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## Rich male teenager 13

### Personal

I am living with my parents. I have 2 brothers and 4 sisters. Of them 1 of my sister is working in Sudan and 1 of my brother learning at Ambo University. My parents live from farming of coffee, avocado, mango and cereal crops. Economically, my parents can be categorized as middle household. (The RO asked elders who categorised the household as rich).

I am 12 and study in grade 3. Academically I am ranking first in the class. I did not drop out from the school. In the last 12 months I assisted my household in domestic activities such as fetching water, collecting firewood and farming and herding animals. I did not engage in independent income generating activities in the last 12 months. However, I sold two sheep that my parents gave me and got birr 800. With the money I bought a calf and brought coffee seedlings and plants. The working did not affect my learning and I was not absent from school because I arrange my program accordingly.

Of the work at home I like herding cattle because it is easy and give me an opportunity to come with friends to play together but I hate collecting firewood during the rainy season as it is hard. There is a shift system in school which is regularly changed and we celebrate ‘nation and nationalities day’ and ‘flag day’ in well organized ways having different sport competition, drama, music and so on.

Next year I will continue with my education and simultaneously assisting my parents in domestic activities.

In the rest of my time I play football with friends. I am also interested in music and arts. I am good at my religion. I am Muslim follower and used to learn Quran education but I stopped for the moment as it was inconvenient for my schooling.

I do not engage in politics and am not a member of youth association, youth league and youth federation. Even I do not know whether these organizations they exist in the kebele. I do not do any sport except playing football with friends. None of my friends are girls and I do not have special girl friends. When I am at home I read my books and exercise books.

In the future I want to stay here working in my own community. The kind of job I will do depends on my chance. But I need to join university and to have a formal job. I do not have a plan for marriage at the moment and I do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. I want to marry after having my own living. After marriage I want to have three children (1 female and 2 male). My parents will not be involved in the decision of whom I marry.

My role model is one of my friends who have good behavior. We are always together and treat each other like brothers. I hope I will succeed fully in my education as there is good opportunity for education. I do not have worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

The young boys have good educational opportunity as school is expanding and the parents also are willing to send them for schooling. However, the problem is that many of them are unable to pass to the university as the passing mark is very high.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of my age do not have their own work except assisting their family. However, there are a few who work as agricultural servants for other households, engage on trading of coffee, shop and tea house. Of the work, trading of coffee is more productive and many young men prefer it. There is no kind of work that is hard, dangerous and bad for my health in the community.

The young men work on coffee planting in the month of July and trading of fresh coffee bean during the months of October-December.

I know about 7 young boys who dropped out from the school and are no longer in education. Young men dropping out of education for a while and then returning is a common practice in the area. During the harvest of coffee, there are students who drop outs in order to collect coffee beans and to get some cash.

The expansion of coffee farming and growing of chat will make the young men to live independent livelihood in the future long run.

There are some boys who complete grade 10 and 12 (I know for instance 4 in our village). Some of them spend their time in assisting the family in farming while others stay idle chewing chat. There are two university graduates whom I know but I do not know how they spend their time.

It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele than for young men from rich households. This is because the ones who come from poor households have more work burden that makes them not to manage both education and work at the same time. It makes them to give less attention for schooling.

The problem of involving in drinking, smoking and theft is not common among young males. However, chat chewing is commonly practiced among young men and other community members.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

The young males of my age do not get access to their own farmland. I do not know what my friends want to be. They are learning currently. We did not discuss about their future so far.

I know the young men in their twenties engage in agriculture labour, daily labour and others engage in coffee trading (during coffee harvest). It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because they cannot get support from their family to help them to start/establish an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The young men can marry at the age of 18 years old. However, I think many of them do not marry at this age. They usually marry when they are above 24 because they do not have sufficient income to marry and manage their household properly before this. I do not have friends who got married. The advantage of being married is to have legitimate children. The problem is however, if you do not have income you cannot manage the household properly. If you have money it has no challenge. There is no government regulation affected the age at which young people marry.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young men to have an independent household. There is no good job for them. Some engage in agriculture labour in order to survive. After getting married the young men should lead an independent household even though they lead a difficult life because after marrying their parents do not allow the couple to live with them. In most cases the married couple lives with the young man’s parents for a maximum of about 6 month-1 year. There is no difference for young men from poor households.

### Migrating

The young men are commonly migrating for work at the age of 20. They migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia. The number of migrants is increasing. There is a change in the place they go. In earlier time many of them went to Sudan but now many of them prefer to go to Saudi Arabia rather than Sudan. I do not know anyone who has returned after migrating. However, I heard that last summer one young man died in the sea while he was travelling to Saudi Arabia.

### Living in the community

I like to live in the community because I like the environment and also I did not experience other areas. I like everything in living in the community and do not have something that I dislike. The area is peaceful. The community is changing: five years ago there were fewer houses but now it is increasing. With this pace, in five years I hope there will be more houses, shops, tea houses, grain mills etc. And it will become more urbanized than now.

In the community there are different ethnic groups and religions. However, young people do not socialise in special groups and there is no conflict among those groups. There are also no risks of violence to young men.

I live with my parents and they do not have worries about what I do or what might happen to me. They try to control and follow up through asking about my day. I do not spend any time drinking or chewing chat or smoking.

I know about HIV/AIDS and its causes from civic and ethical education course at school. It can be cured and is transmitted through unsafe sex, using contaminated needles etc. I do not know cases of HIV/AIDS in the community. I do not know individuals who are infected with this disease.

Some young men have sex relation with their girl friends in secret but I don’t know whether they take precautions or not.

### The economy

The community is richer than two or three years ago. This is because a number of people are planting coffee and selling in larger quantity than ever before. This indicates the wealth status of the community.

People are able to grow crops in rows and appropriate spacing, use fertilizers and improved varieties following continued supervision and advice from DAs. Hence, they are able to produce more crops in terms of productivity and diversity. There is no change in livestock production and opportunities to work off the farm. The number of migrants outside the community is increasing. However, there is no migration into the community. The inequality among households is growing.

In all aspect such as education, work, establishing independent livelihood, getting married and establishing one’s independent household, the young men from rich households get more advantages and easily achieve these as they get better support that enable them to do so. However, the young men from poor households do not have sufficient support. Hence relatively it is harder for the young men from poor households to achieve in all regards.

### Religion

Many of the community members spend their time on religious activities after accomplishing their own activities. However, few individuals mainly the elders are not interested in religious activities. There are three religions namely Muslim (sofia and wahibiya sects), orthodox Christian and protestant. They differ in their doctrine. Many young people are getting more interested in religion than older people but I do not know why.

In my religion no missionaries come from outside and I know two young people who went to Harer to learn Quran. The religious rules become stricter over time following the awareness of the community.

There have been no disagreements among the leaders of the religions and ordinary people from different religions live peacefully together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions. For instance, two years ago there were individuals who changed their religion form Muslim to orthodox Christian and vice-versa. They do not face any problem in doing so. There have been no particular incidents of conflict.

I do not know if they (religious institutions such as orthodox and protestant churches) involve in developmental activities. But mosque helps needy individuals when they request collecting contribution from mosque attendants.

### Politics

The youth have good relations with the government. I do not know what messages the government has been giving to young people. The woreda did not provide advice and training for young people recently. Moreover, no resources have been provided recently for young people for livelihood activities by the woreda.

The kebele has not given farmland for young people recently. No resource has been provided by the woreda for leisure and the government is not doing anything else for young people. Moreover, the woreda and the kebele should arrange income generating activities for young people who do not have employment. Last year the young people contributed in natural resource management and construction of the road (the new road which connect the kebele with the nearby kebeles).

There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party and there is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. There is no opposition party in the kebele. Many young people are not interested in politics in general. However, I do not know what attitude they have about the government politics.

### Inter-generational relations

We have a good relationship and respect for each other in the household. I do what my parents ordered me to do (such as taking message to others, assisting different activities in the house and outside the house) and respect them and all the household members respect the adults. The adults have good acceptance and are influential in shaping the teenagers which is a good thing in the community. The problem is you may find a few deviant individuals who do not respect the adults and listen to what adults say. In general there is good and smooth relation between the adult and teenage generations. There are no main tension points. The adults and teenagers meet in religious places, within the households and when the teenagers are send for passing a message from house to house.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 13

### Personal

I am living with my parents. I have 2 sisters and 3 brothers. One of my sister and brother are living in Sudan. My parents are living from farming and the remittances sent by my sister and brother. My parents are economically categorized as middle household.

I am 13 and attending grade 6. Academically, I am middle ranked student in the class. Last year I stood 15 from my class. I dropped out in grade 1 and grade 4 because I was the only person who looked after the crops and failed to concentrate on my education.

In the last 12 months I assisted my parents in farming, planting coffee, herding cattle and fetching water. However, I did not engage in independent income generating activities.

The domestic work does not affect my learning because since I failed in grade 4 I have been able to programme myself and arrange my study hours and work at home. No work has affected my health. I like herding livestock because it is easy and give me opportunity to meet with friends. However, I dislike ploughing and digging holes for coffee planting because it is difficult job.

There is school shift which is regularly changed per week and there are different holidays that we celebrate in well organized ways. The holidays include Flag Day, Ethiopian nation and nationalities day’. Next year I will keep in my education and assisting my family in farming activities.

In the rest of my time I play volleyball with friends. I like to listen to music. I am active in my religion and attend Quran education. I do not engage in politics and am not a member of the youth association, league or federation. I do not do any professional sport in an organized way (having coach and for competition purpose).

I spend my time socializing with friends through playing volleyball and football. However none of my friends are girls and I do not have special girlfriend. When I am at home I read books and exercise books for my study.

In the future I want to join university and to be a teacher and stay in the community. However, if I fail to pass to university I want to be a farmer and engaged in coffee plantation. I will access land for farming from my parents or get through sharecropping.

I have a plan to marry when I get rich and have my own income. At the moment I do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. My parents will not be involved in the decision of whom I marry. After getting marriage I want to have two children (1 male and 1 female).

My role model is one of my neighbours who love me very much. I love him very much and I want to be a nice person like him. He is a farmer and working as social court of the kebele.

I hope I will be a teacher as there is educational opportunity as long as one is able to learn. I do not have worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

Young males have opportunity for better education and health access. However, they will face challenge to pass grade 10 and many of them do not join university. Moreover those who complete grade 10 and 12 also cannot get job opportunity.

### Combining work and education

Young males of my age do not have work except assisting their family. There are no kinds of work that are hard, dangerous and bad for my health. There is no enough work that youth like to do.

Almost all of males of my age are at school and I know only one boy who is no longer in education. He dropped out because he is ‘duriye’ (deviant). It is usually common that during the harvest of coffee, many young males drop out for a while and then return. This is because during this period they engage in coffee harvesting and trading activities.

To start coffee production will help the young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the future long run.

There are many grade 10 and 12 graduates who do not have job. Some of them assist their family in farming while many of them sit idle and chew chat. However, I did not come across young men who are university graduates and do not have job. I think all graduate get jobs in different organizations.

It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because it is challenging for them to get education materials and afford other expenses. Hence, in order to cover all the costs they are forced to work for long hours which make them busy and fail to attend the class sometimes.

None of young people of my age do not involved in drinking, chat chewing, theft and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young males of my age do not get access to their own farmland. I do not know the number but I have friends who want to be farmers if they are unsuccessful and fail to join university. There are also some who want to stay in the community engaging in trading. Some of them also want to migrate. I know young men in their twenties who assist their parents in planting coffee and chat and other farm activities throughout the year. In turn, their parents give them some money when the coffee is harvested and sold.

It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because they do not get sufficient support from their parents to enable them to do so.

### Getting married

The young men can get married at 18. However, I think many of them get married later than 20 because of economic problems. None of my friend is married. The advantage of being married is to find someone with whom one lives and works and also it is a means of getting legitimate children. The problem is unless you have sufficient income you cannot manage your household properly. Hence, lack of money and poor economic condition are a challenge and problem for being married.

Regardless of their economic status all parents do not involve in their sons’ choice of marriage partner. To choose a partner is up to the son himself. No government regulation is affecting the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for a young man to setup an independent household because the economic status matters. Many of them work on farming for others and agriculture labour to have an independent household. The young men are not allowed to stay with their parents after getting marriage. Hence they usually construct an independent house prior to marriage and after marriage they directly start their independent life. Maybe they live for about one or two months with their parents till they familiarize with life. All these things are the same for young men from poor households.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia. They tend to go when they are 16 and above. Migration is increasing overtime. There is no change in the place they are going to. I do not know someone who has returned after migration and I do not know anyone who had a problem in migrating. I do not have a plan to migrate.

### Living in the community

I like the environment and the climatic conditions of the area. Moreover, I like the way the community live, its culture, social relations and everything in the community. I do not have something I dislike about living in the community. The area is a peaceful place to live.

The community is changing. Within five years the number of houses, shops and tea houses will increase and the kebele will become more urbanized than it is now.

There is no tendency to socialise young people in special groups. There is no conflict among different groups in the community. There are no risks of violence to young men. My parent worries while I devote much of my time on playing and not looking after the cattle. They control me asking all about what I did of my day. I do not spend my time drinking and/or chewing chat/smoking.

HIV/AIDS is transmitted through having unsafe sex and using contaminated needles. I do not know cases of HIV/AIDS in the community. Many young men in school have girl friends and have sex with them. However, I do not know whether they take care against contracting HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago because people changed their house from grass to corrugated iron sheets, opened new shops etc. There is also a change in farming. Previously the community was farming for a shorter time (about 4 hours in a day) but now they farm for about 6 hours. They are able to produce more crops because they started to use improved seed and fertilizers properly. They also use compost appropriately. However, I do not notice any change in livestock production and rearing. They use traditional breeds and produce in a traditional way. There are no changes in opportunities to work off the farm. Migration out of the community to Sudan is increasing. There is also change and increase in migration into the community because an increasing numbers of youngsters come from Dido (area in Jimma zone where coffee is produced) and are hired as agriculture labourers in the kebele. There is a difference in life between youth in very rich houses and the life of those from poor houses. They differ in the type of clothes they wear (the rich one usually wears neat and new clothes), having sufficient educational materials etc. Other aspects such as education, work, establishing an independent livelihood, getting married and setting up an independent household are easier for the ones from rich households.

### Religion

Many people in the community spend much time on religious activities. However there are also a few youngsters who are not interested in the religious activities. There are three religions namely Muslim, orthodox Christian and protestant. I do not know the detailed difference but they are differing in their doctrine. Most young people are getting more interested in religion but I do know why this is so.

There are no missionaries who come from outside to teach. There are no young people who have gone to places outside of the community to learn about religion. Though I do not know the reason, the religious rule has become stricter over time. There have been no disagreements among leaders of the different religions and the ordinary people from different religions live peacefully together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions and there have not been any particular incidents or conflicts.

Apart from spiritual activities the religious organization I belong to (Muslim) help poor and needy people when the needy individuals report to mosque to have assistance from attendants. The mosque collects contribution from attendants and gives it for poor and needy ones.

### Politics

The government and youth have a smooth relationship. The government tells young men not to disregard any job and encourage them to work any kind of jobs. The message has been passed through TV, Radio and the kebele officials. I do not know what the training was but last year the woreda provided training for young men in the kebele. The woreda arrange credit facilities for those organized youth.

Three years ago the kebele provided land for landless youth. I do not know how they were chosen. The woreda provided no resource for leisure and none of the young men in the community use it.

The government and the kebele are doing nothing else for young people at the moment. The young men contribute for the development of the community through contributing labour and participation in natural resource management.

There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party. There is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. The youth do not want to participate in government politics and are not active in politics. There is also no opposition political party.

### Inter-generational relations

We respect each other in the household. We also respect and accept what our parents order to us. The good thing is that the adults are respected and get acceptance in the family and we live peacefully. The bad thing is that sometimes disagreement happens between my father and mother for reasons I do not know, which I dislike very much. In other households there are some individuals who do not respect their parents and leading adults. The main things that bring the young and leading adults together are the religious activities, market and the family. There is no main tension point between young and adult generations.

## Poor male teenager 13

### Personal

I am living with my parents. I have two sisters: the elder is living in Sudan while my younger sister lives at home. My parents live from farming and the remittances sent by my sister. My parents are categorised as a poor household. I am 13 year and attending grade 7. I am ranked 20th in the class during the first semester of this year. I did not drop out from school. I assisted my parent in farming, fetching water, collecting firewood. I also prepared ‘wot’ when my sister got sick in the last 12 months. However, I did not engage in independent income generating activities. The work that I did to assist my parents did not affect my education and my health. I like assisting my mother so I like all the work I do to assist my parents. The schooling is in shift and I arranged my own program of work at home so as not to affect my study. I usually work homework and study at night and assist my family during the day. There are well organised programs in school for ‘nation and nationalities day’ and for ‘flag day’. There are games, drama, music shows etc. in the school. I have a plan to proceed in my education and to complete grade 10.

In the rest of my time I play football with friends after assisting my family (fetching water, farming etc). I like art and music. I am active Muslim (sofia sect) follower and regularly salat (the ritual prayer of Muslims) and attend Quran education. I do not participate in politics and I do not do sport. I do not belong to youth association, league or federation. I spend my time with friends in playing football. None of my friends are girls and I do not also have special girlfriends. When I am at home I read books and my exercise books apart from assisting my parents.

In the future after completing grade 10 I want to go to Sudan for job. My sister is living in Sudan and have job and get good income. However, after accumulating some money I will return back and live in my community.

I do not have a plan at the moment and do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. But when I will get married I want to have 4 children (3 male and 1 female). My parents will not be involved in the decision of whom I marry.

I do not have role model. I do not have worries about my future. I hope I will achieve my dream.

### Opportunities for 13 year old boys

The old boys have good opportunity for education. Many of the boys are attending school and the parents are also aware and willing to send their sons for schooling. However, after completing school there is no job opportunity for them.

### Combining work and education

Most of young males of my age do not have work except assisting their parents.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young males of my age do not get access to their own farmland. I do not know what proportion of my friends want to be farmers, stay in the community, migrate outside the community and join university to have formal education. We did not discuss about these issues.

Some of the young men in their twenties make a living through agricultural labour while others farm for their parents and get some money during coffee harvest. Usually the young men from poor households do not get support from their parents due to economic problems and it is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The young can marry at the age of 18. However, many of them marry later than 24. I do not have friends who got married. The advantage of marriage is to have a sexual partner and children. The problem of being married is that it is difficult to manage the household without permanent income. It has no challenge if you have an income. The parents are not involved in their sons’ choice of marriage partner. There is nothing different for young men from poor households. There is also no government regulation that affects the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young men to set up an independent household. There are some who work as agriculture labourer, other trade coffee seasonally and other get support of coffee plants from their parents. After marriage the couple directly live in their own independent house. The parents usually do not allow them to live with them. Some parents may allow till they construct an independent house, for about six months. Nothing is different for young men from poor households.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate to Sudan. They tend to migrate at age of 18. The number of migrants is increasing over time. In earlier time many of them wanted to travel to Sudan. But now a number of young men shifted to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. I do not know anyone who has returned after migrating and do not know anyone who has had a problem with migrating either whilst travelling. I will migrate to Sudan and I will go alone. Because I hope I will get job and good payment.

### Living in the community

I like everything about living in the community including the environment, the social relations and cooperation among the community members. I do not have anything I dislike. The community is changing. Over five years of time many houses, shops, teashops and other business centres will be constructed and the kebele will be better than it is now.

There is no tendency to socialize young people in special groups and there is no conflict among the different group of the community. There are no risks of violence to young men. The area is peaceful to live. My parents have no worry about me and they try to control me through asking all about my day at night time. I do not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat and/or smoking.

I know about HIV/AIDS. It is transmitted through sexual intercourse and contaminated needles and blades. I do not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. I also do not know if young men have sexual relations and take care against contracting HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago. There is also change in farming. People started to use fertilizer and improved seed better than they did before. Hence, they have become more productive than before. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. I do not see a change in livestock production. The number of migration out of the community to Sudan and Saudi Arabia is increasing. However there are no migrants in to the community.

The young men in very rich households have a good life which is manifested with good quality clothes, having sufficient educational materials and good shoes which may not be applicable for young men from poor households.

Regarding education, work, establishing an independent livelihood, getting married and setting up an independent household the young men from rich houses have better opportunities because of the support they get from their parents. However, it is harder for young men from poor households as they have little/no support from their parents.

### Religion

Many people in the community spend much time on religious activities. However there are also some who are not interested in religious activities. There are three religions: Muslim, orthodox Christian and protestant. I do not know their difference. Many young people are getting more interested in religion and I do not know why. In Muslim religion there are no missioners who come from outside to teach and I don’t know anyone who went outside the community to learn about religion.

The religious rules have become stricter over time. There have not been any disagreements among leaders of the different religions and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions. There have been no any particular incidents of conflict. The mosque supports the poor by collecting contribution from the mosque attendants.

### Politics

The relationship between the government and youth is good. I do not know the messages passed by the government recently. The woreda did not any provide training and advice recently. It also did not provide any resource for young people livelihood activities. The kebele did not provide land for young men recently. The woreda did not provide resources for leisure and no young men from the community use it. The government does not do anything else for young people. The woreda and the kebele should work to alleviate the problem of youth unemployment. The young people worked on natural resource management and contributed labour for the construction of the new road in the kebele.

There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party. There is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. The young people are not involved in political activities. I do not know what attitude the young men have towards the government politics. There is no opposition political party in the area.

### Inter-generational relations

We have a good relation with each other. I respect my parents and accept what they order to me. In many households there is good respect and relation among their members. The adult generation is well respected in the community and has a good status which is a good thing. However, there are a few who do not respect and accept the elders. Generally speaking the relationship between the adult and teenager generations is good and smooth. There are no main tension points. The adults and teenagers meet mainly at religious places.

## Rich male teenager 16

### Personal

I am living with my parents. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters who live in the household. My parents live from farming cereal crops, coffee, chat and other types of crops. All my brothers and sister are students. My parents are categorized as a rich household. I am 16 years old and attending grade 8. Academically, I am a middle ranking student and I stood 5th for the first semester results. I never dropped out of the school.

In the last 12 months, I assisted my parents in farming and planting coffee, domestic activities such as fetching water and collecting firewood.

Last year I had three sheep and sold them on the market and got Birr 1600 and I bought clothes with some of the money and gave the rest for my father to save it for me. My parents first bought one sheep for me to keep and later the sheep gave birth to two more sheep which I sold in the market. Keeping sheep does not affect my learning and I never repeated or was absent from class as I arrange all my programs. It also does not affect my health.

I like planting coffee as it has good results during harvest and when it is sold in the market however I do not like to collect firewood as it is relatively difficult among all domestic work I do.

I easily combine work and schooling because I arrange my study program at night and during the day period I go to school when I have a class and if not I engage on work to assist my parents. Our school has arranged well-organized shifting programs that changed per week and also we celebrate ‘nation and nationality day’ and ‘flag day’ in a well organized way. Next year I will keep on with my education and assisting my parents in domestic work.

In the rest of my time I play football with friends. I like music and usually listen to it. I am active in my religion and I attend Quran education and attend mosque when I do not have school. I do not involve in politics. I used to do ‘techando’ (Marshal Art) at Belida but now the trainer left and I was forced to stop.

I do not belong to youth association, league or federation. I spend my time playing football and telling folk tales with friends. My friends also include girls who are studying at high school. However, I do not have special girlfriends. When I am at home I read my books and exercise books and do homework, exercises etc.

In the future I want to join university and study electrical engineer and work in the community particularly in Jimma zone.

I do not have a plan to marry at a moment but after graduating and having a job I will plan to marry. After marriage I want to have three children (1 female and 1 male). I do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. My parents will not be involved in the decision of whom I marry.

My role model is Isaac Newton a known physics scientist. I have always been impressed with his three laws about forces.

My hope is that as long as I study hard I will have educational opportunity as universities are expanding in our countries. Hope I will achieve my goal. I do not have worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

The opportunities are that young boys have access to education and are able to learn in their language. However the challenges are that the youth are highly addicted to chat and they usually fail to join university as the passing mark is getting higher. Moreover, those who graduate from grade 10 and 12 find difficulty in getting job opportunities.

### Combining work and education

Many young men engage in different work including cattle herding, trading and farming. Coffee planting and trading is best paid. The young men also prefer to cultivate coffee and trading of coffee. There are no kinds of job that are hard, dangerous, bad for my health.

The young males engage in planting of coffee during the rainy season (July and August) and trading of coffee beans in the months of October-December. However, generally, there is not enough work that the youth would like to do.

Almost all young males of my age are at school and I do not know anyone who is no more at school. Dropping out for a while and then returning is a very common practice among the young males in the community. This happens mainly during the coffee harvesting period. It is because many of them engage on harvesting and trading activities of coffee.

Farming of coffee will help young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community on the future long run. There are many recent grade 10 and 12 male graduates. Some of them assist their parents in farming; others sit idle chewing chat. However, there is no unemployed college and university graduate in the community. All of them get job opportunities in different organizations.

It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because they get very busy working on different jobs to assist themselves and their family. This makes them to be tired and failing to study and lacking focus for education.

In the area young males are commonly chewing chat but drinking alcohol, theft and smoking are not common problems among young males in the community.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

None of young males of my age get access to their own farmland. Many of my friends do not want to be farmers. However many of them want to stay in the community working on metal and wood works and petty trading activities. There are also some of them (roughly 5-6) who want to migrate to Sudan and Arab countries. A few of them also want to join university. There are youth whom I know who live a good life with their parents engaging on farming activities (planting coffee, chat, avocado etc.) to assist their parents. There are also youth (from poor households) who work on agricultural labour and daily labour in order to survive. It is difficult for young males from poor households to establish independent livelihood as they cannot get economic assistance from their parents to do so.

### Getting married

The young males can marry at 18. However, I do not know anyone who got married at this age. Many marry at 25 or above because of economic problems. No one among my friends is married. The marriage has no advantage. The disadvantage of marriage is that it makes you busy and become a barrier for development. Moreover, it is a barrier for education as you cannot learn once you get married. Marriage is also a challenge if you do not have sufficient income for the household’s expenses. The parents do not involve in their sons’ choice of marriage partner and there is no different for young men from poor households. No government regulations affect the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is challenging for young men to set up independent households. Some youngsters engage in agriculture labour and daily labour in order to set up an independent household. After getting married they are not allowed to live with their parents. They only stay with parents for a few months. Hence, when one wants to marry one should have constructed an independent house first. There is no difference for young men from poor households. All parents regardless of their economic status do not allow their son to be with them after getting married.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate for work to Sudan and Saudi Arabia at 18 and above. I think the number of migrants is decreasing over time following the advice given by officials and on media. In previous years many of them migrated to Sudan but recently they tended to shift to Saudi Arabia. I heard that this is because there is a deflation of currency in Sudan.

I do not know anyone who has returned after migrating but I know individuals who faced challenge while travelling. Last year one individual whom I know died while he was travelling to Saudi Arabia. He was shot at Siena desert by thieves.

### Living in the community

I like the environment and the climate in the area. However, I dislike when I see some elders who drink and stagger in the community.

The community is changing and in five years of time there will be more shops and tea houses and the kebele will be more urbanized than now.

The area is a peaceful place to live in and there is no tendency to socialize young people in special groups. There is also no conflict among different groups in the community. There are no risks of violence to young men.

My parents worry when I spend too much of my time playing and staying with those young men who chew chat. They give me advice not to do so. They control me through asking me every night where I spent my day. I do not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat and/or smoking.

I know about HIV/AIDS and its cause from my study at school. It is transmitted basically through unsafe sexual intercourse. However, I did not come across individuals infected with the disease in the community. To have sex before marriage is strictly forbidden; as a result having sexual relations before marriage is not common among young men in the community.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago because there are individuals who got grain mills and shops within this period. There is also a change in the way people produce crops. In earlier time they use broadcasting method to sow seeds. Now many people are able to properly use the row planting method which also increases their productivity. The farmers are also able to diversify their crops and use improved seeds and fertilizer more than ever before.

Regarding livestock, there is no change so far. However, new improved breeds are being introduced although the community has not yet started to use this. Also the DAs are introducing AI in the area.

I do not see changes in opportunities to work off the farm. There is a decline in the number of migrations out of the community. There is no change with regard to incoming migrants.

The inequality among households has grown. A few households became richer and some remained as they were.

There is a difference between the lives of youth of very rich households and of youth from poor households. They differ in relation to education, work, establishing an independent livelihood, getting married and setting up an independent household. All these things are easier for those from well-to-do families than those from poor households. This is because in all aspects the rich ones get support from their family which makes things easier and possible.

### Religion

The people visit the mosque only for salat (the ritual prayer of Muslims) but not on other times. There are only a few individuals who are not interested in religious activities. They are usually individuals who are involved in political activities. It is may be because they do not have time to engage in religious activities. There are three religions: Muslim (sofia and Wahhabi sects), orthodox Christian and protestant. They are differing in the places where their followers worship and each has its own doctrine that makes them distinct. There are many young people who are interested and attend Quran education because they start to fear God getting awareness about it. In my religion there are no missionaries who come from outside to teach. However, there are some young people who went to Harar to learn about Quran because there are people who teach Quran ‘uluma/sheki’. The religious rules are stricter than ever before. People started to follow the doctrines of their religion.

There have not been any disagreement among the leaders of the different religions in the kebele and the ordinary people from different religion also live peacefully together. However, there has been disagreement within the Muslim religion (between Wahhabi and sofia) in other areas of the Jimma zone.

It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions and there has not been any particular incidence of conflict.

The Muslim religion encourages development activities apart from spiritual activities. It helps the poor with the contribution from the attendants and deliver different developmental message to the attendants.

### Politics

The relations between the government and youth are good and smooth. The government has been recently giving the message to focus and attend education. The message is delivered though school by the school directors and different teachers in the classrooms. Last year the wereda provided training for the youth and the rest of the community about farming activities. The woreda also used to provide credit for organized youth but now it is stopped as no more organized youth in the kebele. This is because the kebele is no more active to organize youth as it used to be, and the youth themselves have also less interest in being organized. The kebele also provided grazing land for organized youth to engage in farming in previous years. The woreda do not provide any resources for leisure.

The woreda and the kebele are not doing anything else for young people.

The young people contributed labour and participated in soil conservation practice and for the construction of new road in the kebele.

There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party and there is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. There is no opposition party and no interest in opposition party among the young men. Many young men do not have interest in any of the political parties including the government politics.

### Inter-generational relations

We have good relation with each other. I respect my elders and younger brothers and they do the same. We discuss everything at home. I like to and enjoy to play at home with my family members. In many households there is respect for leading adults. The teenagers respect and listen to them. The problem is there are few deviant youngsters who usually do not respect their parents and leading adults of the community.

Generally the young respect and help the adult generation and there is a good relation between them. They usually come together at religious places and at home. There are no main tension points between the youth and the adult generations.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 16

### Personal

I lost my parents (father and mother) when I was seven. I am living with my sister who divorced. She is extension worker and she has one son. We (I and her) work on our parents’ land (2.25 hectare). I have two brothers. The eldest one is married and lives in Somodo and assists us in farming. While the other one is single and driver and travel long distance.

Of the 2.25 hectare of land of our parents, we grow maize, teff, barley and tomato and pepper (on the home garden) on 1.25 hectare and the rest is covered with coffee plants. We are considered as a middle status household.

I am now 16 and study in grade 8 and also work on shoe shining activities during my part time. I did not drop out from the school. In the last 12 months I worked in shoe shining and collecting coffee and selling it on the market to generate income. I bought a goat with some of the money I earned and gave the rest to my sister to save it for me. Moreover, in the last 12 months I assisted my household in domestic activities such as washing dishes, cleaning the house, planting coffee, tomato and pepper and also assisted in selling tea and biscuit in the tea house that my sister owns.

No one helped or decided for me to engage in shoe shining. Previously (before I engaged in shoe shining), my brother who is now a driver worked as shoe shiner and when he left I took all his materials and proceeded to work in shoe shining.

The job of shoe shining is good. I request birr 4 per shoe. During holidays I get about birr 60 in a day and during non-holiday about birr 30 in a day. This work does not affect my learning because I arrange my class and the work. There are shifts which enables me to have some time to engage in shoe shining. I usually study and do homework at night from 6:00pm-2:00am in the midnight. Hence, it is easy to combine my education and work. Thus, I was not absent from school. This work does not have any effect on my health.

I like working on farming particularly coffee planting and cultivation as it is easy and has good return at the end of the harvest. However, I dislike working in the tea house because many people try to cheat you and avoid paying for the food they consume. This in turn brings disagreement with my sister as the audit is not balanced.

There is shift program which is well organized and changed every week. There are also holidays which are celebrated in organized ways. These include Ethiopian Nations and nationalities’ day, flag day etc.

In future I want to complete my education up to grade 10 and engage in farming to become model farmer who get a prize from the government. In the rest of my time I play football with friends.

When my father died, I lived with my older brother in Jimma and attended grade 4 up to grade 6. During this period there were foreigners visiting our school and encouraging the students to appreciate arts. Since then I have an interest in painting and drawing figures. I am an active follower of Muslim (sofia). I learn Quran and salat (the ritual prayer of Muslims) regularly five times a day. However, I do not engage in politics. I do sport three days a week including aerobics, weight lifting and running. I am not a member of youth association, league or federation.

I usually spend time with friends in playing football. My friends at school include girls because there are 1-5 teams of tutorship program which is organized depending on the academic status of the students. Accordingly there are girls who are members of our teams. I do not have special girlfriend. When I am at home I clean the house, wash dishing materials and arrange the house.

In the future I want to stay in the community and engage in farming my parent’s land after completing my 10th grade education. Currently, I do not have any agreement with a girl to marry in the future and I do not have a plan to marry soon but in future I want to marry and have 2 children (a male and a female). Hopefully my parents (sister and brother) will not involve in the decision of whom I will marry.

My older brother is my role model because he has modern beehives and different types of crops and a coffee plantation. Hence, he is able to earn a good income from farming.

My hopes are that I will be a model farmer who will win a prize and to contribute for the development of the area because there is favorable working environment if one decides to work hard. I do not have worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

The young boys have good educational opportunity as school is expanding and the parents are also willing to send them for schooling. However, the problem is that many boys are unable to pass to the next class particularly in 10th grade and consequently they will face challenge in finding a job with this grade level.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young males of my age do not have their own work except assisting their family. However, there are a few who work as agricultural servants for other households. Of the work, selling coffee is more profitable and pays best. Working as agricultural servant for other households is hard and tedious work.

Young males who have parents with land usually prefer to farm on their parents’ land while others who are from a poor family are hired as sharecropper and work as tea housekeeper for others.

Those young boys who engaged in shop keeping do it throughout the year while others who collect fresh coffee beans usually work in the months of October-December and plant seedlings in the month of July. However, there is not enough work in the area.

I know about 15 young boys who dropped out from school. Males dropping out for a while and then returning is a common practice in the area. During the harvest of coffee, there are students who drop out in order to collect coffee beans and to get some cash.

In the future long run, the expansion of coffee farm will make the young males to live independent livelihood in the future. Now there are some boys who completed grade 10 and 12. Some of them spend their time assisting their family in farming while others stay idle chewing chat. There are also 1 or 2 individuals who graduated from the universities. They usually spend their time following vacancy posts and applying at different organizations.

It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele than for young men from rich households. This is because those from a poor family are expected to work and assist not only themselves but their family as well and they need to provide their educational material on their own. Hence, when they concentrate on work they may not be able to give attention and time for their education.

None of the young people at my age are involved in drinking, smoking and theft. However many of them chew chat which is common in the area.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Maybe about 3-4 young males of my age are likely to get access to their own land sharing from their parents. Of about 25 friends, about 5-6 of them want to be farmers and about 10 of them want to stay in the community working on petty-trade, shoeshine, and shop-keeping. Then they gradually want to end up large businessmen. About 10 of them want to migrate to Sudan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and about 3 of them want to join university and one of them does not really know.

Youth in their twenties engage in petty trading such as tea shop, shop keeper, harvesting fresh coffee bean (during the coffee harvest period only). It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood. This is because the poor one does not have support from his family to make him to have an independent livelihood like access to land. Hence, he has to struggle to have an independent livelihood. However, the young men from rich families get assistance (land, capital etc.) that easily enables them to set up independent livelihoods.

### Getting married

The young men can marry at the age of 17-18 years. However, many of them do not marry at this age. Maybe about 10 or fewer individuals married at this age. They usually get marry at or above 25 because they want to have some money before marriage.

I do not have friend who got marry. The advantage of being married is getting someone with whom one lives and encourages for better development. Especially if you are trader you get additional labour as you become a couple and assist each other in all aspects. Being married do not have disadvantage. The challenge of being married is, however, that if one does not have sufficient income one will fail to manage one’s household properly and be unable to live an independent life. In many cases the parents are not involved in their sons’ choice of marriage partner. This is not different for the young from poor families. No government regulation affects the age at which young men marry.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young men to have an independent household. It is because many young men do not have permanent means of generating an income, which disturbs the family life. Those who run an independent household usually have support from their parents in terms of cash or land for sharecropping. In most cases after marriage the couple are assisted by parents for a maximum of about two years. However, there is a difference for young men from poor households. The young men from poor households may not get assistance for a long period of time after they marry. They are expected to establish an independent life as their parents have nothing to assist them.

### Migrating

The young men are commonly migrating for work at the age of 18 or 20. They migrate to Dire-Dawa (to teach Quran), Addis Ababa (for work as daily labourer), Sudan (to be employed as driver) and seasonally to Jimma to be employed on construction sites as daily labourer. However, the number of migrants is decreasing because those who already migrated may face challenge in getting difficulties in finding work, which refrains others form migrating. However, there is no change in the places that they are going. I do not know anyone who has returned after migrating or who had a problem with migrating. I do not have a plan to migrate in the future.

### Living in the community

I like to live in the community because the environment is comfortable and the relations within the community are good. The area is peaceful. I do not have something I dislike. The community is changing: five years ago there were fewer houses but now it is increasing. Even there were houses made of grass. Now all of this is changed to corrugated iron sheets. I hope in five years there will be further expansion and the kebele will be larger town that now.

In the community there are different ethnic groups and religions. However, young people do not socialise in special groups and there is no conflict among those groups. There is also no risk of violence to young men.

My parents do not have worries about what I do or what might happen to me. They do not try to control what I do. I do not spend any time drinking or chewing chat or smoking.

I know about HIV/AIDS and its causes from civic and ethical education course at school. I do not know cases of HIV/AIDS in the community. I did not come across individuals who are infected with this disease.

To have sexual relations for young men is not common and I do not know anyone who has such relation.

### The economy

The community is richer than two or three years ago. There are a number of young men who owned property and were able to marry and to start to live independent household. There is an increase in the number of tea houses and shops which indicates the wealth status of the community. There is also a change in farming because people better started to diversify their production and engaged in production of vegetables though it is at home garden level and just the start. The community are also able to produce more coffee and use improved seed varieties and fertilizer better than they did before. Young men also engage in planting of coffee and chat more than before. However, I do not notice any change in livestock production and in opportunities to work off the farm. There is a decline in outmigration and there are no incoming migrants. The inequality among households is not growing. I think there is no change.

The youth in poor households attend his education better than the richer ones. This is because the poor’s only hope is education for his future while young men form rich households usually do not care for education as they will be able to engage in business activities with the help of their parents.

The young men from poor households usually strive to help themselves and their parents, engaging in different daily labour activities while the young men from rich households work in their parents’ shop to assist them and do not need to suffer to find out their living.

Regarding establishing an independent livelihood, the young men from rich household have good opportunities as they easily access start-up capital from their parents while young men from poor households cannot find start-up capital to engage in different livelihood activities and face challenge to do so. This is also true in relation to marrying and setting up independent household. The young men from poor households are disadvantaged in all respects. To set up an independent household the young men from poor households cannot get assistance from their parents while the young men from rich households get land, coffee plants and other support that enable them to do so.

### Religion

Many of the community members spend their time on religious activities. However, there might be a few individuals who are not interested in religious activities. They are ‘duriye’ (deviant) who usually set idle and chew chat and are not controlled by their parents.

There are three religions: Muslim (sofia and wahibiya sects), orthodox Christian and protestant. They differ in their doctrine. Many young people are getting more interested in religion maybe because they become better aware about religion than other community members as they better follow different media and have good information about it. In my religion no missionaries come from outside and I do not know young people who went to places outside the community to learn about religion. The religious rules have become stricter over time following the awareness of the community.

There have been no disagreement among the leaders of the different religions and ordinary people from different religions live peacefully together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religion. There are cases when individuals change from Muslim to orthodox Christian and vice-versa. They do not face any problem in doing so. There have been no particular incidents of conflict.

I cannot see that my religion gets involved in developmental activities apart from spiritual activities. The only thing is that the religious organisations help the poor but this is in unorganized way i.e., not permanently. Rather, when individuals request for assistance the mosque attendants contribute and help the needy individuals.

### Politics

The youth have a good relation with the government. They usually come to the kebele to request for land. Recently the government has been giving a message to youth to get organized and create their own income earning activities. This massage is passed through 1-5 to the households and to the youth while they go to the kebele for their own purpose. The woreda did not provide advice and training for young people recently. No resources have been provided recently for young people for livelihood activities by the woreda.

This year, the kebele has given grazing land for some organized young people for farming. However, the community claimed that the grazing land is getting scarcer. Following a discussion with the community and the woreda officials the kebele took the land back from the youth.

No resource has been provided by the woreda for leisure and the government is not doing anything else for young people. Moreover, the woreda and the kebele should do more in supporting young people to engage in different livelihood activities.

The young people contribute to the development of the community through participating in soil and water conservation practice and assisting their elderly parents.

There is no pressure on young people to join ruling party and I do not know what benefit that party membership brings about as I am not a member.

There is no youth association league or federation in the kebele. There is no opposition party in the kebele. Many young people are not interested in politics and do not have good attitude about the government politics.

### Inter-generational relations

In my household the relation we have with my sister’s daughter and my sister is good. We respect each other, listen to each other and we generally understand each other. This is also true in many households. However, you may find a few individuals who do not respect their parents. The young people in general have a good respect for older people and need them to know the history and listen to folk tales from them. There is no tension between the adult and teenage generations.

## Poor male teenager 16

### Personal

I am living with my parent. I have three brothers and a sister. One of my brothers live in Addis Ababa and work in a cafe and two of my brothers live in Sudan. My sister got married and live in Doya (an area in Jimma zone). My father has 0.25 hectare of land on which we grow a few coffee plants and he had tea house though it is closed due to his health problem. One of my brothers who live in Sudan sends some remittance to assist the family. I also seasonally engage in coffee trading and harvesting to assist the family. Economically my parents are categorized as poor.

My father is getting sick and suffering from back bone problem. We have finished all the money that we have. Now he is left on bed.

I am 16 and attending grade 7. Academically I am a middle ranked student. I dropped out for a year in order to assist the family through trading activities and resumed schooling this year. In the last 12 months I assisted my parents in cultivating coffee, planting enset, maintenance of fence, working in our tea house, making coffee and fetching water. In the last 12 months I engaged in coffee trading activity and earned about birr 1000 which I used to buy a trouser, shoes and educational materials (pen and exercise books).

Due to the family problem I approached one business man called ‘Aba Jihad’ - a large coffee trader - and step by step I learned how the business goes being with him and later in 2000 E.C he gave me money and made me to buy coffee from the farmers and starting to sell for him for a commission of 0.25 cents per kg. Since then I have started to work with him. Aba Jihad is the one who assisted me to have the work.

The work affects my learning. During the coffee harvest period I am absent from class and I cannot focus on my education. However it does not affect my health. I like the work because it serves me as a means of income and with its income I am able to assist my parent. However, I dislike the work because it is seasonal and one cannot work throughout the year.

It is hard to combine the work with my education however in order to survive I have to engage in trading activities missing class during the coffee harvest period. There is school shift which is changed per week and we also celebrate Ethiopian nation and nationality days and Flag Day in well organized manner. We have also a celebration at the end of the academic year, called ‘parents’ day’, where we can receive our certificate in front of our parents.

Next year, I will continue with my education in parallel with trading activity during coffee harvest. However, if my brother who lives in Sudan agrees I will ask him for assistance and stop trading so as to concentrate on my education. I also have a plan to plant more coffee plants on my parents’ land.

In the rest of my time I read books and exercise books and play with friends. I am not interested with music and other arts. I am also not active in my religion but I want to be. I do not salat (the ritual prayer of Muslims). I was learning Quran with the assistance of my father however following his health problem I stopped. I do not do sport. I am also not active in politics. I do not belong to youth association, league or federation.

I spend time in socialising with friend in playing volleyball. None of my friends are girls and I do not have special girl friends. When I am at home I read my exercise books and work on my homework for my education.

In the future I want to go to Saudi Arabia after completing grade 12 to work and return after a while (after three or four years) so as to help myself and my parents. I know a daughter of my neighbour who lives there. She is well paid and helping her parents well. Hence, if I will go there I will be well paid and able to assist my parents and myself.

I do not have a plan to marry at the moment and do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. But I will marry at the age of 20-23. After marriage I want to have two children (1 male and 1 female). My parents will not be involved in the decision of whom I marry.

I have two role models. They are leading businessmen and rich enough. I want to be like them.

I hope I will work hard and achieve my target because I am a capable person. I do not have worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 16 year old boys

The old boys have good opportunity for education. However, those who complete grade 10 cannot find a job and sit idle. This in turn has negative implications and makes us not to attend and not feel confident in the value of education.

### Combining work and education

Young males of my age do not have work except assisting their parents. I think working as barber pays best. There are no kinds of work that are hard, dangerous and bad for my health. Most of the young males prefer to be organized and engage in trading activity. Some do farming to assist their parents, other work as barber and many of them seasonally engage in coffee trading activities (from October to December). There is not enough work in general that youth like to do.

I know about 10 young males of my age who are no longer in education. Moreover, it is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return particularly during coffee harvest period because many of them engage in harvesting and trading of coffee.

Planting and cultivation of coffee and chat will help young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the future longer-run.

There are many recent grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want. Some of them assist their parents in farming; others sit idle and chew chat. Moreover, there are two university graduates whom I know. They assist the family in farming and look for vacancies in different places.

It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele because usually the young men from poor households cannot get sufficient support for educational materials and the fees so in order to cover the expense they have to engage in different kinds of work which makes them busy and not to focus on their education.

None of the young people of my age get involved in drinking, theft, and smoking.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

Young males of my age do not get access to their own farmland. About 2 or three of my friends want to be farmers and 2 or three others want to stay in the community involving in trading activities. A smaller number (fewer than 2) want to migrate to Sudan and more of them (about 5) of them want to join university and have formal job.

The young men in their twenties make a living through mainly trading coffee seasonally and saving the money to use throughout the year. Others depend on their parents. They cultivate coffee and chat for their parents and at the harvest season the parents give them some money. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because they do not get sufficient assets from their parents to establish an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The young can marry at the age of 18. However, I do not know anyone who got married at his age. Many of them marry at above 25 because of the inability of establishing an independent livelihood at 18. I do not have friends who got married. The advantage of marriage is to have a sexual partner and legitimate children. The problem of being married is that it is suffering if you do not have a sufficient income to manage the household properly. Marriage without having a permanent income means leading the worst life. If you have income marriage is good and does not have disadvantage. The parents are not involved in their sons’ choice of marriage partner. Nothing is different for young men from poor households. No government regulation affects the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young men to set up an independent household. Some work as agriculture labourer and some also work as daily labourer in construction sites in Jimma. There are also some who get support from their family, mainly farmland for coffee plantation.

After marriage the couple should live in an independent house. Usually it is not allowed for married couples to live with parents. Though the period varies, in many cases the married couple live with parents for about a maximum of six months if they did not construct an independent house. The common case is that the young men construct a house prior to marriage and after marriage they directly start to live in their house. This is not different for young men from poor households.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate to Sudan usually at the age of 18-20. The number of migrants is increasing over time. In earlier time many of them wanted to travel to Sudan however, now a number of young men shifted to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. I do not know anyone who has returned after migrating and do not know anyone who has had a problem with migrating or whilst travelling. I will migrate to Saudi Arabia because I will be well paid there. I will migrate alone.

### Living in the community

I like everything about living in the community including the environment, the social relations and cooperation among the community members. I do not have something I dislike. The community is changing. In five years of time many houses, shops, teashops and other business centres will be constructed and the kebele will be urbanized with a high population size.

There is no tendency to socialize young people in special groups and there is no any conflict among the different groups of the community. There are no risks of violence to young men. The area is peaceful to live. My parents have no worry about me and do not try control me. I do not spend any time drinking and/or chewing chat and/or smoking.

I know about HIV/AIDS. It is transmitted through sexual intercourse and contaminated needles, blades etc. I do not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. I also do not know if young men have sexual relations and take care against contracting HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three years ago. There is also change in farming. People started to use fertilizer and improved seeds better than they did due to regular follow-up by DAs in the kebele. This in turn makes them more productive than ever before. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. I do not see a change in livestock production. The number in migration out of the community to Sudan and Saudi Arabia is increasing. However there is no change in relation to migrants in to the community.

The life of a youth of my age in a very rich house is different from the life of one in a poor house. It may differ in the quality of the clothes they wear and the shoes they have. The one from the rich house has clothes that he regularly changes and neat clothes while the poor may not have more than one and his parents may have the capacity to buy him new clothes once a year. There are also some who cannot afford to buy one set of clothes for their children once a year.

In terms of education, work, establishing an independent livelihood, getting married and setting up an independent household the young men from rich households have a better chance to achieve their dream because they get good support from their family while the ones from poor households may not get sufficient support to enable them to attain what they want. Hence, it is hard for young men from poor houses.

### Religion

Many people in the community spend much time on religious activities. However there are a few who do not have interest in it. There are three religions: Muslim, orthodox Christian and protestant. I do not know their difference in detail but they have different rules. Many young people are getting more interested in religion and I do not know why. In Muslim religion there is no missioners who come from outside to teach and I don’t know anyone who has gone outside the community to learn about religion.

The religious rules have become stricter over time. There have not been any disagreement among leaders of the different religions and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions. There have been no any particular incidents of conflict. The mosque assists the poor through collecting contributions from the followers.

### Politics

The relationship between the government and the youth is good. The government is passing the message that the youth need to be organized to create their own means of income and generate business. This is passed through TV and the kebele officials also informed parents in meetings. The woreda did not provide any training and advice recently. It did not provide any resources for livelihood activities by young people. The kebele did not provide land for young men recently. The woreda did not provide resource for leisure and no young men from the community use it.

The government does not do anything else for young people. The woreda and the kebele should work to enhance and strengthen the livelihood of young people through designing and adopting different strategies.

The young people contribute for the development of the kebele through engaging in developmental activities such as natural resource management and road construction in the kebele.

There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party. There is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. The young people are not willing to involve in government politics. They are careless in this regard. There is no opposition political party in the area and the young people are also not interested with it.

### Inter-generational relations

Rich There is good respect in the family. I respect and accept what my parent and leading adults order to me. In my household there is good respect and understanding between the young and adult generations, which is a good thing. However, a few young people do not respect and accept what the parents and leading adults order to them. In the community in general the relation between the adult and the teenager generations is good. There are no main tension points. The main thing that brings the adult and teenage generations together is message form one household to another household and the religious activities.

## Male teenager 19

### Personal

I am living with my parents. I have three brothers and one sister. One of my elder brothers went to Saudi Arabia eight years ago and lives there. My parents are living from farming and also get remittances from my brother. They are categorized as middle household.

I am 20 years old and completed grade 6. Academically I was ranked as middle performing student. I dropped out from school four years ago because I failed to pass to the next class. Then I decided to drop out.

In the last 12 months I assisted my parents in farming, planting coffee and chat. However I did not assist in domestic work because my sister managed it.

Last year with the remittances from my brother, I started to work on selling goods in a shop in my parents’ house. We organized with three people (my friend, my brother and myself) and opened up the shop. However, I am the one who is working in the shop. Hence, in the last 12 months I mainly was working in the shop. Moreover, I sold a small amount of coffee that my parents gave me.

Before we started working in the shop, someone rented my room and sold different shop products in it. Later on when my brother sent me some money I organized with the brother who is living at home and a friend and started up the shop in which we sell consumable products. I am the one who decided to work in the shop and my parents and brothers assisted me to open it. I do not know how much I earned in the last 12 months from the shop. I used all the money I earned to expand and equip the shop with products. The work has not affected my health and education (as I already had stopped). I like working in the shop because it creates for me a job opportunity and makes me earn an income. I do not dislike anything about the work. I have a plan to resume my education next year simultaneously with the shop activity.

During my rest time I assist my parents in keeping of cattle. I am not interested in music or other arts. I am active in my religion. I regularly salat (the ritual prayer of Muslims) and attend Quran education. I do not participate in politics and I do not do any sport. I do not belong to the youth association, league or federation. I don’t know if these organizations exist in the kebele.

I spend time socialising with friends through playing different games including football and folk tales. None of my friends are girls and I do not have special girl friend. When I am at home I watch TV.

In the future I want to stay in the community engaging in trading activities and expand my shop activities more than I do now.

I have a plan to resume my education arranging my work program. I will assign my friends/ the members of the cooperative/ to work in the shop while I will go for schooling. I do not have a plan to marry and do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. But I will marry after I work for some years and accumulate some money. After marriage I want to have 3 boys.

I do not have a role model but I want to have money like one rich person in our kebele. I have hope that I will be what I want because I am healthy and able to work hard. I do not have worries about the future.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The opportunity is that if youth are organized they can easily access credit service. Moreover, there is also education opportunity if they want to learn. There is no sufficient job opportunity for the youth.

### Combining work and education

Most of the youth do not have their own work rather they are dependent on their parents (they assist and work for them).

Trading (shop) and barber work are paid best. Moreover, coffee harvesting and selling also pays best but it is seasonal. There are no kinds of work that are hard, dangerous and bad for my health. In earlier time (when the youth were organized to crush stone and this was operating well) stone crushing was hard and bad for the health. But now the group rarely works.

In the kebele there is no sufficient jobs that enable young men to do what they would prefer. Hence, they engage in coffee harvesting and selling seasonally (from the months of October to December).

I know more than 20 young males of my age who are no longer in education. Moreover, it is common for young males to drop out of education for a while and then return because during the coffee harvest season many of them engage in coffee harvesting and trading.

If young males have access for farmland and start working on irrigation to grow vegetable and fruits it will help them to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the future long-run.

There are a number of recent grade 10 and 12 graduates living in the community who cannot find the kind of work they want. Some of them assist their family in farming and others are trying to have a driving license to go to Sudan and be hired as driver. However, there are no unemployed college graduates living in the community. All the graduates join different organizations to work.

It is not harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele. Because the schooling is in shift hence both individuals from poor and rich households can arrange their program accordingly. The young people are commonly involved in chat chewing but drinking, theft and smoking is not common among them.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I know about 5 young males of my age who have got access to their own farmland. However, many of them do not have their own farmland. A reasonable number of my friends want to be farmers through sharecropping, some want to stay in the community engaging in trading activities and also a large number of them want to migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia. But I do not know young people who want to join university and get a formal job.

The young men in their twenties engage in farming on their family land; some attend school. Others, very few of them, organized to start up animal fattening. It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because those youngsters may face difficulty to get land from their parents as they may not have enough land. Hence, due to lack of support from their family, young men from poor households find it hard to establish an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The young men can get married from 18 and above. But I do not know anyone who married at this age. Many of them marry at 23 and above because they do not need to marry until they have constructed an independent house. None of my friend got married.

The advantage of marriage is just to find someone with whom to work together and to have legitimate sex and children. The problem is that if you do not have sufficient income you lead the worst life with your partner and fail to manage your household properly. The challenge is that if you do not have an independent house it is difficult to marry as the parents do not allow you to live with them. Hence, one needs to construct a house before marriage, which is challenging. The parents do not involve in their sons’ choice of marriage partner. This is not different for young men from poor households. The government regulations do not affect the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is difficult for young men to set up an independent household. Some work in farming for others and there are also a few who engage in farming a small plot of their own shared from their parents. But it is challenging to establish an independent household.

Usually men get married after having their own house but if not they may be allowed a maximum of one year to live with their parents and to construct an independent house. This is not different for young men from poor households.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia at 20 and above. The number of migrants is increasing over time with some change in destinations. Previously many of them liked to migrate to Sudan as the travel expense is relatively low. However nowadays, they prefer to go to Arab countries such as Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

I do not know and did not meet anyone who has returned after migrating. However there are many cases for which I heard about the challenges they faced. I heard the case of a person who returned back with his money stolen by thieves. There are also individuals who won challenge of the travel and reached Sudan and are now sending good remittances to their family. My brother went legally through an agency and reached without any challenge. I do not want to migrate.

### Living in the community

I like living in the community because of its good environment and good relations and assistance of the community members. I like everything about living in the community and do not dislike anything. The community is changing and in five years the number of traders and population size will increase, many more shops, tea houses, grain mills will be constructed and the community will further expand. The kebele will become a bigger rural city than it is now.

There is no tendency to socialise young men in special groups and there is no conflict among different groups of the community. The area is peaceful to live. There are no risks of violence to young men. I am living with my family and they do not have worry about me and they do not try to control me. I do not spend any time drinking and/or smoking but I chew chat with friends.

I know about HIV/AIDS as it has no cure and is transmitted through unsafe sex and using contaminated needles. I do not know cases of HIV/AIDS in the community. I do not know whether young men have sexual relations as this thing is usually secret. I also do not know how common it is for young people having sexual relations to take precautions against contracting HIV/AIDS.

### The economy.

The community is richer than it was two or three year ago which is manifested in the increase in number of traders, improvement in farming activities, and construction of new corrugated iron sheet houses. There is change in farming. The farmers started to diversify and to produce coffee and chat in larger quantity, to produce fruits and also to use improved seed variety and fertilizer in an appropriate way more/better than before. However, there is no change in livestock production as many people focus on farming and production of coffee and chat. There are no changes in opportunities to work off the farm. There is an increase in the number of migrants outside the community. However, there is no change with regard to migration in the community.

The inequality among households has grown. There is no difference in the life of a youth of my age in a very rich household with the life of one in poor house. More or less they live in the same way in terms of style of clothing, food they eat and other things. However there are differences regarding education, work, establishing an independent livelihood, getting married, and setting up an independent household. It is harder for young men from poor households to achieve all this because they usually do not get assistance from their parents while the young men from very rich households get good assistance from their parents that enable them to achieve their dreams.

### Religion

The people do not spend much of their time on religious activities rather they go to mosque based on the program, usually on ‘Juma’ (Friday). There are some people who are not very interested in religion. There are three main religions: Muslim (sofia and Wahhabi /has many followers/), orthodox Christian, and protestant. These religions are different in the doctrine they follow. There are many young people who are interested in religion and I do not know why. In my religion (Muslim) there are no missionaries who come from outside to teach. Moreover, I do not know anyone who went outside the community to learn religious education. The religious rules have become stricter over time. There have been no disagreements among leaders of the different religions and ordinary people from different religions live peaceably together. It is also easy for different household members to belong to different religious and there have been no any particular incidents of conflicts.

The mosque is involved in helping poor and needy individuals through attendants’ contribution. During crop harvest the mosque attendants contribute grain to assist poor, handicap, widowed and other needy people.

### Politics

The youth and government have a good and smooth relation. The government passed a message encouraging the youth to get organized and create their own income generating activities. The message was passed though kebele officials and the mosque. The wereda has provided no advice or training for young people recently. Two years ago and recently the woreda officials called the youth and their parents for meeting together at the kebele office. However, none of the youth attended. Hence, no advice and training has been provided. However, the woreda facilitated the credit service for the organized youth for livelihood activities.

Two years ago the kebele provided some land for organized youth to engage on nonfarm activities[[1]](#footnote-1). The woreda do not provide resource for leisure and none of young men from the community use them. The government is doing nothing for young people. The woreda and the kebele should work on encouraging the youth to create income generating activities in order to decrease the unemployment rate in the community.

The young people have contributed labour for natural resource management and road construction in the community.

There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party. There is no youth association, league or federation. Young people do not want to participate in government politics and do not say anything about it. There is no opposition political party in the kebele as well.

### Inter-generational relations

In the household we respect each other. My younger’ respect me and obey me when I order them something I also do the same. We also have good relation with the leading adults. They are well respected and listened in the household.

The good thing is that there is good respect and acceptance for adults in the community. The problem is that there are a few young people who do not respect and accept what they are ordered by adults. In general there is a good relationship between adult and teenage generations and there are no main tension points between then. The main thing that brings the elders and the young generation together are religious activities and places.

## Middle-wealth male teenager 19

### Personal

I am living with my parents. I have 5 brothers and 2 sisters. My elder sister was married but now she became widowed and engaged in trading activities and she lives with us. My father lives from farming and grows cereal crops, coffee, chat, avocado and others. My household is categorized as middle economic status.

I am 19 and completed grade 9. I was among the top ten students. I dropped out two years ago because I got sick and couldn’t attend my education. In the last 12 months I engaged in farming, fire wood collection, construction of separate cattle house, fetching water and even making ‘wot’ for my family.

I also engaged in independent income generating activities including daily labour (stone loading and unloading), and work as bread baker for the tea house owner. No one decided about the work I did and no one assisted me to find the work. I myself strove to find it and contacted the owner of the tea house and started working. I have tried to look for any available job and even though I have a dream to be rich, all the work I do serves me as a stepping stone to achieve my dream in the long run. Roughly I earned more than birr 8000 in the last 12 months. I used the money to buy some household equipment for my parent, constructed an independent cattle house, bought clothes for myself, hired a female servant who assists my mother, and took my brother to the medical centre when he got sick. I also gave a loan for an individual whom I know when he faced financial problem.

The work did not affect my health. Of the works, I like planting coffee and avocado most as it is easy and I enjoy cultivating them. However, I don’t dislike any job as long as I am paid.

Next year, if God allows me I will resume my education and want to open my own bread bakery as soon as possible.

In the rest of my time I assist my parents in planting and cultivation of coffee and avocado. I am not interested in arts and music because my religion forbids it. I am active Muslim follower who regularly attends mosque for salat. I do not involve in politics. I used to perform techando and other aerobic activities but now due to time constraint I stopped. I am not a member of youth association, league or federation. There are no such organizations in our kebele. When I get free time I spend it with friends to chew chat. None of my friends are girls and I do not have special girl friend. When I am at home I read religious books apart from assisting my parents.

In the future I want to stay in Somodo having my own business such as bread bakery and other trading activity. Next year I will continue my education and will have a schedule to combine my work and schooling.

I do not have a plan to get married in the near future, but will marry after having my own house. After marriage I want to have four children (2 males and 2 females). I do not have an agreement with a girl to marry in the future. My parents will not be involved in the decision of who I will marry.

I have a role model who is a known trader and business man in the kebele. I appreciate him because he was a very poor person but through hard work he became richer over time.

I have good hope that I will be a business person in the community. However, my problem is that I have a malarial disease which frequently relapses. This worries me and my health might be an obstacle preventing me from attaining my dream.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

The opportunities are due to good communication and peace, the youth can work anywhere, and they also have good education opportunities which enable them to live a better life. However, the problem is the youth themselves are highly addicted with chat chewing and cannot concentrate on what they work and are selective in the work they want to do. Many of them do not like to work so they simply claim that the government must create jobs for them in their home area. They are healthy but sit idle like a sick person just chewing chat.

### Combining work and education

Most of the young men of my age do not work even though there is work. Only some of them work. The jobs which pay best are planting coffee and chat if you have land. Stone crushing is one of the hardest ones and is dangerous and bad for one’s health. The youth would prefer to drive a car but they do not have license and cannot get the job. Seasonally (mainly from October to December) many youth engage in harvesting and trading coffee, which is well-paid work. There not enough work that youth would like to do more but there are many jobs that the youth do not want to do (for example daily labour). There are some young men who are no longer at school. It might be about 20 or more.

Dropping out particularly during the coffee harvest season is common in the area. Many students drop out for a while and then return back.

If they start planting of coffee and engaging in irrigation will help young males to establish and independent livelihood in the community in the future longer-run. There are many recent grade 10 and 12 graduate young males in the community who sit idle and chew chat. Only a few of them assist their parents in farming and other activities. However, I did not come across young men who graduated recently and are unemployed. Many of them got employment in different areas. Many of the jobless young men do not involve in drinking alcohol, theft and smoking. Only a few do it. However, chewing chat is common practice for all.

It is harder for young men from poor households to combine work and education in the kebele. It is because the young men from poor households are usually expected to work much in order to fulfil their basic needs and this hinders their concentrating on their education. While those who are from rich households usually have less work burden (usually just assisting the family) and other responsibilities such as to fulfil the young man’s needs is up to their family. Hence, they get a better chance to focus on their study.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

I only know 3 young men who got access to their own farmland from sharing from their parents. A few of my friends (about 2) want to be farmers accessing land through sharecropping. Another few of them want to stay in the community involving in different non-farm activities such as petty trade, tea house etc. Many of them want to migrate for work to Sudan and Arab countries. A very few, not more than one individual I know want to join university and get formal job.

There are young men whom I know who work on daily labour activities such as loading and unloading stone, carrying wood, agricultural labour and etc. During coffee harvest season they also harvest coffee on a daily basis.

It is harder for young men from poor households to establish an independent livelihood because they cannot get sufficient assistance from their parents to do so. While the ones from rich households get sufficient support including a share of land and coffee plants that enable them to establish an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The young male can marry at 18 however I know only 2 individuals who got married at this age. Most of the young men marry at 25 or above. At this age i.e. 25, many of my friends got married.

The advantage of marriage is you get someone who assists and supports you in different aspects both in ideas as well as economically. Moreover, it is through marriage that is appropriate to have legitimate sex and children. The disadvantage of being married is that if you do not have sufficient income it is very difficult to manage the household and lead a proper life. However, the challenge of being married is that due to market inflation it needs too much money to arrange the marriage ceremony.

In most cases the parents do not involve in their sons’ choice partner and they accept what he prefers. This is also true for young men from poor households. There is no government regulation that affected the age at which young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is not easy for young men to set up an independent household. Some work on daily labour and accumulate till they construct an independent house. In fact those from rich households get gifts of land and coffee plants that enable them to establish an independent household. After marriage the couples only stay for few years (1-2) with their parents till they construct an independent house. However, the period during which the couple stays with their parents varies from parents to parents. Orthodox Christian parents do not allow the couple to stay long with them. In any case the couples are recommended to have their own independent household after marriage. There is no difference for young men from poor households.

### Migrating

Migration is a common practice in the area and increasing over time. Many of the young men migrate to Sudan, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. In previous years many young men went to Sudan as the travelling cost is relatively low to work as driver, assistant or different work. However, since two years, many of them started to shift to Arab countries. I heard of one individual from Somodo who faced challenges while migrating to Sudan illegally. Thieves stole his money and he couldn’t get more money to continue his journey. As a result with the assistance of people he returned back to Somodo. Now I do not know what he is doing and where he is living.

I do not have a plan to migrate from Somodo.

### Living in the community

I like to live in the community because I love my parents and the environment is comfortable for living. I do not have something that I dislike living in the community.

The community is changing. In earlier time there were houses constructed with grass while now all of them are of corrugated iron sheets. Many houses have been constructed and others are under construction. Accordingly, after five years the kebele will be changed into an urban centre where many tea houses, shops and good hotels will be constructed.

The kebele is peaceful and there is no tendency to socialize young people in special groups. There is also no conflict between different groups found in the community. There are no risks of violence to young men. My parents have no worries about what might happen to me and what I might do. They do not try to control what I do but in rare cases my father asked me how my day was. I do not spend my time in drinking and smoking but while I am free I chew chat with friends. I know about HIV/AIDS and its cause from my course of civics and ethical education at school. However, I do not know a person infected with the disease and how many individuals are infected in the community. I also do not know young men who have sexual relation and the problem is not common in the area.

### The economy

The community is not richer rather they got poorer. The productivity is very high and people are able to diversify their farming more than ever before. However, market inflation is very high and many people reached a point where they cannot properly cover their family demands through selling their products. There is a change in farming and the community is better using fertilizer and improved seed varieties and diversifying their farming than two years ago. However, I couldn’t observe any change in livestock production. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. The number of out-migrants is increasing over time. However, there are no in-migrants in the community. I do not think that inequality among households is growing.

The life of young men in rich and poor household is incomparable. In terms of education both young men from poor and rich households got education opportunity but it is harder for the young from poor households to combine work and education. Hence, some of them drop out from school before completing grade 10. Regarding work, the young men from rich households easily establish an independent livelihood as they get good support from their parents in terms of land, crop and coffee plant. However, this is not easily possible for young men from poor households. The same is true to get married and setting up an independent household. All these things are relatively easier for young men from rich households than for the poor ones.

### Religion

Many community members spend their time on religious activities; a few of them are not interested in religious activities. There are three religions in the community: orthodox Christian, Muslim and protestant. They differ in the doctrine that attendants follow. Young men are more interested in religion because they may get more awareness about it. No missionaries in my religion came from outside to teach. I do not know young people who went to places outside the community to learn about religion. The religious rules have become stricter than before and people also started to go to mosque.

There have been no disagreements among leaders of the different religions and the ordinary people from different religions live peacefully together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions and there has been no particular incidence of conflict. In addition to spiritual activities my religion (Muslim) also assists poor and needy individuals through contributions from mosque attendants.

### Politics

The relation between government and youth is smooth. The government passed a message through the kebele officials for the youth to be organized and create their own economic activities. The kebele officials pass the message when the youth visit the kebele in order to request access for farmland. Two years ago the woreda provided training for youth about getting organized and even they made the kebele to provide land for organized youth. They also allowed the youth to access credit to run their business. However, now all these services (provision of land and credit access) stopped. The kebele did not provide any land for young men recently. The woreda did not provide any resource for leisure. Since recently the government, the woreda and the kebele are doing nothing else for young people. The young people are not willing to involve in development activities and the kebele also do not use them for such activities.

There is no pressure on young people to join ruling party and there is no opposition party in the community. There is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. The young people also do not want to involve in political activities and do have a negative attitude towards the government politics.

### Inter-generational relations

In my household we respect each other and I accept what my parents ordered me to do. In many households there is good respect between young men and parents and leading adults. The good thing is that the adult generation gets acceptance and guides the youngster through sharing their experiences for the family members. However, the problem is that there are a few individuals who do not respect leading adults and their parents.

Apart from the household level, religion is the main thing that brings the young and adult generations together. Both generations meet and share different experiences during religious activities. Generally speaking there is no main tension between them.

## Poor male teenager 19

### Personal

I am living with my parents. My mother died fourteen days ago. My father has three children including myself. I am the last child in my family. My elder brother is police man and work and live in Ambo. My sister got married and is living in Bedelle. Now only my father and I live together.

My father has no land except the garden land which is about 0.25 hectare and he lives from selling ordinary sheep in the market. We are categorised as poor household.

I am 20 years old and attended school up to grade 5. I dropped out from school eight years ago because of economic reasons, engaging in coffee bean collection to help myself.

In the last 12 months (mainly in the months of October to December) I bought fresh coffee beans from farmers and sold it to traders with a profit and supported my family with the profit I earned. Moreover, I worked as broker of chat with a commission. Mainly I facilitate the transportation to send chat from Somodo to other nearby towns. However, I did not work for households as there is no farming or other activities. Regarding domestic work I ordered little children to fetch water for my mother paying them some money.

The work of selling coffee is good but it needs capital to buy and sell more coffee to traders and get more profit. I bought the coffee with the money I got from the trader to whom I sell. I started this job after looking how other community members do and learned from them.

Moreover, I engaged in brokering chat with the assistance of my friend who initiated me and started to work in the area.

No one decided for me what kind of work I do but I engaged in the works because I do not have any alternative jobs and the jobs I engaged in relatively require less capital/there is the possibility to get capital from traders (for coffee selling). The nature of the work needs collaboration of individuals. No one successfully does it alone. Hence, I work with collaboration and assistance of my friends

Last year roughly I got about birr 1500 from coffee selling and about birr 500 from brokering chat. With this money I bought clothes and shoes, used for food consumption as I eat outside, and supported my family. The works do not affect my health and education (as I had already stopped school).

I do not like these jobs but I do it just for survival because you cannot regularly work and get an income as the job is seasonal.

In future if I get a chance to secure another job I want to proceed with my education.

During the rest of my time I play with friends or chew chat. I do not have interest for music and art. I am not active in religion but I regularly salat on time. I am also not active participant in politics. I do not do sport. I am not a member of youth association, league or federation. There are no such organizations in our kebele. I have plenty of time and usually stay with friends chewing chat. None of my friends are girls and I do not have special girl friend.

I want to stay in the community because I love to stay with my community. I will strengthen my economic activities particularly trading coffee and planting coffee through sharecropping land. After strengthening my economic activities I have a plan to start my education.

At the moment I do not have a plan to marry. I do not have any agreement with a girl to marry in the future. I will marry only when I will be able to get a sufficient income that serves to have a good life. After marriage I want to have 4 children (2 male and 2 female). My parents will not be involved in the decision of whom I will marry except accepting on my preference.

I do not have role model but I want to be like individuals who achieved well economically.

I have hope that I will do and achieve all my targets. But I worry about getting land for growing coffee plants - this may create a problem on my future plan.

### Opportunities for 19 year old boys

There is no opportunity for 19 years old boys. They attend school however they cannot pass the next class and join university. After returning back from school they sit idle chewing chat. They are suffering from the lack of job opportunities and many of them migrate to abroad. Hence, I cannot see any opportunity for the young boys but only problems facing them.

### Combining work and education

Many of the young males of my age do not have work. In the area growing and selling of coffee and chat pay best. There is no dangerous work or work bad for the health but digging holes for coffee plantation is hard as the holes must usually be 50cmx50cm wide.

Those males who have land want to work on growing coffee and chat while others prefer to migrate as it is challenging to find a job which is well paid.

Some young males do fresh coffee harvesting from October to February, coffee planting in August and chat selling from May to August. However, in general there is not enough work for the youth.

There are more than about 100 youth who are no longer at school or attended to grade 6 and then sit idle. It is also common in the area to drop out especially during coffee harvest period then return back in the next season. This is because during this period youth engage in collection and selling of fresh coffee beans.

In the future if the young males start growing of coffee and chat, it will help the young males to establish an independent livelihood in the community in the future long run.

There are a number of youth who completed grade 10 and 12. Some of them assist their parents in farming; others work in collecting coffee; the rest sit idle and chew chat. There are also some recent graduate from the university. They are looking for vacancies in different organizations. However, none of them involve in drinking, smoking and theft.

It is harder for young men form poor households to combine work and education in the kebele. This is because if you are from a poor household, you are expected to strive to fulfil your educational materials and food expenses. You are maybe also expected to support your family. Hence, due to such burden you may fail to focus on your education.

### Establishing an independent livelihood

The young men do not have access to their own farm land but there are some whose family have land and are able to share them the land when they get married.

Of my friends some of them want to be farmers and stay in the community while many of them want to migrate for a better job opportunity. There are also some who want to stay in the community and involve in petty trading. However, only very few of them have a dream to join university. This is because the university life has ups and downs and challenges and it takes many years to graduate and at the end of graduation you may not be economically successful.

The young men in their twenties make a living differently based on their family back ground. Those from well-to-do families usually assist their family in planting coffee and get some share during harvest and for their marriage. They live a better life. While those from poor households engage in daily labour and others become dependent on their family and stay idle without any work. It is very much harder for young men from poor households than from well-to-do families, because the young men from poor families cannot get economic support from the family to establish an independent livelihood.

### Getting married

The young men can marry at 18. However, only very few of them marry at this age. The lion-share of the young men marry at 25 or above. I have a friend who married when he was 23.

If you get married you will be more responsible and will develop more concrete plans, you may spend your money reasonably as you don’t have to eat food from outside. However, if you do not get married you are not responsible and you do not care for yourself as you do in marriage, you may also suffer from different transmitted diseases as you do not have a permanent sex partner. The problem of marriage is however, that if you do not have a sufficient income you cannot manage your household properly and your wife will also suffer with you. Hence you will live the worst life.

The challenge to getting married is that the expenses for the marriage ceremony are very high. One may need a minimum of Birr 20,000. This in turn has a negative impact on how to establish one’s household. There is no difference for young men from poor households in getting married. There is no government regulation that affects the age at which the young men get married.

### Setting up an independent household

It is challenging for young men to set up an independent household. In order to do this some who have land work on their land. However others who do not have land engage in agricultural labour, some engage in sharecropping and also others send their wife abroad (Sudan and Saudi Arabia) so as to make her to bring some money. After marriage the couples are not allowed to live with the parents for a long period of time. Some only stay for about 4 months and we could say for a maximum of one year but not more than that.

### Migrating

It is common for young men to migrate to Sudan and Saudi Arabia at the age of 19 or 20. The number of migrants is increasing over time and there is change in the destinations. Previously many of them liked to migrate to Sudan. However, many of them tended to shift to Arab countries because I heard that there is deflation of the Sudanese currency and the migrants are better paid in Arab countries than in Sudan.

I did not meet anyone who has returned back after migrating. However, I heard though mass media and people that many of them especially those who try to migrate illegally face challenges during the travel and while working there due to disagreement with their employers.

### Living in the community

I like to live in the community because I love my parents, the environment and the society in general. I do not have something that I dislike.

The community is changing. In five years there will be more houses, shops, grain mills, teashops and other business centres (many mobile, radio, TV etc.). Hence the kebele will expand and become a good urban centre.

The kebele is peaceful and there is no tendency to socialize young people in special groups. There is no conflict between different groups found in the community. There are no risks of violence to young men. My parents have no worries about what might happen to me and what I might do. They do not try control what I do. I do not spend my time in drinking and smoking but I chew chat with friends.

HIV/AIDS is transmitted though unsafe sex and sharing contaminated needles, blades etc. However, I do not know how many cases of HIV/AIDS are there in the community. I also do not know young men who have sexual relation and how they take care against HIV/AIDS.

### The economy

The community is richer than it was two or three year ago. The productivity is very high and people are able to diversify their farming more than ever before. The community use fertilizer and improved seed varieties in a better way and are able to diversify their farm products. However, I cannot observe a change in livestock production. There is no change in opportunities to work off the farm. The number of out-migrants is increasing over time. There are no in-migrants to the community. The inequality among households is growing. You find a few very rich households and a number of very poor households who are unable to feed their family properly.

The young men from very rich houses have a better life than that of young men in poor households. This is reflected in their ability to afford educational materials, work, establish an independent livelihood, get married and set up an independent household. In all aspects the young men from poor households face more challenges to obtain what they want as they can have little or no support from their parents that enable them to achieve their dream.

### Religion

The community members spend their time on religious activities and some of them are not interested in it. There are three religions in the community: orthodox Christian, Muslim and protestant. All differ in the doctrine that attendants follow. Young men are more interested in religion - it may be because they become more aware about religion than before. No missionaries in Muslim religion came from outside to teach. I know one young man who went to Harer to learn about religion. The religious rules became stricter than before and people also started to go to mosque.

There have been no disagreements among leaders of the different religions and the ordinary people from different religions live peacefully together. It is easy for different household members to belong to different religions and there has been no particular incidence of conflict. In addition to spiritual activities the mosque assists poor and needy individuals through contributions from mosque attendants.

### Politics

The relation between government and youth is smooth. There was no government message passed to young people recently. No training and advice are provided by the woreda for young people. Moreover, no resources are provided by the woreda for young people’s livelihood activities and leisure. None of the young people are getting any benefit. The government, the woreda and the kebele are doing nothing else for young people. The kebele and woreda should do more to improve the livelihood of young people and reduce the problem of unemployment in the kebele. The young people are supposed to contribute to the development of the community through engaging in natural resource management, contributing labour for road construction and other related activities. There is no pressure on young people to join the ruling party and there is no youth association, league or federation in the kebele. The young people also do not want to involve in political activities and I think that they do not have a good attitude about the government politics. There is no opposition party in the community and none of the young men discuss about it.

### Inter-generational relations

In my household I respect my parents and listen to what they order to me. The good thing is that many young men have good respect for the older generation. However you find a few deviants who do not respect the adult generation and their parents, which is a problem.

In general there is a good relation between the adult teenager generations and there are no tension points between them. The main thing that brings the adult and the young together is religious activities. Usually they meet at the mosque and share different life experiences including about the religion.

1. I tried to check the land distribution issue in the Somodo. In the kebele before 2002 E.C the land (grazing land) was given for landless youth on an individual basis for farming at their village (landless individuals only access land from the grazing land available in their respective villages). However, since 2002 E.C the woreda ordered the kebele not to distribute land for landless youth on an individual basis and recommended to organize youth and provide free land (discussing with the community) for farming and non-farming activities. Hence, following this instruction, the kebele provided land for farming and non farming activities for organized youth. Later on (two years ago) many organized youth who got farmland shared the land and sold it out and used it to cover the transportation cost to migrate to abroad. Only about three organized youth are working on the land. Some who accessed non-farming land started to work on shops; other used it to construct a house. We also observed some individuals in the process of constructing a house on the land which is found around the kebele office. Moreover, just before our arrival at Somodo, the kebele officials distributed grazing land for organized youth. However, the community resisted saying that first we do not have sufficient grazing area and second the youth will not use it the land; rather they sell it and migrate. Hence, the officials from the woreda came and had discussion with the community and made the land to be taken back from the youth. And also ordered not to distribute land for youth hereafter. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)