
**ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF EARLY MARRIAGE ON GIRL CHILD EDUCATION
IN UGANDA A CASE STUDY OF NYANKWANZI SUB-COUNTY, KYEJONJO DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The study proposed to Assessing the impact of Early Marriage on Girl Child Education in Uganda a Case Study of Nyankwanzi Sub-County, Kyejonjo District. The objectives of the study were to the major objectives is to find out the impact of the early marriage on Girl Child education in Nyankwanzi Sub- County, Kyejonjo District. To examine the influence of early pregnancy and girl child education in Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District. To identify the causes and consequences of early marriages on Girl child education in the Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District. The study also presented different views on the early pregnancy and girl child education, the influence of early pregnancy and girl-child education, challenge of the two parties, in chapter three it detailed the research design that was use such as both quantitative and qualitative techniques. According to the findings, it was found that 19(38%) strongly agreed, 18(36%) agreed, and 13(26%) were not sure of whether high rate of unemployment can influence the high rate of early marriage among girl child in Kyenjojo primary schools. It was found that out of 50 respondents 15(30%) strongly agreed that peer pressure is one the reasons why there is still early marriage among girls in Kyenjojo primary schools, and 14(28%) agreed as well as 12(24%) were, not sure however, 9(18%) also strongly disagreed the matter that peer pressure is not one the reasons why girls involve in early marriage mainly in Kyenjojo Primary school. The researcher recommends to ministry of education and sports through its institutions to introduce of sexuality education in primary and secondary schools, liaising with other professionals in the community and emphasizing the usage of preventive methods to learners who are already sexually active as some of the strategies to overcome the challenge of teenage pregnancy.

Key words: *early marriage and girl child education*

Background to the study

Despite repeated calls by governments and international development agencies to stop and end the practice, child and adolescent marriage still exists in many parts of the world (Joventa et al., 2023). According to the 2005 State of the World Population report, 48% of South Asian women and 42% of African women in the 15-24 age group were married before the age of 18 (United Nations Population Fund, 2005). Between 2000 and 2011, one in three women aged 20 to 24 in all developed regions was married or entered into a partnership before the age of 18 (United Nations Population Fund, 2012). Chapter

The Problem of Early Marriage 36% of young women aged 20-24 marry before the age of 18 (Vincent and Peter, 2023).

(Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, 2016). Some regions with low early marriage rates are: Central Region 59%, Eastern Uganda 58%, Western Uganda 55%, Northern Uganda 51% and 17%, respectively (Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, 2016 Year). Child marriage conflict affects young women, young women have a higher risk of illness and death than older women, young mothers have a 35-55% higher risk for their babies and children than older women, and young women are not healthy but low. Due to the lack of immunity, intercourse and reproduction, children born to 20-year-old mothers will have a 5-year-old child mortality rate of 28% higher than those born to 20-year-old mothers (Jac and Kazaara, 2023). According to the senior director of the United Nations Population Fund Agency (UNFPA), Uganda is in East Africa. The number of early marriages and early pregnancies in the country is an area of close interest to the organization.

According to the United Nations Population Fund (Nzeyimana Henri), girls aged 10 to 19 are at risk because they have the highest rate of early marriage of any East African country, with 53 out of every 1,000 women aged 15 to 15 reported in Uganda.

country Uganda. 19 children were born.) (2012) annual report (Yudaya & Aggrey, 2023).

Problem Statement

Despite the interest in youth sex and early marriage in recent years, many young people still marry and become pregnant at an early age. It has become a national epidemic, in part because many young people decide to have children and get married. partners for raising children (John et al., 2023). According to BBC News (2016), this indicates that early marriage and early pregnancy are more common among young people who are disadvantaged by early marriage and have a lower life expectancy for their education. The researchers found that this is often because parents don't know their daughters well enough to be close enough to tell the parents.

Some teens are willing to accept sex if they are paid, mostly by adults who deliberately take advantage of their poor families to encourage them to have sex. For this reason, many young people do not see the long-term consequences of their behavior that led to their early marriage (Kalikula, 2023). But the government and a government agency, through its institutions and activities, have tried to take steps to prevent this competition by creating policies and laws such as intervention in culture and leadership, raising awareness and changing girls' behavior and conducting children's research on girls. (Such as scholarship programs) are designed to help them focus on education rather than early marriage. Despite the best efforts of these institutions, problems with early marriage persist in Uganda, prompting researchers to investigate the effects of early marriage on girls. ' Education. It is concentrated in Nyankwanzi County, Kyejonjo District (Aisha et al., 2023).

Specific objectives

- 1. To examine the influence of early pregnancy and girl child education in Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District.*

2. *To identify the causes and consequences of early marriages on Girl child education in the Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District.*
3. *To identify the possible measures of early marriage on Child education in Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District.*

Research Questions

1. *What is the influence of early pregnancy and girl child education in Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District?*
2. *What are the causes and consequences of early marriages on Girl child education in the Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District?*
3. *What are the possible measures of early marriage on Child education in Nyankwanzi Sub-County Kyejonjo District?*

Methodology

Research Design

The study employed the descriptive design the research design is preferred because it enabled the researcher systematically collect and present data to give a clear picture regarding early marriages over Girl Child Education. It is the type of research in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people, group, or items considered to be representative of the entire population. Quantitative data was used because it involves interviews and conducting group discussions. Therefore, design of the study enabled the researcher to examine influence of Early Marriages on A Girl Child Education in Uganda.

Population of the Study

Allan & Emma (2003) Population can be defined as the entire group of people, events, or things of interest that the researcher wishes to investigate. The study population consisted over 54,622 (UBOS,2014) the area population, However, the study selected 50 respondents to represent the estimated Nyankwanzi Sub- County Kyejonjo District population.

Category	Target Organization	Population	Percentage
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A	Children	10,500	35
B	Teachers	7,500	25
C	Parents	12,000	40
TOTAL		358,700 estimated	100

Source Researcher, 2021

Sample Size

From the proposed study, the actual total number of the 50 respondents was given questionnaires. They were as 25 Students, 10 Community members, 10 NGO representatives, and 5 local leaders

Sample Technique

Simple random sampling technique was used to select the population under the study. Key information was purposively sampled because they have information and knowledge in the area of the study.

Sample Procedure

The researcher first defined the population, list the elements of the population, determine an appropriate sampling methodology, decide an adequate sample size and select a representative sample of 50 respondents.

Simple random sampling was used to select the sample basically intending to minimize bias so as to attain the purpose of the study and to save time.

Data Collection Methods

Instruments in order to achieve the objective of this study, the researcher used the following methods of data collection to get information on influence of early marriages and Girl Child Education in the area of the study. The method generated enough information so as to make conclusions. The questionnaires administered to parents, students, government officials and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) members so as to get more sensitive information about the issue of Early Marriages.

Data Analysis

Data analysis involved arranging, sorting and organizing data and later attach meaning to create a sensible meaning that reflects the findings Patton (1987). This study involved quantitative data and it was analyzed in its form. After the data collection, qualitative data was obtained from the submitted questionnaires and later be coded. Quantitative data was coded and tabulated on a scale and was entered in the computer using Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS**Gender of respondents****Table 1: Frequency distribution according to the gender of respondents.**

Gender		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	<i>Male</i>	15	30
2	<i>Female</i>	35	70
TOTAL		50	100

Source: Field data, 2022

From table1 above, the indicated that the majority of respondents were female who accounted for 35(70%) and Male respondents accounted for 15(30%). This implies that there is a marginal majority of female over the males in the data collected from teachers in Nyankwanzi Sub County Kyenjojo District and other related schools as well as from students who involved in this study.

Age of respondents.**Table 2: Frequency distribution according to the age group of respondents.**

Age Group(yrs.)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15-20	25	50
21-25	15	30
26-30	5	10

31-35	2	4
36-40	1	2
41-45	1	2
46-50	1	2
TOTAL	50	100

Source: *Primary Data*, 2022

From the table 2 above, indicated that 25(50%) respondents were of the age bracket of 15-20 years, 15(30%) respondents were on age group of 21-25 years, 5(10%) respondents were of age group of 26-30 years, 2(4%) respondents were of the age group of 31-35 years, 1(2%) respondent were of the age group of 36-40 years, 1(2%) respondent were of the age group of 41-45 years, and 1(2%) respondent were of the age group of 46-50 years. Therefore, according to the frequency distribution in Table 2 the larger percentage (50%) of the respondents that partook in the research is in the age group 15-20 years, this is because the majority of participants were those the age bracket of 15-20 and age bracket of 21-25 age which mean most of them were youth as it was

Position Held by Respondents (Educators)

Positions	Frequency	Percentage
Head Teacher	1	6.6
Deputy Head	1	6.6
Senior Teacher	5	33.3
Class Teacher	8	53.3
Total	15	100

Source: *Primary Data*, 2022

The table above shows the positions held by the respondents as teachers. And as shown above the highest number of respondents were class teachers with 53.3% and the least respondents where senior were 33.3%, Deputy Head teachers with only 6.6% and as well as head teacher who counted also 6.6%.

Records of pregnancy in schools**Table 4: The number of pregnancies cases in Kyenjojo District**

Year	School Type	Total No. Drop outs	Dropout due to pregnancy	(%) of the dropouts due to pregnancy
2014	Government	31,031	7,204	23
	Mission/private	1,872	192	10
	Grant Aided	1,946	368	19
	TOTAL	34,849	7,764	22
2016	Government	31,275	8,031	26
	Mission/private	1,353	98	7
	Grant Aided	3,172	496	16
	TOTAL	35,800	8,625	24
2019	Government	32,919	9,175	28
	Mission/private	1,140	125	11
	Grant Aided	2,265	432	19
	TOTAL	36,324	9,732	27

The table4 shows major differences in the percentages of girls who drop out of the different kinds of schools (government schools, private/Mission and grant aided schools) due to pregnancy in the years 2014, 2016 and 2019. From the data it is evident that the number of pupils who dropout each year due to pregnancy is on an increase in all types of schools. However, the problem is more acute in government schools (Ministry of Education ED Assist (2019).

Reasons for high rate of pregnancy among children**Table 5: Reasons of pregnancy among children in Kyejonjo District.**

Possible reasons for pregnancy are:	Agree	Disagree	Uncertain	Total
Lack of knowledge about sexuality and	65%	30%	5%	100%

<i>information collected from Media and peer friends.</i>				
<i>Risk-taking behavior (e.g., drug use promotes irresponsible sex activities)</i>	94%	2%	6%	100%
<i>Lack of better role models</i>	73%	25%	2%	100%
<i>Family morals and Beliefs about fertility (proves fertility prior to a marriage)</i>	44%	53%	3%	100%
<i>Poverty and unemployment in family.</i>	86%	8%	6%	100%
<i>Lack of sex education in schools.</i>	67%	23%	10%	100%
<i>Peer pressure x</i>	90%	7%	3%	100%
<i>Contraceptive use (e.g., availability, information and correct use)</i>	83%	14%	3%	100%
<i>Examples portrayed by the media (e.g., sexual conduct of movie/ soapie stars on TV)</i>	93%	6%	1%	100%

Research for the high rate of pregnancy among children in Kyejonjo District

Table 6: Research for the high rate of pregnancy among children in Kyejonjo District

<i>Possible reasons for high-rate pregnancy</i>	SA		A		NS		SA		D		Total	Percent
<i>Lack of knowledge about sexual education</i>	23	46	14	28	13	26	0	-	0	-	80	
<i>High rate of miss use of drug abuse</i>	22	44	15	30	13	26	0	-	0	-	80	
<i>High rate of unemployment</i>	19	38	18	36	13	26	0	-	0	-	80	
<i>Peer pressure</i>	15	30	14	28	12	24	9	18	-	-	80	

From the table6 above it indicate that out of the 50 total number of respondents of Kyejonjo primary schools, it was found that 23(46%) strongly agreed that lack of knowledge on sexual education has influenced the early pregnancy among the girl

child, 14(28%) agreed with the matter, 13(26%) were not sure of the matter whether this could be a reason for the high rate of early pregnancy among girl child in Kyenjojo primary schools.

From the findings in table6, it was found that 22(44%) strongly agreed, 15(30%) agreed, and 13(26%) were not sure of whether drug abuse influences the early marriage among girls in Kyenjojo primary schools to others respondents, this implies that out of 50 respondents, the majority of the them strongly agreed that high rate of drug abuse can influence the early marriage among the girl child.

According to the findings, it was found that 19(38%) strongly agreed, 18(36%) agreed, and 13(26%) were not sure of whether high rate of unemployment can influence the high rate of early marriage among girl child in Kyenjojo primary schools.

It was found that out of 50 respondents 15(30%) strongly agreed that peer pressure is one the reasons why there is still early marriage among girls in Kyenjojo primary schools, and 14(28%) agreed as well as 12(24%) were, not sure however, 9(18%) also strongly disagreed the matter that peer pressure is not one the reasons why girls involve in early marriage mainly in Kyenjojo Primary school.

Impact of teenage pregnancy on the provision of quality education

In an interview one teacher stated that “Teenage mothers are not likely to return to school because they do have some problems with regard to who will look after their kids, that’s the reason why they are not likely to return to school”.

Another respondent in an interview stated that “the attendance is not satisfactory due to the fact that they have to go for check-ups, sometimes they feel sick, and their attendance is not so good compare to other children studying with therefore, teenage other have little chances of going back to school”.

From the stated facts it’s evident enough to stress the fact that the proving of quality education has been deranged due to teenage pregnancy due to the stated impact in the table.

In another interview one respondent said “pupils drop out because they cannot cope, when they are caring for the baby and attending at the same time. They still want to have some fun because they are still kids”.

From the findings above figure2, it was found that the majority of the respondents mainly at Kyenjojo primary schools, agreed that the early marriage on the provision of quality education among girl child as presented above in the bar graph where poor were 10%, absenteeism at 8%, school dropout 6%.

Conclusion

In essence this study investigated the impact of teenage pregnancy on the provision of quality education. Despite the availability and variety of methods of contraception many adolescent schoolgirls become pregnant in Uganda.

Not only does early pregnancy have impact on the girls and family involved it has a bigger impact on the country's economy.

Becoming pregnant and being a schoolgirl mother poses risks for educational success. This situation often disrupts or end schooling and the leap from school to tertiary education or employment. Absenteeism, poor academic performance, repetition of grades and dropout are results of schoolgirl pregnancy with consequences like poor job opportunities, increased dependency and poverty.

Recommendations

The researcher recommends to ministry of education and sports through its institutions to introduce of sexuality education in primary and secondary schools, liaising with other professionals in the community and emphasizing the usage of preventive methods to learners who are already sexually active as some of the strategies to overcome the challenge of teenage pregnancy.

The government, the community leaders, churches and the schools should be organizing sex education programmes for teenagers. The teenagers should be given

full education on their reproductive system and should be made to be aware that they can become at the ages of 14 years and above.

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