

Case study

(Gender Module II- Sharing household responsibilities equally)



Mr. Agostino Dos Santos, a 61 years old, residing at Loidahar village of Hatululi sub-village, of Liquiçá municipality. As a farmer, His daily activity is planting fruits and vegetables and sell them to the vendors in the market to get some income for his daily needs.

Mr. Agostino informed that before he participated in the activity on gender equality issues discussion, his family situation was normal and no problem and all his children went to school in the capital Dili and even some are studying abroad, he therefore keeps struggling to sustain family's economic situation to support his children studies.

Mr. Agostino expressed his interest in meetings in his village. *“I always attend meetings and activities in the community, and when going home I also shared with my wife and children when they all are on school holidays and gathered at home. the things I shared were about how to share household activities. Besides, I also shared with my close neighbor and those who always have problem in their families. I reminded them by saying that’ it is because you always put the burden on your wife and daughters to do the house work and let your boys to roaming around and get*

drunk anytime they like. As a parent, they should give a good moral to their children and have regular family gathering and share each family member's role and children could also share the progress of their studies. In addition to that, children's role and responsibility shouldn't be over loaded that could cause them having less time to study and participate in extra activities or playing as it will cause pressure to them because study and playing are their rights to enjoy in their day to day life.

Mr. Agostino also mentioned some positive changes in his village such as “*last time, when there was no clean water in this village, many people including children went to collect water for distance, however, when water is closer to the community, we feel there are good changes because the community could plant their plantations that can produce income to the family as well. Clean water is so important because it can be used for many activities, not only for cooking and drinking, but also help children to keep clean and their clothes also clean when they go to school*”.

Taking the opportunity, Mr. Agostino also would like to leave a message by requesting his fellow neighbors, especially the men not to be lazy, or just roaming around for gambling and let the women to do house work. Instead, they should manage on how to take equal responsibility and prepare for future generation's life by letting them to go to school.