

# Examining The Relationship Between Poverty And Early Marriages Among School Going Girls. A Case Study Of Kimanya Sub County

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**Abstract:** *The aforementioned goals served as the study's guiding principles: to assess the various causes of early marriages in communities, to identify ways in which gender norms actually impact girl child education, and to identify strategies for ending early marriages in communities. The study's case study of the kimanya sub county was used to examine the relationship between poverty and child marriages among school-going girls. According to the study's findings, 35% of the participants said that teenage pregnancy was their primary reason for getting pregnant young. A small number of respondents told the investigator that poverty and a lack of opportunity were additional causes of early marriage in secondary schools. Notwithstanding, 14% of the survey participants told the research scientist that ancient traditions were additionally among the factors that led to early marriages; 8% argued that displacement also contributed to early marriages; 6% mentioned their level of education; and 3% said peer pressure was a significant factor in the marrying young of girl students in Kimanya Sub County. Also, the researcher advised parents to always send their kids back to school anytime they enter into young marriages.*

**Keywords:** poverty, early marriages and school going girls

## Background of the study

The usual trinity of major human life events is birth, pregnancy, and death. Pregnancy is the only one of these three occurrences that is a decision. Beginning in the Roman era, the freedom to exercise that option was recognized as a legal precept, and it has since been codified in international human rights accords (Bunting, 2012).

Pregnancy has existed from the dawn of humankind.

Adam was the first man that God made, and the Bible claims that he was an orphan.

God, who is omnipresent and omniscient, was aware of his predicament and put Adam into a deep sleep before removing one of his ribs and creating Eve (Genesis 2:21-22)

According to the holy bible, Adam and Eve were the first parents on world to experience childbirth at this period. God created man according to his image by creating him as a male and female, blessing them and telling them to "be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, and dominate it" in Genesis 1:27.

The study claims that the investigator will make use of Dr. Murray Bowen's. According to the Structural Family Therapy, it is better to think of the family as a complex, dynamical, and evolving group of parts, components, and relatives.

A therapist or research scientist would communicate with family and friends to determine the manner in which the processes of the relatives are in need of repair or interference, much like a repairman would functionality with the computer network of a broken-down car to determine which processes are cracked (transmission, electric, fuel, etc.) to restore it.

## Problem Statement

A poor alignment was represented by an early gestation. Childbirth was viewed as a life breakthrough and occasion for commemoration across the world. Tragically, early pregnancy involves the denial of essential human rights. Young girls were robbed of their innocence and forced to fill roles for which they are not emotionally ready. Most young girls have no choice as to when to get pregnant or who their partner will be. Others are too fragile to make an informed choice, while some are forced into pregnancies. Premature childbirth precludes them of the chance at personal advancement as well as their rights to full reproductive health, wellbeing, education and participation in civil life.

**Objectives of the study**

1. To assess the different causes of early marriages’ in communities.
2. To identify ways how early marriages’, affect girl Child education
3. To identify ways how early marriages’ can be abolished in communities

**Research Questions**

1. What are the different causes of early marriages in communities?
2. How does early marriage affect girl child education?
3. What are some of the ways how early marriages can be abolished in communities?

**Methodology**

**Research Design**

The Researcher adapted to a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Kimanya Sub County which had a big population. The researcher in this case used quantitative measures like percentages which made it possible to collect data from the respondents.

**Study Population**

According to Greg Lawrings (2015), population was defined as the inhabitants of a particular place. The study population included the population description and the population sampling design.

The targeted population was on 150 Parents, 25 teachers and 25 community leaders. The researcher will use a sampling technique to get a sample.

*Table 1: Target Population*

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Target Population</b>
Parents	220
Teachers	130
Community leaders	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>

**Population and Sampling technique**

The population from which the sample was taken involved the Parents in Kimanya Sub County, teachers and Community leaders. The respondents were got from various villages in order to come up with accurate data to help the researcher get all that was needed.

*Table 2: Sample Size*

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Parents	220	200	56%
Teachers	130	100	28%
Community leaders	90	60	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>360</b>	16%

Source: Field data (2021)

The researcher used a sample size of 200 Parents, 100 teachers and finally 60 community leaders in all the different villages in Kimanya Sub County using stratified sampling technique because it was the most effective when handling large populations.

Respondents from different villages and schools were selected using simple random sampling technique to make the results are objective.

### Research Instruments

The researcher developed both primarily and secondary sources of information and data. In collecting Primary Data, the researcher used questionnaires as tools for collecting data. For Secondary Data, publications by re known authors in this field for example magazines, articles, books and News Papers will be used by the researcher to gather information that is required.

### Questionnaires

This choice of tool was used due to the fact that the targeted population was literate and therefore capable of filling-in the questionnaires. It gave the respondents adequate time to give well thought out answers. Questionnaires were also self-administered and provided a quick means of collecting data from a large population's sample.

### Data Collection Procedure

The Researcher made sure that he or she has the respondent's consent towards the study in order to make data collection from them easy and accurate. The researcher then went ahead to seek appointments from the community leaders, Parents and teachers in order to design questionnaires to avoid having excess or less. The researcher then reached to the respondents on the agreed times to carry out data collection.

### Data Processing and Analysis

Data was processed from the questionnaires that were administered to the respondents, the researcher then went ahead and gathered the questionnaires from respondents in order to know the number of respondents who responded to the questionnaires from the sample size that was used. The researcher then used SPSS to analyze data and present them into percentages on graphs and pie charts to be easily understood.

## RESULTS

### Response Rate

The response rate of the respondents was explained in the table below:

Table 3: Groups of respondents and number of questionnaires retrieved

Respondents	Number of questionnaires distributed	Retrieved Questionnaires
Students	200	180
Teachers	100	90
Community leaders	60	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>325</b>

Source: Primary data (2021)

The table above clearly indicated that the researcher retrieved data from 180 students out of the sample size of 200 respondents and the researcher at the same time retrieved data from 90 teachers out of the sample size of 100 and 55 community leaders out of 60. This made a total of 325 respondents who presented to the researcher accurate data that was used basing on the objectives of the study.

**Causes of early marriages on the Girl Child**

Table 4: Respondents views on the causes of early marriages

Causes of early marriages	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poverty and lack of opportunities	90	28
Level of education	20	6
Traditional practices	45	14
Adolescent pregnancy	120	35
Ophanhood	15	5
Displacement	25	8
Peer group influence	10	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the figure 3 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that 35% of the students clearly indicated that adolescent pregnancy was their main cause of early pregnancy followed by a few respondents who informed the researcher that poverty and lack of opportunities was also another factor that caused early marriage in secondary schools, 14% however informed the researcher that traditional practices were also considered one of the factors that resulted to early marriages, 8% urged that displacement also caused early marriages, 6% level of education was also presented by some respondents and finally 3% of the respondents informed the researcher that peer group influence was also a major cause of early marriages among girl child education in Kimanya Sub County.

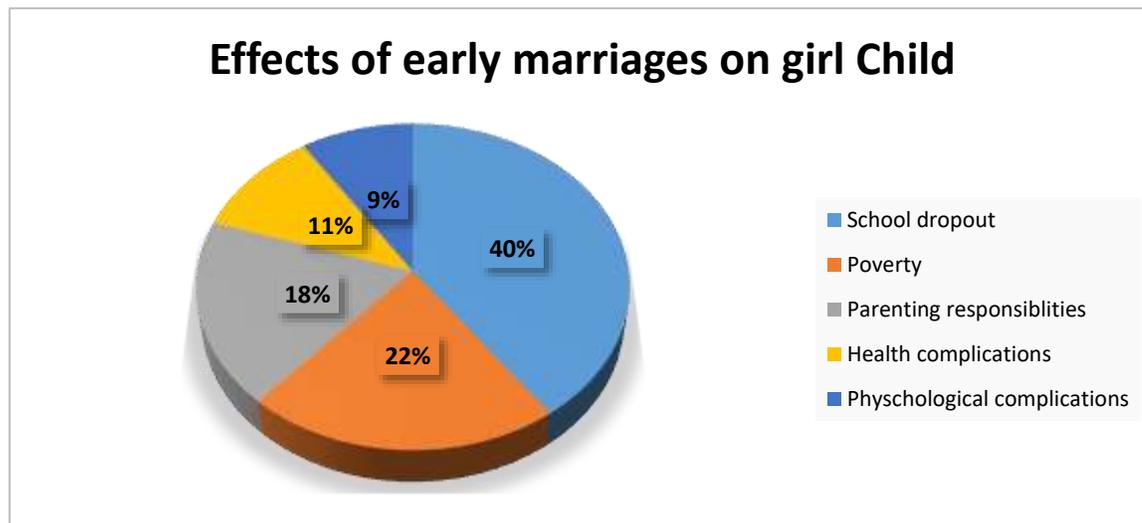
**Effect of early marriages**

Table 5: Respondents views on the effects of early marriages

Effects of early marriages on girl Child	Percentage (%)
School dropout	40
Poverty	22
Parenting responsibilities	18
Health complications	11
Psychological complications	9

Source: Field Data (2021)

Figure 1: Views on the effects of early marriages



Source: Field Data (2021)

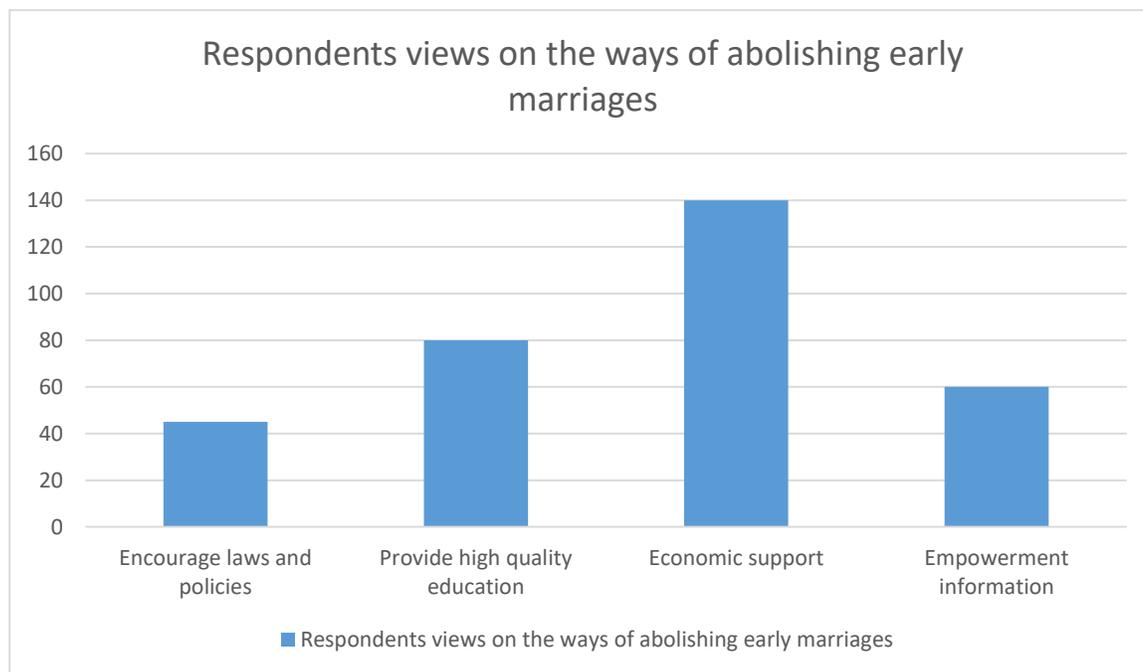
According to the figure 1 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that over 40% of the respondents informed the researcher that the main effect of early marriages was school dropout followed by 22% of the respondents who presented results indicating that poverty was also another effect that would result due to early marriage of the girl child, 18% of the respondents also presented results indicating that one of the main challenges girls who would engage in early marriages was parenting responsibilities which would make them loose concentration to go at school, 11% of the respondents however also presented results indicating that many girls who involved in early marriages would get health complications like diseases such as HIV/AIDS among others and finally 9% of the respondents informed the researcher that girls who would get involved in early marriages would face psychological complications because they would get involved in something they were not yet ready for.

**Ways of abolishing early marriages of the Girl Child**

Table 6: Respondents opinions on the ways of abolishing early marriages

Ways of abolishing early marriages	Percentage (%)
Encourage laws and policies	45
Provide high quality education	80
Economic support	140
Empowerment information	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 2: Respondents views on the ways of abolishing early marriages



Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the findings of the study, over 140 respondents informed the researcher that the only way early marriages would be abolished was through providing economic support to the girl child in order to make them access all their necessary needs followed by 80 respondents who presented results showing that through providing quality education to the girl child would also help to abolish early marriages and 60 respondents however presented results showing that girl child empowerment would also play a big role in

abolishing early marriages of the girl child and finally 45 respondents presented results indicating that through encouraging supportive laws and policies against early marriages, early marriages would not exist in the communities.

### **Conclusions**

In conclusion, the findings of the showed that majority of the respondents informed the researcher that majority of the respondents presented results showing that adolescent pregnancy was the main cause of early marriages at Kimanya Sub County because of the time wasted when not at which forced many into early marriages however a few respondents informed the researcher that poverty and lack of opportunities was also another cause of early marriages despite others who cited out traditional practices as also a cause of early marriages. In communities which had it in their tradition.

### **Recommendations**

The researcher also recommended the parents to always send their children back to school whenever they get involved in early marriages.

There was also a need to enhance the health sector of the communities in order to cater for girls that usually got health complications due to early marriages.

There was also a need to put strict laws on the adults who engage in early marriage to the young girls in order to make many fears to practice it.

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