



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Ethiopia: Dinki

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Dinki QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Dinki as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Six focus groups were held, divided by age and gender. Below are summaries of the answers given to a selection of questions.

The focus groups were asked what characteristics villagers aspire to have in their lives. Most mentioned a desire to rear cattle, and some male respondents noted a wish to have enough food and to have fertile land. The groups were then asked what people need in order to attain the good life. Most commented that it is essential to be hardworking, and a number of men mentioned that people aiming to lead the good life must have fertile land.

The focus groups were also asked what characterises life in their community. Malaria and drought were mentioned most frequently in answer to this question. Every male groups noted infertile land as a salient feature of the area, and all the female groups mentioned farming. The day-to-day goals of community members were then asked for, with self- and food- sufficiency being mentioned by most groups, along with the education of children. Every female group expressed a desire to raise livestock and every male group mentioned a wish to have a good family. Half of the groups commented that they aim to be able to save their products and have good health.

The groups were questioned about the characteristics of those living the good life in their community, and hard work was mentioned in answer to this by most. Every male group commented that these people have good families and money, and each female group mentioned that they possess livestock. Half the groups noted that they manage their homes well. The obstacles or challenges that hinder attainment of the good life were then asked for. Every group mentioned drought and bad weather, and crop pests or diseases were commented on by most, as were malaria or mosquitoes. Taxation was mentioned as a hindrance by all the male groups.

Semi-structured interviews were also carried out as part of the WeD QoL research. Twenty community members participated in this stage of data collection, although no young males formed a part of the sample. For some questions, no male participants gave answers, and the responses of the female interviewees are the only ones recorded.

Participants were asked to describe the characteristics of the life they aspire to have. Sufficient food was the most frequently mentioned response, and almost all of the male interviewees noted a desire to own oxen. Health, the education of children and owning good clothes were also commented on frequently, and having fertile land and sufficient money were mentioned by a number of male respondents. When asked what it takes to have the good life in this community, the majority of the female participants mentioned the need to own oxen and sufficient land. Cattle were also mentioned by half of them. Male respondents did not answer this question.

The interviewees were asked to list the characteristics of their lives that they wish to change. Weakness was one of the most frequently mentioned characteristics, with only old people commenting on it, and the possession of insufficient oxen or cattle was a preoccupation of middle aged males. Having insufficient children or children who are too young to work, and crop failure were each mentioned frequently by male participants. The respondents were then asked to compare their current state of life with their aspired one. All male participants noted their current state to be far inferior to their aspired one, and most female's commented that they were unhappy with their present situation, or that there were aspects of it that they wish to change.

Participants were asked to consider what makes their life worth living. Children were commonly mentioned in answer to this, as was crop production. They were then asked about the domain of their lives with which they find least to be happy about. Crop failure was the most frequently mentioned area. Women commented on malaria and an inability to work as aspects of their lives with which they find the greatest unhappiness, with the latter being mentioned by older women only. Poor health was noted as an area of dissatisfaction by a number of older respondents.

When asked about the aspects of their lives with which they were most happy, health, having relatives living close and children were the most frequently mentioned. The marriage of a daughter and receiving new clothes were commented on as the happiest events in people's lives. This question was only answered by female participants, as was the next question, which asked about the unhappiest events in participant's lives. The death of relatives was commented on most frequently, although a large number of participants stated that they could not remember their unhappiest moment.

Participants were asked what characterises individuals in their village who have achieved the good life, with only female respondents answering this question. Cows were mentioned by almost all respondents, as was having a corrugated roofed or good house. Having goats and donkeys were commented on by half of the participants. When asked how such an individual achieved the good life, almost all respondents commented that they were hard working. Savings, having no children and owning cattle were also frequently mentioned. This question was again only answered by women.

The Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, was also administered as part of the semi-structured interviews. Religion was the most frequently mentioned area, with almost all participants commenting on it. Most respondents also noted health and family as important. Children were commented on frequently, and women mentioned work as important to them in a number of interviews.