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The Case of Lanfuro Woreda

Actors Contributing to Educational

Highlights

The Case of Maraka and Damot

Students Time Utilization Practices

Discovering Thoughts, Inventing Future

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An Analysis of the Status of Marginalization of School Age Children in Wolaita and Dawro Zones: The Case of Maraka and Damot Pulasa Weredas of the two Zones, South Ethiopia

By Tafano Ouke Labiso, Endale Berhanu Demissie & Deribe Debela Kebede

Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia

Abstract- The purpose of this study was to analyze the major causes of marginalization and illiteracy of “Menas”, “Menjas”, and “Hilanchas” social classes in Dawro and Wolaita zones. In order to attain this objective descriptive survey method was employed. The study was carried out in four kebeles of Wolaita zone and 6 kebeles of Dawro zones. Purposive sampling technique for the selection of the weredas and availability sampling technique for the selection of the kebeles and subjects were used. Hence, the wereda education office authorities, parents and the children of ‘Menjas’, ‘Menas’, and ‘Hilanchas’ (in Wolaita case) were involved, and the questionnaire was distributed among officials, filled out and in addition, the wereda education office authorities, parents and children of those social classes were interviewed in group.

Keywords: *marginalization, social classes, potters, firewood carriers.*

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An Analysis of the Status of Marginalization of School Age Children in Wolaita and Dawro Zones: The Case of Maraka and Damot Pulasa Weredas of the two Zones, South Ethiopia

Tafano Ouke Labiso^α, Endale Berhanu Demissie^σ & Deribe Debella Kebede^ρ

Abstract- The purpose of this study was to analyze the major causes of marginalization and illiteracy of "Menas", "Menjas", and "Hilanchas" social classes in Dawro and Wolaita zones. In order to attain this objective descriptive survey method was employed. The study was carried out in four kebeles of Wolaita zone and 6 kebeles of Dawro zones. Purposive sampling technique for the selection of the weredas and availability sampling technique for the selection of the kebeles and subjects were used. Hence, the wereda education office authorities, parents and the children of 'Menjas', 'Menas', and 'Hilanchas' (in Wolaita case) were involved, and the questionnaire was distributed among officials, filled out and in addition, the wereda education office authorities, parents and children of those social classes were interviewed in group. The data gathered through questionnaire were analyzed using percentages and average mean. Based on the analysis, the study disclosed that the inferiority complex, the economic problem, the non-'Menjas', non-'Menas', and non-'Hilanchas' (including authorities) implicit and explicit violence, lack of awareness creation on the part of wereda officials, lack of support to capacitate the subjects economically, discouraging children in class rooms by even the school directors, lack of evening class, orphanage, the still negative attitudes of the society towards these subjects were found to be the major challenges. Accordingly, it was concluded that the challenges were multifaceted. Hence, it is recommended that all the concerned bodies (including the government, large society, and NGOs) of the zones should take measures to send these school age children to schools taking into consideration that they are part of the society and citizens.

Keywords: marginalization, social classes, potters, firewood carriers.

1. INTRODUCTION

Many young people in developing countries have weakened or severed family ties, are subject to social stigmatization, and are not connected to institutions such as schools, youth clubs, or the formal workplace. These youth—whom we refer to as "socially marginalized"—are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and are at disproportionately high risk of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs),

information, counseling, legal protection, and health and other services, so reaching them requires special planning, advocacy efforts, and supplemental resources. Socially marginalized youth often have weakened or severed family and social ties. Some have been abandoned by their families, lured or abducted from their families, or sold into bonded labor or brothels. War and the AIDS epidemic have turned many into orphans. Psychological and physical abuse at home may have led many to prefer life on the street. Living or spending most of their time on the streets, they may beg, hustle, steal, or sell sex to survive. Others, especially the girls, are domestic workers who live at their place of employment. Cut off from families and the larger society in which they live, these youth have little or no system of social protection. The social support they receive is usually from peers living in similar circumstances.

Lack of family and social ties can be worsened by social stigmas. Whether they are members of ethnic, national or religious minorities; migrants or young people in "floating populations;" street children viewed as nuisances or criminals; or homosexual youth facing discrimination or repression; the indifference or hostility with which society treats these youth may further traumatize them. They may be subject to harsh discrimination at mainstream health service delivery points and in the marketplace, and they may internalize society's negative views of them, damaging their self-esteem and their ability to have healthy relationships with others.

Poverty may require these youth to work long hours to support themselves or their families, but they often are not recognized officially as workers. They may be forced to work under exploitative and hazardous conditions that endanger their physical, mental, and social development.* Lacking job skills, they tend to work in informal sectors of the economy.

Many of these youth are victims of violence and physical abuse, including sexual abuse. Domestic workers may be forced to provide sex to their employers, street youth may be abused by other street youth or by adults, and refugees and youth in areas of

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armed conflict may be obligated to grant "sexual favors" in return for documentation, relief goods, or both. Young girls are trafficked into slave-like conditions in brothels. This abuse can result in STIs, unwanted pregnancy, and physical injury, as well as psychological trauma that increase vulnerability to future abuse.

Some of these youth, especially those who live on the street, use drugs to diminish hunger, cold, and emotional pain or to help them sleep or stay awake. Repeated use of these drugs can cause physical and psychological problems, including hallucinations, pulmonary edema, kidney failure, and brain damage. When intravenous drugs are used, the additional risk of contracting HIV, hepatitis, and other diseases exists.

Collectively, all of these characteristics make these youth more vulnerable to unintended pregnancy and STI/HIV infection. Poverty and lack of education and job skills make them more vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation. Social stigma and lack of a stable, supportive environment diminish the self-efficacy needed to undertake self-protective behavior. Sexual abuse stunts the skills needed to prevent unintended pregnancy and STIs. Drugs diminish inhibitions and impair judgment, making it less likely that youth will use information and skills to protect themselves from risk.

Although it is difficult to quantify the extent of the problem, according to the United Nations estimation, 404 million youth under the age of 18 do not attend school; 190 million youth between the ages of 10 and 14 work; three quarters of these youth work six days a week or more, and one half of them work that approximately 100 million youth work on the streets in activities such as picking garbage, hawking small goods, parking and washing cars, shining shoes, and begging. It is estimated that 10% of these youth actually live in the streets, with no connection to their family or a permanent home.

United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) estimate that at least one million young people under the age of 14 are lured or forced into commercial sexual exploitation each year. While the vast majority of these are young women, young men are also exploited. Hence, Ethiopia in general and Wolaita and Dawro zones in particular are no exceptions. Thus, the study aims to answer the following basic questions.

- What are the causes for marginalization of school age children?
- Who are the marginalized elements?
- Which problem is the most serious one?
- What attempts were made to tackle this problem?
- How is the status of illiteracy?

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has the following general and specific objectives

a) General Objective

The general objective of the study is to investigate the causes of marginalization of school age children and to come with solutions for those who are concerned about them so that to increase the participation of children and contribute to illiteracy reduction.

b) Specific Objectives

- This study has the following specific objectives: To investigate the root causes of marginalization;
- To identify different marginalized groups;
- To identify the most serious problems;
- To examine the attempts made by different stake holders in the society;
- To investigate the status of illiteracy to provide training and pave the way to reduce illiteracy

III. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

a) The study will have the following significances

- 1) The findings may be the reliable sources for the policy makers at different administrative echelons;
- 2) It may add to the corpus of literature in the area of marginalization;
- 3) The study may create awareness on the part of government officials about the importance and the problems of the subjects'
- 4) The study may reduce the level of illiteracy in the country and in the zones as well through implementation;
- 5) The findings may contribute to changing the negative attitude of the the large society and the government officials as well through its dissemination.

IV. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study was conceptually delimited to investigating the status of marginalization and geographically to the two weredas of Wolaita and Dawro zones and 6 kebeles of Dawro zone and four kebeles of Wolaita zone:

V. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The researchers have faced the following problems while conducting the research

- Topography where the subjects were living.
- Availability of the subjects/ business of the experts.
- Lack of transportation or its expensive cost.

VI. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

a) Research Method

Descriptive survey and both qualitative and quantitative techniques for data collection were employed.

b) *Sample Size and Sampling Technique*
Sample Size

The marginalized school age children of the Maraka and Damot Pulasa weredas of Wolaita and

Dawro zones were the target population of the study and the sample were as per the availability of the marginalized.

s.no.	Name of the Kebele	Name of the wereda	Name of the zone	Technique of Sampling	Name of social classes	Their work/known for	Size of the family
1	Shanto ketema	Damot Pulas	Wolaita	availability	Chinasha	pottery	large
2	Golo Shanto	"	"	"	Chinasha	pottery	large
3	Zamine Wulisho	"	"	"	Chinasha	pottery	medium
4	Warbira Golo	"	"	"	Chinasha	pottery	small
5	Koysa	Maraka	Dawro	"	Men & Menja	Pottery +selling coal &fire wood	large
6	Mada Gendo	"	"	"	Mena	pottery	medium
7	Gendo Shama	"	"	"	Mena	pottery	large
8	Maila	"	"	"	Menja	Selling fire wood &coal	small
9	Ocha	"	"	"	Menja	Selling fire wood &coal	small
10	Semu	"	"	"	Mena	pottery	small

Key: large= >18 heads of household medium=between 7&18 heads of house hold;small= <7 heads of house hol

c) *Sampling Technique*

The sampling techniques used were availability sampling for the selection of the subjects, and purposive for the selection of the weredas.

d) *Data Administration*

Tools for were prepared and checked by experts tool was prepared and used. After thorough discussion with the subjects the time was arranged and tools were distributed and the data were gathered.

e) *Data Collection Tools*

Close ended questionnaire with 5 scale likert, group interview of 6-12, non- participatory observation and documents were used.

f) *Data Analysis Tools*

The quantitative data collected were analyzed using frequency count, percentage, and average mean, and the qualitative data was categorized and used as supportive for the quantitative.

i. *Characteristics of the Respondents*

Table III : Description of the Respondents by age, sex, qualification, marital status, specialization and work experience.

No.	Characteristics	Respondents			
		Wereda Education officials N=8		Parents and children N=50	
		No.	%	No.	%
1	Sex Male	8	100	30	60
	Female	-	-	20	40

VII. DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

a) *Discussions*

This part of the research deals with the characteristics of the respondents, and the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data gathered through the research tools—questionnaire and interview from the 2 weredas of two zones. Hence, the wereda education office experts and heads and parents and children of menjas, menas and" chinashs" were involved.

Eight wereda education officials and fifty parents and children of menjas, menas, and chinashas were involved in the study. Eight copies of questionnaire were distributed among the wereda education office experts and returned back. Again focus group discussion was made with the parents and children of menjas, menas, and chinashas.

2	Age below 20			36	72
	20-25			10	20
	26-30	8	100	4	8
	31-35				
	36-40				
	41-45				
	Above 45				
3	Marital status single	-	-	40	80
	Married	8	100	10	20
	divorced	-	-	-	-
4	Qualification diploma	-	-	-	-
	Bed/BA/BSc	8	100	50	100
	Above			-	-

With regard to the personal information of the subjects, 8 officials from the wereda education office, all are male and 30 male and 20 female parents and their children were involved in the study.

With regard to the age, all wereda education office authorities were aged between 26 and 30; whereas, 36(72%), 10(20%), and 4(8%) parents and children were found to be aged below 20, between 20

Regarding the marital status, whereas all the wereda education office officials were married, however, 40 subjects were children and the rest 10 were married. As far as the educational qualification is concerned, while all wereda education officials were first degree holders, parents and children of the subjects were all found to be illiterates.

Table : Research questions that require orderi

S.NO.	ITEMS	RANK OF DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS	REMARK
1	Harmful traditional practices	6 th	
2	Institutional Barriers	3 ^d	
3	Self image and self- efficacy	1 st	
4	Economic Barriers	2 nd	
5	Socio-cultural Barriers	4 th	
6	Political- Ideological Barriers	7 th	
7	Geographical – Environmental factors	5 th	

With regard to the above table, it could be learnt that self-image and self efficacy related problems took the first position, economic barriers took the second place, institutional problem took third place, socio-cultural problem took fourth place, topography and

distance related problem took fifth position, harmful traditions and practice related problems took sixth place, and finally, the political ideological problems took the last position according to the data obtained both qualitatively and quantitatively from the subjects.

Table 3 a : Harmful Traditions, Institutional, self-Image and Self-efficacy Related Problems

S.No.	Items	5	4	3	2	1
1.	Harmful Traditions					
	Abduction					
	Rape					x
	Abortion					x
	Pregnancy					x
	Early marriage					x
	Battery					x
	child trafficking					x
	Seducing				x	
	Inducing				x	
	Procuring					x
	Enticing				x	
	Labor exploitation		x			
	FGM		x			
	Average				x	
2	Institutional Factors			x		
	Lack of facilities for children of these classes					
	Non-attractive school compound			x		
	Discouraging children while asking questions			x		
	Lack of affirmative action				x	
	Harassment				x	
	Covert influence by leaders in schools			x		
	Lack of model subjects teachers		x			
	Overt violence		x			
	Average			x		
3	Socio-cultural Factors			x		
	Negative or low attitude the society has towards the education of these social classes			x		
	Reluctance of the society to send school age children		x			
	Overload by house chores		x			
	Religion related factors				x	
	Public versus private concept		x			
	Average			x		

Key : 5=very high;4=high;3=medium;2=low;1=very low

It could be learnt from the above table, that institutional and socio-cultural factors are still the main challenges for the children of the subjects either not to

join schools or not to retain in the schools. There are still social classes. Because of the socialization of this negative attitude, menas, menjas, and chinashas as well

are not willing to send their school age children to schools. And also the family make their children overloaded by house chore and exploit the labor of their children. They make them fetch construction soil for pots of different sizes and types. They make them to carry the pot to distant market places. The menjas on the other, hand make their children carry and sell coals

and fire woods to distant market places and local towns. Furthermore, the subjects themselves and the society still consider these social classes as if they are not fit for the public according to the data obtained both qualitatively and quantitatively. Hence, institutional and socio-cultural factors were found to be still significant problems.

Table 3 b : political-Legal, Economic, self image and self-efficacy and geographical-environmental factors

1	Political _legal Factors	Legal literacy					x
		supportive rules and regulations					x
		support on the part of law enforcement bodies for the children of the subjects					x
		justice and respect of human right					x
		effectiveness on the part of law enforcers					x
		Average					x
2	Economic Factors	Lack of basic needs		x			
		Lack of educational materials and facilities		x			
		Lack of transportation		x			
		Lack of roads		x			
		Migration to urban areas in search of work		x			
		Lack of pocket money	x				
		Poor health condition			x		
3	Self Image and Self efficacy	Average		x			
		Lack of confidence	x				
		Inferiority complex	x				
		Reluctance to benefit from their rights	x				
		Fear to others	x				
4	Geographical environmental factors	Average	x				
		Un conducive school topography	x				
		Non-attractive school compound	x				
		Lack of bridges and roads		x			
		Average		x			

Key : 5=very high;4=high;3=medium;2=low;1=very low

According to the above table, self-image, economic, and topography and school distance related factors were found to be the significant problems.

Accordingly, the subjects were found to develop inferiority complex, fear to others, lack of confidence on the mselves, and also found to reluctant to benefit from.

And also it is learnt from the data that lack of basic needs, transport access to schools, lack of pocket money, migration to the nearby towns(though insignificant), lack of standard roads, bad topographies, lack of bridges, non-attractive school compounds , poor health conditions were some of the significant problems. And also it was learnt and observed that law enforcing bodies and the authorities themselves were found to be negative towards these social classes(though there were positive rules and regulations on the paper). And also the subjects were observed that they were not aware about the existence of supportive law regarding human and democratic laws.

Furthermore, information could be obtained from the experts of wereda education offices,parents and children of manas and menjas(marak)and hilanchas(Wolaita)through focus group discussion. Hence, accordingly, the following data were obtained

The focus groups in both Damot Pulasa and Maraka weredas raised the following issues as the major problems for their marginalization and absence from the school

- The school leaders were said to have discouraged and insulted the children of hilanchas in case of Wolaita zone;
- There were no awareness creation on the part of the wereda administrative councils and wereda education offices for the children of these social classes;
- There were no evening class to make these children continue their formal education;
- Children were said to have participated highly in house chore to solve the economic problem(carrying and selling fire wood and charckol, clay soil,pots and ovens,grinding clay soil);
- There was high child labor exploitation –parents were reluctant to send their school age children so that to make them help in labor and help themselves economically;
- There was no attempt made to support their activity by organizing them together to store what they did and seeking market for their products on the part of government authorities;
- Though there were some models from such social classes, they made no support for others by such models;
- There was both implicit and explicit violence on the part of the authority;
- It was observed that in both weredas and zones the authorities were found to defame these social classes;
- There was a psychological violence by non menjas, non menas,and non-hilanchas on the children of such social classes.

VIII. MAJOR FINDINGS

The general objective of the study was to investigate the causes of marginalization of school age children and to come up with solutions for those who are concerned about them so that to increase the participation of children and contribute to illiteracy reduction.

Accordingly, the assessment of the major factors—socio-cultural, political- legal, economic, self-related, institutional, and geographical and environmental factors were carried out.

In order to achieve the purpose of the study, the following basic questions were stated and dealt with

- What are the causes for marginalization of school age children?
- Who are the marginalized elements?
- Which problem is the most serious one?
- What attempts were made to tackle this problem?

Accordingly, the major findings of the analysis made were as follows

- 1) School age children of menjas, menas, and chinashas were marginalized.
- 2) The self image related, economic, and institutional factors hold the places of high marginalization ranking from first to third respectively;
- 3) The children of the subjects were overloaded by house chores and highly labor exploited as well;
- 4) There was both explicit and implicit violence observed on the children of these social classes by the leaders of the schools and the authorities as well;
- 5) Self related, economic, institutional, socio-cultural, topography, traditional practices, and political-ideological-legal were the causes for marginalization.
- 6) Low/or no attempt was made to enable the parents of these children to send their school age children by the local government; and to capacitate the economically;
- 7) There was no alternative education like evening class;
- 8) There was discouraging actions observed on the part of school leaders and authorities that contributed the dropout of children immediately after their enrolment;
- 9) Though there were some model teachers from the 'chinasha' family(in case of Wolaita zone), however, they failed to convince and bring their families to school;
- 10) No attempt was made to economically settle and capacitate the family and children of these classes.
- 11) The subjects were found to be reluctant to benefit from the human and democratic laws stipulated in constitution, and also found to be illiterate of laws;

- 12) There was an explicit violence of classmates on the children of these classes—the classmate children of non-menjas, non-menas, and non-chinashas insult them saying ‘chinasha’ or ‘goromotia’ in Wolaita case and ‘manio’ or ‘manjio’ in Dawro case.
- 13) It was observed that they still (in both Wolaita and Dawro zones) the children of these classes fear other people both to talk to and to listen to.

IX. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn

- 1) The children of “menas” and “menjas”(in case of Dawro) and “chinashas”(in case of Wolaita) were found to be marginalized because of mainly their self image and self-efficacy problems, economic problems, institutional problems, negative socio-cultural attitudes, bad environmental and geographic conditions(topography), and bad practices and traditions.
- 2) It could be concluded that the effort made to improve the education of the children of the subjects by the government officials was weak may be due to the negative attitude developed towards these social classes.
- 3) The self-image and inferiority related complex are still the significant problems which are may be due to the socialization of the subjects into negative societal attitude.
- 4) Lack of the evening classes was found to be one of the causes for the illiteracies of these children.
- 5) It could be concluded that the wereda education offices and the wereda administrations could not organize these subjects economically just by constructing a store for what they are making and selling.
- 6) High level of illiteracy is still prevalent in the two weredas of the two zones—Wolaita and Dawro zones.
- 7) It could be concluded that no/ or low attempt was made to mitigate such long lived marginalization problem in both zones.
- 8) It was learnt that the subjects were interested to discuss and tell their problems to the researchers and did not hesitate to provide the researchers with information. This indicates that the concerned local authorities did not do on them as required regarding their education though they were volunteers.

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Factors Contributing to Educational Wastage at Primary Level: The Case of Lanfuro Woreda, Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract- The purpose of this study was to investigate the magnitude of educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda. Attempts are also made to identify the major factors that contribute to educational wastage and suggest possible strategies to alleviate them. To this end, descriptive survey method was employed to reveal the current situation of high rate of grade repetition and drop-out (educational wastage). The data regarding enrolment, repetition and drop-outs were obtained from Lanfuro woreda educational department and sample school's document. The study included five schools, 280 students, 46 teachers, and 5 principals of sample schools. Sample schools were selected using stratified sampling technique to give focus both rural and urban schools. random sampling technique was applied to select teachers and students (drop-outs and repeaters). Principals were selected using purposive sampling technique. The data gathered through questionnaire, was analyzed using mean, median, and percentage.

Keywords: education, wastage, primary school.

GJHSS-G Classification : FOR Code: 339999p



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Factors Contributing to Educational Wastage at Primary Level: The Case of Lanfuro Woreda, Southern Ethiopia

Deribe Debella Kebede ^α, Endale Berhanu Demissie ^σ & Ashebir Bezabih Estifanos ^ρ

Abstract - The purpose of this study was to investigate the magnitude of educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda. Attempts are also made to identify the major factors that contribute to educational wastage and suggest possible strategies to alleviate them. To this end, descriptive survey method was employed to reveal the current situation of high rate of grade repetition and drop-out (educational wastage). The data regarding enrolment, repetition and drop-outs were obtained from Lanfuro woreda educational department and sample school's document. The study included five schools, 280 students, 46 teachers, and 5 principals of sample schools. Sample schools were selected using stratified sampling technique to give focus both rural and urban schools. random sampling technique was applied to select teachers and students (drop-outs and repeaters). Principals were selected using purposive sampling technique. The data gathered through questionnaire, was analyzed using mean, median, and percentage. To determine the magnitude of educational wastage and to identify the gender and grade level that was severely affected by wastage, five consecutive years' students' document (enrolment, repetition and drop-out) was used. Wastage rate was calculated and indicated for each grade level according to the past five years data. The findings have indicated that high repetition rate was registered at grade eight, high drop-out rate was registered at grade one and high over-all wastage rate was registered at grade eight. It was also identified that rate of wastage of primary education was higher in second cycle (Grade5-8) and among boys than girls. Finally the weighted mean scores, over-all wastage average results revealed that students related, school related and socio-economic background variables were found significant factors behind low internal efficiency of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda. The findings therefore suggest that improving these variables may take a considerable change in alleviating wastage of primary education. Based on these findings and conclusion drawn, it was recommended that the measures regarding creating awareness for parents, nearby school building, motivating teachers, creating conducive school environment and improving school facilities and services should be taken to minimize the educational wastage of primary schools in the study area.

Keywords: education, wastage, primary school.

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Education is the most important factor that significantly affects the life of an individual and empowers him/her to contribute to national

development. As a form of investment made on people. Education plays a pivotal role in human resource development. Investment in education is made with intent for better returns in the future. "An investment in education is an investment in the productivity of the population." Investment in formal education is considered as precondition to economic growth (Bishop (1989:21).

Since the interaction education, economic and social development has been broadly recognized (Levy,1991:31), the education system of any country is meant to serve its development objectives. Economic analysis has consistently shown that investment in education brings higher rate of return than investment in physical capital (Denson, 1964 in Woube, 2003).

Changes in the education system of any country have to give due attention to the efficiency and effectiveness of primary education. "The progression of students from admission" in the beginning year of their study "Until their successful completion" of the cycle of education (primary or secondary) reflects the degree of efficiency in that level of education (UNESCO, 1983a:57). The efficiency of a particular level of education can be expressed by the input/output ratio, the reciprocal of which is known as "Coefficient of efficiency" (Brimer and Pauli 1991:47).

In the ideal situation, all students admitted in the beginning grade of the education level will reach the second grades in the following academic year and continue until they complete that level of education. But in reality "an alarming phenomenon in education", wastage (drop-out and repetition) obstructs this "ideal scheme" (UNESCO, 1983a:57).

Repetition and drop-out rates are then commonly used parameters to measure educational wastage of the educational system. Repeating a grade means utilizing more resources than allocated to a student and hindering the intake capacity of schools. Similarly, leaving a school (dropping) before completing a particular cycle/level of education is wastage in resources, number of graduates and student years. In both cases, the meager resources allocated for education will be wasted or underutilized (UNESCO, 1998:12).

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UNESCO's report 2003. Different writers have suggested the reason for this failure. Habtamu (2002), and UNESCO (2003) confirmed that wastage in the form of drop-out and grade repetition is a major hindrance.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

UNESCO (2003) indicated that children around the world, especially Sub-Saharan Africa countries, fail to gain access to primary schooling. Even large numbers among those who do enroll leave prematurely, dropping-out before the skills of numeracy and literacy have been properly gained. This initiates for a close investigation of the degree of educational wastage of primary schools.

Like other developing countries, primary schools in Ethiopia have shown a rapid expansion since 1974. With this rate of development, however, the percentage of Children who reach the final grade of the primary education cycle is low, as it has been conducted by (Dereje 2003; Habtamu 2001; Tadesse 2001) and Adane (1993). Most of them have their own area of study as well as geographic boundary. None of them has dealt with educational wastage of primary school in the Lanfuro Woreda. This Woreda found in Silite Zone in SNNPR. The area shares boundaries with siliti woreda in the east and north, Sankura Woreda to the south, Oramiya in the west. The peoples' livelihood is dependent on subsistence agriculture largely based on farming crops, such as maize, wheat, tef, peas and beans. In Lanfuro Woreda, drop-out and grade repetition are rampant. The basic problem that has initiated the researchers to conduct this study is high rate of educational wastage i.e. high rate of drop out and repetition in the woreda. Hence, the study aims to answer the following basic research questions.

- 1) What is the magnitude of wastage in primary schools of Lanfro Woreda?
- 2) In which grade of the primary level does the highest wastage rate (repetition and drop-out) occur?
- 3) What are the major causes of wastage (repetition and dropping-out)?

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study is aimed at to examine those factors that contributing to educational wastage in Lanfuro Woreda.

IV. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

a) Research Design

For this study a descriptive survey research design was employed because it could help to reveal the current situation of educational wastage in selected primary schools in Lanfuro Woreda.

b) Source of data

The necessary data for this study were collected from both primary and secondary source. The primary data was obtained from teacher's students and principals. The secondary data was obtained from Lanfro Woreda education departments.

c) Sample size and Sampling Technique

Lanfuro Woreda constitutes 17 primary schools. Since it is difficult to include all primary schools in the study, the researchers preferred to focus on sample schools. Accordingly, five out of 17 schools were selected using stratified sampling technique.

Out of total population, 30 percent were randomly selected from grades: 5, 6, 7 and 8 to participate in the survey study. Students from grade 1-4 weren't made to fill the survey questionnaire since they are too young to provide the required information. On the other hand, in order to select teacher respondents from the sample schools, random sampling technique was used to categorize them regarding gender. As result, equal chance that is 50% was given for both genders to participate more female teachers in the study, because their number is less than that of male teachers at primary level, especially in second cycle. Then, from the total teachers 30% were selected from each gender through purposive sampling technique. Principals of all sample school were taken as a sample through purposive sampling technique because such posts were only reserved for them.

d) Data collection tools

The following tools were employed to collect data for the study. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative data and the data were gathered by the help of instruments namely, questionnaires, interview and document review. Moreover, the questionnaire was pre tested.

e) Methods of Data Analysis

Percentage and frequency also used to analyze various characteristics of respondents. The weighted mean was used to identify which of the item was rated above average mean score to be considered as one of the significant factors for high educational wastage of primary schools. The independent mean and percentage were employed to test the respondents (teachers and students) degree of agreement regarding the important reasons for educational wastage. Data collected through different instruments was coded and tabulated. The quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS version 20. The t-test of significance of respondent's opinion difference was measured at alpha level 0.05. Also Chi-square (χ^2) test was employed to test the significance level of students' response with regard to reason for going to school and self-concept of students.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data obtained from rosters of sample primary schools and primary data obtained through questionnaires distributed for students and teachers and interviews conducted with five sample school principals

a) Characteristics of Respondents

As stated earlier (in chapter 1), the subjects of this study were general primary school students, teachers and principals. Under this topic background information of the subjects is present

Table 1 : Family Background of Respondents (n=280)

No.	Characteristics		Response	
			No.	%
1.	Parents education level (Family education)	Illiterate	159	56.8
		Primary education(1-8)	86	30.7
		Secondary education(9-12)	22	7.9
		T.T.I(teacher training institute)	8	2.9
		College/University	5	1.8
2	With whom students live :	With both parents	198	70.7
		With one of the parents	37	13.2
		With my gardeners	33	11.8
		Alone	12	4.3
3	Do your parents help you school materials	no	174	62.1
		yes	106	37.9
4	Reason for student repetition	frequent absenteeism from class	195	69.6
		lack of parental encouragement	75	26.8
		lack of suitable place for study	10	3.6
5	Reason for student dropout	lack of finance and material for schooling	47	16.8
		parental disunity due to death or divorce	75	26.8
		pupils involvement in domestic work	138	49
		Early marriage	20	7.1

i. *Parental Education*

High academic attainment of family significantly repetition for both girls and boys in rural and urban areas. Students supported by different educational material less chance to dropout and repetition.

ii. *Reason for repetition*

195(69.6%) of respondent reason for repetition frequent absenteeism from class. 75(26.8%), 10(3.6%) lack of parental encouragement and lack of suitable place for study respectively. there for frequent absenteeism highly affect student pass the next grade.

iii. *Reason for student dropout*

138(49%) of students reason for dropout doing other work and 75(26.8%), 47(16.8%), 20(7.1%) is parental disunity, lack of financial and material support, early marriage respectively.

Table 11 indicates that the over whelming majority of the students 56.8% (n=159) family were illiterate while only 30.7% (n= 86) of family were attended primary education. The remaining 7.9% (n= 22), 2.9% (n=8) and 1.8% (n=5) of the students family had secondary education, TTI, and College/University education respectively. Thus, the low level of family education may have a crucial effect on the survival of the students in the education system.

iv. *The Home Environment*

Furthermore, 70.7% (n=198) of student respondents said that, they are living with both parents. 13.2 % (n=37) of them live with only one of the parents and 11.8% (n=33) of them live with their gardeners and only 4.3 % (n=12) of them live alone. So it is possible to deduce that most of student respondents were living with their parents. So the psychological atmosphere in a home of student respondents was good. This showed that parents' educational level was more important in determining repetition and drop-out of students than with whom the students living.

v. *Educational Materials*

In addition, Item number 3 in the Table 11 reveals that educational material costs and other educational expenses covered by out of parent i.e. 62.1% (n=174). Only 37.9% (n=106) of student respondents' educational material costs were covered by their parents. This showed that most parents didn't give necessary support for their children in schooling. So, this could be mentioned as one of the potential factors for early leaving of school and grade repetition (wastage) at primary schools of Lanfuro Woreda .

Table 2 : Students Attitude towards Learning and themselves Characteristics (n=280)

No		Characteristics	Response	
			No.	%
1	Reason for going to school:	I like learning	182	65.0
		I see my friends	50	17.9
		my teachers	18	6.4
		My parents ordered me	30	10.7
2	Self concepts of students:	I am excellent student	26	9.3
		I am medium achiever	65	23.2
		I am low achiever	189	67.5

In Table 2 Item number 1 depicts that large number of respondents 65% (n=182) reported that they like school learning. But, as the remaining respondents 17.9% (n=50), 6.4% (n=18) and 10.7% (n=30) responded they see their friends, they like their teachers and their parents ordered them respectively to go to school. Assured that significant number of students perceived learning when they are going to school. This can be interpreted that most of the students had positive attitude towards school learning. But their success in

school was not satisfactory, which might be caused by another variable rather than student's attitude towards learning at primary level of the study area.

In addition, Item 2 in Table 2 reveals that student respondents 67.5 % (n=189) thought that they are low achievers inherently. Only few 9.3 % (n=26) of them believed that they are high achievers. Whatever it is, it can be concluded that the attitudes that students attached to their performance hampered their survival in the system.

b) Major Factors of Educational Wastages of Primary Schools in the Study Area

This study was aimed to identify the magnitude of educational wastage of primary education in Lanfuro woreda. An attempt was also made to identify some students, teachers, school related and administration /institution, socio-economic and socio-cultural constraints that may have significant effect on high educational wastage of primary education in the Woreda. In computing students and teacher respondents' response, the researcher used different scales that represent the extent of influence of each factor. These scales were
1=Very low 2=Low 3=Moderate 4=High 5=Very high

There is no one single factor that influence for wastage of education system. The combination of

number of factors contributed to students' grade repetition and school leaving. But it is important to mention that all stated factors are not equally significant for low internal efficiency. For this purpose, the researcher interested to present and discuss the findings in their order on the questionnaires.

i. Students Related Factors

As students are direct beneficiary of education; various factors those contributed to educational wastage could be attached with students. Among these variables, failure in study hard, lack of interest in education, low future success expectation, frequent absenteeism, students' health problem and low self conception due to previous failure in exam are presented in Table 4 below

Table 4 : Students Related Factors of Educational Wastage of Primary Schools of Lanfro Woreda

No.	Factors	Respondents	Mean of repetition	Mean of drop-out	Weighed Mean of Wastage	Over-all wastae average
1	Failure to study hard	S	4.43	3.42	3.93	3.84
		T	3.54	3.52	3.54	
2	Lack of interest in education	S	3.83	3.18	3.50	3.67
		T	4.39	4.06	4.23	
3	Low future success expectation	S	3.63	3.9	3.7	3.84
		T	3.94	4.21	4.08	
4	Frequent absenteeism	S	3.76	3.65	3.71	3.84
		T	4.29	4.33	4.31	
5	Pupils health problem	S	2.62	2.89	2.76	2.89
		T	3.54	3.12	3.33	
6	Low self conception due to previous failure in exam.	S	3.62	3.59	3.6	3.58
		T	3.67	3.33	3.5	

Note : S=Student T=Teacher

Table 4 presents students and teacher's ratings of students' related factors that linked with educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda. To begin with, respondents were asked to rate the contribution of students' failure to study hard for repetition and dropping out of students in primary

schools of the study area. The computed wastage mean scores of students (Mean=3.93, teachers (Mean=3.54 and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.84, above the average rating (3.0). This shows that students pinpointed failure to study hard as the major cause for grade repetition and drop-out and they also described

the highest contribution of these two variables (repetition and drop-out) for educational wastage. In similar manner, the wastage mean score of teachers as listed above indicated that the mentioned Item as a potential factor for educational wastage at primary level in this study area. Generally, the overall wastage average assured the high contribution of this Item for educational wastage of primary education in the study area. However, depending on the overall wastage mean score, it is possible to conclude that failure to study hard is one of the major causes for educational wastage of primary schools in the study area.

Similarly, in the Table 4 the impact of students' lack of interest in education on wastage of sample primary schools was indicated in the computation. In Table 14 Item number two, the calculated wastage professionally disappointed teachers were identified as (Mean=4.23, and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.67), rated above average (3.0). As students' response, it is possible to judge that lack of interest in education as crucial factor for grade repetition and drop-out (wastage). Likewise, teachers identified the same Item with great emphasis to show its high contribution of educational wastage. Besides this, the over-all wastage average depict that all respondents perceive students' lack of interest in education as one of the significant factors for educational wastage of primary schools of this study area. On the base of mean scores, it is possible to conclude that students' lack of interest in education could be included among the major causes for inefficiency/wastage/ of primary schools in this study area. Lack of interest in education may result from the way students see their future success in school work and future achievement.

The effect of low future success expectation of students on education of primary schools in this study area was checked (see Table 4). The computed wastage mean scores of students (Mean=3.77), teachers (Mean=4.08.), and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.84,) depicted in the Table are above the median rate (3.0). The reflected view of respondent students revealed that low future success expectation caused educational wastage in Lanfuro woreda at primary level. Furthermore, teachers strongly admitted this Item as highly contributing factor for educational wastage in this study area. The response value of teachers manifested for wastage is higher than that of students. This difference can be the results of degree of believe that the respondents have, to judge how much the mentioned variable could contribute to educational wastage in their locality. Moreover, the over-all wastage average also strengthened the contribution of this Item for the issue under discussion. However, the possible conclusion for this finding can be low future success expectation of students is one of the major causes of educational wastage of primary schools in this study area.

As shown in the Table above (see Table 4), the respondents were asked to rate to what extent the frequent absenteeism of students could contribute to grade repetition and dropping-out of school educational wastage/in primary schools in this study area. As a result, wastage mean values of students (Mean=3.71.), teachers (Mean=4.31,) and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.84,) rated above the median rate (3.0). In strictly speaking, students categorized this Item among potentially affecting factors of internal efficiency of primary education. Furthermore, teachers have given high weight rather than students for its seriousness. In addition, depending on over-all wastage average, it is possible to include frequent absenteeism of students under basic causes of educational wastage of primary schools of the study area. Thus, according to over-all wastage average, the possible conclusion could be frequent absenteeism is one of the major factors of educational wastage in Lanfro woreda primary schools. It is possible to see this finding with conformity of another research finding which was stated as the schools with lower rate of absenteeism were efficient than those with higher absenteeism (Chantavanich and Fry, 1990).

Item number 5 presented in the Table 4, is the students' health problem. Mean scores of students (Mean=2.76.), teachers (Mean=3.33,) and over-all wastage (Mean=2.89,) indicated in the Table. As one can see from the data, the mean responses of students rated below the moderate rating (3.0) in contrast to teachers' response. This shows the opinion variation between teachers and students regarding this variable. Teachers admitted this item as a constraint that has a contribution to educational wastage; but students were not. Furthermore, the over-all wastage average reveals that student's health problem as not major reason of educational wastage in the study area. Even though, teachers identified students' health problem as important factor for wastage, regarding over-all wastage average, this variable is not included in major cause of educational wastage in the study area at primary level.

Even though, this finding is not in the same direction with previous research findings, it is impossible to expect good academic achievement from students without good health. Colclogh and Lewin (1993) stated that the learning achievement of students depends largely on the characteristics of learners themselves whether they are well-nourished, having physical and mental health. As reported by many other findings, fever, malaria, recurring headaches, stomach pains, liver problems are serious in most rural and remote areas of developing countries. Such problems usually lead students to discontinue their schooling and/or performing low in the classes (Carl-Hill, 2002 and Bishop, 1994).

The last but not least student related variable incorporated in Table 4 was the students' low self-

conception due to the previous failure in exam. The contribution of this variable to grade repetition and dropping-out of school in the sample primary schools was computed. The calculated wastage mean scores of students (Mean=3.61), teachers (Mean=3.5) and the over-all wastage average (Mean=3.58) found to be above the average rate (3.0). This reveals that both groups of respondents (teachers and students) perceived students' low self-conception due to the previous failure in examination as one of the significant factors for educational wastage (combined effect of grade repetition and drop-out). It is thus safe to conclude that the students' low conception due to the previous failure in examination could be embraced among the main causes for inefficiency of primary schools in this study area.

Similar finding has been recorded by previous studies. For example,

Graham (1991) stated that early failure in school would make children to be failure oriented. These children tend to lose the interest towards learning and do not expect themselves to be successful. The failure oriented individuals do not only tend to fail in examination, but also tend to decide to discontinue their education.

ii. Teacher Related Factors

It could be difficult to expect good performance and progress of students in schooling having teaching force with low or no interest and satisfaction in teaching profession. The provision

Table 5: Teacher Related Factors Educational Wastage of Primary Schools in Lanfuro woreda (n=280)

Table 5 : Teachers Related Factors of Educational Wastage of Primary Schools of Lanfro Woreda

No	Factors	Respondents	Mean of repetition	Mean of drop-out	Weighed Mean of Wastage	Over-all Wastage Average
1	Lack encouragement to students from teachers	S	3.54	3.41	3.48	3.37
		T	2.75	3.29	3.02	
2	Assignment of less experienced teachers	S	2.52	2.51	2.51	2.42
		T	2.08	2.09	2.09	
3	Professionally disappointed teachers	S	3.69	3.69	3.69	3.52
		T	2.58	3.31	2.95	
4	Assignment of less qualified teachers	S	3.09	3.04	3.07	2.96
		T	2.64	2.57	2.61	

Note : S=Student T=Teacher

In Table 5 for Item number 1, the calculated wastage mean value of students (Mean=3.48), teachers (Mean=3.02) and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.37) observed. Regarding students wastage mean score, lack of encouragement to students from

teachers can be put among the major causes of grade repetition and drop-out (Educational wastage). In similar fashion, teachers wastage mean value rated above the average score (3.0) that revealed the high contribution of the same variable to educational wastage. In addition,

over-all wastage average was rated above the median, which was observed for Item number one. Thus, all respondents valued above median rating (3.0), as both respondents have mean value above the average, we can say that they agreed that lack of encouragement to students from teachers could be categorized as one of the major cause for educational wastage of primary education in the study area. This means in other words, the primary school students need encouragement from teachers to stay in school and to perform well.

Table 5 also indicates the assignment of less experienced teachers in resulting educational wastage at primary education. It is evident that, the calculated wastage mean scores of students (Mean=2.51,), teachers (2.09,) and over-all wastage average (Mean=2.42,) rated below the median on the Likert scale. In strictly speaking, the observed mean value of students showed the contribution of assignment of less experienced teachers to educational wastage is relatively low compared with teachers mean value. Furthermore, the over-all wastage average is still less than the moderate rating (3.0). Even though statistically significant difference was observed between teachers and students, the mean value for both groups is much below the average. Thus, it is not possible to include assignment of less experienced teachers as major causes for educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda.

Teachers' disappointment in their profession is another variable treated in Table 5. For this variable wastage mean scores of students (Mean=3.69,), teachers (Mean=2.95,) and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.52,) were observed. As it is possible to see, students' mean score is above the median rate (3.0) which shows students believe that there is high

contribution of teachers' disappointment in their profession for educational wastage where as teachers mean score is below the average scale (3.0) that indicates this factor as having less significant role on the problem under discussion. However, depending on over-all wastage average, even though the teachers mean for the Item is lower, it is safe to conclude that the belief of students about disappointment of teachers in their profession could be among major causes for educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda. The last teacher related factor treated in the Table 15 was assignment of less qualified teachers. The computed wastage mean scores of student (Mean=3.07,); teachers (Mean=2.61,) and over-all wastage average (Mean=2.96,), of which only students mean is rated above median rate (3.0). This illustrates that students perceived assignment of less qualified teachers in resulting grade repetition and drop-out (wastage) as moderate problem in their school. In contrast, teachers didn't value the impact of this variable as not significant. Although both group of respondents responded dissimilarly, the Item was averagely rated around the moderate rating in over-all wastage. it is possible to use over-all wastage average (2.96). This score is around the median rate (3.0). Thus, assignment of less qualified teachers was not among the major causes for educational wastage of primary schools in this study area.

To sum up, among the four related factors lack of encouragement to students from teachers and professionally disappointed teachers were identified as major causes for high educational wastage of primary schools in the study area.

iii. School Related Factors

Table 6 : School Related Factors of Educational Wastage of Primary Schools of Lanfuro woreda (n=280)

No.	Factors	Respondents	Mean of repetition SD	Mean of drop-out SD	Weighed Mean of Wastage SD	Overall Wastage Average SD
1	Distance from home to school	S T	3.82 3.69	3.63 3.73	3.73 3.71	3.72
2	Lack of school Facility	S T	3.58 3.76	3.56 3.67	3.57 3.71	3.60
3	Learning in overcrowded classroom	S T	3.68 3.86	3.52 3.46	3.60 3.66	3.61

Note : S=Student T=Teacher

In Table 6 above, school related factors behind educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro woreda are treated. Pertaining to Item number one the

contribution of distance from home to school to grade repetition and dropping-out of students in primary schools, the calculated wastage mean scores of

students (Mean=3.73), teachers (Mean=3.71,) and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.72,) observed. As seen from the data, students indicated distance from home to school as a serious contributive factor to educational wastage. In most similar manner, teachers also agreed on wickedness of the same item in resulting educational wastage in Lanfuro woreda. In general, both groups of respondents valued the impact of this variable on primary schools' greater than moderate rating (3.0). and also the over-all wastage average is above median rate. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that distance from home to school was among major causes for high educational wastage of primary schools in the study area.

Similarly, findings (MOE, 2003 and Habtamu, has a considerable impact on students survival in school and restricts performance due to fatigue. Lock heed and Verspoor (1991) also explained that it is a significant factor in determining school attendance. The World Bank (1980) report also indicated that the influence of distance particularly for low income families is serious. In rural areas of most developing countries, children have to walk long distance to school and tend to dropping-out of school sooner if they are suffering from starvation.

Respondents were also asked to rate the impact of lack school facilities on educational wastage of primary schools in their local context. As indicated in student (Mean=3.57,), teachers (Mean=3.71,) and over-all wastage average (Mean=3.60,) illustrated that students rated above median point (3.0) The extent to which lack of school facilities contributed to educational wastage in the primary schools of Lanfuro woreda. Additionally, teachers ratings are above the moderate point (3.0). Moreover, depending on the over-all wastage average (as listed above), it is easy to conclude that lack of school facilities could be one of the major constraints of internal efficiency in this study area at primary level. Regarding respondents degree of opinion difference in their response about this variable

Furthermore, the response of interviewee of sample school principals (5 in number) with regard to the sufficiency of educational materials and facility in their school, most of principals (three of them) pointed out that there is scarcity of educational materials; but few of them (2) said the educational materials are sufficient for the teaching purpose as well as available for learners. In addition those who said there is shortage of educational materials, as their report the reason for shortage was mismatch of text books, teacher guides and other materials that are printed and distributed by the Regional Education Bureau with number of students.

Thus, lack of school facilities could be mentioned as one of the major causes for primary schools educational wastage in Lanfuro Woreda. This finding is in conformity with the work of Kainja and

Mkandawire (1989). He documented that material inputs and its adequate service may significantly affect students' performance and progress. As stated by another researchers (Carl-Hill, 2002 and Habtamu, 2002) schools with better facilities and service are possibly more efficient than without.

Another school related variable treated in the Table 6 was learning in overcrowded classroom. As shown in the Table 6, the calculated wastage mean score of students (Mean=3.60) teachers (Mean=3.66) and overall wastage average (Mean=3.61) indicated that this item was rated above the moderate score (3.0). As clearly we can see from the observed data, both groups of respondents (teachers and students) expressed their strong agreement in identifying learning in overcrowded classroom as a potential cause for educational wastage in primary schools of Lanfuro woreda.

Therefore, it is possible to conclude that overcrowded classroom was taken as crucial cause for high educational wastage of sample primary schools. On other hand, this finding implies that through minimizing the number of students in the class, the rate of educational wastage in primary education can be reduced.

This finding is confirmed by Kapakas'(1992) report which showed large class size as one of the causes for wastage. In addition overcrowded class is one of the major causes for the decline of educational quality.

VI. FINDINGS

The data obtained were analyzed using different statistical tools like percentage, mean, median. The analysis resulted in the following findings.

- 1) The results of the study also indicated that the phenomenon of drop-out has made higher contribution to the over-all wastage rate relatively compared with grade repetition.
- 2) Among the personal characteristics of students considered sex, age, marital status had no influence on students' performance. Because most student respondents were in the age interval of 13-15 years which is normal age for general primary school attendants. In addition, the overwhelming majority of them were (80.4%) single.
- 3) Among students' family background characteristics (parents' education level, provision of educational materials, activities at home and parents' occupation) seem to have significant association with students' academic status. In spite of this general picture, large number of parents (56 %) was illiterate. Similarly, most parents didn't give necessary support for students. As a result 62.1% (n=174) of students' educational material costs and other educational expenses covered by respondents themselves. So, this could be

mentioned as one of the factors for dropping out and grade repetition (wastage) of students in sample primary schools.

- 4) Under the variable students' attitude toward learning, reason for going to school, the students response indicated that the majority of them 65% (n=182) like learning. This means most of students have positive attitude towards school learning, but their unsatisfactory success may be due to another factor. Students also expressed their self-concept about their capacity. As observed from their response, most of them 76.9% (n=189) believed themselves as low achiever. Therefore, the attitude students attach to their performance can hamper their survival in the education system.
- 5) Of the teachers' characteristic variables, 54.9% were males and 45.1% were females. Most of teachers (68%) also categorized in the age interval of 25 years and below, where as few number of teachers (0.14%) aged above 35 years. Majority of teaching force in study area were TTC graduates (i.e. 81%). This can have an impact on internal efficiency of education system. Among sample teachers, although almost above 50% of them reflected their satisfaction in being teacher, it is clear that, number of dissatisfied teachers is not few so that this could have great contribution for educational wastage.
- 6) Respondents rated student related variables in general as major factors for inefficiency (wastage) of primary education in the woreda. Specifically, failure in study hard, lack of interest in education, low future success expectation, frequent absenteeism and low self concept due to previous failure in exam were more emphatic to contributing grade repetition and drop-out.
- 7) Among teacher related factors, lack of encouragement to students from teachers and professionally disappointed teachers have identified as major causes for educational wastage of primary schools in Lanfuro Woreda. But assignment of less experienced teachers and less qualified teachers failed to have significant contribution to educational wastage in primary schools of the study area.

VII. CONCLUSION

The wastage was severe among boys than among girls. It has also been found that second cycle primary level was more affected by the observed high rate of wastage. The study further disclosed that students related, school related, and socio-economic constraints were found out significant in their high contribution to educational wastage of primary education in Lanfuro Woreda. From all these, it seems true that the primary education in Lanfuro Woreda functioning with low efficiency.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were forwarded.

- 1) As the finding of the study indicated one of the major causes for low internal efficiency (wastage) of primary education in the study area is socio-economic constraints like lack of material support. These shortages lead students to involve in income generating activities to fill educational requirements and other needs because most of parents failed to provide the necessary financial and material assistance for their children. Therefore, it would be advisable if:

Primary school leaders in collaboration with Woreda Education Offices and Zonal Education Department to work on awareness creation among parents to consider the effects of lack of educational material support on their children's learning and making them responsible to offer the necessary support is the prime solution to minimize wastage.

- 2) Students drop-out increases with increase in distance a student moves to school. Students traveling long distances to school are more likely to drop-out of school. It is generally significant in rural area.

Although the government made attempt to expand the access of primary education for all school-aged children, still this study show that school distance as one of the major causes of educational wastage. Therefore, the regional and Zonal governments and Lanfuro Woreda Education Department need to work closely to address the problems by building primary schools in locality that are more affected by the problem.

- 3) It should be noted that of all the components that are needed to make an education system viable, functional, and productive is the availability of qualified and satisfied teaching force.

The study revealed that almost half of the teaching force in the sample schools is dissatisfied with their profession. This dissatisfaction in being teacher is not due to disliking the profession itself, but it is due to the nominal salary and poor residential condition (especially rural teachers). Therefore, it is recommendable that:

- a) Regional Education Bureau and Zonal Department of Education arrange a kind of remote area incentives; it could be in the form of housing allowance, free health care and so forth.
- b) Regional Education Bureau and Zonal Education Department should prepare refreshment courses such as seminars, workshops and conferences by initiating NGO's or development association's to help teachers to update and upgrade their professional competence. This possibly may

increase teacher's satisfaction so that student's grade repetition and drop-out could be minimized.

- 4) The finding indicated that, non conducive school environment is embraced under major causes contributing to educational wastage in Lanfuro Woreda at primary level. To be successful school, there should be health and comfortable school environment. School climate should be one in which every student and teacher feel safe. If students and teachers are comfortable, then teaching and learning become much easier. Being comfortable is also a combination of several different factors such as adequate usable space, noise control, sanitation, water supply, effective communication and so forth. Thus, health environment is the state of complete physical, mental, and social well being.

It is apparent that conducive and attractive school environment is determinant factor in attracting students to come to school and perform well. Indeed, it is possible to make school environment conducive and attractive by the effort of school leaders, local administrators and other stakeholder's commitment with the support of government. So, these concerned bodies take responsibility to minimize wastage (grade repetition and drop-out) in the study area.

- 5) Overcrowding can have negative effect on students and teachers. Students who are seated one another in the classroom might have differently focusing on the lesson. The invasion of personal space and feelings of being crowded both contribute to the lack of focus. In addition, students can be distracted by noises that are in close proximity to them in an overcrowded classroom. Teaching in overcrowded classroom is stressful for the teacher who has to adapt lesson plan to focus more on work that students can complete at their desks in instead of group work and other student centered teaching method. These lead to less learning and low test scores which causes educational wastage. To eliminate this overcrowded classroom problem as the finding indicated more schools will be need to be built, or more sections should be created with sufficient number of teachers and facilities.
- 6) The finding of this study indicated that all of student related variables except students' health problem such as failure to study hard, lack of interest in education, low future success expectation, frequent absenteeism, and low self concept due to previous failure in exam were identified as major causes of educational wastage. It is apparent that most of these variables are strongly associated with the student's personal behavior. These behaviors might be emanated from lack deep rooted interest in education from the very beginning. Uninterested student in education has no vision for tomorrows success as a result he/she fails to study hard and

frequently absent from the class. The final result of this phenomenon can be repeating a grade or dropping-out of school. Therefore, to minimize those problems and to make students visionary, schools should have the meaningful and continuous guidance and counseling service to reshape the students' behavior.

- 7) Since this study is not an end to area factors contributing to educational wastage, further studies that participates relatively larger numbers of respondents should be carried out focusing the same area.

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Students' Time Utilization Practices in School and Home Environments in the Primary Schools of Boloso Sore Woreda, Wolaita Zone Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract- Students on the task time and off task behavior can affect student academic achievement in quality of education in school. Thus, the major purpose of this study was to examine the students' time utilization practices in schools and at home in the primary schools of Boloso Soro woreda, wolaita zone. To this effect, descriptive survey method was employed. The study was conducted in 3 target public primary schools. In this study 3 schools and 65 students were selected by randomization. Whereas 3 principals, 3 vice principals, 10 teachers and 10 Parent-Teacher-Association members were selected on the bases of availability sampling technique. Questionnaire, interview and document analysis were used to collect data. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage were used for data analysis.

Keywords: *time utilization, home environment, primary school*

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Abstract- Students on the task time and off task behavior can affect student academic achievement in quality of education in school. Thus, the major purpose of this study was to examine the students' time utilization practices in schools and at home in the primary schools of Boloso Soro woreda, wolaita zone. To this effect, descriptive survey method was employed. The study was conducted in 3 target public primary schools. In this study 3 schools and 65 students were selected by randomization. Whereas 3 principals, 3 vice principals, 10 teachers and 10 Parent-Teacher-Association members were selected on the bases of availability sampling technique. Questionnaire, interview and document analysis were used to collect data. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage were used for data analysis. The results of the study revealed that doing different house hold tasks, playing with peers and studying lessons were dominant activities that take much of students' time out off their schools, at home and in their villages. Providing a quit work place, reducing length of assignment and scheduling challenging tasks to catch attention and selecting activities that demand active students' response were among recommendations.

Keywords: time utilization, home environment, primary school

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

This part of the research presents theoretical frameworks on time utilization practices in the classrooms, in the school compounds and home environments which can either positively or negatively affect students' academic achievement and the quality of education provisions in schools. The introductory review of literature enables readers to have some conceptual understandings regarding time management by students and other respective stakeholders in school tasks and out off school tasks.

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a) Time Utilization and Students' On-Task Behaviors

Time-on-task of effective teaching has been one of the most widely discussed concepts among researchers, administrators, and educators since the 1970's. This discussion actually began with John Carroll's 1963 paper, "A Model of School Learning", which directly linked learning to time. He proposed that true learning depends on the amount of time a student spends actively engaged in the learning process compared to the amount of time the student needs in order to learn.

Later research studies amplified this concept. These studies explored how time can be more efficiently used in classrooms and the instructional practices that lead to active student learning. The California Beginning Teacher Evaluation Study (BTES) of grades 2 through 5 in a large number of elementary schools identified teaching activities and classroom conditions that advanced student learning. BTES findings highlighted three important time concepts: allocated time, engaged time and academic learning time.

Allocated time is the total amount of time available for learning; e.g. the length of the school day or a class period. It is the "opportunity to learn". According to the BTES and many subsequent studies, teachers who allocate more time to a specific content area have students who achieve at higher levels than teachers who allocate less time to the same content. The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) embraced this research concept when it developed the policy that mandated an uninterrupted 90 minute reading block for all public elementary schools. This standardized reading time allocation guarantees that all elementary students have an equal opportunity to learn to read.

The BTES study also noted factors that limit learning or cause students to lose interest during the allocated timeframe, such as: (1)unscheduled interruptions, public announcements, fire drills, visitors and other school management practices, (2)uneven transitions between activities and inefficient classroom management procedures that disrupt the learning flow,

such as disorderly material distribution or disorganized assignment collection; and (3) over-reliance on seatwork, uninteresting and overly demanding lessons and other non-engaging instructional practices.

The BTES findings on engaged time or time on task demonstrate that the more engaged time students have, the higher they achieve. Highly interactive instructional styles led to greater amounts of student engaged time, and, consequently, increased student learning.

Highly effective teachers use interactive presentations with modeling, questions and answers, guided practice, and constructive feedback before students work independently. It is also interesting to note that high student engagement during teacher-led instruction and group work yielded high engagement during independent seatwork.

Academic learning time has to do with quality; it is the amount of time students spend actively working on tasks of an appropriate difficulty. Success breeds success. When a teacher targets the instruction of a new concept or skill so students can succeed at least 75% of the time, students are more engaged and achieve at higher levels.

To deliver lessons designed to maximize academic learning time, teachers must: (a) accurately diagnose each student's knowledge and skill level, (b) prescribe learning tasks appropriate to a student's levels, (c) structure engaging lessons around the learning tasks and give clear, concise task directions, (d) have substantive teacher-student interaction during the lesson, such as: modeling, guiding students as they practice, asking probing questions, giving corrective feedback, (e) how does the time-on task research play out in the day-to-day classroom experience?

Along with school management practices that ensure quality classroom time, time on task depends on good classroom management processes and highly interactive teaching styles. Four significant classroom management processes promote time-on-task

- 1) Room arrangement – Well-organized room arrangements provide easy student movement and good teacher-student eye contact. Trouble-free traffic patterns reduce distractions and disruptions. In addition, educators whose rooms are arranged so they have a clear view of all their students can easily monitor student engagement and attend to student activities.
- 2) Rules and procedures – Effective rules and procedures reduce the time spent on disruptions and disciplinary situations
- 3) Transitions – Efficient practiced transitions help students move in and out of the room smoothly and get to work quickly at the beginning of class or on the next learning activity.
- 4) Preparation and pacing – Doing the hard work of pre-planning and preparing ample activities and

materials allows educators to focus on the lesson momentum. Good pacing reduces dead time and keeps students involved and on task.

Keeping students on task is the primary challenge for any teacher. If students are doing what they should be doing, then there would not be any management problems. Classroom procedures and routines are essential for getting students on task. Once students enter the classroom, they should follow a routine up until they are dismissed from class. Routines are created by procedures. Students should work on a warm-up right when the starting bell rings. Work at the beginning of the class goes by many names: do now, starters, bell ringers, etc. This is a good routine for getting students on task in class. Having lessons that students actually want to learn will be main tool for keeping students on task. Every student is different. Writing lessons that every student will want to learn is difficult.

- i. *School Available Time* : The total number of hours that potentially can be devoted to instruction. This measure is dictated by state regulations and school board policy. Increasing the available time' does not correlate with increases in student learning.
- ii. *Allocated Time* : The sum of time that a teacher schedules for instruction in a particular subject area (e.g., reading). Research shows that increasing the instruction) is a good start but when viewed in isolation does not predict student success
- iii. *Instructional Time* : The time during which instruction is actually delivered. (Interruptions such as student disruption, lengthy transitions from one activity to another, and fire drills whittle down instructional time.)
- iv. *On-Task Time* : Time when the student is observed to be passively or actively focused on instruction (e.g., attending to the teacher). This measure is a fair predictor of student learning progress, but an observer cannot always verify whether an 'on-task' student is really attending to instruction.
- v. *Active Student Response* : Time when the student can be seen to demonstrate some kind of active writing a composition, a group answering a teacher's question). This measure is the best predictor of student learning success.

b) *Time Utilization and Students' Off-Task Behavior*

One of the most common reasons for referral to school support personnel is "off-task" behavior. Often, efforts to change such behaviors focus on consequences — rewards, loss of privileges, etc. However, such efforts frequently have limited success. Off-task behavior might serve the purpose of gaining adult or peer attention or access to more preferred

activities, such as talking with peers or playing with materials; escaping or avoiding desirable activities such as writing or reading.

i. *Connecting Academic Difficulty to Off-Task Behavior*

Many educators believe that there is a collateral relationship between the difficulty level of academic tasks and off-task classroom behavior. Recent research suggests that Curriculum- Based Assessment (CBA) procedures could be incorporated into a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) to identify precipitating (antecedent) events that lead to off-task classroom behaviors of students. CBA is a direct measurement process that uses the student's curriculum to determine current and ongoing performances.

These performance levels represent the functional relationship between a student's academic skills and the curriculum materials: If the curriculum is too difficult relative to the student's academic skill level, excessive performance demands are created, which in turn may result in higher rates of off-task classroom behaviors to escape from difficult academic activities.

A recent study at Arizona State University examined how CBA procedures can be used to identify the antecedent conditions that prompt off-task behaviors in general education classrooms. When given curriculum materials that were too difficult relative to the students' skill level, the percentage of off-task classroom behaviors increased. Conversely, fewer off-task classroom behaviors were observed when students were working on instructional level academic activities.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Having the above background information in to account the group of researchers strived to oversee how students' in the primary schools of Boloso Sore Woreda have been using their time in the school compounds and in home environment so that to improve the academic performance and learn better in their educational level. To make a comprehensive survey the following research basic questions are used as spring board

a) *Basic research questions*

- 1) What are the major in- school activities that consume students' time in the schools under the study?
- 2) What are the major out off- school activities that consume students' time in the schools under the study?
- 3) What is the influence of stakeholders on students' time utilization in the schools under the study?

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

a) *General Objective*

The main objective of this study is to uncover students' time utilization practices in classrooms, school

compounds and home environments in Boloso Sore Woreda targeted primary schools.

b) *Specific Objectives of the study*

Some of the specific objectives are;

- 1) To identify the major in-school activities that consumes much of students' time in the schools under the study.
- 2) To specify the principal activities that consumes students' time at home and in their villages where they live.
- 3) To identify the contributions of stakeholders in students' time utilization in the schools under the study.

IV. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This section encompasses research method, sources of data, sample populations and sampling technique, data gathering tools, and method of data analysis.

a) *Research Methods*

The researchers employed descriptive survey method to explore and reveal the current status of Students' On and Off School Utilization Practices in the Primary Schools of Boloso Sore Woreda. In relation to this, Best (2005:114) stated that a descriptive study describes and interprets what is. It is concerned with conditions or relationships that exist, opinions that are held, processes that are going on, effects that are evident, or trends that are developing. It is primarily concerned with the present.

b) *Sources of Data*

The research targeted four main groups: School principals, teachers, students, and parents, to provide first hand information on Students' On and Off School Time Management Practices in the Primary Schools of Boloso Sore Woreda. In the study, Primary and secondary data were used. Primary sources in this study were school principals, teachers, students, and PTA. The selection of the sample respondents as source of data is based on the expectation that they will have better information and experience in relation to the study. Moreover, they were chosen because of their position hold and assigned responsibilities at different levels of the education hierarchies. Secondary sources such as documents, and attendance reports were used.

c) *Sample Population and Sampling Technique*

The researchers took a sample of 91 respondents as samples for the study from three selected primary schools. Of the samples, six of them were principals and vice principals, 10 of them were PTA, 10 of them were teachers and 65 of the respondents were students. Students were selected on the basis of simple random sampling technique to give equal chances to be selected where as principals, vice-

principals, PTA, teachers were selected on the basis of availability sampling technique.

d) Instruments of Data Gathering

The researchers used questionnaires, interview and document analysis to collect relevant information from sample populations. Two types of questionnaire i.e., some open and many close-ended were employed for students to obtain information concerning students' time utilization practices in classrooms, school compounds and home environments in Boloso Sore Woreda targeted primary schools. The reason for the selection of questionnaire as a data gathering tool is because it is the appropriate instrument to obtain variety of opinions with in a short period of time from a large population and also helps respondents to express their opinion and views freely. Thus questionnaires were used to collect data from students whereas interviews were held with principals, teachers and some PTA.

Moreover, both structured and unstructured interview were prepared for respondents to collect in-depth information for the study. As Creswell (2009:179) described, interview is useful when participants cannot be directly observed. The interview was prepared principals, teachers and parents.

e) Methods of Data Analysis

Based on the nature of the study and the data obtained, various statistical tools were employed in the

study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. A quantitative approach was used to analyze statistics and numerical data. Besides, qualitative approaches were used to analyze the respondents view. Tables and graphs were also used to show how results were interpreted. For data analysis and interpretation various statistical tools such as frequency count and percentages were used to analyze the data and to make the interpretation valid and reliable. The answers to open-ended questions and interviews were summarized manually and discussions were made in line with the quantitative results.

V. DISCUSSIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF DATA

This section of the study focuses on the analysis of data gathered via questionnaires, interview and observation. The discussion is made by summarizing that data in sort of percentage so as to examine the dominant responses given by the majority of the respondents. Further it was compared and contrasted with the findings of different research works so as to observe its conformity to the new setting whereby the action research have been done.

Table 1 : Characteristics of Respondents

No	Variables	Characteristics	Students'		Teachers		Principals'		PTA	
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Sex	M	30	46.2	7	70	5	83	8	80
		F	35	53.8	3	30	1	17	2	20
2	Age	10-12	25	38.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13-15	30	46.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Above 15	10	15.4	10	100	6	100	10	100
3	Grade level	Grade 5	14	21.5						
		Grade 6	11	16.9						
		Grade 7	21	32.3						
		Grade 8	19	29.2						
4	Family Condition(with whom do you live)	Both with father and Mother	50	76.9						
		Only with Father	6	9.2						
		Only with Mother	3	4.6						
		Only with brother	-	-						
		Only with sister	-	-						
		With relatives	6	9.2						

As shown in table one, item1 above, 46.2 percent of the respondents are males whereas the rest

are females. With regard to age composition, 38.5 % and 46.5% of the respondents were within the age range

of 10-12 and 13-15 respectively. And the rest were above 15 years old. On the other hand, concerning the grade levels of students who were engaged in the study, 21.5%, 16.9%, 32.3%, and 29.2% of them were in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively. Furthermore, regarding the parental hood of the respondents, the majority of them (76.9%) were living with both their father and mother, however, 9.2%, 4.2% and 9.2 % were living only with father, mother and their relatives respectively. This

implies that most of the students in the study areas live with both parents (father and mother) that help them at least to have opportunity to get various supports.

a) *Students Time Utilization With in the School (In the Compound and in the Class room*

This section of the table explain about students time utilization in the school compound particularly engagements in the teaching learning process, during break time and in co-curricular activities.

Table 2 : Responses on Time Spent in Classroom Activities

No.	Items	Alternatives	No.	%
1.	During the Teaching learning Process	Only the teacher teaches for the whole period	20	30.7
		Students participates more in the process of learning	4	6.2
		Students react while requested	9	13.8
		Both students and the teacher engage in the process	29	44.6
		Students take note while the teaching proceeds	3	4.6
2	Teachers' provision of learning tasks in class	All teachers give class works	16	24.6
		Half of them give class work	32	49.2
		Some of them give class work	8	12.3
		Most of them do not give class work	9	13.8
3	At the end of the period, and the beginning of the next period	I play with peers	31	47.7
		I become ideal	4	6.2
		I do my home work	16	24.6
		I leave out	14	21.5
4	In the absence of teacher	I chat with my friends	24	36.9
		We make discussion With clever students	17	26.1
		I study alone	2	3.1
		I leave out of the class	22	33.8

As shown in table 2 above, students were requested to respond on the utilization of time during the teaching learning process, 44.6% replied that both students and the teacher engage in the process of teaching learning but 30.7% of them indicated that only the teacher teaches for the whole period. This shows that more than half of the time allotted for the teaching learning process was used by the learners rather than the teachers. This might be for listening, class participation, doing different activities and reacting while asked by the teacher.

Having lessons that students actually want to learn will be main tool for keeping students on task. On item 2 above, respondents were requested about the provisions of different learning tasks such as class

works, peer discussion etc; 49.2% of them replied that half of the teachers regularly give learning tasks of students. Besides, 24.6% of the respondents replied that all the subject teachers give them learning tasks. According to the BTES and many subsequent studies, teachers who allocate more time to a specific content area have students who achieve at higher levels than teachers who allocate less time to the same content. Therefore, this result conform to the BTES research works which states that learners to achieve higher level of learning that should be strengthen in the primary schools. On the other hand, a few of them indicated that 13.9% of the teachers do not give them learning tasks regularly.

Time on task depends on good classroom management processes and highly interactive teaching styles. In this regard, there are four significant classroom management processes promote time-on-task; (1) classroom arrangement; (3) Transitions; (4) Preparation and pacing and (2) Rules and procedures. As shown on item 3 above, students were asked what they do at the end of one period and at the beginning of the next period, 47.7% of the respondents replied that they spend their time playing with peers. However studies revealed that, efficient practiced transitions help students move in and out of the room smoothly and get to work quickly at the beginning of class or on the next learning activity. But as indicated by the respondents the time utilization during the transitions period was inefficient that demands due attention from the school managers and other respective stakeholders.

Contrary to this, 24.6% of the respondents indicated that they spent their time in doing their homework where as 21. 5% of them were leave out of the class following the teacher. This implies that, more than half of the students spent their time in activities other academic issues.

As shown in item 4, 33.8% and 36.9% of the respondents replied that during the absence of teachers, they spent their time by chatting with their friends and leaving out of the class following their teachers respectively. This shows that students were not using their time properly even when teachers are absent.

On top of this, response obtained from interview (teachers, principals and PTA) revealed that teachers give learning tasks for students. However, they also disclosed that students waste their time during the transition period as well as break time

To sum up, regarding students' time utilization in the class room activities, the results indicated that more than half of the time allotted for the teaching learning process was used by the learners for listening, class participation, doing different activities and reacting while asked by the teacher. On the other hand more than half of the students spent their time in activities other than academic issues during the end of each period and were not using their time properly in the absence of the teachers.

Table 3 : Responses on Time Spent in the school compound

No.	Items	Alternatives	NO.	%
1.	During Break time	I play with peers	35	53.8
		I study my lesson	11	16.9
		I do my home work	12	18.5
		I enter to my classroom	7	10.7
2	Students' engagement in co-curricular activities	Civic and Ethical club	10	15.4
		Sport club	8	12.3
		Health and Sanitation club	4	6.2
		Students parliament club	2	3.1
		Mini media	3	4.6
		Social club	1	1.5
		HIV and AIDS club	27	41.5
		Girls club	7	10.7
		Red cross club	3	4.6
		Top performers club	10	15.4
3	The extent of Engagement in Co-curricular activities	Always	2	3.1
		Usually	6	9.2
		often	15	23
		Sometimes	40	61.5
		Never	2	3.1
4	Contribution of Co-curricular activity to your achievement	Yes	46	70.8
		No	19	29.2

5	Attendance on tutorial class	Yes	50	76.9
		No	15	23

As described in table 3 above, respondents were requested to react on how they spent time in the school compound. In item 1 of table 3, 53.8% of the respondents answered that they spent their time playing with their peers during the break time. But low proportions of the respondents, that is, 16.9% and 18.5% replied that they spent their time in studying their

lessons and doing homework respectively. engaged Regarding students' engagement in co-curricular activities the majority of the students in the schools (41.5%) were involved in HIV and AIDS club. Low but equal proportion of respondents, that is, 15.4% them engaged in Civic and Ethical and Top performers clubs.

Table 4 : Responses on Time Utilization in the class room per Week

No.	Items	Days in a week	Hours							
			<1 :00		1:00-2:00		2:01-3:00		>3:00	
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Time used by the teachers in subject wise	Monday	35	53.8	6	9.2	5	7.6	19	29.2
		Tuesday	34	52.3	7	10.7	5	7.6	19	29.2
		Wednesday	34	52.3	8	12.3	18	27.7	5	7.6
		Thursday	30	46.2	10	15.4	15	23	10	15.4
		Friday	32	49.2	9	13.8	14	21.5	10	15.4
			33	50.8	10	12.3	11.4	17.5	12.6	19.4
2	Students time spent while learning	Monday	34	52.3	12	18.5	9	13.8	10	15.4
		Tuesday	34	52.3	15	23	8	12.3	8	12.3
		Wednesday	34	52.3	12	18.5	5	7.6	14	21.5
		Thursday	32	49.2	13	20	11	16.9	9	13.8
		Friday	35	53.8	14	21.5	10	15.4	6	9.2
			34	52.4	13	20.5	9	13.2	9	14.4
3	In the Absence of teachers	Monday	46	70.8	5	7.6	9	13.8	5	7.6
		Tuesday	42	64.6	10	15.4	8	12.3	5	7.6
		Wednesday	40	61.5	9	13.8	13	20	3	4.6
		Thursday	43	66.2	9	13.8	7	10.7	7	10.7
		Friday	44	67.8	11	16.5	8	12.3	2	3.1
			43	66.2	9	13.4	9	13.8	4	6.7

Table 4 is about time utilization within classroom by both teachers and students per week. In this regard, respondents were asked to react on the overall time used by the teachers in each period of the days per week. And then they replied that more than half of the teachers (50.8%) who teach different subjects had used less than an hours. However, 12.3 %, 17.5% and 19.4 % of the respondents indicated that low proportion of teachers have used form 1:00-2:00, 2:00-3:00 and > 3:00 per weeks.

In item 2 of the same table, respondents were requested to react on students time spent while learning in the classrooms. More than half (52.4%) of the respondents indicated that students in their classes spent less than an hour in different learning activities. Similarly, 20.5%, 13.2% and 14.4% of the respondents revealed that still students use 1:00-2:00, 2:00-3:00 and more 3:00 hours in different learning activities respectively per weeks. Contrary to research findings,

Academic learning time has to do with quality; it is the amount of time students spend actively working on tasks of an appropriate difficulty. Success breeds success. When a teacher targets the instruction of a new concept or skill so students can succeed at least 75% of the time, students are more engaged and achieve at higher levels. Therefore, this implies that in the primary schools under the study students' engagement in learning is low that calls attention to improve it and in turn it helps to enhances quality of education.

In item 3 of the same table, 66.2% of the respondents had revealed that in absence of teachers students often use less than an hour for learning activities in the primary schools. On top of this, 13.4%, 13.8% and 6.7% of the respondents had also indicated that students use from 1:00-2:00, 2:00-3:00, and more than 3:00 hours per weeks respectively for promoting

different learning activities in the classrooms while teachers were absent from classes.

Furthermore, response obtained from teachers, principals and PTA members in the interview indicated that students spent almost more of their time in learning different lessons.

Therefore, this shows that concerning time utilization in promoting different learning activities in the classrooms, equal proportion of the time allotted (fifty: fifty) for learning different subjects have been spent by both teachers and students per week within the primary

schools under the study. Hence, it is possible to conclude that students' engagement in learning activities are promising and should be strengthened and widened in all other schools within the Woreda.

b) Time Utilization of students out side the School (Home Environment)

Off-task behavior might serve the purpose of gaining adult or peer attention or access to more preferred activities, such as talking with peers or playing with materials; escaping or avoiding desirable activities such as writing or reading.

Table 5 : Responses of Students on Home Environment Activities

No.	Items	Alternatives	Number	%
1.	Do you study at home?	Yes	20	30.7
		No	45	69.2
2	Are you busy at home in doing different tasks?	Yes	38	58.5
		No	27	41.5
3	Reason for not studying at home	My own weakness	14	21.5
		My parents need my labor	44	67.5
		I work to help my self	7	10.7
		Parents disallow to use candle/ light problem	50	76.9
		Peer pressure	46	70.8
		Absence of reading room	65	100

In table 5, respondents were asked to respond on how students spent their spare time outside the school Environment. As shown in item 1 of the above table, 69.2% of the respondents spent their time not for studying their lessons at home. Similarly, the 58.5% of the respondents also uncovered that they spent their time in doing different house chores. In relation to this, the respondents were asked to list down reasons for not studying at home and hence, they indicated that the major reasons for not studying were absence of reading

rooms (100%), family failure to support their reasons children in home study (76.9%), peer pressure (70.8%), and family demand of child labor (67.5%).

Results obtained from interview shown that most students spent their off school time by helping their parents in different activities such as farming, firewood collecting, fetching water, cooking, and caring children etc. This implies that there is not conducive home environment for children's to study their lesson at home for the reasons mentioned above.

Table 6 : Responses on Time Utilization out of the school in a Week

No.	Items	Days in a week	Hours							
			<1 :00		1:00-2:00		2:01-3:00		>3:00	
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Time spent while doing different chores	Monday	16	24.6	33	50.80	7	10.7	9	13.8
		Tuesday	13	20	33	50.8	6	9.2	13	20
		Wednesday	30	46.2	24	36.9	7	10.7	4	6.1
		Thursday	18	27.7	30	46.2	12	18.5	5	7.6

		Friday	14	21.5	32	49.2	9	13.8	10	15.4
		Average	18	28	30	46.8	8	12.6	8	12.6
2	Time spent while playing	Monday	30	46.2	24	36.9	7	10.7	4	6.1
		Tuesday	34	52.3	23	35.4	7	10.7	1	1.5
		Wednesday	31	47.7	24	36.9	8	12.3	2	3.1
		Thursday	32	49.2	20	30.7	8	12.3	5	7.6
		Friday	35	53.8	21	32.3	6	9.2	3	4.6
		Average	32	49.8	22	36.1	7	11.1	3	5.5
3	Time spent while copying notes	Monday	24	36.9	25	38.5	12	18.5	4	6.1
		Tuesday	24	36.9	10	15.4	19	29.2	12	18.5
		Wednesday	23	35.4	26	40	15	23	1	1.5
		Thursday	24	36.9	22	33.8	15	23	4	6.2
		Friday	28	43	21	32.3	10	15.4	6	9.2
		Average	24	37.8	20	32	14	21.8	5	8.3
4	Time spent while studying	Monday	24	36.9	21	32.3	12	18.5	8	12.3
		Tuesday	25	38.5	20	30.7	11	16.9	9	13.8
		Wednesday	26	40	20	30.7	10	15.4	9	13.8
		Thursday	23	35.4	21	32.3	13	20	8	12.3
		Friday	24	36.9	20	30.7	13	20	8	12.3
		Average	24	37.5	20	31.3	11	18.9	8	12.9
5	Time spent in other activities	Monday	27	41.5	21	32.3	8	12.3	9	13.8
		Tuesday	23	35.4	19	29.2	13	20	10	15.4
		Wednesday	24	36.9	20	30.7	15	23	6	9.2
		Thursday	25	38.5	20	30.7	12	18.5	8	12.3
		Friday	24	36.9	18	27.7	13	20	10	15.4
		Average	24	37.8	19	30.1	12	18.8	8	13.2

As described in table 6 above, respondents were requested to specify numerically Time spent at home and their living areas per week. In this regard, 46.8% and 28% of the respondents replied that, they spent their time in doing different chores for 1:00-2:00 hours and less than an hour respectively. This implies that 74.8% of the respondents spent less than two hours for carrying out various house chores.

As shown in item2 of the same table, 49.8% and 36.1% of the respondents answered that they spent their time in playing with their peers for less than an hour and from 1:00-2:00 hours respectively. This reveals that most students (85.9%) spent less than 2:00 hours per week in playing with peers.

As indicate in item 3 above, respondents were asked to react how much time did they spent while

copying notes at home. Hence, they indicated that 37.8% of them spent less than an hour on it. But 32% of them responded that they spent from 1:00- 2:00 hours in copying different subject notes at home. This implies that note copying at home is not as an issue consuming much of students time at home.

In item 4 of the same table, respondents were requested to react on how much time did they spent while studying their lesson at home. Then 68.8% (37.5%+ 31.3%) of them replied that they spent less than two hours per week in studying their lesson.

As indicated in item 5 above, respondents were requested to indicate how much time did students spent inn undertaking various at home and in their living environment. The respondents showed that 67.9%

(37.8+ 30.1) them spent less than two hours in doing different activities.

To sum up, regarding how much time students spent in different activities at home and in their living village, most of them indicated that doing different house chores, playing with peers and studying lessons were the dominant activities that consume much of students time out off the their schools, at home and in their villages.

VI. RESULTS AND INTERVENTION MECHANISMS

As per the discussion and interpretation made, the following results and intervention mechanisms have been forwarded.

- ❖ To improve time utilization in Science subjects such as environmental science, biology, chemistry and physics, four steps that work well in a variety of curriculum areas and classroom settings to promote time-on-task. These are:

Step 1: Explanation. Students require explanation for most curricular aims or learning goals. For example, if a teacher wants students to be able to perform oral presentations and assess their own skills, then the students need to be able use an evaluation rubric containing four criteria. The teacher would explain in lecture format to assess a presentation.

Step 2: Modeling. It's often helpful for students to see "what it would look like" to actually have mastered the learning goal. It is very helpful for students to see someone (not necessarily the teacher) model the successful use of the skill or knowledge.

Step 3: Guided Practice. Demanding learning goals require assistance and practice. Teachers need to include a number of instructional activities for students to practice with improvement-oriented guidance and feedback.

Step 4: Independent Practice. At this point students are to display genuine mastery of the learning goal. Engaged time-on-task is especially relevant here. Independent practice makes sure that students can apply the knowledge or skill in a variety of circumstances and is deeply understood.

Innovative educators use many interactive strategies during the first three steps and particularly during guided practice. *Here is an annotated list of well-recognized, interactive teaching strategies:*

- ❖ Limit lecture time to 15-20 minutes and give students two or three opportunities within the lecture period to answer questions or Think/Pair/Share (see below).
- ❖ Use small group work (cooperative learning groups) to learn new information and model, practice or review a learning goal.
- ❖ Employ a variety of interactive methods during a lesson.

- ❖ Think/Pair/Share - Think about what you heard/learned, turn to a neighbor and share your thoughts in a very short time period.
- ❖ Buzz Session – give small groups a specific problem to solve in a short time period, monitor their work together and ask them to report their findings.
- ❖ Case Study – provide small groups with an open-ended situation that requires analysis, discussion and conclusions/recommendation(s) then groups deliver oral or written report.
- ❖ Incident Process – give small groups a real life incident or problem and ask the group to discuss it and develop a solution.
- ❖ Question & Answer Period –
 - following a brief topic introduction and before a lecture, ask students to write their questions on index cards and collect cards before the lecture, then during the lecture read and answer the student-generated questions.
 - have a random method of selecting the student to answer questions, e.g. names written on popsicle sticks or index cards drawn out of a bin, computer selected students, previous responder selects next student.
 - ask open-ended, critical thinking questions that require thought, analysis, evaluation with justification or synthesis.
 - ask rapid-fire close-ended (single answer) questions.
 - Short writing exercises – have students write a short response that identifies the part(s) of the lesson they did not understand or gives the key points of the lesson.
 - Note Review – ask students to review their notes and star the parts of the lesson they understand completely and circle the points that don't make sense; circle the room to answer questions and identify consistent misconceptions.
 - Demonstration – provide teacher-led or student-developed visual presentations of important concepts.
 - Other interactive possibilities: peer instruction, practice sessions, discussion, role play, brainstorming, games, field Trips, competition, assigned reading.

a) *Methods of Keeping a Student on -Task (Strategies)*

As a teacher paying attention of learners to the work on hand is often difficult for even grown adults. Following are a few of the suggestions to make sure that learners of any age stay on task and do not mentally or physically wander during a lesson or assignment.

1. *Provide clear directions.* Make sure that your directions for the project at hand are precise and explicit.

2. *Make sure supplies are handy.* A child will look for every reason to wander around the classroom. Keep extra pencils, paper, and markers on hand at the front table where the sharpener is.
3. *Make sure that the children have neither too much nor too little work*
4. *Many assignments are better done with partners.*
5. *Many children need reinforcement. Be sure and praise students often during the assignment.*
6. *Develop reward system for completed work.* My students are on a point system.
7. *Set a timer.* Children work better if they know they have a set time limit.

i. *How to Help Children Stay Focused in School*

Distractions at home and school may be preventing your child from focusing on her/his studies. Children may want to do well in school but may lag behind due to lack of focus. Distractions at home and in the classroom may be preventing your kids from giving their full attention to their studies. The following are strategies to help children stay focused at school and get better grades.

ii. *For Teachers*

- *Get the child's attention if you notice he's not paying attention in class.* Ask him to explain your instructions in his own words once you finish what you're teaching. Tell him to have his eyes on the person talking to him; this way you can prevent his eyes and thus his mind from wandering.
- *Use visual study tools that are less distracting.* Using bulletin boards and posters can help children understand lessons better but they can also be distracting. Use display tools that have subtle colors and minimal graphics.
- *Encourage the student to focus on the task at hand.* For example, if you are giving an assignment that has several steps to achieve the goal, limit your explanation to one or two steps instead of instructing him on the entire assignment. This way you can avoid overwhelming him with instructions, which can cause him to skip a step or two.
- *Give students a short break between subjects.* This gives them an opportunity to relax and energize themselves for the next lesson.
- *Inform the child's parents* about the student's performance at school during parent-teacher meetings. Tell them if he is having any difficulties.

iii. *for Parents*

- *Teach your child to listen.* Children who don't learn to listen find it difficult to follow instructions in class. Listen to your child when he talks to you. Ask relevant questions to show that you are listening carefully.
- *Make it clear to your child the importance of education and doing homework.* Set a regular

schedule for homework and monitor it. Eliminate distractions such as TV and telephone calls from friends during homework time. Create a quiet place to serve as a homework spot that can help him focus on his work.

- *Show interest in your child's school life.* Talk to his teachers often to know how he is doing at school. Participate actively in teacher-parent meetings. Talk about your child's skills and talents as well as your concerns during these meetings. Listen to what the teacher has to say about your child.
- *Monitor the classroom closely.* Even grown adults will wander if not monitored. If the teacher frequently walks the classroom, the students are more apt to be on task

b) *School-Wide Strategies For Managing... Off-Task Inattention*

Students who have chronic difficulties paying attention in class face the risk of poor grades and even school failure. However, teachers should not overlook other possible explanations for student off-task behavior. It may be, for example, that a student who does not seem to be paying attention is actually mismatched to instruction (the work is too hard or too easy) or preoccupied by anxious thoughts. Or the student may be off-task because the teacher's lesson was poorly planned or presented in a disorganized manner. Teachers that focus on making their instruction orderly, predictable, and highly motivating find that they can generally hold the attention of most of their students most of the time. Here are some ideas to consider boosting rates of student attending and on-task behavior:

- *Capture Students' Attention before Giving Directions:* Gain the student's attention before giving directions and use other strategies to ensure the student's full understanding of them.
- *Class Participation:* Keep Students Guessing: Students attend better during large-group presentations if they cannot predict when they will be required to actively participate.
- *Employ Proximity Control:* Students typically increase their attention to task and show improved compliance when the teacher is in close physical proximity. During whole-group activities, circulate around the room to keep students focused. To hold an individual student's attention, stand or sit near the student before giving directions or engaging in discussion.
- *Give Clear Directions:* Students will better understand directions when those directions are delivered in a clear manner, expressed in language the student understands, given at a pace that does not overwhelm the student, and posted for later review.



- *Give Opportunities for Choice:* Allowing students to exercise some degree of choice in their instructional activities can boost attention span and increase academic engagement
- *Instruct at a rapid Pace:* When students are appropriately matched to instruction, they are likely to show improved on-task behavior when they are taught at a brisk pace rather than a slow one
- *Make the Activity Stimulating:* Students require less conscious effort to remain on-task when they are engaged in high-interest activities. Make instruction more interesting by choosing a specific lesson topic that you know will appeal to students (e.g., sports, fashion).
- *Pay Attention to the On-Task Student:* Examples of teacher attention that students will probably find positive include verbal praise and encouragement, approaching the student to check on how he or she is doing on the assignment, and friendly eye contact.
- *Provide a Quiet Work Area:* Distractible students benefit from a quiet place in the classroom where they can go when they have more difficult assignments to complete
- *Provide Attention Breaks:* For example, a student may be allowed to look at a favorite comic book for 2 minutes each time that he has completed five problems on a math worksheet and checked his answers.
- *Reduce Length of Assignments:* Students' attention may drift when completing overly long assignments..
- *Schedule Challenging Tasks for Peak Attention Times:* Many students with limited attention can focus better in the morning, when they are fresh.
- *Select Activities That Require Active Student Responding:* When students are actively engaged in an activity, they are more likely to be on-task. Avoid long stretches of instructional time in which students' sit passively listening to a speaker
- *Transition Quickly:* When students transition quickly between educational activities and avoid instructional 'dead time', their attention is less likely to wander
- *Use Advance Organizers:* One strategy to improve on-task behavior is to give students a quick overview of the activities planned for the instructional period or day.
- *Use Preferential Seating:* Seating the student near the teacher is one tried-and-true method to increase on-task behavior. Preferential seating simply means that you seat the student in a location where he or she is most likely to stay focused on what you are teaching

i. How to Improve Student On-Task Behavior

On-task teaching methods are ideal for young students who tend to lose focus easily--especially those

kids that have been diagnosed. Ask any teacher, on-task teaching is sometimes the only way to keep their kids from taking over their classrooms. Follow these tips on how to apply on-task methods to your child.

1) Rules and Procedures

Set high expectations for student behavior and work habits. From the beginning of school, make clear rules about what students should be doing during any activity.

2) Monitoring Student Performance

Monitor student behavior during class. Keep your body turned so that you always know what is occurring. Circulate through the room to check each student's progress and provide assistance. Do not get stuck behind your desk since students will take advantage if they think you are not really paying attention to their behavior.

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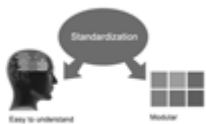
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