

English translation:

N: Nafkote M: Woman on the right

M: No matter how many educated people there are in Ethiopia, most of the house work and everything falls on the women and on our mothers. Do you have anything to say about women in Ethiopia?

N: No, I think you can explain it better than I can.

M: Well, let's start in the rural areas. Women work eighteen hours per day on average. They wake up while it's still night at 4:00 AM, they go collect firewood, they fetch water. After that, they make breakfast and see their husbands off to the fields. Then there's housework, cleaning the house, preparing lunch, washing the children, feeding the children, dressing them. As if that weren't enough, they're also the ones that weed the fields, they spend the entire day on that, and then they return and they can't rest because they need to prepare dinner. And when you think about it, women's lives can be described as full of suffering. For one thing, there's no one there to encourage them. The land isn't theirs; it's in their husbands' name. At anytime he wants, the man can say, "We can't live together anymore, you have to leave." The position of women in Ethiopia is very disquieting because they say that if you educate a woman, society is also educated. This is because when a woman is educated, she doesn't keep the effects to herself but helps her husband, her children, and her family. But, at the stage that we are currently at, the woman is seen as a burden.

N: Quite true. It's very sad.

M: Especially if you consider women that are our age. We're very lucky that we had the change to get educated. Oftentimes they are engaged when they are very young. And if they don't agree with their engagement, they run away to the city.

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