

A Clear Graphics Representation on the Effects of Early Marriages in Teenagers. A Case Study of Namungoona Parish, Rubaga Division, Kampala District.

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Abstract: *The study concentrated on creating an understandable graphic to highlight the adverse consequences of underage marriages in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, and Kampala district. It was done to make the teenagers more aware of the negative repercussions of early engagement. In order to create a poster that educates the public on the consequences of early relationships to adolescents in harmonica parish, where a number of teenagers get married to each other and have children while some of them are pregnant, survey responses, interviews, literature reviews, documentation, photographing, and assessment were used as research tools. However, studies from various academics revealed that there is still much to be done to deal with this issue because despite the fact that many scholars have produced works about it, it continues to be a problem in the field of study. In order to raise awareness about the detrimental impact of early weddings on teens in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, Kampala district, the investigator researched the variables triggering early marriages and produced a clear visual depiction. The results of the study showed that the best course of action for reducing the problems caused by first-degree marriages in the study area was to continue attending school.*

Keywords: Early Marriages and Teenagers.

Background of the study.

A young marriage, in accordance with Bhabha (2020), is "any legal or conventional union including a girl beneath the age of 18" (Parsons et al., 2015). Marriage at an early age has grown into a major issue in numerous emerging economies, including Uganda, as reported by UNICEF (2005:2). In Uganda, it continues to be an unpleasant reality and an infringement of fundamental freedoms (UNICEF, 2017). The freedoms of children, especially those related to health, education, and safeguarding from exploitation in a situation are protected by the Children's Act, Chapter 59 of the Laws of Uganda, and the Federal Republic of Uganda's 1995 Government. Since ancient times, young marriages have taken place all around the world, however they tend to include significantly older males and female offspring (Vincent S, 2023).

Data from the 2006 UDHS show that amongst women who had ever been engaged and were between the ages of 25 and 49, more of those who were married before turning 14 had no formal education than those who had married later (26%). Compared to women who married at younger ages, a greater proportion of those who married after the age of 18 had completed their secondary school or higher (UDHS, 2006). Few women in the Western region completed secondary schooling. The proportion of people who were married for the first time at age 18 or older and had finished secondary education or higher increased somewhat compared to the 2001 and 2006 polls (Ibid., 2006).

Article 16.2 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that a marriage can only be concluded with the free and informed approval of both parties. As a result, pregnancies and marriages that are compelled are against human rights. Girls' rights regarding healthcare, learning, a secure home, and the ability to decide when and with whom they want to marry are all violated by marriage at a young age (Gracious A, 2023).

The low status of women, which can be described as empowerment—the extent whereby women are granted access to as well as influence over materials, act independently, and are able to demonstrate independence in decision making—contributes to the widespread embrace of early marriage (Abadian 1996). In polygynous relationships, which are typically rural and low-income, female independence may be hampered.

Statement of the problem.

Even though the authorities of Uganda and other international groups have worked to stop early weddings in many regions of the country, numerous regions, especially Namungoona parish, continue to see marriages before their weddings, particularly among teens. Combating arranged marriages in Uganda is crucial for the future prosperity of the nation as well as the general populace,

as it helps to reduce interconnected impoverishment, diseases transmitted through sexual activity, cervical cancer, maternal deaths, obstetric obstructions, and premature births, between other things (Gracious. A, 2023).

Objectives of the study.

1. To identify the causes of early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, Kampala district.
2. To find out the effects of early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, Kampala district.
3. To discover the measures that can be taken in reducing early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, Kampala district.

Studio guiding questions.

1. What are the causes of early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, and Kampala district?
2. What are the effects of early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, and Kampala district?
3. What measures can be taken in reducing early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, Kampala district?

Methodology

Research design.

A descriptive research design was used which is appropriate for analytical presentation on the effects of early marriages in teenagers in Namungoona parish, Rubaga division, Kampala district.

Population of the study.

This research was used the population in various areas in Namungoona parish who the researcher believes was well positioned to provide information needed to establish the effects of early marriages in teenagers.

Sample size.

The study comprised of 50 respondents who were randomly picked by this researchers basing on the categories of 05 local leaders, 10 parents, 10 students and 25 teenagers. Many teenagers were involved in this study because they have enough life experience.

Sampling Techniques.

The research used the random sampling method because it is easy to use and not biased. That is to say, the method ensures each member of the target population has an equal chance of being selected at all times. The research also used purposive sampling technique especially when selecting local leaders.

Data Collection Methods.

Several methods were used to collect data. They will include questionnaires, and interviewing.

Questionnaires.

These were employed due to the results' excellent accuracy because they permit discussion and provide the responses of those surveyed a sense of freedom. They can also deal with employees that are busy and difficult to approach. These will comprise grandparents, adolescents, and local officials.

The investigator gave the participants two full weeks to complete the survey responses, which they then synthesizer-administered. After the allotted time has passed, the investigator would personally collect the responses to the surveys from those who participated.

Interviewing.

In order to conduct interviews with individuals and certain groups of the public, the investigator employed guidebooks for interviews. This is due to the requirement for easy accessibility to comprehensive study material, which also makes it simple to assess the material's authenticity.

Data analysis.

The data is to be analyzed quantitatively using SPSS. Percentages are to be used mainly to analyze the response from the ended questions and findings to be interpreted in the tables showing frequencies and percentages (Nelson. K, 2022).

RESULTS**The Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents****Distribution of Respondents by Gender**

The researcher was interested in determining the gender of the respondents in order to examine the extent to which male and female got involved in the study. The information obtained was indicated as in the table below:-

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	23	46
Female	27	54
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data, January, 2022

Findings in table 1 above showed that majority of the respondents were female indicated by 54 % out of the total number of respondents. The minority however were male because they were not easily accessible, may be were busy or workers therefore were not part of the questionnaire or interview processes. This was indicated by 46 % out of the total number of respondents. In advance the results showed that the research was dominated by female than male.

Distribution of Respondents by Age

Here the researcher wanted to determine the age of the respondents in order to identify the validity of the responses given in advance. In this case therefore, the findings obtained were as demonstrated in the table below;

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age bracket	Frequency	Percentages
20-30	25	50
31-40	13	26
45-60	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data, January, 2022

From the findings in table 2 above, the dominant respondents were from age category 20-30. This was represented by 50% of the total number of respondents since the respondents targeted most parent who seemed to be young followed by respondents from age category 31-40 with 26 % out of the total number of the respondents. The minority of the respondents however, were from age 45-60 with 24% out of the total number of respondents.

Distribution of the Respondents by Level of Education

The researcher was interested in determining the level of education of the respondents in order to identify the validity of the responses given. The information obtained was indicated as in the table below.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education

Education level	Frequency	Percentages
Primary	30	60
Secondary	10	20
Bachelors	05	10
Masters	05	10
Others	00	00
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data, January, 2022

Findings in the table above indicated that respondents of primary level were more with 60% out of the total number of respondents. These were followed by respondents with secondary level taking 20% followed by respondents with bachelor's level education with 10% as the minority with the same percentage as master's level of education with also 10%.

Extent of early marriages among teenagers

Table 3 shows the rates of early marriages

Rate	Frequency	Percentage
Very high	05	10

High	15	30
Low	20	40
Very low	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data, November, 2022

Findings showed that (05) 10% of the respondents indicated that the rate of early marriages in Namungoona was very high, (15) 30% indicated that the rate of early marriages in Namungoona was high, (20) 40% indicated that the rate of early marriages in Namungoona was low, (10) 20% indicated that the rate of early marriages in Namungoona was very low. The research study revealed that the rate of early marriages in Namungoona parish is low as revealed by 40% of the respondents. It was found out that the rate of early marriages girls was used during the research study.

Social causes of early marriages as revealed from respondents.

Table 4 shows the social causes of early marriages as revealed from the respondents

Social cause	Frequency	Percentage
Peer influence	05	10
Lack of parental guidance & counselling	16	32
Traditional beliefs	04	08
Domestic violence	08	16
Low education level	10	20
Family prestige	07	14
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data, November, 2022

10% of the participants said that social support between these teenagers' peers has a significant impact on their behavior, determining whether they will adopt the proper lifestyles or comply with the wrong organizations that cannot provide them with the necessary guidance regarding the course and general well-being of their lives. 8% of the participants said that most families still have a poor opinion of women as domestic slaves who must stay at home. Domestic violence within households has also been an additional contributing factor in early weddings, which account for 6% of early weddings among enrolled students. Additionally, parents and guardians force children to work and subject them to harsh punishments including torture.

Economic causes of early marriages in teenagers

Table 5 Shows responses on economic factors causing of early marriages

Economic cause	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	15	30
Lack of resources	05	10
Source of wealth	10	20
Unemployment	12	24

Inheritance of wealth	08	16
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data, November, 2022

According to 30% of participants, one factor influencing the formation of early marriages between learners and learners of school-age is the high poverty rates among households, grandparents, and protectors, which makes it difficult for these students to continue attending school regardless of lacking basic necessities like clothes, uniforms, and academic supplies. 20% of the participants agreed that the need to find employment for oneself, as did 24% of participants in the group in question, is a factor in the high marriage rate among school-age pupils who are yet to obtain a level of learning that will allow them to live comfortably.

Psychological factors were reported for the cause of early marriages in teenagers. Table 6 Show psychological factors reported for the cause of early marriages in teenagers.

Psychological cause	Frequency	Percentage
High sexual desire	30	60
Gender sexual satisfaction	20	40
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data, November, 2022

In most African countries, adolescents experience emotional cravings, according to 60% of the participants. For example, girls who are still in school have been married because to their early fertility increase of their sexual urges. This has raised teen rate of dropping out, which has led to marriages before marriage in even the majority of African nations. According to 40% of participants, sexual fulfillment and a hunger for enjoyment among young people are major contributors to early marriages. As a result, these children choose marriage as a way to satisfy both their emotional requirements and their bodily desires, which leads to early weddings.

Respondents responses on the effects of early marriages among teenagers

Table 7 Shows respondents' responses on the effects of early marriages among teenagers

Effect	Frequency	Percentage
Obstruct labor	08	16
Domestic & Sexual violence	20	40
High Infant mortality rate	10	20
Unemployment	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data, November, 2022

16% of the respondents indicated obstruct labor, 40% indicated domestic and sexual violence and this was ranked the highest among the effects of early marriages among the teenagers in the area of study, 20% of the respondents indicated high mortality were most newly born babies die at an early infant stage, 24% of the respondents indicated unemployment as another serious effect of early marriages among teenagers as it was ranked second and this is because most couples are still young and defendants.

Respondent' responses on the control measures of early marriages among teenagers

Table 8 Shows responses on the control measures of early marriages among teenagers

Control measure	Frequency	Percentages
Provision of health services	07	14
School attendance	23	46
Strict laws	09	18
Sensitization & mobilisation	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data, January, 2022

Findings in the table above shows that 14% of the respondents indicated provision of health services out of the total number of respondents. 46% of the respondents suggested school attendance as a measure to curb down the rate of early marriage among teenagers in the area of study, 18% of the respondents indicated strict laws as another measure of controlling early marriages among teenagers, 22% of respondents indicated sensitisation and mobilisation as yet another measure and this was ranked second implying that there teenager could be not well informed of the effects of early marriages.

Conclusion

According to investigate, high sexual fantasies were found to be the most significant psychologically cause of early relationships within the research area, followed by a lack of the parents advice and support (32% among the social causes) and impoverishment (30% among financial causes), which were attributed to an elevated level of joblessness, dishonesty, adultery, hidden sexual orientation, illnesses, incompatible of behavior, impoverishment, and extramarital relationships.

Recommendations Basing on research findings, the following is recommended:

From the research findings, the researcher therefore recommends that all families should keep their school going children in schools since it was indicated as the best way of reducing early marriages among teenagers.

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