

**THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC
FACTORS ON MARRIAGES IN MUKONO
DISTRICT**

BY

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DECLARATION:

I, Ms NAMPAMU BRENDAAH do hereby declare to the senate of the Kampala International University that this research study is my own original work and it has not been submitted in whole or part for the award of a Degree or any other award.

Signature:



Date:

29/06/04

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Signature:

Date:

DEDICATION:

The book is dedicated to the Blessed Mary Teresa Ledochowska who sought her intercession, performed many miracles to the believers of Christ the Lord.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This research is concerned with factors leading to the breaking up of marriages in Mukono District. The researcher worked twice in probation and welfare offices in Mukono District and in this place noticed that the rate of marriage break up was high. At least 13 (thirteen) cases of couples whose marriages had broken visited the probation and welfare office with problems related to lack of support either for the partners or one of the parents.

The male former parents complained about lack of accessibility and knowledge about the whereabouts of their children their former wives having gone with them to places that are not known. While the female parents were coming in complaining of not receiving assistance from their former partners and how they were finding difficult in maintaining children without getting support from their former husbands.

In view of the above problems, the researcher realized that lives of children whose parents have separated or divorced was generally at stake.

From the foresaid complaints it could be observed that these children were deprived of the care needed for proper psychosocial development For example being denied the right to grow up with two parents, which is necessary in this aspect of development.

The researcher also observed that the break up of marriages was creating problems not only for children but even the separated parents. For some situations former spouses came in complaining about having been attacked by other relatives of their former partners or partners themselves. Others were found to be living under constant fear being attacked or bewitched.

The interest in doing this study therefore was based on the study of how important marriage is a social institution all over the world and plays important roles. Mair (1963) observed, "Marriage creates and widens social relationships and gives special rights to the spouses and the children.

“Marriage is also the backbone of the family and as it is well known that a family is also important in procreation, socialization, and perpetuation of human generation, the institution of marriage as an institution is essential and important in all aspects. According to Mbiti (1967) marriage is perceived by Africans as the foundation of the societies existence.

Despite its importance, marriage has been found to have many problems. Montagu (1950) observed that it presents one of the difficult personal problems in human life. Marriage is one of the institutions whose instability is therefore a threat worldwide.

Several studies have been conducted on marriage including its stability. Westmerk (1940) described stable and unstable marriages, the former meaning a happy relationship and the later being one which is full of conflicts and unhappiness which breaks up eventually.

This particular study focused on the unstable marriage and more so on these ones that have broken. In this particular study, a broken marriage was defined as a situation where the couples have ceased to live together as husband and wife whether formally or informally. Marriage on the other hand was looked in this particular study basing on the definition provided by Mair (1963). This author defined marriage as a union between man and woman such that the children born to a woman are recognized offsprings of both partners.

1.2 . The concept of marriage

Marriage is a sociological concept that has been defined indifferently by different writers. Westman (p.4) for instance defined marriage as:

“a relation of one or more men to one or more women that is recognized by custom or law and involves certain rights and duties both in the case of parties entering the union and in the case of those out of it.”

Murdock (1959) defined marriage as a complex of customs, which regulate the relationship between the married partners. However in the simplest sense marriage is the state of being united to a person of opposite sex as husband and wife, which is recognizable by a significant number of members of the society.

1.3. Marriage review.

Marriage is an important social in almost all human societies in then world. Some of the major functions of marriage, which give it prominence, include the status it gives to partners who have married. In some societies of a man or woman reach a certain age without getting married members begin to get concerned thinking there is some thing wrong with his manhood or womanhood.

In addition, marriage gives husband and wife rights and obligations to each other, , for example a husband and wife having monopoly of each other. In most societies, single headed families are not recognized as such. Marriage gives a family a source of inspiration.

Socialisation of society members particularly children will property take place in families where marriage is stable that is why this study tried to investigate problems related to marriage focusing on the aspect of factors leading to its instability i.e. marriage break up. As can be seen marriage breakup threaten the important roles, which it is supposed to play in society.

The present study investigated the factors leading to the marriage break up and with the aim of understanding the social cultural characteristic of this category of spouses and to describe the factors which lead to the breaking up of their marriage. In addition the researcher was interested in using the corrected data to make some

1.5 justification of the study.

The consequences of breaking up of marriage especially to the children are serious. Yet this has become a common phenomenon in mukono district. Little is known about why these marriages are breaking up. Even the little information available is not well researched and documented. There was therefore need to un-earth the causes of this problem and to establish the social and economic characteristics of spouses whose marriages have broken up. The data collected will not only bridge the gap existing in literature in the field but also used to make recommendations to deal with marriage problems. Information gathered can also be used by family counselling to sensitize the community about this problem and its consequences hence motivating them to find solutions to it.

Further, it was important to study the factors leading to break up of marriage because the family is the first institution in socialization of a human being and once it has got problems the off springs will end being social deviations in society.

1.6 Theoretical Scope of the study

The study of persons whose marriages are broken. Only men and women who at one time married were legible for the study.

However, the study did not include the married people whose marriage is stable. These people studied were mainly the rural couples and strictly the rural couples. These people included of all classes that is the rich, poor, healthy, illiterate, as well as religious and non-religious.

1.7 The objectives of the study

The following were the objectives of the study.

Specific objectives.

1. To establish the factors leading to the breaking up of marriage among families in Mukono.
2. To establish the social, cultural and economic characteristic of couples in Mukono District whose marriages have broken.
3. To provide data (Information) which could be used by the probation officer.
4. To find out whether the social characteristics have got a contribution top marriage breakup.

1.8 Study area.

The study was carried out in Mukono County, Mukono District. This District is one of the 39 Districts in Uganda found in the central Region. Mukono is a densely populated district in Uganda. Baganda a dominat tribe in Mukono mostly populates the area. However there are other tribes living in the area who include

Basoga, Samia, Iteso and Japadhola, Nyarwanda, Bagisu, Lugbara, Nyankole and Bakiga. Since there are so many tribes who live there,. Intermarriages therefore have high probability.

Economically the major activities are peasantry work on plantations of Lugazi. There is retail business and serious working in the Government Office. On the side of the women, the women are involved in production of family work like gardening and child rearing. The social services delivered in the area include health services from a few dispensaries. The social services also include the child protection and family stability by the probation and welfare department. The community development office also has got programmes for the youth, women and adult literacy to the community.

1.9 Variables.

a) Independent variables

- i) Age
- ii) Education]
- iii) Religion
- iv) Ethnicity
- v) Economic status
- vi) Marriage type
- vii) Time spent in marriage
- viii) Number of co-wives
- ix) Personality interest
- x) Behaviour

b) Dependent

- i) Marriage breakup.

1.10 Definition of terms

Marriage: Man and woman who live together as husband and wife.

Marriage breakup: Man and wife who once lived as husband and wife and are no longer living together.

1.11 Organisation of the report.

This report is organised in five chapters.

Chapter 1 covers the background to study, with the definition of the research problem, objectives, research question, justification and the scope of the study.

Chapter 2 concentrates on the literature reviewed around the research area. The literature is mainly on economic, cultural and personal factors having an upper hand in marriage breakup.

Chapter 3 covers the research methodology employed. This outlined the research design used, area of study and the methods used in data collection. It ends with the discussion of the problem encountered in data collection.

The report proceeds with findings and interpretations in chapter 4, arranged in several sub sections under headings, which relate dependent and independent variables.

Finally, chapter 5 summaries the major findings and conclusions. It draws the shortcoming of the study and outlines the suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER 2.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction.

In this chapter, the researcher reviews on studies about marriage, its stability and instability. The literature availed is that one about Europe because there is no available literature on Mukono. The one available is scanty. Thus indicating that the studies in Uganda are limited. The literature is mainly on the factors leading to marriage break up which is the major objectives of the study.

2.2 Types of marriage

Murdock (1959), in his studies about marriage gives two types of marriage, and these are polygamy and monogamy.

The same author further identified two sub groups within the two major groups namely polyandry and polygyny.

Monogamy is the type of marriage where one man marries one wife while polygamy is where a man marries more than one wife or vice-versa. The marriage where one woman is married to two or more men is called polyandry while polygyny is where one man marries two or more women.

According to Murdock (1959), polygamy is far the most prevalent.

2.3 Ways through which marriage is entered into.

The ways in which marriage is recognized are as the way it is defined. The most recognized ways however are the following: civil marriage or sometimes-called state marriage. In this type of marriage the couples are wedded by a recognized government official who thereafter issues the couples a certificate and two and the government official each signs document.

Religious marriage is sometimes called holy marriage. This is the type of marriage performed through the church or mosque or any other religious recognized place. Similarly a certificate is issued and signed as in the cases above.

Under customary marriage, parents and relatives of both the intending partners agree the marriage. The male partner however has to pay bride wealth/bride price.

In this particular type of marriage there are no documents signed but the marriage can be registered at a later date with some government official.

Cohabitation is a situation where a man and a woman mutually agree to stay together as husband and wife without involving anybody. And therefore no certificate is signed.

2.4 Review of previous studies

2.4.1 Social factors

The concern over marriage breakup and factors leading to it has attracted many studies. Mbiti (1969) in studies in Africa among both men and women focused on marital satisfaction found out that education of wife and husband and marital satisfaction were status is common in marriages where there is a wide educational gap between husband and wife. He argues that an educated partner may despise the other or feel embarrassed by being associated with him or her in the presence of respectable company, and this situation can give rise to the feeling of inferiority on the part of the less educated partner. Education gap can therefore lead to marriage break up by way, that the highly educated partner trying to chase away the less educated and replacing her or him with one considered educated and this factor was reflected in the Mukono study which the researcher carried out.

Scanzoni (1968) in his studies among men and women in comparing educational attainment of both man and woman found that marriages in which the husband had lesser education than the wife ended in divorce more than where the husband was more educated than the wife. He further noted that where differences in educational achievement exist, the most potentially disruptive difference is probably where the wife is college educated and husband is not.

Further still, blood and wolfe (1960); Teman (1968), Kinsley (1953) in their studies argued that women with more education were more satisfied with their love and affection relating with husbands. Blood and wolfe (1970) also found out

that marriage were likely to be more stable when both partners had equal education.

Bumpas and Sweet (1972) in their studies asserted that highly educated women are more apt to be economically self-sufficient and less reluctant to end an unsatisfactory marriage. Nakakuta (1991) in her studies on factors influencing marital stability in urban areas came out with findings that support what has been observed above. She found out for example that quarrels in families where the wife had high education than the husband were a common place and attributed this problem to men wanting to assert their masculine as heads of their homes while on the other hand the women want to prove that with her education she was above subordination.

Udry (1960) in his studies on the social context of marriage came out with similar findings.

Another factor highlighted in previous studies as contributing to marriage break-ups/conflicts is age. Udry (1974) and Swen (1975) in their studies on young couples observed that marital happiness was lower than when the partners marry at a very young age i.e. when the man is under the age of 20 years and the woman is under the age of 18 years. According to these authors at this age young women and husbands tend to romanticise marriage and are less prepared for responsibility of marriage than those who marry later, they are incapable of summoning the demands and burdens of marriage and may rather quickly become discouraged and unhappy as was observed by (Delisovy, 1973).

In connection with age (Nelson & Nelson 1973) found out that most women preferred to marry men who were a bit older than them or were the same age and agreed that differences in age were not a potential cause of marriage breakup. Other studies have indicated that there is no relationship between marriage breakup and age. For example Shoen (1975) revealed that 60% of married couples did not consider age as a major factor causing marital conflicts among couples. However, marital conflict was observed to exist normally where a woman was much older than the husband and attributed this problem to pressures from in-laws who consider that their son should not marry old women.

Udry (1974) concluded however that there was not indeed yet conclusive evidence of any significant relationship between age difference and marital stability.

2.4.2 Cultural factors.

In order studies cultural factors like ethnicity tribal differences and interference of in-laws contribute greatly in the break up of marriages. This can be observed from the statement made by Drivoll (1965) which thus:

" In many societies the in-laws status roles are not clearly defined. Each married couples has to work out often by try and error their relation with their in-laws."

According to this author society expects the couples new marital bond to be stronger than the much old bond which links them up to their parental families but such deep and longer standing bonds are not easily handed over to the second place. All these can bring about conflict.

Duvall (1965) and Komarsorsky (1962) in their studies observed that mothers in laws and daughters in laws are more up to the centres of in-laws clash than fathers in-law and son in-laws. This finding was reinforced by those of Nakakuta (1991) study. The later found that most of the respondents (50%) mothers in-laws and sisters' in-laws respectively are the major people affecting marital stability. In her study, 65% of female respondents regarded their sisters' in-laws to be the treble causes while the majority of males respondents 62% regarded their mothers in-laws to be the major causes of marriage breakups.

According to author the points of friction more often involved the activities and roles of women such as house keeping and child rearing.

Komarsorsky (1962) found out in her study of working class couples, men were not immune with in-laws frictions. According to her, working class husband often bundled at what the considered interference in their family life by their wife's' relatives. The husbands' problems with in-laws surfaced when the man felt his status or self respect was being threatened by members of wife's family. However, the supportive and comforting role of in-laws where not ruled out. Duvall (1965), for example observed that in-laws can be a source of inspiration before after marriage and can be counted on as friendly allies especially among young married couples.

Cultural differences have also been observed to contribute towards marital problems. Intermarriages have become common in societies world over and yet almost each tribe has its own cultural concerning marriage and this was found in the research carried out in Mukono.

According to Mbiti (1969) different cultural background some times undermined health and stability of marriages.

According to him conflicts arise in situations in which each tribal grouping often regard its culture, customs, and traditional ways of life as normative. This author points out that parents of both partners normally are saddened by the

commitment of their daughter or son to one with whom they may not effectively communicate with because of language barrier and the prospects of having children who will not know them very well and their way of life.

Mirra (1962) observed that intertribal marriage which creates more serious strain is one in which the wife has the superior class background. Mbiti (1973) on his part says that:

"Once a workable solution to harmonise two cultures and ideas can not be found, then these differences affect the marriage adversely."

Nakakuta (1991) in her study found out that more disagreements on major issues were 60% common with intertribal marriages (27%) perhaps the explanation is the complexities involved in emerging different cultures, values and traditions during marriage. However on the contrary Golden (1964) and Smith (1976) argue that marriages where pre-marital pressure to discontinue relationship has shown a high probability of surviving because the couples will have given much more fore thought for their marriage more than most couples do. Udry (1974) for his part argues that in spite of such opposition to mix tribe marriages, scientific evidence does not support the position that inter-tribal marriages today are less stable than inter-tribal marriages.

Type of marriage has been found to have an influence on marriage breakup. Mbiti (1969) in his study for example found out that ideas and goals in marriage are more difficult to work out in polygamy marriages than in monogamy ones perhaps because of the extent of the size and difference in the family.

Rwakabwohe (1979) found a lot of problems in polygamous families particularly the failure of men to educate their children and poor health, the latter found in 72% of the families. Myr (1966) observed:

"that polygamous families are difficult to run and therefore as man has to play his cards well among his wives to avoid conflicts and misunderstanding."

Cutrufelli (1983) found out 68% of respondents reported that polygamy creates problems for women. The author described a polygamous man as cohabitation among wives which according to the author makes a woman enter a world of jealousy and uncertainty since the favourite wife may be pushed aside to pave way for another wife. The same author noted that relationship between co-wife are usually bad prone with reciprocal accusation of witchcraft as well as practices of magic.

Nakakuta (1991) found out that majority (74%) of polygamous marriages experienced frequent quarrels on a daily basis as opposed to (29%) in monogamous marriages.

She found out that the outstanding reason that could explain quarrels in polygamous families was the male failing to provide adequately for his family in terms of material and sexual demands. Polygamous marriage seems to be more problematic than monogamous ones.

2.4.3 Economic factors

Many social scientists researchers have pointed out money as major source of happiness contributing a lot to the stability of marriage. Generally differences in income levels have been to contribute to marriage breakup, but this conclusion has not been sufficiently proved by research data. Something near to this conclusion is what Moore and Stogdill (1979) have reported. The two authors state that in situations where a wife earns higher wages and in which the husband has a relatively low income or a history of unemployment, marriage breakup risk is high.

Mira (1962) agree with Moore and Stogdill (1979) arguing that disagreement between wife and husband often arise where the former has a higher income than the latter resulting into quarrels over the order in which bills are to be paid and by who. These bills normally concern education of children, electricity, water and other basic utilities to be bought for the home. Feldman and Feldman (1985) in the study observed that every minor difference in economic differences may cause a conflict because the shortages of money necessitates choices especially where the wife assumes responsibility of sole provider in the home. The two authors however contend that there has been no conclusive research on high levels of income of the husband as a major cause of marriage breakup. They assert that marital problems arise when wife received high income than the husband.

2.4.4 Political factors

Some authors have observed that involvement in decision making in family matters greatly contributes to stability in marriage. This observation was made by Rothschild (1969). Crownwell and Olson (1974) also concluded that joint decision making among couples was necessary to maintain a stable and successful marriage.

However as we very well know the power to make decision in matters concerning family is not equally distributed between husband and wife. Largely depending on who has the economic and social power.

A great many women have become partially or entirely economically independent as many of them are now employed outside the home which has increased their amount of power than it were originally. Obbo (1980) has noted that urban employment has made women too "big headed" to accept male control. According to Dyer (1985) in the study points out that employment of the wife outside the home may be a source of marriage break-ups. In traditionally oriented marriages, if a wife goes out to work the husband may feel threatened by her independent resource. At the same time she may be better to support herself thus may be less willing to put up with poor marriage.

Nakakuta (1991) in her study found out (71%) of women supported the campaign for women emancipation indicating their disturbance over males' dominance. Dry (1983), Southall (1960) observed that many problems of husband/wife relations

and marriage break ups today relates directly to the changes in status and roles of the wife, and mother in modern society.

2.4.5 Individual behaviour.

Alcohol indulgence has been found to be one of their causes of marriage break-up. For instance, bullock and mudd (1959) in their studies found that most alcoholic husbands expressed dissatisfaction with their wives. Problems normally arise with his wife as regards the attention given to children as well as the strained relationship between him, his relatives and friends.

Wasigomwa (1987) found that (66%) respondents interviewed that they quarreled with their partners when either or both partners are drunk. The findings of Nabudere, M. (1981) also found that spouses are drunk. And Nakakuta (1991) also found that (94%) of the respondents who consume alcohol experience quarrels in their homes. These quarrels possibly arise from late coming in of the spouse who consumes alcohol and high expenses involved in consuming alcohol visa-a-vis expenses on the basic needs. Strans (1968) thus concludes that excessive alcohol consumption contributes and is responsible for family stress and break up since the alcohol cannot perform the roles expected of him or her.

On the centrally according to Rosk Jelae (1996), where the behaviours of the parties have been found supportive, solving problems has been successful more than where spouses were undermining each other, for example in stopping to smoke.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter specifically focuses on the methods employed in the data collection. It gives the description of the study population of the area, the methods used in selecting the sample and in collecting data. Also reported are the problems encountered in data collection and approaches employed to minimise or overcome them. And lastly this chapter gives the description of how the data was processed and analyzed.

3.2 The study population

The population composed of male and female adults who were originally married couples and are no longer staying together.

3.3 How the respondents were selected.

The study covered only one country out of the 13 in Mukono District. It was purposively selected because that is where Mukono Probation and welfare Office was, also purposively selected because there were no sampling frame of people whose marriages are broken and yet Mukono probation and welfare office is in charge of child protection and family welfare especially in dealing with the marital conflicts. The respondents were selected purposively that is to say, people whose marriages were broken were the people who were targeted when they came to the probation office. In other words quota sampling in selection of respondents was used. Residents from other countries seeking help from the probation and welfare department were excluded from the study area.

The key informants were purposively selected because they were knowledgeable about the phenomenon of broken marriages. These included religious leaders, elders, probation officers, community leaders and social group leaders.

The number of respondents comprised 40 male and 40 females. The sample size of each of the sub stratum was decided upon basing on the method to be used in data analysis. The researcher could not cover a number larger than that because data was to be analyzed manually. The researcher also purposively selected 20 case files for review.

3.3.1 Problems encountered during sampling and solutions provided.

The problems encountered in sampling included having to spend much of the time updating the sampling frames in case of file for review. Exit interviews were used in data collection, which implies more or less using quota sampling on

recruitment of respondents. By using this method it took a long time to get enough respondents especially males, the male respondents were also difficult because they were stubborn and some uncooperative and these were finally excluded from the study. So the researcher had to replace them with those who were willing, while others were educated on how they would benefit from opening dialogue with their former partner.

3.4 How the data were collected.

Three techniques were employed in the collection of data. These were in depth personal interviews with spouse respondents whose marriages had broken. Informal interview and conservation with chosen key informants were also employed. Lastly review of the document was employed.

In carrying out personal interviews a semi-structured question was used and an interview guide during key informant interviews. At the end of the day field notes and taped responses were carefully rewritten within less than 24 hours to avoid forgetting part of the data.

3.4.1 Problems encountered during data collection and solutions.

The problems encountered during data collection included the following; the key informants were so difficult to get mainly because of their heavy-duty schedules. Most of them were having many responsibilities and had no time to spare for interviews. They had to be booked and interviewed on appointment.

Another problem rose during recording the respondents to open ended questions. Respondents were mainly using luganda and expressed their answers using many words, which the researcher had to interpret and summarize consequently taking some bit of time. A recorder was immediately used in the case of key informants and transcribing was done at the end of the day, so as not to forget what the researcher wanted from the data. This saved time and produced needed information.

3.5 How data were analyzed.

There were two (2) types of data. Mainly quantitative and qualitative data.

3.5.1 How qualitative data was analyzed.

The analysis of qualitative data just like that of quantitative data, it went through the same process of data management, that is editing, coding examining and the relationships between variables, interpretation and presentation. The researcher ensured that the data set was complete and was in a format facilitated its manipulation either by a computer or manually. The researcher checked for any glaring holes in the data that could still be defiled before leaving the field, the researcher transcribed the recorded interviews verbatim. Later the researcher also edited the transcript and translated the luganda into English but maintained

the comments of the respondents. The researcher went through the transcript and identified those sections that were relevant to the objectives. Later classified major issues covered and transferred them to a notebook. And lastly narrated the findings using direct quotations.

3.5.2 How quantitative data was analyzed

The quantitative data was edited. This was an important feature to be undertaken in ensuring accuracy consistency and uniformity. This exercise involved checking to ensure that all questions had been answered and had their answers properly recorded. This was done during and after the interview.

Coding was done along the basis of study variables.

After editing, there was need to code the data so that answers per question were put into proper categories. This was very important especially in the case of open-ended questions; respondents were assigned into pre-determined categories. Answers were first studied and were then put into categories and then coded. Coding was done on question per question.

Tabulation involved transferring the already coded data into tables, these were then presented on the basis of study variables. Any factors that were found to be contributing to the existence of the phenomenon under study showing the number of respondents involved per category.

Percentages were computed for each category so as to help in expanding more the relationships between different categories each perceived to contribute to factors leading to marriage break up.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter consists of the results and interpretations of the study. The objectives of the study were to establish the social, cultural and economic characteristics of couples in mukono whose marriage break-up, to provide data which would be used by the probation and welfare officers and find out whether the social, economic and cultural characteristics have got a contribution to marriages break up. These objectives as mentioned above got a correlation with the findings in that the social, cultural and economic characteristics have got a contribution to marriage break-up. Further the characteristics as found in the findings will be a useful information for the probation officers to address the phenomena of marriage break up.

in order to find out the factors, which led to marriage break-up, respondents both men and women were asked what factors led to their marriage break-up. The findings below are presented with the help of quotations for easier understanding and interpretations. The findings are in two parts. The first part presents the social demographic characteristics of couples whose marriage broke up and how they contributed to marriage break up.

Indicated in 1.7 chapter one. The second presents the factors leading to marriage break-up as reported differently by men and women and these factors were got from the in depth interviews.

4.2 The socio-demographic characteristics of respondents.

4.2.1 The distribution of respondents by age and sex

The age and sex of the respondents are shown in table 1 below.

TABLE 1: AGE AND SEX OF RESPONDENTS

AGE (Years)	SEX	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
15-CAPut!	2	13
20-24	28	30
25-29	18	22
30-34	15	20
35-39	17	13
40-44	10	2
45-49	10	-
TOTAL	100	100
Number	(40)	(40)

As table 1 shows, the highest percentage of marriage break-up was found among the people aged between 20-24. And the lowest percentage of marriage break-up was found among the people aged 45-49 years with 10%. It is revealed in the table however, that the women's age was slightly lower than that of men at the time their marriage broke, this could be attributed to being immature to reason and be patient in their marriage.

4.2.2 Place of birth of the respondents

TABLE 2: PLACE OF BIRTH OF THE RESPONDENTS

PLACE	SEX	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
From Ugandan	37	88
Outside Buganda	63	12
Total	100	100
Number	(40)	(40)

The majority of the women respondents were born in Buganda and these constituted 88% while 37% of the men were born in Buganda. The majority men were born outside Buganda who constituted 67% but migrated from their home places of origin to come and work on the sugarcane plantations of Mukono District and ended up marrying the women born in Mukono. The few women who came outside Mukono constituted 12%.

4.2.3 The education level of the respondents

The education level of the respondents is shown in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS

Education level	Respondents	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
Nil	2	0
Primary	47	23
"O" Level	33	43
"A" level	5	27
Tertiary	12	7
Total	100	100
Number	(40)	(40)

As already reported above in table 3, the vast majority of respondents were literate. Those who had primary education were 70% both men and women and those who had secondary education both "O" and "A" Level were almost 100% while those who had tertiary education were 19%.

4.2.4 The occupation of the respondents.

Below is the occupation status of respondents in table 4

TABLE 4: OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENT

Occupation	Respondents	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
Redundant	47	75
Business	5	8
Civil servants	17	7
Casual laborers	30	10
Total	100	100
Number	(40)	(40)

As table 4v clearly indicates the majority of people whose marriages were broken are redundant. These people after breaking up did not at all try to look for any occupation. The female just claimed they were pure housewives while the men either gambled in cards or had lost their jobs sometime back. The 40% were casual laborers on the sugarcane plantations. And these claimed that at times they were unemployed when the casual jobs were over. These characteristics have got no source of income it breeds a lot of tension since most things are not provided.

4.2.5 The category of respondents by their family background

TABLE 5: THE CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FAMILY BACKGROUND.

Parents	Respondents	
	Male (%)	Female (%)
All alive	85	55
Only father alive	5	0
Only mother alive	5	0
All not alive	5	45
Total	50	50
Number	(40)	(40)

The majority of the respondents had their parents and these constituted 85% for men and 55 women. While a small percentage had either the fathers or mothers alone. The findings indicate that the majority had parents who could have helped in one way or another to support or guide the couples in their marriages to survive but unfortunately, the marriage broke.

4.2.6 Respondents from broken family from unbroken families.

The respondents' information about their parents' stability and instability and indicated in table 6

TARIE F 6:
RESPONDENTS WHOSE PARENTS STAYED TOGETHER AND THOSE WHO SEPARATED.

Responses	Respondents
Staying together (not separated)	29%
Not saying together (separated)	71%
Total	100
Number	(80)

The majority of respondents as indicated in table 6 are from separated families, which constitute 71% while the majority came from unbroken marriages. This phenomenon has got a relationship with the statistics show that breaking of marriages is recurring from the parents to the off springs. Secondly, a broken family is not good social background for future offsprings especially having been socialized in having a negative attitude towards marriage and thus in a long run affects the spouses in future

4.2.7 The female respondents and fathers of their children.

In order to find whether those couples had some other marriages falling or breaking, they were asked whether they had other children with other men, and whether they had actually married those men.

TARIE F 7: THE FEMALE RESPONDENTS AND FATHERS OF THEIR CHILDREN

Responses	Respondents
All children of the same father	45%
Not all children of the same father	55%
Total	100
Number	(40)

The findings in table 7 show that majority of the women had children of different fathers and that they had more than one marriage and these constituted 55% while 45% are the females who had children of the same father. Again the percentages given above indicate that breaking of marriage is recurrent and with the characteristics frequent breakage of marriage is a recurring sign that these spouses are unlikely to make stable marriages.

4.2.8 The female respondents and number of co-wives.

In order to find out whether the spouses whose marriage break up had co-wives, spouses were asked whether they had co-wives, and below are the respondents in Table 8.

TABLE 8: THE FEMALE RESPONDENTS AND NUMBER OF CO-WIVES.

Number	Respondents %
Nil	20
One	20
Two	32
More than four	28
Total	100
Number	(40)

The findings in table 8 show that the majority of women spouses have got co-wives and these constitute 80% but of those 10% had established co-wives and 70% said that their husbands had either concubines outside marriage or girl friends who eventually destabilized their marriages.

Analyzing the statistics given to indicate the women who had co-wives and the reasons given by some of the women as having men led to their marriage break-up, it is thought that promiscuity is contributing factor to marriage break-up in mukono.

4.2.9 Respondents by their type of marriage.

In trying to find out the type of marriage the respondents had, the following were the findings in Table 9.

TABLE 9: RESPONDENTS BY THEIR TYPE OF MARRIAGE.

Marriage type	Respondents %
Religious	18
Customary	18
Civil	4
Co-habitation	60
Total	100
Number	(80)

The majority of the respondents were co-habiting, which constitute 60% while about 18% had religious marriage, 18% customary marriage and 4% with civil marriages. The co-habitation being the main characteristic of couples, whose marriage break up have got to do with the level of breaking of marriage, co-habitation is not a recognized marriage and neither a serious one. Spouses appear to be on transit and breakage of marriage is always expected. Hence co-habitation has a contribution on the level of marriage break-up

4.2.10: period respondents had known their former partner before marriage.

TABLE 10: PERIOD RESPONDENTS HAD KNOWN THEIR FORMER PARTNER BEFORE MARRIAGE

Period	Respondents %
Less than a week	13
More than a week	4
Four weeks	48
Eight weeks	19
More than fifty two weeks	16
Total	100
Number	(80)

In the findings above the majority of the respondents had known their spouses for a short time. The shortest time being less than a week 13% while those who appear to have taken a longer period were 16% and these had known their spouses more than a year. This can justify that little time for courtship has got a contribution to the level of marriage break-up. The spouses take a little time, which time is not enough for couples to study each other and try to adjust or decide to accommodate certain behaviours

4.2.11: period respondents had spent in their marriage with former partners

TABLE 11: PERIOD RESPONDENTS HAD SPENT IN THEIR MARRIAGE WITH FORMER PARTNERS.

Period	Respondents %
Less than half a year	28
One year	18
Two years	11
Three years	25
More than five years	18
Total	100
Number	(80)

Results in table 11 show that the majority of the couples have spent less than 5 years in marriage and these constitute 82%. Of this percentage, the shortest period being less than a year while 18% had only stayed in marriage for over 5 years. This characteristic of a short period is an evidence of marriage break-up and it has a contribution to the level of break-up in that it is a bad model for those who have joined marriage and those about to marry.

4.2.12 Respondents by age at marriage.

In trying to find out the age at which the respondents had married, the following are the findings.

TABLE 12: THE RESPONDENTS BY AGE AT MARRIAGE.

Age	Male (%)	Female (%)
15 below	5	15
16-20	33	60
21-25	25	15
26-30	25	5
31-35	7	5
30+	5	-
Total	100	100
Number	(40)	(80)

As indicated in Table 12 20% of the respondents both men and women had at the age less than 15 years. The most frequent age reported by women in this group ranged from 14 years to 15 years. While 60% got married at the age between 16-20 for women, 33% for men. These were the majority. The smallest percentage of people married after the age of 30. This has to do with the level of marriage break-up because people marrying at an early age may not contain the demands and burden of marriage hence break up.

4.3 Factors leading to marriage break-up

This section gives the factors leading to marriage break up. The section gives factors leading to marriage break up separately as given by men and women. In the proceeding findings, the factors leading to marriage break up given by women are presented first. And the factors, which Rank the highest, have been presented first.

4.3.1 wife beating

Considering the information gathered from the respondents, wife battering was given by several women as a factor that led to their breaking of marriage. During in depth interviews with respondents, the women gave the following responses. And one of the women had this to say

" My husband had the worst behaviour, he used to beat me until I could not stand beating and I just quit."

Another response from a respondent was that:

" This man used to beat me until all the neighbours would gather around me and even decided to leave him."

Other respondents had the following in responses.

"You know these Luobara beat their wives, so this man used to beat me almost daily you can see all the scars all over my body..... Later he married his fellow Luobara woman who he almost fought daily. I decided to leave this man with his wife."

Wife battering was recurrent among the respondents as the factor that led to their marriage break up. Law does not accept bodily harm and it is known as assault and it is charged by the courts of law wife battering has led to violence in homes, wife battering leads to conflicts and if the conflicts are not dissolved, the situation becomes a fertile ground for separation, divorce, in general breaking of marriage.

4.3.2 Promiscuity

Promiscuity was reported by the female respondents. The female respondents said that for fear of the rate at which their husbands were moving out with other women, the respondents had this to say:

" My husband was too much of a womanizer, one day he tried to rape my sister. After that shame, he decided to abandon me at home together with the children."

The other respondent had this to say:

"This man if at all he respected me, it was just for six months in our marriage. At a certain time he brought a girl friend and ordered me to leave my bedroom and he slept with the girl. I decided not to die and indeed I left the man."

And lastly one of the respondents had this also to say:

"He used to change women like clothes. Besides that when I could complain, he would beat me up. Later on he would beat me up. Later on he would not cater for my needs so I decided to leave him after great suffering. And when I left he married another woman, which made it difficult to reconcile with him."

From the above responses, promiscuity is one of the factors that lead to marriage break-up.

4.3.3 Inadequate income

Most respondents were unemployed by the fact that apart from the sugarcane plantation for the sugar factory being the main occupant of most workers. The climate of the greater part of mukono is generally dry and the land very unproductive, there are a few industries and with very few non-governmental organizations. The families break because of inadequate income. The spouses cannot provide each other the basic necessities of life. The responses below clearly show the factors that led to their breaking of marriage.

" When the man lost the job, everything changed at home. He advised me to go to my parents and after some times he shifted to a concubine and that is how our marriage ended".

Another respondent had this to say:

" He used not to provide everything, children were malnourished. There was no alternative to improve on our income. He was just a casual laborer and the job was not paying."

The above responses from the female show that the families do not have stable income. The key informants supported this and they had this to say.

" Man should marry women whom they can afford because I do not see a man earning 10,000= or 200,000= to marry a second woman. They should commit themselves to partners they can provide for".

The second key informant who is a magistrate had this to say:

" Man opt to go for polygamy when they lack the capacity to handle several wives."

Inadequate income was an issue found to be a factor leading to marriage break up as breadwinners failed to have adequate income.

4.3.4 Inter-tribal marriage

When following the responses given by the respondents, different cultural beliefs, practices, values and norms set by the different tribes had a contribution to the instability of marriage. Below do the respondents give the responses.

" The man did not want to pay bride price, so my people requested me to leave him. The moment my people sent a reminding letter for bride price, the man would strive the family."

Other responses from the key informants like the magistrate were:

" You find that a Ludbara in Ludazi comes across a Mudanda woman and they cohabit and after sometime the Mudanda woman finds that the Ludbarra is not

coping with the culture of Baganda. The behaviours of the Baganda are not his expectations.

" You find someone saying, my parents do not like my husband."

A Mukanda woman saying they cannot accept a husband at their home as a son-in-law because he will not fulfill the requirements of marriage in their family. This shows that people attach much importance on their cultures and it is not all that easy to reconcile certain things. These cultural indifference due to tribal differences are not reconcilable. As a result, tension builds and blow out marriage apart.

4.3.5 Overdrinking.

As reported by the respondents over drinking was said to have precipitated the marriage break up. The following were the responses given by some of the respondents.

" Overdrinking was a daily routine, one day drunkenness led to his trying to rape his niece and the clan leaders were called to talk to him. Finally when he started sleeping on the back home, I decided to leave him and went with my children".

Other responses included the following:

"The man was too alcoholic and this led to not caring for the children and self. He would sleep on the way. And when he could come he would beat me."

A number of key informants agreed that alcoholism was a major factor leading to marriage break-up in Mukono. Alcoholism has got so many consequences; it was clearly noted as being an important factor to be handled in future.

4.4 Factors leading to marriage break up according to the male respondents.

Among the respondents selected for this study, it was necessary to get the factors that led to marriage break – up from the male respondents and these were tackled independently from the responses given by the female responses.

4.4.1 Women's behaviour

The male respondents interviewed about what led to their break up. The following were the responses given by the men.

" Madam was a nagging woman and this often led to a fight. She ran away and abandoned the baby who was just two months. Since that time she never came back

Another respondent also said this:

"The wife was so difficult and quarrelsome in that she would pick a quarrel, every time whenever I needed some freedom. Many times she ill-treated me."

Others respondents said this:

"She has a strange behaviour. Whenever I came back home I did not have a peep of mind. She kept on going to her place when I complained about her behaviour, she just went away and never came back."

"She used not to care for me as a husband and she could not respect me. Instead she was as if she was the head of the family."

"She was quarrelsome and accusing me all the time that I had many women. Later she decided not to do anything for me at home. She even decided to deny me sex. She later abandoned me."

The above responses show that women's behaviour contribute to the breaking of marriage. Some of the things reflected in the responses are that women could have had reasons for their behaviours could be the factor leading to marriage break –up.

4.4.2 Inter-tribal marriage.

One of the major factors mentioned by the male respondents, a factor that led to marriage break up included inter tribal marriage. The respondents had this to say:

"She was not in a good terms with my people, neither did my people like her. Being a kakwa by tribe, she could not understand our culture; she did not respect my mother and her sister in law. She could answer the anyhow. She fought my mother and I immediately sent her away."

Another respondents said this.

"The tribal difference was a contributing factor, she used to under look my people and only allowed her people in the home. Whenever we could clash, she could fight me together with her brothers. And in Kiganda culture the brothers in law respect so much their in-laws. She decided to leave the home by herself because she could not cope."

The key informants also mentioned the inter-tribal marriage in mukono being one factor leading to marriage break up. Some key informants interviewed especially the magistrates in courts had this to say:

"Here in mukono we have about 74 different tribes in this little place, so what will happen is that couples try to reconcile hesitantly. You find a Lugbara going in for

a langi, Gishu or a Muganda, though of different cultures. This hardens the reconciliation. They fail on cultural grounds."

The findings given above show that inter-tribal marriages have got an upper hand in the breaking of marriages.

4.4.3 Influence by friends.

In this section the male respondents pointed out influence on one another by fellow women contributed to their marriage break –up. And below are the responses:

" She was influenced by her fellow women to leave me. They started her a business and she decided to abandon me. Several times she kept going home at any small conflict, she never wanted to reconcile at any one time."

Another respondents mentioned the following:

" The interference of my neighbors led to our separation, the neighbours influenced my wife to go to the island and ever since she started a fish business on the island. She started behaving funny, she finally decided to leave".
The key informants, responses, also complemented the above responses.

One of the elders of the area had this to say.

" The women contribute greatly to the marriage break up in Mukono. The women of these days are not like our elderly mothers. Women are not like our elderly mothers. Women are not patient and do not analyze issues. They easily follow their fellow women's advices even if the advice has got the worst expectations."

The above findings show that the women's influence on each other is a contributing factor to marriage breaks in mukono.

4.5 Other factors observed

These are factors, which were mentioned by the respondents, and others mentioned by the key informants. Although other factors were implemented alongside the factors given by respondents, others observed factors need to be mentioned.

Most of the key informants like the magistrates in court mentioned cohabitation as a factor leading to marriage break-up. Below do the magistrates make the statements.

" I think generally people do not understand how to form a marriage especially the ladies, they just assume they are married when they are not. They simply get a man and start cohabiting with him and assume they are married." okay the society will presume that there is marriage but at the end of it you find it is very easy for a man to send away the wife."

Other factors observed by the researcher include ignorance of the law by the couples. This is because there are certain stages, which must be taken in marriage, but because of ignorance people do not know what is marriage. Some women get children and by the time their husbands start mistreating them, they rush to court when it is late. They go assuming that the court will blame the husbands, while in actual sense the court does not recognize those people as husbands. Some men being knowledgeable that actually cohabitation is no marriage, he will find ways of eliminating a woman.

Another factor that was not mentioned but was observed by the researcher is that men neglect their wives physically and psychologically. Most women mentioned that their husbands worked at the islands of buvuma even as far as kalangala and spend about two to three months without sending messages. The women are sexually starved and this causes a lot of tension and temptation for both men and women. The men decide to have girl lovers at the island and the women tend to get relationships outside marriage. The above situation creates an atmosphere for higher chances of marriage break-up and spreading of AIDS.

The women representative of mukono district in parliament had this to say:

“Couples marry not because of conviction but because of convinces, they feel they have been saved from the frustration situation like working in saloon, bar, market and being house girl.”

This frustration behind marriage relationship causes a lot of suspicion on each other, which suspicion lead to conflicts.

An elder in the area also mentioned that neglecting the Ganda culture by the inhabitants of Mukono is a factor leading to marriage break –up. She mentioned that the male in Buganda would inquire about the spouses they are willing to marry and that the same applied to the female. But she wondered at the young generation who do not prolong their courtship, and in the end weaknesses of each other area always realized when they are together and it is too late to accommodate each other’s weaknesses and this leads to break up of marriage.

Lastly, the researcher also found out that the majority of couple whose marriages were broken were from broken families and during interviews one would see that they already had negative attitude towards marriage which could be an explanation for their being impotent in marriage and this is a potential ground for failure of marriage in Mukono.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1 INTRODUCTION.

This chapter summarizes the findings of this research. It also outlines the recommendations that the researcher judged to address the problem of marriage break –up if policy makers and the community considered them in general.]

The study was about marriage break-up. It was in Mukono district. The categories of people studied were the men and women who once lived together as husband and wife and were no longer staying together. The intentions of the marriage break ups, characteristics of couple whose marriages break, contribution of these characteristics to the level of marriage break up and to provide information to be utilized to address the problem.

The methods of data collections included in depth personal interview and document review.

5.2 Summary.

The findings of the study have clearly demonstrated empirically the factors leading to marriage break up and these are mainly economic, social, cultural and personal. The following are the main findings of the study:

- A) Inability to provide for the family needs by the husbands was one of the factors leading to marriage break up as a result of inadequate income.
 - B) The cultural difference between the spouses led to marriage break up. This was a result of failure to compromise and reconcile on cultural grounds.
 - C) The undesirable behaviours by either the wife or husband led to marriage break up.
 - D) Short period in courtship that did not allow couples to study each other's weaknesses accelerated the marriage break up.
 - E) The cultural, economic and social characteristic of couples contributed to the level of break up.
- From the analyzed point of view, it was evident that given the rate at which the marriages are breaking, during research, especially the key informants whom the researcher used got concerned to take up the issue and see how to address the problem.

5.3 Shortcomings of the study.

- a) The period of the study was short since the problem studied is so significant to the society as a whole.
- b) The number (sample) size was small.

5.4 Suggestions for further research

- a) A longer period should be given for further studies.
- b) The sample size should be big enough.
- c) Intense quantitative study should be carried out since the research study was more of a qualitative study than a quantitative study.

5.5 Conclusions

There is sufficient evidence from the results of the study to conclude that:

- a) The marriage break-up problem in mukono is at a high rate. And it is common among the young couples between the ages of 16-20.
- b) Among the factors leading to marriage break-up, wife beating need to be addressed immediately because it endangers life physically.
- c) It is possible to find solutions for factors leading to marriage break-up and this can be done through marriage counseling.
- d) The counseling provided by the various individuals and NGO is unprofessionally and very inefficient because people are not trained thus contributing to high level of breaking up.
- e) The main factors leading to marriage break-up are social, cultural and economic.
- f) The researcher observed that given the factors leading to marriage break-up, cohabitation has been a potential ground d for the break up of Marriage.

5.6 Recommendations.

From the study on factors leading to marriage break up the researcher came up with a number of recommendations below which if well examined can help up in mukono.

- 1) Given the fact that marriage break up is at a high risk. It is recommended that the community be sensitized about the problem and then come out with solutions to address the problem.

- 2) Since, wife battering came out as the most outstanding factor leading to marriage break up, bye-laws at the grass root level should be put in place to assist the law.
- 3) It was evident that lack of adequate income lead to marriage break up, therefore it is recommended that the activities and if [possible be included on the soft loan scheme programme.
- 4) The great number of people who broke up their marriage was of the cohabitation marriage which marriage is not recognized in law or custom. There it is recommended that, the community be sensitized how marriage is contracted right from the grassroots level.
- 5) It was discovered throughout the study that there are actually few people who could handle marital problems. Therefore the few people need to be supported by more people being trained right from the grassroots and the probation and welfare staff to be supported by more staff.
- 6) This phenomenon of marriage break ups is evident in mukono area, which is an area in buganda. And neglect of the cultures by the community member was mentioned to be contributing to the marriage break up. There it is recommended that the monarch (kingdom ship) of buganda should address this problem through its machinery more especially through elders, paternal uncles in sensitizing and counseling married couples.
- 7) Further the community needs to be sensitized about AIDS because promiscuity may not only split up marriage but also promote infection and re-infection in the community.

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APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE

FACTORS LEADING TO MARRIAGE BREAK UP IN A COMMUNITY OF MUKONO

QUESTIONNAIRE NUMBER

SECTION A: TO BE ANSWERED BY BOTH MALE AND FEMALE
RESPONDENTS.

1. Age

--	--	--
2. Age of your former partner

--	--	--
3. Sex
 1. Male
 2. Female
4. Religion
 1. Catholic
 2. Protestant
 3. Moslem
 4. Others (specify)

Religion of former partner

 1. Catholic
 2. Protestant
 3. Moslem
 4. Others (specify)
5. Tribe:
 1. Ganda
 2. Soga
 3. Samya
 4. Others (Specify)
6. Tribe for former partner.
 1. Ganda
 2. Soga
 3. Samya
 4. Others (Specify)
7. Place of birth
 1. Buganda
 2. Outside Buganda

8. Place of birth of former partner.
 1. Buganda
 2. Outside Buganda
9. Education Standard attained
 1. Nil
 2. Primary
 3. Secondary
 4. University
 5. Others (Specify)
10. Education Standard of former partner
 1. Nil
 2. Primary
 3. Secondary
 4. University
 5. Others (Specify)
11. Occupation
 1. Redundant
 2. Business
 3. Civil Servant
 4. Others (Specify)
12. Occupation of former partner
 1. Redundant
 2. Business
 3. Civil Servant
 4. Others (Specify)
13. Are all your parents alive?
14. Were they staying together?
15. Do you have children?
16. Did you get all of them with your former partner?

SECTION C (For female No.17)

17. Number of co-wives if your partner had them.
18. The type of marriage with your former partner.
19. The age at which you married the partner.
20. Period you and your partner had known each other before marriage.

21. How long had you stayed with the partner?
22. Could you please tell me what led to your marriage break-up and elaborate?

APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

1. TITLE
2. How long have you worked in mukono?
3. What can you comment on the plight of broken marriage in mukono?
4. What are the leading factors to marriage break-up in mukono?
5. What are the characteristics of people whose marriages break?
6. What suggestions would you recommend in order to remedy the situation?

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