

8. Please tell me more about your experience of the mediation (probe: who initiated going to the elders? Who reported the conflict? What procedures are followed for the elders to see the conflict?)
9. Please tell me about what you think of how the elders deal with conflict. Do you feel they listen to you as much as to men; do they support women as much as men or vice versa? (Probe: Do you think, they treat men and women in marital conflict equally? What do you think about the verdict of the elders? Do you agree/Are you happy with their decision? Do you feel the conflict is solved after the mediation? Do you think your life/situation has gotten worse or better after the settlement?)

10. Please describe your role/involvement in the mediation (Probe: Were you given chance to explain your side of the story? Were you given chance to present yourself? Please explain your relation with these persons? If you are not present what do you think is the reason?)



11. Please describe the role/involvement of your husband in the mediation? (Probe: Was he given chance to explain his side of the story? Was there someone else representing him? Please explain the relation of these persons with him?)
12. Please explain what you think about using the formal justice system (police, court) to solve your conflict? (Probe: Will you ever consider going to the police or court to solve your marital conflict? If no, why not?)
13. Please explain if you think it would create difficulties for you in any way if you refused to accept judgment? (Keep simpler and more open-ended?) Describe if you have share the belief that a woman would incur supernatural wrath such as being hit by thunder if she

refuses to respect elders or their decision, or choose the formal justice system (police, court) to solve the conflict?

14. Please tell me about your perception of solving marital conflict through the formal justice system? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having the conflict seen by traditional judges? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having the conflict resolved through the formal justice system?

15. The Ethiopian government now recognizes this culture as ‘customary law’ and allows people to use their culture, what do you have to say about this?

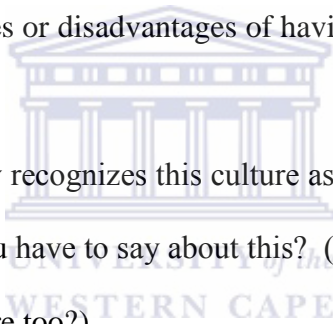


Guide for a Focus Group Discussion with Judges

1. In your opinion, what are proper behaviors/roles for girls and boys in the community?
2. In your opinion, what are the proper roles/behaviors expected from married women (in relation to their husbands) and married men (in relation to their wives)?
3. From your experience, please describe the most common causes of marital conflict that you mediate?
4. From your experience, how do you often go about mediating the different conflicts that come before you?
5. Please describe the mediation practice? (Probe: How long has this cultural mediation of marital conflict been practiced? Who initiates the mediation (husband, wife or others)? What procedures/principles are followed for the elders to see and judge the conflict? Are there any written rules?)
6. Why do you think couples choose to mediate their conflict through you?
7. Please describe if there is a criterion on who can become a traditional judge? (Probe: If women are not allowed to be judges, what are the reasons?)
8. In the course of mediating the conflict, please describe how you treat men and women? (Probe: What roles do husbands and wives play in the mediation? Do you treat wives the same way as their husbands, or do you treat them differently? Do you believe men and women should be treated equally (during marital conflict)? If you don't allow women to explain their story or if they are represented by someone else, what are the reasons? Is the procedure the same for men as well?)
9. What do you think about the outcome of your verdict for husbands and wives? (Probe: After the settlement, please explain if you think the life/situation of the wives/women often get

worse or better? Do you feel the conflict is solved after the mediation or do conflicts tend to recur?)

10. Please describe if there were women who took their case to court/police?
11. Please describe your reaction, if women insist on going to the formal justice system to resolve conflict with their husbands? (Probe: describe if you believe that a woman would incur supernatural wrath such as being hit by thunder if she refuses to respect elders or their decision?)
12. Please tell me about your perception about solving marital conflict through the formal justice system? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having the conflict seen by traditional judges? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having the conflict resolved through the formal justice system?
13. The Ethiopian government now recognizes this culture as 'customary law' and allows people to use their culture, what do you have to say about this? (I'm curious that you don't have this for women. Maybe use this there too?)



Guide for a Focus Group Discussion with Women

1. What are boys usually expected to do, and what are girls usually expected to do? What are proper behaviors/roles for girls and boys in the community?
2. What are the duties of married men and women, respectively, in the community?
3. What do you think are the most common causes of conflict between husbands and wives in the community?
4. What are the different ways of resolving conflicts between husbands and wives?
5. Why do women choose to mediate conflict they had with their husbands via the Gurage cultural way (through elders)?
6. What is the role/involvement of women and men in the mediation? If women are not allowed to represent themselves, please describe the reason?
7. What do you think of how the elders deal with conflict? Do you feel they listen to women as much as to men; do they support women as much as men or vice versa?
8. What do you think about the verdict of the elders? What do you feel about the life situation of women after the mediation?
9. Please tell me about your perception of solving marital conflict through the formal justice system? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having the conflict seen by traditional judges? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having the conflict resolved through the formal justice system?
10. Please explain if you think it would create difficulties for women in any way if they refuse to accept judgment or go to the formal justice institutions? What will happen if a woman refuses to respect elders or their decision, or choose the formal justice system (police, court) to solve the conflict?

11. The Ethiopian government now recognizes this culture as ‘customary law’ and allows people to use their culture, what do you have to say about this?

