

Visit to “Deda Learning Centre, Library and Self-Reliance Support” Project in DEDA village near Debre Zeit, Ethiopia (May-June 2015)



On 27 May 2015 Tegegn Gebeyaw, coordinator DEDA project in Ethiopia, Tesfaye Chofane, PhD student development economics AAU, and I (undersigned) representing the ISOB Foundation visited the DEDA Primary School. We left at 7:30 in the morning for Debre Zeit where we had breakfast. We used different means of transport and at one o'clock we arrived at DEDA School. It

took us so long because we travelled low-budget, we took two mini-busses and one bajaj to arrive in Hidi town, and the last 5 km we travelled on a two wheel cart pulled by a horse.

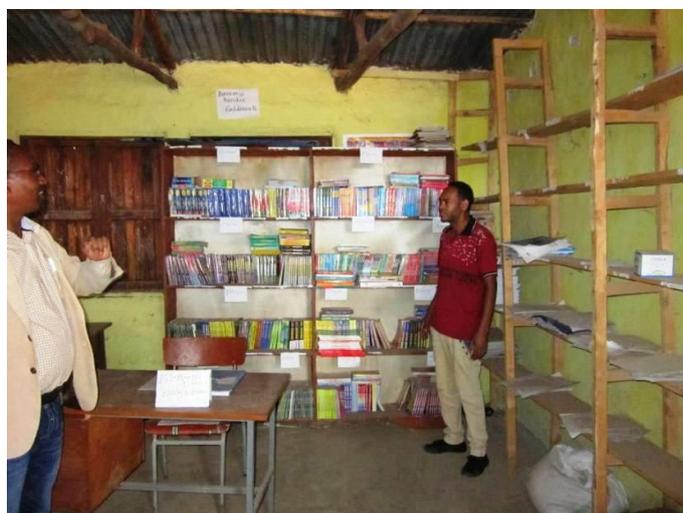
The School Committee of three older men were waiting for us. We went to the backside of the school and sat on the walls of the future library where we met the teachers. First we held an introduction round.



The committee told us that they have used the first funds that Getachew had given them in April this year. They have started with the basement, but it lacked a floor because sand has not yet been delivered to the school. The school committee cannot continue the work until the needed funds arrive and they hope to start the project after the rainy season in September.

I told about the ISOB Foundation's involvement in the project and what we have done to find funds. We discussed the project plan and the shortages in the school. Tegegn translated as much as possible in Amharic.

Deda school has 6 classrooms and one small teachers room. During our visit few children were present because it was examination time. One of the 6 classrooms serves as the library and many shelves are still empty, as you can see on this photo.



English teachers Shumi Hunde told about other shortages in the school: lack of educational materials and writing supplies and there was no radio and no camera, so I promised my own camera before I was going to leave the country. I observed that the school lacks almost all basic learning materials.

The classrooms had very old blackboards that had lost their black color completely. Written text was almost unreadable. I told Tegegn about Blackboard or Chalkboard Paint and I promised to find out where to buy it.



And indeed it was easy to find the chalkboard paint in the Netherlands. Getachew took the paint on his next travel. He painting the first schoolboard and the

result was impressive. The teachers will finish the job and paint all the other classrooms as well.

This photo shows you the children who received 3 of the many T shirts that Getachew has donated. I also brought a bag with clothes and a box with school supplies.



In my last week I donated my camera and some school posters that I bought in the streets of Addis Abeba.

Anneke Sontrop,
ISOB Foundation

You can help these children too!

By making a donation on JUSTGIVING, a crowdfunding platform:

<https://justgiving.nl/nl/events/1130-deda-learning-center-isob-foundation>

Or use the **Donate Online** button in the right column of our website: www.isobfoundation.org

Or donate directly to our bank account: NL88INGB 0007740200 to the attention of:

STG Steun Onderw/Biblioth Z-Eth, in Amsterdam



THANK YOU!

International Support of Education and Library in South Ethiopia.