

**ASSESSING OF THE IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE ON GIRL CHILDEDUCATION
A CASE STUDY OF ST. STEPHEN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, KUMI
MUNICIPALITY, KUMI DISTRICT
UGANDA**

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UNIVERSITY**

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DECLARATION

I **Oluka Benjamin** declare that this dissertation forwarded to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kampala International University, is my own and attained from my efforts with assure explanation, it has never been presented elsewhere in any University or any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature.....

Oluka Benjamin

Date.....11-09-2017

APPROVAL

This dissertation entitled, Assessing of the impacts of child marriage on girl child education, with reference to St. Stephens Child Development Centre as a case study, Oluka Benjamin is ready for the award of a Bachelor Degree of Social Work and Social Administration of Kampala International University.

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Date.....11.09.2017

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents Mr Oluka James and Ms'Aarayo Margrate for supporting me throughout my education and making it possible for me to climb these far and other family members for leading me in to intellectual pursuits and serving as inspirational role models.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHPR.....	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AU.....	African Union
STI.....	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN.....	United Nations
ICRW.....	International Centre for Research on Women
MDGs.....	Millennium Development Goals
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
UNA.....	United Nations Association
WHO.....	World Health Organization
UNFPA.....	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF.....	United Nations Children's Fund

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ABSTRACT

This section explains the research findings on Assessing of the impact of child marriage on girl child education.

Objectives of the study

To measure the impact of child marriage on drop out, literacy and education attainment

To briefly adopt some of the policies that could be adopted in order to reduce child marriage

To establish the effects of girl child marriage on girl child education

In despite of all attention drawn to child marriage across the world, there is a lack of improvement. The objective of this research is to look into under what circumstances child marriage does exist and how girls' living conditions can be improved. Focus shall be put on child marriage in general exemplified in particular in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District; this qualitative study is based on various reports regarding the subject in different areas. As the theoretical framework, the sex role theory is applied in order to analyse the phenomenon. Studies indicate a great difference in the number of young married girls in comparison to boys across the globe. Even though boys can be victims of child marriage, the consequences are less severe and therefore, focus shall be put on girls only in this research. The number of girls entering early marriage has not been found to stagnate everywhere, but the age of when entering marriage tends to increase. In fact, child marriage has become more common in some areas. From the research it is concluded that one cannot generalize all underlying causes of child marriage, but one must be aware of the specific circumstances in the particular areas of Kumi Municipality Kumi District. Conclusions regarding underlying factors and correlations are further to be found and presented in the text.

Keywords: Child marriage, Kumi Municipality, Kumi District, Social norms, extreme poverty

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, definition of key variables, purpose of the study, scope of the study, significance, research questions and conceptual frame work.

1.1 Background of the study

The many reasons for child marriage have been brought to the researcher's attention and have become an important matter to understand further. Child marriage is a complex issue in need of more research, in order to combat the problems flowing and also prevent the occurrence. The international definition of child marriage, which is also to be used in the research, is either when one or both spouses entering marriage before the age of 18 (OHCHR, 1989). Today, about 14.2 million of child marriages occur every year. If the trend continues, there will be 140 million underage girls entering marriage between the years of 2011 and 2020 (WHO, 2013). There are many physical and psychological consequences of child marriage. Child brides are likely to suffer from anxiety, which in some cases leads to suicide (Soylu, Ayaz and Yüksel, 2014:1553). When marrying young, early intercourse and pregnancy usually follow with complications that can be fatal due to the undeveloped body (UNFPA, 2012:6). The young bride is also often isolated from family and friends and forced to stay home instead of attending school (UNFPA, 2006:14). Child marriage is globally spread and very common in Africa and particularly in Niger, Chad and Ethiopia, which have the highest rate of underage spouses in the world (UNICEF, 2013).

Child marriage in Africa

Even though child marriage is to be found in different regions all over the world, statistics from UNICEF of child marriage are pointing at an extremely high rate in parts of Africa. Niger followed by Chad, are the countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage in the world (UNICEF, 2013). The overall percentage today of the prevalence of child marriage in Africa is 21 percent, but the percentage varies between and within the countries on the continent (World Bank, 2014:102). The objective of research is to attain a deeper understanding of child marriage on girl child education, of how such a phenomenon can exist

and how to improve the living conditions of girls. (UNFPA, 2012:23). In Sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of receiving an HIV infection and other STIs tends to increase if entering marriage at an early age. HIV infects a larger amount of married girls than the unmarried, even if the unwed is sexually active. Yet, an impact on child marriage in specifically Africa is the fear from getting infected by HIV. Therefore are men marrying young girls in order to avoid the infection, but might instead infect his wife/wives (World Bank, 2014:102). The marriage can also be seen as “protection” of the girl and keeping her from having a child born out of wedlock, which is often not socially accepted by society. Due to gender inequalities, an African girl is often not able to refuse having intercourse with her spouse, even if believing he might suffer from an HIV infection (UNICEF, 2001:12-13). Yet, making use of contraceptives is found to be rare within especially Sub-Saharan Africa (UNFPA, 2012:27). This is probably the explanation for the increase in HIV infections among married girls in Africa. Africa is continuously supporting underage girls entering marriage during or shortly after puberty. The spouse of the young bride might be only a few years older, but can also be twice as old or more. The girl is in many cases as young as between the age of seven and eleven when entering marriage, yet, the age when marrying seems to be increasing. The girl may be the only wife in the household, but polygamy is also common, when the husband has more than one wife. (UNICEF, 2001:2-4). Furthermore, it is a problem to discuss sexual relationships in Africa as the topic in question is regarded taboo, which further complicates dealing with the issue. Educating people about sexual relations is therefore difficult since education is considered as a promotion of earlier sexual relations and consequently rejected (UNICEF, 2001:12-13). Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the regions with the highest rate of child marriage; however, the trend is found to vary to a large extent even within regions (UNFPA, 2012:26). Due to the extensive influential differences between males and females, the girl must often rely on and be supported by her husband. Child marriage is often of high importance in order for the man to keep up with the socially expected behavior and take care of his spouse financially (UNFPA, 2006:18). The role of being a mother and a wife is a heavy burden for a young girl to bear. In most cases, the girl is alone in the situation, without actual support or possibility of caring for a child (UNFPA, 2006:6). Due to all difficulties, divorce can be an option, however, the rest of society does not always have acceptance. Here is an example by a woman from Niger: “A man can easily divorce his wife because his decision is final. [On the other hand] it is difficult for a woman to obtain a divorce because people will try to reconcile the couple and, moreover, if she wants a divorce, she must reimburse the bride-wealth even if she had ten children.” - Women’s focus group, ToulouKarey, Loga

Department, Dosso Region, Niger (World Bank, 2014:104). Throughout Africa, for each year of entering marriage before age 18, there is a six percent lower chance of ability to read and write. Also, there is a seven percent lower chance of finishing secondary school (World Bank, 2014). The overall attitudes towards the women's position in society are found to be unfavorable and generally accepted by both men and women. 80 percent of the women are to believe that violence is sex they are born into is normal. For examples in African countries like Niger and Chad, women are in comparison to their husbands, limited from selecting residence. Also, married women in Niger and Chad are less likely to work outside the household without consent from the spouse (World Bank, 2014:19-20).

Child marriage remains one of the silent evils in Uganda today, so silent that many young girls are being married off openly and while the communities turn their heads in oblivion. Today, the statistics from the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) from 2011, paint a glaring picture. They state that 46 percent of girls marry before they reach 18 years. This means that one out of every four girls is most likely to be married off by the age of eighteen. The same statistics, also reveal that over 15 percent of married women between the ages of 20-49 were married by the age 15, and 49 percent were married at 18 years.

Drivers to such alarming statistics are many; they range from poverty, limited access to education for girls, traditional and social norms which dictate that girls should marry young so as to be "good mothers" and ignorance on risks associated with marrying girls at an early age. The magnitude of child marriage consequences are equally sad most especially to girls, from sexually transmitted diseases, leaving school early and psychological trauma, the future of teenage girls remains at crossroads.

Another terrible consequence of child marriage is teenage pregnancies, the population secretariat indicate that of the 1.2 million pregnancies recorded in Uganda annually, 25 percent of these are teenage pregnancies, these means that more than 300,000 teenagers who get pregnant also account for the bulk of unwanted pregnancies, which end up in unwanted births or abortion. Regionally, teenage pregnancy rates are overwhelming, According to the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy, the rates are high in Northern Uganda 59 percent, followed by Western 58percent, Eastern 52 percent, and East Central 52 percent, West Nile 50 percent and Central 41 percent. On the other hand, findings from a study conducted by Guttmacher Institute on unintended pregnancy and abortion in Uganda indicate that Mubende District is said to be among the districts with a high number of teenage mothers with nearly one in every three households recording a teen that has got

pregnant or has had a child. This is alarming because many girls are being deprived of opportunities to have a better future compared to their male counterparts. At such time, girls do not have a say in marriage and are prone to violence from their parents according to (UNFPA).2011

In June 2015, Uganda launched the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage pregnancy and not forgetting the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda which sets the age of marriage to be 18 years and above. In Uganda the district with high rate of child marriage include Mubende, Moroto, Gulu, Butaleja, Kanyunga and Katakwi said by partners, UNFPA and Ministry of Health.

1.2. Problem statement

Child marriage is affecting the global welfare since young women's capabilities are not taken into account. Child marriage is a problem affecting mostly girls across the world and the decline is a too slow process, which indicates that the programs of prevention available so far are insufficient. Therefore, the research has included actions taken to end child marriage, and evaluations of programs in order to gain a deeper understanding of why those programs are deficient. Through this, the researcher has gained understanding for under what circumstances child marriage can exist and how to improve girls' living conditions and level of education of a child. The spread of child marriage is an issue and further research has been conducted in order to come up with ways on how to combat the problem. Developing programs have been applicable on the areas affected. The most important element to take into consideration is the various underlying factors causing child marriage in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District. Understanding of child marriage and its impact on education is important for the law makers, global welfare, policy makers, local leaders and social development.

1.3. The purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was focusing on understanding the phenomenon of child marriage and assessing its impact on girl child education. The study was focused on girls under the age of 18 entering marriage. The age-limit of 18 is applicable to Africa due to the ratification of the "African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights" and the "African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child" (ACHPR, 1987), which is prohibiting child marriage. Even though in some cases, boys are victims of child marriage, they only represent a small part (UNICEF, 2001:2). The negative outcomes of child marriage tend to be larger for girls. With that,

this research has been focusing on assessing the impact of child marriage on girl child education in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District.

1.4. General objective

The objective of the research is to attain a deeper understanding of child marriage, of how such a phenomenon can exist and how to combat, prevent and improve the living conditions of girls and level of education.

1.5. Specific objective

To measure the impact of child marriage on drop out, literacy, and education attainment

To briefly adopt some of the policies that could be adopted in order to prevent child marriage

To establish the effects of girl child marriage

1.6. Research questions

1. What are the underlying reasons for child marriage?
2. How can these underlying reasons for child marriage be combated?
3. What are the a) educational, b) the social, c) psychological and d) physical effects of child marriage on girl child education?

1.7. Scope of the study

The research has been focusing on child marriage that takes place under the age of 18- the upper age limit for protection under the 1989 convention on the Rights of the child (CRC). It examines early marriage from the Human rights perspectives in order to offer guidelines for much needed analysis and action. The CRC and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provide the foundation for such a perspective which requires a holistic approach to early marriage. This means examining every implication of the practice from its limitation upon personal freedom to its impact upon health and education. There has been a deliberate attempt to focus on unions that recognizes either in statutory or customary law as marriage. The research was looking at the abidingness of marriage and what it means for those who are married without their effective consent. While boys are affected by early marriages, this has been an issue that impacts upon girls in far larger numbers and with more intensity. In many societies, adolescence means an opening up of opportunity for boys whereas for girls its often means a closing down of opportunity and personal freedom. The experience for boys is therefore less likely to be as exploitative or

physically harmful as it is for girls. As the table on married adolescence on appendixes, in these societies where early marriage is common very few boys under age 19 enter marriage compared to girls. This unequal division of power in marriage is likely to be exacerbated where the husband – wife age gap is wide on the implications of early marriage for girls.

1.8. Significance of the study

The study has stimulated the community and NGOs working with students to address the causes of child marriage and its impact on girl child education. Children of very young ages are sometimes forced to marry at young age by ‘greedy’ parents or guardians, sometimes as a result of cultural practice and traditions which require them to get married soon after completion of rites like circumcision/Female Genital Mutilation. Poverty and economic hardship have been identified as a reasons why parents marry off their girls children- bride price paid in cows and (or money) is said to move parents out of objects poverty, a fact not substantiated by concrete evidence. There is credible evidence argument that child marriages are responsible for causing object poverty in many households of child couples and their children. With this mind, the community has been instrumental in perpetuating child marriage and which can be greatly affected by it. Therefore the study has been undertaken to create and raise awareness of the issues and encourage the parents, local leaders and policy makers in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District to join the campaign against child marriage.

1.9. Geographical scope

The research was conducted in St. Stephens Child Development Centre in Kumi Municipality Kumi district.

1.10. Time scope

The study was carried on in June-September 2017. This study was focused on assessing the impacts of child marriage on girl child education.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006) observed that literature review refers to the work that the researcher consulted in order to understand and investigate the research problem. This chapter deals with understanding child marriage, social norms, extreme poverty, possible causes of child marriage, relating between child marriage and education, sex role theory analysis on child marriage, suggestions and making a conclusion.

2.1. Definition of child marriage

The center of the research was child marriage, also to be known as **early marriage or early family formation**; a research of high complexity that was interpreted differently by different people. Therefore it was of high importance to specifically define what is regarded as child marriage in this context. A researcher was applied mostly to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), use of the age limit of 18 when referring to a “child”. These was based on the UN’s “Convention on the Rights of the Child”, Article 1, (OHCHR, 1989). However, the legal age of marriage also differs depending on age, which will be shown in the appendixes.

2.2. Definition of extreme poverty

Poverty can be defined differently; however, the definition internationally used is a person surviving on less than \$1.25 per day. (World Bank, 2010)

2.3. Definition of social norms

Social norms are strong informal regulations on what to believe in and how to behave. The social norms are strengthened by sanctions from either social groups in society or the state. Different behavior is expected depending on age and sex etc. that in turn establishes gender roles. (World Bank, 2014:15)

2.4. The impact of child marriage on girl child education

There are many possible causes of child marriage, these can be influenced by different factors and may vary from place to place. Poverty and child marriage are connected, where poverty exists, child marriage is likely to also be present. The girl is often considered as an economic burden, where families are often eased when finding a spouse for the girl. This tends to take place when the child is still very young. Along similar lines, the World Health Organization (WHO) argues that poverty is one of the main reasons for child marriage. Other factors being referred to are the inequality between men and women and the stigmatization of women across the globe (WHO, 2013). According to the World Bank, the underlying continuation of the trend despite restrictions is due to social standards and what is expected behavior from girls (World Bank, 2012:102). Furthermore, there are additional factors that tend to affect the existence of child marriage on girl child education as explained below.

2.4.1. Religion

The association between religion and child marriage varies in the reports. According to the ICRW, there is no correlation between a specific religion and child marriage across the world. But various religions can have an impact on child marriage in different countries (ICRW, 2007:25). UNFPA (2012) states in the report *marrying tooYoung: End child marriage* that religion does in fact have an impact on the prevalence of child marriage, but is not further and deeper discussed in the report (UNFPA, 2012:18). Religion is not mentioned in the majority of the reports regarding the subject. Whether or not religion and child marriage is correlated will be further discussed in the analysis.

2.4.2. Tradition and culture

Child marriage is an old tradition in many regions and continues being practiced. In Sub-Saharan Africa the husband or the family of the husband usually offers the young girl's family cattle as compensation for the marriage, which is tempting for a poor family. Virginity is also an important part of marriage and the younger the girl, the greater chance of being a virgin. Therefore, the age of marriage tends to be lower among communities where these forms of religious traditions are represented. The man usually prefers virginity and a non-virgin is likely to be left with no spouse. Menstruation is also a part of child marriage in some communities since the girl is then considered being ready for carrying a child and is therefore considered an adult (UNICEF, 2001:6). The girl often enters marriage early to please the

family. This is important for the family to keep the relationship with the rest of society and not breaking the social norms. Also different myths encouraging child marriage are to be found in Africa, which are still influencing practice in some areas (UNFPA, 2006:19).

2.4.3. Gender inequalities

Gender inequalities are found across the world. As for example, the laws regarding the legal age of marriage can differ depending on sex in Africa. This can be found in African countries like Niger and Chad, where boys are by law prohibited to marry before the age of 18, while girls are allowed to enter marriage at 15 (UNFPA, 2012:62-63). In most cases, girls located in the developing world are at a higher risk of unequal treatment. When being neglected from such rights as the right to education and health, this has caused further disempowerment and the trend is likely to be transferred to future generations, causing the phenomenon of child marriage to carry on. Not only inequalities between boys and girls are to be found, but also between rich and poor. In combination, a poor girl is often the most vulnerable and exposed (UNICEF, 2011:7). Moreover, inequalities between the developed and the developing world shall also be noted. The developing world is struggling with attaining access to knowledge and also adequate medical treatment. The deaths or life-long difficulties of young mothers and their children are not always unavoidable, but lack of medical resources is occasionally preventing improvements (UNFPA, 2006:11).

2.4.4. Poverty

The typical family in Africa often consists of a large number of children. The reason for this is due to the lack of safety net available for poor families. Instead, parents are often relying on their children for support when growing old, and through child marriage, there is a greater chance of more children. Due to poor conditions and insufficient medical care, not all children are likely to survive, therefore is the need of having a large number of children an essential measurement. To reduce the cost of having girls, child marriage is often an option when dealing with financial deficits. One tradition associated with child marriage is the fact that the girl's family will receive a form of "payment" for the girl - either an amount of money or other form of support from the spouse to be and his family. For that reason, it can be more profitable for the family when girls enter marriage very young in order to get rid of the cost of the girl and possibly receive an amount of money in exchange. (UNFPA, 2006:18-19) furthermore, regarding the correlation between gender equality and poverty. Women are

found to be key actors when striving for development. It is therefore of high importance to use resources of all people, also women since they are representing 50 percent of the resources available, and if not achieved, economic and social development has stagnate. When women are allotted with more capital, education is usually prioritized which further contributes to development. (Witcher Jackson, 2009:1-2)

2.4.5. Power and keeping the family from disgrace

Child marriage is an old tradition in many societies and if not keeping to the traditions, it can disgrace the whole family. If the girl does not follow the social norm of entering an early marriage, the whole family can risk being excluded from their community. Also, decreasing the risk of shaming the family through the daughter having a child out of wedlock or other inappropriate behavior for girls are important factors in the matter. In the countryside, where many of the young female spouses are located, girls are often pulled out of school at the time of their first menstruation in order to safeguard their sexuality. Education for the girl can also be seen as unfavorable when the central point is being a spouse and mother in the future, not focusing on attaining more knowledge. This trend is continued through generations and is maintaining the legitimatization of child marriage. (UNFPA, 2006:19)

2.4.6. Protection of the girl

Since the HIV and AIDS epidemic was brought to our attention, the number of child marriages has increased significantly. The most plausible reason for the encounter is the families attempting to protect the girls from such infections and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) by child marriage. In some unsecure warfare areas are young girls in hazard of being captured by “freedom fighters” and forced into the sex industry or slavery. In these possible scenarios, having a spouse is considered the best option to keep the girl safe. In areas where sexual assaults are common, marrying a man with a higher position is desirable for safeguarding the young girls. Therefore, entering an early marriage can be seen as protection of the girl.

(UNFPA, 2006:20)

2.4.7. Rural and urban areas

There is usually a great difference depending on where the girl is located. The prevalence of child marriage is found to be higher in the rural areas in the developing world. According to UNFPA, 44 percent of the women between the ages of 20-24 in rural areas are entering marriage before they reach adulthood, in contrast to the urban areas, where only 22 percent of women in the same age are being exposed to child marriage. (UNFPA, 2012:34)

2.5 Policies adopted to reduce child marriage

The practice of child marriage—matrimony before age 18—continues to disproportionately affect girls in certain cultures and communities with significant consequences to their education, health, and social life. Child brides have little say in when or whom they have to marry, they have little influence with their husbands and in-laws, have little opportunity to develop awareness of their rights, and are in no position to claim or demand them.

These large age gaps reinforce power differentials between girls and their husbands. Girls who marry before age 18 are more likely to experience violence within marriage than girls who marry later. Girls may lack the power to negotiate safer sex and have little access to information or services to prevent either pregnancy or infection. According to Girls Not Brides, girls under the age of 15 are 5 times more likely than women in their twenties to die during childbirth. Married girls are also more likely to have multiple children in shorter intervals and more likely to become disabled due to pregnancy or childbirth. Stillbirths and deaths during the first week of life are 50 percent higher among babies born to adolescent mothers than among babies born to mothers in their twenties. Children of adolescent mothers are also more likely to be premature and have low birth weight.

Governments are now recognising the importance of addressing child marriage and integrating societal changes to meet the UN Millennium Development goals. Supporting girls in avoiding child marriage, delaying having children and finishing school brings opportunities for skills and income to eradicate poverty for future generations. Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women ensures girls get choices as to when they marry and whom. Reducing child/forced marriage has reduced child mortality and disability related to child/teen pregnancy or childbirth. It has also improved maternal health which has reduced vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Though the practice of child marriage is rooted in tradition and culture, neither culture nor tradition is immutable and there is hope for change. The efforts to end the practice of child marriage and influence change to ensure a better future for young girls and boys around the world.

2.5.1 Educating girl child

Many studies have shown that it is more than likely that a girl who marries as a child has come from a community where education for girls is not valued. She is more than likely be illiterate and has little to no understanding of her human rights. Girls having access to both primary and secondary education have improved their chances of access to employment and a means of supporting themselves and then in turn their families. It is important to reach out to communities and help challenge traditional and discriminatory views on access to education.

2.5.2 Empowering girls

In many communities or countries where child marriage is prevalent, girls are often seen as economic burdens. Girls in households where boys are favoured often have low self-esteem and little confidence. Using the Rosenberg scale, he measured the self-esteem of young girls and found that the lower the self-esteem, the higher the risk of child marriage. Empowerment programmes for young girls are keys to reducing and preventing child or early marriage by improving both their sense of self and self-efficacy through informing girls of their basic human rights, their legal right to refuse a marriage, and education programmes on health and sex education. Small scale studies have shown promising results from his programmes that make girl empowerment its central strategy – the mean age of marriage of 14.5 years old has risen to 17 years old.

2.5.3 Educating parents to change their harmful cultural norms

Some parents from traditional communities believe that child marriage is a way of protecting their daughter: providing for her economically so that she can be taken care of; safeguarding her from harassment and sexual violence before she reaches puberty, and preventing premarital sex which is still taboo in many countries across the world. Unfortunately, families often do not know the negative and harmful effects of early child marriage, including pregnancy at such a young age which has lead to many complications as a girl's body is not

ready for childbirth. Such parents have benefited from being educated on the very serious harmful effects of forced early childhood marriage.

2.5.4 Supporting adolescent girls who are already married

Although the focus has been on communities to prevent child marriage, young girls who already married have got support and even those being isolated have got chance to complete or continue their education, child marriage has reduced a higher risk of violence which could be home- sexually, physically or psychologically. The holistic approach has given all members of the community a chance to discuss the benefits of supporting child brides and the best ways in which to do it which has resulted in reducing other practices and even child marriage.

2.5.5 Advocating for women as community leaders

In many communities that practise child marriage, women are often kept out of the decision-making processes and are not allowed a voice in local politics. It is vital that women are able to voice their concerns and advocate for women's rights in all spheres as this is often what accelerates the elimination of harmful traditions such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Training women in leadership skills and advocacy has given them confidence to engage in local community meetings and fight against child marriage.

2.5.6 Getting informed and taking action

If this is the first time you have become aware about child marriage, one of the first steps you need to take is to understand the issue do more research and learn about the human cost of this harmful practice as there are painful consequences of child marriage. Get informed and knowledgeable on the subject, then proceed with learning more about international, governmental, and grassroots efforts in your community and worldwide that are focused on the prevention and intervention in child marriage. Then, armed with that information and knowledge, decide how you can best support their efforts with your resources and skills, then reach out to the relevant activists and organisations and start taking action.

2.5.7 Sponsoring girls

Sponsoring a child in a developing country has been a longstanding way for donors around the world to support underprivileged and vulnerable communities in order to break the cycle of violence, poverty, and illiteracy. Donating a small amount of money each month to a child with charities like Plan International has helped girls who are vulnerable to child marriage. Education is one of the greatest preventatives of child marriage and studies have proven that the longer a girl stays in school, the less likely she is to marry or become an underaged mother. In some developing countries education is not free and families cannot afford to send their child to school and if they do, male children are given priority. By sponsoring a girl child this has helped pay for their school fees and get education she needs to avoid child marriage and to map her own path in life.

2.5.8 Raising awareness about child marriage

Raising awareness about the issue is vital because child marriage has been hidden away for centuries and needs to be publicly addressed by the community in order to end the daily suffering of adolescent girls and the continual violation of their human rights. One way of doing so is to support and share the work of journalists, artists, photographers and activists to help raise the plight of child hence this has helped to reduce the impacts of child marriage on girl child education.

2.6 Relationship between child marriage, literacy and education

The issue of child marriage is getting renewed attention among policy makers. This was part because child marriage remains highly prevalent despite efforts by many developing country governments to discourage and even outlaw the practice. It constitutes a violation of the rights of the girls who are forced to marry early, and it profoundly affects their life through substantially lower education prospects, health complications. (Such as vesico-vaginal fistulae, a higher like hood of acquiring HIV/AIDs, and higher level of infant mortality with the early pregnancies) and higher risks of violence in the homes as well as social exclusion

On the basis of physiological and social criteria and data from Demographic and health surveys, Dixon Mueller (2008) suggests that boys and girls aged 14 and younger are almost university too young for sexual, marital and reproductive transitions, while 15-17years old often are too young depending on circumstances. This suggests that the cut off points of

18 years is an appropriate minimum age for marriage, yet legal reforms of the age of marriage are often unsuccessful in curbing the practice of child marriage.

Child marriage affects education attainment negatively, because girls often drop out of school when they marry. The causality goes the other way as the ability to pursue one's education may help delay the age at marriage. This relationship between education and child marriage is apparent in the data, in that the measure of child marriage tends to be higher among women with lower levels of education. The same relationship is observed when considering literacy where categories are considered: the women cannot read at all, others can read part of a sentence, or can read a full sentence.

The relationship between child marriage and schooling was important for policy makers as the causality goes both ways. Child marriage may lead to dropouts and lower education attainment. But the reverse is true as well: keeping girls in school is often one of the best ways to delay marriage.

Marrying between the age of 15 and 17 tends to affect primarily and secondary education enrollment or completion, this necessarily affects the completion of primary education. But marrying even earlier can also prevent girls from completing their primary education (primary school takes six years to complete, but some students start primary school late and may also repeat class, so the actual age of completion may be delayed).

The negative impact of child marriage for girls' health, education, and wellbeing is often larger when the girl marries very early, for example, child marriage is known to have a negative impact on school enrollment and attainment. The earlier a girl marries, the more likely to drop out early and thereby have a low level of education attainment. This was not only limiting her employment and earnings potential for the rest of her life, but it also contributes to other negative consequences for her as well and her children as well.

Most studies on child marriage report the incidence of child marriage—the share of girls who marry early (before 18), sometimes also with the share of girls who marry very early, before age 15. Such statistics are useful, but they do not capture the depth and severity of the practice very well. Better measures of child marriage can be adopted from the poverty literature (Nguyen and Wodon 2012). Three measures are used here; the incidence of child marriage or squared child marriage gap. The measures are estimated for child marriage as well as very early marriage defined as marrying before age 15.

Child marriage gap represents the 'depth' of early marriage. It takes in to account not only the share of girls who marry early, but also the mean number of years of early marriage. When using the child marriage gap for the evaluation of programs or policies, instead of simply looking at the share of the girls who marry at a very young age. While the child marriage gap takes in to account the average number of years of early marriage for girls who marry early, the squared gap takes in to account the square of that number, thereby putting even more emphasis on girls who marry very early and taking in to account inequality in the age of marriage among girls and boy who marriage early.

Education is clearly major factor contributing towards changing sticky norms. Dembashi and Bulbullo agreed that education is important for girls as well as boys. The value of education is seen both from a practical perspectives and more aspirational one from practical standpoint, men and women as well as adolescent boys and girls believed that men don't want to marry an illiterate girl, and so if a girl aspire to an educated husband, she must push ahead with her own studies, also in context of growing economic hardships, the value of girls economic contribution to the household is more important today and there is a sense that with better education, girls can aspire to make more money as well as better marriage household finances. (UNFPA, 2012:13).

2.7 Effects of child marriage on girls child education

When entering an early marriage, there are negative outcomes further complicating the lives of young girls. Consequences coming from child marriage can be both physical as well as psychological. This is most often coming from sexual abuse, which is strikingly common. Other issues documented are deprived childhood, denied right of expression and being forced to stay home taking care of the housing instead of continuing school. From these consequences, girls are likely to experience psychological problems such as anxiousness, which can in worst case lead to suicide (Soylu, Ayaz and Yüksel, 2014:1553). Child marriage can even be the cause of death due to early pregnancy causing internal complications. (Svanemyr, Chandra-Mouli, Sigurdson Christiansen, and Mbizvo, 2012:1).

4.10.1 Fatality

Child marriage most often results in early pregnancies and many children. When being under the age of 18, the girl is more likely to have severe consequences while expecting and delivering a child. There is a risk of dying for both the girl and her child since the young

mother's body is not yet enough developed. The younger the mother, the higher risk of carrying and giving birth to a child. Studies have shown that the mother fatality in Eastern Uganda is high taking 52 percent. Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS; 2011) The young mother is not only risking her own life, but is also risking at losing her child due to complications during pregnancy as well as during birth. Along similar lines, studies indicate that a child from an under-aged mother has 40 percent less chance of surviving during the child's first year (Svanemyr, ChandraMouli, Sigurdson Christiansen, and Mbizvo, 2012:1).

4.10.2. Various possible infections

The risk of infections such as HIV and other STIs has also proven to increase if marrying young. Such diseases can cause sterility and an HIV infection can be transferred to the foetus and lead to early death. Also in these cases, the risk of diseases expands the younger the girl is when starting sexual relations (UNICEF, 2001:10). According to research performed, the younger a girl is when entering marriage, the smaller the chance of her being able to refuse sex. If entering marriage after the age of 18, two percent more of the women is likely to deny sexual relations with the spouse. Also, for each year of entering marriage after the age of 18, the higher chance of refusing sex for the girl (World Bank, 2014:103). Other consequences such as famine, fistula and underweight are also increased for the child of an under-aged mother (Raj and Boehmer, 2013:538). Obstetric fistula is a condition most prone to affect adolescent girls when giving birth to a child, causing leakages of urine and faeces (UNFPA, 2006:11).

4.10.3. Domestic Violence

A common factor within child marriage is the great age difference between the girl and her husband. The husband often tends to be significantly older than his wife. Therefore, the girl is more likely to lose influence; this sometimes results in domestic violence (World Bank, 2014:102). The issue with child marriage and the proven increased risk of the child to experience domestic violence are often on going for a long amount of time and even the pregnant girl is frequently stricken. The assaults can be physical such as beatings, but can also be physiological. As mentioned earlier, psychological effects coming with child marriage such as anxiousness and suicide are possible consequences. Due to lack of family support, a way out of child marriage is difficult. If getting miserable enough, the girl might

run away. However, if she was to be found, severe consequences such as “honour killings” when the family exterminates the girl to defend the honour is occurring (UNICEF, 2001:12).

4.10.4. Lack of education

Lack of education has proven to be one important factor for the high number of child marriages, especially for girls who often are the most exposed. However, child marriage seems to be a great obstacle for girls to complete their education and improve their living conditions. Completing secondary school is crucial for girls since statistics have shown that when including more females in society a decrease of the risk of marriage before the age of 18 and therefore avoid the consequences following child marriage. When given a proper education, studies have not only proven that girls tend to enter marriage and deliver children later in life, but also to give birth to a fewer number of children (UNICEF, 2011:29). Families do in most cases not prioritize education for girls, since it is considered being an unnecessary cost for girls to be educated. Denying a girl education means she will be deprived from the opportunity of working professionally outside the house and being self-sufficient. Instead, taking care of the household and children tends to be the major task for young brides and the social norm in many communities (Mutyaba, 2011:352). When having a mother without a proper education, this in turn increases the difficulty of retaining her children in school, which causes further complications in a negative way

2.8. Theoretical framework

2.8.1 Sex role theory analysis on child marriage

The theory has been analyzed following the five steps proposed by Connell.

1) Analyzing and differentiating the *person* and the societal *position attained*. Both women and men are socially entitled different positions in society. The social position socially accepted for girls within the areas categorized by child marriage is simply being a mother and wife.

2) The actions allotted to the position. The child bride’s primary task is taking care of the household, usually such as farming, cleaning, cooking and taking care of the children. Working outside the household is rarely a choice for the wife, but is often the duty of the husband, who is the one with an income. Therefore, the girl tends to be very dependent on her husband due to financial reasons. The girl is either the only wife or is accompanied by a few

more if being in a polygamist marriage. Discontinuing school and instead caring for the household is also the norm for the girls. When the first menstruation sets in, the girl's sexuality shall be safeguarded and school is therefore usually not an option. The young married women most often experience loss of power over resources, which are instead held by the husband. Also, divorcing from the husband is harder for the woman, due to the disempowerment and social norms in society.

3) The proper and anticipated behavior accepted by society. The appropriate behavior for a wife in a traditional household is fulfilling all the tasks expected. The woman is to be the other one in contrast to her husband. The wife is expected to be fertile and give birth to a large number of children, since these are to care for the parents when growing old. The proper behavior is to stay married to one another and keep maintaining the current traditions. These traditions are often of high importance to live by and are therefore prioritized by the community.

4) Involving people set in contrast. In this case, the people in contrast are the male and the female, husband and wife. The bride is often at least a few years younger than her spouse, but the age difference can be a lot bigger. This in turn often causes disempowered young women dependent on her husband. Also, the age limit for entering a marriage can vary depending on sex, for examples in one of African country (Niger), the boy cannot become a spouse before the age of 18, while a girl only have to be 15 to enter a marriage.

5) Resulting in advantages and disadvantages depending on one's action. Becoming a child bride usually has no perks. When being a young mother and wife, heavy duties come with it. This can be very difficult for the girl, who is put into adulthood even if not being ready emotionally or physically. Child marriage is therefore resulting in deprived childhood for the affected girl. When being a child, it is difficult caring for one's own child. Also the global welfare is affected when neglecting girls. When entering an early marriage, loss of recourses, increased risk of STIs, and risk of experiencing domestic violence are a few possible outcomes. Also, inadequate medical care for young women when being pregnant or at time of giving birth is a factual inequality causing a high number of avoidable complications and deaths. The option of divorce may exist to some of the married girls, since it is permitted in some of African countries like Niger and Chad. However, it is most often more difficult to go through a divorce as a girl due to both financial aspects as well as social norms. Since the married girl tends to have no income due to only caring for the household, a divorce will mean to struggle financially. However, getting divorced can therefore be seen as a

disadvantage and is not considered being the norm in the African society, hence; it tends to complicate the situation further. Also, people surrounding the divorced couple will still attempt to reunite them. Furthermore, if not following the cultural norms, one can risk of dishonoring the family and become excluded from the community. Therefore, it is of high importance for families to follow the current norms in society in order to avoid stigmatization. The girl's option to run away may result in an honor killing if she was to be found. Also this is due to defending the family's honor.

2.9 Summary of the literature review

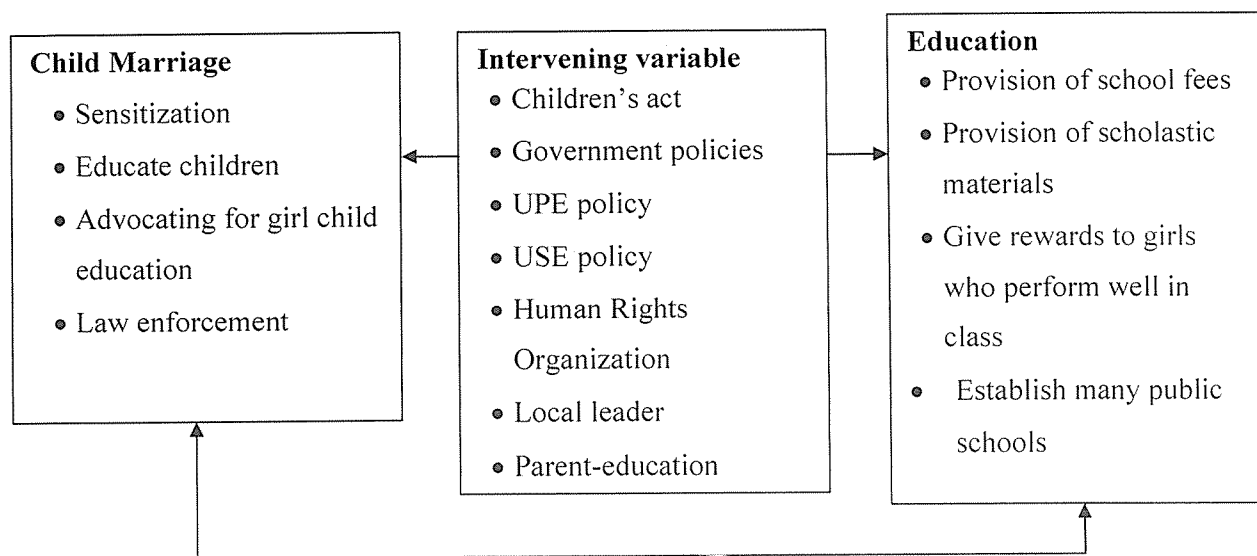
Programs on how to end child marriage are common and usually generalized the causes and possible solutions with one program to be applied everywhere. There are lots of different reports on the subject to be found, attempting to understand and combat the phenomenon. Multiple researchers have made an effort to deal with the issues of young spouses, however due to the complexity of the subject; the phenomenon remains a widely-spread problem as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that in the report early marriage, child spouses (2001). Yet, UNICEF specifically defines child marriage as one or both spouses under age 18. However, UNICEF is using this age limit while simultaneously mixing other ages such as 19 or 20. An example of this is the 'married Adolescents, percentage of 15-19 years-olds married'' and also the level of education where the age limit looked upon is 20 (UNICEF, 2001:4-5). Entering a marriage at the age 19 or 20 is therefore not taken in to consideration in this research due to the age definition of 18. Even though the report written in 2001, the social construction child marriage is slowly changing and therefore the report is still useful.

The most recent report voice and Agency: empowering women and girls for shared prosperity (2014) written by the World Bank does acknowledge the fact that the causes of child marriage are found to vary between regions. Similar conclusions are also found in the UNFPA report concerning child marriage: Marrying too young: End child marriage from 2012. In the report, a gathering of different influences of child marriage within different regions is brought to surface. Also, a description of the differences within the areas of the prevalence of child marriage is presented, showing the disparities between different areas.

Definitions of both child marriage and extreme poverty are presented in the report, beneficial to avoid misunderstandings and confusion. After careful research of different adequate theories, I have come across both the sex role theory as well as a feminist approach. Yet, a

suitable theory for the research was difficult to find. However, in my opinion, one cannot make use of the feminist approach in an efficient way of the purpose. Therefore, a more gender-focused theory, such as the sex role theory is a better fit in order to see the issue from a more neutral point of view.

2.10. Fig 1: Conceptual frame work



According to Reason and Rigor 2012 defined a conceptual framework as an analytical tool with several variations and contexts. It is used to make conceptual distinctions and organize ideas. In conceptual framework the study was aimed at exploring the relationship between the variables of the study to guide the researcher to the logical conclusion of the research questions. The study assumed that Childs marriage can be reduced through sensitization and creating awareness to the children and parents, educating children, advocating for girl child education and law enforcement and Childs education can be influenced by a number of factors like provision of school fees, scholastic materials, rewards, establishment of many public schools, intervening on Government policies, UPE and USE policies and working in hand with Human rights Organizations, local leaders and parents to reduce child marriage practices and encourage education of children.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This chapter covers mainly various methods that were used by the student during data collection that helped the student in realization of the study goals after which was employed during data collection, the chapter was based on finding the following; research design, study area, study size and population, sampling size and procedure, sampling size, sampling technique, source of data, reliability and validity of the data, data collection methods, procedures of data collection, data processing and data analysis, limitation of the study and methods chosen, ethical consideration.

3.1. Research design

According to Ngechu (2001), a research design is a plan showing how problems under investigation are solved. The study was adapted to descriptive survey design because it enabled the researcher to collect and analyze data in the field without manipulating any variables. The researcher was also able to collect data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of the subjects of the study and assess attitudes and opinion about events, individuals or procedures (Gay, 1993).

According to Creswell (1998), qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on methodological traditions of inquiry that explores social and human problems. The study was case study designs and qualitative in nature. The study has been descriptive, explanatory, and evaluative that has enabled the student in assessing of the impact of child marriage on education in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District.

3.2. Study area

This study was conducted in S.t Stephens Child Development Centre in Kumi Municipality, Kumi district which happens to be one of the districts in Eastern Uganda and its physical location is 1km off Kumi Town on Omatenga Road near Bishop Ilukor Girls Secondary School. However, According to Singleton (1993) advises that the ideal setting for any study should be easily accessible to the researcher which enabled him gather the necessary information needed for the study in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District.

3.3. Study size and populations

Orodho (2002) defines target population as a large population from whom a sample population is selected. The study covered area of about 5 divisions which include; Omatenga, Abata, Odiit, Kelim and Okobua which are located in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District within Town Council area. The following were been intervened students and parents, making a total of 60 target respondents.

3.4. Sample size and procedure

Wiersma (1995) describes a sample as a small population of the target population selected systematically from the study. Sampling is a research procedure that is used to select a given number of subjects from a target population. Purposive sampling was used in selecting 25 parents and 35 students making a total of 60 respondents.

3.5. Sample procedures

According to Kombo & Tromp (2006), sampling procedure refers to how cases are to be selected for observation. It provides a detailed explanation of the subjects to be involved in the investigation and how these are to be selected from the target group.

The student used qualitative selection method, where respondents are purposively selected to represent the population. Purposive sampling was used to select respondents to participate in the study.

3.5.1. Purposive sampling: Parents and students were selected purposely to participate in the study. They were considered as one of the key informants and selected because they directly or indirectly involved in the activity of early marriage. Therefore with a critical observation of the study to be successful, purposive sampling was suitable for selecting key informants because it enabled researcher with proved information required for the study.

3.6. Source of data, to achieve the research objectives, both primary and secondary sources of data was used in the study

Primary data: The main primary data sources are questionnaires and interview methods. The questionnaire method involved the use of questions printed in a definite order. The interview method involved personal interviews with the parents and students who were helpful in providing important and crucial information relevant to the objectives of the study.

Secondary data: The secondary data was obtained from text books, annual reports of the Organization offices, where the study was to be conducted, journals and other publications to provide a yard stick against responses from primary data gathered in order to deliver meaningful objective interpretation of impact of child marriage on girl child education.

3.7. Reliability and validity of the data

According to (Creswell, 2009:191-192) says in order to attain a valid research, a researcher should use different sources and verify if these are corresponding and look upon different points of views. Different points of views create a more reasonable conclusion of the subject. Furthermore, offering contradictory findings is also important in this matter for a both reliable and valid research. (Creswell, 2009:191-192)

Reliability is a measure of the degree to which research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials (Orodho, 2005). To ensure reliability of the data during the study, the questionnaires were administered for pilot purposes to the same respondents twice within a two weeks period and analysis done. The response obtained from testing using a retest was to be analyzed manually and comparison done. The test-retest technique was used to test the reliability of the research instrument using the Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient formula to compute correlation coefficient in order to establish the extent to which the contents of the questionnaire are consistent in eliciting the same responses every time the data is administered.

Validity refers to the credibility or believability of the research. This has helped a student in finding genuine information and strengthens a valid measure intelligence of the respondents whether the answer is No or yes which also depend on the amount of research support for such a relationship and the study for data collection.

3.8. Data collection method

These are steps, procedures and strategies for gathering data in the study. Data collection refers to gathering specific information aimed at providing or refuting some facts. (Tromp, 2006:99). In this study the following methods were used in collecting required information, Interviews, questionnaires, observation and documentary materials from the library which included; books, newspapers, internet and leaflet

Data was collected by the use of structure questionnaires designed by the researcher, the questions were sent to the respondents because the technique used is of an advantage to other respondents since they are all literate. With the method used there is no biased information and gives enough time for the respondent to consider his point of view carefully than an interview.

3.9.1 Questionnaire method

Wadsworth (1997) defines a questionnaire as a set of questions written down and generally answered in writing on the same sheet of paper. It is widely used in educational research to obtain information about certain conditions and practices and to acquire people's attitude and opinion. Data was collected by the use of structured questionnaires designed by the researcher. The questionnaires were sent to the parents, students and teachers. This technique was used because the respondents are literates. The major advantage of this method includes, free of biased information and enough time for the respondent to consider his point carefully than an interview.

3.9.2 Interview method

Interview was the most prominent data generation tool that allowed the participants to describe the phenomenon under study (Punch, 2009). Interviews were regarded very reliable way of accessing people's perceptions, meanings, definitions of situations and their constructions of reality (Marshall & Rossman, 2006). In order to understand others the researchers needed participants' constructions of reality to ask them -and ask participants in ways that they can provide in-depth description of the phenomenon.

Sarankos (1998) observed interview method as a survey conducted orally. Interviews were administered to parents and students concerning impacts of child marriage on girl child education. Interviews were prepared because according to Amin (2003), they give an opportunity to probe and obtain detailed information required to meet specific objectives of the study. This method was to be guided by the interview guide made of structured and semi structured questions because it allows the respondents to answer questions with yes, no and short answers respectively to avoid wastage of time.

3.10 Procedures of Data collection.

The research proposal and instruments were prepared and presented to the research supervisor for approval by the student. An introductory letter was given to the student from the department of Applied Psychology, Kampala International University authorizing the student to go to the study area for data collection. The student has to present the letter to the office Organization which in turn gives him introductory letter introducing him to different offices, schools and other areas to allow the student collect data. After data collection the student is expected to report back to the office to confirm community exit.

3.11 Data processing and data analysis

This involves editing and analyzing data collected in percentages, tables, and simple statistical modules like frequency distribution to assess the impact of child marriage on girl child education. Qualitative data analysis was performed in relation to the research questions.

The aim of the study was to analyze how the phenomenon of child marriage can exist and how to improve the living conditions of girls. Child marriage is a violation of several different human rights. The “African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child” and the “African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights” was continuously being ignored, Discrimination based on sex is common, which is victimizing the child brides and has become socially acceptable in many local areas/villages, even by the girls themselves.

The analysis was based on data from the (2011) Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) for Uganda. These are based on the statistics on the age at first marriage for women. Two samples are considered; women aged 18 to 22, which is the youngest age group that can be to measure child marriage in the country, and the women ages 18 to 49 (the women’s questionnaire in the DHS collects data for women up to age 49). Clearly a large share of women marry below the age of 18, and many do so before the age of 15, but there some differences in the likelihood of marrying as children between the two groups.

3.12. Limitations of study and methods chosen

Limitations are conditions which are not within the control of the researcher, hence can restrict the conclusions of the study and applications.

The length of the study was also limited from the period of April-September 2017 which negatively affected the findings of the study.

Limited text books and other reading materials for referencing was another limitation during data collection.

Inadequate access to right people to intervene was also a limitation during data collection for research study.

Time restriction and lack of access to adequate sources was also another limitation during data collection.

Conclusively, despite the above mentioned limitations, the researcher was able to make necessary arrangements such as lobbying for more information and sharpening of the guiding questions which enabled the researcher to continue with the study.

3.13. Ethical considerations

A research considered the ethical considerations while in the progress of writing. Being aware of both cultural and religious beliefs, the researcher has to be humble, not negatively generalize or discriminative for easy collection of the data analysis. Religions were brought up in the research, Islam and Christianity to be specific, but in a respectable way in order to avoid any misunderstandings with people. Since child marriage matters and associates with the research such as sexual relations was sensitive to the research during data collection and was taken in to consideration.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISSCUSSION

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the study's findings based on analysis of its primary data. The general objective of the study was to assess the impacts of child marriage on girl child education in St. Stephen Child Development Centre, Kumi Municipality, Kumi District. To facilitate ease dissemination and understanding for the target audience, presentation of findings was done using tables and figures.

The findings of the research were presented based on the following three objectives

To measure the impact of child marriage on drop out, literacy and education attainment

To briefly adopt some of the policies that could be adopted in order to reduce child marriage

To establish the effects of child marriage on girl child education

Data was analysed using statistical package for social sciences (**SPSS**) for quantitative data. The response rate on the research instrument is given first, followed by demographic data of the respondents, analysis and discussion of finding on each of the three research objectives.

4.1 Response rate

From the sample size of 60 respondents who were all drawn from five (5) divisions. A total of 55 responded. This added up to a response rate of 92% which was considerable sufficient to guarantee representative findings. This is in line with Berg (2004) who indicates that, a response rate of 60% and above is adequate to permit data analysis. Table 4.1 below shows the contributively proportion of responses obtained from the respondents.

4.1.1: Table Showing Response Rate

Category	Administered	Responded	Percentage
Parents	20	20	100%
Students	40	35	92%
Total	60	55	92%

Furthermore table 4.1 indicates that responses that were attained from the targeted entities reflected highly anticipated Representatives.

4.2 Background information

4.2.1 Parents

On the background information of the research, the researcher was interested in knowing the gender, age, education level and whether the parents and the students were aware of the impacts of child marriage on girl child education.

4.2.2 Gender for parents

The gender of the respondents was analysed in order to establish the representation of respondents in terms of gender. This is shown in figure 4.1

Table 4.2.2: Showing respondents Gender

Male	12(60%)
Female	8(40%)
Total	100%

Figure 4.1 indicates that majority 12(60%) of respondents were female and 8(40%) were male. This is an indication that both genders were involved in this study and thus the findings

of the study did not suffer from gender biasness it gave an opportunity for the researcher to probe and obtain detailed information required to meet specific objectives of the study.

4.3. Age Table 4.3.1: Respondents Age

Year	Frequency	Percentage
20-29	2	10
30-39	3	15
40-49	8	40
50+	7	35
Total	20	100

Table 4.2 indicates that majority 2(10%) of the parents were aged between 20 and 29 years, 3(15%) were aged between 30 and 39 years, 8(40%) were aged between 40 and 49, 7(35%) were aged 50 years above. from this findings we deduced that majority of the parents were aged above average and could understand and had knowledge on impacts of child marriage on girl child's education appropriately.

4.3.1. Education level

The data collected from the participants indicated that child marriage was a bad practice on human beings; there is great need for positive change; No-one cares about it; we sympathise with the girl-child. The greater part of the responses condemned the early girl-child marriage as a shameful practice by some individuals who would want to justify protection of their own interests to the expense of the innocent girl child. The implication here is that most communities do not condone such practice because it is a violation of human rights and is unjust. Therefore policy makers, local leaders and community at large need various skills and knowledge to prevent child marriage in the communities they live.

Figure4.3.1: Respondents level of education

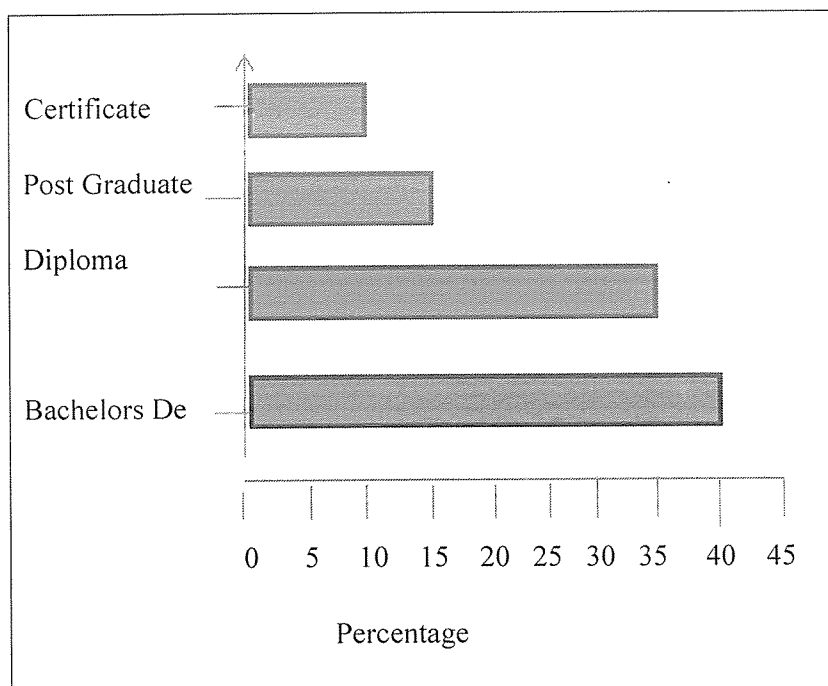


Figure 4.2 shows that majority 8(40%) had attained a bachelor's Degree, 7(35%) had Diploma, 3(15%) had Postgraduate and 2(10%) had a Certificate

4.4. Students

The background information of the students was based on age, gender andsex this helped the researcher to collect the information a according to age and sex.

4.4.1. Age

Table 4.4.1: Distribution of students by age

Year	Frequency	Percentage
13-15	5	14.3
16-18	10	28.6
19-21	15	42.8
21 +	5	14.3
Total	35	100

Table 4.4 shows that majority 5(14.3%) of the students were aged between 13 and 15 years, 10(28.6%) aged between 16 and 18 years, 15(42.8%) were aged between 19 and 21 years and 5(14.3%) students were aged above 21 years old. This means that majority of the students are adolescents hence may be influenced by their parents and peers.

4.4.1.2 Gender

Table 4.4.1.2showingstudents Gender

Male	10(71.4%)
Female	25(28.6%)
Total	100

From the results in table 4.5 above, the results revealed that the majority of the respondents (students) who provided information were females (71.4%) whereas (28.6%) were male respondents. According to the results, more female were involved than males, hence the gender representativeness is appropriate

4.5: Is girl-child marriage a human rights problem?

Data generated from the participants to give perceptions on whether girl-child marriage is a human rights problem reflected that 53(96.0%)of the community were aware that girl -child is a human being whose rights need to be observed and respected and 2(4.0%) were not aware totalling to 55 respondents who participated out of 60.In Kumi Municipality, Kumi District, more efforts needed to educate and empower its community on the rights of the girl-child, the research findings revealed that there still remain some gaps as evidenced by the attitude and practices by some members of the community who participated in this study. To confirm this finding one of the interviewed men stated that: There was no reason to leave females to loiter around when they unmarried because we want to increase the population in our area and labour in the families. Among the interviewed participants one of them came up with a strategy to make people aware of the existence of the girl-child in the community. He stated that: Councillor: There is great need for rescuing the innocent souls from further abuse so that they also enjoy their lives as the first class citizens in the planet. It is therefore important that Gender-based Movements step their awareness campaigns in order to give more education and information to the communities of Kumi Municipality, Kumi District. From the citations above it reflects that lack of awareness and knowledge on human and children's rights within communities will cause more damage to the girl-child. This is congruent with the findings of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which is

calling for the abolition of bride price, elimination of child marriage and betrothal of young girls before the age of puberty and encourage human and people's rights which are stated in Articles as seen below.

Article 2: Right to Freedom from Discrimination

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights contains restrictions from discrimination based on sex in Article 2; Right to Freedom from Discrimination; "Every individual shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the present Charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or any status". (ACHPR, 1987)

Article 16: Right to Health

In Article 16, it is stated that all individuals are entitled to experience the greatest health possible, both physical and psychological. It is also established that the state is obliged to make sure of protecting the health of individuals and ensure medical care is available for everyone if in need.

Article 17: Right to Education

Article 17 includes the right to education for everyone.

Article 19: Right of All Peoples to Equality and Rights

Article 19 includes the overall equality for everyone; "All peoples shall be equal; they shall enjoy the same respect and shall have the same rights. Nothing shall justify the domination of a people by another". (ACHPR, 1987)

4.6 Society's attitudes towards early girl-child marriage

The research findings clearly indicated that in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District people had mixed attitudes towards the girl-child marriage. People have mixed attitudes on the early girl-child marriage. From the data generated from the participants the following comments depicted the community's attitudes towards girl-child marriage: It is morally acceptable; we are comfortable with the practice; it is the girl's choice to get married; it is a bad practice on human beings; there is great need for positive change; No-one cares about it; we sympathise with the girl-child. The greater part of the responses condemned the early girl-child marriage

as a shameful practice by some individuals who would want to justify protection of their own interests to the expense of the innocent girlchild. The implication here is that most communities do not condone such practice because it is a violation of human rights and is unjust.

4.7 Educational effects of early girl-child marriage

The educational effects	Frequency
Not allowed to attend school for fear of being proposed by other male	84%
Poor academic performance	78%
Not provided with adequate educational resources	79%
Increase of illiteracy in the child	56%

Interviews carried with the parents on the educational effects of the early girl-child marriage showed that some children are not allowed to attend school because the parents fear that the daughters will be taken by some other males. Additionally, one of the parents who was a teacher stated that: “In my class some girls perform very poorly at school and others are not provided with adequate educational resources such as text books and exercise books. This practice increases illiteracy levels in the child.” The citations above pointed out that the girl-child is neglected from receiving the desired academic achievement. There seems to be a strong belief that a certain gender (the girl-child) should not reach a certain academic level so that she remains a rich source for man’s abuse. The cultural deprivation model assumes that this pattern of thinking is very dangerous because the community may find it difficult and irrelevant to accept change when, in fact, this is its culture (Haralambos and Holborn, 2011). This increases the girl-child’s chances of remaining a second class individual and dependent in the society (Oxfam, 2004 & UNICEF, 2000). From the Interpretivism point of view, some societies seem to have developed some neurotic behaviour simply because they were socialized in such culture(s). From the functionalism perspective, for a community to function effectively and productively for sustainable economic and social development, every member of the society should be an effective participant; and with resources as the social capital, shared equally among members (Giddens, 2009). Therefore, awareness campaigns against such behaviour should be scaled up so that the girl-child also benefits from

educational resources so that she is able to determine her own future without disturbances and to live as a first class citizen in her own community or country.

4.8 The social effects of the girl-child marriage

In order to show the social effects of the girl-child data generated from the participants depicted serious social effects on the girl-child as she gets married prematurely. There is evidence from direct observation that the girl-child's pattern of life in the marriage relationship was characterized by poverty, sorrow and anguish and therefore a slave in a marriage relationship.

4.9 The physical effects of girl-child-marriage

Of all the twenty five girls who were interviewed research findings showed that their responses were common. However, one of the girls who was physically abused stated that: I was married at the age of 12 when I was in primary seven. My husband was older than my father. He asks me to fetch firewood from a far mountain with this pregnancy and I do all the house-hold chores for the whole family. I go to sleep tired. Similarly, one other girl sorrowfully stated that: I blame my father who pushed me into this mess. I am the fourth wife married to Okello Samuel man who is almost 60 years and I am only 15 years. Most of the duties that are carried by a wife are very difficult for me. The family spends most of their time in the garden weeding crops and fetching firewood. This pains me because the work load is too heavy for my age. From these citations there is a reflection that most of the girl-children are not enjoying their marriage relationships. From the data generated some of them confessed that they shall eventually go back home and continue with their educational studies. The findings of this research were in agreement with Haralambos and Holborn (2011) who stated that the physical effects of girl child marriage negatively impact their lives since these marriages are not done to the best interest of the child. The CRC, Article 24 provides a basis for evaluating the laws and practices of States with respect to the protection of children. To pursue the best interest of children, parents and governments are responsible for protecting their children's health, education, development and overall well- being to the best of their capacities. Since early girl-child marriage disturbs the girl- child's health, particularly her sexual and reproductive health, which often results in maternal mortality and morbidity due to early pregnancies, the governments should take effective and appropriate measures to abolish such practice that prejudice the health of the girl- child.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The chapter presents the summary of the study's findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

5.1 Study summary

The general objective of the study was to assess the impact of child marriage on girl child education, a case study of St. Stephens Child Development Centre in Kumi Municipality, Kumi District. 60 respondents participated in the study comprising of 25 parents and 35 students. Given below is a summary of the key study findings.

5.2 Awareness on the impacts of child marriage by respondents

The study revealed that 53(96.0%) of the respondents were aware of the impacts of child marriage on girl child education, while 2(4.0%) indicated that they were not aware. This proved that the majority of the respondents were aware of child marriage. However, there were more efforts needed to educate and empower the community on the rights of the girl-child, the research findings revealed that there still remain some gaps as evidenced by the attitude and practices by some members of the community who participated in the study.

5.3 Perception of respondents on the effects of child marriage

The respondents were able to identify the negative effects of child marriage on girl child education which can be either physical or psychological. Some of the consequences can be seen; extreme poverty, fatality, domestic violence as a result of age difference between husband and wife, infections such as HIV/AIDs and lack of education all have contributed to child marriage.

To pursue the best interest of children, parents and governments are responsible for protecting their children's health, education, development and overall well-being to the best of their capacities.

5.4 How to combat child marriage

Due to the lack of evaluations of child marriage prevention programs existing, it is rather difficult to establish what actually has an impact on the prevalence and occurrence. Therefore, establishing the root cause of child marriage in different societies and through the establishments create prevention programs is important. Thereafter, these programs should be evaluated in order to make them more effective for preventing child marriage. However, it seems like education is the most crucial factor in the matter, which primary focus should be put on. Perhaps building more of girls schools will attract more parents to allow their girls to stay in school longer for attaining a higher level of education. Since some parents choose to pull their daughters out of school to protect their sexuality, this might be an alternative. Parents may feel more secure knowing that their daughters are only surrounded by the same sex and child marriage due to this kind of protection might decrease. Also, sexual health education for males in order to change the usual taboo of the subject might neutralize discussing sexual relations and therefore easier come up with solutions. Below are the possible suggestions/findings on how to combat child marriage.

- 1) Increasing and supporting the young girls' knowledge and capabilities through networking with girls in developing countries, trying to make them more empowered and independent. Focus has also been put on aspiring girls to work as an alternative to marry before adulthood.
- 2) Gathering and educating the people surrounding the girls. Not only girls are in need of increased knowledge, but also the people around them, since child marriage is such a common and deeply rooted phenomenon, it is of high importance to make marrying later in life socially accepted.
- 3) Make attending to school more available for girls. Education for girls is seen as a major component when attempting to prevent child marriage. When being a student, the girl is more likely to be viewed upon as a child, rather than a wife soon to be. School is also to be a protected environment, where the girls are supposed to be safe. Supporting girls' education can also be found to contribute to both the parents and the community. Also achieve Universal Primary Education, which is most often obstructed by child marriage.
- 4) Providing financial relief and encouragement for the whole family. This is done in order to enhance the financial stability for families to avoid child marriage due to poor financial situations.
- 5) Developing and supporting legitimate policy structure. This includes illegitimizing child marriage and exhorting the government to take action against child marriage. (ICRW, 2011:11-20) and (UNFPA, 2012:55-58)

6) Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Entering marriage after the age of 18 can increase the chance of completing primary education and through this, attain a skilled job and increase the income. 7) Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women; a child bride, often married to a significantly older spouse, tends to be disempowered and left out from the decision making in the household. Domestic violence and lack of education are also results from the inequality.(The Millennium Development Goals). 8) Reduce Child Mortality; an underage girl is likely to give birth premature or miscarry her child. Also, this is associated with, Improve Maternal Health; not only is the girl's child prone to suffer due to having a young mother, but also the mother herself. The young mother is also likely to give birth to more children more frequently. 9) Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases; an increased prevalence of HIV among other STIs have shown to be associated with child marriage. A young bride married to an older spouse, who is more likely to have had more sexual relations can often infect the bride with such diseases. Contraception's and available access to information regarding sexual relations are often restricted for girls, which increase the risk of infections. Also, the difficulty for a child bride to deny her husband sex is a component. (UNFPA, 2012:11)

5.5 Conclusion

Child marriage/early marriage of girls and boys impairs the realization and enjoyment of virtually every one of their rights. The imposition of a marriage partner on children or adolescents who are in no way ready for marriage life and whose marriage has deprive them of freedom opportunity for personal development and other rights including health and well-being, education and participation in civic life, nullifies the meaning of the CRCs core protection for those concerned. Unless measures a major stumbling block to the achievement of Human rights.

The research was intended merely as a starting point, drawing attention to a practice that has been neglected by both women's and children's rights campaign in rent decades. It has provided an incentive for a campaign to prevent early marriage and end the silent misery of millions of girls in many countries around the world, to open up new horizons for them and contribute to the development of policies, programs and advocacy to bring this a bout

Child marriage is also a complicated phenomenon. Partly since the topic in question is sensitive to discuss, but also since factors seem to vary depending on the specific contexts in each community. The focus has been put on girls below the age of 18 when entering

marriage, due to the high number of occurrence and also due to the harmful outcomes that often follow. Many different global humanitarian organizations have been creating programs and written reports regarding the subject, attempting to combat the problem. As an example, several goals of the MDGs are actually dealing with the issue of child marriage, but still the results are inadequate. It is difficult to generalize besides from the level of education applicable to everyone when it comes to child marriage; therefore one cannot develop one program valid across the globe, but must investigate the area in question to distinguish the factors influencing the rate of child marriage since there is not only one factor affecting. Depending on community, different myths or norms ruling in the area can be influencing the prevalence of child marriage. When having established the causes of child marriage within the specific area, suitable program for preventing the occurrence can be made. As being presented, certain factors may have a great impact in some areas while being insignificant in others such as the poverty rate. Suggestions on how to combat the phenomenon have been presented in the research study.

5.6 Recommendations

There is great need to make it mandatory that every girl-child must attend and attain secondary education which will make her concentrate on school work, socialise on the effects of early marriage and gains life skills for economic growth and sustainable development.

Gender inequality should be a teaching and examinable subject from primary to secondary education so that the society is educated for continued sustainable economic, moral, social, political and spiritual transformation and development.

More community awareness and empowerment programs should be intensified in order to reach all corners of the country and follow up by the government should be done to check and evaluate on the effective implementation of the programs. This effort will change undesirable behaviours and attitudes on the girl-child.

Communities, traditional leaders and religious groups should be capacitated with knowledge and skills that enable them to enforce mechanisms that eliminate the practice of girl-child marriage.

Recovery and social reintegration services should be available for all girl child victims of girl child marriage to enable them to regain their damaged ego for continued sustenance of life. The Government should give training on children's rights for teachers and children

Reporting mechanisms available to children and their representatives must be safely accessible to enable the reporting of girl child marriages, taking into account the special difficulties for the child and their advocates caused by the dominant approval of the practice. Reporting must lead to appropriate action to protect children in their best interest

There is need for revisions in school curriculums to include gender sensitive messages highlighting the importance of women's rights and listening to a paradigm shift in the attitude of the society.

5.7 Suggestions for further research

Besides from the causes presented, further research within the affected areas is of high importance. Through additional research, the researcher has established more in detail what is causing child marriage. Researcher has also analysed the different norms in the society and if there are any myths influencing the phenomenon. After establishing the causes and effects of prevalence in the areas, programs for changing the social norms and breaking the myths should be designed. Hence, there should be different programs depending on causes of occurrence and therefore different programs used in different areas. These programs should thereafter be evaluated and further developed for future improvements. Also, the actual correlation between child marriage and education should be further explored in order to create more efficient programs for child marriage prevention. One should also remember not to neglect the girls who already entered an early marriage, but help them to ease their situations through counseling, empowering and imparting of knowledge to the all community about impacts of child marriage.

Child marriage may have decreased over time since according to the (DHS) says there are some differences in the likelihood of marrying as children between the two groups of women at age of 18 to 22 which is the youngest group and 18 to 49 which have helped to get measures on child marriage. Empowerment of the girl child as an individual should be done in order to increase girl's access to information and services for the girl child, this can create a favorable, protective, social and legal environment for the girl child hence realization of equality and equity among all sexes.

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APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Dear, Respondents,

I am **OLUKA BENJAMIN**, a student of Kampala International University, pursuing a Bachelors Degree of Social Work and Social Administration. I kindly request you to answer these questions in utmost faith that would really help me successfully complete my course as a partial fulfillment of award of a B.SWASA on the research to assess the impact of Child marriage on girl child education: A Case Study of St. Stephens Child Development Centre in Kumi Municipality Kumi District.

SECTION A: BIO DATA (tick)

1. Name..... 2. Occupation.....

3. Sex a) Male ☐ b) Female ☐ 4. Age a) 20-29 ☐ b) 30-39 ☐ c) 40-49 ☐

d) 50 + ☐

SECTION B: QUESTIONNAIRE (tick and support)

1. Government should set up policies against child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Support your answer.....

2. Child marriage has negative effects on education and literacy?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Support your answer.....

3. Education attainment will reduce the impact of child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

4. Social Organizations or schools teachers can fulfill the duty to prevent child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

5. Establishment of many public schools has reduced child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

6. Parents have played their roles in ending child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

7. Sensitization of the community has reduced child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

8. Child marriage is a violation of human rights?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

9. Enforcement of government policies or laws has enhanced girl child education?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

10. Universal primary and secondary education has reduced the impact of child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

11. Establishment of the effects of girl child marriage has reduced girl child marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

12. Rewarding of girls who perform well in school has reduced the impacts of child marriage especially on girl child education?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

13. Learning how to read and write has helped to stop early marriage?

Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Support your answer.....

SECTION C: QUESTIONNAIRE

14. What is child marriage?

.....

15. What are the underlying reasons for child marriage?

.....

.....

16. How can these underlying reasons for child marriage be combated?

.....

.....

17. What is a relationship between child marriage and girl child education?

.....

.....

18. What are the consequences of early marriage?

.....

.....

Thank you for the co-operation