



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Ethiopia: Korodegaga

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Korodegaga QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Korodegaga 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.

Participants were asked to describe the characteristics of the life they aspire to. Schools and education were mentioned by almost all groups and the existence of roads, healthcare facilities and clean water in the village were also commented on as desirable by many groups. Most groups mentioned a wish to own a good, clean house, and half stated that they aspire to have a grinding mill in the village. The groups were then asked what people need to have in order to attain the good life in their community. Livestock was the most frequently mentioned response, and irrigation and ownership of large lands were also commented on a lot, as was the need to work hard.

The groups were asked what characterises their community. Drought was mentioned by all and most also commented that the lack of communication routes, i.e. road and bridge, is a salient feature of the area. Poverty and lack of health centre and grinding mills were noted as characteristics by many of the groups. All female groups mentioned lack of irrigation, and half the groups commented that crop failure and lack of markets defines the community. Groups were then questioned about the day-to-day goals of villagers. All groups mentioned livestock farming, and irrigation was commented on by most. Half the groups noted the education of children as a goal.

The focus groups were asked to name the characteristics of those living the good life in the community. Almost all mentioned that such a person must be hard working and that they should possess irrigated farms. They were then asked what challenges or obstacles there are to achieving the good life in this village. Drought was referred to in almost all of the discussions, and poverty was mentioned by half of the 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. The age of the male respondents was not recorded, so they have all been put together in one category.

Participants were asked what features of their lives they would like to change. Poverty was mentioned by most and lack of livestock was also commented on a number of times. Almost all male respondents mentioned lack of food in answer to this question. They were then asked to compare their current state of life with the one that they aspire to lead. All male respondents noted that their current situation is far worse than the one they hope for. Most women agreed with this but were generally more optimistic in their responses.

The interviewees were questioned about the things that make their life worth living. Almost all male respondents mentioned farming in their answer.

Children were also commented on by the majority of female participants. A number of male interviewees noted that having cattle and children who are working makes their lives worth living. When asked which domain of life it is hardest to be happy with, poverty and agriculture were the most frequently mentioned characteristics.

Participants were asked to recall the happiest events in their lives, or the aspects that they are most happy with. A good harvest was the most frequently mentioned aspect, shortly followed by health. When asked about the unhappiest events or aspects of their lives, drought and hunger were the most often mentioned responses, with the latter commented on only by male participants. Loss of livestock and poverty were both noted as important by a number of respondents.

The focus groups were asked to list the characteristics of people in their village who have attained the good life. Livestock was mentioned by almost all, and irrigation was commented on by most. A number of respondents mentioned that such people would own quality, iron roofed houses and hard work was commented on by many participants. Numerous interviewees noted that people living the good life in their community need large amounts of land, should have money and educate their children. Participants were then questioned about the way individuals living the good life have managed to achieve it. Hard work was mentioned by most as a characteristic, and irrigation was also commented on often, although only 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. Health was mentioned most frequently in answer to this question, with every male respondent commenting on the importance this has in their lives. Most participants also mentioned the education of children, and farms. Shelter, cattle and irrigation were commented on frequently, and peace or security and clothing were each mentioned by a number of participants.