

April 2008 to June 2008 Progress Report
The Gedam Sefer Community-University Partnership Action Research Project Progress

The Gedam Sefer Community-University Partnership Action Research Project has conducted different discussions with the committee members and children. The committee was conducting different meetings twice a month.

A. Partnership Bylaws

1. The bylaws were thoroughly discussed by the Partnership Committee and the community members. They have expressed their appreciation to the assigned committee members for preparing the draft bylaw.
2. The Partnership Committee could not take the bylaws to be approved by the responsible government agency since the kebele caretaker administration is giving priority to the election and then after was on the process of handing over responsibly to the new kebele administration.

B. Preliminary Data on Garbage Collectors Association

The Community Outreach Workers were assigned to collect information about the garbage collectors daily routine activities. They collected information by selecting the two garbage collectors associations. The data was collected using a format prepared by the Project Coordinator. The information includes the types of garbage, quantity, number of people involved in collection and the time spent. The data was collected for four weeks.

C. Asset Based Community Development Training

Dr. Alice Butterfield and Dr. Richard Kordesh conducted the training on two weekends for 50 community members. It was conducted on May 24 and May 31. The training was organized on a friendly manner as per the request of the community members on a half-day basis.

D. Facilitate Research Activities for AAU School of Social Work Student

D.1. Facilitate Doctoral Dissertation Proposal in Social Work & Social Development

School Principals of the two high schools were contacted to facilitate the *Social Networks as predictors of Sexual Practices: A Study of High School Adolescents in Addis Ababa* conducted by Wassie Kebede. The Project Coordinator, the Community Outreach Workers and MSW students assisted the researcher while conducting a pre-test on the research tools (in-depth interview guides. The research was also assisted in collecting the necessary data after his data collection instruments were approved.

D.2. Facilitate MSW Thesis on Child Maltreatment

Partnership Community Committee members collaborated on the purposive research participant selection process.

E. Book Drive

Based on the request of children and the community members, books collected by Prof. Alice K. Butterfield and her partners in the USA and Book For Africa were imported to Ethiopia. The books were imported to Ethiopia with the assistance of Books For Africa and Love for Children Organization. The books were targeted to different organizations including the Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership. The distribution of the books particularly focused to Gedam Sefer was facilitated with the participation of the Partnership Committee members and volunteer community members.

Temporary storage space was facilitated by Bethlehem public school. The books targeted to Gedam Sefer were distributed to seven school libraries and two public libraries.

F. Planning the Summer Program for Children

The Partnership Committee members and the children were asking a program to improve the English communication skills of the children. Based on their request, the community was fortunate to get a volunteer MSW student from Chicago, USA. Richelle Haines arrived in Addis Ababa Ethiopia on the middle of May and engaged with the children and the community activities since May 24.

The children, the committee members and Richelle Haines, the volunteer MSW student from Loyola University in Chicago, USA had a discussion about the summer program.

The older children who are grade 8 and 9 started the summer program on 24th June 2008. Their number was 40. The second group who are grade 6 and below plan to start on July 1st 2008.