in his rest time sometimes he takes cattle to river where they drink water and cleans their shelter and reads or does his homework. He is not interested in music or other arts. He is a follower of the Orthodox religion he is not active in his religion but he attends church every Sunday. He is not active in politics but he does different physical exercises every mooring including push up, running and also plays football with his friends in school and outside school. He does not belong to the Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation. He spends time socializing with his friends playing football and reading together but his friends do not include girls and he has no girlfriend. When he is at home he watch movies by DVD player, read and do homework. Looking to the future he plans to go outside to look for work. If he stays in the community he wants to serve the community with his knowledge or with what he is going to study at college or profession. If he becomes a farmer he wants to live at his current resident place (Begejo) his parent have one hectare he hopes that he will get ¼ hectare. If he leaves the community he will go to Addis Ababa because his mother's sister lives there but he wants to return after a while. He plans to continue his education. He plans to marry after he gets job with his profession which he is going to study in his education and he does not think that his parents will be involved in the decision of who he marries. He does not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future and he never thought when he is going to have children before but he prefers to have two children. His role model is Akililu Lemma Ethiopian scientist who found the medicine for bilharzia because he wants to be scientist in the future to get new medicine for different disease as he did. His hope is his education he wants to be successful in his education. He has no worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

Young men of his age those who may not succeed in their education may be exposed to developing bad habits like chewing chat, drinking alcohol, prostitution and using other drugs which may blur their future is the problem they will face as they grow. Their opportunity is to pursue their education for example if they fail in grade 10 they have the opportunity to join TVET. Others who succeed directly will join university and determine their future based on their performance.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age do not work and he doesn’t know the work which pays best in the community. There is no work that is hard, dangerous, and bad for his health. Young men prefer to be involved in trading activities. But some of them during summer time prefer to engage in labouring in Kulumsa agricultural research centre on works like sowing for which they are paid around 350 in a month. Nevertheless there is not enough work in the community; if available they want to work. Almost all of young men of his age are in education except youth with different disabilities. It is common for young men to drop out of education for a while and then return, this happens due to family problems, mainly financially which compel student to drop out and engage in wage labour and return after a while. Farming activities are the kind of work which helps young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run. There are no recent Grade 10, 12 and college graduates living in his village or zone who cannot find the kind of work they want. He does not know about the whole kebele. It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because, work affects academic success by sharing ones time for studying, doing homework and also makes them tired. No young people his age get involved in drinking, chat, theft and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Some 40% young males of his age are likely eventually to get access to their own farmland from their parents. 5% of his friends want to be farmers, 60% of his friends want to stay in the community but do other kinds of work like trading livestock, fattening, shop and so on. But they are likely to end up doing farming activities. 10% of his friends want to migrate for work and 20 % of them want to go to college and get a formal job. 30% of them do not really know what they want to be. The young men in their twenties that he knows personally make a living by being involved in farming activities. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood due to, lack of wealth and land which makes difficult for one to establish independent livelihood in the community.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married is at the age of 16 and only 3% of them marry at this age. These days the normal age for young men in the community to marry is from 20- 25 years old. None of his friends are married. The advantages of being married is that it creates an opportunity to work together with one’s partner, to help each other and lead one’s life independently and he doesn’t think that it has disadvantage and he doesn’t know of being married. These days parents are not getting involved in their sons’ choice of marriage partner which is similar to all household irrespective of their wealth. The government regulations has not affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is easy for a young man from rich family to set up an independent household, because he will receive gifts from his family of cash, livestock or land which enables him to set an independent household. But it is difficult for one from poor family because his family may not help him which enable him to establish an independent house hold (They may not finance him, may not give him land and livestock’s) which are necessary for one to be establish independent household in the community. Lack of job for youth mainly related with lack of land in the community becomes the barrier for establishing independent house hold. After marriage young people do not depend on their parents because when they get married they declare their independence in all aspects and this is similar for young from poor family because if they are poor how one depends on his parent for help.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate for work above age of 17 and they migrate to Adama, Assela, and Addis Ababa, they engage in wage labour and also car assistant whenever they are. The number of migrants has been increasing due to lack of land, job or unemployment. There are no changes in the places that they are going to and he does not know any returnee who had problem while travelling or in the place they migrated to. He said that he never plans or thinks about migrating.

### Living in the community

What he likes about living in the community is that they have a culture of helping each other during problems and what he does not like is there are some people who have bad habits of drinking or alcoholism and chewing chat. Community has been changing because of awareness created in farming, heath, education and so on which will improve lot in the coming five years. The kebele is a peaceful place to live and young people do not tend to socialize in special groups rather it is based on school and neighbourhoods. His parents worry about his education they want see his academic success and worry about him developing bad habits like smoking, drinking and chewing chat. They control him in works he does, on his study whether he is reading or doing homework and so on. He does not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat/smoking. HIV/AIDS is transmitted by unsafe sex and sharp metals and is not curable disease. He does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. It is common for young men to have sexual relations with their girlfriends and also it is common to use condoms due to high awareness about the disease in the community.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago, some people are using irrigation which has been increasing productivity. Most farmers are using modern farming inputs like fertilizers, improved seeds and also improved farming technologies. In the previous time most farmers grew only wheat but now they are using crop rotation which has been increasing productivity, some people are also using tractors and combine harvesters which increase productivity and saves times. Number of people working on the farm is declining because of the implementation of modern forming technologies. There are changes in cattle production previously they left their cattle to graze land but now farmers keep them at home (in shelters) providing them fodder this has increased productivity but he hasn’t seen change with shoats, there are changes in chickens by providing them with fodder and shelter which has been increasing productivity, the same is true for bee production because of modern beehives. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. Migration out of the community has been increasing but migration in to the community has declining because of the use of modern farming technologies. Inequality among households has been growing.

The son of poor family dresses poorly, eats once or twice a day there is pressure on their education and the opposite is true for son of rich family. The son of rich will learn in private school, they have more exposure to computers, use extra books, and they also attend tutorial class by paying which makes them successful in their education but the son of poor is opposite of rich they don’t have extra books which makes them less successful on their education in comparison with the son of rich family. The son of rich has no work as such his work is mainly managing family wealth and attending his education but son of poor is always working in order to live this puts them under pressure. The young man from rich family can easily establish his independent livelihood and household because, his family cover his wedding ceremony expenses and also give him land, cattle, a house and so on. But the son of a poor family does not get all this support because their poorness that is what makes independent livelihood and household difficult for the young from poor families. The young man from rich marries earlier than that of the poor because of support he receives from his family.

### Religion

People in the community do not spend much time on religious activities and there many people who are not very interested. There are three religions in the community which are Orthodox Islam and Protestant and they differ in where they worship and the way they worship. The Protestants don’t believe in Mary as a saint, but Orthodox do believe, Islam does not believe in Jesus both Protestant and Orthodox do believe. Young people are not getting more interested in religion because they spend most of their time working and generating income. In his religion (Orthodox) there are missionaries who come from outside to teach and he doesn’t know where they come from but they teach about religion, telling their followers to be strong and not to be assimilated by other religions. Young people do not go outside the community to learn about religion. Religious rules become stricter over time because people are diverting their religion to others and also chasing work rather than attending their religion. There have not been any disagreements among leaders of the religions or between different sects and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions. In addition to spiritual activities there is no any other business that his religious organization is involved in.

### Politics

The relation between youth and the government has been good because government is creating jobs at different level for youth by grouping them in cooperatives. The message that the government been giving to young men recently is to create their own work which has been passed by Kebele chair and cabinets. There are no resources (including for leisure), advice and training that the wereda has provided for young people. The kebele has not provided any land for young men recently. The wereda and the kebele should create work for the young mainly for unemployed and landless youth. Young people contribute to the development of the community if they work cooperatively. He doesn’t think that there is pressure on young people to join the ruling party and he does not know whether or not party membership brings any benefits. The Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation are not active. He has no idea about the general attitude of most young people to these organizations and government politics and also whether the young people have interest in opposition political parties or not.

### Inter-generational relations

The relation between the teenage members and their parents or other leading adults is good and the good thing in his family is that they help, respect and love each other and there is no problem. He describes relations between the adult generation and the teenage generation as good because they respect each other and also youth obey elders and there is no tension among them.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 16

### Personal

He lives with his parents (three brothers, three sisters, his father and mother) and they are engaged in farming activities and fattening sheep. He describes his family household as middle. He is 16 years old and currently he is in grade nine he ranked 12th in first semester of grade nine and never dropped out of school so far. He helps his family in all farming activities, rearing livestock, fetching water and collecting woods. In the last 12 months he was involved in independent income-generating work by production of local chickens. His family bought two chickens for him and they reproduced and now he has seven chickens. Roughly he earned round 200 birr from selling eggs and chickens with the money he gets he covers his educational expenses like buying exercise books and pens. His work did not affect his learning and health hence it is not something which is done regularly. What he likes about the work is that he doesn’t expect money from his family, when he needs money he sell eggs and sometimes chickens and there is nothing that he does not like about his work. He didn’t combined work and school, he is involved on sell of chickens and eggs once a month even in the way that does not affect his education. In his rest time he reads and plays football. He is interested in music and other arts. He is active in his religion (Islam) he prays regularly by going to the mosque. He is not active in politics but he is active in sport by playing football, volley ball and doing gymnastics. He does not belong to the Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation. He spends time socializing with his friends by playing football, reading and joking. His friends do not include girls and he has no girlfriend. When he is at home he reads and does homework. Looking to the future he plans to go outside to look for work and if he stay in the community he want to involve in barberry business. If he wants to be farmer he wants live in his current resident zone (Akiyya) he will get ¼ hectare his family has one hectare and ¼ farm land. But if leaves the community he will go to Assela town because his father's sister lives there, he want to return after a while. He plans to continue his education and has no other work. He plans to marry when he became independent financially or get some wealth which enables him to establish independent household. His parents do not involved in the decision of who he marries it is his choice and he does not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. He never thought before about when would like to have children but he does not want to have more than two children. He has no role model and his hope is to succeed in his education in the future and have no worries.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

The opportunity the young males of his age have as growing up is to excel in their education by studying hard. The problems that they face may be lack of land which leads them to conflict with their family and results in suicide for youth when they get desperate. Another problem is that of joblessness when they have completed their education.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age involved in helping their family and only few engaged on labouring farm activities like harvesting potatoes which pay best in the community. They want or prefer to be a farmer. Most of them have poultry production and are also involved in the farming activities of their family which is seasonal but poultry is throughout the year. There is not enough work in the community but if it is available the youth want to do more in order to change their life. All of young males in his age are in education. It is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return, mostly when they quarrel with their family they drop out of school and go to their relatives homes. Others drop out because of failure to finance their education because they are poor. Work that helps young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run is farm activities and trade. There are a lot of recent Grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want and most of them developed bad habits like chewing chat, drug and drinking alcohol in Gonde town, others help their family. There are also few unemployed college graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want. They are helping their family in different agricultural activities, some get married by getting some land from their families and some developed bad habits. It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because all the time they spend on work affects their academic achievement by making them busy and also by being tiered by the work they can’t be effective as others. No young people of his age get involved in drinking, chat, theft and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

More than half of young males of his age are likely eventually to get access to their own farmland from their family. 25% of his friends want to be farmers 3.5% of his friends want to stay in the community but do other kinds of work. They want to engage in trading activities like livestock, production of chickens, fattening cattle and shoats but they are likely to end up doing farming activities. 50% of his friends want to migrate for work and 70% of them want to go to college and get a formal job. 10% of them do not really know what they want to be. The young men in their twenties that he knows personally make a living by farming activities. it harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because unless they succeed in their education they may not establish independent livelihood because their family have less land or no land which makes leading independent livelihood very difficult.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married in the community is at the age of 18 and only few of them (5%) marry at this age. The normal age for young men in the community to marry between from 23-25 years old none of his friends have got married. The advantages of being married is to establish an independent household and to own some property by getting land from their parents also other like cattle and household properties and he don’t think that being married has disadvantages. The challenge of being married is that if one marries without having enough wealth or land they become poorer because they are going to have children which are very difficult to manage or challenge of being married especially for young from poor family. Parents are not involved in their son choice of whom to marry or their partner which is similar for all household regardless of their wealth. The government regulations has not affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

The easiness or difficulties for a young man to set up an independent household depends on the wealth status of his family which means that for a one from rich family he can easily establish independent household hence he is provided all the necessary things for marriage including land and cattle. But it is very difficult for the one from poor family especially if his family has less or no land to offer him at his marriage. Lack of wealth and land become the major barriers. A young man from poor parent becomes dependent on their family after marriage until they get out of their situation or till they get some wealth which helps them to lead their household.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate for work mainly jobless and poor family members above twenty years. Most of them migrate to Waliso, Assela, Iteya, Addis Ababa, Adama and Arab countries they all are engaged in wage labour. The number of migrants has been increasing due to joblessness after school and college completion and the increasing lack of land. There changes in the places that they are going to, young males are migrating to Arab countries which were in the past only for females. He know a person who migrated to Dubai by paying some money for illegal traffickers who sent him to Dubai but later the gov’t of that country captured him and send him back to Ethiopia saying that he was illegal immigrant, so he lost all the money he spent for brokers and travel without making any money there. Similarly he know a lady who migrated to Saudi Arabia, her family sent her selling what they have expecting that she can change their life but unfortunately she was back after two months because of disagreement with her boss and currently she is living with her parents spending much money for nothing. If he plans to migrate he will go to Addis Ababa expecting that work is available there and he wants to go alone.

### Living in the community

What he likes about living in the community is that they live peacefully together. He does not like the fact that some people are developing bad habits like chewing chat, drinking alcohol, and drugs have been increasing. The community has been changing in overall aspects and he expects that it will be improved a lot in the coming five years. The kebele is a peaceful place to live and young people tend to socialize in special groups, they just socialize based on the relationship created regardless of religion and ethnicity. His parents don’t have worries about him or what might happen to him. His parent control him, they check whether he is doing his homework or reading by referring his texts and seeing what he do while he is at home. He does not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat/smoking. HIV/AIDS is transmitted by sharp metals and unsafe sex, and it is incurable disease and he does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. He does not know how common it is for young men to have sexual relations. He thinks that the young people will use condom because they have awareness about HIV/AIDS as it is not curable.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago and they are using more fertilizers and different composts and improved seeds which have been increasing productivity in the Kebele. There is more production due to wise use of modern farming inputs and technology, in previous times the people sent their livestock to grazing land but now most of them provide different fodder for livestock at home which increased production of milk and butter. There are also more improved breed cattle due to expansion of natural and artificial insemination. Now more labour is employed than before. There are no changes in shoats, there are improvements in chickens by using incubators and there is also improvement in bees by using modern beehives which increased production of honey. He has not noticed changes in opportunities to work off the farm. Migration out of the community has been increasing to the areas mentioned before and migration into the community has been decreasing. The inequality among households has been growing in the kebele a poor person is the one who has less or no land so such people are becoming poorer and poorer because they engage in wage labour which is not proportional with the inflation. The purchasing power of money is declining from time to time. In contrast the rich are becoming richer because they have land and the capacity to adopt new farming inputs and technology which increases their productivity and makes them richer. Youth from rich families eat regularly, dress well but the one from poor family don’t eat regularly and are ill dressed. Youth from rich families attend their education being fulfilled all facilities like by buying extra books which supplement their study and they have no work pressure on their education which results to their success in education. The youth from poor families fail even to buy all their exercise books, miss classes due to work pressure which results in their lower achievement. Youth from poor families are under work pressure in order to live or have their daily food by their labour but one from rich family don’t have work pressure. Youth from rich family can marry easily and on time because of their family wealth but it is difficult for the one from poor family to marry on time because they have to work or labour in order to get some wealth to get married. Thus, youth from rich family can easily establish independent livelihoods and households but it is difficult for one from poor family.

### Religion

People in the community spend much time on religious activities because they don’t have work pressure and there are some people in all religions who are not very interested in their religion. There are three religions in the community which include Islam, Orthodox and Protestant. They differ in the way they worship and where they worship. Young people are getting more interested in religion because all religions are preaching or teaching extensively than before which increased or created more awareness about their religion to all youths in the kebele. In his religion are there no missionaries who come from outside to teach but young people go to Bale to learn the Quran. Religious rules become stricter over time because of awareness created in all religions. There have been no disagreements among leaders of the religions or between different sects and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is difficult for different household members to belong to different religions, for example Christians cannot eat meat slaughtered by Muslims and vice versa which makes socialisation difficult & results in hatred of each other religion. In addition to spiritual activities there is no business which is run by his religious organization.

### Politics

The relations between youth and the government are good because government is encouraging different cooperatives through borrowing money and also by cooperating unemployed youth in different service cooperatives which make their relationship good. The messages that the government has been giving to young men recently is to be cooperated and to engage in different activities. The messages are passed by kebele chair and other cabinets. He doesn’t know any advice or training that the wereda has provided for young people recently. There are no resources that the wereda has provided for livelihood activities of young people recently. The kebele has provided land to youth cooperative in which they are engaged in selling of grass for livestock fodder. Members of the Cooperatives and kebele has benefited because they share some amount of the money to the kebele and he doesn’t know how they are chosen. There are no resources that the wereda has provided for leisure. The wereda and the kebele should provide different youth centres, public libraries and a sports centre because this can reduce youth who spent their time in bad places chewing chat, drinking and using drugs. Young people contribute to the development of the community if they work hard in all activities they are engaged in. He does not know whether there is pressure on young people to join the ruling party or not. Party membership brings benefits to members they get priority in service cooperatives and in getting jobs or being employed. The Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation are not active. The young people have positive attitude to these organizations. The young people don’t have interest or good attitude to government politics because of growing joblessness and landlessness. Some young people have interest in opposition politics among young people in the area around the kebele but there is no opposition political party in the area.

### Inter-generational relations

In his household the relations between the teenage members and their parents or other leading adults is very nice, the good thing is that they respect and love each other and there is no problem. He describes relations between the adult generation and the teenage generation as respectful and living peacefully and what brings them together is the norm of the society and there no tension points among them.

## Poor male teenager 16

### Personal

He lives with his parents, one of his sister and father and mother lives in the household. His father is a guard of Makiro primary school and his mother is engaged in areki trading, they have no farm land at all. He described his parents as poor. He is 16 years old and currently a grade 9 student and he ranked 11th when he was grade 8 and he said he doesn’t know his grade nine rank because they were not told. He dropped out school in 2002 EC, because of epilepsy sickness and he returned back to the school in 2003 EC. In the last twelve months he helped his family by fetching water for house especially for areki production and also collected wood for the family, in addition to this when his mother goes to the market he cooks for his father and sister. In the last twelve month he was engaged in shoe shining, but now he has stopped because it was difficult to complement it with school. He has decided to work in shoe shine having consulted with his parents to reduce burden from his family by covering his educational expenses and also the money he earnt helped his mother by buying coffee, salt and other household consumption. From this work he earned around four hundred birr. His work affected his learning mainly during market days he missed classes to engage in his work and also after class he always went to work. This resulted in a failure to do assignments. In addition to this even when he attend the class he thinks about work or he fails to have concentration on his education that is why he has decided to stop this work. His work affected his health when he spent a long time in sun it provoked his epilepsy some of the time. He don’t like the work, he was engaged in it to get money and gets no satisfaction at all just to generate income by working and what he dislike most about his work was that his friends at school tease him by saying shoe shiner which makes him angry.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

The major problem facing young at my age is that of worrying about the future how to establish independent livelihood in the face of increasing joblessness and landlessness. Because of large family size and some are landless like his family and the opportunities are to be involved in cooperative to engage in different work facilitated by the government.

### Combining work and education

Most young people of his age do not work only help their family on different activities, they also engage in farming for their family during farm time. He thinks that construction works pays best. Most young males prefer to engage in trading like shop, hotel, café and restaurant. There is not enough work in the Kebele, the youth want to do more but there is no work available or vacancies for them. Every young males of his age in the community attends school. Sometimes it happens that young males to drop out their education for a while. This happens mainly due to sickness and/or lack of finance to continue one’s education, but they can return back after a while when things get right. What helps young males to establish an independent livelihood is that only if their family has some wealth or land, accordingly they are engaged in farming activities by taking their share from their parents. There are many jobless young males who completed grade 10 and 12 in the community and they are engaged in helping their families at home and also by farming. There are also some unemployed college graduates in the kebele and they are living with their family helping with different domestic and farm activities. It is difficult for young men from poor households to combine work and education because it results in poor results in education by causing absenteeism, missing exams, and failures to do homework, but some of them are compelled to combine both together in order to complete their education. There are no young males of his age who have developed bad habits such as drinking, chat, theft and smoking because all of them are students.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Most of the young males of his age have the chance to get farm land from their parent as a gift or by in heritance even though its amount may not be significant. Most of his friends want to be farmers because the only wealth their family have is land. Only few of his friends want to stay in the community by engaging in other activities like trading different things but they are likely to end up in farming activities. Some of his friends want to migrate for work especially those from poor and landless family. Many of his friends want to go to college and get a formal job but they are becoming hopeless looking at what has been happening with graduates who are unemployed. There are some five students who do not really know what they want to be, they only go to school to spend their time there. Young men in their twenties make a living by engaging in farm activities. It is difficult for young men from poor household to establish independent livelihoods because it requires so many things to establish independent livelihood like farmland and if one does not possess land how could they become an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married is at the age of 20 and very few of them marry at this age. These days the normal age for young men to marry in the community is from 23-25. None of his friends are married. The advantage of being married for the young men is that they can get land from their parents which the family has the responsibility to offer some land to their married son according to the culture of the community in the kebele. When a young man marries he will be given either a house or a place to construct house and also given some household materials and livestock from family and relatives. He doesn’t think that marriage has disadvantages if one marries at the appropriate time. The challenge of being married is more of economical especially if one is married without enough wealth it can make one poorer than before. In previous times the family decided whom their son married, but now these things are not working because the young men make their own choice and do not obey their family if they intervene in their choice which is the same for all young men irrespective of their wealth. The government regulations have not affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

As he has mentioned earlier It is difficult for young men from poor household to establish independent livelihood because it requires so many things to establish independent livelihood like farm land and if one does not possess land how could they become an independent livelihood but unlike this it is very is for a one from rich family to establish an independent household due gifts they receive from family and relatives up on their marriage including land. One can establish an independent livelihood mostly by engaging in farm activities. The barriers are landlessness and being from poor family hence they cannot help up on establishing independent household. Some people marry at their parents’ home and live with them sharing their parent’s resource until they become strong financially and in farming activities and some also remains at parents’ home and inherit when they die. Mostly young men from poor house hold are dependent on their parents.

### Migrating

It is more common for young men from poor families to migrate for work and they tend to migrate at the age of 18. They migrate to Bale and Assela, most of them are employed as a servant of rich farmers in the Bale and they are given some land in return for their service until they serve their boss or land owners. Some engage in labour work and shoe shine work mainly in Asella town and some also migrate to Arab countries. The number of migrants has been increasing linked to the growing joblessness and landlessness. There are changes in places they are going. Previously it was internal migrations but now most of them are attracted to Arab countries. He told me the story of two migrants who returned after a while as follows, one young man who was from poor family and migrated to Bale, he bought livestock for his family he also sent money and bought contract land for farming which his family has been farming and now he returned back there for the second time. Another returnee came back from Assela town, he has improved a lot, he bought some livestock and also contracted more farm land to his parents and now he is preparing himself to migrate to Arab countries. He doesn’t know anyone who had a problem with migrating while travelling or in the place they migrated. If he plans to migrate he will go to Adama because he wants engage in wage labour and he expects that work is better there than other places. He will migrate with his friends.

### Living in the community

People in the community live peacefully together and that is what he likes about the community and what he dislikes is that some people do not have initiative for work. There is change in the community especially in the farming by adopting new farming inputs and technology. It is a peaceful place to live both in terms of social peace and conducive climate conditions. Young people tend to socialize more of in their neighbourhood or vicinity. His parents worry very much about him even for example, if he joins college or university they worry that they may not able to finance him, that is what they worry about his future. His parents control him or follow what he is doing and instruct him to do this or don’t do that. He doesn’t have any bad habits.

HIV/AIDS is caused by sharp metals like needle and blade, and unsafe sex. He doesn’t know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are in the community. It is not common for young men to have sexual relations as such but probably some have sex with their girlfriend and it is common for young people to use condoms because of awareness created by the government.

### The economy

The community is richer than they were two or three years ago because of having awareness on how to farm, fatten and also raise livestock’s using modern inputs and technology. There is change in farming activities because almost all of the farmers have started employing modern farming inputs and technology which are increasing their productivity. There is also a change in livestock production because most farmers are not sending their cattle to grazing land as before. Instead they shelter them at home and provide them different fodders which increase their productivity. Besides this there are natural and artificial insemination which increases the quality of cattle to more of improved breeds. There are no changes on shoats chickens. There is a change in bees by using modern beehives which increases the production of honey in terms of quantity and quality. He hasn’t noticed any change in off farm activities.

Migration out of the community is increasing this day due to the increasing scarcity of land and joblessness for school and college graduates in the kebele. Seasonally people migrate in to the kebele to labour in farming activities although this is decreasing overtime. The inequality among households has been increasing. The young at my age from poor family member work hard but never succeed, and they are under work pressure, have poor diet and may have no shoes or poor clothes and the opposite is true for rich family. The one from rich households succeed in their education because they have no work pressure but the one in poor family spend most of his time in work in order to pursue their education and for subsistence (survival). The young from poor families are under pressure to work in order to live but the one in the rich household is not under pressure or at least does not worry about what to eat, drink and dress as the one from the poor family. The one from rich family can easily make an independent livelihood and household by the help of his family, but the poor family couldn’t provide such help as land, or cattle to their young which makes it difficult for the young from poor family to establish independent livelihood and household. The one from rich family can marry on time because his family can easily cover his wedding ceremony expenses and also help their son by giving him land, cattle and other materials, unlike this the one from poor family who cannot marry on time because his family cannot cover his wedding ceremony expenses. They are also unable to subsidies him by providing land and other things which they are required to provide.

### Religion

People in the community spend most of their time on religious activities and there are also many people who are not very much interested in religion. There are three religions in the community which are orthodox, Islam and protestant, their difference is that they have different faith and also have different religious scriptures which lead to their difference. Young people are not getting more interested in religion, because they don’t want to spend their time going mosque or church rather they want to spend their time in playing football and socializing with their friends. He is Muslim and there are missionaries who come from Addis Ababa and Shashemene, they teach them to be strong in their religion and to pray regularly. There are young people who go to Bale to learn Quran from the community. Religious rules have becoming strict because people have more awareness about their religion this day than before which results in strictness. There is no disagreement among leaders of different religions or sects. Ordinary people from different religion also live together peacefully. It is difficult for different household member to belong to different religion because it may lead to competition of superiority of religion which results to conflict and it is not common in this kebele. His religious organization does not engage in any activity rather than spiritual activities so far.

### Politics

He don’t think that there are good relationship between youth and government because youth want land and work but the government has failed to provide both which hindered their relationship. The government message to the youth is to establish different cooperatives which would help them to establish independent livelihood. The messages are passed through youth associations and kebele managers and sometime government cadres who come from the wereda. He does not know whether the wereda has provided advice and training and/or resources for the youth recently. The kebele has not provided any land for young men recently. There is no resource which the wereda has provided for leisure. The wereda and kebele should provide youth centres and sport facilities because these things help the youth to spend their time instead of going unnecessary places like chewing chat, drinking and so on.

The young people contribute to the development of the community if they are given the land they will contribute to their development and also to the community. There is pressure on youth to join the ruling party, because if they do not join the party they do not get different benefits in the community for example employment and also to join development team cooperatives they have to join the party. Party membership brings benefit because members will be given priority in employment and also in different cooperatives, they are relatively beneficial than non-party members. Youth associations, league and federation are not active because the youth do not obey them they do not attend meeting and so on. Youths don’t have good attitude for this organization they assume them as instruments through which the government will monitor them and control them. They are not interested to government politics, they said we get bored of them, they are always the same, no change in politics, they always facilitates to control as which they though it undemocratic. Most young people participate in politics not because they believe in politics but to get job and survive. They are also desperate about opposition party politics; they don’t want to engage in any politics and thinking that no change will come to country politics.

### Inter-generational relations

His family have good relationship with each other and they are bounded by love they obey their parents and also they listen to them. The good thing in his family is that they do everything consulting each other and there is no problem except that they don’t have wealthy and land. There are good relations the relationship between adult and teenage in the community which are based on respect. What brings them together is the way they are brought up or socialization process and the norm of the society is the result for it and there are no tensions among them.

## Rich male teenager 19

### Personal

He lives with his parents which includes one brother, two sisters, two male servants one farmer and one cattle herder, his father’s mother (Grandmother), his father and mother. They are engaged in farming activities and he describes his household as rich. He is 20 years old and has completed grade 10 two years ago. He did not score enough to continue preparatory school and he is not interested to pursue college education. He never dropped out his education before. In the last twelve months he has helped his family in farming activities and also sells farm products to market. He has also been teaching grade one and two students of Chebote zone due to lack of teacher he is employed by the public to teach and he is paid 300 birr monthly. In addition to this, he contracted land from poor farmers and also share cropped and farmed potato and barely. He sold potato around 6000 birr and he hasn’t sold barely yet, he is waiting for good price (he guesses that he will sell his barely around four thousand birr). He contracted ½ hectare with 1,600 birr for a year but he has contracted for two years which is about 3,200 birr in general. He is also engaged in trading sheep and makes profit of two thousand birr in last twelve months. In total he is able to generate an income of about fifteen thousand (15,000) birr in a year. He decided to engage in such work or business consulting with his family and this is the only work available in his area. He has started working in order to change his life. With money he earned he bought four sheep, different fertilizers, improved seeds and also covers the cost of his clothes and shoes expenses. His work has not affected his health. What he likes about his work is that he is happy even to get something to do or a job, he is happy to be busy. What he don’t like is that sometimes their production fails because of varying climatic conditions. Especially potatoes are vulnerable to fail due to the changing climate. He doesn’t want further education he wants to strength his farm activities. After work he spends his time playing football and socialising with friends. He is interested in music and art and he is also active in his religion Islam, he regularly prays (5 times a day). He is not active in politics because he spend most his time in work and farming activities. He plays football with his friends quite often after 9:00pm (local time). He a member of a youth association, all youth association from all zones of the kebele play together at Makero every Saturday as championship among zones in football and volley ball, to promote peace, health and it gets all the youth of the kebele to know each other. He spends time in socializing with his friends; he has tea and coffee with them. His friends include girls and he has a girlfriend. He listens to the radio when he is at home. He wants to settle in the community in the future to expand his farming activities by taking more contract farm land and also share cropping. He want to live at his current zone, his family has three hectare of land and he believes that he will get not less than half of hectare. If he leaves the community he will go to Assela town because his mother sister lives there but he want to return after a while. He wants to marry within two years, his parent won’t get involved in who he marries it is his own choice. In previous times parents get involved in whom their son marries but now he said that it is backward cultural practices - one can choose whom to marry without family intervention. He has agreement with a girl to marry, she is grade nine student she promised to marry him when she complete her education either in grade 10, 12 or university. He doesn’t know exactly when he is going to have children but within two years after he gets married and he wants to have four children. His role model has a flour factory in Gonde town and also has some vehicles. He wants to be successful like him. He was small crop trader in the past who become later successful business man. His hope is linked to the rural road construction which he believes will ease transportation services for his crops and vegetation. In the past we suffered a lot in transporting vegetation and lost a lot due to lack of transportation in. But now he is transporting his potatoes from farm gate which increased their profitability, his worry is for generations to come especially our future children because what we are going to leave them in inheritance? The land is becoming scarce and that is what he worries for the coming generations.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The problem facing young males of his age as he is growing up is lack of land. Wealth becomes the major challenge and unemployment is also another problem which results in many youth to developing bad habits. At least if they have some wealth they contract land or take share crop but if they are not able to do this their destiny is to migrate to town and engage in labour and developing bad habits. They have the opportunity to create their own job because now there is electric power coming to most villages and also rural roads which may give them to opportunity to engage in different services like barberry, cafe, restaurant and shop.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age work in the farm activities which pays best in the community and there are no kinds of work that are hard, dangerous, bad for his health. The sort of work that young males prefer to do is government work, they need name government worker as a pride but he said he prefer to be farmer because government workers are not well paid or attractive to get. Most young men are engaged in farming which is seasonal activities and they also trade livestock’s. There is not enough work in the community if there was more work they would do more because they need change. There are no males of his age who are still in education all have learned at least some grades and married. It is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return due to work pressure, especially poor family members, this is not the case for rich family members because they hire wage labours and also have servants.

The kind of work that helps young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run is farming activities. There are a lot of recent Grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want and most of them spend their time in Gonde, Assela and Iteya towns developing different bad habits like chewing chat, smoking and drinking, because they have nothing to do in the village since most of them don’t have farm land. Most of them engaged in wage labour. Most people are saying why we send our children to school while those who have completed their school are engaged in wage labour. Only few of them help their family in farming activities as he does. There are also unemployed college graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want and they are helping their family in different activities including farming. It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because it has an effect both on their education and also on their work. This mainly, because they are paid half day for labouring which is insignificant and also because they get busy for education due to work pressure. There are some twenty young in the kebele who get involved in drinking, chat, theft and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Some 60% of young males of his age are likely eventually to get access to their own farmland from their family, even though most of them will get an insignificant amount of land which may not enough for one to establish independent household. Around 40% of his friends want to be farmers. Around 50% of his friends want to stay in the community but do other kinds of work and they would like to do trading (potato, crops, cafe, restaurant, livestock fattening and so on) but most of them will likely to end up in farming activities. Some 30% of his friends want to migrate for work and 60% of his friends want to go to college and get a formal job. Some 20% of them do not really know what they want to be. Young men in their twenties he knows them personally make a living by farming activities. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood, because if one has small land or no land it is difficult to establish independent livelihood, most of them will be employed as servant for rich family or engage in wage labour.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get married in the kebele is 15 years, he mentioned the case of one of young man who got married and migrated, because his family questioned him why do you marry at this age? No one gets married at this age except him. These days the normal age for young men in the community to marry is from 22-25 years old. Some of his friends are getting married. The advantages of being married are that it prevents you from disease like HIV/AIDS and also from developing bad habits. In addition to this, one can establish independent household because family offers gifts of different household materials from cup of coffee to bed, sheep, cattle and also land which enables one to possess one’s own property. The disadvantage of being married is that if one marries someone from a poor family he gets poorer because they cannot lead their life without land and enough wealth. The challenges of being married are that when you marry your relationship changes with your family, relatives or with others. It means that when you are unmarried you work for them or help them in different way but after marriage every one concentrates on establishing his own house which may displease family or other relatives who you might have helped before in farming and different activities. Parents are not involved their sons’ choice of marriage partner and things are not different for young men from poor household. The government regulations have not affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for one from poor family to establish independent house hold, for example he can labour and will get something to eat, he also get dependent on other and lives, but when he marry what can he feed her, it even make his life worse than before. But for a rich family it is easy because he gets every support from family and relatives who makes it easy for him to establish a household. This can be done by engaging in farm activities and the barriers are lack of land and landlessness. It is common for a young man from poor family to be dependent on their family after marriage until they get independent.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate for work above 18 years old and most of them migrate to Assela, Adama, Addis Ababa, Bale and Arab countries. The numbers migrants are decreasing because more work is being created mainly on rural road construction and also in farming activities. There are no changes in the places that migrants are going to. He knows a young man who has returned after migrating to Bale. He was very poor before in Bale he was employed as servant for one rich farmer for which he was given ¼ hectare of land to farm for his own and farm for them for the last five years. Now he is back to the community with great improvement he has contracted much land to farm, he bought cattle, sheep and also engaged in trading clothes during market days. He is also helping his family. He also knows a young man who has returned after migrating from Saudi Arabia, he went there illegally and was employed there as goat shepherd and also as a gardener for four years. Now he is back in his kebele he builds a house with five service room in Assela town which he rented. He bought cattle, sheep and is also farming by contracting land. He is improved very much. He does not know anyone who has had a problem with migrating either whilst travelling or in the place they migrated to. If he plans to migrate he will go to Assela town, because he wants to engage in trading activities and he wants to go alone.

### Living in the community

What he likes about living in the community is that they live peacefully together, respecting each other irrespective religion and ethnicity of the people. What he dislikes is that some people are not interested in participating in public works organized by government like terracing and so on rather they want to work only on their own business. The community has been changing and he expects that the community will be improved a lot in the coming five years. Young people do not tend to socialize in special groups rather it is based on work place it means farmer with farmer, trader with trader, student with student and based on neighbours. His parents do not have worries about what he might do or what might happen to him. His parents try to control what he do they ask him, where are you from where are you going, but mostly they have trust on him that he is a good (hard worker) on farm activities. He spends some time on chewing chat three days in a month when his friend or guest comes home. What he knows about HIV/AIDS and its causes is that it is caused by unsafe sex and sharp metals, it is incurable disease. He does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there are in the community. It is common for young men to have sexual relations most of them with their girlfriend and few have sex with everyone. But they use condoms properly because they have high awareness.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago, these days farmers use fertilizers and improved seeds more than before which increased productivity of farmers and is changing their life. Mostly improved seeds are used for crops in addition to this farmers are also highly engaged in farming potatoes which are the main cash crop which is changing life of many farmers. Most farmers are rearing improved breads cattle which increased productivity, (by providing cattle’s fodder and shelter unlike before). There is no change on shoats, there are some change on chickens by using improved chickens and also provide them food and shelter, there are also change on bees people are using improved beehives than before. Migration out of the community has been decreasing. Migration into the community has been decreasing because different schools are taking contracts to harvest potato from farmers and the school students collect it and the school benefits from the income. This also happens for the wheat and barley harvest, the school pays nothing for students. Inequality among households has grown because the poor are becoming poorer due to lack of land and rich is becoming richer because they employ many new farming technologies which makes them richer than before. A youth from a poor family doesn’t have happiness, always think about life or they are internally sick, they have limited relationship with people, they eat to live do not get balanced diet for their health, they are poorly dressed. In contrast the rich one eats regularly and has a balanced diet, they dress well or they have clothes for night, for cold, for hot climate and also shoes for work and for when they go to town or to ceremonial places. A young man from rich family can become successful in education more than a poor man for example, if the son of rich family fails to join college or university his family sponsor him so only sons of rich families are learning in private college but son of poor family don’t have this chance. The rich families buy bags and different books for their son, but it is not the same for poor family they are less successful. A young man from rich family has no work pressure or family work by dividing or work division for example if one herds cattle other farm and vice versa but one from poor family do everything which puts him under work pressure. Poor families don’t succeed as such because the work needs money to finance fertilizers, improved seeds without which they may not bring change but one from rich family uses farming inputs properly and they become successful. A young man from rich family marries early because of their family wealthy or marriage contributions.

### Religion

People in the community spend much time on religious activities and there are also many people who are not very interested. There are three religions in the community which include Orthodox, Islam and Protestant. All religions are one but people make it different in order to create sense of superiority and inferiority, Muslims pray in the mosque we say only one Allah (God), Orthodox priest greet their followers with cross but our sheiks with their hand. Young people are getting more interested in religion in order to get help from God/ Allah or to become successful in their careers they always pray and rely on God for their future. There are no missionaries in Islam religion who come from outside to teach but young people go to Bale to learn Quran. Religious rules become stricter over time because different religions missionaries are trying to expand their own religion so that all religion rules become stricter. There hasn’t been any disagreement among leaders of the religions and sects and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions. In addition to spiritual activities Sheiks tell their followers to engage in development activities of their kebele especially when they are called by the government.

### Politics

There are good relations between youth and the government because government is cooperating youth in different cooperatives especially for unemployed youth. The message government been giving to young men recently is that youth need to be creative and also to be incorporated in different cooperatives. The messages are passed through youth leaders and cabinets. There are no advice resources, and training that the wereda has provided for young people recently. The kebele has not provided any land for young men recently. There are no resources that the wereda has provided for leisure. The wereda and the kebele should provide youth centres including sport centres and public libraries. Young people supposed to contribute to the development of the community if the kebele effectively mobilize them. There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party. Party membership bring benefits, members should be given priority in any job or other benefits which comes through government track. The Youth Association, Youth League and Youth Federation are not active in the community and most young people don’t have good attitude to these organizations because they have promised many things for youth but they haven’t delivered. For example they were promised they would be given some land and some jobs or vacancies but practically none of it happened. The general attitude of most young people to government politics is not good because they say they are only engaged in propaganda and no practical things are happening. They are always promising as but nothing has been happening. When they talk and promise the youth it seems the youth have good attitude but practically there more unemployed youth. There is no alternative political party since the 1997 EC in the kebele.

### Inter-generational relations

The relation between the teenage members and their parents or other leading adults is good and the good thing is that they work together, respect and obey each other. The problem from his perspective is that his father and mother don’t have agreement as such because his father tries to convince her forcefully which led them to conflict. The relations between the adult generation and the teenage generation is good and what bring them together is respecting each other hardworking but there are some rude (ill mannered) young people who are unrepresentative of youth who brings condemnation to others because of their bad habits.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 19

### Personal

He doesn’t live with his parents his father is divorced. He lives in Assela town in a rented house paid for by his father and the Assela malt factory (because he is an athlete of the malt factory sport club). His father is a government worker and is also engaged in farming activities. He describes his family or household as middle class in the community. His mother is divorced and shared his father land based on decision passed by the court., His farther also allocated 300 birr per month from his salary (because she brought up his son, and now the son is not with her but he keep the money for her willingly). He also assists his son who is studying at Assela town. Neither of them have remarried yet. He is 19 years old and currently he is a grade nine student and ranked second when he was grade eight and in grade nine his rank is eleventh. The reason for the poor grade has been the sport activities he engaged in and so far he did not drop out his education. In the last one year he did not help his family but in previous times he helped them by engaging in farm activities. He didn’t help last year because of being involved in Assela malt factory sport club who don’t allow him to stay away from Assela town for the sake of sport exercises and trainings. Since 2002 EC he has been involved in Assela malt factory sports club who pays him monthly salary of 280 until 2004 EC, but from 2004 onwards they pay him 550 birr. They also serve him lunch and dinner four days in a week. He joined this sport club because he was a champion of 400 meter running competitions which was held in Tiyo wereda between the schools. Since 2002EC, Assela malt factory sports club recruited him because of the performance he has showed in the short meter run, including jumping. Accordingly when the malt factory sports club requested him to be included in their sports club he consulted his father and joined the club. With the money he gets from the sport club he covers some of his educational expenses and also saves some in the bank.

Every week he has four training days which makes him to feel tired when he attends class. In addition to this there is a time when he misses class to attend sport training and also when there are competitions he leaves school for up to a month which he says is the cause for his lower achievement than before. This year for Arsi Zone school championship he spent two weeks there and become a champion in 200 and 400 meters, later he participated in federal schools championship which was hosted in Addis Ababa for two weeks and he took the third rank in 400 meter by bringing silver to Oromia region. According to him these sport activities are highly affecting his result which he says my grade 8 and 9 result is a witness for this. His sport activities do not negatively affect his health rather it makes him more healthy. He stated what he like about this sport as follows “I am very much excited when I have achieve good results , when the result of my hard work has changed to a good results during the championship it gives me a pleasure) because it is what l am working hard for “. He is happy and there is nothing that he dislikes about his career. It is very difficult to combine work and school together, because my work has been affecting my educational activities but not vice versa. He has regular program for sport activities or trainings which is four days a week so if it clashes with school in the morning or in afternoon shift he has no option than missing the school. He wants to be successful in both his education and sport activities. In the rest of his time he reads books and does homework. He has no interest in music or other arts his interest is sport. He is Islam religion follower, he said it is difficult to say I am active in my religion and he is also not interested in politics. He is not a member for any of youth association, league or federation. He would spend some time socializing with his friend, he meets with his friends in cafés and restaurants, sometimes he go to their home and they also come to visit him. His friends includes girls, he doesn’t have special girlfriend. In the future he wants to be included in the national athletic team, so he wants to live in Addis Ababa in the future in order make his dream come true. If he wanted to be a farmer he could get land from his father up to half of hectare, his father has two hectare of land. If he leaves the community he will go Munesa wereda in Arsi zone, he wants to go there because, his mother's brother lives there and he want return after a while. He want to complete grade twelve but he wants to be most successful in his running. He wants to marry after being successful his carrier and become established financially. He said that "I do not think my family will intervene on my decision of who I marry" and so far he doesn’t have an agreement with a girl. He wants to have a child after he become economically strong and he wants to have four Children. Kenenisa Bekele a well-known Ethiopian athlete is his role model because he said I have deep love for athletics and he is among the most successful runners in the world, so that I want be successful like him in the future. His hope is to succeed in his running career in the future and is worried about any disease which constraints his vision of being a runner.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

If young males have worked hard in different areas or activities in which they are engaged they have the opportunity to succeed especially in the area of education, if one is academically strong they have the chance to go further in their education. The major problems they are facing is unemployment issues in which most of the young generation become jobless both who have completed their education and also those who want to farm because lack of land. No land has been given for young in my age these might result to the young generation to develop different habits like using drug, get drunk, to engage in premarital sex and so on. The coming times are very tough for young people like me to be successful or to establish independent livelihood.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age are jobless and others are supporting their families. Metal work and carpentry pays best in the town. Young males prefer to engage in trade and also hotels, restaurants and café service. Some of the young males have a small shop, café and other engaged on family farm. They engage in such business throughout the year, since it is service giving business and farmers work during two farming seasons. There is no enough work in the community but the youth want to do more if work is available in order to change their life. Most of young males of my age are on education and probably 2% of them could no longer in education. It is common to drop out and return after a while to education especially for a poor family student, who drop out when things are beyond their control and return back when things are relatively better, other than this no one want to drop out under normal circumstances. What enable most of the young male to establish an independent livelihood is by engaging in farm activities by sharing some land from their parents and also livestock rearing. There are many youth who completed grade 10 and 12 and become jobless, most of them spend their time helping their family and other from poor families migrate to town and other areas to look for jobs. There are also college and university graduates who are jobless, they spend their time Similar with that of Grade 10 and 12 completes. It is difficult for young men from poor households to combine work and education because they spend most of their time in different work in order to survive or sustain their life and this would affect their education in different ways. Thus, they only struggle to be in education in parallel with what they do in the community. Some 30% of young are involved in drinking, chat and smoking and except 5% them involved in theft when they get opportunity due joblessness.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

None of young males of my age will get their own farm land unless they get a gift from family or inherit from their family. Probably 40% of them have the chance to get access to land either in gift or inheritance from their family but the land they access might be insignificant to lead their life because many families have very few land and they have to give for all of their sons especially when they get marry. 50% of his friends want to be farmer and 30% of them want to stay in the community doing other work, they mainly like to involve in trading, and different services like café, hotel and others also want to engage in fattening livestock. Despite of their interest most of them will end up in farming activities. 40% of them want to migrate, more than 70% of them want to go to college and get formal job and 5% of them don’t really know what they want to be. Young men in their twenties whom he know them make living with their family helping them in agricultural activities, few of them who get married shared some land from their parents and engaged in agricultural activities. it is harder for young men from poor household to establish an independent livelihood because those who labelled as poor is mostly landless or those who have insignificant land, so if the young man from the poor house hold don’t get some land for farming it is difficult for him to establish an independent livelihood. Due this most of them migrate to town to look for different jobs including labouring.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a young man can get marry is at the age of 18 but only 2% of them get married at this age. The normal age for young man to marry in the community is from 25 to 30 years old. None of his friends get married. The advantage of being married is that it helps one to establish an independent livelihood and also to have your own property and also make one to be a hard worker to lead his life normally. When one gets marry he begins to be concerned very much about his marriage as a result he begin to wisely manage their resources. If the one who get married is not financially strong I think it has disadvantage financially which puts the husband under pressure when family size increases or it lead him to live miserably life. The challenge of being married is that the disagreement and misunderstanding might lead to divorce. Some five per cent of parents are still actively engaged in deciding who their son may marry especially on the basis of their ethnicity, clan, religion and wealth of the family. For example the rich family want their son to marry a girl from rich families and so on. Things are similar for young men in the community regardless of their wealth. The government regulations have not affected the age at which young men get married, everyone can marry whenever they want to marry irrespective of their age, especially for males, but for females it works a bit.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young mean to set up independent house hold mainly because of increasing scarcity of land and joblessness. But it can be done by farming activities and livestock rearing. The barriers from establishing independent household are that of lack of wealth, lack of land and joblessness. It is common for young man from poor family to depend on his family after marriage to lead his household until he can able to be independent in leading his house. Quite often young men from rich family may not depend on his family because for their marriage to be independent they are offered land, livestock and other required property for their house hold.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate especially for those from poor family most of them who are above 18 years old tend to migrate. Most of them migrate to Asella, Adama, Addis Ababa, and Arab countries, they are involved in labouring (wage) wherever they are. Migration has been increasing due to lack of land and joblessness. In previous times migration was internal but, this day most young men are interested to migrate in Arab countries. My informant told me the story of the returnees as follows one of the returnee from Saudi Arabia bought home in Asella town and migrated back again. He was poor before migrating to Saudi Arabia. Another returnee was from Adama town, he hasn’t shown ally change after return because he was engaged in labouring which can’t escape covering his food expense for survival. He also told me the story of a man who had a problem with migrating whilst travelling as follows, he was from poor family who dropped out his education and tried to migrate illegal to Arab country, but he was not successful he died during his journey to Arab county as the boat sunk on the ocean. His family was told his death and felt deep sorrow. If he wants to migrate he will migrate to Qatar because he heard that work is available there and also he is interested or want to involve in running for them in international championships, he has the information that they are interested in accepting good runners who can represent their country and gives their citizenship. Thus, he want run for them and change his life. If he migrates he will migrate alone.

### Living in the community

What he like about living in the community is that those who actively engage in farming activities can easily change their life or become successful, so one is required to do hard work there, this makes me happy. What he dislikes is that some people who have the potential to change their life are not working hard and become poor due their lack of interest for work. The community has been changing because of awareness created on different activities and advancement of technologies to the community, after five years there will be some improvement in the life of the community. The kebele is a peaceful place to live. Young people do not tend to socialize in special group rather it is based on neighbourhoods and the places they stay. These determine their friends for example, a student gets student friend farmer with farmer due to their exposure place. His parents don’t have worry about him than wishing him success on his career especially with his running. His family control him they cheek him whether he is studying or not. He doesn’t have any bad habits.

HIV/AIDS is caused by mainly unsafe sexual intercourse and sharp metals, he also know that HIV/AIDS is incurable disease. He doesn’t know cases of HIV/AIDS in the community. It is common for young men to have sexual relations mostly with their girlfriend and few of them with other women. Most of the young people use condom because of high awareness about HIV /AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than two or three years ago. There are changes in farming, in previous farming system were more of traditional but know most of the farmers use improved seed, fertilizers and other inputs which have been increasing productivity in the area. they use rotation cropping which increased productivity, this days farmers are highly engaged in potato farming which was not common before and are getting more benefits, in previous they send their livestock to grazing land but these days they provides fodder at home which increased productivity and they are also mostly harvesting using combiners which reduced wastage. This day’s most farmers hire labour for farm activities which was very less before or unknown as such. There are changes in shoats by cleaning their shelter or keeping them clean also improvement in chickens by providing them food important for their reproduction. There are also improvements with bees by using modern beehives. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. There is change in migration out of community which is increasing over time and the migration in to the community during sowing and harvest time has been declining because of employing farming technologies like tractor and harvesting machines or combiners. Inequality among household has been grown, the rich is becoming more rich because they have the potential to with stand with the situation by employing modern farming technologies and farming inputs, but the poor is un able to do all these and becoming more poorer and poorer. There are differences between the young from rich family and poor family, the one from the rich family can fulfil most his needs and demand but the one from poor family can’t do that. Differences related to education is that young from rich family can easily buy books on sell which is important for their education and also has no work pressure which facilitate their academic achievement, but this can’t be so for young from poor household who is under work pressures. Differences related to work is that the Poor family young do more work but can’t change their life because they mostly labour for others by money which is for subsistence but the young from rich family also work for their family without pressure. It is difficult for young man from poor family to be both independent in their livelihood and household because their family doesn’t facilitate them or able to give them land & other property while it is easy for one from rich family to be independent in both due to help from his family to make him independent in both which is a proud for the family. Poor do not marry as fast as rich young because they don’t have enough wealth or land to marry unlike young from rich family.

### Religion

The communities do not spend much time on religious activity rather they spend most of their time on work and there are some people who are not interested in religion. There are three religions in the community which includes Islam, Orthodox and Protestant and their difference is on bible and Quran. Young people are not more interested in religion because they are not as such concerned about their religion as that of elders. In his religion or Islam there are missionaries who come from Bale and Harar, they teach Quran to the followers. The young people migrate to Bale and they learn Quran. Religious rules are becoming stricter over time. There are no disagreement among leaders of different religions and ordinary people from different religion lives peaceful together and it is easy for different household members who belongs to different religion to live together for example his father brother was Protestant but he lived peacefully with his Muslim families. His religious organizations do not give other services than spiritual things.

### Politics

Landlessness and joblessness spoiled the relationship between youth and government. The message government has been giving to the youth is that they should engage in development activities of their community by joining different cooperatives. The messages are passed through Kebele chair, youth leaders and other cabinets. The advice and training given to the young by the wereda recently is that to make jobless young to join or establish different cooperative and engage in development of their community. There are no resources provided by the wereda for livelihood activities of young people including for leisure and the kebele also did not provide any land for young men. The wereda and kebele should provide place or centres where the youth spend their time like sport centres, public libraries and different youth centres. The young people should contribute to development activities of their community by actively participating in any development programs. There are pressures on young people to join ruling party especially during election time and to vote for them. Party membership has benefit for members, they are given priority on vacancies, and other services. Youth association, league and federation are not active in the kebele. Most youth do not have interest to these organizations’ because they think that these organizations cannot do anything than being an instrument of party politics. Most young do not have good attitude to party politics most of them have interest in opposition politics but they fear that the government will punish or torture them if they found them they are supporting opposition parties as the case of 1997 EC election in which suspected opposition party supporters were punished heavily.

### Inter-generational relations

He has good relationship with his parents, the good thing about his family is that they are helping him on what they can and wishes him always success on his carrier and education and the problem in his family is that they get divorced. There are good relationship between adult and teenage generation which is based on respect the main thing that bring them together are that of respecting each other and living accordance with the norm of community and the main tension between them is that the misbehave of most youth by developing different habits led to condemnation from Adults.

## Poor male teenager 19

### Personal

He lives with his parents, one brother and three sisters. They are engaged in farming activities. He describes his family household as poor. He is 20 years old and completed grade 10 two years ago. When he was in grade seven he dropped out his education for one year and migrated to Adama town where he engaged in labouring in construction work for one year. He then came back to his education work for one year and financed his education with what he had earned. He is responsible for the household farming activities since his father has mental problem (his father has been not work in due to this illness) they have ½ hectare of land to feed their family which he said is insignificant for the household members to rely on this land. In the last twelve months he was employed as servant for one rich farmer to work his farming activities for which he was paid 2000 birr for a year. He also worked wage labour in others farms which he earned around 600 birr in a year work like fencing, harvesting and sowing potato. One of his neighbours facilitated this work for him because he knows that his friend (rich farmer) was looking for servant and he has decided himself to involve in this work because that is the only work easily available in their village. Totally he earned about 2600 birr which he used to finance his family and also bought some fertilizer and seeds for his family farm. When he was student his work affected his education because he misses the classes at least once a week in order to be involved in labour and also his family without which he can’t keep his education. The work has not affected his health. There is nothing he likes about the work he has worked in order to live and help his family and he dislikes everything about the work because his works requires him huge labour. It was very difficult to combine work and education as he has mentioned before. The school shift was not conductive for him because most labour works start in the morning which overlapped with his school shift so, sometimes misses the class in order to work. He doesn’t have break time because he labours for wages and also for his family which makes him busy. He is interested in music and arts. He is active in his religion and he pray regularly five times in a day. He is not active in politics. He plays football and also volley ball every Saturday with kebele youths. He is member of youth association and he is secretary of youth association at Chimbote zone. He spends time socializing with his friends, they discuss about work and life. His friend includes girls but he doesn’t have girlfriend. He does nothing when he is at home he works outside home (farm activities).

He wants to go outside the community to look for work. If he stays in the community he keeps doing his current work. He don’t think he will get land from his family because they have only half of hectare and even if he gets it is not helpful for him because it is very insignificant. He doesn’t expect that he will get land based on the current situation or in the presence of scarcity of land. If he leaves the community he will go to Adama town because his uncle lives there, probably he may not come back if he gets good job there. He has completed grade 10. He plans to marry when he get permanent job or good job which will change his life, he will probably marry after some five years. Currently he doesn’t want to marry because he has no land and wealth to establish independent livelihood or (house hold) and also he cannot afford to pay for dowry which requires him around ten thousand birr. His families will not intervene in whom he marry. He has no agreement with a girl. He plans to have children two years after he gets married and he wants to have two children. He doesn’t have role model. He worried about his future, about how should he marry, what should he feed his wife and children because he doesn’t have land and doesn’t have wealth at least to take contract land to use improved seeds. He also worried about his family because they are dependent up on him. His hope is that he may get job in government because he has finished grade 10 and he also expects that if government provide him loan he would like to trade cattle by fattening this is what he expect or hope in the future.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The major problem young males of his age are facing is that landlessness or scarcity of land and also unemployment which is making the future of most youth blurred. The opportunity is to be incorporated in different cooperation in order to make living.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of his age are jobless but some are working, in the community potato harvesting pays best which pays around 60 birr per. There is no work which is hard or bad for his health. Most of young male prefer to trade, but most of the young males are involved in farm activities for their family and also for themselves. There is no enough work in the community but if it is available the youth want to work hard in order to change their life. Only very few young male are no longer on education. It is common for young males to drop out education for a while and return mainly because of lack of money to finance their education buying uniform, so they drop out in order to labour or engage in any work which generates money for them. Farming activities and trading could help young males to establish independent livelihood in the community. There are many grade 10 and 12 completes in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want. Most of them spend their time helping their family on farm activities and others engage in wage labour both at rural villages and in the town. There are also some unemployed college graduates in the community who are helping their family on different activities. It is harder for young men from poor household to combine work and education together because he always think about how do they work what will be their destiny in the future they don’t think about their education with stability because they have nothing to eat at home and also they think about work they are going to perform after school. This will affect their education negatively. Some 10% of young males of his age get involved in drinking, chat, and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Some 50% of young males of his age will eventually get farmland from their family and 40% of his friends want to be farmer. 20% of them want to stay in the community doing other kind of works. They would like to be involved in trade like livestock by fattening, crops and shop, but they are likely to end up in farming activities. 10% of his friends want to migrate for work and 20% of them want to go to college and gets formal job. 25% of them do not really know what they want to be. Young men in their twenties make living by engaging on different farming activities. It is not easy for young man from poor household to establish independent livelihood because of lack of wealth and land in the kebele it is possible to say no one can be independent without either of the two in the kebele. If one has money he can take contract land and farm on it which enable him to establish independent livelihood and the same is true if one has land but in the absence of both the only chance is to labour (wage) which can’t enable one to establish independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The youngest age a young man can marry in the community is at the age of 18 and some 5% of them marry at this age. The normal age for young men to marry in the community is from 25-30 years old. Some of his friends have married. The advantage of being married is that it enables one to own property and save money for their house or not spend money without reason. And its disadvantage that if one marries without enough wealth or land it is difficult for his wife or children he is going to have because what can he feed them? It makes his family life miserable. The challenges are disagreement among couples which requires tolerance among both in order to live together unless it results to divorce which has big impact on children. Most parents do not involve their son choice of marriage unlike before and it is the same for all household regardless of their wealth. The government regulation has not affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young man from poor household to establish independent household because of lack of land and wealth but, it is easy for young man from rich house hold because he will be given land, cattle, sheep, donkey horse and he will be given bed, box and so on which make it easy for him to establish independent house hold. In order to marry there is dowry system which should be paid from three thousand up to ten thousand for family of bride and also wedding ceremony which the bride groom provide them crops used for wedding ceremony fiestas. In return her family gives cattle 4 to 10 for the new household cattle based on wealth of her family. The bride groom family and relatives gives sheep and money based on their wealth, father of bride groom gives cattle and also land for the new household this process of offering gift from bride groom family and relative is known as “Dhofsiisa” in Afan Oromo language. Lack of wealth including livestock and landlessness become the major barriers for one to establish independent household in the community. It is common for young men from poor family to depend on his family for support until he gets independent.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate above 18 years old. Most of them migrate to Assela, Adama, Addis Ababa, Harar, Bale and Arab countries they engage in labouring and also some employed as farm servant especially in Bale. Migration has been increasing because of lack of land and unemployment. There are no changes in the place they are going to. He told me the story of returned migrant which Mohammed already told me on this module. He doesn’t know anyone who had problem with migrating while travelling or in the place they migrate to. If he migrates he will got to Adama town because he has uncle there and also think that work is available there and he want to migrate alone.

### Living in the community

What he likes about living in the community is that they live peacefully together and they respect each other and what he dislike is that there are some people don’t work hard having land rather they spend most of their time on drinking. For him the community is not changing it is the same and he expects that there will be some improvement in the coming five years. The kebele is a peaceful place to live. Young people do not tend to socialize on special group rather it is mainly based on work mate (place) and neighbour. His parents worried about his future destiny mainly due to lack of land and wealth they have. His mother tries to control him but not seriously because she trusts him she said to him he is wise. He does not spend time on drinking, chewing chat or smoking. HIV/AIDS is transmitted by sharp metals and unsafe sex and it is not curable disease. He does not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. It is common for young men to have sexual relations, most of them with their girlfriend and only few with other women. It is common for young men to use condoms because of awareness created.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago, almost all farmers who have the capacity to buy fertilizers and improved seeds are using these modern agricultural inputs which have increased productivity. Currently most farmers have been giving large amount of their farm land for cash crops like potatoes and pulses which is generating for them substantial amount of money or changing life of most farmers. The communities are using combiners and also hiring more labour then before for their farm. There are improvement in cattle they are mostly using improved breed which increased cattle products and people are providing their cattle shelter, fodder and so on. There also improvement on shoats because some farmers started fattening shoats which was unusual before. Chickens are also improved because of expansion of improved chickens, and sheltering and providing them fodder increased productivity. There is also improvement in bees by using modern beehives. There are some changes in opportunities to work off the farm. Migration out of the community has been increasing. Migration into the community has been declining because most youth in the village are engaged in labouring farm activities than before. Inequality among households has been growing largely because poor become always poor since there is no miracle which takes them out from their circle unless they have land but rich can easily be more richer because they finance everything for farming activities which increased their productivity than before. The life of the rich and poor household youth differ on the way they dress, eat and so on. youth from poor household is academically less successful because they don’t have money to finance their educational expenses, they have work pressure but youth of rich is becoming successful on their education because they don’t have worry about their educational expenses their family provide them different extra books which help them to be more successful and their family also pay for tutorial class they don’t have work pressure which makes them successful. The youth of rich use money to perform many works or has capacity to fulfil what is needed for his farm for example, he buy the required farming inputs they also employ farm servant so this reduces their work pressure in contrary the youth of poor worked hard but not successful because they farm without improved seeds and fertilizers due to lack of money which reduces productivity.

### Religion

People in the community do not spend much time on religious issues and there are many people who are not very interested in religion. There are three religions in the community which are Orthodox, Islam and Protestant. They differ in the way they worship and where they worship. Young people are not getting interested in religion due to lack of awareness. There are Muslim missionaries who come from Bale, Harar, and Asasa and they teach them to regularly pray and to be strong in their religion. Some young people in the community go to Bale to learn Quran. Religious rules are becoming strict in order to strictly manage or control their followers. There are no disagreements among the leaders of different religion and sects in the kebele and ordinary people from different religion also live together peacefully. It is difficult to for different household members to belong to different religions unless they depart. Their religious organization do not engaged in any other business rather than spiritual activities.

### Politics

The relation between youth and government is subjective or it is based on status of youth, those who gets job or gets benefit say it is ok but others who do not have land and job blame government to be what they are. The message of government for youth is to be incorporated in different cooperatives and also to create their own work. The messages are passed through kebele chairman and other cabinets and zone leaders. There is no advice, training and resources that the wereda has provided for the youth recently. The kebele does not provided any land for the youth. The wereda has provided no resources for leisure. The wereda and kebele should facilitate how youth access credit to engage in different activities to establish their independent livelihood. The young people contribute to the development of their community if they work cooperatively in all development activities. There are pressures on young people especially during election time to vote for government. Membership brings benefit for members because priority should be given in all sectors including employment. Youth association, league and federation are not active. Some youth have good attitudes to these organizations and others have bad attitude. the attitude of young people to government politics vary depend on their personal benefits accordingly those who completed schools and also graduated from colleges and do not get jobs have bad attitude to government politics and others who are benefited have good attitude. He doesn’t think that youth have interest in opposition political parties.

### Inter-generational relations

His families have good relationship except that sometimes his father disturbs the household because of mental problem. The good thing in the household is that they work together, respect each other and carry for each other and there is no problem except the health problem of his father. The adult and teenage relationship is good in the community and what bring them together is the respect they have to each other and lives according to the norm of the society and there are no source of tension.