



CULTURE INFORMATION AND PASTORALIST DEVELOPMENT
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THEY HAVE DROPPED OUT OF THE PROGRAM

Early marriage among young girls below 18 years has become a common phenomenon among Borana community in Sololo. FGM practice is 98% among young girls between 6 years to 12 years. This is a cultural practice which has refused to die out because the community leaders are still traditional.

Many of our supported OVC girls have fallen into this cultural practice. We as the program supporting girl child right have aired our view before the traditional leaders and the government authority in Sololo. Together with the office of district education officer the effort has gone in vain, because it was not supported by the community leaders. It has become very hard to change their attitude

These has caused poor performance among the children both boys and girls but with higher percentage among the girls. They start repeating classes and stagnating in one grade eventually opt to drop out of school in the pretense of poor performance. They are sent away to distance relative to hide for a good period of time and later get eloped away by a man and get married. This practices are supported by the care givers or parents.

Another cause of school dropout was age in appropriate in a class where most children are of the same age but one is much older than the rest hence find themselves not fit or unequal with others. Age in appropriate was as a result of delay in school enrollment and poor performance making children to repeat in the same class once or more than once.

Peer influence towards activities like BODABODA motorbike for transport of passengers from one destination to the other. They will get skill to ride the bikes and also operate as hired riders which will make them earn some money. Most of these children have indulged in drugs like chewing Miraa and smoking

Initially chronic absenteeism was observed and usually supported by parents because they engaged the children in other family chores. Children lacked parental guidance and counseling on importance of education. The care givers have not gone to school and still possess and maintain traditional and the same attitude.

Lack of employment for those who completed secondary school or post-secondary school level this might have discouraged the children and care givers not to appreciate importance and completing school but look for other avenues to have income which is hardly available.

The marriage is kept secret from the authorities and by the time it was known they have lived as husband and wife for 1 -3 months. The latest drop out and marriage was in February where I complained to DEO and the police arrested both the girl and man who married. The marriage was cancelled by both the families of the girl and the boy, but the case was taken to Moyale court but under unexplained circumstances they two children disappeared and are not found up to now. It is believed that they crossed to north eastern side in pastoralist community and hiding to make people forget and resurface again as married couple with a child

The table below summaries the children who have dropped out of school and some were married

No	OVC Name	OVC NO.	Care giver	Location	Last grade	Current staus	Year dropped out
1	Diramu Guracha	0309	Rufo guracha	Golole	Class 8	Married	2014
2	Buke Abdi	0146	Mother died	Golole	Class 7	Married	2014
3	Tume Dida	0379	Tume hussein	Sololo	Class 8	married	2015
4	Saafu Racha	0030	Diqo manage	sololo	Class 5	At home	2015
6	Malicha waqo	0371	Buke dima	Madoadi	Class 6	Married	2014
7	Dabo waqo	0028	Buke dima	madoadi	Class 4	married	2014
8	Saafu tarata	0039	Malicha tarata	madoadi	Class 4	At home	2013
9	Kula bonaya	0177	Loko bonaya	Madoadi	Class 5	At home	2014
10	Guyo Galgalo	0106	Halima galgalo	Madoadi	Class 3	In Nairobi	2013
11	Tume waqo	0311	Daki bonaya	Madoadi	Form 2	At home	2014
12	Waqo halkano	0137	Elema adi	Anona	Class 5	At home	2014
13	Nuria abdi	0366	Mother died	golole	Special needs class	At home	2014
14	Buke abdi	0146	Mother died	golole	Class 7	married	2014
15	Diramu bonaya	0017	Qaliti bonaya	makutano	Class 6	Care giver for sick mother	2013
16	Nasibo Aroba	0225	Aroba chachole	Makutano	Class 4	At home	2013
17	Diramu Aroba	0226	Aroba chachole	makutano	Class 3	In moyale	2013

I have persuaded Saaforacha to go back to school but she categorically refused. The care taker being elderly has been defeated and hence accepted the drop out.

It will require the effort of all stakeholders and initiative to reverse this trend of poor performance, school dropout and early marriage among the school children in Sololo.

This report is to give update on the status of the children who have dropped out of school and those who were married. The recommendation is to deregister them from the program as we present the situation to the next OVC management meeting next month for approval to remove them from the program.

Those willing to take up vocational training may be supported to do so

The spaces left out should be replaced by the new list of OVC to be added to the program.

Caregivers with no child to support should also be removed from the program

We are updating our register to establish class levels and transition to the next class.

Thank you

Gufu Guyo

Project coordinator