# Interviews with female teenagers in Ude, Ada’a, East Shewa

[Rich female teenager 13 3](#_Toc433632905)

[Personal 3](#_Toc433632906)

[Opportunities for 13 year old girls 3](#_Toc433632907)

[Combining work and education 3](#_Toc433632908)

[Women’s issues 3](#_Toc433632909)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 3](#_Toc433632910)

[Getting married 3](#_Toc433632911)

[Setting up an independent household 3](#_Toc433632912)

[Migrating 3](#_Toc433632913)

[Living in the community 3](#_Toc433632914)

[The economy 3](#_Toc433632915)

[Religion 4](#_Toc433632916)

[Politics 4](#_Toc433632917)

[Inter-generational relations 4](#_Toc433632918)

[Middle-wealth female teenager 13 4](#_Toc433632919)

[Personal 4](#_Toc433632920)

[Opportunities for 13 year old girls 4](#_Toc433632921)

[Combining work and education 4](#_Toc433632922)

[Women’s issues 4](#_Toc433632923)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 4](#_Toc433632924)

[Getting married 4](#_Toc433632925)

[Setting up an independent household 4](#_Toc433632926)

[Migrating 4](#_Toc433632927)

[Living in the community 4](#_Toc433632928)

[The economy 4](#_Toc433632929)

[Religion 4](#_Toc433632930)

[Politics 4](#_Toc433632931)

[Inter-generational relations 5](#_Toc433632932)

[Poor female teenager 13 5](#_Toc433632933)

[Personal 5](#_Toc433632934)

[Opportunities for 13 year old girls 5](#_Toc433632935)

[Combining work and education 5](#_Toc433632936)

[Women’s issues 5](#_Toc433632937)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 5](#_Toc433632938)

[Getting married 5](#_Toc433632939)

[Setting up an independent household 5](#_Toc433632940)

[Migrating 5](#_Toc433632941)

[Living in the community 5](#_Toc433632942)

[The economy 5](#_Toc433632943)

[Religion 5](#_Toc433632944)

[Politics 5](#_Toc433632945)

[Inter-generational relations 5](#_Toc433632946)

[Rich female teenager 16 6](#_Toc433632947)

[Personal 6](#_Toc433632948)

[Opportunities for 16 year old girls 6](#_Toc433632949)

[Combining work and education 6](#_Toc433632950)

[Women’s issues 6](#_Toc433632951)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 6](#_Toc433632952)

[Getting married 6](#_Toc433632953)

[Setting up an independent household 6](#_Toc433632954)

[Migrating 6](#_Toc433632955)

[Living in the community 6](#_Toc433632956)

[The economy 6](#_Toc433632957)

[Religion 6](#_Toc433632958)

[Politics 6](#_Toc433632959)

[Inter-generational relations 6](#_Toc433632960)

[Middle-wealth female teenager 16 6](#_Toc433632961)

[Personal 6](#_Toc433632962)

[Opportunities for 16 year old girls 7](#_Toc433632963)

[Combining work and education 7](#_Toc433632964)

[Women’s issues 7](#_Toc433632965)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 7](#_Toc433632966)

[Getting married 7](#_Toc433632967)

[Setting up an independent household 7](#_Toc433632968)

[Migrating 7](#_Toc433632969)

[Living in the community 7](#_Toc433632970)

[The economy 7](#_Toc433632971)

[Religion 7](#_Toc433632972)

[Politics 7](#_Toc433632973)

[Inter-generational relations 7](#_Toc433632974)

[Poor female teenager 16 7](#_Toc433632975)

[Personal 7](#_Toc433632976)

[Opportunities for 16 year old girls 7](#_Toc433632977)

[Combining work and education 7](#_Toc433632978)

[Women’s issues 8](#_Toc433632979)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 8](#_Toc433632980)

[Getting married 8](#_Toc433632981)

[Setting up an independent household 8](#_Toc433632982)

[Migrating 8](#_Toc433632983)

[Living in the community 8](#_Toc433632984)

[The economy 8](#_Toc433632985)

[Religion 8](#_Toc433632986)

[Politics 8](#_Toc433632987)

[Inter-generational relations 8](#_Toc433632988)

[Rich female teenager 19 8](#_Toc433632989)

[Personal 8](#_Toc433632990)

[Opportunities for 19 year old girls 8](#_Toc433632991)

[Combining work and education 8](#_Toc433632992)

[Women’s issues 8](#_Toc433632993)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 8](#_Toc433632994)

[Getting married 9](#_Toc433632995)

[Setting up an independent household 9](#_Toc433632996)

[Migrating 9](#_Toc433632997)

[Living in the community 9](#_Toc433632998)

[The economy 9](#_Toc433632999)

[Religion 9](#_Toc433633000)

[Politics 9](#_Toc433633001)

[Inter-generational relations 9](#_Toc433633002)

[Middle-wealth female teenager 19 9](#_Toc433633003)

[Personal 9](#_Toc433633004)

[Opportunities for 19 year old girls 9](#_Toc433633005)

[Combining work and education 9](#_Toc433633006)

[Women’s issues 9](#_Toc433633007)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 9](#_Toc433633008)

[Getting married 9](#_Toc433633009)

[Setting up an independent household 9](#_Toc433633010)

[Migrating 10](#_Toc433633011)

[Living in the community 10](#_Toc433633012)

[The economy 10](#_Toc433633013)

[Religion 10](#_Toc433633014)

[Politics 10](#_Toc433633015)

[Inter-generational relations 10](#_Toc433633016)

[Poor female teenager 19 10](#_Toc433633017)

[Personal 10](#_Toc433633018)

[Opportunities for 19 year old girls 10](#_Toc433633019)

[Combining work and education 10](#_Toc433633020)

[Women’s issues 10](#_Toc433633021)

[Establishing an independent livelihood 10](#_Toc433633022)

[Getting married 10](#_Toc433633023)

[Setting up an independent household 10](#_Toc433633024)

[Migrating 10](#_Toc433633025)

[Living in the community 10](#_Toc433633026)

[The economy 11](#_Toc433633027)

[Religion 11](#_Toc433633028)

[Politics 11](#_Toc433633029)

[Inter-generational relations 11](#_Toc433633030)

## Rich female teenager 13

### Personal

She is 13 years old and she lives with her parents who are farmers. Her household has 8 kert of land. In addition to this, her father rents some plots of land from other farmers and produces cash as well as subsistence crops. Her parents sell taff, chickpeas, wheat and lentils. They have 2 improved breeds and 1 local cow. Her father rents a tractor from Debrezeit to plough his farmland- 700 birr/1kert to plough.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

Young girls can go to school but they will have limited educational opportunities after they complete grade ten. However, there are many local places where they can get jobs. For example, a lot of women are working in the flower industries, local construction works and Arab countries.

There are risks of unwanted pregnancies because they have very limited information about access to contraceptives. Most of them, however, also fear to use contraceptives although they may have the information about how to access it. They fear that the health extension workers may tell their family.

### Combining work and education

Most girls at her age do some domestic work since they are 10 years old. But they don’t get paid jobs in labour work and local farms because the organizations think they are too young to work. The boys, however, can get paid labour farming work. The China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) pays better but it doesn’t hire girls at her age.

She thinks that the labour work in construction activities is very dangerous for their health. They get tired and feel sick. Most girls at her age don’t like to do any paid work; but they want to do domestic work and get rest. Despite this, these girls who want to earn money and support themselves and their families prefer to work at the flower firms. They work mostly in the summer season. But if they are not students, they get permanent jobs in the flower farms.

Most of the girls at her age are going to school. Some of them are not going to school. These are because they don’t have interest in education. They want to get married and have independent lives out of their parents’ control.

The majority of the girls who perform poorly in their education get married before 18 years; but those girls who are doing well in their education are likely to marry after they are 18 years old because they want to complete their education first.

For the future, young girls should be organized and get some source of income.

### Women’s issues

There is some education by the health Extension workers, local Medias such as the Oromia TV and Radio, Ethiopian TV and Radio. All most all have information from TV and Radio at home and mobile phones. Schools also teach and sensitize the students. Although many of the older women and men don’t agree, they respect the law against female circumcision because they fear the punishment. However, most of them still think that there is no convincing reason to stop female circumcision while there is a convincing reason to continue the practice. They believe that female circumcision has an advantage to control the behaviour of females to be decent and polite. They will also not be problems for their husbands. It is also because there has been no health problem created for the circumcised mothers.

The respondent disagrees with the above idea because she thinks that many mothers have died or suffered during delivery.

There is no special facility for girls who are menstruating. But female teachers provide education (once a month) to raise the awareness of the girls about menstruation and related issues of reproductive health. Rape and abduction have reduced in the last 5 years. She has heard of one case of abduction in 5 years. Women were abducted 5 years ago when they were going to fetch water and to schools. At this time, the situation is not as widespread as it used to be in the past.

There are girls who are not going to school but have boyfriends and get unexpected pregnancies. She knows two girls who got pregnant before they were married. Both now do not go to school and stay at home doing domestic work. Girls at this time are likely to start sex early mainly because of peer pressure. Although there is access to contraceptives in the health post, the girls do not want to use them because they feel too shy to ask for contraceptives before marriage.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young girls are likely to get married at 16-18 years old and have children soon after their marriage. But most of them have a second child after 3-4 years interval. Most of the youth want to have no more than 3 children in total.

Some girls want to be wives of farmers who have their own land. But most of them want to live in towns and cities. This is because of the hard work of the farming livelihood.

There is no second wife marriage in the culture of the community. However, there are some men who have informal affairs with other women while they are married.

### Getting married

She believes that the advantage of getting married is to help each other economically and have children. The disadvantage is when it happens between couples who do not have similar ages and who don’t love each other. She added that at this time, the young men are addicted to alcoholic drinks. There is no problem for females to get a husband.

### Setting up an independent household

Her older sisters are already married and the two unmarried ones want to live in town. One of her older sisters went to an Arab country after she completed grade 10.

The respondent wants to live in Debrezeit after she completes her education and live an independent life.

### Migrating

Young girls who complete grade 10 or grade 12 are likely to get jobs in flower farms. They may also go to Arab countries. Others go to Debrezeit in search of jobs. There are no job opportunities for young girls within the community. But in other towns, the government and NGOs provide different income generating trainings such as beauty salons, construction skills, food preparation and the kebele writes support letters that the girls are economically in need of those opportunities.

### Living in the community

She said that the community has been changing in terms of some issues of health, education, work and agriculture. She likes that the community strives hard to live an improved life and tries to imitate the town life. However, she dislikes that there is no easy access to job opportunities unless one leaves the community. The youth can’t get farm land and no economic opportunities are there for the young girls.

The economy

There are better activities done by the kebele officials and the community in terms of planting trees, soil and water conservation activities, etc. The kebele DAs introduce different seeds of fruits, vegetables and crops as well as improved breeds of cattle which have changed the economy of the community. Those farmers who are hardworking and get close contact with the agriculture experts have a good economic life.

### Religion

She is a follower of the Orthodox Church and visits the church; but only rarely. She said that most young girls are not interested in religious activities. They just visit the church when there are monthly or annual celebrations. There are a few protestant religion followers in the community. They are all followers of the Kalehiwot Church but they are not very active.

### Politics

The young women get messages from the government either by the media or by the kebele officials and the community members. There are 1-5 teams in the community who disseminate government messages to the community, including the young women. She has not heard any recent information or training provided by the wereda to young women in the kebele. There has been no resource provided by the wereda recently for women’s leisure. The wereda or the kebele should provide skills training for married and non-school women to support them economically. There also should be some recreational places for women to spend their time.

### Inter-generational relations

She said that she and her siblings have smooth interactions with their parents. It is good that all want to help each other. The older siblings help the younger ones. There has been no problem in the household; but in other households in the community, people fight each other, husbands beat their wives and the children are beaten by their parents. This is because the family heads (men) get drunk in the local areke or tej houses and disturb their family members.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 13

### Personal

She lives with her parents and six siblings. Her older brother is married and lives out of the family. Her family’s livelihood depends on selling pottery. Her mother buys the pots from Mojo and sells them in the local market in Udie and Denkaka. Her father used to be a guard; but he has been sick for long time and he has no job. Her three brothers work for the CCCC and are paid at least 500birr/month each. She thinks that her household is among the economic middle class.

She is 13 years old, in grade 5 and she stood 20th out of 55 students at school. She works in the local flower farms when she is on her summer vacation. She gets the information from women (in her neighbourhood) who work in the flower farms. Her parents are supportive of her work because she helps them too and she can afford her own expenses.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

Girls have the opportunity to go to school and be good students. For those young women who are not successful educationally, there are many flower farms where they can be hired as daily labourers. They earn 500-600birr/month.

### Combining work and education

She said that when she has extra time, she watches TV, listens to music or gets rest at home. Most of the time, she does domestic work first and then she studies. She likes art and enjoys drawing in school. She likes to draw flowers.

### Women’s issues

She is circumcised but she doesn’t remember when and how it was. She just heard her mother talking about it. She said that she has some feeling of pain around her uterus when she is in menstruation and she misses 2-3 days/month. Sometimes, when the menstruation comes when she is in classes, she goes home. There is no provision by the school.

There are boys who try to harass female students on their way to and from school when the girls refuse their request to have sexual affairs with them. Last year, a boy who was not going to school was trying to harass her to be his girlfriend by terrifying and slapping her. She then told her mother who reported it to the police. Then, the boy was arrested for three months. She added that sexual assault is common by the boys who are not going to school and by the men who are construction workers and daily labourers.

She is not married and she doesn’t have boyfriend

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Very few young girls who are in her age like to marry rich farmers with their own farmland. But most of her friends do not want to be wives of farmers. They want to marry educated men who live in the town. She has no sister who is married to an older man or who has become a second wife. However, there are some young girls who are married to older men and have children. Having a second wife is not a formally or culturally accepted practice in the community.

### Getting married

Girls marry between the age of 15-18. The majority are married when they are 16 and 17. More girls are likely to marry between this age interval; but those girls who are doing well in their education are likely to get marry late because they first want to concentrate on their education. There is no need to ask permission from the wereda or kebele administration to get married. She has no girlfriend who is married. She thinks that girls start to worry about being too late to marry when they become over 21 years old

### Setting up an independent household

It is not easy for young women to live independently in the community. A woman who lives alone is not perceived as having good behaviour by the community and she is likely to be exposed for different sexual harassment.

After marriage, the husband and wife live in a separate household. But there are many young men who have no separate house and no farmland and so live with their parents so that they get a house and land resources.

### Migrating

Most girls migrate to Arab countries although she has no one whom she knows who has returned to the village. Migrants are especially those girls who were unable to do well in their school exams. However, even the good students want to go somewhere else around towns for further education and for a better town life.

### Living in the community

She likes living in the community because it is calm and peaceful. People help each other in bad and good times. More or less, they are tolerant for each other’s behaviour. There is no special grouping in the community and there are no conflicts or tensions.

Nowadays, many young men are likely to have girlfriends in the community. There is education provided by schoolteachers and HEWs about HIV/AIDS. Most young couples tend to have a blood test before they get married.

### The economy

Although the economy of the community is showing some change, it has not yet changed the lives of young girls in the community. There is no improvement that is important for the youth. The young women have to work to get some money and help themselves as well as their parents economically. Many young boys too have to work to get some money.

### Religion

She is active in religious activities. She spends the eve of annual celebrations in the church. She also fasts all the fasting seasons. She is the follower of the Orthodox church and she knows no other people who follow other religions.

### Politics

She has no active participation in local politics. She has no information about what the wereda or the kebele officials do for young women in her village. She thinks that those women who are not going to school have better participation in public meetings and political activities than the young girls who are going to school. She gets information about the politics through TV and Radios. Besides, she hears people in her household and neighbourhood talking about important political issues.

### Inter-generational relations

She said that there is some minor conflict among her siblings. They fight each other because they are young. But there is no problem with the adult relationships.

## Poor female teenager 13

### Personal

She lives with her mother and two siblings. Her father died three years ago and her mother sells tella and areke. Her mother rented out the household’s land because she has no ox and no one to help her ploughing the land.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

There is no opportunity for 13 year old girls in the community except the school.

### Combining work and education

She is in grade 5 and has not repeated classes. she has being doing domestic work such as fetching water, cooking, cleaning, washing clothes and helping her mother to sell the local drinks. She didn’t do any paid work.

She has not much time to be used for leisure because she has to help mother at home after school. She just reads her exercise books and does homework after she completes the household activities.

### Women’s issues

She said she was circumcised although she doesn’t remember the situation. She has no idea what might happen if she wouldn’t be circumcised. She has no problem when she has menstruation periods. There are no provisions in the school. She has never been sexually harassed or assaulted by any man. She is not married and she has no boyfriend.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

None of the girls of her age want to marry at this age. They want to continue their education and think about marriage when they finish their education. She has no idea how many of them want to marry farmer or a man who does other kinds of work in the community.

### Getting married

She wants to marry when she completes 12th grade and gets job. She would like to marry a man who has a good source of income like a government officer, health expert, driver or teacher.

### Setting up an independent household

It doesn’t seem to be easy for a woman to live an independent life without being married. But if she wants to marry a man, she can choose.

### Migrating

Most young men and women migrate to local towns and cities in search of jobs or for further education. They go to Debrezeit, Mojo, Adama and Addis Ababa. She has her relative living in Debrezeit; but she has no detailed information on how she is living there.

### Living in the community

She likes the peaceful interaction of the community and the climate in the community. She doesn’t like that situation that there is no good source of income where women can be involved.

She thinks that the community may have better economic activities after five years if some means of income generation is created for women. Otherwise, there will be no change.

### The economy

She doesn’t know whether the community is getting richer or not; but she said that her household couldn’t have improved after her father died. There is no good profit by selling local drinks because there are a lot of other women who are engaged in the same business. She has no idea about the other changes related to education, work, etc.

### Religion

She is a follower of the Orthodox Church; but she is not a very active religious person. She has no idea if there are other religious groups in the community.

### Politics

She doesn’t know whether the kebele or the wereda has disseminated any recent information to the community. However, she hears sometimes the local officials call the people by going house to house for meetings or for malaria and other disease prevention education.

### Inter-generational relations

There has been no problem among her family members and there has been no conflict. In the community, there are some youth who do what they want to do without the permission of their parents. There are young boys and girls who drop out of school and go to other places for work while their parents want them to go to school. This is because the youth want to have their own money to buy whatever they want, without depending on their parents and begging them all the time for money.

## Rich female teenager 16

### Personal

She lives with her parents, two brothers and sisters. One of her sisters lives in an Arab country. Her parents are farmers and have an irrigation farm. They produce taff, chickpeas, lentils and vegetables for both household consumption and cash. She explains her household is a better-off household when compared with the other households in the community.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

The best opportunity for girls at this age is going to school. There are elementary and high schools in the kebele where the girls can go.

### Combining work and education

She does domestic work but not paid work. She studies in the evenings. She thinks that it is possible to combine work and education although education needs more concentration. She has not done any farming activity because her parents hire farming labourers. She repeated grade three because she didn’t study hard.

### Women’s issues

She was circumcised but she remembers nothing because she was too young. She has no problem in relation to menstruation. Her mother buys her sanitary pads every month. There is no provision of any support from the school. She had some trials of sexual abuse by boys around her school when she refused to have an affair with them. One boy slapped her when she refused to be his girlfriend. Then, she reported it to her parents and he sent messengers to apologise about his bad behaviour.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She doesn’t think that it is easy to be an independent woman in the community because a woman always would need the support of her partner and her parents. In fact, it might be easier in towns and cities for young women to have an independent livelihood; but it is not easily in her community. There are no good sources of income in the community where women could be able to live independently.

### Getting married

She wants to get married when she is 20 years old and to have two children. She wants to have five years of spacing for her births. She wants to get married and have an independent livelihood after she completes her education and becomes a teacher.

### Setting up an independent household

She believes that women would be dependent on their husband or their husband’s family after marriage. Some women may continue to have their former source of income like wage labour or petty trade and control their income. However, it is likely that young women depend on their husbands after marriage.

### Migrating

It has been common for young women to migrate to local towns as well as to Arab countries for work. They migrate mostly at 18 and above. The number has been increasing from time to time. She doesn’t have any idea about the places they go because she knows no one in those places.

She wants to live in Debrezeit after she completes her education and she can go there alone. She knows a friend who went to Debrezeit to continue her education there. She said that her friend has an aunt in the town who assists her to go to school. Her friend in turn helps her aunt in completing domestic work and caring for children.

### Living in the community

She likes the peaceful interaction and freedom of movement within the community. She likes to be accompanied by people whom she knows. She doesn’t like the situation that there are no recreational places for young girls. There is no grouping in the community. Although the youth know about HIV/AIDS, most of them are likely to have unsafe sex. Despite this, the youth get blood tests when they get married. She doesn’t know how many people live with HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

She thinks that the economy of most households in the community has improved. Young women can get jobs in the different industries in the local towns. However, there is no in-migration because there are no farming opportunities for young women within the community.

### Religion

The people, especially elders, spend time in churches and other religious activities. Young women are also active participants. There are only a few people who are not interested to participate. There is only one religion, the Orthodox church in the community. However, there are a very few protestants who are not active in the community.

### Politics

There are not many political activities that could involve young women in the community. The government does mobilizations in times of election and those who are 18 and above are called to vote. There are also rare public meetings where young women are also invited to participate. There is some income generating activity trainings provided for selected and interested young women. There is no pressure from the ruling party to participate or to support any activity by the ruling party. The young women are reluctant about local politics and there is no interest to support any other party. There are no youth organizations in the community.

### Inter-generational relations

She said that there are smooth relations among her household members. The good things are that the parent’s guide the children properly and give time to play and to chat with their children. The children are free to discuss their ideas with the parents. In the community, there are some parents that do not have time to chat with their children and do not understand the needs of their children. Hence, many girls do not feel free to talk about sexual issues, menstruation, etc. The main tension points in the community arise when girls are reluctant about their educational performance and parents worry about the future of their children

## Middle-wealth female teenager 16

### Personal

She lives with her parents and seven siblings. Her family has a house with two rooms. Her parents are farmers who own 7 kert of land. She explains her household is a middle income household.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

The access to communication with the nearby town, electricity to study in the night, to watch TV and get information, and the job opportunities in floriculture are the best opportunities for the young girls in the community.

There are risks of unexpected pregnancies, forced and underage marriage, school dropouts due to economic problems.

### Combining work and education

She is in grade 9 and has never repeated a class since she started learning. This year, she stood 10th out of 53 students and she believes that it is good. She never has done any type of paid work. But she helps her parents in some farming activities and in domestic work such as baking enjera, washing clothes, cleaning the house, taking care of younger siblings and cooking. She completes her homework and does her study in the evening. Her domestic work has no negative impact on her education. However, she sometimes feels pain around her backbone when she does much work like the farm work and washing clothes. Although she enjoys washing clothes, she always gets tired and feels sick at the end of the work. She dislikes baking enjera because she has to use wood or dry dung for fuel which causes aches to her eyes and coughing.

### Women’s issues

There is no circumcision at this time. But she was circumcised when she was about three years old. She doesn’t remember it but she has heard her mother talking about that. Her younger sisters who are 10 and 7 years old are not circumcised because of the government’s intervention. She believes that her parents didn’t circumcise the younger children because they learnt about its consequences on the health of the girls and because they accepted to stop it.

She said that she always has trouble with her menstruation. She gets a pain in her abdomen. The first time she saw her menstruation when she was in school and she was not much scared because she had heard about it from other adult girls in her school. She said that she managed it without others noticing. She uses a rag and reused it. She thinks that her parents may not know about it yet because she has never discussed it with any one of them.

She said that she has never been sexually harassed. But she usually is assaulted by boys around her school. She has not told any family members about this situation. She only talks about it with her school friends.

She is not yet married but she has a boyfriend for the last three years. Her parents didn’t have any information about this.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She strives to have an independent livelihood after she completes her education.

### Getting married

She plans to marry after she completes her university education at age 22 years old. She doesn’t think that her parents will be interested to be involved in deciding her marriage partner; but they might be involved in the wedding and other important issues. She said that she can inform them when she decides to get married. Her boyfriend wants to complete his education before he marries her. He wishes to complete grade 10 and become a driver.

### Setting up an independent household

She would like to have an independent household after she marries. She wants to have two children in three years spacing.

### Migrating

She wants to live in Debrezeit or Addis Ababa as an office worker. She knows no other migrants in any other place; but she thinks that most youth want to live in these towns.

### Living in the community

She has no plan to live in the community for the future; rather, she wants to complete her education and get a high paid job so that she can support her parents and her siblings. Her worries are failing the national exams and been unemployed. She is also worried about forced abduction.

### The economy

She thinks that the community is getting richer because of the increasing productivity and because of the different job opportunities created in local towns.

### Religion

She is a follower of the Orthodox Church and visits the church regularly. She said that she doesn’t know any other religious groups in the community

### Politics

She has not much political involvement in the community. But she hears community members (1-5) team members mobilize people to participate in public meetings and to vote in elections.

### Inter-generational relations

There has been no tension or conflicts among her community members. She thinks that the young girls respect their parents and siblings at home. The parents have the power to decide everything in the house while some youth may not want to accept some decisions of their parents. This might be a tension point for some households

## Poor female teenager 16

### Personal

She lives with her parents and three siblings. There three other households around her neighbourhood. Her father is a daily labourer and her mother sells tella, kubet. Her mother has an equb in which she saves 50birr/week. The respondent is a grade 5 student and her siblings are in grades 3 and 2. Although the household has 2 kert of land, her father rents it out because he has no ox to plough. He earns 2000birr/year by renting the land. She helps her parents do the domestic work. She thinks that her household is among the poorest households in the community. The family owns the house which has only one room.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

She is 16 years old and she is in grade five. She has repeated grade 4, because of financial constraints. Last year, all students were asked by the school to pay 100 birr as an annual school fee. This used to be 50birr. Her parents were not able to pay that amount on time and she was dismissed. This year, she stood 15th out of 60 students. She thinks that this is not good performance because she thinks that she should have been at 2nd or 3rd rank.

### Combining work and education

This year she has missed 5 days because she was sick from malaria and pneumonia. She does domestic work such as baking enjera, preparing coffee, cleaning, washing clothes and cooking. She does this every day. She fetches water by walking ten minutes but waiting for about 1 hour due to the long queue for the *bono* water service (0.5-10cents). She doesn’t do farming work as a household activity; but she does paid farming labour every rainy season. She gets grouped with the local farm labourer youths, locally known as *Qebo* (a group of 5-10 young men and women) who do weeding in the farming season. The group does this work in the form of contract. When one task of weeding is completed, the group receives 70birr. One contract agreement may take 1-2 days. She also helps her mother to serve customers, to prepare local drinks, to sell enjera, cook shiro sauce and wash kitchen items. Her mother sells enjera with shiro at a price of 7birr, beyaynet 8birr and 1 *tasa* of tella is 2.50birr. The respondent also worked as housemaid last year when she dropped out of school. She was working in a village called Edi-Ada’a. She was paid 50 birr/month. She was preparing food for the farm labourers hired by the household, preparing dung, washing clothes and cleaning the house. Her employer was a teacher who promised to send her to school as she was a relative of her mother. However, she didn’t respect her promise. So, she called her mum and told her all the problems she had with her employer. She then received 200birr as her four month’s salary and went back home. She bought her clothes, shoes and T-shirt.

After she left the work, she was able to get time to study at home. She had nothing to like about the job because her interest was to go to school rather than to work. She was feeling pain around her leg because of the hard work she was doing. She also had headaches and backbone pain because she was not eating enough. She was stressed for most of the time due to the hard work she had. She felt better when she had little work to do in a day.

She doesn’t think that it is possible to combine work and education because the work was very hard which consumes most of the time. Besides, she believes that there are no part-time work opportunities in the community. So, it would be good if there could be work that can be done together with schooling. Besides, it would be helpful if the school shift could be in the morning so that she could do her work in the afternoon.

She plans for the coming rainy season to be hired in any of the flower firms around the village and earn some money to help her parents. She expects that she can get a monthly salary of 600birr. She then will use the money to buy her dresses, shoes and school materials and start schooling in September 2006EC. She has also planned to concentrate on her school and score at least 2nd rank in her class.

She washes clothes, fetches water and studies in the evening time. Sometimes, she watches boys playing football but she doesn’t play because she thinks football is for boys only. She likes to play handball with her girlfriends. She is not much interested in music and art. But she likes to listen to some music songs. She likes to visit church, St. Mary’s church every Sunday. She participates in religious celebrations and contributes labour support when feasts are prepared and some money to the church. She spends the night in the church when it is the annual celebration of the church. She has little involvement in politics. She gets information about politics from radio and Television as well as some adult people.

She likes sports and does some physical exercise inside her compound. She enjoys the sport program in her school because she feels relaxed and it makes her feel active. She wishes to be an athlete in the future. She has no membership in any youth organizations.

She spends her time playing games such as running, circus, stretching, fighting and studying together with her friends. She also sits and chats with them. Her best girlfriend is 15 years old. They both are in the same class. She goes to her house or her friend comes to the respondent’s house and they study together.

### Women’s issues

She was circumcised when she was 8 years old. She remembers the time when she was going to school and her father caught her hands and took her back home. She saw a woman sitting in the house and she was staring at her. The respondent thought that the woman was a relative of her parents and came to visit them. But she didn’t understand why her father wanted her to go back home. The woman then asked her father where the blade was. The respondent then felt strange and that they were planning to do something bad to her. Then, she tried to escape but she couldn’t because her father’s strong hands were still holding her. When she started to shout, another woman came and covered her eyes. A man who she didn’t see before came and held all her body and strongly fixed her legs. Her mother ran away so as not to see her suffering. Her younger brothers were crying because they were confused about the situation. After the circumcision, she slept for three days and suffered for more than one week from its pain, especially when she urinated. She had been observing this situation on her friends and thought that she had no way to escape - no choice. If she was not circumcised, the community wouldn’t respect her and would think that she was not mentally normal and she would be disrespected.

She saw her first menstruation when she was about 14 years old. As she didn’t have any information about menstruation, she was scared and thought that she was sick. She was afraid to tell her mother about the situation and just kept quiet. She then told her friend who already had seen it before; and she told her to buy a sanitary pad and use it. The respondent asked her mother for 15 birr, just telling her that her teachers told all the students to bring 15birr. Her mother trusted her and gave her 15 birr. Then, she went to the local shop with her friend and bought the pad and used it. After some months, she started to notice the symptoms and get ready before it spoiled her clothes. When she doesn’t have enough money to buy a pad, she uses as many pants and clothes as she has to in order to prevent it from spoiling her clothes. She never has discussed menstruation with any of her family members including her mother because she feels shy. She misses 2-3 days classes every month when she has her period. She thinks that this has affected her performance. She suggests that it would be helpful if there could be a source of help where she and other girls could get the sanitary pads every time they need them.

There are times when boys try to harass her staying around the streets on her way to and from school. These are boys who are not going to school and they try to insult girls who go to school. But they don’t harass her physically. They just say bad words and try to frighten girls. One of the boys asked her to be his girlfriend and marry him. Although he promised her that he will take care of her and will respect her will, she couldn’t trust him because he is not an educated boy. Then, she refused his proposal. In similar situations, many young girls who refuse to accept the requests of these kinds of boys are raped or get unwanted pregnancies. Some others are beaten when they refuse the boys. The respondent told the case to her mother who reported to the teachers in the school. So, the teachers met the boys along the street and dismissed them. The boys were given a warning by the teachers not to create any problems for any female student.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Currently, the respondent is not married and she doesn’t have a boyfriend. She plans to have a boyfriend when she is in grade 11.

In the future, she wants to live either in Addis Ababa or in Debrezeit and become a Secretary. Here, in the community, she thinks she will not get a better job than doing daily labour. She wants to marry a rich man who lives in a big city, who has his own residential house; he would be good in making money and have a good economic as well as social status. She doesn’t know anyone who lives in Addis Ababa or Debrezeit.

She would like to visit her relatives in the community (Sirba) after she settled her residence in another city or town. However, she doesn’t want to come back to live in the village after she completes her education.

She plans to marry after she completes grade 12 and get a job and she wants to have two children (a girl and a boy). She has not agreed to marry anyone. She wants to have her first born children within a year of her marriage; and her second child after two years interval.

She admires Tirunesh Dibaba (athlete) and thinks that she is her role model. She admires her because she always wins the race and has an attractive style when she runs.

She said that her future depends on the support she gets from her parents and she hopes to help them in the future. Her future worry is that she may drop out of school because her parents wish to see her married and have children.

The youths of her age face marriage by abduction, forced marriage, rape and school dropout, too much domestic work and missing classes due to menstruation. Lack of jobs after completing grade 10, etc. Most girls of her age work at the CCCC, floriculture, Arab countries, as housemaids in Addis Ababa, Mojo, Adama and Debrezeit, waitresses in bars and restaurants of these towns.

She said that doing labour work in the CCCC is best because the salary is up to 1000 birr/month and she thinks that working in the flower firms is risky because the chemicals sprayed on the flowers are harmful to the health of the workers. She added that there are many girls who work in the flower firms who have got thin and have skin diseases. Those women who work in unskilled construction activities suffer from windy and dusty air and the hot sunlight which affects their eyes and skin.

Most young females like to work as housemaids in big towns. They do this work when they drop out of school and during the summer vacation. There are enough work opportunities around the village: the CCCC, about 8 flower firms, factories in Mojo which is only 20Km from the village and in Debrezeit. However, most females are not interested to do labour work.

The respondent said that there are about 10 girls whom she knows who are school drop outs. It is not common for girls to go back to school after they drop out because they feel shy to sit with junior classmates. The schools allow students to repeat one class only once.

She suggested that different trainings regarding income generating activities such as poultry production would help many young girls to improve their livelihoods and to have independent livelihoods.

There are five girls who completed grade 9-12 and are working in the CCCC, flower farm and daily labour work. One of these has left to an Arab country. Most would like to be teachers, secretary, health experts and office workers. She knows one girl who has graduated with a Diploma but has got no job. She believes that it is hard to combine work and education for females of the poor families because they have to do some full time work to support their families. Besides, the factories hire fulltime only and the bosses will not allow part-time work. As there is no evening class in the villages, the females have to choose either work or education.

The respondent knows no woman who has bad habits.

The government is now working to punish people who practice female circumcision. It is also providing education about the disadvantages of the practice by media and at public meetings.

There still are some older people who want to continue the practice; but the youth don’t want to continue the practice. She said that she doesn’t know anyone in the community who is persecuted in the community.

The school doesn’t support/special facilities with regard to menstruation; but the teachers provide information, advice and sometimes they give pads when the girls suddenly have their period while in class.

With regard to rape and abduction, she said that there was one case of abduction in 2004EC when she saw three adult men forced a female to go with them. The girls were about 17 years old and she was going shopping. When she shouted for help, the girls around also shouted and called people for help. Unfortunately, no one came and the men took her away. After that, she heard that the case was abduction which many people consider as a normal practice. She also heard that those men started to negotiate with the girls’ family about the wedding arrangement.

She also had heard of a rape case in 2004EC when a girl who was going back home from school alone was raped by an unknown man. The man was not caught by police because he had already run away and she couldn’t recognize him. After that, she dropped out of school because she felt guilt.

The respondent said that she had a girl classmate who had a boyfriend and got unexpectedly pregnant. She is now living with her parents and dropped out of school. Her parents are not happy to see her unwanted pregnancy when she had to complete her education. They isolate her and her friends don’t respect her as they used to do.

This year, there was a girl who is about 18 years old who got unexpectedly pregnant and had an abortion in Debrezeit hospital. But she couldn’t go to school and she decided to work in MOKODi Flower farm. Most girls who have unexpected pregnancies are likely to give birth and be dependent on their families rather than abort it unsafely.

Regarding contraceptives, the respond thinks that all types of contraceptives are available at the health post; but she never has used any contraceptive.

### Getting married

She said that the youngest age to marry for females is 14. However, it is a very rare case. She knows only four girls who got married at this age.

Only a few of these girls who are not doing well at school get married. Those who do well don’t like to get married early. Most of the time, it is the poor girls who are likely to get married early because they think that at least they get food when they marry a better man.

The government provides sensitization to the community to prevent underage marriage. When it happens, the husband and the girls’ parents are accused in front of the law.

Girls can choose their partners; but sometimes, parents also choose husbands for their daughters.

There is no need to ask permission from the government to get married.

Girls who are 25 and above are said to be too late to get married. Despite this, those who are 22 also worry that they might be at risk to be late to marry.

There respondent thinks that the advantages of marriage are to have children and help each other in all aspects of life. The disadvantages are conflicts, economic problems and separating from parents and from old friends.

### Setting up an independent household

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### Migrating

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### Living in the community

-

### The economy

-

### Religion

-

### Politics

-

### Inter-generational relations

-

## Rich female teenager 19

### Personal

The respondent is 18 years old and lives with her parents and 6 siblings. There is also her uncle who lives with the same family. Her household’s livelihood depends on farming of the land which she guesses to have size of 2 hectares. She believes that her household is among the rich households in the community.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

She thinks that there are no much opportunities for girls who are in the kebele because there are no good sources of income. Especially girls who complete grade ten are likely to be engaged in domestic work to help their parents, migrating to Arab countries to work as house maids or to works as daily labourers in the flower farms in Debrezeit. She thinks this is not good opportunity.

### Combining work and education

She is doing her education in grade 10. She stood 13th out of 58 students during the last semester. She repeated on class when she was in grade 3; but she didn’t drop out. She has not been engaged in any income generating activity. But she always helps her mother to do the daily domestic wok. She studies when she finishes the work at home. Usually, she does her assignment s in late afternoon or in the evenings between 7-8PM.

### Women’s issues

She said that she and her friends are supportive to the government’s attempt to stop female circumcision because it is a harmful traditional practice that has no use to continue. She said that she was not circumcised but she doesn’t know why. She thinks that may be her parents were afraid of been restrained by the government if they had circumcised her. There were some people who did female circumcised and were punished to be in the prison for 2-3months. She heard this information three years back from the adult women in her neighbourhood.

She has got sanitary pad once (two years back) when she felt that she was menstruating while she was in class. She was scared that it might have been spoiled her uniform; so she quickly went to the office of a teacher who was in charge of sanitary pad provision. She then gave her pack of 10 pieces of *Eve* type of pad so that she continued her class comfortably. She added that other girls also do the same. The problem, however, is that many girls request the pad claiming that they have period suddenly when they are in class even if it is not true. This is because either they don’t want to ask their parents for money to buy the pad or they want to use the money which they receive from their parents to buy pad for other purposes.

She has not heard any recent case of rape or abduction in the kebele.

Although she has no close friends who have got pre-marital pregnancy, she knows one girl who is about 19 years old and got pregnant from her boyfriend. Her boyfriend accepted the child but she continued living either her parents because he is a student who can’t support her economically. He promised her to marry her after he completes his university education and get a job. He is now grade 10 student in Udie high school (the same school where the respondent goes).

She has not heard any abortion recently; but she thinks that many women go to Debrezeit hospital or Private clinics to do abortion when they have premarital pregnancies. But these are only those who have enough money to do that.

According to the respondent, contraceptive is used mainly by married women. However, those girls who have boyfriends also use some types of contraceptives from the health centre and health post in Udie as well as from the pharmacies in Debrezeit.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

### Getting married

The respondent said that this time the average for young women to get marry is 18 years old. She believes that the majority of them get marry at this age, few get marry at 16-17 years and some women get marry 19-22years old. She said this was because of the government’s intervention to stop underage marriage. Those girls who are clever in their education strive to continue their education at higher level and have good economic as well as social positions. So, they don’t want to get marry early. However, she added, they get very disappointed if they fail eth national examination in grade ten after they refused several marriage proposals. They feel hopeless and get confused (whether to marry or to wait for some other opportunity to continue their education). The poor girls are not likely to get marry according to the respondent because they want to work hard first and improve the economic life of their parents and siblings. They are likely to marry later than the rich girls. She added that the girls from rich household have less stress about education or about doing some work. So, if they fail their education, they immediately get marry as their parents help them to establish their household.

She supports the idea that marriage is important for all human beings. But she said she couldn’t explain why except that she knew it is important to help each other, to live independently from parents and to have children.

### Setting up an independent household

The girls from rich household have no difficulties to set-up independent households because their parents can give them some household items, separate house or some plot of farm land. But those girls from poor families will have to work hard to have their own sources of income before they set-up independent household.

### Migrating

It is becoming very common for young girls especially those girls who are above 18 years old and who are not good in education to different place within and outside the country. Most young girls go to Arab countries and Addis Ababa to work as housemaid (in Arab countries) and as waitress, cobble stone (daily labour) and factory work in Addis Ababa and Debrezeit. Some of the girls who have rich parents go to Addis Ababa to continue their education in Private colleges or to get technical/vocational trainings (such as hair dressing, food preparation, hotel and tourism management, etc) there.

### Living in the community

She likes the community because her friends, her family members and her classmates are there and because the community help each other in everyday life. There are no bad habits in the community (such as chat chewing, alcoholism, theft, murder, violence against women, etc) that would make her hate the community. It is good that there are no groupings in the community where it belongs to the same social group with similar way of living. There is no conflict and the community has been very safe and peace for long time. However, she doesn’t like it because it is not yet developed as much as Debrezeit and Mojo where there is better town life. Although the community is changing, it is very slow change.

The main worry of her parents about her is that she might not pass her examinations especially in grade ten. So, they keep telling her to study and to concentrate on her education. They don’t want to see her failing her examination and sit idle at home.

### The economy

Although the community’s economy is growing from time to time, she thinks that it is not fast growing that there are no visible changes like infrastructure, private colleges, recreational places, etc. She didn’t notice any changes in farming opportunities to women.

### Religion

Many people enjoy the church ceremonies and attend the programs. Most of these are the older and women groups. Young women also attend especially the annual celebrations. There are some young people who are not interested in religion. There is only the Orthodox Church there. She knows no one from the community who went to learn religion.

### Politics

She said that although there is increasing interest of the youth to participate in politics such as to participate in public and kebele meetings, to participate in Medias talking about rights of the youth, etc, there has been no organized political movement lead by youth. Indeed, the youth participate in elections and many young are members of the leading political party where they learn about politics.

### Inter-generational relations

She thinks that there can be some kind of tension among the young children, especially men, and their parents who try to control their time and their behaviour. Most youth want freedom to think, to move out of the house, etc; but parents want them to follow the already established cultural way of doing things. For example, parents want to see their daughters sit at home after their school times while the girls may want to go back to school and study in the library. Many parents do not allow them to do so. This creates some disagreements. But most of the time it is the parents who dominate. The young men do not want to obey their parents and it is common to see conflicts among the fathers and their sons.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 19

### Personal

The respondent lives with her parents and five siblings. Her oldest sister has married out of the house three years ago. Her household’s livelihood depends on farming. She together with her sisters does help her mother in the household activities. Her all siblings are students and there is no family member engaged in paid work. There is no other relative that lives together in the family.

She is 18 years old and she is in grade ten. During the last semester, she stood 8th out of 53 students. She said that she has not dropped out of school and didn’t repeat any class.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

There are no job opportunities for the young girls in the community. Although the young boys can work in construction and other labour work, young women like to work in flower farms which ae found outside the kebele. Those youths who are organized to make some kind of business may get some source of income.

The best opportunity the youth have is to go to government school without school fee. If they are successful in their education, they have access to education in Mojo, Debrezeit, Addsi Ababa and other places in the country.

### Combining work and education

She does domestic work such as baking enjera, cooking, preparing coffee, prepares dung for fuel, washing clothes, makes the bed, cleaning the house and helping in weeding and collecting the crops. She does all these together with her siblings. She studies and does her assignment in the evenings and weekends after the household activities are completed

Besides, she works during her summer vacation in wage labour at the vegetable farm known as Jitu near Debrezeit. Last year, June-September, she was paid 350birr/month. She got information about the job vacancy from the local women who already had worked there. She does weeding, collecting crop and digging to prepare the space for plants/vegetables. The women at her neighbourhood helped her to see the farm place and apply for the vacancy. As there was no better work to do for her at that time and as her parents encouraged her to apply, she went and applied. When she received the money, she used it to buy her school materials, shoes and clothes. And she gave the remained money to her mother. Besides, she bought mobile phone to her mother as a gift. It didn’t affect her schooling because it was in summer vacation. But she missed some of the classed which were started early in September. She also missed the time to receive the study books which were distributed to students to study during their summer vacation. She didn’t receive the 9 subjects and she was not prepared for the New Year. She believes that this has affected her results to be poor.

In addition to this, her job also affected her health that she started to feel in her chest because of the hard labour work. She worked for 8 hours/day and six days/week. She said that she also had kidney problem after she started the work. As she stands for long hours and dig holes, her legs were shaking and her fingers got swollen. She liked to dig holes because she was able to go out of the work as soon as she completes the work. She dislikes planting seeds because it was hard labour work. The stick she used to plant the seeds did harm her fingers.

She said that it would be helpful if to combine work and education if there could be evening classes. It would also be helpful if school could be only in the mornings and there could be some work in the afternoons. She has planned to focus more on her education and to do some labour work as part time work.

She plays with her friends in her neighbourhood and school mates when she has some free time. She is very interested in music that she songs in her school during parent’s day or other school events. She is not interested in art; but she likes sports. She enjoys playing football and she is team member of her school’s girl’s football team. She played football for about 5 years in her school. Last September, she and her team did win a cup of the local schools game.

She has no membership in youth association or women’s association. She spends her extra time chatting with her friends and her family members. She also spends time in watching movies on her friend’s mobile phone. She has one especially girlfriend with whom she shares her ideas and her secrets.

### Women’s issues

She said that she doesn’t know if she was circumcised or not. She has supportive perception towards female circumcision because she had seen no difficulties or no health problems in the older women. She said that she doesn’t think female circumcision affects the health of women because many women including her mother and older sister have got many children with no difficulties and have no health problem as a result of their circumcision. So, it would be good for her to be circumcised because it would help her to behave politely. Besides, she believes that the community gives high respect to circumcised girls than to uncircumcised although the practice is now considered as illegal by the government. As many people fear the punishments of the government, they tend to stop the practice whether they believe in it or not.

She has not been sexually harassed and was not assaulted. She is not married and she doesn’t have boyfriend.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

### Getting married

The youngest age to marry at this time is 18 years. There is no need to get permission from government officials to get married. Most marriages are arranged by the couples but with the involvement of the parents. She wants to marry at 21 after she completes her university education. She wishes to have two children (one girl and one boy).

At this time, she has no one with whom she agreed to marry.

### Setting up an independent household

It is easy to have independent household only after completing education successfully and get good job. In the community, those who have farm land can easily set up independent household; but those who don’t have will face economic constraints.

### Migrating

She said that many girls at her age do not want to live within the community. They rather want to go abroad or to Addis Ababa for better schooling and work opportunities. Young girls want to live in Debrezeit, Addis Ababa and Nazreth. Many young girls go to Arab states and this is becoming very common. She doesn’t know any recently returned migrant.

### Living in the community

She likes the peaceful life of the community, the access to transportation and to towns. She also said that the community is safe and there is no risk of any kind of violence. In five years from now, the village will be changed in to town where there is good access to all kinds of facilities.

She dislikes that the community has not yet been developed in terms of ideas to work and to educate the youth. Although there are many rich households, they don’t allow their children to go to other towns and continue their education after grade10.

### The economy

She said that the economy of the community is growing as the community is now communicating with different towns in nearby places where there is good market transaction. There is easy access to all kinds of facilities in the community. However, there are no farming opportunities for young girls as they don’t have the land and other resources.

### Religion

She is follower of the Orthodox Church and she visits the church when there is monthly or annual celebration. Young girls in the community like to attend religious programs. The dominant religion in the village is Orthodox but there are very few followers of the protestant. She thinks that there are many young girls and young boys who have no interest in religion.

### Politics

She has no active participation in politics. But she has interest to know about politics that she carefully attends her Civic class. She reads her book and gets information about political issues. Besides, she gets information about political systems through TV and radio.

### Inter-generational relations

She thinks that there is in much tension among her household members; only sometimes, there is disagreement with her siblings about doing the domestic work. As the younger once do not want to help that they want to play more, the older ones try to control them. The good thong in her household is that all the children obey the parents.

## Poor female teenager 19

### Personal

She lives with her 4siblings, parents and one cousin. She is first born child in the family and she is now 19 years old. She takes care of the children to assist her mother after her school time. She is in grade 10 and student 21st out of 52 students. She said that her performance is not good because she is not studying hard due to eye illness and due to the work load she has at home. Her parents are farmers who have 0.50hectare of land and her mother sells tella and areki for additional source of income. So, the respondent also helps her mother to prepare the local drink. She describes her household as poor household. However, she says that there are also households who are much poorer than her household.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

There are work opportunities for young women outside the community; but there are no work opportunities inside the community. Young women can go to school and if their parents are rich they can send them to private colleges outside the kebele. However, poor girls can only learn up to grade ten in the kebele. After that they have to go somewhere else to continue their education. Otherwise they can go to Arab states to improve their economic life. She also said that those girls who have the interest in business can be organized, get credit service from the Kebele and run some kind of business. But she doesn’t think that there are profitable areas of business that can be done within the kebele.

There are no recreational places for young girls within the community.

### Combining work and education

She does cooking, baking enjera, cleaning the house, taking care of the youngest siblings, washing clothes and cleaning the livestock’s yard. She also fetches water and prepares dung for fuel. She does all these after her school time. She tries to complete all her homework/assignments while she is in class. But she also studies in the weekends and the evenings.

During her summer vacation, she works in the Bokito flower farm which is found around Kaliti (in Debrezeit). The flower farm provides her transportation service to and from her house. She is paid 700birr/month and works for 2-3 months. Then, she gets back to school in late weeks of September. She uses the money to buy her clothes, shoes, stationery materials and gives the remained money to her mother. She gets information about the job from the other women in her community who work in the flower farm. She enjoys the work because she loves flowers. She likes to prepare the flower seeds and take care of them until they are ripped and ready to the market.

She gets sick in her eye when she works in the flower farm and she thinks that is because the chemical sprayed to the flower seeds. She did drop out of school when she was in grade 8 due to eye illness and she was taken by her mother to the eye clinic in Debrezeit. She still has this problem that she can’t focus on her books or exercises as it burns her. It relapses when she reads much or when she watches TV for long hours.

### Women’s issues

She thinks that females do not want to be circumcised but she doesn’t know if she was circumcised or not. She hadn’t asked her mother or any other person about this. She believes that female circumcision has been stopped though the great efforts of the government and community members. She also believes that it is not important to practice it because it may cause some health problem and death to the females.

She has no any problem in relation to menstruation that she knows the monthly day and gets ready a head for that. She uses sanitary pad which her mother buys her every month. She also receives some money from her father and keeps it to buy the pad. In addition to this, she saves some money from the eggs she sells every Saturday at Udie market so that every month she will have enough money to buy sanitary pad. The school where she goes keep some sanitary pads for the girls who have it when they are not ready; but there is no sustainable provision and it is not given for all the girls in the school.

As to the respondent, it is very common to see pre-marital pregnancy in the community because girls and boys start sexual relationship early at 14 and 15. Besides, the females do not want to use contraceptives from the health post because they get shy or they fear the health worker may display their secrets.

She suggests that more reproductive health education has to be given to all the adolescent girls in the community because of the pre-marital pregnancy, unsafe sexual relationships and the use of contraceptives. The girls have less awareness about these issues that they get scared when they find themselves been pregnant unexpectedly. There is HIV/AIDS problem as the use of contraceptives by the youth is likely to be low. It is the married women who use contraceptive to control the number of their children. The young ones do abortion if they have enough money to afford it in Debrezeit or in Addis Ababa.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

She thinks that there is no problem to set-up an independent household for those people who have job. But it is challenging to set-up separate household if the couples have no sustainable and reliable source of income. This time, most parents are not willing to share their land with all of their young children. Rather they want them to go to school and search a job somewhere else.

### Getting married

The youngest age to get married is 18 years old for girls and 20 years old for boys. She thinks that there is no underage marriage this time because the government’s punishments and the girls are not willing to get marry soon. Most young women want to complete at least grade ten before they are married and to have some sources of income to support their marriage partners. They may start to worry that they are getting too old to marry if they are above 22 years old. They will need no permission to get marry from any office. She has two friends who got marry to men from Debrezeit and Mojo and they left out from the community after their marriages.

### Setting up an independent household

She believes that it is difficult to set-up an independent household for the youth because there is no much source of income to manage the household. Most people get marry after they have job or some sources of income; otherwise it is difficult. It is common that wives become dependent on their husband’s income after marriage because they get children soon and are less likely to be able to work to get money.

### Migrating

Most people migrate to the local towns such as Debrezeit, Dukem, Gelan, Addis Ababa, Mojo and Nazreth. There are some who migrate to Awassa. The young girls at age of 17 and above want to go to Arab States or to Addis Ababa and search a job. There are no changes in the places where people want to go but the number is likely to increase from time to time. She knew two girls who migrated to Debrezeit and Dubai. She said that the one who went to Debrezeit is doing her college education while the one who went to Dubai is working as housemaid and supporting her parents and siblings. She said she doesn’t know anyone who returned back to the village after migrating except the short visits they do to see their families. The one in Debrezeit comes to visit her parents but she has not yet started to live permanently in the village after her migration.

The respondent wishes to go to Addis Ababa for higher education, get a job there and live there for the future.

### Living in the community

She likes the peaceful interaction and interdependence of the community. The community is homogenous and there are no groupings. There is no severe conflict that affects people. But she doesn’t like that the community is not yet changed regarding creating job and doing some work to improve their lives. According to her, most people are not hard working people that they don’t use the economic resources such as farm land, water resources, livestock, etc properly.

She said that she has learned about HIV/AIDS in school and from TV. She knows about the ways it transmits from one to another and its prevention methods. The health extension workers also teach about HIV/AIDS together with other tasks that they have.

### The economy

She thinks that the community has the same economic status as it was 2-3 years back. But there are few people who are getting richer and richer because they have big size of farm land where they produce cash crops. She said she has not seen many changes in the community and there are no farming opportunities for the girls in the community. However, she noted that there are increasing work opportunities for the young women in the flower farms and other factories outside the kebele.

### Religion

It is common for women to visit churches every Sunday. The adult men and women visit the church frequently than the youth do. She enjoys to visits church every Sunday and that wholly days for saints and angles.

### Politics

She has no active participation in politics. She knows about politics only in the Media. But she knows that there are many other youths who actively participate in politics and who are now trying to form youth association so that they will discuss about the different problems which the youth in the kebele are facing.

### Inter-generational relations

She doesn’t think that there is much tension among the generation although minor conflicts of varying interests may arise among family members. In her household, she respects her siblings and her parents as much as they do it for her.