

**EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POVERTY AND EARLY MARRIAGES
AMONG SCHOOL GOING GIRLS
A CASE STUDY OF KIMANYA SUB COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at examining the relationship between poverty and early marriages among school going girls with a case study of kimanya sub county and it was guided by the following objectives; To assess the different causes of early marriages in communities, to identify ways how early marriages', affect girl Child education and to identify ways how early marriages' can be abolished in communities. From the findings, these coefficients represented the estimated effect of each predictor variable on the dependent variable (poverty) while holding other variables constant. In this case, the constant term was 2.562, indicating the estimated poverty level when early marriages are zero. The coefficient for early marriages was 0.529, suggesting that for each unit increase in early marriages, poverty is estimated to increase by 0.529. These coefficients represented the standardized effect of each predictor variable on the dependent variable. They allowed for a comparison of the relative importance of different predictors. The standardized coefficient for early marriages was 0.812, indicating that early marriages have a strong positive influence on poverty, as higher standardized coefficients indicate stronger relationships. The t-value measured the strength of the relationship between the predictor variable and the dependent variable, taking into account the sample size and variability. A higher absolute t-value suggests a stronger relationship. In this case, the t-value for early marriages was 9.688, indicating a statistically significant relationship with poverty The researcher also recommended the parents to always send their children back to school whenever they get involved in early marriages.

Key words: poverty, early marriages and school going girls

Background of the study

*Birth, pregnancy and death are the standard trio of key events in the life of mankind. Out of these three events, pregnancy is a matter of choice. The right to exercise that choice was identified as a principle of law starting from the Roman era and has been established in the international human right instruments (Bunting, 2012). The history of pregnancy dates back to the history of mankind. Biblically, God created the first man called Adam and he was without helper. God being omnipotent and omniscient know his problem and hired him into a great slumber and removed one of his ribs and created a woman called Eve (Genesis 2:21-22) from this time, pregnancy was first contracted by Adam and Eve who was the first parent on earth to highlight this, the holy bible says, so God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him, male and female and God blessed them and said to them “be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it” Gen. 1:27-28. According to the study, the researcher will use Dr. Murray Bowen’s **Family Systems Theory** which states that the family is understood best by conceptualizing it as a complex, dynamic, and changing collection of parts, sub systems and family members. Much like a mechanic would interface with the computer system of a broken-down car to diagnose which systems are broken (transmission, electric, fuel, etc.) to repair it therapist or researcher would interact with family members to diagnose how and where the systems of the family are in need of repair or intervention.*

Problem Statement

Early pregnancy was a symbol of poor orientation. Throughout the world, pregnancy was regarded as a moment of celebration and milestone in one’s life. Sadly, the practice of early pregnancy involved the deprivation of fundamental human rights. Young girls were robbed of their youthfulness and required to take on roles, they are not emotionally prepared for. Majority of the young girls have no choice about the timing of pregnancy or about their partner. Some are coerced into pregnancy, while others are too tender to make an informed decision. Premature pregnancy

deprives them of the opportunity for personal development as well as their rights to full reproductive health, wellbeing, education and participation in civil life.

Objectives of the study

- 1. To assess the different causes of early marriages in communities.*
- 2. To identify ways how early marriages', affect girl Child education*
- 3. To identify ways how early marriages' can be abolished in communities*

Research Questions

- 1. What are the different causes of early marriages in communities?*
- 2. How does early marriage affect girl child education?*
- 3. What are some of the ways how early marriages can be abolished in communities?*

Methodology

Research Design

The Researcher adapted to a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Kimanya Sub County which had a big population. The researcher in this case used quantitative measures like percentages which made it possible to collect data from the respondents.

Study Population

According to Greg Lawrings (2015), population was defined as the inhabitants of a particular place. The study population included the population description and the population sampling design.

The targeted population was on 150 Parents, 25 teachers and 25 community leaders. The researcher will use a sampling technique to get a sample.

Table 1: Target Population

Respondents	Target Population
<i>Parents</i>	220
<i>Teachers</i>	130
<i>Community leaders</i>	90
Total	360

Population and Sampling technique

The population from which the sample was taken involved the Parents in Kimanya Sub County, teachers and Community leaders. The respondents were got from various villages in order to come up with accurate data to help the researcher get all that was needed.

Table 2: Sample Size

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
<i>Parents</i>	220	200	56%
<i>Teachers</i>	130	100	28%
<i>Community leaders</i>	90	60	%
Total	440	360	16%

Source: Field data (2021)

The researcher used a sample size of 200 Parents, 100 teachers and finally 60 community leaders in all the different villages in Kimanya Sub County using stratified sampling technique because it was the most effective when handling large populations. Respondents from different villages and schools were selected using simple random sampling technique to make the results are objective.

Research Instruments

The researcher developed both primarily and secondary sources of information and data. In collecting Primary Data, the researcher used questionnaires as tools for collecting data. For Secondary Data, publications by re known authors in this field for example magazines, articles, books and News Papers was used by the researcher to gather information that is required.

Questionnaires

This choice of tool was used due to the fact that the targeted population was literate and therefore capable of filling-in the questionnaires. It gave the respondents adequate time to give well thought out answers. Questionnaires were also self-administered and provided a quick means of collecting data from a large population's sample.

Data Collection Procedure

The Researcher made sure that he or she has the respondent's consent towards the study in order to make data collection from them easy and accurate. The researcher then went ahead to seek appointments from the community leaders, Parents and teachers in order to design questionnaires to avoid having excess or less. The researcher then reached to the respondents on the agreed times to carry out data collection.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data was processed from the questionnaires that were administered to the respondents, the researcher then went ahead and gathered the questionnaires from respondents in order to know the number of respondents who responded to the questionnaires from the sample size that was used. The researcher then used SPSS to analyze data and present them into percentages on graphs and pie charts to be easily understood.

RESULTS

Response Rate

The response rate of the respondents was explained in the table below:

Table 3: Groups of respondents and number of questionnaires retrieved

<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Number of questionnaires distributed</i>	<i>Retrieved Questionnaires</i>
<i>Students</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Community leaders</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>325</i>

Source: Primary data (2021)

The table above clearly indicated that the researcher retrieved data from 180 students out of the sample size of 200 respondents and the researcher at the same time retrieved data from 90 teachers out of the sample size of 100 and 55 community leaders out of 60. This made a total of 325 respondents who presented to the researcher accurate data that was used basing on the objectives of the study.

Causes of early marriages on the Girl Child

Table 4: Respondents views on the causes of early marriages

<i>Causes of early marriages</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Poverty and lack of opportunities</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Level of education</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>6</i>

<i>Traditional practices</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Adolescent pregnancy</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Ophanhood</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Displacement</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Peer group influence</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>325</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the figure 3 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that 35% of the students clearly indicated that adolescent pregnancy was their main cause of early pregnancy followed by a few respondents who informed the researcher that poverty and lack of opportunities was also another factor that caused early marriage in secondary schools, 14% however informed the researcher that traditional practices were also considered one of the factors that resulted to early marriages, 8% urged that displacement also caused early marriages, 6% level of education was also presented by some respondents and finally 3% of the respondents informed the researcher that peer group influence was also a major cause of early marriages among girl child education in Kimanya Sub County.

Effect of early marriages

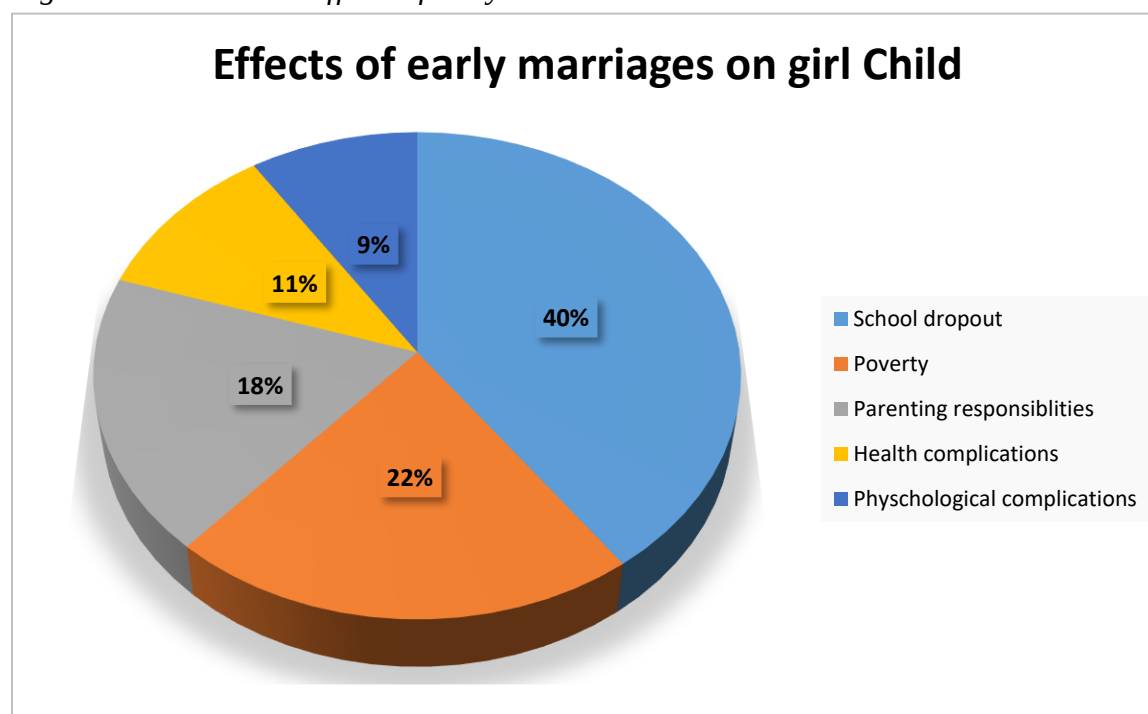
Table 5: Respondents views on the effects of early marriages

<i>Effects of early marriages on girl Child</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>School dropout</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Poverty</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Parenting responsibilities</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Health complications</i>	<i>11</i>

Psychological complications	9
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Source: Field Data (2021)

Figure 1: Views on the effects of early



marriages

Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the figure 1 above, the findings of the study clearly indicated that over 40% of the respondents informed the researcher that the main effect of early marriages was school dropout followed by 22% of the respondents who presented results indicating that poverty was also another effect that would result due to early marriage of the girl child, 18% of the respondents also presented results indicating that one of the main challenges girls who would engage in early marriages was parenting responsibilities which would make them loose concentration to go at

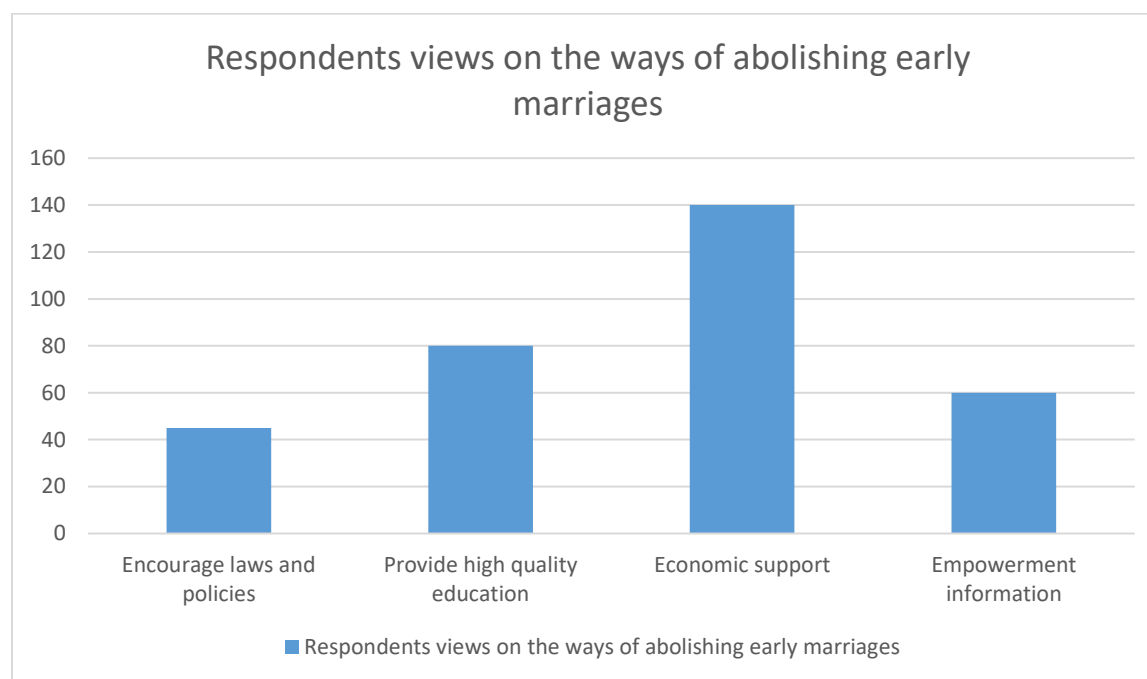
school, 11% of the respondents however also presented results indicating that many girls who involved in early marriages would get health complications like diseases such as HIV/AIDS among others and finally 9% of the respondents informed the researcher that girls who would get involved in early marriages would face psychological complications because they would get involved in something they were not yet ready for.

Ways of abolishing early marriages of the Girl Child

Table 6: Respondents opinions on the ways of abolishing early marriages

<i>Ways of abolishing early marriages</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Encourage laws and policies</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Provide high quality education</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Economic support</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>Empowerment information</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

Figure 2: Respondents views on the ways of abolishing early marriages



Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the findings of the study, over 140 respondents informed the researcher that the only way early marriages would be abolished was through providing economic support to the girl child in order to make them access all their necessary needs followed by 80 respondents who presented results showing that through providing quality education to the girl child would also help to abolish early marriages and 60 respondents however presented results showing that girl child empowerment would also play a big role in abolishing early marriages of the girl child and finally 45 respondents presented results indicating that through encouraging supportive laws and policies against early marriages, early marriages would not exist in the communities.

Table 7: Coefficients of poverty and early marriages

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
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		<i>B</i>	<i>Std. Error</i>	<i>Beta</i>		
1	(Constant)	2.562	.239		6.130	.000
	early marriages	.529	.0549	.812	9.688	.000
<i>a. Dependent Variable: Poverty</i>						

These coefficients represent the estimated effect of each predictor variable on the dependent variable (poverty) while holding other variables constant. In this case, the constant term is 2.562, indicating the estimated poverty level when early marriages are zero. The coefficient for early marriages is 0.529, suggesting that for each unit increase in early marriages, poverty is estimated to increase by 0.529.

These coefficients represent the standardized effect of each predictor variable on the dependent variable. They allow for a comparison of the relative importance of different predictors. The standardized coefficient for early marriages is 0.812, indicating that early marriages have a strong positive influence on poverty, as higher standardized coefficients indicate stronger relationships.

The t-value measures the strength of the relationship between the predictor variable and the dependent variable, taking into account the sample size and variability. A higher absolute t-value suggests a stronger relationship. In this case, the t-value for early marriages is 9.688, indicating a statistically significant relationship with poverty

The significance level (p-value) represents the probability of observing the obtained relationship between the variables by chance, assuming no true relationship exists in the population. In this case, the p-value for early marriages is < 0.001 (or .000 in the table), indicating a highly significant relationship, as it is below the conventional threshold of 0.05.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the findings of the showed that majority of the respondents informed the researcher that majority of the respondents presented results showing that adolescent pregnancy was the main cause of early marriages at Kimanya Sub County because of the time wasted when not at which forced many into early marriages however a few respondents informed the researcher that poverty and lack of opportunities was also another cause of early marriages despite others who cited out traditional practices as also a cause of early marriages. In communities which had it in their tradition.

Recommendations

The researcher also recommended the parents to always send their children back to school whenever they get involved in early marriages.

There was also a need to enhance the health sector of the communities in order to cater for girls that usually got heath complications due to early marriages.

There was also a need to put strict laws on the adults who engage in early marriage to the young girls in order to make many fears to practice it.

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