



**CAUSES OF EARLY MARRIAGES AMONG SCHOOL GOING PUPILS IN
SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN MPUMUDDE SUB COUNTY IN JINJA
DISTRICT- UGANDA.**

BY

TEGULE JOSHUA

BAE/38707/123/DU

**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION OPEN, DISTANCE AND E- LEARNING
OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD
OF A DEGREE IN ARTS
WITH EDUCATION**

SEPTEMBER, 2015

DECLARATION

I.....Tegule Joshua.....hereby declare that the work entitled the causes of early marriages among school going pupils in Mpumudde sub county in Jinja District has never been submitted for any award in any institution and it originally belong to me

TEGULE JOSHUA

BAE/38707/123/DU

Signature.....Tegule Joshua..... Date.....3rd/09/2015.....

APPROVAL

Ideclare that the “causes of early marriages among school going pupils in selected primary schools in Mpumudde Sub County in Jinja District- Uganda” has never been done under my supervision.

MADAM TALIGOLA DEBORAH

(SUPERVISOR)

SIGNATURE.....

DATE:.....*3rd September 2015*

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents Gawaya Tegulle Davis and Gawaya Kataike Tolofisa who made me what I am and for their financial and moral support towards my education. I also dedicate it to my lovely daughter Tegule Kataike Hope who entirely participated in this study. To all who in one way or another contributed to the success of this work I say, God bless you.

Finally, I wish to salute efforts of my supervisor for the support during the writing of the proposal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe this work to God who gave me good health and wisdom without him I wouldn't have made it.

Special thanks go to my parents Gawayu Tegulle Davis and Gawayu Kataike Tolofisa who made me what I am. My lovely daughter Tegule Kataike Hope who entirely participated in this study.

More so my course mates Felix. Awel, Kyanzi, Jackson, Kimera, Eddy, Joan, Doreen and Hellen who all supported me morally and academically.

Special thanks go to my lecturers Edith, Amina, Nakawungu, Callist, Javan, Ssekajugo, Musimenta, Franklin, Taligola Deborah.

Last but not least my friends Wako Benjamin and Were Julius who were with me during thin and thick situations. My brother Gawayu Mike Kenn and my sister Gawayu Twanza Jane. To you all I say may God bless all your endeavors.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

STDS	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
USAID	United States Aid
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Funds
UN	United Nations

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:1 Percentage of girls who get married early by country.....	7
Table 2: 4.1 Profile of the respondents.	12
Table 3:4.2 causes of early marriages among pupils.....	13
Table 4: 4.4 showing negative effects of early marriages.	15
Table 5:4.4 Measures that the community uses for combating early marriages.	16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
APPROVAL.....	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF ACRONYMS	v
LIST OF TABLES	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vii
ABSTRACT.....	ix
CHAPTER ONE	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem statement.....	2
1.3 Purpose of the study.	2
1.4 Objectives of the study.....	2
1.5 Research questions	2
1.6 The significance of the study.	3
1.7 Scope of the study.....	3
1.8 Time scope	3
CHAPTER TWO.....	4
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	4
2.0 Review of the existing literature	4
2.1Causes of early marriages	7
2.2 Consequences of early marriages.....	8
CHAPTER THREE	10
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	10
3:0 Introduction.....	10
3:1Area of the study	10
3:2 Sample selection.....	10
3:3 Data collection techniques.....	11
3:4 Questionnaire.....	11

3:5 Observation method	11
3:6 Secondary data	11
3:7 Data analysis.....	11
CHAPTER FOUR	12
DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION	12
4.0 Introduction.....	12
4.1 Profile of the respondents.	12
4.1.1 Age.....	12
4.1.2 Gender of the respondents.....	13
4.2.3 Education level of the respondents.....	13
4.2 Causes of early marriages among pupils.	13
4.3 Negative effects associated with early marriages	15
CHAPTER FIVE.....	17
DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.	17
5.0 Introduction.....	17
5.1 Discussions.....	17
5.2 Conclusion	20
5.3 Recommendations.....	20
5.4 Areas for further research.....	22
REFERENCES.....	23
QUESTIONNAIRE	24
APPENDIX I	25
QUESTIONNAIRE FORM FOR THE RESPONDENTS.....	25
APPENDIX II	26
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE KEY INFORMANTS.....	26

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate the causes of early marriages among school going pupils in Mpumudde Division in Jinja district.

The objectives of the study were the following; it was aimed at:

- 1. To establish the causes of early marriages among school going pupils.*
- 2. To examine the impact of early marriages on the pupils who engage themselves in this practice.*
- 3. To come up with measures and strategies that can be adopted to reduce the high rate of early marriages among school going pupils.*
- 4. To investigate whether there are policies and measures put in place by the government to reduce on the high level at early marriage.*

Questionnaires were administered to 35 respondents

The findings of the study reviewed that young girls were of at an early age between 12 to 15 years. The sole reason is that parents wished to get dowry and had a feeling that once a girl is educated she benefits the family she is married to. Therefore parents saw no value in educating girl child which made these girls to be married off at early age.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter contained the background of the study, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, the research questions, and the significance of the study and scope of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Early marriages mean a formal marriages or informal union entered into by an individual before reaching the age of 18years. According to the researcher early marriages means getting married to someone before the consent of someone.

According to Merriam – Webster. com, early marriages means social situation where by young boys and girls of school going age drop out of school and join in the making and forming of families .Early marriages is at time seen from the girl-child point of view, it should however be acknowledged it does still imply to boys as well.

This situation affects the welfare as well as livelihood of school going pupils especially the girl child. This issue puts a risk of maturing properly as they would in the absence of getting married early in their lives. This practice robs the country of all its resourceful mothers who would actually help in taking up various social, economic and political programs needed for economic growth and development.

The social media like entertainment, beliefs, culture and traditions have increased the problems to increase for instance among the Basoga after reaching the puberty age, children are told by their parents that they are old enough and are now adult hence encouraging them to engage in early marriages.

1.2 Statement of the problem statement

Causes of Early Marriages among School Going Pupils in Selected Primary Schools located in Mpumudde Sub County in Jinja District- Uganda.

This is a problem prevailing in Busoga region because after young parents starts family life, they lack the ability to take care of the family rights from child up grooming to the provision of basics and necessities of life like food, shelter, clothing etc.

This has made these young parents run away from home responsibilities thus end up engaging in stealing and engaging in all forms of gambling so as to make ends meet.

The researcher has found it necessary to establish and investigate the causes of early marriages in Mpumudde Sub County.

1.3 Purpose of the study.

The purpose of the study is to establish and investigate the causes of early marriages and provide possible measures to curb the problem.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The proposed study will be guided by the following objectives;

- i. To come up with measures and strategies that can be adopted to reduce the high rate of early marriages among school going pupils.
- ii. To investigate whether there are policies and measures put in place by the government to reduce on the high level of early marriages.
- iii. To establish the causes of early marriages among school going pupils.
- iv. To examine the impact of early marriages on the pupils who engage themselves in this practice in their lives.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What measures and strategies can be adopted by the government to reduce the high rate of early marriages among school going pupils?

- ii. Which measures and policies can be investigated by the government to reduce on the high levels of early marriages?
- iii. What are the causes of early marriages among school going pupils?
- iv. What are the impacts of early marriages on those pupils who engage in the practice in their lives?

1.6 The significance of the study.

The findings generated from the study will be of great importance to the parents in Mpumudde Sub County and to the rest of Busoga region to put conducive environment for their children to study up to the university level.

The findings will also help the researcher to have better understandings of the causes of the early marriages.

The study will help the government officials to come up with measures that will prevent girls from getting married while still going to school.

The researcher will gain knowledge and skills of conducting the research process.

1.7 Scope of the study

The study investigated the causes of early marriages among pupils with focus on finding the social economic factor that are responsible for early marriages. The study also investigated the policies and measures that the government and community had put in place to combat and establish impact of early marriages and its impact on student engage in it. The study was conducted in selected primary schools in Mpumudde Division in Jinja District.

1.8 Time scope

The study began on 1st February up to 28th of February 2015. It was starting from 9:00am up to 12:00 noon.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Review of the existing literature

In almost all developing countries Uganda inclusive, school dropout has been a subject of interest to academicians, researchers and policy makers for a long time. This phenomenon continues to pose a big challenge to the successful implementation of national policies.

The study conducted by Holmes, (2003) found out that over all, females become less educated than males and they tend to drop out or withdraw earlier for both economic and social-cultural reasons. He observed further that the opportunity cost of sending female children in rural areas where girls are married quite early is high because the benefits of their schooling will not accrue to their parental house hold.

Kasente,(2004) Kakuru, (2003) explain how early marriages influence children's' dropping out of school most especially girl child as perceived by parents that marrying off the girl child is an escape route from poverty hence leading to early marriages.

Uganda participatory poverty assessment (UPPAP, 2000) showed that marring off girl child would benefit her family in terms of attaining bride price which led to early marriages.

Odaga and Heneveld (1995)noted that parents worry about wasting money on the education of girls because they are most likely to get pregnant or married before completing their schooling and that once married girls becomes part of another family and the parental investment in them is lost this therefore perpetuates parents discouraging the girl child from continuing with school.

Holmes, (2003) noted that the education attainment of the father increases the expected levels of school retention of boys and that of the mother enhances the educational level attainment of girls.

United Nations children fund (UNICEF, 1999), MOES, (1995), Government of Uganda (GOU 1999), HORN (1992), all show that parental decisions do affect children retention in school. Students whose parents monitor and regulate their activities, provides emotional support, encourage independent decision making and are generally more involved in their schooling are less likely to drop outs school.

Astone and Mc Lanalan, (1991), Rumberge et al (1990) Rumber (1995) , Odaga and Heneveld (1995) and Russel (2001) noted that girls are more likely to drop out of school than boys and that pupils whose mothers have not attained any level of education will most likely drop out of school.

Russel (2001), Bickel and Pagaiannis (1998) and Clark (1992) demonstrated that communities can influence dropout rates by providing employment opportunities during school.

Mann (1986 and 1989) showed that student employment begins to correlate with dropping out of school when the student regularly works over 14 hours per week.

MOES (2001) noted that dropout rates in government aided school for girls and boys are almost equal. The total number of male drop out was 50.6% in2001 while that of the female was 49.4% in the same year.

Nyanzi (2001), put forward that marriage, pregnancy and sickness are the major causes of drop out among girls children while amongst the boys they include job seeking, lack of interest and lack of fees.

African journal of reproductive health Vol13, Dec, 2009, pp113-127 cited the use of family planning methods like condoms, safe days have led to early

pregnancies which eventually leads to early marriages. It was observed that when the teenagers engage in sexual activities while using these methods and in case of one failing to properly use them can lead to early marriages.

Uganda Bureau of statistics (UBOS) and Macro international INC Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (2006), noted the failure of parents and guardians to provide basic needs like clothing, food, etc. makes the teenagers especially girl child fall in love with men and boys who promise them financial returns in exchange for sex which leads to early marriages.

According to the United Nations statistics, half of all girls in some countries are married by the time they reach the age of 18years (UN Annual Report 2005). The United Nations children's Fund took a step ahead and called for a global campaign to prevent the wide spread phenomenon of child marriage.

Forcing children especially girls into early marriages can be physically and emotionally harmful, (Martins 2003), Carl Bellumy the Executive Director of UNICEF quoted "Early marriages violate the right to personal freedom and growth. Yet until now there has been virtually no attempt to examine child marriages as a human rights violation in and of itself."

The call on the eve of international women's day was part of a new report released by UNICEF Entitled "Early marriages" child's spouses," it discussed why early marriage continues and may even be on the rise among extremely poor populations.

Child marriages can be found across the global but are pervasive in parts of Africa and South – Asia. The percentage of girls aged 15-19 in selected countries who are already married include,

Table 1:1 Percentage of girls who get married early by country.

Country	Percentage
Democratic republic of Congo	74
Niger	70
Afghanistan	54
Bangladesh	51
Honduras	30
Iraq	28

(Source UNICEF report on early marriages, 2004)

2.1 Causes of early marriages

Domestic violence causes some girls to run away in desperation. Those who do so and those who choose a marriage partner against the wishes of their parents may be punished by or killed by their family. These girls run the risk honor killing that occur in Bangladesh, Egypt and elsewhere (Faye, 2003)

To prevent child marriage, a wide range of individuals and organizations from community leaders to international bodies must take action. The first step is to inform parents and young people about the negative effect of child marriage so that they can choose to prevent it.

For girls who already married, services ought to be developed to counsel them on issues ranging from abuse of reproduction. Girls aged 15 to 19 give birth to 15 million babies a year (UNDP Report on development 2000) many of them do so without attending antenatal clinics.

Education is the key in this process persuading parents to keep their daughters at school is article for over all development in post ponement of marriage. Sri Lanka and the Indian states of Kerala are good examples (Mensan, 1995) that have higher rate of first marriage.

Abuse is common in child marriages, data from Egypt shows that 29% of marriage adolescents have been beaten by their husbands and of these, 14% have been beaten during pregnancy. A study in Jordan, published in 2000 found out that 26% of the reported cases of domestic violence were committed against widows less than 18 years (UNICEF 2000, Report on domestic violence)

The traditional desire to protect girls out of wedlock pregnancies is a primary factor. Recent UNICEF survey showed that 44% of 20-24 years old women in Niger were married before they reached fifteen (15) years because of this concern (UNICEF 2004). In these communities studied all decision on timing of marriage and choice of spouse were made by the fathers.

Poverty also causes child marriage. In Bangladesh poverty stricken parents are persuaded to part with their daughters through promises of marriage used to lure girls into prostitution abroad. Accounting from Iraq indicates that early marriages are rising there in response to poverty (Hicks, 2000)

2.2 Consequences of early marriages

In previous Ethiopian civil code, the minimum age for marriage was 15 till the recent revised family law which put the age 18 years as a minimum age of marriage. This enforcement of law has got challenges from the society and executive body.

Referring to the demographic and health survey 2015 in Ethiopia, the median of marriage was 16 years, 13% of women were married by age 15 and 66% of women were before the age of eighteen (18) which is clearly showing the higher prevalence of early marriages especially Amhara and Tigray.

According to findings of the survey 15% of married women Amhara were being betrothed before the age of 12 the major causes of the problem was noted to be deep rooted in traditions, the need to maintain family status in the society which is closely bound up with the success of children (Miller, 2006). This is an old traditional concern that a girl will be too old for marriage which will represent

a failure on the part of her parents. The parents marry her off while she is still a virgin.

Instability of marriage, Poor health, fistula, having many children, less education, school, drop out and the impact of wellbeing of children are the major consequences of early marriage (Hicks, 2000). The fistula problem stands out to be the most dominate and severe problem. The girls are not physically mature and face problems at birth

Nearly three quarters of the married women get married to older men. At time of birth, their body that is besides their womb hurts and makes whole which allow passes of excretions. This creates bad smell a problem called fistula to occur. It stigmatizes and alienates women which force them to leave the family in a separate house in the distance from the family residence.

A girl cannot sue a person responsible for her early marriage because she would be told by the local police that it is not fair to sue the person that they are culturally right. The exhaustive appointment and prolonged trial process make her despair over the law. The non-government organization (NGOs) like action aid is trying to solve the problem.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3:0 Introduction

This chapter dealt with data collection techniques and procedures, study areas, research design and sample size. The focus of the research based on people's views, opinions and beliefs held about early marriages and how it affected the general well being of all those who engaged in it. The study involved both the qualitative and quantitative approaches.

3:1Area of the study

The study was conducted in the areas of selected primary schools in Mpumudde Sub County in Jinja District. The area was chosen because it's the researcher's home areas and place of birth. The researcher got interest in the problem due to the public outcry of early marriages and how it adversely affected the ability of those who engaged in it.

3:2 Sample selection

The study consisted mainly the school going children, teachers and the general public. Interviews with teachers was carried out to interact with them and inform the researcher the percentage of pupils who dropped out of school for purposes of getting married and how adversely this practices affected the pupils.

The pupils who participated in the study were chosen from primary five to primary seven who can clearly read and write good English. Sample random sampling technique was used to enable the participants have a say on the subject under examination. A questionnaire was issued to twenty teachers and fifteen pupils to get the data relating to the problem.

3:3 Data collection techniques

The study was both qualitative and quantitative in nature of collection, analysis and presentation of research findings.

3:4 Questionnaire

This was used to collect people's views about the problem under investigation and then the data was presented both qualitatively and quantitatively. A total of thirty five (35) participants were given questionnaire forms to fill in a period of about three weeks in order to allow them have enough time to give adequate information.

3:5 Observation method

This method of data collection was employed to enable the researcher to critically see the impact left behind as a result of children dropping out of school to get married. This was done by actively involving the families and those adolescent who engaged in the practice. The community members should too engage in the process of collecting information.

3:6 Secondary data

Secondary sources like Kampala International University Library, internet, other libraries like Kyamboggo, magazines, journals; these gave general background of the causes and effects of early marriage and the extent to which it affected the society at large.

3:7 Data analysis

The researcher used both questionnaires and observation as methods that were employed to analyse the data. This was done with the help of tables, frequencies and percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presents the findings of the study based on the objectives of the study.

The findings of the study were presented in tables with the aid of frequencies and percentages and later analyzed and presented.

4.1 Profile of the respondents.

Table 2: 4.1 Profiles of the respondents.

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
36-40+	15	42.87
30-35	10	28.57
25-29	5	14.28
20-24	5	14.28
Total	35	100
Gender		
Male	21	60
Female	14	40
Total	35	100
Education Qualification		
Masters	5	14.29
Bachelors	5	14.29
Diploma	10	28.57
Certificate	15	42.85
Total	35	100

Source; Primary Data.

Table 4.1 above gives the generalization about the profile of the respondents who participated in the study. These include;

4.1.1 Age.

The findings in the study revealed out that the respondents who participated in the study were divided into four groups. Those participants in the age bracket

of 20-24 and those in the age bracket of 25-29 had a similar percentage of 14.28%. Those in age bracket of 30-35 had a percentage of 28.57% and those from age bracket of 36-40+ had a percentage of 42.87%. This shows that there are variations in the age distribution.

4.1.2 Gender of the respondents.

Basing on the research findings as reflected in the table 4.1 above, female participants who participated in the study constituted 40% and the male participants who participated in the study was 60%. This shows that the male respondents who participated in the study were more than that of the female, basing on the result from the findings.

4.2.3 Education level of the respondents.

The findings show that the respondents who participated in the study had diverse academic qualifications. The percentages of the respondent who had bachelors and masters were similar and it was 14.29%. Those from diploma were 28.57% and certificates was 42.85%. It shows that the certificate holders had the greatest percentages.

4.2 Causes of early marriages among pupils.

Table 3:4.2 causes of early marriages among pupils.

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Peer influence	5	14.29
Poverty	20	57.14
Source of wealth	5	14.29
Lack of parental guidance and counselling	5	14.29
Total	35	100

Source; Primary Data.

The information above in table 4.2 shows number of reasons originating within the home environment which in turn makes it hard for the learners especially girls child to progress in the academics.

In African societies women are looked at as source of wealth, their parents have to send them off as to get dowry or money. This is reflected with 14.29% of the participants who agreed that need of dowry will make parents to force their daughters into marriages. These end up not having decent education level that is capable of providing them with a decent standard of living since they have less education attachment.

The respondents agreed that poverty makes parents to send off their daughters into marriages. It is shown with 57.14% of the participants who agreed with this. The parent's failure to provide their children with scholastic materials needed at school and even can't afford to pay school fees. The parents also fail to provide and cater for domestic expenses at home like having nutritious meals at home which makes learners to get involved in early marriages.

Peer influence was driving force factor that caused early marriages. This accounted for 14.29%. This negatively impacts their behaviors. These children start engaging in unwanted activities that their peers encourage them to engage into. This interaction makes them end up in men's homes and becoming house wives even when they are not well prepared to carry the load of becoming mothers.

Lack of parental guidance and counselling by parent to children was a cause for early marriages. This accounted for 14.29% most parents and guardians failed to draw attention of their children about the consequences of living a meaning less life and how it can negatively affect the general welfare of an individual. This makes learners to look for answers for their many questions they have and end up engaging in early marriages.

4.3 Negative effects associated with early marriages

Table 4: 4.4 showing negative effects of early marriages.

Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Early child-bearing	15	42.86
Early pregnancies	8	22.86
Contraction of STDs	9	25.71
Becoming poor beings	3	8.57
Total	35	100

Source; Primary Data.

These negative effects associated with early marriages are diverse and complex in nature and if not well guarded against can affect the lives of those who engage in it. The girl's children are affected more than the boy children.

42.86% of the respondents revealed out that early marriages leads to early child bearing among the young spouses who are not yet mature to give birth. This causes pre-mature birth amidst young girls dying while trying to struggle with giving birth. This makes girls undergo operations as methods of getting assisted with regard to getting the baby out of their womb due to their failure to push the baby.

22.86% of the respondents revealed out that those who engage in sexual affairs (girls) end up becoming pregnant so early than expected time. This negatively impact on their future wellbeing. As a result of these young girls failure to cater after the unborn child makes them go for abortion as an option of relieving themselves from the burdens. They also abandon their spouses and might engage in prostitution which has its negative effects on those who do it.

8.57% of the respondents revealed out that those who engage in the activity become poor and poorer every year. It's caused by the lack of required education level to fit in the services and sector since they cannot apply for jobs, it's also caused by these young parents having too many family obligations to

fulfill and yet they have got little money with them. They start borrowing from relatives and friends and the trend continues for rest of their lives.

25.7% of respondents revealed out that those who engage in it are likely to contract STDs and other sexually transmitted infections like the deadly HIV/AIDs virus that has claimed the lives of very many people in Africa.

Table 5:4.4 Measures that the community uses for combating early marriages.

Measures	Frequency	Percentages %
Imprisonment	10	28.57
Death penalty	0	0
Chased away from family	4	17.14
Disciplined by clan leaders	5	14.29
Withdraw and taken back to school	14	40
Total	35	100

Source; primary data

40% of the participants revealed the need of such children to be withdrawn from family to be taken back to school. This will ensure that children get marriage at the required age and also attain descent education that will make them live better life.

28.57% of the respondent mentioned the need to arrest and imprison mature men who get married to young children. It requires the parents and the community members at large to report such instances to local authorities and the police who arrest and finally imprison the men

14.29% of the participants suggested the need for the clan leaders to take action by disciplining any members of the community who violates the norms and rights of young girls. This derives the girls to enroll and catch up with the school obligations that call for a lot of concentration on the girl child.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.

5.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presents his final summaries on the subject of investigation, Concludes and finally puts forward a number of recommendations as far as solving the problem under study is concerned.

5.1 Discussions

Basing on the findings of the study, it is right to argue out that the practice of children dropping out of school so as to get married is a phenomenon that is taking place in all societies and communities of the human race. The reasons that account for such a happening are diverse and complex in nature but the need to get involved in other activities for survival by those who engage in it ranks most among the other factors. Most importantly, poverty is the chief factor that put these children to engage in early marriages after dropping out of school so as to get an alternative of getting survival.

The death of parents in the recent past years cannot be left out as one of the reasons that have forced most children to drop out of school to secure other activities as a way of earning a living. With the scourge of the deadly HIV/AIDs virus, so many parents have died and left their children in the streets helplessly without any support from either their relatives or the government as a whole. This has therefore made these children to look for other options of making a living amidst dropping out of school since they cannot manage going to study and yet they cannot afford paying for themselves besides looking after other family members. Thus, the requirement or force to get married or involved in early relationships with men who are even much older compared to them (in the case of the girl child).

The nature of life that these children lead after dropping out of school leaves a lot to be desired given the fact that they get involved in activities that does not match up with their abilities and potential to accommodate given the fact that they are young, not energetic enough and above all mentally less capable of handling the marriage environment in which they are exposed. Take an example of where these children have to be in the streets as sex slaves as a commercial means of earning money from after using them thus, they indulge in frustrating conditions that are risky to their live but they have no option since they have to earn a living through either hook or crock.

The impact associated with early marriage is mostly negative in nature as revealed by the findings of the study. Most importantly these girls get exposed to situations that force them to get an unwanted pregnancy that further puts their lives at a danger as a result of trying to get rid of the pregnancy through carrying out risky abortion methods that are cheap to their disposal. Besides, some of the young girls can lose their lives in the process of trying to carry out the abortions.

These young children are also forced to give birth to babies at a time when their womb is not mature enough to give way for the child from their womb thus; they have to undergo operations that are also risky to their lives given the fact that these operations might rob them of giving birth in the future. Even after giving birth, research findings further demonstrated what is currently taking place in our everyday life where young girls throw away their babies so as to give them time to continue with their normal lifestyle. Henceforth, the babies become obstacle to their way with regard to engaging in activities that can earn them a living.

As a result of failure to cope up with life in the case of girl- children, they resort to commercial sex activities so as to earn a living without straining themselves so much. However, a critical examination on the consequences of commercial sex reveal out that it exposes them to sexually transmitted diseases such as

gonorrhea, syphilis, and above all, the deadly HIV/AIDs virus that has claimed the lives of many young boys and girls of this generation.

For the sake of the boys for instance and the girls inclusive. They become addicted to drugs such as cigarettes, cocaine, miraa, marijuana, and alcohol to mention but a few. In addition, they become a hindrance towards the development of the nation since some of them become thieves in the suburbs surrounding them as the only way of earning a living. children's dropping out of school adversely affects their abilities to cope up with the diverse and complex world on a daily basis and as a result, of failing to cope up with the world that requires or demands well prepared individuals who can exploit its resource as a result of having knowledge taught in schools, they fall out of completely and instead look for other means of earning a living that can adversely turn out to be very costly to their lives since they engage themselves in to risky ventures that is illegal in the common interest of our everyday living environment.

The role of parents towards fighting the practice of children dropping out of school so as to get married has not been realized fully since to date most parents instead of discouraging their children from getting involved in relationships that can lead them to unprepared marriages, they instead encourages them (in the case of girls) to get married so as to bring them the dowry and wealth that is long awaited by the parents from their daughters. This is looked at by the parents as a mechanism of reliving themselves out of providing and being responsible to their young ones. Thus, parents have an upper hand towards letting their own offspring drop out of school for purpose of getting married as well as involved in unfriendly practices within the society /community that does not correspond to their future wellbeing as far as getting a career is concerned for a better future and peace in families.

5.2 Conclusion

Basing on the research findings, it is right to argue that the practice of children dropping out of schools as to get involved in early marriages situations before they clock the age of 18years and above is a socio-economic trend that cuts across the globe. The reasons that account for it are diverse and complex in nature. However, it seems likely that poverty has been the driving force behind the phenomena of children's dropping out of school so as to get married. Thus, forcing them to look for other available option that they can get involved in as a mechanism of supporting themselves amidst being exploited or exposed to environment or situations that does not correlate with their physical and mental capabilities to handle.

5.3 Recommendations

Research findings on the causes of early marriages among children how are of a school -going (those under the age of 18 years) ;shows a number of forces and weaknesses on the part of many players with regard to the child's welfare . The following can be applicable in solving the problem at hand.

First and foremost, the governmental should have a pool of funds to cater for them as a result of poverty or in case of the death of a parent. this will help to ensure that these children's education needs as well as other needs are fully catered for even in the absence of their biological parents .this will help to ensure that they continue to enroll for education as well as being able to get the necessary assistance as for as their social and economic welfare is concerned.

Awareness and sensitization programs by different players in the field of helping children should be extended to the communities to draw the attention of parents on the need to be fully responsible towards their children's education and support them while in school so as not to corrupt their minds of thinking on how to make quick money as a mechanism of addressing their poverty condition. The awareness should involve role play s that show these

children how dangerous it is to drop out of school in search of marriage options that are severely harmful to their lives in the future.

Government should make laws and policies that guard against those persons who intentionally aim at befriending young girls specific for sexual intercourse as this will divert their mind from attending school so as to get married amidst other risk such as getting unwanted pregnancies and above all STDs deadly HIV/AIDs virus that has claimed the lives of many young generation who would be the leaders of tomorrow and steer the nations to high levels of development.

There is a need of cultural transformation in the societies so as to draw the attention of the parents the fact that their daughters are not properties to be sold for exchange of wealth. Instead, they should be encouraged to give equal opportunities to the girl child as well when it comes to making choices of taking them to school. This will enable the girl's child to stay at school than getting involved in early relationship as a channel of delivering wealth to their respective families.

There is an urgent against the practice of young girls getting involved in commercial sex activities as a way of making money to earn a living governments should be committed to discouraging all cities and towns and the general community members on allowing and seeing the young generation who would develop this world taking part in commercial sex activities as a way of earning a living.

Like what most governments have done, all the other should follow as far as availing free compulsory education to all irrespective of their financial abilities. Above all, local authorities must ensure that all children within their respective communities do attend school program on a daily basis. Any child found roistering around should be arrested as mechanism of making them develop the fear of staying home doing nothing apart from roistering around. This will ensure that they stay in school for most part of their lives and thus be able to

enroll and acquire the knowledge that is very instrumental towards improving their future welfare.

5.4 Areas for further research

Further research need to be taken to dig out social-economic impacts associated with the phenomenon of early marriages among school-going age children. The areas include: the role played by of parents towards providing for their children's education in schools; and the attitude of the community towards children who drop out of school so as to get married. These areas shall further draw our insight as to whether the parents are doing their own part required of them as the biological parents of these children as well as whether or not the communities are supportive against the involved in getting move away from early marriages that are highly destructive to their welfare.

REFERENCES

Bullan, G. (2004). HIV/AIDS in Sub_ Saharan Africa and its effects on early marriages.

Collins, P.(1999). Psychological and emotion effects of early marriages in sub-Saharan Africa

Demographic and healthy survey, on early marriages (2005).

Faye, M. (2003). Causes of early marriages in Africa

Hicks, J. (2000). Impact of poverty on general well being

Mensal, S. (1995) Role of parents in providing basic education to their daughters.

Porch, P.(2003). Consequences and impacts of early marriages in Africa.

UNDP Annual Development report, (2000)

UNICEF Global Report on Girls Education Program me, (2002).

UNICEF Report on early marriage published in (2004).

United Nations Annual Review on the impacts of early marriages (2012).

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

My name is Tegule Joshua a third year student pursuing a Degree in Arts in Education at Kampala International University. Am undertaking a dissertation on “Causes of Early Marriages among School Going Pupils in Mpumundde Division”. In view of this, I request you to participate in this study.

Kindly answer this questionnaire without leaving any question un answered. Please be assured that the information you give will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used for academic purposes only

APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE FORM FOR THE RESPONDENTS

I am

1.What are the causes of early marriages among pupils?

.....
.....

2. Are there some traditional beliefs that cause early marriages?

.....
.....

3. Does school pressure cause pupils to drop out of school?

.....
.....

4. Are there some negative factors associated with early marriages?

.....
.....

5. What are the effects of early marriages?

.....
.....

6. How do these young couples manages home responsibilities?

.....
.....

APPENDIX II

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE KEY INFORMANTS

1. Are there cases of early marriages reported in this school?

.....
.....

2. How many children have dropped out of school to get married before completing primary seven?

.....
.....

3. What steps do you take as a school administrator against such a practice?

.....
.....

4. How does the ministry of education help in reducing the practice of early marriages?

.....
.....

5. Are there established laws against early marriages? How are they effective?

.....
.....