# Interviews with female teenagers in Somodo, Mana, Jimma

[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 13 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 13 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 13 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 13 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 13 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 13 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

I live with my grandparents (maternal). Our household’s livelihood is based on farming. My grandparents produce different grain: maize, teff, and coffee. We also produce chat and enset (false banana) in the garden. Totally they own 2.5 hectare of farm land. The largest part of their land is covered by coffee. As my mother divorced from my father when I was one year old we started to live with her parents, two of her brothers (one has completed grade 10 while one has dropped out from grade 7) and her sister (who is attending grade 7 now).

Before my mother got married she did not join school. After she divorced and got back to her parents’ home she joined school and she learned up to grade 6. At that time the local school provided education only up to grade 6; so after she completed grade 6 she dropped out.

Now I am 13 years old. For the last 6 years (from grade 1 up to 6) I have been learning in the main school found in the kebele. I never repeated any grade or dropped out from school. Currently also I am attending grade 7 in the main school. I am a good performer. For instance, in grade 6 my rank was 16th from 45 students. In the rest of my time and on weekends I help my mother and grandparents in domestic work, mainly cleaning the house and washing utensils. As my mother and my aunt are also involved in domestic work there is not much work that I use to do. Except helping my family in this way (in rare case), in the last 12 months I did not involve in other independent income-generating activities.

Our household members, especially my grandfather is active in religious activities. On Friday he attends the weekly mosque program. Mostly my grandmother, my mother, I and my aunt pray at home. Except during sport class at school I do not do any sports. I do not know about politics. I frequently attend some TV program, which are educational. I do not belong to youth Association or Youth League and Youth Federation. Even I do not know whether these exist in our kebele.

I was circumcised when I was 6 years old. I have not yet seen menstruation. But I am aware of it from the lesson we taught in Science subject. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

I do not think when I will marry but I want to completed grade 10 and to go to Saudi Arabia for work. I think my aunt may take me there as she is now there and she better knows the living and working conditions there. I think that I would marry a business man. My future hope is thus to learn up to grade 10 and then to work in Saudi Arabia. There is nothing that worries me or my family.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

Some young females of my age face problem to continuing education due to economic problems - for girls from poor family. As a result of this they drop out from school and may get married earlier. There is no opportunity that could help them to continue their education by involving in paid work since except during the coffee harvesting period there is no other option to get income.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age are in school. In their rest time they help their parents in domestic work. They are not doing other work to get income. Those who want to get income by collecting coffee, mainly children from poor households, are absent from school during the coffee harvesting season. In this time their education is affected. But there is no other thing that affects schooling in our area.

About 10% of females of my age are no longer in education as some dropped out from school and got married. In this kebele I know four recent Grade 10 female graduates who have not yet got a job, like the brother of my mother. However, I do not know college graduates living in the community.

### Women’s issues

At school our teachers teach us the negative effect of circumcision so that students understand its impact and tell to our parents. But still now parents are circumcising their daughters but they do not expose the fact rather they keep it secret.

I have seen when my friends under menstruation get pad from school. In our kebele there is no abduction as I have not heard any recent cases of rape or forced abduction. I do not have friends or know someone who became pregnant before being married. I have also not heard about the issue of abortion.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I am not able to estimate how many young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland or want to be farmers’ wives, how many of my friends want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work, and the proportion of my friends who will marry older men in future. Up to now none of my friends married older men/became second wives. I expect most of my friends want to go to college and get formal employment or migrate to Sudan or Saudi Arabia.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl gets married in the community is 20. About 30 % of the girls get married at this age. Children who are not doing well get married earlier than girls doing well, especially if they are from poor a family as their parents like to get gift from the bridegroom.

### Setting up an independent household

Most women set up an independent household after they get married. Unless they get married or go somewhere for work it is not common to set up independent household for single young women.

### Migrating

In our area some young woman are migrating to Sudan and Saudi Arabia for work. Over time the trend of migration has been increasing.

My uncle (maternal) migrated to Sudan and he worked there for 6 years. Then he got back, bought land, built a residential home and a shop, and he got married. Now he is living here by trading commodities in the shop in addition to farming.

One of our neighbours migrated to Saudi Arabia. After he stayed four years he got back, built a new house for his parents, took his sister and returned there. It has been almost one year since she went. Still now they are sending remittance for their parents. I heard that his parent saves his money at a bank so that he would use when he come back.

In the last summer my aunt (maternal) migrated to Saudi Arabia. She migrated by dropping out from grade 8 as she thought that she would get a better income there rather than working here. She has send remittances once. I also want to migrate there after I complete grade 10.

### Living in the community

I like living in the community as we have good access to school. Unlike other kebele we have electricity and as a result of this we are able to Watch TV. Thus, by watching different programs we are getting some lessons on different issues such as irrigation, health, including HIV. Thus, I know about the means of HIV transmission. Thus, when I will get married first I will take HIV test. Our area is also close to market. There is nothing that I dislike about the community. The community over time is changing into an urban-like context because of the availability of electricity and as cars travelling Limugenet town pass by crossing the kebele.

### The economy

When old people talk I hear that unlike the past the number of livestock people own is lesser. In addition, the landholding size of most households is becoming smaller. Irrespective of this I think the local economy is increasing since the farming practice has been improving over time, even there is a start in irrigation. In addition, a few individuals started to get income by involving in trade and a few are migrating out for work and started to support their family and to establish some means of sustaining their livelihood.

The difference among the life of young girls from very rich households with the life of one in a poor household is that the girl from the rich household will join school and may attend school well as she gets whatever she wants to get. But, the girl from a poor household may not feel good at school as she may not get adequate necessities. Because of this such girls may not continue their education and instead they may drop out and get married earlier.

### Religion

In our area there are three types of religion, namely Muslim, orthodox Christian and Kalshiwot (protestant). I think most people - mainly adults and old people - are interested in their religion. Mostly adults and old men attend religious activities at mosque on Friday. But women mostly use to pray at home. In rare cases I attend religious activities at mosque on Friday with my friends.

There have not been any disagreements among leaders/followers of different religions in the community. Thus, ordinary people from different religions have been living peaceably together.

### Politics

I do not know about the relationship of government with young women as I did not have any interaction with local officials. I heard about some jobless young men having got land for farming. Except this I have not heard or know any support that the kebele or woreda has given for young people in our kebele. I have not heard about Youth Association, League or Federation.

### Inter-generational relations

My father buys me clothes, shoes and educational materials. As my grandparents are rich he does not fulfil other necessities such as food. As we are learning in the same grade my aunt (maternal) and I we are friends and use to go to and from school, doing homework and studying together.

Two of the brothers of my mother (grade 10 complete and the one who dropped out from grade 7) have good relationships with the household. They assist my grandfather in farming. Two of my uncles who got married and established independent households also have frequent contact with the family as they are living in the kebele. Both of them are involved in shopping commodities. Sometimes we take items we need freely. They also assist my grandfather in farm related activities.

In the community the adult and teenage generations have a good relation. The tension point is that whenever those who completed grade 10 stay without doing anything (except assisting their family) in the community the adult generation does not like them and they consider them as lazy. The young generation does not like this. Whenever they chew chat they take the chat secretly from their family’s farm land as they know their parents are not happy by their wasting their time.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 13

### Personal

My parents are living in the neighbouring kebele (Mazoria area). I am their 3rd child. Two of my eldest brothers are attending grade 7 and 5 respectively. Two of my youngest siblings have not yet joined school. These two of my eldest brothers and two of my youngest siblings are living with my parents but I am living with my grandparents. My eldest sister is currently working in Saudi Arabia.

When my aunt (maternal) visited us she took me to my grandparents so that I would stay there for some time and get back to my parents. Later on she refused to send me back and as I also like the area I have been living with my grandparents (maternal), one of my aunts and one of my uncles (both completed grade 10), and another aunt (who is attending grade 8 now).

Our household’s livelihood is based on farming. My grandparents produce different grain: teff, maize, enset (false banana) and coffee. We have 2 oxen, one cow and one calf. We also produce vegetables such as mango and avocado but only little.

Now I am 13 years old. I never repeated any grade or dropped out from school. Currently I am attending grade 4. I am among the average performing students. For instance, last year I got a rank of 20 from 60 students. In the rest of my time and on weekends I help my grandparents in domestic work. I fetch water, boil coffee, bake flat bread, clean the house etc. I carry out these activities with my aunt. Except for this in my rest time in the last 12 months I did not involve in other independent income-generating activities.

Our household members, especially my grandparents are active in religious activities. My grandfather on every Friday attends the weekly program at mosque. Mostly my grandmother, my aunt, and I pray at home. In rare cases I go to Mosque on Friday with my friends or my aunt and grandmother. During sport class I do sport. When I am fetching water I play handball with my friends until my turn comes. Sometimes, I listen to the radio - music and drama. Sometimes also I like to watch TV program at my neighbours’ home. I do not belong to youth Association or Youth League and Youth Federation.

My mother took me home and I was circumcised when I was about 7 years old. I have not yet seen menstruation. But I am aware of it from the lesson we are taught in Science subject. My aunt also has told me about it. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

I do not think when I will marry but I want to continue education as much as I can and I want to be a teacher. There is nothing that worries me or my family.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

I think there is no major problem young female of my age face while growing up. The major opportunity for young female is having good access to education. As school is not too far from home they can attend school without difficulty.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age are attending school, except very few (about 8%) who dropped out due to some reason such as health and economic problems. As mostly women involve in domestic activities there is no other work that affect the schooling time. As to me the burden of domestic work is not much, I do not think that this affects their time to do homework and study.

In our neighbourhood I know four recent Grade 10 female graduates who have not yet got. Similarly, both my uncle and my aunt has completed grade 10 but both of them has not yet got job. . They are spending their time by assisting their parents in domestic as well as farming activities. Two of them are processing their passport to go to Sudan or Saudi Arabia. However, I do not know college graduates who remained in the community.

### Women’s issues

At school we get lessons from the teachers about efforts to ban circumcision as it is harmful. But I think the community is continuing circumcising their daughter secretly.

In our kebele abduction and rape are not prevalent. As nowadays girls get married by their own interest I have not heard of any recent cases of abduction. Similarly, I have not heard of recent cases of rape. I do not have friends or know someone who became pregnant before being married. I think abortion is not common among young women in our kebele.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I expect the proportion of young females of my age who are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland or want to be farmers’ wives would be small, about, 10 %. The proportion of young women who want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work would be a bit higher, about 15 %. However, I think the proportion of my friends who want to marry a man who is formally employed would be higher, about 50 %. Besides these, some of them also want to go to Sudan or Saudi Arabia for work and strengthen their livelihood. I do not think that they will marry older men in future. Up to now none of my friends married older men/became second wife.

### Getting married

I have not thought about when I would get married. The youngest age that a girl gets married in the community is 18. About 40 % of the girls get married at this age. Children who dropped out from school due to different reasons get married earlier. I expect that after the age of 26 girls may think that they are too old to marry a good husband.

### Setting up an independent household

It is not common to set up an independent household for a single female. But it is possible after getting married or going somewhere such as in the nearby town for trading. Nowadays most men do not get married before they get farmland to plough or get involved in other activities so as to avoid being dependent on their parents.

### Migrating

In our area over time the trend of young women migrating to Sudan and Saudi Arabia has been increasing.

My elder sister has learned up to grade 8 and then she dropped out from school and went to Sudan. After she stayed there for 2 years she got back, got married and went to Saudi Arabia. While she was working in Sudan she has been sending money for our parents. Formerly, our house was made of grass. Thanks to the remittances they built a new house was made of corrugated iron sheets. When she came she brought clothes for all household members, including other relatives. It has been 6 months since she went to Saudi Arabia. She also started to send money for the family. She has a plan to buy home in Jimma.

One young boy’s father died when he was a little child. His mother got married in another area. Thus, he has been living alone. He dropped out from school early, may be from grade 6 and went to Sudan. After staying there for about 2 years he came back. Now he is trading coffee during the coffee harvesting season by representing investors.

One of my aunts, who completed grade 10 and remains at home, has started to process her passport in Jimma so as to go to Sudan or Saudi Arabia. I do not want to go to Saudi Arabia or Sudan for work rather I want to join college and want to be a teacher.

### Living in the community

I like living in the community. When I compare with the kebele I was born in, I like this kebele as it is greener. In addition, there are some fruits. I use to listen to the radio. Sometimes also I watch TV from my neighbours’ home. From these sources sometimes I heard about HIV and other diseases. There is nothing that I dislike about the community. Overtime the community situation has been improving, which includes improvement of houses, household equipments, availability of electricity, etc. Accordingly, the community members’ ways of living have been modernizing over time. I also expect that there would be much change in the future.

### The economy

As the working habits (including the way of farming as well as involvement in off-farm activities) of the community members has been improving over time I think the local economy is getting richer. That is why many community members have improved both the internal as well as external conditions of their house. Women also started to produce vegetables, mainly for household consumption.

The difference between the lives of young girls from very rich households with the life of one in a poor household is that the parents of a girl from a rich household may encourage her to attend school well by fulfilling her basic necessities. The girl from poor household by comparing herself to girls of well-to-do family may be stressed and not able to learn attentively. Thus, due to un-fulfilment of some of her necessities there is a possibility that she could drop out from school.

### Religion

In our area there are three religions, namely Muslim, orthodox Christian and protestant. Most people except a few male youngsters are interested in their religion. Sometimes some men change their religion from Orthodox to protestant or Muslim and vice versa. Sometimes this happens due to marriage. In most cases it is male adults and old men who attend religious activities at mosque, mainly on every Friday. But most women use to pray at home. In rare cases young women attend religious activities at mosque on Friday with their friends.

There have not been any disagreements among leaders/followers of different religions in the community. Thus, ordinary people from different religions have been living peaceably together. There is no missionaries who come from outside to teach.

### Politics

I do not know anything about the relationship of government with young women as I did not have any participation. I have not heard of and do not know any support, may it be training or advice that the kebele or woreda provided for young women recently. I am not a member of the Youth Association, League or Federation.

### Inter-generational relations

As my parents are living in the neighbouring kebele they visit us frequently. Sometimes on weekends and for holiday also I visit them. Two of the brothers of my mother (grade 10 complete and the one who is attending grade 8 now) are the most important persons in the household as they are the one who are most involved in farming activities. Similarly, in the community the teenage generation are supporting the old and adult generation. Most of the young generation who went to Sudan and Saudi Arabia first support their parents to improve their living conditions before starting strengthening their own livelihood means. Because of this I think the younger generation is aspiring to improve their parents’ life. Thus, I think both generations have good relationship.

**N.B.** Informally I heard that her grandmother passed away after she gave birth to her mother and three other children (who are living in the household) in the long past. Then her grandfather married another wife. This wife did not give birth. She has persistent illness. Due to frequent treatment in hospitals the household economic status has been affected. With her consent her grandfather has married a 3rd wife. As the second wife is sick she needs care. Thus, the new wife is caring the former wife and handles the household chores. These two wives had been living in one house together. But recently they built a new house and the new wife started to live in this new house (thought it is in the same compound). However, the respondent has not raised/talked about these issues.

## Poor female teenager 13

### Personal

I am not living with my parents rather I live with my employee who hired me as baby sitter and house maid. I have two brothers. Both are attending school: one is grade 7 and the other is grade 6 student. As I am the single daughter at home I had been supporting my mother in domestic work. My parents face difficulties in fulfilling our basic necessities. In the last 12 months during the harvesting period for about a month I was collecting coffee and getting 7 birr per day (in addition I got food). Due to economic problems my parents told me that they would let my brothers to attend school by fulfilling what they need as they could not afford what all of us need. Accordingly, I dropped out from school last year after grade three. While attending school my results were good as I was older than all my classmates since my parents did not send me school on time due to economic problems.

Then my uncle took me to Jimma. He has a tea house. I started to work in the tea house. In addition to fulfilling basic necessities he was giving me 20 birr of monthly salary. The work was highly hectic as I used to work a full day (up to 6 pm) in the tea house. Very early in the morning since 10 pm also I was baking Biscuit and doing other household chores. I worked like this for a year. Then as the work condition was not comfortable my parents started to search someone who could employ me. Accordingly, they found the person whom I am living with who needed a servant. Then my parents took me from Jimma and I returned to Somodo and I got employed with my current employer. Meaning I have been employed as house maid, mainly fetching water and caring kid with a monthly salary of 50 birr. It has been 8 months since I started this work. I have saved about 500 birr at one shop owner. I plan to buy sheep to rear at my parents’ home. Rather than working as a housemaid full day I would also like to rejoin school next year: to attend school by involving in paid work such as collecting coffee, manually making dry coffee ready for use, and preparing false banana.

I was circumcised when I was 7 years old. Still now girls are circumcised at this age, like in the past. This year I have seen menstruation for the first time. First I feared and told to my mother and she told me that all girls see it and she showed me how to manage it. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

My role model is one international returnee who used to work in Sudan. After she returned she bought a home in Jimma and started to live there. I would like to be like her by working in Sudan. I want to migrate when I will be 20, after completing grade 10. The reason I want to migrate is that I worry that upon completing grade 10 my result may not be good enough to enable me get job. I do not have any idea regarding getting married.

### Opportunities for 13 year old girls

The opportunity for young females of my age is to attend school as there is a school nearby our home. However, some of the young women are not able to join school on time and do not attend school properly due to their family’s economic problems.

### Combining work and education

Unlike me most female of my age are in school. The proportion of young female of my age who drop out from school for a while and return later is about 10 %. In the kebele it is harder for girls from poor households to combine education and paid work, which is done during schooling time. This is because to collect coffee we have to be absent from school until the coffee harvesting time is finished. Other types of paid work can be done outside school time. But the major source of income is collecting coffee.

I do not know recent Grade 10 female graduates and college graduates living in the community.

### Women’s issues

I do not know about the youngest age that a girl can get married in the community. I do not have friends and do not know anyone who became pregnant before being married. Generally, as I have not thought about marriage I do not have any say with regard to it.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I am not able to estimate how many young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland or want to be farmers’ wives, how many of my friends want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work, and the proportion of my friends who will marry older men in future. So far none of my friends married older men/became second wife. I think most of my friends want to go to college and get formal employment. Some especially those who are not doing well at school and those from poor families want to migrate for work. This is because their probability to go to college is small and they want to support their family by sending them remittances as their family are in a difficult situation.

### Getting married

I do not know the youngest age that a girl can get married in the community. But I know girls are the ones who choose their own partners. The probability of dropping out from school among those who are not doing well at school is high so I think they get married earlier than those doing well at school.

### Setting up an independent household

Unless she gets married or gets some income-generating work I think there is no a possibility to set up an independent household for a young woman. This is because if she has no money at hand she cannot do anything. Even there are cases whereby some young woman, immediately after their wedding, remain dependent on their husband’s parents until they set up independent household.

### Migrating

Migrating to Sudan for work is increasing in the area. For some information about her plan for migration look the last paragraph under Personal section.

### Living in the community

I like living in the community as there is fresh air, electricity and water. As our home is found along the main road whenever a car passes the dust enters our compound and affects if we have washed clothes in the compound. I dislike this dust. Over time the community is improving in terms of electricity and road expansion, which also improved local people’s way of living. For the future also I expect it would be changing.

From radio and TV I heard about HIV (at my employer’s home). But my parents did not access electricity and we do not have TV or radio. I am aware that the cause for HIV is having unnecessary sexual intercourse. I do not know to what extent having sexual relations is common among young women.

### The economy

I think the community is getting richer over time as peoples’ life in terms of housing conditions and educational access has improved.

There is difference in education between girls of my age in a very rich house with the life of one in a poor house in the sense that the girl from the rich household gets all school material and other necessities. Their parents also encourage them to attend school attentively. However, girls from poor families like me lack basic necessities such as food, clothes and educational materials. Due to this they may drop out from school or do not perform well at school.

### Religion

There are Christians as well as Muslims in the kebele. There have not been any disagreements among leaders of different religions in the community as ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. I do not think that there are missionaries who come from outside to teach. Men use to attend mosque program but women use to pray at home.

### Politics

I do not know about politics. I have not heard about Youth Association, League or Youth Federation in the kebele.

### Inter-generational relations

Once a month I use to visit my parents and siblings. Initially sometimes also my mother visited me. But as she knows that my employers do not like when she visits me, recently she has stopped and instead I try to visit them.

As to me in the community the adult and teenage generations have a good relation: they help and support each other.

## Rich female teenager 16

### Personal

I live with my parents. Our household has 8 members (my mother, my father, 2 of my elder brothers, I and three of my youngest brothers). One of my elder half-brothers (whose my father got from his first wife) who is also living with us (in the household) has completed grade 10. He did not get good results so he was not able to join preparatory college. One of my elder brothers also dropped out from grade 9. I am currently attending grade 8. Starting from grade 1 up to now I have been learning in the main school. I dropped out from school only once when I was grade 4 as I was sick. My youngest brother is currently attending grade 4. Two of my youngest brothers aged 8 and 6 years old have not yet joined school.

I have also 3 sisters who got married. Meaning currently they do not belong to our household. Two of them have not joined school. One has given birth to 3 children and the other has 4 children. One of them learned up to grade 4 but she dropped out and got married. She has not given birth. In total my father got 1 chid from his first wife and 8 children from my mother (his second wife). I am the 5th chid for my mother. I am the only daughter in the household now.

My father stays some days with my mother and others with his first wife. For instance, if he stays with us for 2 days the next day he stays with his first wife. He ploughs the land and share the crop for the two houses. We and his first wife use to eat separately but we drink coffee together and support each other in case of some needs.

Our household’s livelihood is based on farming. We produce different grains: maize, teff, and coffee. We also produce, chat, enset (false banana), different fruits (Mango, Avocado, papaya, and Banana) in the garden. Two of my brothers support my father in faming activities. As they are not in school (one has completed grade 10 and one had dropped out from grade 9) my father has given them some plot of land to produce and use the money for themselves. Accordingly, recently they started to work in the land for their own income.

Since I am the only daughter at home now there is domestic work burden. Accordingly, in the rest of my time and on weekends I help my mother in domestic work such as fetching water, boiling coffee, grinding grains at the mill house, baking flat bread (Qitta), washing clothes, cleaning the house etc. Except involving in such unpaid family works in the last 12 months I did not involve in other independent income-generating activities.

My family are active in religious activities. Mostly my mother use to pray at home. My father attends Friday praying program at mosque. Except during sport class at school I do not do any sports. I do not know about politics. I like to listen to radio drama. I followed a radio drama entitled ‘aba jambo”. As we did not access electricity we do not have TV. Thus, we listen to radio only. On the radio I also listen and get lessons from the ‘questions and answers’ program. I watch TV at tea houses and whenever I go to market in Belida. I am not a member of youth Association or Youth League or Federation. I do not know about these.

I was circumcised when I was attending grade one in the break time of first semester. I have seen menstruation when I was 14 years old. As starting from grade 5 up to 8 emphasis is given in menstruation when we are learning science I knew about menstruation well. I use to buy pad and use during my menstruation period. Due to this I have not faced any problem and I was not absent from school because of that. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

I would like to marry after I complete college education and get job. I want to marry an employed man. There is nothing that worries me. But sometimes I worry about my educational results at the end of Gr10. I fear that I might be un-lucky like my elder brother.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

The problem facing young females of my age when growing up is that some drop out from school and get married. For instance, last year one of my classmates dropped out and got married in Falo area. Even some are dropping out and migrate to Sudan for work. Some young women do not think that they might find work and lead a good life here (in Ethiopia) and so they wish to migrate to Sudan or Saudi Arabia. Due to this they do not attend their education well. As a result of this finally their education results are not good. However, they have good access to education as unlike in the past parents are interested to educate their children and there are schools in each sub village. Thus, some young women are not benefiting from this educational opportunity.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age are in school. Out of school time they are helping their family in domestic work as well as in farming during coffee harvesting period. As there is no other major activity that they do there is no work that affects their education/schooling. However, during coffee harvesting period some young women from poor families collect coffee and are absent from school.

About 5 % of females of my age are no longer in education as some dropped out and got married.

In this kebele I know four recent Grade 10 female graduates who have not got chances of further education/college. My brother also completed grade 10 but has not got any job. However, I do not know jobless college graduates living in the community.

### Women’s issues

Sometimes the women affairs officer from the woreda used to come and teach students about harmful traditional practices. Among these they have been teaching us about FGM by explaining its negative impact so as to abandon it. There is a Girls’ club at school. The leaders of the club with the teachers sometimes give some education about FGM to the students. The HEW also educates the people about it. Due to this education the practice of FGM has been highly declining.

Since last year through the club, students contribute money for the school to buy pads for students under menstruation. Accordingly, there is a room where students under menstruation get pads and water by contacting one of our teachers (female), who is assigned to help students. Due to this arrangement students are not ashamed of coming into school during their menstruation period.

Generally, rape and abduction are not prevalent in our kebele. I have not heard of any recent casesof rape or abduction in the kebele. It is not common among young unmarried women to get contraception but it is accessible from shops in the nearby town or at the health post. But, young married women get it from the HEW. I do not have friends or know someone who became pregnant before being married.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I am not able to estimate how many young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland, how many of my friends want to be farmers’ wives, how many of my friends who want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work, and the proportion of my friends who will marry older men in future.

None of my friends married older men/became second wife. I think like me all of my friends want to join college and get a formal job.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl gets married in the community is 16. Roughly about 5 % of the girls get married at this age by dropping out from school like what one of my classmates faced last year. From my neighbourhood also there are three young girls who got married at this age. Though nowadays most women choose their marriage partner without parental influence there are still some parents who push their daughter to get married without her interest. For women who got married earlier or through parents’ influence marriage life is not satisfactory. This is because as they are very young they face difficulties to manage the newly established home well. If there is some disagreement among the couple their marriage life will not be lifelong. In this case the woman would be affected. Children who are not doing well may get married earlier than girls doing well. This is because those not doing well may lose interest to attend school.

### Setting up an independent household

Most young woman set up an independent household after they get married or after they started to live far from their parents, may be due to work or education. Immediately after a couple gets married some of them are dependent on the husband’s parents until they build home. However, if the husband already built a home they may not be dependent.

### Migrating

The interest of young women to migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia is increasing. Most of these young women are not hopeful to be successful via working in the country. Due to this they aspire to migrate. The daughter of my uncle (paternal) has migrated to Sudan. After she went she started to send money for her parents. From my neighbourhood also one woman has migrated to Sudan. After she went she got married there. She has been sending money for her parents. Her parents have repaired their home by the remittance.

I do not want and plan to migrate rather I want to complete my education, join university and be medical doctor.

### Living in the community

Generally living in the community is nice as the area has good fresh air, good/comfortable weather, and the community members have good interaction. I dislike the absence of electricity in our sub village. The community situation is improving as over time there has been improvement in roads and public service institutions such as schools. The households’ living conditions are also improving. I think for the future the community will further improve.

With regard to health our teacher, through the environmental health club, uses to advise us to be clean. They also teach us about HIV/AIDS. The issue of HIV/AIDS is raised as a topic in class in some Subjects. I also hear about it from radio. From these lessons I became aware of the means of transmission. There is no case of HIV/AIDS that I know in the community. Among young students having sexual relations is not common. However, out of school young girls may have such relations. As everybody is aware of HIV while engaging in sexual relation I think most of them take precaution against contracting HIV/AIDS. However, still due to negligence a few may not take precaution. Even while getting married a few couple do not get prior HIV testing.

### The economy

Household’s ownership in terms of land size and livestock number has decreased. This is because whenever parents give out parts of farmland and cattle what they own becomes less. Irrespective of this the community’s situation is improving due to the improvement of living houses, repairing of roads and expansion of electricity.

In the past women’s involvement in trading was very small; instead they used to do only domestic work. But now conditions have improved and recently there have been opportunities for women to work off-farm*,* mainly trading.

As stated above between the lives of young girls from very rich households and from poor households there are some differences in terms of education, getting married and forming independent livelihoods.

### Religion

In our area there are both Christians and Muslims. The majority are Muslims. Almost all people, mainly elders are interested in their religion. But I think most youngsters are not as such interested as they do not go to religious institutions. But also, going to mosque is not that much common among young women except in rare cases.

There have not been any disagreements among leaders/followers of different religions in the community. Thus, ordinary people from different religions have been living peaceably together. There are no religious missionaries who come from outside to teach.

### Politics

I have no information about politics. Maybe I do not know about it and do not give attention to it. I do not know and I have not heard about Youth Association, League and Federation. I expect young women of my age are not interested to follow up what is going on around the kebele.

### Inter-generational relations

In my household my parents have a good relation with teenage members, with my brothers. This is because my brothers respect our parents and use to support them in farming. Similar, my father has given land to them (two of my brothers) so that they work on it and get an income which they use to fulfil their personal items and to use to build their future life.

My sisters who got married also visit us frequently, especially for holidays. Thus, we have good relation with them.

My step mother (the first wife of my father) also has good relationship with our household. We drink coffee together and help each other in time of needs. But sometimes she quarrels with my mother in case of some difference in understanding/misunderstanding. Our father treats her and our household equally.

In the community also the adult and teenage generations have a good relation. But sometimes the adult generation are not happy with the young generation as out-of-school male youth waste their time and they do not seem interested to work hard. Except this the two generations support each other in different activities, mainly in farming.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 16

### Personal

I live with my parents. Our household’s livelihood is based on farming. We produce different grain: maize, teff, sorghum, barely, and coffee. We also produce chat and enset (false banana) in the garden. I have three siblings (two brothers and one sister). I am the second child in my family. My eldest brother has completed grade 10. He is now helping our father in farming activities. My youngest sister is attending grade 4 and my youngest brother is attending grade 1.

Now I am 16 years old. For the last 7 years (from grade 1 up to 7) I have been learning in the main school found in the kebele. Currently I am attending grade 8 there. I perform well. For instance, in grade 6 my rank was 14th from 82 students and last year in grade 7 it was 17 from 82 students. This year first semester also I got a rank of 19th from 62 students.

I dropped out from school when I was grade 2. The reason was that my mother was seriously sick. As there is no other young woman at home I left school to give her care.

After school time and on weekends I help my mother in domestic works such as fetching water, collecting firewood, boiling coffee, grinding grains at the mill house, baking flat bread (Qitta) and cleaning the house. During coffee harvesting period also I use to collect coffee. Except helping my family in this way, in the last 12 months I did not involve in other independent income-generating activities.

Frequently I am sick of malaria. I was sick with malaria last year and this year. I use to get medication from Belida health centre. This year I was absent from school for three days but I was cured sooner.

Our household members are active in religious activities. Mostly my mother and father pray at home. My father also sometimes on Friday attends the weekly prayer at the mosque. Except during sport class at school I do not do any sports. I am not active in politics. I like to listen to Oromifa music through radio. I like Hachalu Hundessa’s Afan Oromo music that he songs about Jimma. As we did not access electricity we do not have TV. But there is a plan to expand the access. Thus, I think we would access after certain period. I do not belong to youth Association or League and Federation.

I was circumcised when I was little. I have seen menstruation when I was 13 years old. Initially because of the menstruation I feared to go to school. As a result I was absent from school for two days. But I knew about it from science subject since we have learned about it. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

I wish to marry after I will have pursued education until I can and after I get a job. I think that I would marry an employed man. My future hope is to pursue education to university level. There is nothing that worries me except fearing that like my brother I might not get good results when I will complete grade 10.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

The problem facing young females of my age while growing up is that some drop out from school and get married. Even there are some students who drop out and migrate to Sudan for work. But they have good opportunity to attend school. This is because now in the village there are three schools so they can attend in the school which is closer to their home. Thus, unlike in the past they are not travelling longer to access school.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age are in school. In their rest time they are helping their family in domestic work as well as in collecting fresh coffee during the harvesting period. As they do these activities in their free time it does not affect their schooling. However, sometimes during coffee harvesting period they are absent from school as fresh coffee has to be collected on time. Except this there is no circumstance or work possibility that affect schooling. Some young men (who use to collect fresh coffee for traders) also continue to drop out from school. They have money at hand and so they lack interest for education.

About 15 %of females of my age are no longer in education as some dropped out and got married. From these some also migrated to Sudan. Once they are married or migrated there is no possibility to re-join school.

In this kebele I know six recent Grade 10 female graduates who have not got chances of further education/college. My brother also completed grade 10 but has not got any job. However, I do not know college graduates living in the community.

### Women’s issues

At school our teachers tell us about some harmful traditional practices, including FGM. I have also heard about it on the radio. In our area I think people have continued circumcising secretly. If girls are un-circumcised they perceive this as if they lack something. As a result of this I think girls also want to be circumcised. But as mothers know that government is trying to ban it they take their daughter to other areas so as to circumcise them secretly.

I saw menstruation for the first time when I was grade 6. I also knew that there is modus class (Modus is an Amharic term, which mean pad used for menstruation. Thus, modus class is a class whereby girls use to arrange the pad to protect menstruation so as to be clean). Thus, at school, there is a modus class whereby students under menstruation get pads and water (that is put in big water container) to keep themselves clean. Because of this arrangement nowadays female students do not fear to come to school when they are in their menstruation period.

There is no forced abduction. I have not heard of any recent case of rape or forced abduction in the kebele. Young girls can easily get access to contraception from shops in the nearby town or at the health post or other health facilities. However, they do not use it as they perceive it would be shameful for them if they are seen by others while taking it. I do not have friends or know someone who became pregnant before being married. I think abortion is not common among young women in the kebele.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Roughly about 20 % of young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland (which is inherited from their parents). Thus, the proportion of my friends who want to be farmers’ wives may be small. I think that most of my friends want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work (mostly employed or involved in addition in off-farming activities). I do not think that my friends will marry older men in future since they are not forced to marry without their interest. None of my friends married older men/became second wife. I think like me all of my friends want to join college and get a formal job. As getting job is a concern of many young women and men some young women want to migrate to Sudan or Dubai. Most young women in their twenties in the community are making a living being dependant on their husband. A few also involve in trading to support their life. While the unmarried ones are also dependant on their parents by supporting them in domestic work and in farming.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl gets married in the community is 16. About 8 % of the girls get married at this age by dropping out from school. Children who are not doing well may get married earlier than girls doing well. As there are many grade 10 graduates parents sometimes say “we have been educating our children but they do not yet have job”. Due to this their interest in emphasising education for their children is decreasing.

As to me getting married without having some livelihood means through an income is not good for young women. This is because women stand better for their right if economically they are empowered. Especially if they get married early and they face divorce they would face difficulties to lead their life since they may face economic problems. The advantage of getting married is to protect young women from unnecessary relationships with many men and getting a child. Furthermore, parents feel good when their daughter get married as they worry that she may enter in premarital sexual relationships which may expose her to give birth before she marries (which parents perceive as a shame).

### Setting up an independent household

The possibility to set up an independent household for young women is after they get married. Unless they get married it is not common to set up independent household for single young women. After they marry, until the couple has strengthened their livelihood they would be dependent on the husband’s parents. If the husband’s parents are old or need care (maybe due to illness) the couple will continue to live with them in one household by handling farm activities and taking care of them.

### Migrating

It is becoming common to migrate for work. It seems the trend is increasing. Mostly they migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Two young women from my neighbourhood have migrated to Sudan. They are sending money for their family. Their family have built a home and bought cattle with the remittances they get.

My aunt (maternal) also migrated to Sudan. It has been 3 years since she went. She has been sending money for her parents. Her parents bought 3 cattle with the money she sent. She also sent us money and my mother bought 1 ox and 2 cows with the money sent for us.

I also know one young woman who went to Saudi Arabia. She is sending money for her family. I also know one young woman who migrated to Sudan. She stayed there for two years. During that time she used to send money for her family. When she was there she got married. But later on she faced a car accident and she returned without money at hand. Then she got married here (to another husband). Thus, she now is living in the community with her new husband.

I do not plan to migrate as it is the option for jobless only. Rather I plan to pursue my education, join University and get employed.

### Living in the community

I like living in the community as it is not far from the road and not remote. I like the availability of water all the time. Unlike other areas there is no drought in the community. I like the area being covered by coffee and it is green. The area is peaceful to live. The community is changing. Within a 5 year period I expect there would be some change. For instance, a new heath centre and a secondary school would be constructed.

Socialising in the form of group bases is not common in the area. I think there is nothing that makes my parents worry about me.

At school our teacher and the women affairs officer (from the woreda) sometimes give us education about sanitation and HIV/AIDS. As a result, I know the means of HIV transmission, which include having unsafe sex and sharing sharp materials. There is no case of HIV/AIDS that I know in the community. I think for young women it is not that much common to have sexual relations, especially for school girls. However, out-of-school young girls may have such relations. As everybody is aware of HIV while engaging in sexual relation I think they take precaution against contracting HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

Overtime as the price of coffee has increased and became good many individuals built new houses. Thus, unlike the past now most individuals are living in a house made of corrugated iron sheets. However, the number of livestock and the land size owned by households have reduced. Because of this some individuals started trading so as to support their livelihood.

With respect to migration into the community there is no change. There is no-one from outside of the community who came to live here.

The difference between the life of young girls from very rich houses with those in poor houses is that the girl from a rich house gets what she needs and she is happy with her life conditions. However, the girl from a poor household does not get what she needs, even she may not get adequate food. As a result of this she may be stressed and dislike her living conditions. Because of this she may not attend school attentively so that at the end of the academic year she may not get good results. If so she may lose interest for education and get married by dropping out. Until her livelihood is strengthened she will face difficulties to lead an independent household. However, the girl from a rich family may perform well at school, she may not marry early and instead she would first try to get a job and may marry latter on.

### Religion

In our area the majority of the residents are followers of Muslim religion and there are a few Christians (Protestants as well as orthodox Christians). Almost all people are interested in their religion and give due value for religious activities such as pray and education. In addition to spiritual activities organized by the religious institutions some followers involve in developmental activities such as road construction and soil conservation. There have not been any disagreements among leaders/followers of different religions in the community. Thus, ordinary people from different religions have been living peaceably together.

### Politics

I am not active in political matters. In our kebele I have not heard about Youth Association, League or Federation. I have not attended any program or meeting at kebele. Due to this I do not know about the relationship between young women and government. As far as I know there is nothing that the wereda provided for livelihood activities for young women recently.

### Inter-generational relations

Within the household my parents have a good relation with the teenage member who is my brother. As he is staying at home after completing grade 10 he has been supporting my father in farming. In return my father gives him money for what he likes to buy such as personal items. He even bought a mobile phone. This helped us to communicate with our relatives and to get information about market conditions such as price of coffee and other crops.

In the community the adult and teenage generations have a good relation. But sometimes the adult generation perceive the young generation as weak - not as strong as they were in their young age. Due to this they conclude that the young generation is passive. The youngsters do not like this perception and they are trying to involve in productive activities by improving on what their parents/adult generation are doing.

## Poor female teenager 16

### Personal

My father died when I was about 6 years old and my youngest brother about 6 month old. Thus, my mother has been raising us in difficult conditions. We do not have cattle. We have about 2 fechasa (0.5 hectare) of land. She has been sharecropping out this land and we have been getting maize. We have also little coffee. But my mother was not able to fulfil the household’s necessities. Because of this she did not send me and my brother to school. Then one young woman understanding the problems we are facing (she is not a relative) and with whom I am living now asked my mother for me to live with her so that she will send me to school and fulfil any necessities I need like she would do for her sister. My mother agreed and I have been I living with her. As her parents died it is her brother (married) who farm their land and administer the household. He produces maize, coffee and chat. In the household 8 individuals are living together: I, the young woman who took me, her brother, his wife and four of his daughters.

My mother around 2000 EC established a relationship with a man from another area who came to provide religious education. She gave birth to two children. But the man left the area and she does not know where he moved. Now these children are 4 and 2 years old. Thus, my mother again faces difficulties to raise these children. My younger brother is about 10 years old but he did not yet join school. Recently he started to live with someone else like me. Now my mother is raising our youngest brothers by involving in paid works such as preparing false banana, manually threshing teff, manually making dry coffee ready for use and collecting coffee during coffee harvesting period.

After I started living with my household they sent me to school. I completed grade 2 then they send me to Jimma to handle domestic work for the young woman’s brother who was working there. But teachers in Jimma informed him that I should start again from grade 1 as my knowledge was not compatible with students in Jimma. So I joined grade 1 and I got a rank of 3 from 50 students. After I completed grade 1 the man was transferred to Addis Ababa so the household took me back in Somodo, where I joined grade 2 in the main school. In grade 2 also I got a rank of 7 from 60 students.

Among the four daughters of the brother of the young woman who took me, two are attending grade 7 and 4; one dropped out from grade 2; one is too young for school (4 years old) and did not yet join. The one attending grade 7 is younger than I and I am now attending grade 4. But my classmates are much younger than me, and I am ashamed to learn with these younger students.

After school time and on weekends I am the one who handle domestic activities. As there is a well in our compound I fetch water from the pump for drinking purpose only. Except handling domestic works in the last 12 months I did not involve in other independent income-generating activities. They see me like their children and they fulfil my needs, everything. Thus, there is no payment they give me or for my mother. However, first when the young woman took me she told my mother that the main thing I would do is to help her as she is visually partially impaired. Starting from her childhood she does not see properly. But then I noticed that there is a lot of domestic work that I am supposed to do. Our household members are active in religious activities. Mostly they pray at home. The brother of the young woman who took me also attends the weekly Friday praying program at mosque. As I have not got religious education (Quran education) like other children I do not attend mosque program; instead I pray at home. Except during sport class at school I do not do any sports. I do not know politics. I like to listen to Oromifa music through TV. As we have electricity, we have TV. I do not watch TV except in rare cases as mostly I am handling domestic works. I do not know about and do not belong to youth Association or League or Federation.

I was circumcised when I was 7 years old. I have seen menstruation when I was 14 years old. Two days when I saw menstruation for the first time I was absent from school as I feared to come to school. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

I wish to marry after I strengthen my livelihood. I think that I would marry a business man. My future hope is to migrate to Sudan so as to get money to start up some income generating means. Even now I want to migrate. I have told to the young woman whom I am living with that I want to migrate and she said ok. What worries me is that after I migrate there what kind of employers would I work with. If they do not have good personality I fear that I may face physical abuse.

### Opportunities for 16 year old girls

The problem facing young females of my age while growing up is that without having some suitable livelihood they get married. But finally after they give birth there are circumstances such that some face divorce. As a result, they get back to their family. But the situation there is not comfortable for them. The major opportunity for young women is to go to Sudan to work and get money, which may be used to set up their future means of livelihood.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age are in school. They help their parents mostly in domestic activities. During coffee harvesting period also they assist their family by collecting coffee. During this period sometimes students are absent from school. As there is no other work opportunity some young women migrate to Sudan by dropping out from school.

Roughly about 10% of females of my age are no longer in education as some dropped out and got married. Around 5% also migrated to Sudan. Once they are married or migrated there is no possibility to rejoin school.

In our kebele I know 2 recent Grade 10 female graduates who still live with their parents since they are not able to join college. However, I do not know unemployed college graduates living in the community.

### Women’s issues

Our teachers use to tell us about some harmful effect of FGM. As a result of this I am aware that government is trying to abandon it. But I know some mothers who circumcised their daughter by taking her to another area. For students under menstruation our school provide pads and there is also water that needy female students can use. I think this provision has minimized the girls’ fear of coming to school during their menstruation period.

In our kebele I think there is no abduction and rape as I have not heard of any recent case. Young girls can get contraception from the HEW. But as to me I do not think that they involve in sexual affairs before they got married. Due to this I think they do not need contraception. Those who get married can easily access it from the local health post. I do not have friends or know someone who became pregnant before being married. Abortion is also not common among young women in our kebele.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I am not able to estimate how many young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland or want to be farmers’ wives, how many of my friends want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work, and the proportion of my friends who will marry older men in future. However, so far none of my friends married older men/became second wife. I expect most of my friends want to get a job so as to lead their life in a better way. As the opportunity of getting a job is very small I expect that some young women and men want to migrate to Sudan and other Arab counties for work.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl gets married in the community is 17. About 15 % of the girls get married at this age by dropping out from school. Children who are not doing well or do not join school on time, mainly from poor families, may get married earlier than girls doing well. As there are some grades 10 graduates some students worry that they would not get job. As a result of these a few students drop out and get married or migrate to Sudan for work. But getting married early before being mature and establish some means to lead their life is not good for women. Girls from poor families sometimes get married early but as their parents do not have resources such as cattle and household tools to give her it takes longer to establish better means of livelihood.

### Setting up an independent household

Mostly young women, unless they go to other areas for work or education, remain living with their parents. But if a young woman goes to another area she sets up an independent household, maybe by renting a house. But in most cases the possibility to set up an independent household for young women is when they get married. Immediately after they are married, especially in the case of poor couples, they may live with the husband’s parents, maybe for up to a year.

### Migrating

As there is no access to jobs in our area some young women migrate to Sudan and other Arab countries for work. I know one young woman who migrated to Sudan. It has been three years since she went there. She has been sending money for her parents. But I do not know whether the work conditions there have been good or problematic for her. I also know one young woman who has processed to migrate to Saudi Arabia. I heard from others that there are many young women who migrate and send money for their family but I do not know them.

I want to migrate to Sudan or Saudi Arabia. Even I have shared this to the young woman I am living with and she agreed with my idea. If I migrate I want to help my mother and my siblings as they are living in a difficult situation. Finally, I would have money at hand that I may use to start up some income generating activities.

### Living in the community

With regards to living in the community I like having electricity, which enabled local people to watch TV (even, a few people watch with a dish). Unlike other areas it is close to market centres. I like this and the area being peaceful. The community is improving. Within 5 years I expect there would be more changes such as expansion of electricity to all the parts of the kebele. There is no socialising in the form of group bases for young women except travelling to school and market together by talking about some common issues. My mother worries about how long l would live in this condition as mostly I am overburdened by domestic work. Due to this she also would like if I would migrate.

At school teachers educate us about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. I have also heard about it from TV. The major means of transmission is engaging in unsafe sex. There is no case of HIV/AIDS that I know in the community. As to me young women of my age do not have sexual relations. As they are aware of HIV before getting married some use to get HIV test.

### The economy

As some farmers produced more chat and coffee the income of local people has improved. In addition a few people including women have started to trade coffee. Because of this I think the local economy has been increasing. With respect to migration into the community there is no change as almost all of the individuals living in the area are originally from this area.

There are differences between the life of young girls from very rich houses and the life of girls in poor houses. Girls from a rich family get good care. They give emphasis for her education. They fulfil all what she needs. Because of this good treatment they are doing better at school, so that their chance of joining college and getting employed is high. I know a few from well-to-do households who became teachers. Thus, girls in rich household have a chance to establish an independent livelihood more easily than girls from poor households. Even if they get married their parents support them economically such as giving them cattle or money so they can easily establish an independent household.

Girls from poor households get married earlier than girls from rich households. This is because as I stated above as girls from poor households do not perform well at school they incline to get married. Their parents also want them to get married so as to get gifts (cattle and money) from the bridegroom. Generally, when their daughter gets married some poor households consider that the marriage would solve the economic difficulty they or their daughter face. However, sometimes men do not ask girls from rich households for marriage as they fear their parents may not be willing to give their daughter for marriage.

### Religion

In our area the majority of the residents are followers of the Muslim religion and there are a few Christians (Protestant as well as orthodox Christian). Most people are interested in their religion. People in the community regularly attend religious activities at mosque during fasting season, which is about 1 month per annum. During this season and the harvesting season people use to give ‘Zeka’, which includes coffee, grain and money for poor people. Young women of my age mostly pray at home. In rare cases they go to mosque on Friday. Whenever individuals face some problem, especially unexpected problem or crisis such as car accident, house burn or death of cattle there are circumstances whereby money is contributed at mosque and given to the person in difficulty. For instance, I remember cases whereby money was contributed at mosque and given to one poor person so as to be able to get medication. When the home of one old woman collapsed people contributed wood and built her a home. There have not been any disagreements among leaders/followers of different religions in the community. Thus, ordinary people from different religions have been living peaceably together.

### Politics

I do not know about the relationship between young women and the government as nothing has been done for women in our kebele. But I know that male youth got land and started producing stone for sale. Except this I have not heard about any advice or training that the wereda provided for young women recently. In our kebele I think there is no Youth Association, League or Federation as I have not heard about it. But sometimes, some kebele officials use to come at the sub village level and convey some message for the sub village residents. As far as I know there is nothing that the wereda provided for livelihood activities for young women recently. But I heard that sometimes they come for meeting or to train farmers at Kebelele.

### Inter-generational relations

The brother of the individuals with whom I am living is working in Addis Ababa. He is a university graduate and has a job. For holidays he uses to visit the household. Frequently also he calls and communicates with the household members.

My mother sometimes, especially when she lacks something to eat, visits me and the household members. Whenever she comes she eats whatever we have at home. But there is nothing she takes home such as crop.

In the community the teenage generation respect and support the adult generation in different activities such as domestic as well as farm work. Those who got married in the community have frequent contact with their parents, especially they visit for holidays.

## Rich female teenager 19

### Personal

I live with my parents. Our household’s livelihood is based on trading since my mother is trading shop commodities, maize, sorghum and coffee (both fresh as well as dry coffee). She is one of the representatives of investors who take fresh coffee from the local farmers. We have grinding mills. My father is a mechanic and driver. We have a car. My father gives transport service, mainly in loading shop commodities and crops for local traders. As both my parents are busy in handling these activities they have sharecropped out their farm land. From this land we get coffee, chat and maize. As we have different sources of income I describe my household among well-to-do families in the kebele. I am the first child for my mother but my father has another child from another woman. My father also has another wife who was living with us in the same compound. But she moved to her birth place as she was sick. It has been a year since she moved. I think she is planning to come back soon as she got cured.

Now I am 19 years old. From grade 1 up to 8 I learned in the local school. I never dropped out from school. As my parents are educated (my father learned up to grade 9 and my mother learned up to grade 6) they encourage me to learn attentively.

I attended grade 9 and 10 in Belida high school. It takes one hour travel (single trip). Whenever my parents give me money I take transport (5 birr for single trip). While I completed grade 10 last year I got a result of point 2. I missed 1 point to be able to join preparatory college. Because of this I joined government TVET College in Jimma and I am attending ICT (Information communication technology) program. Until two months ago the education at the TVET was under the shift system as there were not enough classrooms but recently they built additional classrooms and we started to learn full day. In the afternoon we practice computer. But there are not enough computers as one computer is for 6 students. So, it is difficult to practice well. What I am attending now is level one. I will need three more years to complete as it is a 10+ level 4 program. I am living there in a rented room with one of my classmates. I go home every Friday so as to help my mother in trading and I get back to JImma every Sunday or Monday. I usually take some food items from home and I also buy in Jimma. Except helping my family in business in the last 12 months I did not involve in other independent income-generating activities.

I have registered to retake grade 10 exam (for 10 courses) this year. If I get better results I could join preparatory college so as to join University. In this case I would change so that I would attend the preparatory college regularly and TVET College in the evening program (extension).

My family are active in religious activities. However, as they are busy in trading activities mostly they pray at home only. Sometimes I attend Friday mosque program. I do not do any sports. I am not active in politics. I like to listen to music, mostly through FM radio. I do not belong to youth Association or League or Federation.

I was circumcised when I was about 8 years old. I have seen menstruation when I was 13 years old. Initially I feared to tell to my mother but as I had got lesson from science subject about it earlier I did not stress. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I have no boyfriend.

I think I will marry when I will be 25 years old. I think that I would marry employed or business man. My future hope is to be successful in college education and to get formal employment. Otherwise I would be a business person in Jimma town like my parents. My worry is that some young men want to form relationship with me. Mostly they use to say ‘why you are suffering by learning as education has brought noting in our life’. I fear to face some problem in this regard.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

The problems facing young females of my age while growing up is that they are not able to get good points while completing grade 10. As a result they remain at home supporting their family. Even if they get enough point (1.8 and above) to joint TVET almost none is joining, because parents and these young women do not value TVET. For a few of them renting and staying in Jimma to attend such education is also problematic due to lack of money. The main option for them is to involve in trade in nearby towns. There are also cases whereby young females drop out and get married before they are 18 years old. Even some young women consider migrating to Sudan or Arab countries as a big deal. As a result of this they want to go there rather than attending school well.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age are supporting their family in domestic work; some support their family in farming, mainly during coffee harvesting time. Some young females of my age are attending secondary school. They do these activities after they return from school and on weekends. Thus, it does not affect their school time except during coffee harvesting period. As teachers know this period well they let student get return to school freely.

About 50% of females of my age are no longer in education as some dropped out due to marriage. Even as girls grow parents, especially uneducated ones, force them to get married. This is because they do not know about the importance of education. A few completed grade 10 and remain at home. Some young women, when they approach Grade 10 completion, drop out and migrate to Sudan. After that there is no possibility to pursue education. The other 50% may be attending secondary school. Once young females get married, they would establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run.

In this kebele there are about 10 recent Grade 10 graduates, among them 5 are female. One started to attend TVET in Jimma by staying there. They are staying in the village by supporting their parents in domestic as well as farm work only. Some of them migrated to Sudan for work. However, there are no any unemployed female college graduates living in the community. In general, the chance of joining college for local students, especially for female, is very small. From our neighbourhood there is one unemployed young male who recently graduated from Afar university. As he did not get a job he started to trade onions in Jimma.

### Women’s issues

Government has been giving lessons explaining the negative impact of FGM but people continued circumcising secretly. It is mothers who did not accept fully the lesson and they are the ones who make their daughters to get circumcised. They say un-circumcising is ‘negasha’, which implies that uncircumcised girls are sinful. Due to this in most cases they let their daughter get circumcised when they are 7-10 years old.

When I was attending High School the school provided modus /pads for girls who are under menstruation so as to use and make themselves clean from menstruation flow. There is also modus class whereby students get water and pad so as to use it to be safe from menstruation flow. Thus, I think unlike in the past nowadays girls are not facing problems in relation to menstruation. Unlike in the past now there is no abduction unless and otherwise the girl herself goes with the man. I have not heard of any recent case of rape or forced abduction in the kebele.

I do not have friends who became pregnant before being married. But in our kebele there are about 5 girls to whom this happened. Their family were highly disappointed. The fathers did not accept that the child was theirs’. Three of them gave birth then left their children for their parents and migrated to Sudan for work. Those whose child’s father accepted and believed the fact married their child’s father. Single girls can easily get access to contraception from the health post or other health facilities or shop but they do not think about using it properly and some feel ashamed as they fear that others may see them while getting contraceptives. Due to this they do not use them and are exposed to unwanted and unplanned pregnancy.

I know some who were affected by using traditional medicine to abort. There is a traditional healer who gives herbal medicine for abortion in this kebele. They fear to access the safe abortion service from hospital or private clinic. Even some young women do not know about the availability of safe abortion service in health care institutions.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Roughly about 20 % of young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland. The proportion of my friends who want to be farmers’ wives may be 25 %. I think about 20% of my friends want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work (in addition to farming). The majority may want to marry an employed man. The proportion of my friends who will marry older men in future is very small as nowadays in most cases they choose to marry as of their age.

None of my friends or sisters married older men/became second wife. Most of my friends want to go to college and get a formal job if they get good results when completing grade 10. But as this is becoming impossible most of them are migrating to Sudan. Most unmarried young women residing in the community (dropouts or Gr10 completers) in their twenties make a living being dependant on their parents. However, those who got married already started to live an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl gets married in the community is 16. About 30 % of the girls get married at this age by dropping out school. Both girls who are not doing well and doing well at education get married at this age due to parental interference or by their own interest. Unlike in other areas in this area there is no effort to prevent girls from marrying when they are under 18.

Even some young women get married by dropping out from school as they do not give due emphasis to education. I know 5 women who dropped out from school in grade 9 and got married in the past two years.

In most cases girls from poor families are more likely to marry at this age as their parents do not encourage them to purse education due to lack of knowledge about the importance of education and linked to their interest in getting the gifts from their bridegroom. In addition these girls lack interest to attend school attentively due to un-fulfilment of some basic necessities.

For me getting married without having some means whereby they get income to support their life is a failure for young women. If a young woman gets married without having something to do I think she will be dependent on her husband and she may not lead a good life. The disadvantages of being married outweighs its advantages for young girls if they get married before they get some means to generate an income – because in this case they have no influence and instead, get under the control of their husband. Especially if they face divorce they will face economic problems.

### Setting up an independent household

Unless a young woman gets married there is no possibility to set up an independent household in the community. Thus, getting married is the one way to set up an independent household. In general, it is not common to set up an independent household for single young women. After they marry and until the new couple sets up an independent household, there are instances whereby they will be dependent on the husband’s parents for about a maximum of 2 years. But then after the couple build separate home and start to lead independent household.

When young women get married if they are from well-to-do families, their family give them livestock and fulfil household furniture. In this case the couple sets up an independent household sooner. However, as girls from poor families do not get such gifts it may take longer until they would set up an independent household.

### Migrating

Migrating for work has been an increasing trend in our area. Mostly young women migrate when they are approaching grade 9 and 10 since they value migrating for work rather than education. Travelling to Sudan costs less (about 1000 birr) as in most case they travel on foot, most of the woman and very few men travelled there. Very recently they started to take little girls (about 14 years old and above, girls attending grade 6 and above) to Sudan. Then after working in Sudan for about 3 years they get back and travel to other better countries such as Beyrouth, Kuwait and Dubai as they have money at hand. Initially they travel to Sudan as it costs less and they do not have money to afford; then after they worked there for some year they travel to these other countries, which costs about 6000 birr.

They migrate to Sudan illegally as they use to travel through brokers. There are some women who got back without anything. I know about 5 women who did not manage to start working there for 6 months or even a year so they returned empty hands.

I know one man in our kebele who migrated to Sudan. With the money he sent his parents built a new home and bought oxen. My aunt (maternal) also migrated to Dubai and she has been working as housemaid. After working there for two years she came back and built a new house on her mother’s land. She also provided her parents modern household goods such as TV, a sort of cupboard to store dishes and plates, Sofa etc. The daughter of my uncle (paternal) also has migrated to Sudan by dropping out from school. It has been a year since she migrated. She has been sending remittances for her family.

I do not plan to migrate. Those who migrate have already developed a wrong perception that they would not be successful here unless they travel there. Due to this misperception it is difficult to make them believe that they could be successful via working here.

I know one woman from Boba kebele who migrated to Dubai. After she worked there for 8 years she bought a minibus and a house in Jimma. But there is no one who became successful like her from this area.

### Living in the community

I like the area’s topography, which is not hilly. I like that the area is close to the woreda as well as the zonal town/centre as compared to other kebeles. Thus, it is closer for us to attend TVET or college education in the zonal town. But the community does not give attention for college or TVET education. The area is peaceful to live. I dislike the dust that affects us when cars are passing. However, I like the improvement of the road that the government is doing on an annual basis as every rainy season affects the road by erosion. I dislike the absence of adequate clean water as the number of water pumps found in the area is small and most community members drink from springs. Even water is not always available from the water pumps and also it takes long to wait your turn. I like the improvement of schools in the area. As the community is changing within 5 years I think there will be many changes, including expansion of electric service to our sub-village and expanding our mini market.

Socialising in the form of group bases is not common in the area. But sometimes youngsters use to chew chat together, mostly in the afternoon. There is not any conflict among these youth. My parents, especially my mother sometimes worry about me while I stay in Jimma for education thinking that I may face some problem. That is why they are happy when I told them that I live with my classmate together.

From radio and TV I listen to some educational programs. From one of the TV programs that provides lessons on health issues, called ‘Tenawo bebetwo-your health at home”, I got lessons on how we have to protect ourselves from HIV by avoiding having unsafe sex and having HIV test when getting married. There is no case of HIV/AIDS that I know in the community. The reason may be that the persons living with HIV/AIDS may not want to disclose their status in the community. I think nowadays the trends of having a boyfriend is increasing. I suspect that they engage in sexual relations. Those who are educated or attending school I think try to make their sexual relation safer, maybe by using condom.

### The economy

Over time the community has become richer. This is because by using the advice people are getting from DAs the local farmers are handling farming activities better. In addition, the number of individuals (some men and a few women) who started other off-farm activities to support their livelihood has been increasing.

With respect to migration into the community there is no change. As usual only during coffee harvesting season daily labourers usually come from other areas and leave the area when the work is finished.

The difference between the life of young girls from very rich houses and of young girls in poor houses is that the girls from poor households lack some necessities. As a result they may not lead a satisfactory life, which may hamper their educational achievements. The girls from rich households get all what they need and as a result they attend school attentively.

### Religion

There are three religions in the community. Most people, mostly elders and adults are interested in their religion. Muslim religion followers use to attend mosque program on every Friday while Christians attend mostly on weekends. In addition to spiritual activities religious leaders frequently visit someone who is sick and at mosque they contribute money and help those who face some shock resulting from man-made as well as natural disaster such as death of cattle.

There have not been any disagreements among leaders of different religions in the community as ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. However, around 2002 EC there was some kind of incoming ideology within the Muslim religion. There was some kind of confusion but it was settled soon through the involvement of local administrators.

### Politics

I do not know about political issues. In our kebele there is a Youth Association. All of the members are men. As the kebele has given them land they started to produce stone for sale. Due to cultural influences young women do not have any participation in the kebele. Sometimes adult women use to attend some meetings. Due to this I have not participated in any issue. I do not know about Youth League or Federation. I have seen that the kebele women representative advice adult women to save money and use it for any income-generating activities like chicken rearing. The kebele administrative bodies, including the DAs and the HEW, sometimes use to inform about some urgent message by travelling door to door.

### Inter-generational relations

Both my parents are working day and night without rest. Due to their efforts our household living conditions have highly improved. My father sometimes supports our relatives (my grandparents, aunt and uncle) financially as they are dependent on farming only. Even my mother advises them to involve in non-farm activities so as to strengthen their living conditions. My grandmother (paternal) is very old and she is not healthy so we are taking care of her at home. On weekends my half sister (whom my father got from another woman) visits us. My father gives her money for what she needs, including her personal items and education related expenses.

In the community the adult and teenage generations have a good relation. Most of the young generation respect the adult generation. Some adults perceive that the young generations are not active and don’t like to work hard, because once they complete grade 10 except thinking to migrate to Sudan they lack initiative to involve in some continuous work (except for the seasonal work during coffee harvesting period). In general, adults do not like the weak working culture among the younger generation.

## Middle-wealth female teenager 19

### Personal

I live with my parents. Our household’s livelihood is based on farming. My father produces sorghum, teff, chat and coffee. I describe my household middle. Now I am living with my parents and two of the children of my sister. Except one of my brothers, who is now working as a teacher the rest my siblings has dropped out from school and they got married in the locality: one of my sisters dropped out from grade 8 and got married; another also drop out from grade 7; one of my brothers dropped out from grade 7 and he got married; and another also dropped out from grade 9 and got married. As they involve in trading coffee during coffee harvesting time they did not give due value for education and all of them dropped out.

Now I am 19 years old. From grade 1 up to 6 I learned in the local school. In grade 5 I failed once. From grade 7 up to 10 I learned in Sekoru area, Fofa town (within Jimma zone). As my brother was working as a teacher there he was the one who took me there thinking that education there is better than education provided in Somodo. In addition, he helps me via studying. But on completing grade 10 I did not get good grade (it was less than 2 point). I regret that rather than joining grade 7 it might be nice if I restarted from grade 5. This is because initially when I started learning there I faced difficulty to understand as the medium of instruction in Somodo was Afan Oromo but in Fofa it was Amharic. As I did not get a good result I moved to Jimma town and I took re-exam for four subjects (biology, history, chemistry and physics) in which I had got a poor grade (‘D’). However, again I did not get good grades in these subjects. Then I joined a private college and trained in hairdressing for 6 months, paying a monthly fee of 200 birr. I also spent on other expenses such as stationary and photocopy. My brother who is teacher was transferred to Jimma so I was living with him and he covered all my expenses. After I completed the training I was hired as in a hairdressing shop with a monthly salary of 350 birr. I worked there for 4 months. But after than I dropped out as I used to work without gap - it was exploitation. I then tried to find another better work. But I could not. So I planned to migrate to Libanon for work as one of our relatives migrated there and had been working there. But my brother told me that the work conditions there are not good. Then he and I thought what if I start to work hairdressing in Somodo. Accordingly, by spending 10,000 birr he bought me all hairdressing equipments including table and chair. Then I moved to Somodo and started working. As in our village (Gerdi) we did not access electricity and the area around the kebele office seemed good for the market demand I rented a room for 130 birr per month (including electricity) and started to give hairdressing service in last December. However, local people, except for holidays and wedding, do not need hairdressing services and so the demand for my service is small. As a result I am not able to generate an income as I was thinking. So I am thinking about shifting to work in the nearby town (Belida) as in town it seems there may be more demand for hairdressing. The demand in Jimma town is good but I worry that the house rent is more (about 600 birr or more). Even sometimes I think what if I migrate to Libanon for work.

As my hairdressing service does not have good demand sometimes I help my family in domestic work, mainly by buying consumption items from nearby town (Belide) and by grinding grain.

My family are very active in religious activities. One of my brothers is a religious leader of Orthodox Church. I am very active in my religion. Frequently I visit church. I usually attend the weekly church program. I do not do any sports. I am not active in politics and I do not like politics. I am interested in religious music. I do not belong to youth Association or League or Federation.

I was circumcised. But I do not know when as it was in the past and I did not ask my parents. I have seen menstruation when I was 14 years old. But I have not faced any problems with it as my eldest sisters had told me about it. In addition, I had got lessons from the science subject about it earlier. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I have a boyfriend informally but our friendship has not yet strengthened.

I think I will marry when I will be 27 years old. I think I would marry an employed or business man. My future hope is to be a successful business woman by working in another town and my worry is lack of enough demand for my service and I worry that if I would not be successful in business I may migrate to Lebanon or other counties.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

The opportunity for young females of my age while growing up is pursuing college education if they get good educational results. The other option is to involve in trading. However, in most cases young females drop out school and use to marry at the age of 17. Furthermore, once they get married there are instances whereby they face dispute with their husband. Even after completing grade 10 most of them do not get good results. As a result of these their chance of remaining at home supporting their family and continuing getting married is high.

### Combining work and education

After school and on weekends young females of my age support their family in domestic work and in family business. During coffee harvesting period they help their family by collecting coffee and by preparing food for those who collect the coffee. But to do this most of the time they are absent from school. This has become a normal trend in our area.

About 15% of females of my age are no longer in education as they dropped out from school due to marriage. Having some source of income would help young females to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run.

In my village (Gerdi) there are four recent Grade 10 female graduates. One started to attend TVET in Jimma by staying there. But three of them are staying in the village by supporting their parents in domestic work. They also started to produce local draft, what is known as ‘*shameta’* in other parts of the country. This draft is made of barley. It is not like a drink but seems like food though it is liquid. I do not know exactly how many recent Grade 10 female graduates there are in the other two sub villages.

However, there are no any unemployed female college graduates living in the community who did not yet get job. Even in this area the possibility of joining college or university education is small. I think somewhat it is difficult for few girls from poor households to combine work and education as in most cases few girls involve in paid work to collect coffee during coffee harvesting time. Once they are absent for a certain period they continue to miss school and drop out as lack of adequate educational materials is also another pushes factor. I think very few young women (followers of Muslim religion) get involved in chewing chat very rarely, may be on weekends. But Christian young women do not chew chat.

### Women’s issues

Through mass media such as in TV and in radio as well as the HEW there have been efforts by the Government to stop FGM. The majority of people are accepting this government’s attempt to stop it (female circumcision) though still some are circumcising secretly. While I was attending school the school did not provide any special facilities for girls who are under menstruating. Unlike in the past now there is no rape and abduction; I have not heard of any recent cases of rape or abduction in the kebele. What is prevalent in our area is that girls go with the man out of their own interest. In this case the people use to call it ‘abduction’ though it is voluntarily that she goes with the man.

I do not have friends who became pregnant before being married. But in our kebele there are 2 girls to whom this happened. Their family was highly disappointed. They dropped out from school and they gave birth at their parent’s home. Their child’s father did not accept that the child was theirs’. As the girls do not have evidence they did not accuse them; instead, they continue to live with their parents. Their children are now 2 and 3 years old respectively. These girls did not get back to school.

Single girls easily get access to contraception from the HEW or from shops in the nearby town but they fear to get it. It is not common to abort among young women in the kebele.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Roughly about 20% of young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland. I think about 40% of my friend want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work (in addition of farming). I think the proportion of my friends who will marry older men in future is very small.

None of my friends or sisters married older men/became second wife. Most of my friends want to go to college and get a formal job. If they do not achieve this most of them want to migrate for work. As being successful in education and getting employment is very unlikely for young female in our area I think most of them will aspire to migrate. Most young women in their twenties make a living being dependant on their parents. Some have migrated out for work. I think it is a bit harder for young women from poor households to marry husbands with an independent livelihood as they may not get some gift from their parents to support the newly established household.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl can get married in the community is 17. I think about 10 % of the girls get married at this age. On average those girls who are not doing well at education get married at this age. However, girls who are getting good grades get married after the age of 22. I think poor girls are more likely to marry earlier. However, girls are the ones who choose their own partners. Parents do not have a role in choosing partner. Girls do not have to get permission to marry from the wereda. None of my friends has married. As to me the disadvantages of being married outweigh its advantages for young girls if they get married before getting some means to generate an income. In this situation they have no influence and become under the control of their husband. Especially if their husband’s personality is bad the female will be affected even more and may face divorce.

### Setting up an independent household

Once a young woman has some means to generate an income she can lead an independent household. Among these means trading is one opportunity. The major barrier is lack of capital to use to start up the trading. But in our area young women set up an independent household after getting married. In this case, lack of adequate farmland is also a barrier to lead independent household.

Formerly as the newly married couple used to stay with the man’s parents the wife was affected by the parents’ imposition. But nowadays men build a separate home when they plan to get married. Thus, immediately after they get married they set up an independent life. It is in rare cases that after the marriage the household is dependent on the husband’s parents for a short time - may be up to a year because within this time frame the new couple would start to live separately. If the wife is from a well-to-do family, the family may give her some resources such as cattle and household tools that support the newly established household. However, if she is from poor a family the young couple may not get any resource and initially they face some difficulty to set up an independent household.

### Migrating

Migrating for work is becoming a common trend in our area and it has increased overtime, especially for those who drop out from school or complete grade 10. They migrate starting from about 18 and above. I know many women and very few men who migrated to Sudan. I think they work as housemaids. There is a change in the destinations that they are going to. A few women are thinking to migrate to Dubai as access to jobs in Sudan is not good. I also think that the purchasing power of the Sudan currency is low. As in Sudan and other Arab countries, employers want to influence people to pray (as a Muslim), a few Christians migrated to Christian-based countries such as Lebanon. That is why I would also like to travel Lebanon if I would migrate.

I know some women who migrated to Sudan and visited their family after they stayed there for about two or three year. Within this period they had been sending remittances for their parents. Their parents use the money to repair their house and some fulfil what they lack, including modern furniture such as TV, modern chairs (Sofa) and painting the home.

The sister of my brother’s wife who completed grade 10 has migrated to Lebanon last year. She is sending remittances for her parents. Her parent used the money to repair their house and fulfil other necessities.

One young girl who completed grade 10 also migrated to Sudan. She stayed there for one year. But she was sick. As her employer spent money for her treatment she did not get a salary and returned back empty hands and now she is living with her parents.

Another young woman from my village has migrated twice but she did not bring any change in her or her family life. Now she is here. I think she would migrate again.

Among these migrants in one household two young women (siblings) migrated to Sudan. Formerly their mother had a small shop. But after they sent remittances their mother expanded the shop; she built one room used to store grain that she buys for resale. One is still over there. Currently the other is here to visit the family. I think she would go again.

### Living in the community

I like the area as it is green and mostly covered by different crops and it is peaceful. There is nothing that I dislike except in our sub-village lack of access to electricity, which prevents us from watching TV like other parts of the kebele. As the community is changing within 5 years I think there will be many changes, including expansion of electric service to our sub village and expanding of our local mini market.

Few young men are socialising in semi-informal group’s bases. Mostly they entertain by chewing chat in the afternoon. There is no any conflict among these groups*.* But there is no women group. My parents are happy since I stay with them but they worry about the lack of good demand for the hairdressing service I am rendering. As a result of these rather than me going to a faraway area they would like it if I would work in the nearby town.

From radio and TV sometimes I listen about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. I got lessons about the need of getting HIV/AIDS test before getting married as one of its transmission means is sexual intercourse. Sharing sharp materials is also another cause. There is no case of HIV/AIDS that I know in the community. It is not common for young women and men to have sexual relations while they are attending primary school. However, sometimes young girls after completing grade 10 or while they are attending high school may start early friendship with young men. As a result of this there is some trend to start sexual relations earlier without getting HIV test.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago, mainly due to proper producing of coffee and involvement in trading coffee and other commodities for a few individuals. There is some change in off-farm opportunities for women as a few started trading crops. However, there is no change in migration into the community. Formerly those who came to do paid work to collect coffee during coffee harvesting period were continuing to live in the kebele but for the last three years they get back after the work is finished.

There is a difference in education between girls of my age in very rich houses and the life of one in a poor house. As the girl from the rich household gets all school material properly she is interested to learn. However, girls from poor families lack some necessities (including adequate food) which hampers their attention to education. However, there are exceptional cases whereby girls from poor families attend education attentively so as to be active in education and try to get good result.

### Religion

There are three religions in the community. Most people are interested in their religion. Mostly they spend time on religious activities once per week, Muslim every Friday and Orthox Christian on weekends and protestant on weekends and on Tuesday (6 – 7 pm). As over time some youngsters, mainly men changes from Orthodox Christian to protestant, parent’s advice their children to get lessons from the religious institutions they follow so as not to change the original religion they were following. Due to this it seems more young women are getting interested in religion. In addition to spiritual activities our church helps poor and vulnerable people by contributing money, mainly for annual holidays and when they are sick.

There have not been any disagreements among leaders of different religions in the community as ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. However, when youngsters change religion parents mostly get disappointed. I also feel that among the followers of the dominant religion (Muslim) there is some kind of negligence in giving administrative related services.

### Politics

I am not interested in political issues and I do not have any participation in politics or in the kebele. As I mostly spend my time near the kebele office (at my hairdressing shop) sometimes I hear from officials about different messages that are going to be disseminated to the community members through different means such as meetings and development teams. There is no formal Youth Association, League or Federation in the kebele.

### Inter-generational relations

My siblings who got married frequently visit our household as they are living in the kebele. They also assist my father in farming. In addition to farming as my siblings have other sources of income (for instance, my brother is a religious leader and one of my sisters also involves in preparing local drink (Areki) and selling) sometimes they support the household financially. My brother is a teacher, who is living in another town (within Jimma zone). He sometimes visits the household, mainly for holidays. He has phone contact with the household members and other relatives. He also assists the household financially. It is through his financial and moral support that I completed grade 10, got hairdressing training and started the business.

In the community the adult and teenage generations have a good relation. Young generations respect old and adult generations. Adult generations are also highly concerned about the future fate of the young generation as there are still some jobless youth.

## Poor female teenager 19

### Personal

I live with my parents. Our household’s livelihood is based on farming though the land size we have is small, about .75 hectare. Because of this I describe my household as poor.

Now I am 19 years old. Currently I am attending grade 6. My rank is average. I failed grade 4. In addition, I dropped out from school in grade 4 due to illness (malaria). As almost all my classmates are younger than I sometimes I feel distress. Our schooling system is by shift, which is good to help parents after school time. My plan for the next year is to continue attending school.

In the last 12 months I have been helping my family in domestic work after school (when I am at home), mainly by fetching water and preparing food for the family and I did not involve in any independent income-generating work, except collecting coffee during coffee harvesting time.

I am to some extent active in my religion. Thus, in most days I used to pray at home and every Friday I pray at mosque with my friends. I do not do any sports. I am not active in politics. I am not interested in music or other arts. I do not belong to the Youth Association or League or Federation.

I was circumcised when I was 8 years old. I have seen menstruation when I was 14 years old. But I have not faced any problems with it as my mother had told me about it in advance. I have never been sexually harassed or assaulted by a man. I do not have a boyfriend.

For the future I plan to continue my education and wish to be a nurse. My role models are the nurses working in health centres and hospitals. Thus, I wish to live somewhere else, maybe in the town. I think I will marry when I will be 25 years old. I think if I would be employed I will also marry an educated and employed man. The only thing that worries me is about my educational results when completing grade 10. I fear that if I do not get good results I will not be what I wish.

### Opportunities for 19 year old girls

The opportunity for young females of my age is pursuing education so as to be able to become the kind of person they want to be. However, there are some problems they face, which include dropping out from school due to marriage and migrating to Arab countries and Sudan. Even after completing grade 10 there is the likelihood to be jobless if they do not get good result.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young females of my age after school and on weekends support their family in domestic work, including grinding grain and going to the market to buy consumption items. They also support their family in the family business. Especially during coffee harvesting time they help their family by collecting coffee. But to do this most of the time they are absent from school.

About 10% of females of my age are no longer in education as they dropped out from school due to marriage. I think having a job or involving in trading (if employment is not possible) would help young females to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the longer-run.

I know four recent Grade 10 female graduates living in the community who cannot find any kind of work. Thus, they spend their time by helping their family in domestic work as well as family business. But there are no any unemployed female college graduates living in the community who did not yet get job. It is not harder for girls from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele as in most cases few girls involve in paid work to collect coffee during coffee harvesting time only. Almost all girls involve in domestic activities. As they do these activities after school time it does not affect their schooling time.

Young women get involved in chewing chat very rarely, maybe on weekends. But they chew little chat, mostly one to two leaves only.

### Women’s issues

People are accepting the government’s attempt to stop female circumcision. But practically they did not stop circumcising; they do it secretly. Starting from last year also at the school we can get pad/modus while we are in menstruation period. I have not heard any recent cases of rape or abduction in the kebele. I do not have friends who became pregnant before being married. But I know a girl from my neighbourhood who became pregnant before being married while she was in Sudan. Then she came back here and gave birth. I think it is not common to abort among young women in the kebele. I do not think that single girls easily get access to contraception as they fear to go to the HEW or other place to get it.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I am not able to estimate how many young females of my age are likely to marry a man with access to his own farmland, how many want to be farmers’ wives, how many want to marry a man in the community involved in other kinds of work, and how many who may marry older men in future.

None of my friends or sisters married older men/became second wife. I think about 20% of my friends wants to migrate for work and most of my friends want to go to college and get a formal job. Most young women in their twenties that I know personally make a living being dependant on their parents. A few migrated out for work. I think it is not harder for young women from poor households to marry husbands with an independent livelihood. This is because in most cases men used to marry whenever they are able to get some means of livelihood to lead their life independently.

### Getting married

The youngest age that a girl can get married in the community is about 20. I think about 50% of the girls get married at this age. On average those girls who are not doing well with education get married at the age of 17. I think girls who are getting good grades get married after the age of 25. I think poor girls are more likely to marry earlier. However, girls are the ones who choose their own partners. Parents do not have a role in choosing partner. Girls do have to get permission to marry from the wereda. None of my friends has married. As to me the disadvantages of being married outweigh its advantages for young girls if they marry without strengthening their means of livelihood. This is because once the couple get married they may get a child and will face difficulties to raise their children and fulfil their basic necessities unless they have a source of income.

### Setting up an independent household

Once a young woman gets a job she can lead an independent household. If she is married also it is possible to set up an independent household with the cooperation of her husband. If her husband is a farmer she can support him or she can involve in other activities such as trading. The major barrier is lack of money that they may use to start up the trading. Lack of adequate farmland is also a barrier to leading one’s independent household. However, if either of them get employed it will be easy to establish an independent household.

After marriage wives may be dependent on their husband’s parents for a short time, maybe up to a year because within this time frame the new couple would start to live separately. In this case if the wife is from a well-to-do family, her family may give her some assets and she can support the newly established household. However, if the wife is from a poor family they may not get any resources and may lead their life in difficult conditions.

### Migrating

I think migrating for work is becoming a common trend in our area and it is increasing over time, especially for those who drop out from school or complete grade 10. They migrate at 20 and above years old. Mostly they migrate to Sudan. I think they work as housemaids. There is a change in the places that they are going to. A few women started to migrate to Arab countries.

I know a girl from my neighbourhood who has returned after migrating to Sudan. While she was there she has been sending money for her family. Her family has repaired their home and use the money for their need. I think after she stayed for two years she became pregnant. Then she came back here and gave birth. When her baby grew she migrated again to Sudan. I do not know other women who faced problems.

### Living in the community

I like living in the community since the area has a good setting and it is peaceful. There is nothing that I dislike. As the community is changing within 5 years I think they will be some new things including expansion of the electric service.

Some young men are socialising in small groups based onvillages and there is no conflict among these groups*.* But young women do not belong to these groups. There is nothing that my parents worry about me. But sometimes I worry that may they urge me to get married by dropping out from school like my sister. My elder sister has dropped out from grade 6 and she got married. Now she has two children. The reason I fear is that my brother has completed grade 10 and now he is jobless. He only supports our family in farm work. Because of his being jobless my family’s interest in education seems to have decreased.

In the school they teach us to about HIV/AIDS and its causes. The main cause is having unnecessary sexual intercourse. To protect ourselves from HIV they also told us to avoid using sharp materials such as needle together. There is no case of HIV/AIDS that I know in the community. I do think that it is not common for young women and men to have sexual relations while they are attending primary school. But I guess after they completed grade 10 they may start.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago. There is a change in farming opportunities for women as a few started to plant vegetables in garden. There is also a change in off-farm opportunities for women as a few started trading. However, there is no change in migration into the community. When I compare the life of a girl of my age in a very rich house with the life of one in a poor house there is some difference in education: the girl from the rich household will join school on time and the grade level she will attend will be higher than the girl from a poor household. I can take my case as an example as still now I am attending grade 6 as I did not join school on the proper time like the girls from rich households.

### Religion

There are three religions in the community. Most people are very interested in their religion. Mostly they spend time on religious activities once a week, Muslim every Friday and Christian on weekends. As religious leaders use to teach the followers in a better way more young women are getting more interested in religion. As a result they are visiting mosque every Friday. In addition to spiritual activities our mosque helps poor and vulnerable people by contributing money, mainly for annual holidays.

I think there have not been any disagreements among leaders of different religions in the community as ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is also easy for different household members to belong to different religions. For instance, there are a few cases where youngsters changed religion from Orthodox to Protestant.

### Politics

I only got messages that our teachers advise us to continue attending school and to give due emphasis for education. I do not know about Youth Association, League or Federation. Generally, I do not know any political issue.

### Inter-generational relations

As my grandparents (both paternal as well as maternal) died already I did not get a sense about their relationship with my parents. We have a good relation with my uncles and aunts. As they are living in the community we have close contacts. As they have a wider farm their living conditions are better than us and sometimes they give us grain.

I think in the community generally the adult and teenage generations have a good relation. In most cases the teenage generation think and aspire to improve their work habits so as to live a better life by trying different livelihood possibilities. The adult generation also supports and encourage them.