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

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## Rich male teenager 13

### Personal

I live with my father, 4 brothers, and one sister. My mother died two years ago. She was sick and died. My father has two wives, and now we live together with his second wife. He has six children from his second wife (one male and five females). So, I have six half siblings as well. One of my brother is a teacher in Jimma and the other one a university student in Nekamete university.

My father is a farmer. He is also a kebele manager. We have two farm labourers who cultivate the land. We have large plots of farm lands for both rain-fed and irrigation activities. We produce onions and tomatoes on the irrigated land. We produce maize and teff on rain-fed farming. We have two pairs of oxen, 4 cows, 2 calves, 1 goat, and 1 mule. My father has a salary. My family can be considered as rich as compared with the majority of the people in the community.

Now I am 14 years old. I am a grade 6 student in the Gudina Haro primary school. My rank was 6th out of 62 students in the last semester. I dropped out from school in grade five and returned back after a year. I dropped out because teachers do not teach properly. We have shortage of English teachers. As a result my father ordered me to drop out. Even this year we have no teacher for literacy (local language and English) and maths.

In the last 12 months, I have herded cattle during the vacation time. Sometimes, I become late for school because of herding. I like herding cattle. I also play football with friends while herding cattle. I do not like digging the holes and farm work as it affects health. I have not involved in harvesting, farming and irrigation work. At home I wash my clothes on the weekend. I fetch water for my step mother. I do not do paid work. I am focusing on my education. I do my homework and study after school. Work and schooling do not go together. It is very difficult to combine them. I prefer to focus on my education. Work leads to drop out, absenteeism from school, our school is teaching in a shift. The shift changes every month.

My parents are Protestants. I go to Church with them every Sunday to pray and to learn. I go the church with my siblings and friends. We go to the Church in the morning and come back in the afternoon.

In the future I want to be a scientist. I want to study social science in a university. To achieve my objective I want to study hard.

In my spare time, I study my lessons, I do my homework, I play with my friends, and every Sunday I go to Church to pray. Though I have limited access to watch football games, I like to watch it.

In the future I want to live in Addis Ababa because it is a big city and the capital of the country. I believe living there helps to live good life. People said that it is a good place to live. I do not want to be a farmer. I want to complete grade 12 and to continue my higher education and become a scientist. Once I go to Addis Ababa, I do not want to go back to the community except for visiting the family.

My role model is my brother. He is university student. He studies medical science. I want to become a clever student like him.

I know woman who lived in Addis Ababa. She is our relative. Recently she went to Saudi Arabia for work.

In the community people marry at the age of 25. I do want to marry before achieving my educational aspiration. I do not have a girlfriend now. I have only male friends. Even I do not have close relations with girls. In this community girls are not open to discuss with boys.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

The main problems that boys of age 13 face include death of parents. When one or both of the parents die, it greatly affects the education of the boys and their future life as well. The other problem is illness. It affects the education of their boy in particular and children in general. Illness leads to school dropout and absenteeism from school.

### Combining work and education

Boys of my age are involved in paid work. Some do daily labour in the irrigation farm. Still others are employed in road construction companies to earn money. Some of them also go to towns and are involved in loading and unloading of things on trucks. As there is not enough income generating activities in the community, boys migrate to urban areas to work. They mainly get the paid work in the community during the harvesting of vegetables in the irrigation farm. These works are difficult works for boys of this age. It adversely affects their health and education.

In addition to involvement in income generating activities, boys of my age are also involved in helping their parents in farming and non-farming activities. Parents want their boys to help both in farming and domestic activities.

Work load is the main factor for school dropout in this community. Students involve in paid work to earn some money for their school uniform and education materials.

There are large number of boys who completed grade 10 and 12 but stay in the community without work. They cannot find jobs because there are no job opportunities in the area and even in the woreda. Still they are searching for a job. I know young boys who have a diploma and are employed in this school by the community with very low salary. Though he has equal qualification with other teachers, his salary is very low as he is paid by the community. There is also another boy who completed grade 12 but is involved in farming due lacking of formal job.

Child who combines work and education cannot perform well in their education and they fail to achieve their educational aspirations.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Children of my age could not get access to land because they are too young to raise this issue. Moreover, the government has no land to distribute to young people at the present time. Married young men get some land from their parents. Others even do not have any land though they already established independent household. They lead their life either by renting land from other farmers or by sharecropping.

My friends do not want to become farmers. They want to become either government employees or traders. Young men from poor households face problems to finance their education particularly when they reach secondary level. Due to the economic problems to finance their education, they migrate to urban areas and are either employed in any work or they establish their own business such as small shops or tea rooms. So, the poor children could not achieve their educational aspiration because of lack of financial support from their parents.

### Getting married

Today male children should marry late. This is because of the fact that marring early leads to more poverty. Both individuals in the couple should have income and resources that will help them to establish family. I believe that marriage has no benefit. It only leads to have children and having children without the economic resources to grow them up is meaningless. To marry and establish and independent household, it is important to become self-reliant economically. Marrying early is also bad for the health of the girls.

I want to marry after the thirties. I want to advise that boys should marry after the age of 30 when they become self-independent economically.

### Setting up an independent household

It is very difficult for many young men to establish independent life. People must prepare large feasts for the marriage which is not possible for most of the poor children. Also it is a must to pay bride wealth. You have to have the cattle to sell and prepare the marriage feast and to pay the bride wealth. This finally leads to poverty. To escape this problem some young men resort to voluntary or forced abduction as this reduces the costs of marriage. In the past marriage was fully arranged with the involvement of parents and elders. Now their role is reduced as the two couples start to arrange it by their own will. This is very important as it at least reduces the cost and may lead to a peaceful family.

### Migrating

Migration is not a common practice for young men in this community. Some young people migrate to big urban areas for education. Some still migrate for work in construction companies and in hotels. I know that one young man migrated to another place for work. He stayed there for some time and return back to the community. Now he is working on farming.

Generally I do not know the place where young men to migrate and what they do there. I am not sure whether migration of young men increases or decreases.

### Living in the community

In this community, I like the irrigation scheme. Though the irrigation work was started recently, it has been changing the life of many farmers.

The other thing is the environmental protection work (watershed activities). People have been working on terracing and planting of new trees on the sloppy and hilly places. These works have been contributed to the reduction of soil erosion and will lead to the restoration of the forest coverage of the community. In addition to the watershed activities, people have been planting trees in schools, religious places and on private lands (in the compounds). People’s life has been improving and the kebele administration’s mobilization of the people to involve in watershed activities contribute to the improvement of environmental protection. This will have a good impact on changing the local economy.

In the next five years, people may work hard and improve their livelihood. I think the living conditions in the community will continue to improve. Most of the young people may continue to focus on their education and become self-reliant by getting jobs somewhere. So the number of knowledgeable people will increase in the coming five years.

There are conflicts on the boundary of farm land in the community. This is a common problem in the community. Sometimes, the conflict will become serious and leads to accusation at the kebele social court or at the woreda court. And the kebele iddirs get involved in conflict resolution.

I know that HIV/AIDS transmit from one person to another through unsafe sexual intercourse. It can also be transmitted through the use of unclean sharp materials such as blades, etc.

### The economy

The life of the people has been changing in the last few years. The community has become richer and richer. Some people have got remittances from their migrated female children. Those who sent their female children are really becoming richer and richer in a short period of time. Moreover, farmers’ knowledge of farming technologies and production techniques have been improving which help some farmers to become rich and model for other farmers. The production from farms has increased. Even landless people rent land from other people and produce good crops. People produce maize and vegetables by using chemical fertilizers and improved seeds which help to increase production outputs. The use of modern production inputs plays key roles for the improvement of the local economy.

People produce different kinds of crops including maize, teff, sorghum, nug, sugarcane, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages, onions, coffee, mango and other fruits and vegetables. People also breed livestock such as oxen, cow, goats, sheep, chickens and bees. They start to sell their cattle after fattening them. These help them to earn a good income. Of course they still use traditional farm tools to produce crops. In the irrigation farm, though they use the traditional way of diverting the water through the channel, some rich farmers start to use irrigation motor pumps which them to expand their irrigation work.

Moreover the number of traders has been increasing in the community. There are traders who buy farm products and sell to big traders in other places. The traders mainly buy grain products but there are also traders who buy vegetables and fruits.

Most of the daily labourers in the community are children from poorer households. There are also few migrant labourers who come from others areas and work on tomatoes and opinion irrigation farmers of the rich farmers.

### Religion

People are actively involved in religious activities in this community. Three major religious institutions exist in this community: Orthodox, Protestantism and Islam. There are few people who involve in religious activities. Traditional religion has been disappearing due to the pressure from other religions.

Young people are interested in religion. Life without religion is meaningless. Only few people who do not want to involve in religion. Among the three religions, Protestantism has become stricter and stricter. The number of protestant religious followers has been increasing. My parent is a follower of Protestantism. The role of parents in making their children to follow the same religion is high. So, most children follow the religion of their parents.

### Politics

No young people of my age involve in politics.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 13

### Personal

There is a good relationship between my parents and teenagers in the household. I know that there has been good relationship between the old people and the young generation. Young people respect old people. Both the old and the young people discuss on any issues that concern them and resolve in case there are problems. So, there is no problem in intergenerational relationships.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

I live with my father, mother, one sister and two brothers. I am the eldest child in the family. My parents live on farming. They have land to produce maize. They have only one hectare of land. We have irrigated land to produce vegetables like tomatoes. We have a pair of oxen, 3 cows 3 heifers, and a bull. We have no mules, goats and sheep. We have some chickens but no honey bees. We also produced some red peppers for home consumption. While my mother does domestic work my father does farming. Compared with the majority of their people in the community my household is about middle economically.

Now I am 13 years old and a grade six student. Last semester my rank was 5th out of 62 students in a class. I have never dropped out of school.

In the last 12 months I have involved in cattle herding, fetching water, keeping house, protecting the crops from wild animals like aps. I also watered coffee plant.

I study my lessons during the evening. I also study while herding cattle. I go to church on study to pray. I have never engaged in income generating activities. I like to herd cattle because I play with my friends while we are herding. I herd cattle both in private and communal grazing lands. I also like watering vegetables because I do this in the afternoon when the hot temperature is reduced.

Regarding the decision to work my father and mother decide. All the work I perform has little impact on my education except herding. Sometimes I have been absent from school for five consecutive days. Though I have reported this to the teachers, they have not discussed it with my parents. It is possible to combine schooling and work. As I learn in shift system, I can help my parents in the rest of my time.

In the future, I wish to become a professional engineer. I plan to complete my secondary education and join university. I want to improve my performance in order to achieve my educational aspiration.

I am a member of protestant religion. So I actively participate in religious activities in my spare time. I go to in protestant church on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. I also participate in sport activities in school. I also do some physical exercises at home. I have a friend with whom I play and study together. I have no girlfriend. In the future I want to live in Ambo city/ zone capital/ because the weather is good there. I visited Ambo last year to participation in the graduation of my aunt. I do not like to stay in this community for the future, because the weather is not good for life; it is very hot. I also do not want to be a farmer. I want to be government employee in engineering.

I want to marry at the age of 25 because I want to finish my education and get job. I wish to have three children at age of 30.

### Combining work and education

There are children of my age who are engaged in paid work. They complain about work and education. Most of the time they work after school and during the vacation time as the school in the community is in shift system only few students have dropped out because of work. For example only one child has dropped out from school last year. He returned back this year in grade six only two students were dropped out this year-one girl migrated to Saudi Arabia to get a job, one boy dropped out because of financial problems.

In order to lead independent life young men should be actively involved in farming /both in rain-feed and irrigation. There are many young men who completed grade ten and 12 and stay in the community without job. They wander from place to place without work. Sometimes they involve in paid work but most of their time without doing anything. There are also young men who completed college education from private institutions but stay in the community without job.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Children of my age do not have access to land. Parents give land only to married male children unmarried children do not get land. The government also do not give land for young mean, because there is shortage of land.

All my friends do not want to become farmers rather want to become government employees. Most of them do not want to stay in the community they wish to live in urban area. Most of them want to continue with their education up to university level, and then get a job in other places.

### Getting married

I want to marry at the age of 25 or above. Most of the young men in this community want marry at this age. Marriage is important to establish family. It helps to us live together as couple however marriage may lead to large family size which in turn results population increase. High population means high pressure on the farm land and natural resources.

The main challenge for marriage is poverty. Marriage needs the preparation of a feast and the payment of bride wealth therefore poor young men cannot marry in the formal way. They rather engage in abduction and lobbing the parents, which are considered to be less costly.

### Setting up an independent household

After marriage young couples live near to the man's parents. The parents of most couples give some land in order to establish independent household. Those parents who have livestock also give to the couples. Poor young men may not get gifts from their parents. There are also parents and relatives who give cash to a newly married couple in order to help them establish independent life.

### Migrating

Young men who complete secondary education migrate to towns to find jobs. Some of them go to coffee growing areas during coffee harvest season. Some of the place where they migrate to include Jimma, Limu etc.… Most of these migrants are those who complete grade ten. The number of migrant young men increases from time to time. Large numbers of migrants migrate to urban area for college education and to find job. I do not want to migrate to other place before completing my secondary education.

### Living in the community

I like the expansion of irrigation scheme in this community because it has been improving the livelihood of many people in this community. Furthermore I like the expansion of public work/ terracing check-dam, planting trees and fodder in recent years. The public work helps to improve the eco-system; it also helps to improve the production of the land and farm production output. It also reduces soil erosion and helps to increase underground water.

What I dislike is that some people do not want to be involved in public work. I also dislike disagreements among the people in the community.

I think the community has been changing. Production has been increasing. From year to year I believe that agricultural production will continue to increase in the coming five years. This is a peaceful community conflict is not common. And people resolve disagreements through discussion.

I have good relationships with my parents. I do not drink; chew chat and smoke I learnt about HIV/AIDS. We were taught that it caused using unclean sharp materials. In order to prevent it is important to use new and clean sharp materials like blade knifes etc.… It is not very common to have girlfriend before the age of 20 in this community.

### The economy

The local economy has been improving; people are working hard to move out of economic problems. They work privately and in group e.g. wonfel. Farm production has been increasing because of the use of fertilizer. In addition to the production of grain, people produce vegetables and fruits by using irrigation. They focuses on improving the qualities of livestock mainly cattle and shoat. Livestock production has also been increasing due to the use of improved fodder and animal vaccination. The number of people engaged in trade has also increased.

### Religion

There is no conflict among different religious groups. People peacefully practice their religion. Currently orthodox, Protestantism, and Islam are the three religions in the community. People go to their respective religious institutions to pray and to learn spiritual things.

### Politics

I have no any involvement in political activities. So I have little knowledge about it.

### Inter-generational relations

I have good relationship with my family. They advise me too focus on my education and work. They advise me not to spend my time without work. Regarding the relationship between the teenagers and adult people in this community, teenagers are reluctant to accept the advice and order of adult people. This is a tension for the future.

## Poor male teenager 13

### Personal

I live with my family (mother, father, 2 brothers and 2 sisters). My family is dependent up on farming for living. We produce different kinds of crops including teff, maize, sorghum, nug, barley, peppers, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cabbage of different types. We use the summer rain to produce grains but we use irrigation to produce vegetables. We also breed animals. All the family members including my siblings are involved in farming. This helps to improve the livelihood of my family. The youngest brother of 8 years old is involved in fetching water and fire wood and performing other domestic activities. Economically though we are still poor, we are moving out of it through hard work.

In terms of education, now 13 and learn in grade 4. My rank was 2nd from 109 students in a class. I have repeatedly been absent from the school due to family work (herding and farming). I am involved in cattle herding, farming, weeding, harvesting, collecting maize, cutting trees, and threshing activities. I can plough the land with oxen. I also dig the land with hoes. I help my mother at home in fetching water and firewood, cooking coffee, etc. This has had a negative impact on my educational performance. I have never dropped out from the school.

Last summer I was employed by the China road construction company as daily labourer. I worked there for three months (from July to September). It was the vacation time. My salary was 600 birr per month. I also worked on the internal road construction in our community for one month last year. The work was half day. I was paid 300 birr per month. I bought a cow with this money. The work was difficult I carried stones and dug ditches, which were heavy and difficult work. I worked half day and learned half day. It had negative impact on my health and education.

My father and mother urged me to do paid work. I also accept their advice because the paid work helps me to earn money. I use the money to buy education materials and personal items like clothing, etc. I also support my parents with the money. They buy some consumable items such as salt, sugar, food oil, and soap with the money.

My brother is a construction worker. He works with the China road construction company. Last year he helped me to get the paid work in the company. He has played important roles in helping me to get all kinds of paid work in the last 12 months. In the last 4 months I earned 2,100 birr from the paid work.

I bought a cow with 1800 birr. I bought school uniform with 200 birr. I gave 100 birr to my parents. I have repeatedly been absent from school due to both the family work and non-family work. The work also affected my health condition. I am feeling unhealthy this time. I feel some pain around my chest. Now I could not carry big things. The work I have performed is harmful for health. In the future I do not like to carry stones and to dig ditches and holes.

Regarding combining work and education, I believe it is important to lead life in plan. As the school is in shift system in this community, I plan to learn half day and to work the remaining half day. Though the works (both family and paid) have huge impact on my educational performance, I have managed it. I mainly do my assignments and homework during the evening. I mainly study during the night and over the weekend.

My plan for education in the coming year is to focus on my education in order to improve my school performance and to achieve my aspiration of becoming a medical Doctor. I also want to help my family in work. I want to stop working paid work as it impacts on my education and health.

During the rest of my time, I play with my friends in the neighbourhood. I also study over the weekend. I study under the trees. I like music. I also like drawing and I draw during my rest time. I play football and volleyball with my friends.

I am a follower of a protestant religion. I like my religion and got to church every Sunday to pray and learning spiritual things. I go to the Church together with my friends and my parents who are also Protestants.

In the future, I plan to join university and to become a medical doctor. However, if my educational aspiration cannot be fulfilled, I want to stay in the community and to work on farming. Though the kebele administration has no land to distribute to young men like me, I can get the land from my father and then to work on it and improve my life. In case the kebele distributes the communal grazing lands to the youths, I may be one of them to get it. So, assuming that I fail to continue with my education, I believe I will become successful in my farming activities.

If I get the opportunity to leave the community, I want to live in Addis Ababa because people say that it is a good place to live. I have relatives in Addis Ababa, and they work there. I want to get married after I complete my education and have got a government job. I may marry at the age of 30. This will be the time when I become a rich man.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

The presences of schools in the community are the good opportunity to learn. Moreover, there is a secondary school in the nearby town of Tibe which is very important for young men to continue their education after they finish grade 8 in the community.

The challenge is that there is lack of opportunity to get jobs after competing secondary and college education. There are many young people who live in the community without job though they already completed grade 10 or 12 or graduated from colleges.

### Combining work and education

Some children in this community do not like to work. They also do not properly follow-up their education. However, the majority of male children of my age follow up their education properly. They are also involved in both family and paid work in order to help their parents in labour and in cash. There were my friends who worked in the China road construction company last summer. They also work in the internal community road construction and paths as daily labourers. Some male children also work as daily labourers in the local irrigation farms. They are employed by the owners of the irrigation farm. Sometimes, they can get up to 25 birr per day. They mainly participate in planting seedlings, weeding, and collecting vegetables.

The most dangerous work includes carrying stones in the road construction and digging of ditches. Children of my age want to work simple things which cannot affect their health.

School dropout is high in my school. They can be from 30-40 in the full cycle primary school of Gudina Haro alone. Paid work is becoming the major factor for dropout. Some children drop out for one year and then come back again. Some of them drop out more than once. Most of the dropped out children are from the poorer households. As their parents cannot provide them with education materials and clothing’s they are involved in paid work to earn money which finally contribute to their dropout. Poverty is the main cause for this.

In order to lead independent life, young men should do paid work. They need to get the money that could help them to establish independent life.

There are large numbers of young men who completed grade 10 and 12 but stay in the community without any job. They are totally dependent on their parents for living. They are even becoming bad role models for the young youths who want to focus on their education. Of course, the kebele is trying to help these youths to get priority whenever job opportunities are created in the community. For example, when the China Company start the construction of main road to Addis Ababa, the kebele gave priority to those youths who completed secondary education but stay in the community without job.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young males of my age are too young to establish independent life. However, most of them do not want to become a farmer. They rather want to focus on their education and to get employed in government office after completing their college education. Of course all students do not have similar ability and aspirations. The active and clever ones want to continue with their education up to the end. The lazy ones want to stop learning and to work as farmers. Generally the majority of them believe that education is an instrument to move out of poverty. So, they want to complete their education and search for job somewhere. Some of my friends whose parents are very poor want to migrate in search of job in big towns and cities. They want to work in construction companies in different parts of the country.

Young men of 20 and above want to seek jobs. I know some 10 young men who dropped out of school and become farmers. They engage in both rain-fed and irrigated farms either on their parents land or by renting the land from poor households. Others are still in school. I know four young men in their twenties who are learning in grade nine.

### Getting married

The youngest age for marriage in this community is 21. Only few young men are married at this age. The majority of them marry after this age. Now the normal age for marriage ranges from 25-30. The important advantage of marriage include:-

* To have children
* To become rich by working together [the two couples]
* To establish family

The disadvantage of early marriage include:-

* Early marriage leads to health problem
* Leads to early pregnancy
* The health and future life of the new born child will not be good.

The Challenges of being married include:-

* Poverty of the households affects the new couples- it transmits to them.
* Marriage without having wealth and property leads to living bad life.

Regarding marriage arrangement, in the past elders played important roles in marriage arrangement and choice of marriage partner. Today, the two couples discuss and agree before the parents and elder intervene. Once they agree to marry each other, they inform their parents. Then the parents send elders to the parents of the bride.

### Setting up an independent household

It is not easy to establish independent household. The young men do not have land. In rural areas, establishing independent household without having farm land is very difficult. Poverty is the main barrier to setting up an independent household. Some rich parents may distribute part of their land to their married male children but there are households who have no land or very small plot of land. Therefore, these households cannot give land to their married children. So, many young men fear to establish independent household because they cannot lead the household properly without having assets. Even those who already married are struggling to survive. They lead life by renting land or sharecropping. As they may not have oxen, they also rent the oxen. Others are leading their life by doing paid work. So, as a whole it is very challenging to establish independent household, particularly for young men from poor households, in this community.

### Migrating

Migration to urban areas has been increasing from time to time. Most of these migrant young men are those who completed either primary or secondary education. Their age is above 20. In the past many of the young men migrated to other agricultural places like Jimma, etc. Now they migrate to Addis Ababa, Ambo, Adama and Dami Dolo (in the west). They go there to work as construction workers, hotel workers, etc.

I know one young man called Shalama Deribe, who went to Dambi Dolo to work as road construction worker. He went there three years ago with the China road construction company and he recently returned back to the community. He is the breadwinner in the household. His father died some years ago, and he lives with his mother and other siblings. I also know a young man who migrated to Addis Ababa last year. He stayed there for 7 months and returned back home. He already completed grade 10 but he could not get government job. Now he is involved in paid work in the irrigation farm.

The majority of the young women migrate to the gulf countries.

### Living in the community

I am happy living in this community. In particular I am happy for the presence of the school in the community which is very closer to my home. I just walk 15 minutes on foot to reach the school.

The community is really changing. Many households are moving out of poverty due to the expansion of extension and irrigation works. The local economy is improving. In the coming five years, I believe that the majority of the people in the community will move out of economic problem.

When we see the security condition of the community, it is the most peaceful community. The kebele administration has played important roles to establish peace and safety in the area. There are limited conflicts in the community. There might be few individual conflicts but they are resolved with the intervention from the community elder.

### The economy

The livelihood of the community is dependent up on the agriculture (farming and herding). People have been improving the productivity and production of both of these sectors. Many people are becoming richer and richer. This has been happened through hard work. People are working hard in order to change their livelihood. People are organized in groups [1-5 structure] and involved in developmental activities. The production from farming (both rain-fed and irrigation) has been improving. Almost all members of the community show some kind of economic development in the last few years. Many people in this community breed livestock and they are selling their cattle after fattening them. This helps them to increase the income they obtain from the selling of livestock. Many of the households have large number of cattle. The cattle disease has been declined which contribute to the increase in livestock. People also breeds honey bees which help them to get some income by selling the honey.

Large numbers of young people are involved in paid work either in the irrigation scheme or in the construction activities which help them to earn income. Some people are also involved in carpentry and get income by selling the furniture.

Children of the rich have good opportunities to continue with their education because their parents can help them to go to town and learn there. As compared with children of the poor, children of the rich households involve more in family work. Children of the poor may be more involved in paid work. Children of the rich households get married early because the parents have the resources to arrange marriage and to help to establish independent households.

### Religion

Most of the people in the community are involved in religious activities. Some people may not follow up their religion strictly but in general people engage in their respective religions. Some may be religious but at the same time they involve in bad habits such as drinking alcohol and chewing chat.

People believe in three kinds of religion – orthodox, Protestantism, and Islam. There are also some people practice traditional religions (kalu) but they belong to any of the three religions as well. People of different religion live together in peace. Even we can find people of different religion in the same household but there is no conflict among them in relation to religion. One respects the religion of the other.

### Politics

The local government has tried to organize the youths into cooperatives. This is to help them to solve their problems in organized way, mainly economic problems. But there are not youth associations and youth league in the kebele.

### Inter-generational relations

In my household, the teenagers and my parents live in peace. We work together and help each other. If the father or the mother does not live together, the children may quarrel with the step mother or step farther. In particular when the mother dies, children could not get proper care from the father and step mother. This leads to conflict between the teenagers and the parents.

The community elders and some adults say that the young generation do not accept their advice and ideas. The main tension created when the young people start to earn their own income from the paid work. The income helps the young generation to feel that they are economically independent. This idea is not acceptable by the adults/old people.

## Rich male teenager 16

### Personal

I live with my father, mother, three sisters and one brother. One of my sisters was married; one of them learning in TVET in Ambo, one of them is a teacher in Boto primary school in the community. Another brother lives in Sheshemene working on an agricultural extension programme. The life of my family here depends on farming; producing red-pepper, teff sorghum, maize, sugar cane, green pepper. We have 6 pairs of oxen, 6 cows, 1 sheep, honey hives (5 traditional and 3 modern). The modern hives are given to us by the DAs. We have chickens but most of them (20) were died by chicken disease this month. The disease kills them in to 2-3 days, people did not report to DA’s as they

My family is rich as compared with the majority of the household in the household.

I am grade 8 student and my rank was 8th out of 52 students in the class in the last semester. I have never dropped out but I was absent from school due to family problems. I also came late to school while I was in grade 2 because teachers beat me. Now I have improved that behavior and become a cleaver student.

I participated in a number of works such as planting coffee, trees (Graivila trees), etc. I am also involved in farming - hoeing, weeding, harvesting, terracing, etc. I also herd cattle during summer. I help my mother in fetching water and firewood.

I have never been involved in income generating activities. I do not do paid work. My parents want me only to help them in family labour. They do not allow me to work as paid labourer.

I work when I am out of school. Many smaller children started to work early and this has impact on their health and education. My parents decide which work I should do. My parents do not know that the work affects my education. So, they push me to work. But I know that it affects my performance in school. I like farming because it is not a difficult job. Education is given in shift because of the shortage of teachers.

In the rest of my time, I play football with my age mates in the neighborhood. I also swim in the river. I go to protestant church for praying during the weekend. I mainly go to Church on Sunday and during the holidays.

I am not a member of any youth association, youth league and youth federation. There are none of these in this community. These organizations are not active in the community. I am a member of HIV/AIDS club in the school.

I have male friends. We play together. We study together. We work together. We go to Church together. I do not have female friends.

In the future I want to become a medical doctor or an engineer after I complete my university education. I aspire to live in Ambo city. If I could not achieve my educational aspiration, I want to stay in the community and engage in farming and livestock breading. I can rent or sharecrop the land irrigated land, and produce different kinds of vegetables. I can get some land from my parents. They have 8 hectares of land. My father can give me 4 hectares of land because I will be the only male children for my parent. My eldest brother already left the community for a government job. I can also breed livestock.

I plan to continue my education up to university level. I want to marry at the age of 35 because I should be self-reliant before I marry. I want to choose my future wife by myself and then to introduce her to my parents. According to the culture of this area, parents should be involved in the decision of marriage arrangement but as an educated person I want only their opinion about it. I can decide myself. Currently I do not have girlfriend. I want to have three children.

My role model was the late Prime Minister Melese Zenawi. He was tough and critical in decision making. He was able to bring important changes in the lives of ordinary people in the country. I want to follow-up his strategy of changing things.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

The main problem is that young people do not want to work hard. Some of them are reluctant to work. Others do not give attention to their education. The presence of school primary schools in the community and secondary school in nearby town are the good opportunities for young people to improve their educational status.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young men participate in in farming, herding and irrigation work. They also attend schools either in primary or secondary schools. Some of them involve in paid work including in the road construction works. There are also those who involve in paid work in the irrigation farm and in harvesting during the harvesting time. Some still sell vegetables such as sugar cane, etc.

Workload affects the health and education of children of my age. Farming and harvesting is difficult works for young men. They can cut their hands with sickles and they may harm they hand or leg while hoeing and digging the farm.

Many of the young men like farming. They are involved in farming from March to August. There are some young people who are out of school. They do not have the interest to learn. They even do not understand the importance of education.

As to education drop out is not very common in this community but absenteeism is very common-particularly during farming and harvesting seasons. Most of those who are absent from school are young men (not young women). School attendance is higher for girls than boys in our school.

I know about 20 young men who completed grade 10 but stay in the community without job. There are also some 10 young men who completed college education but do not have a job. Most of these graduated from private colleges in Ambo and Bako. All of these young men are either searching for job or involved in farming and small scale trading activities in the community. Some of them have already established families.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young people should be involved in farming and trading in order to establish independent life. Some of the young men of my age can get land from their parents. However, only some of my age mates want to become a farmer in the community. They rather want to become a government employee. Those who want to stay in the community want to be involved mainly in farming and trading activities.

Surprisingly most of the young men aspire to continue their education up to university level though they know that they will have a lot of barriers to achieve this goal. I know some young men in the twenties who still live in the community. They support their parents in farming. They are also involved in trading activities.

Some of them are already married and started to live an independent life. They produce crops both by using rain and irrigation.

The main challenge to start independent livelihood is laziness, lack of education, and bad habits such as drinking alcohol and chewing chat. Those who have already immersed themselves in bad habits cannot work hard and change their livelihood.

### Getting married

The youngest age to marry for men is 20-22. Only few young men marry at this age. Most of them marry at the ages of 25-30. The advantage of marriage is to have children and to live together as a couple.

In most cases marriage leads to poverty, backwardness, dependence, etc. It leads to the next generation (children) to become impoverished. I do not prefer marriage. I prefer a partner. Marriage should be stopped. It marriage become a must, people should use family planning properly otherwise it leads to large family size.

The government regulation on marriage include reducing forced abduction, reducing big marriage feasts, and to reduce rape. It plays roles in legalizing/formalizing marriage.

### Setting up an independent household

The role of parents in the marriage arrangement of their young sons should be on advising the couples on how to lead independent household, and to support the new couples in giving land, livestock and money.

Children of the poor marry early because the young men of the poor families do not live alone. They need a partner. As the poor children can become successful in education, they prefer to marry to the rich children.

### Migrating

Migration to urban areas in search of jobs has been increasing from time to time. Most of the young women migrate to the Middle East countries but most of the young men migrate to big urban areas within the country. Young men start to migrate after the age of 18. Their main destinations include the big urban towns and the cash crops rural areas. I know a person who migrated to Fincha sugar factor in order to work in the cutting of sugar cane. As he could not cope up with the high temperature there, he returned back home after a month. Now he re-starts his education from grade 8 and starts to help his family in farming. I do not want to migrate to another place before completing my university education.

### Living in the community

This is improving people like each other, they respect each other. Personally, I do not like abduction of female children. I also do not like smoking, drinking alcohol and chewing chat. Chewing chat is becoming a common practice among the Muslim communities. It is not common among the other religious groups.

It is a peaceful place there are no security problems in the community. In the past individual fighting was a common problem, there were robberies as well. Now they are not a big threat in the community. It seems that the living conditions of the people in this community have been improving, and I think it will continue to improve within the coming five years.

There are no religious based conflicts. There are no ethnic based conflicts in the community as well.

### The economy

The community has become richer and richer. There are two schools in the community. People have been producing crops. Farming has been expanding and production and productivity has been improved. People start to focus on work. Conflict has been reduced, and peaceful situation prevails in the community. Irrigation farms have been expanded. People start to focus on improving the animal products. Fattening is becoming a common practice in the community. Internal transportation system has been improving. People are producing different kinds of grains, vegetables and fruits. Out-migration has been increasing while in-migration has been declining.

Economic inequality increases. But still both the rich and poor households have been improving economically. In the past the poor were discriminated against in any development initiatives but now they are part and parcel of the development discourse. The poor are highly encouraged to get involved in development activities.

In most cases children from the rich households are successful in their educational performance. Poor children mainly drop out from school due to paid labour. Most of the poor depend on paid work and they do not plan for the future.

### Religion

I am actively participating in religion. I go to church every Sunday to pray to God. Orthodox Christianity, Protestantism and Islam are the three major religions in the community. People run their own religion without any conflict.

### Politics

The young people and the government have good relationship. The government support the young people to become educated and to improve their livelihood. The government also works to improve the rights of the young people. It allows the young people to be organized and fight for their future life.

### Inter-generational relations

The adult people advise the young generation to respect the norms, values, and culture of their forefathers. The adults also advise the young people to work hard and to improve their livelihood. Young people also accept the advice from the adult people. There is no major tension between the two.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 16

### Personal

I live with my father, mother, and 7 sisters from my mother. My father had two wives he has one male and one female child from her. His first wife was died last year and now he lives with my mother. The life of my family depends on farming and livestock breading. We produced maize, teff, sorghum and mango, red paper gram pepper, etc. we do not have irrigated land. We produce some bananas and tomatoes from small plot near a stream. We have 5 oxen, 7 cows, and 4 heifers, 1donkey, chickens and 10 honey hives.

My household is categorized as a middle income family as compared with the other members of the community.

Now I am 16 years old and learn in grade 8, my rank was 2nd out of 45 students in a class in the last semester. At the beginning of school year we were 52 students. But seven students dropped out. Most of were from poor households. Family poverty, lack of education quality (mainly lack of text books and teachers) contribute to their drop out. We do not have language teachers; we do not have physics text book. We share mathematics, English and social science text book one for 5 students.

I have never dropped out but sometimes I am absent to help my father from farming. I am involved in sawing, weeding, harvesting and herding. I herd cattle in the morning and in the afternoon. I attend my education in shift so that I have time to be involved in farming and herding. I also fetch water for my mother. I clean the compound and fence the fences.

The work does not have impact on my education because I attend in shift. I study and do my homework while herding cattle. I also study and do homework in the evening. I also study at the weekend. The work has no problem with my health.

I wish to be an engineer after completing my education. Next year, I want continue to help my parents and to improve my education performance. I wish to improve my rank to 1st in the class.

I play football with my friends in the neighbour. I chat with my siblings. I help my younger siblings in studying. I belong to orthodox religion. I sometimes visit to church to pray. I like music and play with friends while herding cattle. I listen to music through radio. I like draw pictures.

I am involved in some kinds of political activities. Though I am not a member of youth association, youth league, and youth federation, I was involved in facilitating election. I attend some youth based meetings. In school I am a member of HIV/AIDS club. The club educates people on the causes and prevention of HIV/AIDS as we as on how to give care for HIV patients. I participate in drama about HIV/AIDS.

I have male friends. I learn study and do homework’s with my friends. We work together to help families with labour. I have no girlfriend.

In the future I want to be an engineer. If my education aspirations are not achieved I want to stay in the community and lead my life in farming. I wish to become rich farmer by getting involved in both rain fed and irrigation activities. I will try to get farm land from my family. I will also want to form farm cooperative with other youth. And try to urge the government to give us land.

Provided that my educational aspiration is achieved, I want to get formal job and to live in Addis Ababa. Until I finish my secondary education I want to combine work and education.

I plan to marry after I become self-independent economically. I cannot predict the time when I can marry as it depends on the opportunities I face in the future. I want to choose my girlfriend by myself. I do not allow my parents in the choice of my girlfriend. I have to marry the one I love, I wish to have two children (one male and one female).

I do not have specific model person but I know many people worked hard and became successful. I want follow their footstep and become a successful person economically. Some of these people are model farmers; so I use them as model for my future success.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

Some children have dropped out of school. Still some of the poor children involve in trade activities. This is a challenge for their educational attendance and performance. The opportunities that young men of my age have included the attitude of the people towards work have been changing. This is a great improvement which will help the young men to actively involved in work and improve their livelihood. The primary schools that have been constructed in the community are good opportunity for young people to learn without going to distant places.

### Combining work and education

Many young men of my age participate in farming, trading and herding cattle. They also learn their education. Some of them are involved in daily labour in the irrigation work. Others have worked in the road construction last summer when the China road construction company was working here on the main road to Addis Ababa. Still some young men are involved in private works of their own including carpentry, barber, etc. still others involve in trading in charcoal. They sell charcoal on the roadside to the passing car drivers and passengers. Some of them sell sugarcane and banana on the roadside in the community.

It is true that these works adversely affect their educational performance. They contribute to absenteeism and dropout. Most of those who drop out of school return back to their education after one or two years. Some of the works such as selling charcoal and construction works affect the health of the children.

Despite the negative impact of the works on health and education, young men of my age want to be involved in income generating activities because they believe that these works will help them to become economically independent. Some of them are involved in trading throughout the year which really helps to get good income that allows them to declare independence from their families. The most important work that leads to economic impendence of the young men is farming activities by using modern production inputs such as fertilizers and improved seeds. In addition to knowledge of improving production, the knowledge of storing and selling of farm products is also important. Young men need to learn to store the farm products during the time of low buy selling price for the crops and to sell the crops when the price increases. This will help them to accumulate good income from the sale of the products with good price.

There are some young men who complete grade 10 or 12 but stay in the community without a job. For example, my sister completed grade 10 but she stays at home. She has not got any job since the last two years. My brother also completed college education in diploma but he stayed at home. Both of them help the family in farming. They are also searching for job when they hear that there is a vacancy at the woreda level but they have not succeeded in getting the job.

There are large numbers of young men from poor households who struggle to combine work and education because they have to work to get something. However, the work adversely affects their education.

There are few young men who drink alcohol in this community. Also only few of them smoke and chew chat.

###  Establishing an independent livelihood

Children of my age could not get land from the government. However, their parents may give them some land from what they already have. They may give them small plot of land when they get married and started to lead independent life.

Some of my friends want to become farmers. But most of them want to get job in towns/cities. Only few of them wish to stay at home. Some of them want to migrate for temporary jobs. They want to go to Ambo to do paid work. They believe that they will improve their livelihood if they migrate. However, in my view it is better to stay in the community and work in farming and try to change life. The majority of them want to continue with their college education and to get formal job.

### Getting married

Now the youngest age for marriage in this community for men is 20 years. The rich families have the opportunity and capacity to marry their children at a younger age. Only the children from rich family can marry at this age. Of course there are also children of the poor who can marry early but they could not lead their life successful because they could not get support from their parents. Most of them marry after the age of 23. None of my friends got married yet.

Marriage is good to get children. It helps to establish family. Marriage is good as it leads to improved livelihoods provided that the two couple work hard.

On the other hand marriage leads to poverty when the marriage is followed by large feasts and bride wealth.

### Setting up an independent household

It is not easy to established independent household in this community. Poverty of the household is a major barrier. Laziness is also a factor. Many of the married couples need support from their parents. They are dependent on their parents for land and livestock.

### Migrating

It is not very common for young men to migrant for work. Some of them go to urban areas in search of government jobs, after completing secondary or college education.

### Living in the community

I like this community because people are coming out of poverty through hard work. In the past people were not hard workers. As a result they suffered a lot from economic problems but now things are changing. The lives of the majority of the people have been improving. In addition to improvements and farming the construction of internal road is a big progress. The establishment of two primary schools in the community helps to improve school enrolment. The role of agricultural extension workers to improve productivity and production leads to changes in the local agricultural economy. There has been huge community mobilisation to involve in public works such as tracing and planting of new trees. Men and women are getting credit from the government which contributes to improve their livelihood.

The current problem is that some young men drink alcohol and fight with each other and with their families. Laziness is still a problem among young men. Another challenge is that the quality of education is still very bad. Though students are grouped in to 1-5s in order to study together and to improve performance, the follow up is very loose.

Despite the presence of some conflicts among some groups community is general a peaceful place. The cause of the conflict can be on bounder of farm lands, cattle eating crops and drinking alcohol. However there are no ethnic and religious based conflicts.

### The economy

As explained above there have been big changes in the local economy. People use modern farm inputs to increase production. Some people breed high bred cattle. Many people start to fattening cattle and start to sell at good price. But this is not at large number. People start to diversify the type of crops they produce. In addition to grains such as maize, teff and sorghum, they produce vegetables and fruits such as peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages, onions, banana, mango and sugar cane. Many farmers start engaging in irrigation; some use modern irrigation motor pumps. The livestock products have increased in terms of quantity and quality.

Generally the followings are some indicates how the community is changing:

* Out migration increases
* International migration is increases for women.
* In-migration is decline
* Economic inequality increases between poor and riches.
* Poor children drop out more
* Poor children work more in paid labour.
* Rich young men married early than poor young men.

### Religion

Three major religions exist in the community. These are orthodox Protestantism and Islam. Traditional religion is on the verge of extinction due to the influence from the above three. Generally young men actively participate in religious activities. There has no conflicts among the different religious group and people do not face any problem in changing their religion.

### Politics

There has not been problem between young men and the government. Though there is no organised structure for young men in the community the majority of the young men support governments and developmental initiatives.

### Inter-generational relations

I have good relationship with my parents. My siblings have also good a good relationship with parents. Generally adult and young people have good relationship with each other. People respect each other no major tension between them.

## Poor male teenager 16

### Personal

I live with my father, mother, 5 sisters and 2 brothers. One of my sisters married and is leading independent life. The livelihood of my family depends upon farming. We produce crops such as maize, teff, sorghum, and beans barley and wheat in order of importance we live in the Boto zone of the community where Mt. Gona is found. As it is high land it is good for the production of barley, wheat and beans. We also produce mango fruit for consumption and market. We sell eucalyptus trees. In the irrigation farm we produce onions, tomatoes, potatoes, beat roots and sugar cane. We bread livestock. We have a pair of oxen, a cow, heifer, and two bulls, and five goats. My family are considered as poor as compared with the majority of people in the community.

Now I am sixteen years old and a grade eight student. My last semester rank was 5th out of 82 students in the class. I have never dropped out of school but sometimes I am absent due to family problems including farm labour.

In the last 12 months I have been involved number of activities. I was involved in farming, harvesting, threshing, weeding, hoeing, watering vegetation and protecting crops from wild animals. In summer time I protect maize from apes. I have also herded cattle. I have done this work after school. As education is in shift system I have involved in work before and after school. I study my lessons and do my homework in the evening and while herding cattle. I also study my lessons over the weekend. These do not brings negative impacts on my education because I perform things in plan I have my own program to study and to work. I am not involved in paid labour.

In the coming year I want to improve my educational performance. I also want to help my family in farming.

Over the weekend I go to church for praying. I am the follower of Orthodox Church. I am fasting during fasting season. In my spare time I swim in the river. I play football with my friends in the village. There is small play ground in our village. I have male friend with whom I play football and study and swim. We support each other in farming and harvesting. I do not have girlfriend but in school I have girl class mate with whom I study my lessons.

I do not know where to live in the future. I may stay here or to go somewhere to live. It depends on my educational performance and job opportunities that I will be offered. If I stay in the community I will continue to be involved in farming. If my educational performance is low in grade 10 and 12 I will stay in the community. I can get some land from my parents. I can also rent lands and produce crops. If I become successful in my education I want get job and to live in other place; specifically in Addis Ababa. I have an uncle a brother and sister who live there. They say that Addis Ababa is a good place to live and do business.

I want to continue my education and become an engineer. As I am clever in mathematics I will become a good engineer. I want to marry after the age of 30 I need to complete my university education before marriage. I want to choose my wife and inform my parents. I want to have three children.

My role model is my relative who is an engineer and lives in Addis Ababa. He has advised me to become clever in order to be an engineer. So I am working hard in mathematics in order to achieve my aspirations.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

Most of the children in my age are involved in family labour. They help their parents in farming, harvesting, herding and irrigation. They also attend their education. The presence of a primary school in the community creates good opportunity for young men.

### Combining work and education

Most of my age mates combine work and education. They go to school in half shift and help their parents at farm in another shift. They are mainly involved in farming from March to August which is the main farming season. They participate weeding in summer, in harvest in autumn and threshing in winter. They do irrigation work in winter.

There are only few young men of my age who are out of school. Most of them are in school. Drop out is very low in my class. Some students are absent for a week or more and return back. They do not drop out permanently.

There are some young men who completed grade 10 and 12 and stay in the community. They could not get government job. They are helping their parents in farming. There are also some young men who completed their education in diploma from private higher learning institutions. As they have not got a job, they still live in the community by helping their parents in farming.

In my village there are few young men who involve in drinking alcohol, chewing chat and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Most of my friends want to become farmers. They want to be involved in irrigation and to improve production by modern agricultural inputs. A few of them want to become government employees. They do not want to migrate. They want to live in the community and they want to improve their livelihood through farming. Young men from rich households want to get support from their parents while those from poor households want to work hard in order to establish independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The lowest age to get marriage for men is 25. Many men marry after 25. None of my friends have married. Most of my friends have not been married because they are too young to marry. The advantages of marriage are:

* to have children,
* to work together,
* to establish independent life
* and to improve livelihood in common.

The disadvantage of marriage is that it may lead to poverty due to lack of farm land and livestock. Marriage may be followed by having children which put pressure on the new couples to bring them up marriage without having wealth or in come means poverty.

The main challenges for marriage include:

* Poverty is the main factor
* Lack of land and livestock
* Lack of support from parents and relatives
* Addiction (bad habits)

Most of the time young men of rich household can marry early because they have the wealth and other resources to prepare feasts and to pay gifts.

The government regulation on marriage states that marriage arrangements should be based on the mutual agreement between both members of the couple. It is against abduction. It also stated that the husband and wives should mange common resources. They have an obligation to up bring their children. They have to make blood test before sexual intercourse and marriage.

### Setting up an independent household

This was discussed above.

### Migrating

Only few young men migrate to other place search of job. They mainly go to big urban places, like Addis Ababa, Ambo etc. the lowest age to migrate for young men are 18. After they migrate some are involved in farming others in hotel etc. in the last few years migration of young men has been increased because of population increase which leads to land shortage for young people in the community. Most of the migrants are young men who completed grade 10 and12. There are also some landless young men who migrated with their families.

Some young men migrate temporarily to cash crop areas such as Jimma and Agaro. I know one young man who migrated to Agaro last year and was involved in coffee collection and weeding sesame. He stayed there for 6 months. He was sick with malaria and came back. He said that it was very hot place. He recovered from his illness after getting treatment. He was about twenty and not educated. I do not want to migrate. I want to live here and focus on my education.

### Living in the community

The community is changing there are different kinds of agricultural intervention. The interventions are mainly focusing on improving, rain fed farming, irrigation scheme and animal husbandry. I am also happy with the security and safety in the community. The community is changing in the last two years. I believe that the change will continue for the coming five years.

### The economy

The community has become richer and richer. Farm production has been increasing people increasingly use fertilizers, improved seeds and irrigation. A large amount of unused land has been put under cultivation. The numbers of cattle have been increasing. People start to fatten cattle to get more income by selling them. The health of cattle has been improved due to vaccinations from vet services. People produce honey from honey bees.

### Religion

People actively engaged in religious activities. The three major religions are orthodox, Protestantism and Islam. There is no conflict between different religious groups. People live together peacefully. They respect the religion of others.

### Politics

I have no involvement in politics and I have little knowledge about it.

### Inter-generational relations

The relationship between adult and young men is very good. Adult people accept the idea of young people. Young people also accept and respect the idea of adult people.

## Rich male teenager 19

### Personal

I am 19 years old. I live with my father, mother, step-mother, 4 brothers, 2 half-brothers, 2 sisters and 1 half-sister. My father has two wives. My mother is a second wife. The livelihood of my family is dependent up on farming. We produce grains like maize, teff, sorghum, nug and beans. We also produce vegetables like red-pepper, sugar cane, coffee (50 trees), mango (15 trees), chat, etc. We are involved both in the rain-fed farming and irrigation works. We also bread livestock (we have 1 hybrid cow, 3 hybrid heifers, 18 heads of cattle altogether, 3 goats, 2 sheep and chickens).

My parents are rich as compared with most of the households in the community. However when we are compared with some very rich households, we are about a middle. My father is also a trader of livestock. He mainly trades in bulls. He buys them from Shoboka market and sells in Jaji market.

I completed grade 10 last year. As I could not get a passing grade I was not able to join preparatory class in grade 11. I was re-registered to re-take the exam. Now I am studying my lessons at home in order to improve my result. I was dropped out from school in grade 9 for one year and returned back after a year. I dropped out because my result in grade 9 first semesters was not good, and then I decided to repeat in order to improve my performance.

In the past 12 months, I spent part of it in school (learning grade 10). I stayed in the nearby town to focus on my study. This year I am studying my lessons to re-take the exam, and I am also involved partly in family farming. Now I am watering the vegetables in irrigation farm. I also herd cattle every morning before I transfer them to the communal grazing lands where they are kept in common.

I was working with the China road construction company last summer. I worked there as daily labourer and my monthly salary was about 900 birr. I worked there for three months. I bought maize seeds with the money and sowed it on the land I obtained from my father for that particular time. I also bought one sheep with the money. Now the sheep gives birth to a small one. I also bought a mobile phone.

The IGA work was difficult as it was during the summer time, we worked within rains. Sometimes we had to install electric poles while it was raining. Once up on a time, I fell from a pole and injured myself. It was a dangerous work and I suffered from the injury on my leg.

I liked all kinds of agricultural activities including farming, harvesting and cattle herding. I dislike works which affects my health. I dislike paid labour as a whole.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The important opportunity for young men is the expansion of irrigation activities

### Combining work and education

While I learned in secondary school education was in shift system so I was supporting my family. Most of the time I was herding while herding cattle. For the coming year I wish to pass grade 10 national exams and join grade 11. If I could not pass the national exam, I will join private college in Bako or Ambo, in addition I want to support my parents in farming. I also want to produce some maize crops for myself. This will help me to some income for my college education.

I wish to complete my university education and become an engineer. This is because there is a good opportunity to get job with this profession. As of my childhood I have aspired to become an engineer. Also I understood that most of the workers in the chines road construction company were an engineer.

In my spare time I play football with my friends. I also go to protestant church on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. I pray to God there.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young people could continue to be dependent on community members if they do not actively participate in farming and noon farming activities. There are young men who have already started trading business and established independent livelihoods. They trade vegetables and fruits. They buy the crops from irrigation farmers and sell in distant markets of Bako, Jaji and Ambo.

### Getting married

Young men can marry at the age of 18 but only few of them marry at this age. Of course there are very few who marry at the age of 16. I know one young man who married at this age. The majority of them marry after 20. One of my friends who completed grade 10 with me married recently.

Marriage helps to establish independent household however, marriage can be cause for poverty. Young men do not have land to cultivate. So lack of land is a big problem for married couples. Lack of land resources leads to poverty. Lack of resources means a household cannot send their children to school or feed them properly

Some young men marry without a plan. Life without a plan is meaningless. Marriage without a plan leads to large number of children. I know one person in my neighbourhood who has five wives and thirty five children. Such a big family cannot properly up bring children. Poor children do not know how they lead life and plan. Children of rich families can lead life by planning. They accept the advice of their parents. Children of the poor work for other households as labourers and servants. Most of the young men who married early in this community are from poor families.

The government declared that marriage by abduction is illegal. It encourages marriage by choice and mutual consent.

### Setting up an independent household

Establishing an independent household is not very easy because poverty affects the life of many young men. Lack of family support is also a problem. The government is also not giving proper support for young men.

### Migrating

Large numbers of young men migrate to other places in search of jobs. They mainly migrate to Addis Ababa. One young man migrated to Dukhem four years ago. He has been sending some money for his parents to buy fertilizer and improved seeds.

Some children start to migrate after the age of 12. They to towns and they are involved in hotel works, construction campaniles and factories. Some of them may get government jobs.

Generally migration of young men has been declining in recent years because they start to be engaged in agricultural works and irrigation by taking land from their parents and renting it from other people. On reverse the migration of young women to Arab countries has been increasing at an alarming rate. Most of them are female children of middle, rich and poor households.

I want to migrate to Moyale (Ethio- Kenney border) my aunt is living there. She is happy to take me there. I do not want to stay in this community because I cannot get enough farm land to help myself. My father has a large number of children, and he cannot distribute enough land.

### Living in the community

I like this community because it is peaceful. I like the discussion among the community members to resolve conflicts. Other good thing is that people help each other. They borrow money from each other.

The community has been improving in the last two years. The completion of the road construction to Addis Ababa which passes through the community creates good opportunity for the community. It leads to the increasing of trade relationships with other people. Farm production has been increasing all farmers actively participate in agriculture. Afforestation activities contribute to the increase of income for some households. They sell trees and they get benefit. Many people have oxen know. The officials from the woreda provide training to farmers on how to improve productivity and production. The kebele people are organised in to 1-5 structure, which helps to improve production. The DAs and HEWs play important roles to increase production and to improve the health condition of the people.

Public work (terracing, planting trees), helps in reducing soil erosion and the impact of flooding. The fertility of the soil has been increasing due to water shade activities’.

I do not drink alcohol, chew chat or smoking cigarettes my religion does not allow me to do so. HIV/AIDS negatively affect the economy of the nation and the health condition of the people it is transmitted through unsafe sexual intercourse. We learn about HIV/AIDS in school through drama many media and in the class room. The woreda health experts also teach the people.

I do not know any person who is contracting with HIV/AIDS. There are some young men who have girlfriends. Their parents may or may know their relationship. Sexual intercourse is common with girlfriends. Some young women become pregnant because they make unsafe sexual relationship. Some of them already gave birth to a child. Some of them were aborted; still others have migrated to escape discrimination. Most of them are uneducated young women. The educated ones use condoms, so unsafe sex is becoming a common practice. Sometimes sex with other women is practiced in the community.

### The economy

People produce maize, teff sorghum, wheat red-pepper, nug barley and beans. And they also produce potatoes, tomatoes, green peppers, cabbage, onions, beat root etc. and fruits such as mango, bananas, sugar cane etc. and cash crop such as coffee and chat. They also breed livestock’s. Non farming activities such as trading have expanded. Paid labour is becoming a source of income for poor young men and women. In general the local economy is growing, and brings improvement in the livelihoods of many people.

### Religion

Protestantism is the dominant religion in the community. Orthodox and Islam are the second and third respectively. There is no conflict among the religious group. Any conflict is managed through the different structures of the kebele administration. The role of elders is also important in reducing conflict. Religious preachers help their members to become disciplined and to have moral integrity.

### Politics

I am a member of Oromo Peoples Democratic Organisation (OPDO). I have participated number of meetings organised by the kebele party organizer. I am not a member of youth association, youth league and youth federation. These do not exist in the kebele structure. However there are some people who are organized in the form of cooperatives to get credit from the woreda saving and credit associations. Some of the members of these cooperatives received the money and disappeared. Others are becoming successful by involving themselves in farming activities.

The government advises the young people not to get involved in bad acts such as criminal theft, chewing chat and drinking alcohol. The government also encourages them to be involved in developmental activities. The kebele administration has already given some land for a youth cooperatives in Boto Zone. Last the administration also made meetings with young people in Ebecho zone to discuss on how the jobless young people could organised in a cooperative and to get some land to start business. In the meeting both the young people and the administration agree in the plan to distribute some land for the cooperative from the communal grazing land located near to TIBE town. The youths agreed to take credit from the association and to establish grain mills and to fatten livestock.

### Inter-generational relations

The relationships between adults and teenagers are sometimes peaceful and sometimes there is conflict. Last summer I quarrelled with my parents because they refused to support me to join a private college. As a result I failed to start my education in this year finally, we discussed on the issue and I agreed to re-take grade 10 national exam. The old people are not happy with the increasing number of jobless young people in the community. Most of those who could not get the job are those who graduate from the private college. I know one young graduated man who has not been able to get a job for the last three years though he has a diploma in law. Sometimes the course given in private colleges does not go with the interest of the government.

Generally old people advise the young men to refrain from bad habits and to avoid laziness. The young people accept the advice and ideas of adult people. Both of them work together to improve the livelihoods of people in the community. The kebele administration plays a key role to bring them together. When a child of one family commits a crime, the 1-5 cell leaders call the father and discuss the problem so that everything is controlled. The father may be fined some money. The local government does not tolerate any crime or illegal acts. Sometimes the head of the household reports the problem created with his children to the kebele administration which can lead to the imprisonment of the young person who created a problem.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 19

### Personal

I live with my parents and siblings. They are my mother, 2 brothers and 1 sister. My father has migrated to finch sugar factory and works there as a supervisor. He completed grade 8. He migrated 9 years ago. He married another wife there and he has 2 children there. He never visits the family here. He has migrated due to conflict after he borrowed money from a neighbour.

The economy of my family is depends on farming. We produce maize, teff, and red-pepper. We have land (1 and ½ hectares). We also produce vegetables like tomatoes and green pepper by renting the land. We share crop our rain-fed land to other farmers as there is no one from the family who can cultivate it. I was a student in a private college in Bako town, woreda town. I completed my diploma last year in cooperatives, accounting and management. Now, I am searching for job. I am also producing vegetables on our rented land.

My family is poor. My younger siblings are not involved in farming. The first children are girls and they do not get involved in work. I had never dropped out of school.

In the past twelve months, I have participated in farming (in summer), I produced two quintals of red-pepper. On the irrigated farm, I produce tomatoes and green pepper. I am also studying to take COC (Certificate of Competence); unless I get this certificate I cannot get a job. I have not been involved in IGA (Income Generating Activities) in the last 12 months.

I'd like to continue my education. My future plan is to take exam in COC and to search for a job in government or private organisations. I do not want to continue with my education rather I want to search for job.

Every Sunday, I go to Church to pray. I am protestant religious follower. The church is in the community and I visit it every week. On Wednesday and Friday there is small praying programme in the neighbourhood, and I go there to join the Church programme. Sometimes I go to the nearby town of Tibe to listen to music in cafes and bars. There is no place for recreational activities in the community.

I have some friends with whom I play and chat. They all are young men of my neighbourhood. I advise them to get involved in farming. Two of these friends have already dropped out from G5. One dropped out because of the death of his mother. I have advised them to continue their education but I realize that they have no interest to learn after now. So, it is good for them to focus on farming activities.

I have a girlfriend. She is a student of grade 8 in the Gudina Haro primary school. I buy her books and I advise her to be clever in her education. My parents and her parents do not know our relationship. We meet in secret place to chat and to discuss issues. We have not started sexual intercourse. I also accompany her when she goes to school.

I wish to become an engineer and to get a government job. I still wish to live in urban areas. I want to get a job in a government office or in an NGO office. I want to migrate to urban areas possibly to Addis Ababa, Sebeta, Kamise (south Wollo in northern Ethiopia) where my friends have already got jobs. It is very difficult to get a job in our woreda as nepotism is deep-rooted. You have to have a relative from the woreda administration in order to get job there. So, I want to migrate after I have discussed with my parents and my uncle who have played important roles in my past life.

I do not want to live in this community. I do not want to become a farmer as well. I have paid all the sacrifices to become successful in my education though still I have not got the job. So, I want to lead my future life by getting job in my field of study. The community members have no good attitude to educated people who have no job and stay in the community after completing college education. My family also urges me to get employed.

I want to marry at the age of 27. I need to get job first and become self-reliant before marrying. My girlfriend should also complete her secondary education. I will continue to help her to continue her education and to join university.

My parents should agree with my choice and decision to marry her. She and I agreed to marry after her completing her college education. I want to have my first children at the age of 30. I wish to have three children because the bigger the number of children, the more difficult to bring them up properly.

My role model is my uncle. He is a civil engineer. He is learning in Addis Ababa University. He advises me to continue with my education. My worries include family illness (my mother is a sick women, her illness continues to impact on my life), lack of financial support from my family in searching for a job, etc.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The kebele data indicated that about 82 young people who graduated from private colleges are jobless. They spent at least 400 birr monthly for the three year college education. So lack of job is the major challenge for young people of my age. Most of these young people took the COC but they could not pass the exam because the exam is quite different from what we learned in colleges. We cannot get a job unless we pass the COC. This is a huge challenge. Last month 162 candidates took the COC exam at the woreda level but only one person was passed both the theory and practical exams. Some of them passed the theory but they failed to pass the practical exam; others passed the practical exam but they failed to pass the theory exam; still large number of them failed to pass both. Passing the COC exam is a major barrier.

The other challenge is the difficulty of getting farm land in the community. Young people do not get land in the community. Land was already fragmented and there is no extra land to distribute to the young people. We may rent the land and engage in agriculture but the production inputs are very expensive.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young men of my age help their families in farming. Some two or three of them were employed by the China road construction company as paid labourers. But the majority of them are jobless and stay in the community without any job.

They want to get government jobs but the opportunity is low as discussed above. There is lack of job in the community. Most of them are dependent up on their parents. Some of them have an interest in being involved in trading activities.

Some of young men of this age dropped out of secondary school due to lack of economic support from their parents. The report in the Gudina Haro primary school shows that about 200 students dropped out of school last year. The dropout is even greater in secondary schools. The secondary school is located in Tibe town. Students need to rent a house and stay there to learn. The children of the poor households could afford to pay for house rents. Thus they are forced to dropout and return back to home. Mainly the female students dropout and marry.

Some of those, who completed grade 10 and 12, stay in the community without a job and get involved in bad habits including drinking alcohol, chewing chat and smoking cigarette. Of course they are few in number.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

In order to establish independent livelihood, young men should get involved in farming. Again those who have the money can get involved in trading activities. The option of most of them is farming.

Most of my friends who have dropped out before completing secondary education want to become farmers. However, those who completed secondary education have no plan to become farmers. They rather wish to become government employees. As it is very difficult to get land in the community, they choose to search for non-farming jobs. Land is already in the hands of older adults.

Some of my friends want to continue with their education up to college level and then to search for jobs. The majority of those who are above the age of 20 have started farming in the community by renting some lands from other farmers. Still some other started trade business.

Young men from poorer households face more challenge than young men from richer households. As the rich can get land and livestock from their parents, they could establish independent households.

### Getting married

The youngest age for marriage is 15 years old. This is mainly because of family problems. Helpless young men are forced to marry in order to move out of poverty. This is very common with orphan children. When the parents are not around, the older children marry in order to help the younger ones. These are very few. The majority of the young men marry after the age of 18. Some of my friends are already married. In my village three of them already married.

Marriage is ordered by God. It is God’s decision and doctrine to marry and establish a family. So marriage is good to establish family.

### Setting up an independent household

After marriage dependence on parents is very low. The new couple needs to live separately but very closer to the parents of the bride groom. They also need to work hard in order to improve their livelihood. It is their responsibility to form an independent household. The support from parents and relatives is insignificant.

### Migrating

Many young men of my age migrate in search of jobs to different urban areas. Some of them already obtained the job. The uneducated young men migrated mainly to rural areas to collect coffee seeds during the coffee harvest, to work in Fincha sugar factor to cut sugar cane in meher times and to work as labourers in construction companies. Some of them migrated to Addis Ababa to do paid labour in construction companies and in hotels. The educated young men also migrate to big urban areas in search of jobs. They migrate to different places where they can get information about jobs. They may migrate starting from the age of 16.

In the last few years migrations of young men to urban areas has been increasing. This is mainly due to the fact that educated young men do not want to stay in the community. Most of the migrants do not come back which indicates that they can get jobs and establish independent livelihood.

### Living in the community

I do not like living in this community. Nothing is good for young men in the community. The officials at the woreda and kebele level do not give practical support to young people in general. Officials at the woreda level in particular do not like young people. Assignments of jobs at the woreda level are based on bribes and close contacts. Nepotism is highly practiced at the woreda level.

The community in general do not show important changes. Poverty is still affecting the livelihood of many people. Shortage of rain contributed to the expansion of the problem. Of course there are changes in terms of access to education. The primary school in the community is upgraded to grade 8 which is a big change.

However, the HEWs and DAs do not bring changes in the community. The DAs do not do enough to improve the farm production. The market price affects the farmers. Farmers sell their farm crops at low price but they buy production inputs with high price. Modern inputs are very expensive. Production and input price do not go together.

The extension farmers do not give proper support to the farmers. Their work is mainly on pushing the farmers to buy fertilizers, pesticides and improved seeds. Many farmers do not accept their advices.

This is a peaceful place. There is no conflict between the people.

I was a member of HIV/AIDS club in my school when I was a secondary school student. We educated students about HIV/AIDS through drams and by reading poems. Now I have little involvement in clubs and other organizations.

Young men of my age already started sexual inter course. Some have their own girlfriends. Others have sexual intercourse with other women in their neighbourhoods. When they make sexual intercourse, they do not use condoms as they can’t get them in the community. Sometimes they rape women in secret places. As it is taboo for women to say that they are raped, it is a widespread practice. So, rape is carried out without caution and the use of condoms. Rape is mainly made in town. There are male children who learn in secondary school and they live there by renting house. These houses are mainly places where young girls are raped. Young men take their girlfriends or other women to the house of their friends and then rape them. As the make it without planning it, they are highly exposed to HIV/AIDS and other transmittable diseases.

### The economy

There has not been change in the economy of the community. There is no improvement in farming. In the past most of the people in the community were self-reliant economically but now they start to seek credit from the government. This indicates a decline in household economy.

The number of livestock is also declining. However, better off households start to improve the quality of livestock and livestock products. They start to fatten their livestock and sell them for a good price. This leads to increasing inequalities between the rich and poor households. While the rich households become richer and richer, the poor households become poorer and poorer.

### Religion

People of different religion live together in peace. The three religions groups are orthodox, Protestantism and Islam. The adherents of these religions tolerate the religion of the other. Of course recently followers of the Islamic religion are divided into Sofia and Wahabia sects. The later try to make the religion stricter. Traditional religion was practised in the community in the past. A few years ago, the leader of this religion died and no one has replaced him yet. As a result it is declining. Now the dominant religion is Protestantism. It has about 60% followers, followed by Orthodox.

Oromo is the dominant ethnic group in the community (99%). There are a few Amhara migrants. They migrated to the community in the past and they established households in the community.

### Politics

I support the kebele administration in writing some reports and letters. I do this without any payment. The kebele administration asked me to support them voluntary and I agreed to do it. In return they will write me a recommendation letter explaining my involvement in some kind of office work.

I am going to be a member of the youth association in the kebele which is going to be established in the near future.

There is a plan to organize the youths into cooperatives in the kebele. The members will be those who completed grade 10, grade 12 and college education but stay in the community without any job. The kebele administration has a plan to give some land to the cooperative so that the members will engage in IGA (Income Generating Activities). The cooperative members may also participate in farming. The members are both jobless young men and young women. The plan is to give land to the cooperative for three years and after three years the members to be self –sufficient economically and will transfer the land to another new cooperative. There was a youth cooperative which was established in Boto zone of the community. They were organized to protect the forest lands on the Gona Mountain. They plant new trees mainly timber and Gravilia. They already planted thousands of trees and they are going to get benefits from the sale of the trees.

Generally there is no youth association, youth league and youth federation in the community.

There are pressures from the kebele and woreda administration to make the young people members of the ruling party. Some of them already became a member while the majority refused to become the member. Those who obtained jobs with the support of the administration become members. Those who are not members could not get a job very easily. The ruling party do not give any support to the young people. The officials do not give equal opportunity to all young people. The young people therefore oppose the ruling party and they aspire to see a strong opposing party in the future.

### Inter-generational relations

I have a good relationship with my parents. I have also good relations with the community members. Young people respect adults. The adults also consider the ideas and interests of the young people. Young men accept the norms and cultures of the people in the community. Sometimes young men do not accept traditions run by old people.

## Poor male teenager 19

### Personal

I live with my parents. I have 7 brothers. The living condition of my family is dependent on farming. They produce maize, teff and sorghum. They do not produce vegetables and fruit because they do not have irrigated land. My brothers are involved in farming by renting and sharecropping land. My parents have a pair of oxen and one honey hives. They have no cow’s goat and sheep.

My brothers are involved in paid work. They worked with the china road construction company. One of them earned 650 birr per month last summer. Two of my brothers are livestock traders. They trade sheep, goats and chickens. They buy them from Tibe market and sell them to bigger traders who transfer them to Addis Ababa and Nekemet.

In the last 12 months I have been involved in weeding, hoeing, harvesting, threshing and herding. I support my parents in all aspects of family labour. I also helped the neighbouring people through labour sharing system. I helped sick and old people by herding their cattle together with our cattle.

I was involved in paid labour such as the construction of kebele primary school. I worked in the irrigation farm as daily labour. I used the money obtained from daily labour for the purchase of clothes.

The works impacts on my education. Construction works are very hard. Still I suffer from stomach-ache. Construction work need intensive labour, and carrying stones, sand and cement which is harmful for your health. I prefer farming and harvesting to construction work.

Therefore it is difficult to combine work and education. When you work you cannot focus on education. In order to be successful in educational performance it is important to give priority to your education. However it is difficult to learn without working. If you work you can get the money to finance your education.

I completed grade 12 last year but I failed to get passing point (274) out of 700. I obtained 273 I felt sad for not passing it. I dropped out from grade 9 two years ago and I turned back after one year. At that time I could not get the money to buy educational material and personal items like clothing. Family poverty was the major reason for low educational performance. My result in grade 12 was low because my parents could not provide me with basic things including food. I was not happy to study due to lack of economic resources. As I attended grade 11 and 12 in Bako secondary school (16km), I had to rent house and cover other costs. My brother helped me to some extent but it was not enough to focus on my education.

I want to improve my educational performance in grade 12. I am already registering for the national examination therefore I believe that I will join university next year.

I have no time to recruit. I go to church on Sunday to pray.

I have a girlfriend in Bako. I want to marry after I will complete my education and get job. I have not decided the time when I will marry. I have not discussed this with girlfriend as well. I want to have 2-3 children. I expect to have my first child at the age of 30.

I want to live in urban areas (may be in Nekemete, or Ambo). I have also a plan to go to the USA through DV lottery. I know some people who went to USA from the towns of Tibe and Bako. If I get the chance to go there, I will return back and be involved in investment in farming and trading activities. I wish to build a big building and hotel in Ethiopia. So, to achieve this goal, I want to migrate to USA. I do not want to stay in the community. I do not want to be a farmer.

I want to continue with my education up to university level, and to graduate as a medical doctor or in agricultural engineering.

My role model is one medical doctor who is working in Nekemete hospital. He was originally from this community. Now he is becoming rich and starts to help his parents financially.

My worry is that my parents are very poor to support my education. They have no economic capacity to finance my education. So poverty is the main challenge for my education.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The challenges for young men of my age are health problems and the poverty of their households. The problem of getting job is also a challenge for young men who completed secondary and college education. Large numbers of young men stay in the community without jobs. Therefore, young people have little opportunity to improve their livelihood in this community. There is no opportunity for employment, and no support from the government.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young men of my age are engaged in farming activities. They help their parents in farming, harvesting, threshing, weeding, hoeing and protecting crops from animals. They also herd cattle on private and communal grazing lands. Some of them have started a trading business. While some of them trade in farm products, others trade in livestock. Some of them still trade in animal products mainly of butter which they buy from Tibe town and sell at Jaji market. They also sell butter in the Bako market.

Only few of my age mates are involved in paid work. Last year some of them worked with the China road construction company. They worked on carrying stones, comments, and mixing the cement and sand. These works were difficult for the health condition of young men.

There is not enough jobs/work for young people in this community. School dropout increases from time to time. Most of those who dropouts return back again. Some also repeat classes. The economic problem of their parents are the main factor for both drop out and repetition. Those who could not return back after they have dropped out of school choose to marry and become farmers.

There are a considerable number of young men who completed grade 10 and 12 but stay in the community without any job - up to 70 young people. As discussed above some of them help their parents and themselves by engaging either in farming or in trade business. At the same time they are searching for a formal job. Some of them study at home in order to re-take the national exams and to improve their result in grade 10 and 12. There are some 50 young people who completed college education with diplomas and stay in the community without job. Most of them graduated from private colleges and they failed to pass the COC.

Young people who drink alcohol and chew chat have been declining from time to time due to continuous advice from the community members and the preaching of religious institutions (particularly Protestantism). The government also do not support drinking alcohol as it contributes to the deterioration of the security and safety of the people. Of course, Muslim young men continue to chew chat. Drinking alcohol and chewing chat are greatly reduced among the followers of protestant religious followers.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

In order to establish independent livelihood, young men should focus on their education, and become successful in their education. Moreover, they need to actively be involved in farming activities. Agricultural activity can be a sustainable way of establishing independent life for those who want to stay in the community. The problem is that young men could get farm lands as land has been fragmented. Some parents may share their land with their married young men but still this is not enough to help the young men to establish independent livelihood.

Some of my friends want to stay in the community and become farmers. The majority of them, however, want to complete their secondary and university education and to get government jobs. Their parents and friends also urge them to get jobs in urban areas. Young men from poor households cannot establish independent life as poverty impacts on them.

Five of my friends were married recently. They already completed grade 10, and could not get the passing point to join grade 11. They decided to stay in the community and to get involved in farming activities.

### Getting married

The youngest age for young men to marry in this community is 18-20. Few of them can marry at this age. However, the majority of them married at the age of 25-30. The normal age for marriage is becoming 25. This is a change in recent years. Most of those who married early were married due to the influence from their parents. Most of them are from the rich households. This is because rich households have the wealth to prepare feasts and to pay for bride wealth (oxen, cows, heifers, and shoats). The gifts are mainly given to the families of the bride from the parents of the bridegroom.

The disadvantage of marriage is that married couples from poorer households continue to become poor. So, poverty transmits from generation to generation. The advantages of marriage are the followings:

* To have sexual relations only with one person
* To protect yourself from HIV/AIDS and other transmittable diseases.
* To get children
* To help each other by working for common goals.

The government regulation about marriage states that both the male and female couples have equal rights to common resources and properties, and equal it responsibility to up bring their children.

### Setting up an independent household

This was discussed above.

### Migrating

The majority of the young men migrate to big urban centres such as Addis Ababa, Nekemte, Ambo and Adama. They start to migrate at the age of 15. They migrate to find jobs in these big urban centres.

Migration of young men has been declining in recent years because parents realized that education is an important way to improve the livelihood of young men.

I know one young man who migrated to Addis Ababa some years ago. He worked in hotels and restaurants. He returned back without any money. Now he is a farmer. He also involve in trading in mango fruit in Ambo market. He got some credit from the woreda saving and credit association. He transports the fruit by renting a car.

### Living in the community

I like the participation of people in public works. There is good relationship between the people. I also like the upgrading of the primary school into full cycle primary education. This contributes to the increasing of the number of children enrolling in school.

I dislike quarrelling among some people. I also do not like the special treatment to the rich model farmers by the local government. This creates discrimination between the rich and the poor. When the government gives more support to the richer and discourage the poor, the poor feel low status. So, the government should give equal support to all members of the community.

The community has been changing in the last few years. I believe that it will continue to change in the coming 5 years. Farm production has been improving from year to year. People are increasingly use modern farm inputs to increase their production.

Sexual relationship with opposite sex is becoming a common phenomenon among young people. Some of the young women become pregnant and migrate to other place fearing discrimination. Some of them commit suicide. As they say that they trust each other, they do not use condoms; they make unsafe sex.

### The economy

People mainly engage in farming and animal husbandry. The farm productions have been increasing from time to time due to the support from agricultural extension workers to use fertilizers and improved seeds. People also start to focus on the quality of livestock instead of on the quantity. They fatten their livestock before selling them. This is a new trend in the community.

### Religion

There is no conflict among the members of different religious groups. Individual can change their religion. We can find followers of different religions in the same household. They do not oppose each other. Some years ago there was a conflict between the Christians and Muslims but this has been greatly declined in recent years. The woreda administration intervened and resolved the problem. There is no any problem related to religious issues at the present time.

As the Oromo is the dominant ethnic group in the community, there is not ethnic based conflict in the area.

### Politics

I am not a member of any political party I have no role in politics. I focus only on my education. The government has also good attitude towards young men. It tries to create job opportunities for youths. Some young men have already organised themselves in cooperatives and are involved in environmental protection. The government passed information to young men through media. The woreda passed important information to the local people in big meeting. This results in reduction of crimes and other illegal activities. Young men who have involved in drinking alcohol and chewing chat have now reframed from these bad actions

The kebele administration has never distributed land to the young people. Three days ago the kebele administrations organised a meeting with young people to discuss how to organise them in to cooperatives. At the end of the meeting they agreed to distribute some communal grazing lands to the young men.

The young men can contribute for the development of the community when they mobilized to involve in all community based activities. Young men should use their time, knowledge and skill for the benefit of the community.

### Inter-generational relations

The relationship between young men and adult people is good. They respect each other. They young men accept the advice from the adult men. Adult people also listen to new ideas of the young men.