

January 14th 2008



Discussion with Sebara Babur Car Washers Association

The Sebara Babur Car Washers Association is organized in November 2004 with a total membership of 29 out of school boys and but it has now 22 members. According to the members, their behavior before three years was unacceptable by the neighborhood. But after they establish the car washing and car parking (night guarding) services, their behavior and life has changed a lot. They say that they:

- appreciate the value and the results of being organized
- are grateful for the kebele administration for giving them land use right for 5 years, renewable.
- have legally registered association, with their own bylaws
- appreciate the value of time
- give respect to their work
- change their life style
- support themselves
- respect their family and neighborhood
- forbid smoking and chewing chat during working hours and in their work area
- try to give support to their parents and relatives financially during holydays
- are trying to improve their work
- are trying to share their experience to other out of school youth
- are confident that they are respected by the community and the neighborhood
- their customers are satisfied by their service, but are asking and advising them to upgrade their service, but are unable to do so since their financial capacity is limited



The meeting participants are briefed about the objective of the Community University Partnership and the research activities conducted by the Addis Ababa University School of Social Work Students and Professors. They expressed that what they need is an organization which could work with them and the other community members to improve their livelihood and the others.

They agreed that they will work together with the partnership. They elected unanimously four of their colleagues to represent them in the Gedam Sefer Community-University Partnership and also take the ABCD training.

The meeting was friendly and I understand that the group has a bright future and also a vision. What they need is a little support in training and some cost-matching funds to purchase some equipment.