

Sample Focus Group Discussion on Education

Now we would like to have a general discussion about education in this community. There are no right or wrong answers. Please share your true opinions and feelings with us. This discussion is confidential, so please feel free to be honest.

- a. How do people in this community see formal education? What do they think about it?
 - i. Do people in this community think that girls should have exactly the same education as boys? Why or why not?
- b. What are the benefits of Education for children in this community?
 - i. How are the benefits different for girls and boys? Why?
- c. What challenges do families in this community face when they send their children to school?
 - i. What types of families face the most challenges? What challenges do they face? Why do they face more challenges?
 - ii. Do parents of girls face different challenges than parents of boys when they send them to school? What challenges do they face? Why?
- d. What challenges do children in this community face when they go to school?
 - i. What challenges do girls face that are different from boys? Why?

Having an active PTA and GEAC is important to ensure a successful educational system in any community. It is especially important for improving access to education for girls. However, one difficulty is that PTA and GEAC's depend on volunteers to keep going. Volunteers are busy with other things, and sometimes they lose interest in PTA and GEAC activities. We would like your ideas about this issue.

- a. How can the School and Woreda Administration keep PTA and GEAC members, especially women, interested and engaged in the long term?
- b. How can we make sure that the PTA and GEAC include members from poor or marginalized families?
- c. Would it be desirable to have Adult Literacy/Numeracy classes for PTA and GEAC members? Would it be possible? How would it work (class times, places, who would teach, etc.)?
- d. It is not possible to give monetary or other material incentives, but are there other incentives that you can think of?

Thank you again for your time and participation!