

**FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO EARLY MARRIAGE AMONG  
TEENAGERS IN RURAL AREAS A CASE STUDY KASULU  
DISTRICT IN KIGOMA REGION**

**RUTH MICHAEL**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**

**2014**

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read and hereby recommend for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania a dissertation entitled **Factors contribute to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas in Kasulu District Council** in Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for award of degree of Masters of Science in Human Resource Management of Open University of Tanzania.

Date.....

Odas

Supervisor (Dr.Odas Bilame )

**DECLARATION**

I, **Ruth Michael Kanyangu**, declare that, this report is my original work and that it has not been and will not be presented to any other University for similar or any other degree award.

.....

Ruth Michael

.....

Date

## **COPYRIGHT**

No part of this dissertation may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the author or the Open University of Tanzania in that behalf.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research work is not an easy task to perform. It needs critical investigation whereby one may come up with empirical findings to enable the affected population benefit from it. I am very much indebted to all those who enthusiastically participated fully to support me.

Special thanks should go directly to Dr. Odas Bilame my research supervisor who toiled much to ensure that my dissertation achieves academic qualities.

Many thanks should go directly to Open University lecturers who gave knowledge and skills to me on how to write dissertation especially through face to face program.

It will be a crime if I forget to mention Mr. Rusambi who initially instructed us on how research procedures go on from the time of writing research proposal hence research report.

Lastly may I thank the dearest mother of mine Naomi Daina, my beloved brothers Eric, Helbert, Nelvin, also my sisters Rosemary and Elita without forgetting my grandmother Ruth Siswebe who also missed me when I was going on conducting this study hence to come up with this scholarly material. Others are my friends Matindi, Mubarak, Mwajuma, Mr. Kundi, Beliz, Oscar, Tecla and Moshi who gave me a great support to complete this work.

Succinctly, it is not easy to mention all those who made their contribution to my study, but the only word I say, "The Almighty God may bless them!"

**DEDICATION**

To my beloved father Michael Kanyangu who passed away in 1995 as I promised him to study very hard and achieve my goals and he used to give me hope. May his soul Rest In Peace.

## **ABSTRACT**

The main objective of this study was to explore on factors contributing to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas in Kasulu District Council specifically Nyakitonto, Nyamnyusi, Buhoro and Nyachenda Wards.

The methods used to get sample area which covered four wards of Kasulu rural, Buhoro, Nyakitonto, Nyachenda and Nyamnyusi included cluster sampling. Simple random sampling was used to get 100 respondents who were female and male representing others in these wards. Moreover purposive sampling was also used to get answers from District Executive Director and Ward Officers from the respective wards under the sampled area.

Research instruments used to collect data were questionnaires, interview guides and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) whereby girls, district council Officers and Ward Officers were contacted to get the reality.

Then factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas revealed to be; Inadequate sex education, Peer pressure, Conformity, Influence of mass media, Lack of transparence, Shame, Traditional milestone, Unemployment and Globalization.

It is recommended that Government through the Ministry of health and social welfare and the ministry of Community development gender and children affairs may conduct programmes in both rural and urban areas concerning early marriage and HIV/AIDS infections especially by addressing the factors which contribute to early marriage and also involving teenagers in decision making that can change community mind set to abandon that practice.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Certification.....	i
Decralation .....	ii
Copyright .....	iii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
Dedication .....	v
Abstract .....	vi
Table of Contents .....	vii
List of Tables.....	xi
List of Abbreviations.....	xii
<b>CHAPTER ONE : INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the problem .....	6
1.3 Research objectives.....	8
1.3.1 The general objective: .....	8
1.3.2 Specific objectives: .....	8
1.4 Research hypothesis .....	8
1.5 Significance of the study.....	10
1.6 Limitation of the study .....	10
1.7 Study delimitation .....	11
<b>CHAPTER TWO : LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	12
2.1.1 Theoretical Literature review:.....	14
2.1.1.1Socio-cultural and religious values .....	14



2.1.1.1.1 Social feminist ideology: .....	15
2.1.1.1.2 Religious values .....	15
2.1.2 Emperical Literature review:.....	15
2.1.2.1 Early marriage in Adolescent girls.....	16
2.1.2.2Delaying Age of Marriage .....	19
2.1.3 Research gap .....	23
<b>CHAPTER THREE : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>24</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	24
3.2 Research Design.....	24
3.3 Study Area.....	25
3.4 Sources of Data .....	25
3.4.1 Primary sources .....	25
3.4.2 Secondary sources .....	26
3.5 Population .....	27
3.6 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size .....	27
3.6.1 Sampling Techniques .....	27
3.6.2 Sample Size.....	28
3.7 Data Collection.....	31
3.7.1 Questionnaires.....	31
3.7.2 Interviews.....	32
3.8 Data Analysis .....	32
3.8.1 Data Analysis Plan .....	33
3.8.2 Statistical Procedure.....	33
3.9 Ethical Consideration .....	33

3.10	Data Validity and Reliability .....	34
<b>CHAPTER FOUR : RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>		<b>35</b>
4.1	Introduction .....	35
4.2	Results .....	36
4.2.1	Social factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers.....	37
4.2.2	Cultural Factors contributing to early marriage .....	38
4.2.3	Economic factors contributing to early marriage.....	39
4.3	Discussion .....	40
4.3.1	Social factors contribute to early marriage among teenagers .....	40
4.3.2	Cultural factors contribute to early marriage .....	42
4.3.3	Economic factors contribute to early marriage .....	43
4.3.4	Other Social and Cultural factors.....	44

<b>CHAPTER FIVE : SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH .....</b>	<b>46</b>
5.1 Summary .....	46
5.2 Conclusion .....	47
5.3 Recommendations .....	49
5.4 Areas for further research.....	52
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>55</b>

## **LIST OF TABLES**

**Table 3.1** Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the sample by gender

**Table 4.1** Social factors contribute to early marriage

**Table 4.2** Cultural Factors contributing to early marriage

**Table 4.3** Economic factors contributing to early marriage

**Table 4.4** Other Social and Cultural factors

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome
AYA	African Youth Alliance
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDF	Children's Dignity Forum
DAS	District Administrative Secretary
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
STDs	Sexual Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexual Transmitted Infections
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
VEO	Village Executive Officer
WEO	Ward Executive Officer

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Marriage is a social institution that unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family. As a social practice entered into through a public act, religious or traditional ceremony, it reflects the purposes, character and customs of the society in which it is found. Many societies have norms that limit the age of young girls to enter into marriage, but in some cases the age limit does not take into consideration their physiological readiness for childbearing. Marriage often takes place at ages much earlier than the legally ratified minimum age. Early marriage is the marriage of children and adolescents below the age of 18 years.

In several culture girls are forced to be married at a very early age due to various reasons such as getting dowry, the fear of some parents that their daughters would get pregnant while at home.

It was considered shameful for a girl to get pregnant outside wedlock. Other factors include unequal power relations and economic hardship. This also exposes girls to unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS and abortions as common problems among adolescents worldwide. This also account as to why adolescents suffer more from related complications, such as maternal and infant death.

Early marriage put teenagers at risk because they are not fully physically developed to care for pregnancy, early marriage results in early and frequent child birth and subsequently an increase in family size.

Early marriage also denies girls the right to enjoy their childhood, the right to education and the right to a husband of her own choice and of her age. When young girls are forced to marry someone who is older than herself and if it happens that husband dies the chances of such girls to become a widow at an early age are high. But not only will that young mothers be left to take care the young children by themselves.

Because of bad customs and traditions, it is not guaranteed that these young wives will inherit their husband properties. Basically early marriages not only pose greater health risks for the young mother and the baby, but it also violate the girls right to make her own choice such customs must therefore be fought in all fronts.

Laws determine the ages, sexes, physical conditions, and relations to mention but a few for both parties contracting marriage. Early marriage is used to refer both formal marriage and informal unions in which a girl lives with a partner as if married before age of 18, Early marriage also known as child marriage is defined as “any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years before the girl is physically, physiologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and child bearing ”Child on the other hand, involves other one or both spouses being children and may take place with or without formal registration and under civil religious or customary laws. We

can trace the historical background to early by speculating the cultural context of the most of the people in the world.

In most societies early marriage has been practiced from time immemorial. The children used to be married after attaining puberty that is at around the age of 12 to 16. This used to be the case for most of the girls who used to be given to men as old as their fathers. The reason behind this is explained here after.

The girls engage in marriage soon after their attainment to puberty in order to avoid social scandals. If the girl becomes pregnant at her father's house, all blames go to father or relatives.

It was taken to be a curse if a girl remains at home after her puberty. So the family has to ensure that their daughters are getting husbands soon after the attainment of the age. The families often take pride in their daughters' marriage.

The family prestige depended on how many children their daughters bore for her husband. The chance of bearing many children was secured as early as possible. Marriage of girls used to be a source of income to many families. This is how the parents used to pressurize their daughters to get married.

As for boys getting married, it depended on the economic status of the families. In rich families it was easy for a boy to secure a wife immediately after becoming of age.



With advent of awareness of human rights (especially women rights) women emancipation and economic setbacks due to overpopulation, some kind of restrictions or control an early marriage started. Let us thrown right to what has been happening in Tanzania.

During pre Colonial, Tanganyika used customary law in marriage. This of course supported early marriage as well as polygamy. The Arabs introduced Islamic religion in the context of Islam, where polygamy is allowed. The Germans arrived in the 1880's. Their Government accepted customary laws as regard to marriage.

The British introduced the laws which restricted marriage to monogamy. They enacted other laws which regulated marriage and divorce for various groups such as the Asians and Africans, Christians and non Christians.

During independent Tanganyika, the 1963 local customary declaration order codified the customary laws. However this did not change the Christian and Islamic marriage laws. Customary laws were practiced mostly in rural area but not in urban areas where there were tribal mixtures.

The Law recognizes both polygamy and monogamy. According to the Act a girl can get married at the age of 14 and above with the consent of her parents or guardians. Of course some amendments have been carried out on this Act in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2002 but there are still some controversies. These controversies arise due to

cultural and religious differences, level of education and information accessibility as well as psychological disposition of the people.

Generally most girls become sexually active during adolescence. The rates are highest in several countries of sub Sahara Africa where girls aged between 16 and 19 are sexually active, thus leading millions of adolescents to have off-spring.

In Latin America and Caribbean about one third of women population give birth before the age of 20. Likewise in Sub-Saharan Africa more than half of women give birth before the age of 20. Early marriage and the subsequent forced marriages are due to outdated customs, culture and taboos. Frankly speaking some tribal cultures and norms encourage girls' involvement in prostitution at a tender age.

In Tanzania incidences of early marriage and early pregnancies are prevalent in areas such as Ruvuma, Mara, Mbeya, Singida, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Dar es salaam, Morogoro, Lindi, Mtwara and Coastal Region.

The other reasons that encourage the young girls to be involved in early marriage are socio-economic pressure on the party of the parents. The latter force their children to drop out of school in order to earn a living on their own because they cannot take care of them.

In 1978 an Anglican Clergyman (priest) Thomas Mathus issued a paper on population growth and its effects. In it he pointed out that while the population was

increasing with giant steps, economic growth was in small steps. So there would be so many people while resources are limited. For him one of the courses for population boom was early marriages. He praises the natural calamities such as famine, floods and drought as blessings in disguise to man because they help to beat over population.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Despite being prevalent with profound impacts, child marriage in Tanzania attracts limited attention yet it has become a serious problem in most parts of the country particularly in rural areas that is Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Nyamnyusi and Buhoro. Many girls especially with 14 and 15 years are forced into marriage by parents or guardians or relatives therefore they facing a lot of problems [Children Dignity Forum, 2010]. For instance, those young female who forced to enter into early marriage does not able to cope with marriage life, because their age does not allow them to handle well the family matters. Adolescent mothers are also notable to reading the different gestures of their child such as illness, hunger, or pain. This puts both the mother and the child in poor health. Child marriages also deny girls an opportunity for education and decision making.

The parents\ guardians living in a poverty are often tempted to marry off their young girls to obtains bride price in which they believe will relieve them from the economic hardship, but in reality parents\ guardians are not familiar on the practice of young girls marriage and their impact of their health and welfare of young females.

Furthermore some society does not have a sufficient knowledge on the impact of child marriage that is why they are forcing their young girls to enter into early marriage. In reality, child marriage subjects a young girl to sexual activities at the tender age in which they are not physically mature, also young mothers face higher risks during pregnancies including complications such as heavy bleeding, fistula infection, anemia and eclampsia, which contribute to higher mortality rate of both mother and a child [Children Dignity Forum, 2010].

In Tanzania, the system of marriage as guided by Marriage Act [1971] contains loopholes that create ambiguity concerning of child marriages. For example, on the one hand it puts a limit on the acceptable age of marriage, while on the other hand it gives the parents the power of consent on marriage decisions. This was observed under S. 13 of the Law of Marriage Act, which states that *“no person shall marry who, being male, has not attained the apparent age of eighteen years or being female, has not attained the apparent age of fifteen years”*.

Hence a child marriage are usually legitimized by national laws, for instant [ Marriage Act 1971] regardless of whether the child has an opportunity or is able to give full and informed consent, rendered many young girls to suffer severe physical, economic, biological, social and psychological problems, and also contravene several international human rights instruments

### **1.3 Research objectives**

#### **1.3.1 The general objective:**

The general objective of this proposed study was to investigate about social, cultural and economic factors contributing to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu District Council.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives:**

The specific Objective of this proposed study were:

- i) To examine social factors contributing to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district Council.
- ii) To analyze cultural factors contributing to early marriage among teenagers.
- iii) To explore economic factors contributing to early marriage among teenagers.

### **1.4 Research hypothesis**

H1 There was significant relationship between social factors and early marriage among teenagers. To test this, the following variables were used.

- Inadequate sex education.
- Inadequate social control in sexual matters.
- The distance between parents and children.
- Peer pressure.
- Environment influences.
- Conformity.
- Prejudice
- Parents conflicts

- Frustration.
- Influence of mass media.

H2 There was significant relationship between cultural related factors and early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu District Council.

To test this, the following variables were studied;

- Lack of Transparency.
- Negative attitude on Contraceptive.
- Shame or shyness.
- Lack of access to information.
- Inadequate parental care.
- Inadequate socialization in family and community.
- Traditional milestones.

H3 There was significant relationship between economic related factors and early marriage among teenagers.

To test these following variables were studied

- Meager economic resource.
- Unemployment
- Prostitution
- Globalization
- Lack of Credit facilities.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

The findings of this study and recommendations are an eye opener to parents to help them abandon early marriage among young girls. The findings help the Ministry concerned to come out with proper policy strategies to overcome the problem. The research also is adding new knowledge on the existing one on early marriage among young girls.

### **1.6 Limitation of the study**

There are some hurdles which attempted to hinder this study to be conducted effectively, these were:-

#### **Resources**

##### **Financial Resources**

Financial resources were the major obstacle to make the study to be easily implemented. The researcher was self – sponsored, and thus depended upon his meager salary.

##### **Time Resource**

The time required to accomplish the research work was too short and this made the researcher to focus on only one district in order to meet the time allocated.

##### **Job Roles and Responsibilities**

A researcher is a Divisional Officer and at the same time a student of MSC-HRM at the Open University of Tanzania. When conducting research and writing dissertation

she was also supposed to perform her daily responsibilities which poses a lot of challenges to her.

### **Illiteracy**

Some of the respondents may have proper information about the study but they hide it because they do not understand the importance of the exercise.

### **1.7 Study delimitation**

The study were carried out in Kigoma region at Kasulu District specifically in five wards of Kasulu rural which are Nyakitonto, Buhoro, Nyachenda, Kitagata and Nyamnyusi .



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the reviewed literature from other scholars and researchers related to this Study of the factor which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas.

The term “literature” refers to the analysis of text books or manuscripts. Although many people rightly associate literature with novels and poetry (fiction), in research the term is more specific. In terms of a literature review, the term literature (non – fiction) means the works the researcher consulted in order to understand and investigate the research problem.

A literature review therefore is an account of what has been published on a topic by accredited, scholars and researchers. It is a critical look at the existing research that is significant to the work that the researcher will be carrying out. It involves examining document such as, books, magazine journals and dissertation that have a bearing on the study being conducted.

#### **Conceptual Framework**

The Law of the child Act 2009 defines a child to be a person below the age of eighteen under section 13. The law of the Child Act is a supreme law for the protection of children rights, however it was violated by several legislations because

the definition of child in Tanzania is not inimitable. In Tanzania the definition of a child is provided diversely according to the context and purpose that certain statutes seek to achieve.

For instance, the Employment and Labour Relations Act (2004) defines a “child” as a person under the age of 14 years; provided that for the employment of hazardous sectors, a child means a person under the age of 18 years.

In addition, the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 under Section 2(1) defines a child as “who has not attained the age of 18 years” and the same statute under Section 13(1), permits marriage of young girls who have attained 15 years with consent of parents and court. But section 4(1) of the Law of child Act resembles with International Instruments that is:

Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of [1989] defines a child as “every human being below the age of 18 years”. Also Article 2 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of [1990] states that “For the purpose of this Charter, a child means a human being below the age of 18 years” The actual meaning of the articles was that, the child should be protected at least up to the age of 18. Thus why the articles of the Conventions remained relatively open. Furthermore Article 24 of the ICCPR( 1966) recognizes the right of every child, without any discrimination, to receive from his/her family, society and the state the protection required by his or her status as “a minor” So it is internationally recognized that children are those human beings below 18 years old.

For the purpose of this research this is the concept which is adopted for the meaning of early marriage. Basically early marriage can also be regarded as forced marriage because it is conducted without a valid consent of one or both sides.

### **2.1.1 Theoretical Literature review:**

A theoretical frame work is a collection interrelated ideas based on theories. It is a reasoned set of proposition, which are derived from and supported by data or evidence. A theoretical framework accounts for or explains phenomena. It attempts to clarify why things are the way they are based on theories. A theoretical framework is a general set of assumptions about the nature of phenomena. (Kombo and Tromp, 2006:56)

#### **2.1.1.1 Socio-cultural and religious values**

In communities where child marriage is prevalent, there is strong social pressure on families to conform. Failure to conform can often result in ridicule, disapproval or family shame. Invariably, local perceptions on the ideal age for marriage, the desire for submissive wives, extended family patterns and other customary requirements, are all enshrined in local customs or religious norms. In many contexts child marriage is legitimized by patriarchy, and related family structures, which ensure that marriage transfers a father's role over his girl child to her future spouse. The marriage or betrothal of children in parts of Kasulu is valued as a means of consolidating powerful relations between families, for sealing deals over land or other property, or even for settling disputes

#### **2.1.1.1.1 Social feminist ideology:**

According to Adamson Social feminist, Recognized that the exploitation and oppression of women are rooted in the structure of patriarchal capitalism. They believed that sexualism is so deeply ingrained in the social relationship of patriarchal Capitalism that a fundamental transformation is necessary to bring about social change. Thus, in this study early marriage eradication may be hindered by the system whereby policies, traditions and beliefs still oppressing young girls to be married.

#### **2.1.1.1.2 Religious values**

According to the Priest argued that " these days with western ideas spread everywhere; girls stay unmarried as late as 30 years. It is very Scientific and modern, but in our church it is prohibited such girls are neither clean nor blessed" Thus this strong religious message enforce the view that marrying early is best as supported by the one of the priests representing Ethiopian's Orthodox Church.

#### **2.1.2 Emperical Literature review:**

Empiricism is a way of knowing the world directly relying on what experienced in the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Knowledge is gained based on what is real not what is imagined or revealed. Empirical knowledge is written, preserved, stored and recorded so that other people can have access to it, use it and even improve it for the better society (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). The related literatures to the study at hand are discussed to widen knowledge so as to have a good focus of the study.

### **2.1.2.1 Early marriage in Adolescent girls.**

Girls are at risk of early marriage and those who are already married need greater policy and programmatic attention.

Programs addressing Adolescent reproductive health and HIV prevention have focused primarily on unmarried youth. However the majority of recent unproductive sexual activities among adolescent girls in most developing countries occur within marriage. Girls married before age of 18 have low education attainment, earning power and social mobility. In some settings married girls have been shown to have higher rates of HIV infection than their sexually active unmarried peers.

All countries have regions with areas where early marriage is forbidden, but it is most pronounced in South and West Africa. In Bangladesh, Mali, India and Nepal at least half of all women currently aging 20 to 24 were married by age of 18. According to available Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. In certain regions of Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India and Nigeria at least 40 percent of those women were married before the age of 18 (considered the legal minimum age of marriage in most Countries) according to a population council analysis of United Nations Countries data early marriage among boys is much less common.

Policy and programme Manager are working in two primary ways to address the disadvantage faced by girls who marry early to support later age of marriage and to respond to the needs of young married girls. In this study “girls” refer to those under the age of 18.

When girls are married at a young age, it is often due to poverty, dowry pressures, parental concerns about pre marital sex and pregnancy, or other economic or cultural reasons. For many marriage marks the beginning of their sexual life and an increased social isolation, as girls typically leave their homes and natal villages losing contact with friends and peers. Existing data cannot definitively show the causal link between early marriage, poverty, low educational attainment and other social indicators, which are mult –directional.

However studies have found that married girls have many disadvantages related to health, social and economic spheres, hampering their ability to negotiate their reproductive and broader life including the needs of their children.

Marriage for many girls is the beginning of frequent and unprotected sexual activity. The younger the bride, the more likely she is to be a virgin. Frequency of sexual intercourse among married girls is far higher than among unmarried sexually active girls. Trends have been exhaustively examined courtesy of World Fertility Survey and DHS data. Analysis of DHS data shows that in 27 of 29 countries more than half or recent unprotected sexual activity occurs within marriage. Married girls under pressure to become pregnant are likely to face the risks of child first birth carry special risks for both mother and child and 90% of first births that occur before age of 18 years, occur within marriage according to analysis of DHS data by the population Council.

First time mothers younger than age of 16 are at greater risk of maternal and infant mortality. Married girls have distinct and in some setting substantial risk of acquiring HIV child brides have frequent unprotected sex, often with an older partner. The younger the bride the larger the age gap with her spouse. Older males are more likely to be sexually experienced and may thus have an elevated risk of being HIV infected. In Kisumu-Kenya Ndola-Zambia studies using bio-makers found higher HIV infection rates among married girls ages 15 to 19 compared to sexually active unmarried girls of the same age.(33 percent compared to 22 percent in Kenya and 27 percent compared to 16 percent in Zambia)

Young married girls have low educational attainment and few schooling opportunities. In a cross regions, the percentage of girls married by age of 18 decreases as the number of years of schooling a girl has received increases married girls rarely attend school married girls have less house hold and economic power than married women. Population council analyzed data from Egypt and Kenya and from a study in India indicates that married girls have less decision-making power than married women, often living with little authority under the supervision of their new mothers in law.

Married girls have less mobility than their unmarried counterparts or married women. Analyses of data from population council projected in India and Kenya and study in Bangladesh found significant differences in the mobility of married girls, measuring how. They often go to such place as a tea stall, another neighborhood, restaurant, bank or post office.

Married girls have less exposure to modern media. Studies in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Nepal as well as in Kenya have shown that married girls are generally exposed to less media than unmarried girls who are married later. Increasingly modern media are a means of providing information on reproductive health and HIV prevention, thus increasing social contact with the world. Changing interpersonal communication about HIV/AIDS and in some cases changing social norms.

Married girls have limited social networks. The Bangladesh study and India analyst found that married girls who often move to their husbands' communities are far likely than their unmarried peers. Married girls may be at greater risk of gender based violence in some settings. An analysis of DHS data from nine countries found that about half of the countries of Egypt, Haiti, India and Nicaragua young age at married significantly increased a girls or woman's risk in experiencing violence.

#### **2.1.2.2 Delaying Age of Marriage**

To help reduce early marriage, programs can foster policies and norms that support later marriage and offer services, resources and options to families to delay marriage.

Assuring girls school attendance, even if not at the appropriate grade for age is protective of girls reproductive health fostering delayed marriage, delayed sexual debut among those sexually active, increased contraceptive and condom use. Specific programs are substantial scale such as those in Bangladesh and Mexico have improved schooling outcomes for girls. Provision of economic opportunities can also delay the age of marriage unmarried girls participation in wage earning factory working in the garment industry in Bangladesh increase the average age at marriage both among the



working girls and the non working girls who live in the communities of origin of the working girls.

A five years project in Nepal found that involving the community in effort to improve opportunities for unmarried girls contributed to changing traditional attitudes about early marriage among parents and communities. The project will provide information and services for adolescents using peer education, youth clubs .Street theatre and skills building workshops. Other approaches which delay marriage include developing meaningful policies regarding registering marriages and enforcing laws concerning minimum age at marriage. A related task at work with religious leaders, parents and others who shape community norms to discourage marriage below the legal minimum age.

For those who do marry at young age, Policy makers and programs managers should open new educational opportunities, expand social networks, build economic assets, enhance the negotiating power of married girls and provide reproductive health and HIV prevention information and service to married girls as appropriate to their partners.

Specific strategies are needed to help girls make the transition to marriage as safely as possible. For example a program in Western Kenya is raising awareness of HIV risks associated with early marriage establishing clubs for married girls and promoting voluntary Counseling and testing among those couples newly married or contemplating Marriage Health Strategies are needed to delay the first birth, Support

first time mothers and prevent the transition of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections like STI program must consider the limited mobility of married girls in order to design socially acceptable means to provide needed information, social connections and services.

The first time parent's project in India offers one model. Through household visit, it provides information on birth spacing, safe delivery, postmortem care and partner communication to married girls and their husbands. To increase married girls connection with non familiar peers and mentors and to enhance their ability to act on their own behalf, the project organizes girls who are recently married and pregnant or postmortem for the first time into groups that engage in various social and economic activities. The belief is that empowerment is good by itself, but also that such efforts are needed from these girls if they are benefit fully from health intervention.

Another project in India offers an integrated package of reproductive health information, clinical referrals and services and related counseling. A preliminary analysis of the project found a 10 percent of the 25 percent increase among participants knowledge of reproductive health and sexual issues as well as more couple communication and an increase in the proportion of married girls who seek treatment for STIs.

In Nepal three years project compared to intervention model with control groups, including a group of married women under age of 25. The project funded that communication-based interventions ,including health care's, talk programs and

educational events for husband, resulted in pronounced increases in young women's safe motherhood practice but not as significantly.

In Nigeria adolescent Health and information projects work to train married and divorced adolescent in income-generation skills and to provide them with health information. Its project operates on principles that expanded economic options can enhance reproductive health interventions.

Other types of programs might also be targeted to married girls program and policies to promote married girls continuation of or retain to school are needed. Given the strong filtering of information and support role of husband mother in law and others and since married girls often lack ready access to main stream media, media messages might be designed strategically for parents, husband, in law and other gate keepers. Several Governments are using marriage registration system to provide young people with reproductive health information and to visit young couples who have recently had a child.

Millions of girls around the world have their childhood cut short and their social, education and economic opportunities limited when they enter into marriage before age 18 often with a stranger and often without their input or consent. They face social isolation, unwanted sex and potential risks to their health. Public and private sector leaders and programmers must work together to delay the age at marriage and support married girls.

### **2.1.3 Research gap**

At present, there is a serious lack of data on all aspects of early marriage. This work has underlined, the sources of information concerning early marriage in terms of demographic trends and educational attainment. There are as yet very few studies that have examined the practice from a human rights perspective, in terms of trends or its impact on wives, husbands, families, or the wider society. These gaps need to be filled urgently, since data must inform policies and programmers and provide a basis for effective advocacy.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Research-methodology deals with the description of the methods applied in carrying out research study. This chapter contains research design, target area, data requirements, population and sampling techniques, data collection instruments and data analysis. This chapter highlights the methodologies which used to guide the whole research processes in collecting the related data for the study at hand.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design as the detailed blue print used to guide a research study towards objective.

Design of the study is the cross-section study. The researcher used this design because;

- It is quick to conduct
- Cheap to administer as it is conducted for a short time.
- Minimize participation of correspondents as it is conducted only one.
- Large sample enable inferential statistics to be used such as comparison of subgroups with the same sample. Although it does not casual analysis relationship.

The study used quantitative approach because it allows statistical analysis and required big sample size.

### **3.3 Study Area**

This study carried out in Kasulu District Council, in Kigoma region which is situated in the western side of Tanzania. This district is bordered by the Republic of Burundi in the West, Kibondo district in North, Kigoma District in the South and Malagarasi river Swamp in the East. The district has seven divisions and a total of 42 wards. Those divisions are Buhoro, Manyovu, Makere, Buyonga, Heru Juu, Heru Chini and Muyama. The district is rich in various opportunities like good fertile land for crop cultivation, reserved forest and wild animals, river Malagarasi for fishing reliable rain falls, and a good number of cattle (livestock keeping). The researcher decided to select the area because of its accessibility, easy to get information and availability of social infrastructure.

### **3.4 Sources of Data**

There are two major sources of data used by researchers. These are the primary data and secondary data.

#### **3.4.1 Primary sources**

Primary data is information gathered directly from respondents. This is through questionnaires; focused group discussion observation and experimental studies. It involves creating “new” data. Data is collected from existing sources. In an experiment study the variable of interest is identified.

### 3.4.2 Secondary sources

Secondary information sources are data neither collected directly by the user nor specifically for the user. It involves gathering data that already been collected by someone else. This involves the collection and analysis of published material and information from internal sources. Secondary data collection may be conducted by collecting information from a diverse source of document or electronically stored information. This is often referred to as desk research.

Looking on the definitions of both primary and secondary sources of data collection, therefore under this study both sources used to gather information under this study.

**(i) Primary source:** By using questionnaires interviews and Focus Group Discussion Information, opinion, interest and behavior of respondents gathered to satisfy the study at hand that is factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas.

**(ii) Secondary source:** In order to get information which is already worked up on by others, this source enabled the researcher to get some information written in text books, and internet through documentation so as to make the study at hand to have coherence and consistency. Policies and regulations, population and demographic data were obtained to enrich the study

### **3.5 Population**

A mathematician defines a population as the universal set and a sample as a sub-set. It should be noted that from a research point of view, the term population is not only applicable to human being but also to any case of interest in a study. population therefore is the totality of objects under investigation. Specific respondents were involved into the study.

The study included females and males who are teenagers aging between 14-20 who are living in selected areas regardless their religions, beliefs, ethnicity and race, But mostly girls were taken into consideration as a whole population to be studied under this study due to the fact that “Women are the back bone of family development and the Community as well therefore involving them in early marriage is the distortion of the Community in large. The researcher has decided to select such a sample because it was accessible and also it is the group which provided the information about the study.

### **3.6 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

#### **3.6.1 Sampling Techniques**

In collection of data self administered questionnaires were used. The questionnaires are methods of data collection in which each respondent is asked to respond to the same set of questions in a predetermined order. The self administer questionnaires were completed by respondent without supervision. This type of method is free from bias. This means answers were in respondents own perception. By using questionnaires it allowed the respondents to have enough time to give out all responses. In this study questionnaires taped socio-Demographic data such as age,



religion level of education, marital status, sex and occupation. Also these questionnaires taped the variables to be used in the hypothesis;

Firstly are socio factors which are contained in study variables such as in adequate sex education, inadequate social control in sex matters, the distance between parents and children, peer pressure group environmental influences, conformity, prejudice, parents conflicts, frustration influence of mass media and lack of transparence.

Secondly is cultural factors which included parental conflict, lack of transparence, negative attitude on contraceptive shame or shyness, lack of access to information inadequate parental care, inadequate socialization in family and community, traditional milestone and distance between parents and the teenagers.

Thirdly are economic factors such as unemployment, meager economic resources prostitution, and globalization, lack of credit facilities for teenagers, inadequate family finance and inadequate education of entrepreneurial skills for teenagers were examined.

### **3.6.2 Sample Size**

Is a sub set taken from the population to be studies. It represents the number or wider area of the population. It is the specific number of items or informants to be selected into sample from the population. The sample size was calculated by using the formula so as to be determined.

Random sampling was used to obtain one division among the seven in the district. One ward from the selected division was selected randomly; two villages were picked in the ward at the village level and a list of all household for the study within the area. The researcher decided to use random sampling since the study used the quantitative approach and the technique reduced the bias enemy, it is easy to apply, it requires less time and it does not require a prior knowledge of the true composition of the population.

The sample size were calculated by using the following formula;

$$N = \frac{Z^2 QP^2 N}{(n-1)(e^2) + Z^2 QP^2}$$

Where

N=Size of the population of the Community studied.

n= Is the required sample size of the study population

QP=Assumed standard duration of the study population.

e=Acceptance error to the whole estimation.

Z=Table value under normal curve to the given confidence level.

**Table 3.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the sample by gender(N=60)**

	<b>Distribution in frequencies n and percentages (N=60)</b>			
	<b>Male N</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Female N</b>	<b>F</b>
Age group		5	10	5.55
15 - 24	9	6.1	13	7.5
25 - 34	11	2.2	7	3.83
35 - 44	4	3.33	30	16.7
45 and above	6			
Sex				
Male	30	16.7	30	16.7
female				
Education level				
Non formal education	0	0	1	0.5
Primary incomplete	6	3.3	2	1.1
Primary complete	16	8.3	18	10
Secondary education and above	8	4.4	9	5
Religious				
Christians	28	15.6	28	15.6
Muslims	2	1.1	2	1.1
Other specify	0	0	0	0
Marital status				
Single	14	7.77	5	4.77
Married	15	8.33	19	10.55
Separate	1	0.05	1	1.11
Divorce	0	0	5	2.77
Widow/Widower	0	0	0	0
Occupation				
Peasant	14	7.77	11	6.11
Self employment	3	1.66	5	2.77
Business	1	0.55	1	0.55
House wife	1	0.55	0	1.6
Student	2	1.11	3	3.33
Social work	4	2.22	6	1.66
Health work	3	1.66	3	1.11
Other	2	1.11	1	0.55

Source: field work July 2013

n1=sub sample for males, n2 sub sample for female

### **3.7 Data Collection**

Data collection refers to gathering specific information aimed at proving or refuting some facts. In data collection the researcher must have a clear understanding of what they hope to obtain and how they hope to obtain it. In data, collection, the researcher must have a clear vision of the instruments to be used, the respondents and selected area; Data collection is important in research as it allows for, dissemination of accurate information and development of meaning full programs. Under this study the following Instruments were used to collect data:

#### **3.7.1 Questionnaires**

The researcher constructed questions according to variables and distributed them to the target group for response then she collected them for data analysis.

These are questions in written form, and may be closed or open ended questions. Closed ended questions are questions which respondents are given possible options to choose

Where as in open ended question it allows free responses that should be recorded in the respondents own words. In this case the respondents are not given possible answers to choose; For example, what hinders you to advance in your career? Here the respondent is free to give his/her news accordingly.

The researcher decided to use this method of data collection because it reduces cost in terms of time, money and labor. Under this study, Questionnaires were used to

gather information from girls as sufferers of early marriage because the targeted population is literate. They can read and write on their own and have ample time to think behind and chew relevance from irrelevant issues which pertaining to erase early marriage.

### **3.7.2 Interviews**

These are structured, Semi-structured or unstructured questions. Structured are pre-determined questions which follow certain order unchangeable. Semi-structured interviews are questions in between structured and somehow loose to allow room for changes, but unstructured interviews are very loosely questions; not pre-determined. One cannot ask questions according to the situation so as to satisfy the information needed.

Under this study Interviews were used to gather additional information from the respondents like girls and women in order to have good understanding of their opinions, suggestion and interests.

Also, interviews were used to get information from the management WEOs and VEOs since they are so busy, due to this situation information were obtained at the moment of interview process so as to not to interfere their daily activities.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

Data Analysis refers to examining what has been collected in a survey or experiment and making deductions and inferences it involves uncovering underlying structures

extracting important variables, detecting any anomalies and testing any underlying assumptions.

### **3.8.1 Data Analysis Plan**

The study was manually performing editing, coding and transcription process by using long work sheet. Analysis of data in this study was based on socio-demographic explanatory variables such as sex, age group, marital status, level of education religion and occupation. The findings of the study presented by using contingency tables which contain frequencies of actual observations, percentages, chi-square test values, critical table values and level of significances at two tailed test, Descriptive part were also be added to introduce and elaborate contents of table and discussion about the findings.

### **3.8.2 Statistical Procedure**

Chi-Square test was used in testing the significance of variables. The Chi Square formula preferred because the recommended test for the data that are in a nominal scale. Also Chi-Square test was the best test to examine the existence of relationship between social cultural and economic factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in Nyakitonto ward Community. This with the help of Chi-Square test each hypothesis were tested at 0.05 level of significance two tailed test.

## **3.9 Ethical Consideration**

The researcher was ethical by treating all information confidential and respondents were informed about the purpose of this study. The key informants were free to skip any question that irritated them.

### 3.10 Data Validity and Reliability

**Validity** refers to accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences. Content validity was checked through the systematically arranged objectives of the study where the questions answered the objectives.

To improve face validity of the research, experts in school of post Graduate studies scrutinized the instrument to ensure that questions concentrated on issues essential to research objectives. This ensured that right questions with proper ingredients were asked in view of minimizing errors when it comes to conducting the findings.

**Reliability** is a measure of degree to which a research instrument provides consistent results(Kothari 2004).In order to make the instrument more reliable, a pilot study will be conducted so as to correct the errors present in the instruments hence increase reliability of the instrument.

A reasonable number of structured questionnaires were prepared and distributed to respondents of different social demographic characteristics of different geographical demarcations. The supervisor checked validity and reliability of the questionnaires in relation to the objective and hypothesis of the study.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the findings of the research according to research hypothesis as they were set to obtain reality from the respondents pertaining to factors contributing to early marriage among teenagers.

#### **Summary and of Research Finding**

The research revealed that, young girls marriage is a problem in Tanzania especially in rural areas like Nyakitonto, Buhoro, Nyachenda and Nyamnyusi, this was supported by different source of information include, books, internets, peoples both females and males educated and non-educated, even from different religions like Christian, and Muslim. And all of them have different and even a similar attitude toward the factors contribute to child marriage. The research found that, the young girls marriage is still practiced in Tanzania, and the major reasons given are poverty, for that matter parents or guardians marry off their young girls while were still young in order to gain bride price as the source to alleviate family poverty. Other causes are customs and traditional beliefs substantial blame should also be placed on the inadequacy or absence of policy and legal frame works for the protection of children. For stance in Tanzania there is no single statute dealing with children rights, nor is there any piece of legislation talking about the definite minimum legal age of marriage or about the protection of children's rights to education.



## 4.2 Results

The targeted respondents in all wards included men and women of different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds. Gender, marital status, and age were the main demographic characteristics of the survey, but respondents' occupations, educational levels were also taken into account. The diverse group of respondents was chosen so as to capture a more representative range of information from the community, and also because the study hypothesized that the demographic characteristics of the respondents would have a bearing on their understanding, views and attitudes towards child marriage practices. Some respondents had the following views;

One young girl of 17 years old from Nyachenda ward said "Here in our village both girls and boys are to blame especially during the parties whereby girls and boys from different places join those parties, some are here for holidays and who have money because they sell grains, They easily taken away and they get married."

Another Ward Officer from Nyakitonto said that " These local discos and video halls are now contributing very much on children getting into child marriage. In the past there were some traditions but nowadays such traditions are not there though still girls run away from home others are forced into marriages because of dowry etc"

Miss Doroth Ruiza(District Executive Director) said that "Largely modern lifestyle contribute a lot to children's early involvement in sexual activities'

The view was also shared by a young man of 19 years old from Buhoro ward that "Some girls are married because for instance she lack basic things from home like food and clothes when she meets boys who provides such things to her, she decides to run away with him"

#### 4.2.1 Social factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers

The first task was to study the extent to which social factors contribute to early marriage among teenagers. This study measured the contribution of study variables such as inadequate social control in sex matters, the distance between parents and children, peer pressure group, environment influence, conformity, prejudice/parents conflict, frustration and influence of mass media.

		Male N20	Female N 20	Total	%
1	Ineadequate education	29	29	58	48.33
2	Frustration	9	5	14	11.86
3	Prejudice	7	6	13	10.83
4	Traditional milestone	7	9	16	13.33
5	Parent Conflict	11	10	21	17.5
6	Peer pressure group	3	0	3	3
7	The distance between parents and children	2	0	2	1.66
8	Conformity	1	3	4	3.33
9	Environmental influence	4	8	12	10
10	Sexual Immorally	4	5	9	7.5
11	Inadequate advice for teenagers	12	7	19	15.83
12	Lack of access to information	7	6	13	10.83
13	Inadequate parental care	15	21	36	30
14	Inadequate social control in sexual matters	5	5	10	8.33
15	Non Response	0	3	3	2.5

Source: Primary Data from the Field, 2013

Table 4.1 indicates that social factors contribute to early marriage are inadequate parented education 48.33%, inadequate parented care 30%, parental conflict 17.5% inadequate advice for teenagers 15.83%, frustration 11.66%, lack access to information 10.83% and environmental influence 10%(N=60) were reported by both male and female respondents as the most contributing factors to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district. Significant of the hypothesis is test as follows; ( $\chi^2 = 29.93, df = 14$  critical table value = 23.685 at 0.05 two tailed test.)

From the result one is driven to accept the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between social factors and early marriage among teenagers.

#### **4.2.2 Cultural Factors contributing to early marriage**

On cultural factors the study analyzes the extent to which cultural factors contribute to early marriage among teenagers. This study measured the contribution of the following variables; lack of transparence, negative attitude on contraceptive, shame/shyness, lack of access to information, inadequate parental care inadequate socialization in family and community and traditional milestone.

Table 4.2 summarizes the result in percentages and frequencies for each factors it also shows the chi square test result to prove the strength of the hypothesis.

		Responses			
		Male N20	Female N 20	Total	%
1	Peer pressure group	2	7	9	15
2	Influence of mass media	6	1	7	11.66
3	Inadequate socialization in the family and community	3	0	3	5
4	Negative contraceptives	1	7	8	13.3
5	Shame or shyness	3	6	9	15
6	Lack of transparency	8	0	8	13.3
7	Youth identity need	2	0	2	3.33
8	Traditional milestone	2	0	2	3.33
9	Customs	3	5	8	13.3
10	Discrimination	0	4	4	6.66

Source: Primary Data from the Field, 2013

$X=31.36$   $df=9$  critical table value= 16.919 level of significant is 0.05 two tailed test table 4.2 show the results of the responses per factor as follows; peer pressure group 15% shame/shyness(15%), negative attitude on contraceptive 13%,lack of transparency 13%, customs 13%, and mass media 11.66% (N=60) with chi square test as indicated one is derived to accept that the contention was true that there was a significance relationship of various cultural factors and the question of early marriage.

#### 4.2.3 Economic factors contributing to early marriage

On economic factors the study examined the extent to which economic factors can contribute early marriage among teenagers. This study measured the contribution of the following variables; inadequate economic resources, unemployment, financial problem facing teenagers, the presence of commercial sex, inadequate family patterns, globalization, inadequate credit facilities to enable teenagers, access to capital and commercial sex.

Table 4.3 summarized the results in percentages and frequency for each factors and the chi-square test results to each factors to prove the strength of the hypothesis.

		Responses			
		Male n	Female n	Total n	%
1	Inadequate economic factors	0	3	3	6
2	Unemployment	16	6	22	36.66
3	Financial problem facing teenagers	5	3	8	25
4	Presence of commercial sex	1	2	3	5
5	Inadequate family patterns	5	6	11	18.33
6	Globalization	2	5	7	11.66
7	Inadequate credit facilities to enable girls and boys access to capital	0	0	0	0
8	Commercial sex	1	5	6	10

Source: Primary Data from the Field, 2013

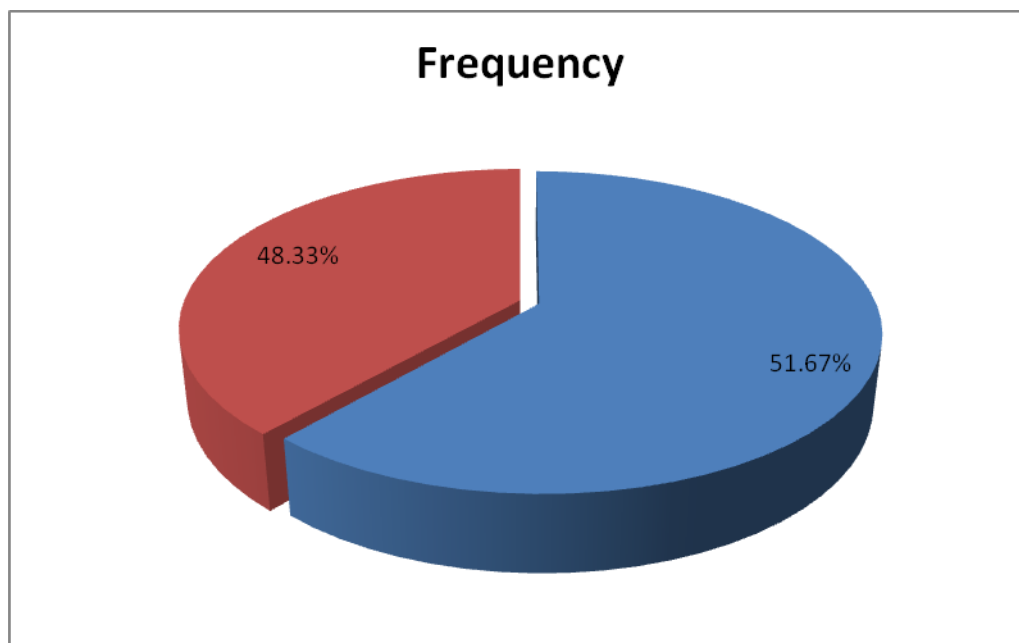
### 4.3 Discussion

#### 4.3.1 Social factors contribute to early marriage among teenagers

This study found that inadequate education was reported by the respondents to be the most important factors contributing to early marriage as it was reported by 48.33%. According to the study importance, youth on productive health and HIV/AIDS stated that existing data can not definitively show the casual link between early marriage, poverty, low educational attainment and other social indicators, which are likely to be multi directional. However other studies have found that married girls have many disadvantages related to health, social and economic sphere as hampering their ability to negotiate their reproductive and broader life including the needs to the children.

Young married girls have low educational attainment and less schooling opportunities. Married girls have fewer experiences in managing household compared to grown up women. Population council analyzed data from Egypt, Kenya and India indicated that married girls have less decision making power than married women. They are often under the authority and supervision of their new mothers-in-law. Married girls have less mobility than their unmarried counterparts or married women. Analysis of data from population council in India, Kenya and a study Bangladesh have found significant differences in the mobility of married girls. In order to expand our understanding of this important transition, a review of the existing literature on the transition to marriage would be a significant contribution to family life researchers and educators. The present articles synthesize the available information that was germane to our understanding of the transition to marriage by highlighting the salient intrapersonal, interpersonal families and social development issue facing couples making the marital transition in order to conduct future research and design relevant family life education curricula. The effective design and successful implementation of programs that target the transition to marriage has been limited in the family life educational field. Some researchers have called or more of a family life education focuses on newlywed. So in case of Kasulu district young girls who are married early have no decision making in their families because of patriarchy system always there subordinated. In this study also it is seen that through the customary law of that society believe that the wife was married in order to carry out agricultural activities. This young women use only physical labour such as hand hoe. Food crop production is essentially a female domain which occupies 75% of the agricultural labour force. Women usually control this sectors but even

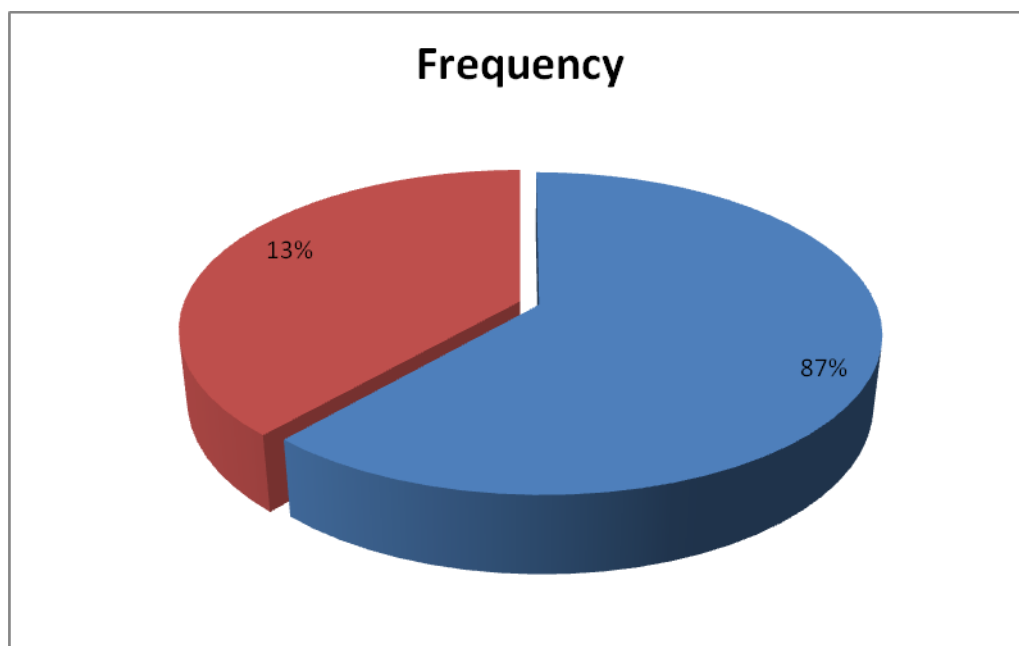
when men are involved they tend to sell all the production even where such crops are like sweet potatoes, maize and vegetables could be used as a part of family food. Then after selling the crops the money earned is used for alcohol. At the end of the day this young mother and children if any suffer from lacking of basic needs such as enough food, clothing, shelter and access to education. Also such problems cause children to be future street children, engaging in love affairs at a very early age because of the economic hardship.



#### **4.3.2 Cultural factors contribute to early marriage**

This study found that peer pressure group, shyness reported by 13% as contributing factors. For many marriage marks the beginning of their sexual life and an increased social isolation. As girls typically leave their homes. Married girls under pressure to become pregnant are likely to face the risks of child birth. First births carry special risk for both mother and child by 90%. First time mothers younger than age of 16 are

at greater risk of maternal and infant mortality. Many girls at that area of study face death simply because of birth.

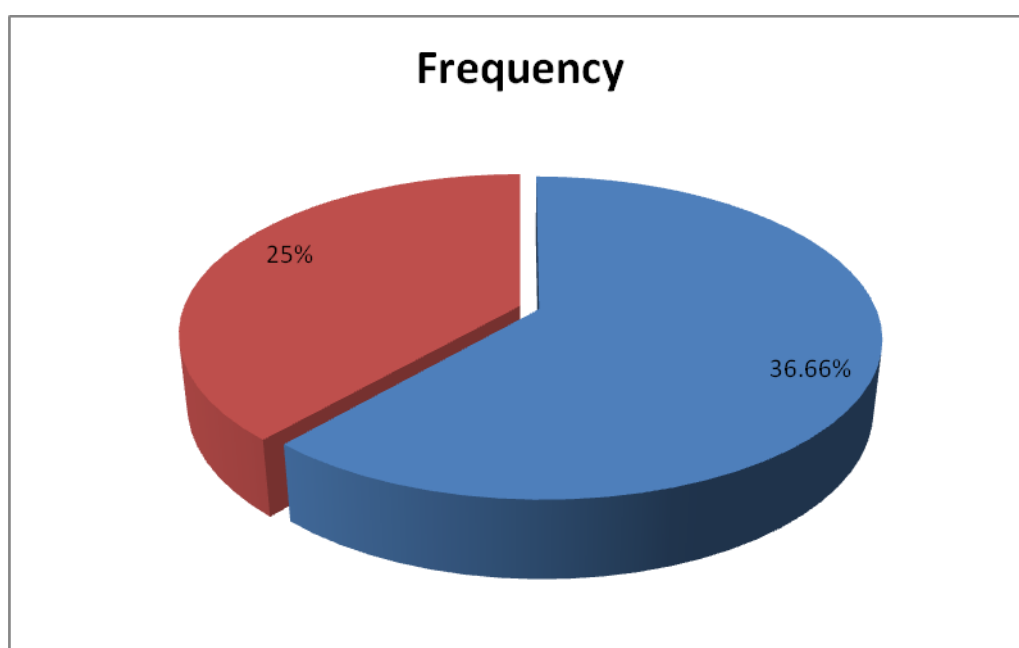


### **4.3.3 Economic factors contribute to early marriage**

The study found that unemployment scoring 36.66% financial problem facing teenagers 25% were reported by respondents that have contribute to early marriage. Unemployment is the most contributing factors to early marriage. This is simply because unemployment cause girls and boys engage in love affairs very early. Experiences show that the girls engage in love affairs at very early age simply because they have nothing to do. This situation is higher to women than to men (4.2% and 2.9% respectively). Some of the causes range from low education status to male chauvinism among the employees who associate women's reproductive roles with interference in their work performance even if they have to perform the job. Efforts to improve the access of young married and non married girls to economic



resources should focus on expanding employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Micro-credit programs provide women and girls with the basic economic opportunities they often lack and a social support network that promotes changes in attitudes and behavior. It serves as a means of granting them higher status and more control over their lives – including their options in marriage (Kabeer 2005 and Umashankar 2006).



#### **4.3.4 Other Social and Cultural factors.**

Apart from those state before are single parents, inadequate discipline for teenagers, youth identity need, attending night market, family problem, polygamies alcoholism, drug addiction behavior, forced early marriage and attending night celebration.

		Responses			
		Male n	Female n	Total	%
1	Single parent	5	8	13	11.6
2	Inadequate discipline for teenagers	3	4	7	6.25
3	Biological attraction	7	4	11	9.82
4	Youth Identity need	4	1	5	4.46
5	Attending night market	3	2	5	4.46
6	Family problem	21	1	22	19.64
7	Polygamies	4	5	9	8.03
8	Drug additional behaviour	1	3	4	3.57
9	Forced early marriage	6	6	12	10.71
10	Attending night celebration parties	14	3	17	15.17
11	Alcoholism	4	5	9	8.03

Source: Primary Data from the Field, 2013

N1= male response

N2=female response

N3= total number of male and female

Table 4.4 summarizes that cultural and social factors. The factors include family problem ,which was reported to score 19.64% for both male and female response. Attending celebration parties score 15.17% for both male and female. They are followed by other factors such as single parent ,inadequate discipline for teenagers, biological attraction. Other youth identity need attending night market, family problems, polygamies, drug addiction behavior, forced early marriage attending night celebration parties and alcoholism also caused early marriage in that wards.

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR**  
**FURTHER RESEARCH**

**5.1 Summary**

The main objective of this baseline was to survey on the factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas, it was to gather information on the extent, magnitude and consequences of early marriages in Kasulu district, as a basis for raising awareness on how children, particularly girls, are affected by the practice. The survey was conducted at Buhoro, Nyakitonto, Nyachenda and Nyamnyusi Wards on July 2013. These four wards are among the areas in Kasulu district in Kigoma region most affected by early marriage. As shown in this report, girls are more affected by early marriage than boys, since girls are marginalized, their voices are never heard and they are, in most cases, considered as ‘investments’ by their parents and guardians who receive bride price when the girls are married.

The survey sought to find out firstly whether people in these wards knew anything about early marriage in their areas. Respondents were asked to define ‘who is a child’, whether they knew what child marriage was, and if they had any views on child marriage in their localities.

Secondly, respondents were asked about the extent and causes of early marriage in their areas – the number of cases in their communities – and whether they thought early marriage was a good practice or bad practice. Factors contribute to early

marriage formed a further category of questioning. The respondents were then asked if they knew the impact of child marriage on the individual children, their families and the community at large. Finally, respondents were asked if they knew any laws, policies or regulations which govern marriage in Tanzania.

The central findings of this survey reflect how factors contribute to early marriages have affected not only girl children but also boys, their families and the community generally. The practice

are compounded by many factors including: economic factors, social factors like lack of knowledge about what constitutes 'a child', ideas about the age at which girls or boys are considered ready for marriage, and the association of puberty with readiness for marriage for both girls and boys.

This study was perceived to be significant as its findings could be useful to Government and all who will be involved in findings to combat early marriage to teenagers in rural and urban areas, in developing policies and making decision for the benefit of the youth.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

In Kasulu district particularly at Nyakitonto, Nyamnyusi, Buhoro and Nyachenda wards early marriage is a common practice. Available data show that about four in five of ever married women married before the age of 18 years.

Youth in Kasulu district continue to engage in early marriage due to lack of access education. As a result they are in danger of being affected with HIV/AIDS disease because of factors stated in this study that regarding sexual and reproductive rights, about 60 percent of the married women especially girls reported that they could not say “No” when asked for sex by a husband or partner. Eighty percent of women reported that they could not ask a husband or partner to use a condom during sexual intercourse, even if she suspects that he has another partner. These results reflect the low status of women in the home and the limited capacity they have to negotiate on issues related to their sexual life. One-in-five women in urban areas and a third in rural areas do not think it is appropriate for a woman to ask her partner to use a condom, even if she suspects that he has HIV/AIDS. They do not assume it to be right to make such a demand.

Findings indicate that early marriage is highly prevalent in the district and that it is the most serious of all the harmful traditional practices.

According to available Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data in some settings married girls have been shown to have higher rates of HIV/AIDS infection than their sexually active unmarried peers.

The majority of the women entered into marriage as a result of someone’s pressure and more than 80% of the marriages were arranged by parents. The main reasons for early marriage included a combination of socio-economic and cultural traditional factors, these include, prestige (maintaining ones good name and social esteem),

strengthening the ties between the marrying families, ensuring virginity of girls at the time of marriage, avoiding the possibility of a girl not being marriageable later in life, fear of premarital sex and pregnancy, lack of awareness about legal prohibitions and the poor level of law enforcement.

In general inadequate education was the main social factor which accelerates high contribution factors to early marriage. This is simply because many girls do not go to school so they get married early because they think that being married will solve their problems. Our schools do not offer sex education and reproductive health as a result young girls who complete standard seven get married and enter into marriage without adequate health education. Ignorance on reproductive health was seen to be the factors contributing to early marriage.

Also the study show that early marriage is the major cause for girls not to attend school or discontinue their education. However advising parents to send their daughters to school when schools are too far will not work. Making schooling for girls more accessible is very important.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Early marriage is recognized as a violation of human rights and a critical social problem with multifaceted consequences - particularly for women and children. The practice is also recognized as a barrier that inhibits young girls from attaining education that would otherwise have a lasting positive impact on their life and well-being.

In view of these facts, and based on the findings of the study, the following are the recommendations that Government and other agencies can observe. In this regard in order to solve the problems of social factors on contributing early marriage to teenagers the society must negate the bad values by introducing education for all boys, girls, parents, their relative and the community. Also the society must recognize the gender strategic needs and practical gender needs for both men and women.

- Government through the Ministry of health and social welfare and the ministry of Community development gender and children affairs may conduct programmes in both rural and urban areas concerning early marriage and HIV/AIDS infections especially by addressing the factors which contribute to early marriage. Such programmes may help youth's community to change their behaviors, reduce the rate of early marriage due to poverty, because parents force their daughters to get marriage at early age in order to get money or cows. Parents think that if the girls become pregnant at her father's home, he will miss the dowry.
- On the other hand failure of the Government and other authorities to involve teenagers in decision making is a problem. Therefore youth should have access to education especially girls, access to resources which include land ownership, access to and control over resources in the family and be involved in decision making. This is a challenge to the Government and all other stakeholders.

- The Ministry of health and social welfare in consultation with TACAIDS and NACP as well as other Non Government Organization and Community based Organization may co ordinate community counseling programmes as long term remedy which include “Huduma rafiki kwa vijana” denoted by African Youth Alliance(AYA)
- Government youth Development should intervene to empower youth with employable skills so that the youth can disengage from factors which contribute early marriage such as commercial sex and inadequate parental care. Simply because the work force of teenagers in Kasulu district is idle this lead to behaviours which goes against laws of the United Republic of Tanzania such behaviors are like prostitution, thief, drug abuse and alcoholism.
- This element of communities that oppose early marriage, such as women’s organizations; need support to ensure that they have the capacity to act effectively as advocates against it. Work jointly with religious, health and education strategy about the negative effects(Social, economical, health etc) of early marriage
- Providing economic opportunities to young girls: Poverty is one of the major factors underpinning early marriage. Efforts to improve the access of young married and non married girls to economic resources should focus on expanding employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Micro-credit programs provide women and girls with the basic economic opportunities they often lack and a social support network that promotes changes in attitudes and behavior. It serves as a means of granting



them higher status and more control over their lives – including their options in marriage

#### **5.4 Areas for further research**

This Digest is intended merely as a starting-point, drawing attention on factors which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in rural areas as a practice that has been neglected by both women's and children's rights campaigners in recent decades. It is hoped that it will provide 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, programmes and advocacy to bring this about.

On the basis of the findings of this survey and its limitations (e.g. time and money), it is recommended that there should be a further anthropological study . This would reveal more of the reality on the ground and possibly develop more concrete findings on the extent of the child marriage problem and the societal and legal solutions to it.

## REFERENCES

- Adam J, Kamuzora F., (2008) *Research Methods for Business and Social Studies*, Mzumbe, Morogoro.
- Amin S. et al (2002) "Survey report on rural Adolescent in Bangladesh", Dhaka Ministry of Women Affairs Government of Bangladesh.
- Amin S. et al (1998) "Transition to adulthood of female garment factory workers" Bangladesh
- Barnes et al (1998), 'Early marriage: whose right to choose?', Amazon
- Blanc A.(1998) "Sexual behavior and contraceptive knowledge and use among adolescents in developing countries, Bangladesh.
- Boshe, P. (2009). *The weakness of UN Convention of the right of the children in Combating child marriage*; National Organization for Legal Assistance Dar es salaam
- Bruce J. (2004) *The implication of early marriage for HIV/AIDS policy*; Population Council, New York
- Carael M., et al, (2001) *Why do young women have a much higher prevalence of HIV than young men? A study in Kisumu-Kenya.*
- Clark S.,(2004) *Early marriage and HIV risks in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
- Geary C.W ,et al,(2002) *Using Global Media to reach Youth and staying alive Campaign* ,Arlington.
- Green M., et al,(2003) *Too young to wed: The lives, Rights and Health of young married girls*, New York.
- International Centre for Reach on Women (ICRW),(2004) "Youth, Gender, Well being and Society", *Emerging themes from Adolescent Reproductive Health Intervention Research*, Washington DC.

Kombo D.K and Tromp L.A. (2006).Proposal and Thesis Writing: An Introduction.

Lloyd CB(ed) Growing up Global: Washington DC.

Marthur S.,et al,(2004)Youth Reproductive Health in Nepal: Is Participation the answer?, Washington DC.

Miller S.(2003)"Meeting the needs of the youngest first time mothers" Background paper Presented at WHO and UNFPA/population council technical consultation on Married Adolescent, New York.

Santhya K.G.(2005), Empowering young mothers in India. Transition to Adulthood, New York.

Thapa S.,(2003) Mass media exposure among urban youth in Nepal.

The African Charter (1999) on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Child1990.

The Convention of Children Act 1989.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

1970 The Law of Child, 2009, Tanzania.

The Law of Marriage Act(1971),Tanzania

## **APPENDICES**

### **1. APPENDIX A:QUESTIONNAIRE TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

#### **1. THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**

**P.O BOX**

**KIGOMA.**

**RESEARCH TOPIC: FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO EARLY  
MARRIAGE AMONG TEENAGERSIN RURAL AREAS**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This questionnaire consist of two types of questions
  - i. Questions which need a ticking the appropriate box option
  - ii. Questions which need filling or explanations
1. Please kindly answer all questions correctly as instructed but you are free to skip.
2. The researcher asks your maximum co-operation to make this work succeed.
3. This is not a test there is no correct or wrong answer/response.
4. All information supplied will be treated confidential and will be used for intended purpose.
5. Don't write your name
6. The researcher expects these questions back on or before-date.

For question 1-6 tick [v] the correct option in the box

1. Your age group
  - 15-24 years ( )
  - 25-34 years ( )

34-45 years ( )

2. Your sex

[i] Female( )

[ii] Male ( )

3. Your education level

[i] No formal Education ( )

[ii] Primary incomplete ( )

[iii] Primary complete ( )

[iv] Secondary education and above ( )

4. What is your religious affiliation?

[i] Christian ( )

[ii] Muslim ( )

[iii] Others mention ( )

5. What is your marital status?

[i] Single ( )

[ii] Married ( )

[iii] Separate/divorce ( )

6. What is your occupation?

[i] Peasants ( )

[ii] Self employment ( )

[iii] Business ( )

[iv] House wife ( )

[v] Student ( )

[vi] Social worker ( )

[vii] Health worker ( )

[viii] Others ( )

For question 7-13 put the tick to one option only

7. What do you understand by the term early marriage?

i) Spacing children for more than two years ( )

ii) Avoid unplanned pregnancies ( )

iii) Is the getting engaged early before maturity age ( )

iv) Is the social power ( )

v) Is a lack of confidence ( )

8. Do you agree that there are side effects when one is married early?

i) I strongly agree ( )

ii) I agree ( )

iii) I disagree ( )

iv) I strongly disagree ( )

9. If the answer for question 8 is yes what the reasons are, tick the correct answer

i) Fertility rate ( )

ii) Abortion ( )

iii) Peer pressure group ( )

iv) Abnormal babies ( )

v) Others (mention) ( )

10. Which of the following social reasons do you think cause early marriage among the teenagers?

- i) Biological factor ( )
- ii) Inadequate education ( )
- iii) Social power ( )
- iv) Parent conflict ( )
- v) Frustration ( )
- vi) Ignorance ( )
- vii) Bad attitude ( )
- viii) Peer pressure group ( )

11. Is there a system of health education to youth in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No( )
- iii) I don't know ( )

12. If yes who give this education?

- i) Health workers ( )
- ii) Community workers ( )
- iii) Teachers ( )
- iv) Others mention ( )

13. Do you think inadequate Socialization cause early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )
- iv) Others (mention) ( )

14. Tick any of the social problem which you think contribute to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Conformity ( )
- ii) Environmental influence ( )
- iii) Inadequate family finance ( )
- iv) Peer pressure group ( )
- v) Sexual immorality ( )
- vi) Inadequate advice for teenagers ( )
- vii) Social Power ( )

15. Do you think the influence of mass media has contribution on early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )

16. If yes, how does it contribute to early marriage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



17. Do you think negative attitude on the use of contraceptive has led to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )

18. If yes explain

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

19. Tick cultural problems which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Peer pressure group ( )
- ii) Lack of transparence ( )
- iii) Negative attitude on contraceptive ( )
- iv) Shame/shyness ( )
- v) Inadequate Socialization in the family and Community ( )
- vi) Youth identity need ( )
- vii) Traditional milestone ( )
- viii) Customs ( )
- ix) Discrimination ( )

20. Tick economic problems to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards.

- i) Inadequate economic resources ( )
- ii) Unemployment ( )
- iii) Financial problems facing teenagers ( )
- iv) Commercial Sex ( )
- v) Inadequate family patterns ( )
- vi) Globalization ( )
- vii) Inadequate credit facilities to enable girls to access capital. ( )
- viii) Economic hardship ( )

21. Please list 3 social problems leading to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

22. Please list 3 cultural problems leading to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards.

.....

.....

.....

.....

23. Do you have other factors than those in question 22? If yes mention them;

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

24. Please list 3 economic problems causing early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

25. Mention other reasons than those mentioned above;

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**1. APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS, YOUTH AND FAMOUS PEOPLE**

**2. THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**

**P.O BOX**

**KIGOMA.**

**RESEARCH TOPIC: FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO EARLY MARRIAGE AMONG TEENAGERS IN RURAL AREAS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- This questionnaire consist of two types of questions
  - Questions which need a tick in the appropriate box option
  - Questions which need filling or explanations
  - Please kindly answer all questions correctly as instructed but you are free to skip.
  - The researcher asks your maximum co-operation to make this work succeed.
- 4 This is not a test there is no correct or wrong answer/response.
5. All information supplied will be treated confidential and will be used for

intended

purpose

- Don't write your name
- The researcher expects these questions back on or before-date.

For question 1-6 tick [v] the correct option in the box

1. Your age group

15-24 years ( )

25-34 years ( )

34-45 years ( )

## 2. Your sex

[i] Female ( )

[ii] Male ( )

## 3. Your education level

[i] No formal Education ( )

[ii] Primary incomplete ( )

[iii] Primary complete ( )

[iv] Secondary education and above ( )

## 4. What is your religious affiliation?

[i] Christian ( )

[ii] Muslim ( )

[iii] Others mention ( )

## 5. What is marital status?

[i] Single ( )

[ii] Married ( )

[iii] Separate/divorce ( )

## 6. What is your occupation?

[i] Peasants ( )

[ii] Self employment ( )

[iii] Business ( )

[iv] House wife ( )

[v] Student ( )

[vi] Social worker ( )

[vii] Health worker ( )

[viii] Others ( )

For question 7-13 put the tick to one option only

7. What do you understand by the term early marriage?

i) Spacing children for more than two years ( )

ii) Avoid unplanned pregnancies ( )

iii) Is the getting engaged early before maturity age ( )

iv) Is the social power ( )

v) Is a lack of confidence ( )

8. Do you agree that there are side effects when one is married early?

i) I strongly agree ( )

ii) I agree ( )

iii) I disagree ( )

iv) I strongly disagree ( )

9. If the answer for question 8 is yes what the reasons are, tick the correct answer

i) Fertility rate ( )

ii) Abortion ( )

iii) Peer pressure group ( )

iv) Abnormal babies ( )

v) Others (mention) ( )

10. Which of the following social reasons do you think cause early marriage among the teenagers?

i) Biological factor ( )

ii) Inadequate education ( )

- iii) Social power ( )
- iv) Parent conflict ( )
- v) Frustration ( )
- vi) Ignorance ( )
- vii) Bad attitude ( )
- viii) Peer pressure group ( )

11. Is there a system of health education to youth in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )

12. If yes who give this education?

- i) Health workers ( )
- ii) Community workers ( )
- iii) Teachers ( )
- iv) Others mention ( )

13. Do you think inadequate Socialization cause early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )
- iv) Others (mention) ( )

14. Tick any of the social problem which you think contribute to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Conformity ( )
- ii) Environmental influence ( )
- iii) Inadequate family finance ( )
- iv) Peer pressure group ( )
- v) Sexual immorality ( )
- vi) Inadequate advice for teenagers ( )
- vii) Social Power ( )

15. Do you think the influence of mass media has contribution on early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )

16. If yes, how does it contribute to early marriage?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



17. Do you think negative attitude on the use of contraceptive has led to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Yes ( )
- ii) No ( )
- iii) I don't know ( )

18. If yes explain

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

19. Tick cultural problems which contribute to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards?

- i) Peer pressure group ( )
- ii) Lack of transparence ( )
- iii) Negative attitude on contraceptive ( )
- iv) Shame/shyness ( )
- v) Inadequate Socialization in the family and Community ( )
- vi) Youth identity need ( )
- vii) Traditional milestone ( )
- viii) Customs ( )
- ix) Discrimination ( )

20. Tick economic problems to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto,Nyachenda,Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards.

- i) Inadequate economic resources ( )
- ii) Unemployment ( )
- iii) Financial problems facing teenagers ( )
- iv) Commercial Sex ( )
- v) Inadequate family patterns ( )
- vi) Globalization ( )
- vii) Inadequate credit facilities to enable girls to access capital. ( )
- viii) Economic hardship ( )

21. Please list 3 social problems leading to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto,Nyachenda,Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

22. Please list 3 cultural problems leading to early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto,Nyachenda,Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards.

.....

.....

.....

23. Do you have other factors than those in question 22? If yes mention them;

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

24. Please list 3 economic problems causing early marriage among teenagers in Kasulu district specifically Nyakitonto, Nyachenda, Buhoro and Nyamnyusi wards

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

25. Mention other reasons than those mentioned above;

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....