**Interview questions**

**Children attending primary school**

*Focus mainly on children in the higher grades of primary school, including some attending other schools than the local one. Include a balance of girls and boys, different socio-economic backgrounds, and some who are successful students and some less successful.*

***Reasons for going to school / aspirations for the future***

Why do you go to school?

What do you expect your future to look like? (probe: job, location(s), marriage/children)

Do you often think about the future? How often?

What would be a successful life? Why do you say this?

Mentions of jobs – what do you know about this job? Where did you learn about it? Do you know anyone who does it? Why do you think it would be a good job?

Mentions of places – have you been there? What did you like about it? Do you know anyone who lives there? What do they tell you about it?

Mentions of marriage / not marriage – do you know young people who’ve married? What have they told you about it? What have others told you about whether you should marry? Do you know older men / women who haven’t got married?

How can you achieve this sort of life?

Will school help you be successful in life? How far do you expect to go with your education? How much education do you think you need for the life you want?

***Engagement with education***

Do you like going to school? If so, what is it that you like the most? What don’t you like?

What sort of learner are you?

Do you enjoy lessons? What do you learn that you like? Why?

Do you attend every day or do you sometimes stay away? Why? Do you always arrive on time?

Do you do homework? Where do you do it? Does anyone help you with it?

Do you get good marks? Did you pass last year?

When you get good marks, why do you think that is?

How do you feel if you do better than your friends? What about when you do worse than your friends?

Have you ever failed at school?

If yes, how did that make you feel? What caused that to happen? What did you do in response?

What motivates you to work in school?

Who is the most successful in your school? What makes them successful? Do you know what they want to do when they leave school?

***Absence from school***

What happens if you don’t go to school? (punishment, failing, missing friends etc)

Have you ever spent a long period of time away from school? Why was that? What made you go back to school?

***Support for learning***

What do you think is most useful about school? What is less useful? Is there anything that you think might harm your future?

Who helps you in school?

Who are your favourite teachers?

How do they encourage you? What do they do well?

Which teachers are not helpful?

Is there anything you think teachers should do differently?

How do you think a good teacher should be?

(if they say they want to be teachers) – Which kind of teacher would you like to be yourself?

Do your friends help you at school? How? Do you learn together? How?

Do your parents encourage and help you? How?

Does your education enable you to help them, at all?

Who or what motivates you to study?

Do you think Setala Primary is a good school? Would you prefer to go to a different school? Which one? Why?

Have you ever been on any school trips? Where did you go? What did you learn there?

Does your school organise any events? Tell us about one of those.

***Beyond education – what is needed for success?***

Apart from school, what else is important for a good life? (or, if school isn’t important, what is?)

Who do you think is the most successful in the village?

How did they achieve what they do? (whatever they mention)

Who helped them achieve that?

What can stop people from being successful?

***Education’s role***

Is education important for all aspects of life? Are there some aspects where it’s not important? What are these?

Does education help with herding? If so, how? If not, why not?

Does education help you get married? How? / Why not?

***Teachers’ expectations***

What do you think your teachers expect you to do in the future? What makes you think this? Is this what you want to do?

Do your teachers want you to stay in Ha Setala? Is that what you want?

Do they think you should get married and have children? When? What do you think about this?

***Parents’ expectations***

What do your parents want you to do in the future? What makes you think they want this? Is this what you want?

Do they want you to go to secondary school? Will they be able to pay for that? If not, is there another way to get there? Do you want to go to secondary? What do you hope for when going to secondary?

Do they want you to stay in Ha Setala? Why? Is that what you want? (If they mention herding, probe how they relate it to schooling – is it more important? Does education help?)

Do your parents want you to marry and have children? What do you feel about their views?

What do your siblings do? How did they do that? Do you want to do the same or something different? What do your parents think about what they’re doing?

***Friends / siblings / others***

What do your friends / siblings want to do in the future? What do you think of their ideas?

What do they expect you to do?

Is there anyone else who has expectations or hopes for their future? If so, who are they? What do they want you to do, and why?

***Barriers to success***

Is there anything that might stop you from achieving success in life? What sorts of things? Can you do anything about these?

What do you wish for yourself in your life if you keep your eyes closed? How are you going to live that kind of life?

**Children attending secondary school**

*Focus on young people attending a range of different secondary schools, at different levels. Include a balance of girls and boys, different socio-economic backgrounds, and some who are successful students and some less successful. Mainly include those who attended the local primary school, but also others whose education has been entirely outside the village. The focus of these questions is largely on how the young people engaged with primary education, the outcomes of that and how it shaped their aspirations.*

***Reasons for going to school / aspirations for the future***

Why do you go to school?

What do you expect your future to look like? (probe: job, location(s), marriage/children)

Do you often think about the future? How often?

What would be a successful life? Why do you say this?

Mentions of jobs – what do you know about this job? Where did you learn about it? Do you know anyone who does it? Why do you think it would be a good job?

Mentions of places – have you been there? What did you like about it? Do you know anyone who lives there? What do they tell you about it?

Mentions of marriage / not marriage – do you know young people who’ve married? What have they told you about it? What have others told you about whether you should marry? Do you know older men / women who haven’t got married?

How can you achieve this sort of life?

Will school help you be successful in life? How far do you expect to go with your education? How much education do you think you need for the life you want?

***Engagement with education***

Did you enjoy going to primary school? If so, what is it that you liked the most? What didn’t you like?

What sort of learner were you?

Did you enjoy lessons? What did you learn that you particularly liked? Why?

Did you attend every day or did you sometimes stay away? Why? Did you always arrive on time?

Did you do homework? Where did you do it? Did anyone help you with it?

Did you get good marks? What did you achieve at PSLE?

Why do you think it was that you passed this exam? How was it that you passed and went to secondary school when some others don’t manage to?

How do you feel if you do better than your friends? What about when you do worse than your friends?

Have you ever failed a year at school?

If yes, how did that make you feel? What caused that to happen? What did you do in response?

What motivates you to work in school?

Who was the most successful in your primary school? What made them successful? Do you know what their aspirations were for when they left school?

Why was it that you decided to go to secondary school? Was there anyone or anything in particular that influenced you?

Why is it that you attend this particular secondary school? Do you think it’s a good school? Why do you say that?

***Absence from school***

What happens if you don’t go to school? (punishment, failing, missing friends etc)

Have you ever spent a long period of time away from school? Why was that? What made you go back to school?

***Support for learning***

What do you think is most useful about school? What is less useful? Is there anything that you think might harm your future?

Who helped you when you were in primary school?

Who were your favourite teachers?

How did they encourage you? What did they do well?

Which teachers were not helpful?

Is there anything you think the teachers should have done differently?

How do you think a good teacher should be?

(if they say they want to be teachers) – Which kind of teacher would you like to be yourself?

Did your friends help you when you were at primary school? How? Did you learn together? How?

Did your parents encourage and help you? How?

Has your education enabled you to help them, at all?

Who or what has motivated you to study?

Do you think Setala Primary is a good school? Why (not)?

Did you ever go on any school trips? Where did you go? What did you learn there?

Did your school organise any events? Tell us about one of those.

***Changing aspirations***

How did you expect your future to be when you were at primary school? What did you want to do?

Did your expectations and hopes change through the time you were at primary school?

What about now? What do you now want for your future?

If it hasn’t changed, why do you think that is?

If it’s changed, what made it change?

***Beyond education – what is needed for success?***

Apart from school, what else is important for a good life? (or, if school isn’t important, what is?)

Who do you think is the most successful in the village?

How did they achieve what they do? (whatever they mention)

Who helped them achieve that?

What can stop people from being successful?

***Education’s role***

Is education important for all aspects of life? Are there some aspects where it’s not important? What are these?

Does education help with herding? If so, how? If not, why not?

Does education help you get married? How? / Why not?

***Teachers’ expectations***

What do you think your primary teachers expected you to do in the future? What makes you think this? Is this what you want(ed) to do?

Did your teachers want you to stay in Ha Setala? Is that what you want?

Did they think you should get married and have children? When? What do you think about this?

***Parents’ expectations***

What do your parents want you to do in the future? What makes you think they want this? Is this what you want?

Did they want you to go to secondary school? Do they pay for this? If not, how are your fees paid? Is there any problem with paying the costs of secondary education?

Do your parents want you to stay in Ha Setala? Why? Is that what you want? (If they mention herding, probe how they relate it to schooling – is it more important? Does education help?)

Do your parents want you to marry and have children? What do you feel about their views?

What do your siblings do? How did they do that? Do you want to do the same or something different? What do your parents think about what they’re doing?

***Friends / siblings / others***

What do your friends / siblings want to do in the future? What do you think of their ideas?

What do they expect you to do?

Is there anyone else who has expectations or hopes for their future? If so, who are they? What do they want you to do, and why?

***Barriers to success***

Is there anything that might stop you from achieving success in life? What sorts of things? Can you do anything about these?

What are your dreams for the future? What do you wish for yourself in your life if you keep your eyes closed? How might you be able to live that kind of life?

**Children / young people who have dropped out of school**

*Focus on a range of children who have left school at various stages, mainly up to and including the end of primary school, as well as those (if any) who have never attended school. Include a balance of girls and boys, different socio-economic backgrounds, and some who were successful students and who left when they failed.*

***Aspirations for the future***

What do you expect your future to look like? (probe: job, location(s), marriage/children)

Do you often think about the future? How often?

What would be a successful life? Why do you say this?

Mentions of jobs – what do you know about this job? Where did you learn about it? Do you know anyone who does it? Why do you think it would be a good job?

Mentions of places – have you been there? What did you like about it? Do you know anyone who lives there? What do they tell you about it?

Mentions of marriage / not marriage – do you know young people who’ve married? What have they told you about it? What have others told you about whether you should marry? Do you know older men / women who haven’t got married?

How can you achieve this sort of life?

***Engagement with education***

What do you think about education? Is it important?

Did you like going to school? If so, what did you like the most? What didn’t you like?

What sort of learner were you?

Did you enjoy lessons? What did you learn that you particularly liked? Why?

Did you attend every day or did you sometimes stay away? Why? Did you always arrive on time?

Did you do homework? Where did you do it? Did anyone help you with it?

Did you get good marks? When you got good marks, why do you think that was?

How do you feel if you did better than your friends? What about when you did worse than your friends?

Did you ever fail a year at school?

If yes, how did that make you feel? What caused that to happen? What did you do in response?

Who was the most successful in your primary school? What made them successful? Do you know what they wanted to do when they left school?

***Leaving school***

Why did you leave school when you did?

If it was because you failed, why do you think you failed at that time?

How did you feel about leaving school?

What do you feel about it now?

Would you like to return to school? Why / why not?

***Changing aspirations***

What are you doing now? Is this something you’ve always wanted to do?

Are you happy doing this? If not, what would you like to be doing?

When you were at school, how did you think your future would be?

Has that now changed? If so, why? If not, why not?

What do you think now about the way you used to view the future?

What are your plans now for the future?

***Support for learning***

Was it useful to go to school? How has it helped you so far in life?

What do you think was useful about school? What was less useful? Is there anything that you think might harm your future?

Who helped you when you were in school?

Who were your favourite teachers?

How did they encourage you? What did they do well?

Which teachers were not helpful?

Is there anything you think the teachers should have done differently?

How do you think a good teacher should be?

Did your friends help you at school? How? If not, how did they hinder you? Did you learn together? How?

Did your parents encourage and help you? How?

Who or what motivated you to study?

Do you think Setala Primary is a good school? Would you have prefered to go to a different school? Which one? Why?

Did you ever go on any school trips? Where did you go? What did you learn there?

Did your school organise any events? Tell us about one of those.

***Beyond education – what is needed for success?***

Apart from school, what else is important for a good life? (or, if school isn’t important, what is?)

Who do you think is the most successful in the village?

How did they achieve what they do? (whatever they mention)

Who helped them achieve that?

What can stop people from being successful?

***Education’s role***

Is education important for all aspects of life? Are there some aspects where it’s not important? What are these?

Does education help with herding? If so, how? If not, why not?

Does education help you get married? How? / Why not?

***Teachers’ expectations***

What do you think your teachers expected you to do after leaving school? What makes you think this? Is this what you wanted to do?

Did your teachers want you to stay in Ha Setala? Is that what you wanted?

Did they think you should get married and have children? When? What do you think about this?

***Parents’ expectations***

What do your parents want you to do in the future? What makes you think they want this? Has this changed since you left school? Is this what you want?

Did they want you to go to secondary school? Would they be able to pay for that? If not, is there another way to get there? Did you want to go to secondary?

Do they want you to stay in Ha Setala? Why? Is that what you want? (If they mention herding, probe how they relate it to schooling – is it more important? Does education help?)

Do your parents want you to marry and have children? What do you feel about their views?

What do your siblings do? How did they do that? Do you want to do the same or something different? What do your parents think about what they’re doing?

***Friends / siblings / others***

What do your friends / siblings want to do in the future? What do you think of their ideas?

What do they expect you to do?

Is there anyone else who has expectations or hopes for their future? If so, who are they? What do they want you to do, and why?

***Barriers to success***

Is there anything that might stop you from achieving success in life? What sorts of things? Can you do anything about these?

What do you wish for yourself in your life if you keep your eyes closed? How are you going to live that kind of life?

**Parents /guardians**

*Focus on parents / guardians of children who have been involved in the research, including those with children at the local primary school, those whose children attend other primary schools, those with children who’ve left school and those with children at secondary schools. Many will have children who fall into more than one of these categories: ask about differences between the children.*

***Aspirations for their children***

How do you expect your children’s lives to be in the future?

What are your hopes for them? What, if any, are your fears?

What would you consider to be success in raising your children?

How would you feel if your children did something different from what you hope for?

How do you try to guide your children?

How important is education in this?

***Value of education***

Why do/did you send your children to school?

Which school(s) do/did they attend? What made you decide they should go to that/those school(s)?

What do they learn there?

What do they learn there that they don’t learn at home? (Subjects, skills, values)

Do you think that the education that they get at school is useful?

What would you like teachers to teach your children?

***Specific aspirations of parents***

What would you like your children to do in the future? Why?

Do you have different expectations for each of your children? Why?

How much education would you like them to receive? Will they (all) go to secondary school? Where? Why?

What do you think about Ha Setala – would you like your children to stay here or move to other places? Where? Why?

Do you expect them to get married? When? Will education help with that or not?

***Aspirations of the children***

What about your children? What do they want for their futures? Do you think they want the same as you do? Where do they get their ideas from?

***Views on the school***

How do you think the school expects your children’s futures to be? What does it want for them? Are you happy with this?

What do you think of the school they attend? (If not Setala, what do you think about Setala?)

Is there anything you don’t like about the school?

Do your children work hard at school?

What kinds of things do the children do at school?

How do you support your children in school?

How often do you talk to teachers?

What do they say about your child?

***Comparing with their own education***

Did you go to school?

What did you learn at school when you were young?

Is it similar or different to what they learn now?

What did your parents teach you when you were young? Would you teach your children the same, or would you change things?

***Indicators of success***

Who do you think is successful in the village – how did they achieve whatever they are doing?

**Teachers**

When did you start teaching?

How did you come to be a teacher?

Why did you end up here in Ha Setala?

***Purpose of teaching***

What do you see as the role of a teacher?

What are you trying to achieve in this job?

What sort of future are you preparing children for?

How do you do that in your role as a teacher?

What is the broader role of the school in preparing children for the future?

What do you see as ‘success’?

***Challenges for rural teachers***

What are the challenges that you face?

Are there particular challenges working at a rural school like this one?

What do children normally do after leaving school?

What would you like them to do?

How realistic is this?

***What and how they teach***

What is it that you teach that is most useful to rural children?

How do you try to improve their chances?

Are there particular children or groups of children that you focus on?

What methods of teaching do you think work best?

What do you think about the (new) curriculum? Does this provide a better preparation?

How do you use the curriculum, the syllabus and the textbooks?

***Influences on children***

What makes a successful learner?

What do you think are the main influences on how well children do at school? (school-related, family, other)

What are the main influences on what they do when they leave school?

How far are you as a teacher – or Setala as a school – able to change these things? Do you try to? How?

What happens to children who do not go to school, or who drop out?

***Desired change***

How do you see this school compared to others?

What would you like to change about your school?

If you were minister of education, what would you do?

How do you see Ha Setala in 5-10 years?

**Policy makers**

What is your job here?

***Organisation***

Tell me a little about your organisation and its role in relation to education in Lesotho

How does your organisation view education? What does it see as the purpose of education in Lesotho? What is it that you are trying to achieve through education?

What sorts of futures should schools be preparing children for? (personal, national / political-economic)

***Programme***

Could you tell me about the programme that you are currently working on? (e.g. integrated curriculum)

What is it trying to achieve?

How successful is it likely to be? What are the outcomes so far? Why, what are the constraints?

What are the effects on rural children likely to be? Have rural schools been a particular consideration?

What is the origin of this programme? Where is the funding from? Is it a big priority for your organisation? Why? What is the commitment of the other organisations / ministries involved?

Which educational programmes do you think have been the most important in Lesotho?

***Rural schools and aspirations***

What do you think rural schools are for?

What do you think schools are successful at in Lesotho? What are they less successful at?

What kinds of aspirations do you think young people themselves have?

Are there contradictions between young people’s goals and those of the ministry? If so, how do you think those play out in school?