

January 22, 2008

Engagement Discussion with Edget Fana Garbage Collectors Association

Edget Fana Garbage Collectors Association is organized before 3 years with 27 members organized by the call from the Kebele Administration. Now they have 21 members. The others are dead and some could not continue their membership due to health problems.



According to the members, the initiative to form the garbage collection association comes from the kebele administration and they are registered on their own free will. Their association is legally registered by the kebele. After they got the permit, they started their garbage collection by registering customers within their neighborhood. They started collecting garbage by their shoulder with plastic and fiber bags. Some organizations gave them fiber bags, and later on the kebele and the Christian Children's Fund assisted them with carts, spades, etc. Even though the income they earn from the garbage collection is little, they respect their duty and respect their customers. They believe that they are giving a valuable service to the community.

The meeting participants were briefed about the past three year activities by the AAU MSW students' community assessment and MSW thesis research. They were briefed about the basic principles of the Community-University Partnership and what the Gedam Sefer Community-University Partnership has done so far and its future plans.

The participants appreciated the principles of the Community-University Partnership, and what they want is an institution that could fill their gaps on building their knowledge and show them the directions for community development. They believe that they could work in a better condition if trained and are not looking only for donors to support them. They hope that the Core Committee and the Technical Committee could support them after taking the ABCD training. The Edget Fana Garbage Collection Association members hope that this process is their additional support for their wellbeing. They agreed to be part and parcel of the Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership and elected two representatives to the Core Group and also attend the ABCD training to identify their strengths, assets and gaps to find solutions.

